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NPO法人グローバルブリッジネットワーク
Global Bridge Network

Project: “Improvement of the School Environment to Combat Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Challenges to Stop Adolescent Girls’ School Dropouts in Uganda”

Activity: “Building a reusable sanitary pad making and supply chain”

(Activity 3-1 kick start sanitary pad production and supply chain)

Introduction

For the sustainability of the “Improvement of the School Environment to Combat Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)” project, SORAK and its partners, Global Bridge Network (GBN), with funding support from LUSH Japan, constructed a reusable sanitary pad making shade at the SORAK offices in Mubende.

After construction of the reusable sanitary pad making shade, SORAK identified a reusable sanitary pad making volunteer, procured materials to kick start production and undertook efforts to build a supply chain.

Purpose of building the reusable sanitary pad making.

The main purpose of building a reusable sanitary pad making shade at the SORAK offices was to ensure project sustainability through the selling of SORAK made reusable sanitary pads to communities and untargeted project schools.

Major activity initiatives taken included the following:

1. Construction of the reusable sanitary pad shade at SORAK offices. SORAK constructed a shade at SORAK offices to be used as production units for reusable sanitary pad making.
2. Identifying a sanitary pad making volunteer. After the construction of the reusable sanitary pad making unit, in February SORAK with the help of JOYI-Uganda a non-governmental organization based in Mpigi District that provides vocational skills like tailoring identified a sanitary pad making volunteer for SORAK for production purposes.
3. Procurement of reusable sanitary pads. In March 2018, SORAK procured materials from Kiyember in Kampala district. Among the materials procured, these included the following:

1. Over lock Machine	2. Button pressing machine	3. Soft end material *This is the material on top of the pad.
4. Nylon and sewing machine oil	5. Needles	6. Polythene
7. Buttons	8. Threads	9. Cotton wool/Uda *To be inserted inside to hold menstrual blood

The above are the materials that were procured. However, some materials were not within the prescribed budget, including the over-lock and button pressing machines. These items were not planned within the budget, but the money used fell under budget.

The materials procured were also used to train two girls and six boys from the three selected target schools.

Activity photos



SORAK Programme Manager displaying off cotton wool (uda) material used in making reusable sanitary pads



Pressing buttons, which are used to fasten the pad on underpants, are prepared to make reusable sanitary pads.



Button pressing machine for inserting buttons



Displaying off-the-procured threads, scissors, needles and oil for making reusable sanitary pads above, thanks to GBN



SORAK Project officer displaying nylon material who is more than ready to take on the MHM project



Hope at last sanitary pad volunteer with a sewing machine for sewing reusable sanitary pads



To improve the quality of MHM project, a staff member at the SORAK office presents the over-lock machine used to design reusable sanitary pads.



Programme Manager displaying the procured soft end material ready to make reusable sanitary pads



Kibalinga P/S pupils making reusable sanitary pads from materials procured by SORAK



Pupils showing the reusable sanitary pads they have made



More than ready to produce its own reusable sanitary pads, Lwawuna P/S with the selected tailor making their own reusable sanitary pads



Lwawuna pupils showing off their own made reusable sanitary pads



Showing their own made reusable sanitary pads



PCLC pupils making reusable sanitary pads



SORAK staff cutting the materials to make reusable sanitary pads, while a pad volunteer tailors the cut pieces



SORAK support staff with a button pressing machine inserting buttons on reusable sanitary pads at the SORAK shade



Displayed SORAK finished made reusable sanitary pads



SORAK programme staff and support staff packing the reusable sanitary pads that have been made

SORAK's production; Branding name: "Happy Pads"



Process

SORAK so far has sold some reusable sanitary pad making sets. Most of the pads were sold when conducting parish-based awareness-raising activities of SORAK-made reusable sanitary pads. Others were sold at the district when SORAK was implementing its other Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project. The untargeted schools have also been approached and introduced SORAK-made reusable sanitary pads, as well as promised to contact SORAK soon for deliveries. The more sanitary pads sold, the more girls who can stay in school.

SORAK also identified 13 women during the parish-based awareness raising as SORAK sales representatives. These sales representatives were selected from the 13 parishes of the project target area. The selected representatives are tasked with promoting and selling the widespread use of SORAK-made reusable sanitary pads in the communities where they live.