

JICA Monthly Report February 2023




IMPROVING SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS BY ADDRESSING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE CHALLENGES

<Activities conducted>

1. Pad making training and delivery of startup materials in the project schools in Mubende
2. Distribution of edited version of booklets in the project schools
3. Radio talk shows (Mubende and Butambala)
4. Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users
5. Monitoring of the project schools
6. Happy pad promotion centre (Wakiso and Butambala)

1. Pad making training and delivery of startup materials in the project schools in Mubende

This was conducted on the 28/2/2023 to 2/3/2023 in the ten target schools. The school community including teachers, students and some community members benefited from the training in re-usable pad making. The students were mainly MHM club members of each school and other students from upper primary who were interested in the training.

		
<p>Pad making training at Kabowa Primary School</p>	<p>Senior Male teacher demonstrates how to join the different points of the pad at Kabowa P/S</p>	<p>Demonstration on how to make a sketch at CAWODISA P/S</p>

		
Pad making training at Christ the King P/S	Pad making training at Katega P/S	Learners are taught how to make a sketch of pad at Katega P/S
		
Pad making training at Dyangoma P/S	Learners are shown start up material used in pad making at Kasasa P/s	Pad making training at Kiyita P/S
		
Senior man receives start up material for pad making at Kiyita P/S	Pad making training at Gwanika P/S	MHM Club member supported to make a sketch of a pad at Dyangoma P/S

2. Distribution of edited version of booklets in the project schools

300 copies of edited version of booklets based on MOH's feedback were hand delivered to the respective school staff in the 30 project schools in the three project districts. Each school received 10 copies of booklets; teachers were encouraged to use the booklet as a point of reference during MHM lessons without restricting learners from having access.

Mubende

		
Booklets handed over to the Headteacher at Christ the King P/S	Booklets handed over to the MHM Club president at Kiyita P/S	Booklets handed over to the Senior Woman Teacher at Katega P/S
		
Booklets handed over to the Senior Woman Teacher at Gwanika P/S	Booklets handed over to the Senior Woman Teacher at Kasasa P/S	Booklets handed over to the Senior Woman Teacher at Dyangoma P/S

Wakiso

		
Learners at Maganjo UMEA receive booklets	Learners receive booklets at Jinja Kalori p/s	Senior lady at Buwambo C/U receives booklets
		
Learners receive booklets at Kanyange mixed P/s	Learners receive booklets at Lwadda C/U P/s	Learner at Kanyange make use of the booklet

Butambala

		
Learners receive booklet at Kiwala P/S	Learners receive booklet at Lwamasaka P/S	Butalunga MHM club receives Booklets
		
MHM club receives booklets at Butende	Learners receive booklet at Kitagobwa P/S	Nkokoma P/s MHM club receives booklets
		
Kayenje P/S MHM club receives booklets	Bule P/S receives booklets	Ntolomwe P/S receiving Booklets

3. Radio talk shows (Mubende and Butambala)

In Mubende, one hour radio talk show was conducted at Luna FM Kibalinga on 17/2/2023. Community members were reminded about the need to support adolescent girls especially those that cannot afford sanitary material so that they can comfortably stay at school. The major talking point was to inform the community about the pad making training and delivery of booklets in the project schools which would help pupils and teachers acquire more knowledge about reusable pads. This would help to address menstrual challenges in the community.



Director (right side) informing the community about the pad making training and booklets during the radio talk show. Project officer (left side) educating the community about the need to support adolescent girls by addressing menstrual changes

In Butambala, radio talk shows were conducted on 26 and 27/02/2023 at Voice of Butende. The team leader emphasized continuation of the MHM activities as schools reopened. He reminded the general public about the need to engage adolescents with accurate information at home and at school. He commended the teachers and parents who involved boys in the MHM related activities in the previous term and urged them to continue with the spirit. He further reminded the public about the opening of a Happy-pad promotion center in Ngando subcounty and encouraged interested persons to register and join the trainings. Girls were encouraged to open to their guardians and teachers in cases related to MHM and sexuality reproductive challenges they face.



Butambala project team after the radio talk show at voice of Butende

4. Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users

Spot messages about Menstrual Hygiene Management, girls' education and reusable sanitary pad are aired as follows;

- Mubende: via Luna FM 6 times a day.
- Wakiso: via Voice of Kiryagonja 10 times a day.
- Butambala: 21 spot messages were aired at Voice of Kikambwe whereas 31 spot messages were aired at Voice of Butende.

5. Monitoring of the project schools in the respective districts

The objective of the activity was to check on the status of the hygiene in schools, awareness creation, MHM club and progress of the pad making. This was done with the aid of a monitoring tool that looked at different facilities of the schools and each of those had indicators to assess the current status. The facilities included; Administration, Washroom/changing room, Awareness raising activities, re-usable pad making activities, Remarks from the MHM club Girl and Boy members, Remarks from the woman and man teacher. The details of monitoring are in the monitoring report.

- **In Wakiso**, monitoring took place from 21 to 28/02/2023 conducted by the Project Officer.
- **In Mubende**, monitoring took place from 28/02 to 2/03/2023 conducted by the Project Manager and the Project Officer
- **In Butambala**, monitoring took place on 26 and 27/02/2023 conducted by the project team
















Wakiso






		
P.O in a discussion with MHM club members at Kitungwa C/u	P.O with the new head teacher at Kirolo UMEA	P.O with new senior woman at Lwadda C/U
		
Floor of washroom at Kitungwa C/U not so smooth	Washroom had just been used by a girl at Ssanga C/U	The washroom at Lwadda C/U has a big crack and has no roof

Hand washing facility at Ssanga C/U	Children using Tippy tap at Kirolo UMEA	Students line up for water at Maganjo UMEA
Students cleaning the compound just after break at Kitungwa C/U	Hand washing facility at Jinja Karoli p/s	Washroom at Jinja Karoli without running water

Butambala

Washroom at Lwamasaka (roof and door with lock intact, materials available)	Washroom at Nkokoma (door fixed, no roof)	Washroom at Nkokoma (door fixed, no roof)
Washroom at Kiwala P/S (door fixed with lock, water tank available)	Washroom at Kiwala P/S (door fixed with lock, water tank available)	Washroom at Nawango P/S

		
<p>Washroom at Butalunga P/s (lockable door fixed, water clogged in trench)</p>		<p>Washroom at Kayenje C/S</p>
		
<p>Washroom at Butende, door with lock, water and bucket available</p>		<p>Ntolomwe washroom (materials seen)</p>
		
<p>Washroom at Kitagobwa (hygiene greatly improved, door with lock intact)</p>		<p>Ntolomwe washroom door intact</p>
		
<p>Bule Umea washroom (hygienic, door locks, material seen)</p>		<p>Inside nawango's washroom (sanitary pads seen)</p>
		
<p>Kiwala MHM club interaction</p>	<p>MHM club interaction at Butalunga P/S</p>	<p>Monitoring interview with senior teacher at Lwamasaka</p>

		
Butende MHM club interaction	Ntolomwe staff improvised a water tank	Monitoring at Butalunga P/S
		
Water tank at Nkokoma P/S	MHM club members at Kayenje respond to monitoring questionnaire	

Mubende

		
Project officer interacting with MHM Club members during monitoring at Kabowa P/S	Christ the King P/S completed washroom and toilet for girls only remaining with fixing door handle	Cemented with clean water and soap unroofed washroom facility at Kabowa P/S
		
Cemented with doors and handles washroom facility with clean water at CAWODISA P/S	Project officer interacting with Headteacher, senior woman teacher and the senior man teacher at Gwanika P/S	Cemented with roofed lockable door toilet and washroom facility at Gwanika P/S


		
<p>Project Manager during an interaction with MHM Club members, senior woman teacher and senior man teacher at Kabowa P/S</p>	<p>Roofed washroom facility with basin, clean water and soap at Kasasa P/S</p>	<p>Clean tanked water facility at Dyangoma P/S</p>
		
<p>Roofed toilet facility but no entrance door at Katega P/S</p>	<p>MHM club members and female teachers' interaction at Christ the king P/S during monitoring</p>	<p>Still under construction toilet facility at Kiyita P/S</p>

6. Happy pad promotion centre (Wakiso and Butambala)

<Wakiso>

- **Visit of Mr. Sempala and Mr. Wagaba Emmanuel introduced by GBN at the promotion center**
- **Purpose:** To learn about pad making and find ways to market the pads

On 07/02/2023 Mr. Sempala and Mr. Emmanuel visited the Happy-pad promotion center at Katalamwa Secondary school to have a training on how to make reusable pads. Both knew how to operate the sewing machine so training only stopped at making the tracing paper, how to use the tracing paper to cut materials to use, the purpose of the materials, order of arrangement of the materials in the pads and lastly how to fix the buttons on the pads. We went as far as cutting one of the finished pads for them to see what is inside the pad and the arrangement of the materials.

	
<p>Project officer explaining how to make the trace of a pad</p>	<p>Finished trace ready for use</p>

There were no outsiders (None students) who attended the training for the month.

<Butambala>

There are 7 female and 2 male trainees that registered and are undertaking training on pad making. Trainees were not charged a fee since it was the first group since opening. Preparations for pad production are underway with the first batch expected by 3rd week of March 2023. Product standards have been developed and are yet to be agreed upon. The team hired a permanent IT personnel, Ms. Christine Atala to manage activities of the Happy-pad promotion center. She will be responsible to advertise the center as well as recruiting trainee’s and managing production at the center.

		
<p>Trainees undertaking pad making training at the happy pad promotion center in Butambala</p>		



Positive influence

- Participants (learners, teachers and parents) were excited to learn how to make reusable pads (Mubende)
- Boys participated attentively and were eager to learn more about pad making especially at Christ the King Primary School (Mubende)
- Some of the students (Kabowa Primary School) had basic tailoring skills which made training easier (Mubende)
- After the training and monitoring of schools, participants appreciated the support thanking SORAK and GBN for the initiative. (Mubende and Wakiso)
- During the training in reusable sanitary pad making, samples of the pads were given to students for them to have a feel of their texture. Students loved the texture of the pads in all schools. (Mubende)
- Some schools like Kabowa had improvised material for reusable sanitary pad making and had made efforts to avail emergency pads to students. (Mubende)
- At Katega Primary School one of the teachers acquired tailoring skills during holidays and she will be training the learners during pad making (Mubende)
- At Gwanika Primary School, the sewing machine was being used for making uniforms during school holidays to cater for the monthly stipend of the tailor as they waited for the pad making training. (Mubende)
- Listeners appreciated SORAK for the wonderful MHM information, pad making training to be conducted in schools and delivery of booklets. (Mubende)

Challenges

- The number of trainees was high per session compared to the tools of work (Mubende and Wakiso)
- Some students had not reported back to school due to failure to raise school fees and some waiting to get school requirements but their fellow students will take them

through the process of making pads (Mubende)

- Among the ten schools only one student at Kabowa primary school could operate the sewing machine and the rest needed serious training. (Mubende)
- At some schools like Kasasa Primary School, the Head Teacher and the Senior man was transferred to another school whereas at Kiyita Primary School the Senior Woman Teacher was transferred to another school. All these had just been replaced and were slowly picking momentum of taking on the responsibility of Menstrual Hygiene Management issues. (Mubende)
- Students turn up at school opening was poor in the first 2 weeks causing delays in some project activities like school monitoring.
- Poor communication of project progress when project manager went for leave. (Butambala)
- MHM club members who sat primary leaving exams left the school which called for selection of new MHM Club members at some schools.

Lessons Learnt

- We should continue to encourage participation of the boys and male adults.
- To attract more learners at the Promotion center, training should be free for the first 3 months while community adverts should be prioritized. (Butambala)
- Target schools are continuing to practice better MHM depending on what was observed during the monitoring. Hygiene has greatly improved.
- MHM club should be composed of more pupils from lower classes than in P7. There must be a succession plan for pupil who leave the school for good.
- More follow up is required to promote pad production in schools for Butambala, Wakiso and Mubende (all districts)

Recommendations

- We should standardize the pads. That is having a consistent shape of the pad, different sizes because people are not of the same size. We should also add details of the sizes in the package bag such that people get what they want with ease. (Wakiso)
- For sustainability, the center should be open to all people interested in getting skills in tailoring not only those interested in pad making because this is what other organizations are doing otherwise with the way we are struggling to sell the pads the center may only survive with funding from GBN. During this project period, we focus on pad making first to address menstrual hygiene challenges in schools(Wakiso)
- As SORAK team we need to find the actual cost of pads and this will inform us on how to establish the price of our pad otherwise those on the market like So sure are

much cheaper at shs.7,200 and shs.8,400 for a pair of small and large size respectively
(Wakiso)

- More marketing of pads needed and we should make use of social media platforms.
(Wakiso)