



Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon grass growing and Education in Uganda

Activity 1.6: School based environmental education and awareness campaigns

Location (Venues): Respective schools In the List below



Awareness training at Maya Primary school

Introduction

With support from Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) and Global Bridge Network (GBN), SORAK Development Agency was able to conduct 16 school based environmental education and awareness campaigns to schools of at least 500 child enrolment in 16 other schools.

Purpose/ Objective

The purpose of campaigns was to instill the value of protecting and taking good care of the environment in young people's minds through various environmental conservation measures. It was to increase schools' awareness on environmental protection methods and the reasons why they are needed for example, tree planting, lemon grass growing, and environmental conservation laws among others.

Participants

The school based environmental awareness campaigns reached a total of 8,020 children in the following schools.

No	Date	School	Participants reached
1	14/6/2018	Kabubu Primary school	312
2	16/6/2018	Kafundeezi Primary school	620
3	17/6/2018	Maya Primary school	655
4	18/6/2018	Kyakansimbi Primary school	411
5	19/6/2018	Kattambogo Primary school	355
6	19/6/2018	Katega Primary school	577
7	21/6/2018	St. Kizito Kigamba primary school	700
8	22/6/2018	Kabunyonyi Primary school	656
9	01/7/2018	Ebenezer Juvenile Primary school	432
10	02/7/2018	Mugungulu Primary school	506
11	03/7/2018	Buwaata Primary school	464
12	04/7/2018	Ssenkulu Primary school	340
13	05/7/2018	Buganyi Primary school	610
14	06/7/2018	Buhairwe Primary school	474
15	08/7/2018	Makukulu Primary school	507
16	09/7/2018	Nkokonjeru Primary school	401

Facilitators

The school based environmental awareness campaigns were led by a team of SORAK staff and school teachers.

- 1. Nnakiruuta Hadijah- Programmes Manager-SORAK Development Agency** gave a brief background about SORAK, the Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) and the project.
- 2. School Teachers** were responsible to discuss the extent of schools' environment and the rules put in place for environmental conservation in schools

Activities

SORAK Program manager informed the school children that the campaigns are to create mass awareness among all school going children and other target groups about environmental problems and to take measures for environment protection by active involvement of children and teachers. School children were learned the followings;

Major causes of environmental degradation

- Pollution, in whatever form, whether it is air, water, land or noise is harmful for the environment. Air pollution pollutes the air that we breathe which causes health issues. Water pollution degrades the quality of water that we use for drinking purposes. Land pollution results in degradation of earth's surface as a result of human activities like deforestation, bush burning, and waste disposal.
- Overgrazing by livestock can lead to land degradation. Land degradation is a global problem, and largely related to agricultural use. The major causes being land clearance were such as clear cutting and deforestation.
- Agricultural depletion of soil nutrients through poor farming practices like overgrazing
- Quarrying of stone, sand, and minerals

Suggestion that schools should take up for conserving the environment

<Action by school teachers>

- To utilize the unique position of school children as conduits for awareness of the society at large.
- To effectively use of formed school-based child led environmental protection clubs.
- To put in place school rules and regulations toward environment protection in schools and ask the children to adhere to the rules.
- To provide environmental education opportunities for school children and organize quiz/essay competitions on environment for school children to make children understand environment and environmental problems.
- To organize rallies, seminars and debates on environmental issues in the school to spread environmental awareness.

<Action by school children >

- To plant of tree species.
(SORAK Manager informed schools that the project implementing by SORAK together with her partners JFGE and GBN are in the process of procuring for them tree seedlings aimed at conserving the environment.
- To initiate the establishment of plant nurseries in schools, and villages, etc.
- To start activities like tree plantation, cleanliness drives both within and outside the school.

<Action by society with children>

- To bring children into direct contact with the environmental problems facing the society they live in and make them think of solutions.
- To facilitate children's participation in decision making in areas related to environment & development.
- To involve children in action based programmes related to environment in their surroundings such as planting of lemon grass along garden borders and on depleted land to prevent erosion and choosing products that are recyclable and also products made from recycled materials.
- To take action against environmentally unsound practices like garbage disposal in unauthorized places, unsafe disposal of school waste, etc.



Awareness training at Nkokonjeru primary school



Awareness training at Kafundezi primary school

Training results/outcomes and recommendations

- I. Teachers thanked for the support to providing tree seedlings to schools which will help foster environment conservation with in schools and in the community.
- II. Children noted how it would be punishable to break school rules related to environment protection.
- III. School children promised to inform their parents about lessons learnt in order for them to know the importance of conserving the environment.

Participants made the following recommendations;

- School managers recommended facilitation of children's participation in decision making in areas related to environment & development.

- Children asked their school headteachers to organize field visits to environmentally important sites including polluted and degraded sites, wildlife parks, etc. for children to learn the dangers of environmental degradation.
- SORAK asked schools to keep celebrating world environment day in order to eliminate gaps and raise awareness for children on the importance of a health environment
- Teachers requested SORAK to organize film shows at community centers, Schools, on environmental themes.

In summary, the school based environmental awareness campaigns were successfully conducted as teachers thanked **SORAK together with her partners Global Bridge Network (GBN) and the Japan fund for global environment (JFGE)** for working towards conducive learning environment in schools.