

Impact Assessment Report

PROMOTING A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND GARBAGE COLLECTION IN LUSALIRA TRADING CENTRE -MUBENDE DISTRICT

<Introduction and background>

This abridged report presents a highlight of the ‘Promoting clean environment through environmental education and garbage collection-Lusalira Trading Centre -Mubende district.’ Project.

This project aimed at **Promoting a clean environment** and the objectives were;

- 1- To promote education and awareness on safe disposal and alternative use of garbage in Lusalira trading Centre.*
- 2- Promote good waste disposal practice of sorting and utilization as manure and raw materials for recycling in Lusalira trading Centre.*
- 3- To enforce good garbage disposal and environmental cleanliness in Lusalira trading Centre*
- 4- A community based environmental protection and promotion system and established.*

It has been implemented between November 2021 to December 2022. Here below is a summary of activities and achievements that have been realized and thus contributed to the attainment of the above aim and objectives.

1. Summary of each activity

Activity1.1 A community-based radio communication system established with ability to relay information and messages via megaphones/loudspeakers to the entire training Centre

A community -based radio communication systems has been established by SORAK. SORAK is also able to make use of another community owned megaphones. These are used continuously to conduct community education and awareness about garbage management, sorting and importance of maintaining a safe and clean environment.

Activity 1.2 Thirty (30) minutes’ daily environmental education talks conducted for 10 months during the project period

Environmental education talks have been continuously conducted during the entire project period and for 10 months as planned in the project. This has had an attendant effect of creating awareness and making people appreciate the work of SORAK and her donor-GBN. The community also appreciates the importance of living in a clean environment that has been created by this project.

Activity 1.3 An environmental education and awareness raising jingle/spot message aired 5 times a day for 10 months during the project period

The radio talk shows were supplemented and reinforced by jingles/spot messages. Having been aired 5 times per day meant that environment promotion and protection messages kept ringing in the ears of the community. A living in a clean environment has now become a daily ‘song’ and all people including local leaders are appreciative of SORAK and GBN for having innovated this project.

Activity 2.1 Ten (10) garbage containers/skips procured and stationed at 5 different places to encourage and support garbage sorting and safe disposal.

Ten garbage collection containers were procured and placed at convenient locations. The community has been introduced to garbage sorting. This has made it easy for the plastic dealers to take away plastics while the decomposable garbage is also taken away by farmers to serve as manure in their banana gardens.

Activity 3.1 A community based environmental protection monitoring group established and it is active in monitoring and reporting safe garbage disposal and sorting in Lusalira trading Centre.

Lusalira trading Centre now has a community based environmental protection monitoring group composed of local leaders and residents in the community. These keeps watching of proper garbage disposal and ensure that sorting in maintained. They also keep watching of the garbage containers. They also educate others on the project dos and don’ts.

Activity 3.2 Safe garbage disposal by-laws are made and enforced.

SORAK worked in collaboration with the village and subcounty leaders and came up with safe garbage disposal by-laws. These are now in place and have helped to keep the Trading Centre clean. These by-laws are being enforced by an established community-based monitoring group with backup support from SORAK.

2. Positive changes and impact

The following positive changes and impact have been achieved;

- Education and awareness on safe disposal and alternative use of garbage has been promoted in Lusalira Trading Centre.
- Good waste disposal practices of sorting, and use as manure and raw material for recycling of plastics has been promoted in Lusalira Trading Centre
- There is now a better and improved garbage disposal and a clean environment of in Lusalira Trading Centre
- Sites that were once garbage dumping sites have been now turned into market stalls, business kiosks among others.
- Increased income generation opportunity among plastic dealers-These collect and load trucks on a quarterly basis. Also depends on how soon enough quantities are collected.
- Increased soil fertility among decomposable garbage users generated from sorting
- Increased SORAK and donors’ visibility in the community served

It should be observed that this project introduced a good idea and garbage management practices for this fast-growing rural growth Centre. Management of garbage is one of the routine

activities of any urban Centre. It is therefore hoped that the subcounty local government will continue with the same activities and in the future provide big trash containers. The example set by this project has provided lessons for enabling continued action against garbage in the area with limited or no major challenges.

3. Challenges

During the 12 months project implementation period, the following challenges have been faced;

- Slow adaption to garbage sorting. It was learnt that most people dumping waste were either children or women who were unable to read inscriptions on the containers ‘dump here plastics, and here non plastics’ neither could they properly interpret the decomposable and non-decomposable signs.
- It was realized that the provided containers were too small for the available garbage being generated on a daily basis. The trading Centre needs bigger garbage skips than the ones provided.
- Those people who collect and sell trash are the people who are helping us clean the area. The subcounty currently does not have a garbage dumping site. So, the income generated by selling the sorted trash is not for the subcounty neither for SORAK but for individuals who take part this garbage collection. Without a governmental collecting and dumping system, it is difficult for the government to generate income by selling trash and purchase materials for this project like larger garbage skips etc.
- Generation of too much plastics and polythene materials. Much of the non-decomposable waste is polythene papers which are dangerous to the environment. This is a national concern and problem that requires the complete ban of the use of polythene and plastic materials countrywide.

4. Conclusion and recommendations

Following the completion and successful implementation of this project, the following conclusion and recommendations are drawn;

The project has been generally a success as exemplified by a continued state of overall environmental cleanliness of Lusaira Trading Centre. Community members, local leaders and SORAK staff are now more sensitive about ensuring safe garbage disposal. Sites that were once garbage dumping places have been turned into better uses at market stall centers, kiosks among others.

Community members have put garbage to other better uses including use as manure and income generation via sales to plastic dealers for recycling industries that are located over 170km away from this project area.

It is therefore recommended as follows;

- Need to replicate this project to other areas due to the positive impacts achieved
- Need to provide bigger garbage skips to ensure effective garbage collection
- Need to advocate for a complete ban of polythene papers and plastics since the dominate much of the non-decomposable waste in the project area and in Uganda in general.
- Provide follow up with the local leaders to ensure that garbage collection containers are effectively in use.

5. Photos (Comparing Before and After this project)

The project impact is illustrated in the photos below. After removing garbage, grass regenerated and land/space use was changed such as a kiosk built. That is because locations/ position looks differently.

Before project starts	Current situation
	
<p>Garbage heap behind main road market</p>	<p>Kiosk install and green grass regenerates</p>
	
<p>Photo at Zifa olaba road before the project</p>	<p>Now market stalls selling bananas etc. have been installed in the cleaned place</p>
	
<p>Behind Kulubyas meat Butcher -a no dumping signage was installed by the enforcing group</p>	<p>Now grass regenerated</p>