

Non-Profit Organization “Global Bridge Network”

Fiscal Year 2018 Activity Report

1. Activity Period: 2018/4/1～ 2018/3/31

2. Activity Achievement:

Global Bridge Network (GBN) has been managing two International Support programs: “Improvement of Education Environment for School Girls” and “Environmental Protection and Education” since 2017 in Uganda and has successfully completed the second fiscal year with financial support from LUSH Japan and the Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency (ERCA). Both programs are managed in collaboration with the local NGO SORAK, and more tangible results were achieved this fiscal year.

As International Communication Promotion programs, GBN held an event, “Sanyu! Vol.2,” in Tokyo to introduce its activities and offer various people the opportunity to learn about Ugandan culture while enjoying African music and dance. In addition, GBN was invited to an event in Nerima Ward to exhibit Ugandan goods, as well as an event, SOCIAL STAND¹, to introduce Uganda and its culture.

GBN has gained more support from various areas during this fiscal year and increased the recognition of its activities, which has in turn strongly helped to sustain our activities.

3. Activity Summary

GBN activities consist of two key areas: “International Support” and “International Communication Promotion.”

① International Support

1) Improvement of Education Environment for School Girls

Monthly menstruation is one of the major reasons for school girl dropouts in economically challenged communities. Many female pupils in their adolescent period can hardly afford sanitary pads due to financial constraints. As a result, a large number of girls, especially in remote areas, end up seeking other alternatives such as the use of clothes. These alternative solutions are rudimentary and come with many consequences such as infections and humiliation due to blood leakage, among others. The students, with no options, end up missing school during their menstruation periods, which affects their performance. Blood leakage particularly has been identified as the main cause of bullying and teasing among

¹ <https://charity-japan.com/>

male pupils toward their counterparts, and this has led to psychological effects. As a consequence, a relatively large number of girls drop out of school to save themselves from such humiliation. Problems like these indicate that the educational environment for school girls is faced with many challenges.

This fiscal year MHM (menstrual hygiene management) clubs were created as school activities, and with support from senior teachers, students undertook an initiative to train fellow students in making reusable sanitary pads and spreading menstrual hygiene management, gender awareness and sex education through the child-to-child approach. Forming clubs has greatly promoted the sustainability of this project. In addition, the production and sales of reusable sanitary pads named “Happy Pad” have begun at the SORAK office. The product consists of a set of two pads packed in a green pouch and is provided at a low price in order to make it affordable for low income people in need along with broadly making it help more girls to attend school during their menstrual period. Through community-awareness raising meetings and radio talk shows, there were some inquiries from persons wanting to purchase Happy Pads, and who want GBN to conduct training in other parts of Uganda. We believe that by expanding this project, a great impact on society could be anticipated because more girls will be able to attend school and receive a proper education. This will in turn lead to women to be independent socially and economically.

* Refer to GBN webpage for detailed activity reports and final impact survey report.

(<http://globalbridgenetwork.org/en/works/>)

- Project Name: “Improvement of School Environment to Combat Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Challenges to Stop Adolescent Girls School Dropouts in Uganda”
- Date: 2018/3/1~2018/12/31
- Location: Uganda Mubende District
- Beneficiaries: More than 1,540 individuals including girls, boys, teachers, parents and local residents
- Expenditure: 770,000JPY



Training for making reusable sanitary



Selection of MHM club members



“Menstrual Hygiene management”



“Gender awareness and sex education”



Students attending club member’s session



Awareness session for the parents and local resident



Rising awareness on the radio talk show



Reusable sanitary pads being produced



Students happy receiving “Happy Pads”

2) Environmental Protection and Education

Uganda, in general, and Mubende district, in particular, have had persistent drought in the past a few years. This is due to human activities in search of arable land, which has led to severe deforestation, with associated burning as well as the most recent worst trend of wetland encroachment through unrestricted wetland reclamation. This is further attributed to high levels of unemployment especially among youth and women who form the majority of the Ugandan population. They lack an alternative means of survival/livelihood as they are tied to tilling of the land as well as use rudimentary technology that does not spare land to the detriment of environmental protection. This happens amid limited information and knowledge of the likely impact of unrestricted deforestation and wetland reclamation on climate change.



Burning the fields by the local



Wetland reclamation



Lemon grass can grow among rocks

In order to combat these issues, GBN has started an environmental protection project through lemon grass cultivation the previous year, and SORAK has continued this project this year. Cultivating large amounts of lemon grass on barren land caused by drought prevents soil erosion and is anticipated to benefit the environment.

This project promoted environmental protection through various activities such as, training of lemon grass cultivation and environmental protection for women and youth, environmental education for children in the local schools (enlightenment campaign for environmental protection), and training them as environmental protection activists in planting trees, monitoring and reporting of environmental abuse by creating

environmental protection clubs in each schools. Also the meetings were held with the local government (representative of sub counties) for political decisions/enforcement of laws, regulations and monitoring environmental abuse. In addition, SORAK had purchased 120 tons of lemon grass from neighboring farmers, and produced essential oil using the distiller SORAK owns and sold these products, thus contributing to the farmers income generation. A facility of briquette coal production was constructed to reuse the spend (or used) lemon grass and other organic matter as raw materials and it is started to produce briquette coal from the organic waste of 60 tons GBN collected.

As a result, more women, youth and children were engaged in the environmental protection through the continued lemon grass growing and tree planting at target schools, and their awareness towards environment has improved. The local government and district leaders also became more aware of the barren land and wetland protection which reduced the wetland invasion and increased their awareness towards environment. With these activities, the land which used to be barren became available (about 12 acres).

This project was sponsored by ERCA and GBN as a representative party supported the project carried out by SORAK. * Refer to GBN webpage for detailed activity reports.

- Project Name: “Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon Grass Growing and education in Uganda”
- Date: 2018/4/1～ 2019/3/31
- Location: Uganda Mubende District and Kyegegwa District
- Beneficiary: more than 8,500 including women, youth, school children (16 schools), community staff, and neighboring famers
- Expenditure: 3,000,000 JPY



Training youth for environmental protection and lemon grass growing



Training students in environmental education and awareness rising



Students receiving environmental education and awareness rising training



The club demonstrating the effects of environmental degradation through a short drama



Planting trees activity by the environmental protection club



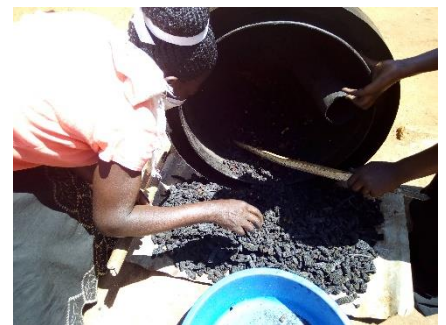
Students carrying the tree seedlings



A police officer explaining environmental laws to the local residents



Environmental monitoring with the district environment officer.



Briquette coal

② International Communication Promotion

1) Event “Sanyu! Vol.2”

“Sanyu! Vol.2” was held at Galabash African restaurant in Hamamatsucho, Tokyo. GBN started with the introduction of its activities and Ugandan culture, followed by a live painting demonstration and a dance performance accompanied by the beat of African drum group Djembe, and ending with participants and guests dancing to Ugandan music. With support from Ugandan community members, the event proved to be a great success.

- Sponsorship: Uganda Diaspora Japan
- Coordinator: Studio Barjara (African style dance)
- Performer: African dance – STUDIO BARJARA DANCERS

African drum – African Taiko-kyousittsu / Djembe Players

Artist – TEEJ

(Date: 2018/6/9 18:30~21:30, Place: Hamamatsucho Tokyo, Participants: approximately 40)



Introduction of GBN activities



Introduction of Ugandan culture



Djembe Players



Q&A session



Live painting by TEEJ



African dance



Participants and guests dancing to Ugandan music

2) Event “SOCIAL STAND 42 Learn and think about Uganda”

In collaboration with SOCIAL STAND, GBN held an event “SOCIAL STAND 42 Learn and think about Uganda”. GBN introduced basic information about Uganda such as its lifestyle, culture and other respective issues, and recommended **places** [a place] to visit together with two Ugandan guests with the aim of deepening the understanding of Uganda.

The event was organized so that a small number of persons would be able to gain an understanding about Uganda.

(Date: 2018/12/2 14:00~16:00, Place: Yotsuya, Tokyo, Participants: 6)



Event



Answering questions from participants

3) Event in Nerima Ward in Tokyo

GBN participated in a two-day event, “World Market/The Urban Agriculture World Summit Pre-Event,” hosted by Nerima Ward (2019/11/24-25). GBN also set up a food booth at “Taste fatty tuna (bistro) Nerima vol. Printemps” hosted by Nerima Chiefs Club (2019/3/10)



Selling goods at the booth



“Tasting delicious tuna (bistro)

Nerima vol. Printemps”

(Date: 2018/11, 2019/3 Place: Coconeri Nerima Ward, Tokyo)