

JICA Monthly Report July 2023

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

<Activities conducted>

1. Radio talk shows
2. Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users
3. Happy pad promotion centre (Butambala)
4. Conducted the fifth MHM Online discussion about the Role of different stakeholders towards the SRH of the youths.

1. Radio talk shows

In Mubende, the talk show was conducted in a duration of one hour at Luna FM located in Kibalinga sub county on the 24th /July/2023. Community members were reminded about their respective roles and responsibility regarding Sexual and Reproductive health of their children both girls and boys. Some of the key learnings from the fifth online session were also shared including limited access to appropriate information regarding SRH to the religious leaders which prevents them from prioritizing such issues while they interact with their followers, the need to get age-appropriate information for the children by parents and teachers in line with SRH among others.



Project officer creates awareness about the roles of the different stakeholders towards Sexual and reproductive Health of the youths.

In Wakiso, a one-hour talk show was conducted at Tiger FM on the 23/July/2023 beginning from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the evening. The Executive Director took listeners through the project overview and the achievements attained so far. He encouraged listeners to make use of reusable sanitary pads as ever which are cost effective and eco-friendly. He urged parents and other relevant stakeholders to provide and avail age-appropriate information regarding Sexual Reproductive Health in order to avoid the challenges like teenage pregnancies associated with limited knowledge about Sexual Reproductive Health. He put emphasis on the need to be inclusive of People with Disability in order to leave no one

behind.

In Butambala,

A one-hour talk show was conducted at Voice of Kikambwe on 20th July, 2023 at 2.00pm, the main topic of discussion was to emphasize the continuity of using the reusable sanitary pads and how to maintain proper menstruation hygiene.

On the same date at 4.00pm still, we also conducted another talk show of one hour at Voice of Butende where the team leader encouraged and requested parents to support the girl child by availing them with materials to enable them make the reusable sanitary pads. In this same talk show he also raised the concern of how sexual reproductive health is important to both the boy and girl child and that shouldn't be undermined by both the parents and the community.



Some of the Votu members who attended the radio talk show

2. 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 pads are aired as follows;

- Mubende: via Luna FM 6 times a day.
- Wakiso: via Voice of Kiryagonja 10 times a day.
- Butambala: 30 spot messages were played at Voice of Butende and 21 were played at Voice of Kikambwe respectively.

3. Happy pad promotion centre (Butambala)

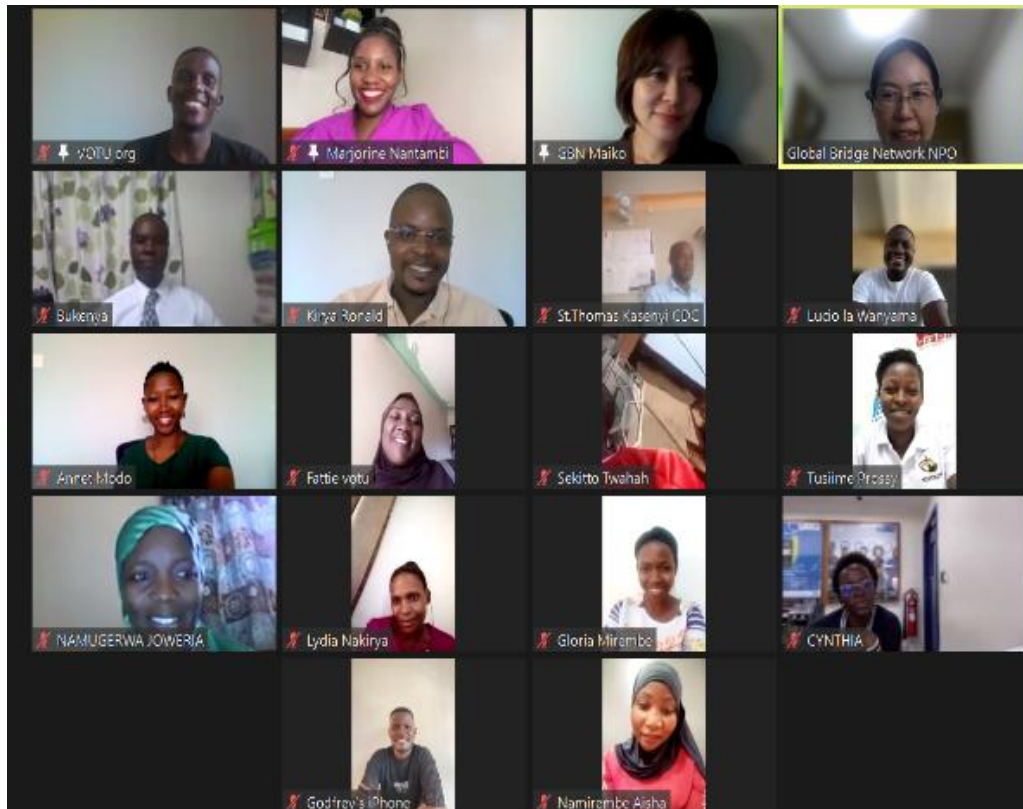
At the promotion centre, we have managed to produce 370 reusable sanitary pads and to conduct pad making training for 31 trainers. More learners including adults have picked more interest in learning how to make the pads at the centre. In July, pad sales were not made. Meanwhile Butende learners have put more impact by spreading the pad making knowledge to their colleagues at school.



Some of Butende Umea pupils training fellow pupils after their training at the promotion centre.

4. The fifth MHM Online Discussion

A two-hour online discussion was conducted on Saturday 22/07/2023. The topic of discussion included; “The role of different stakeholders to the Reproductive Health Education of the Youths.” A total of 28 participants from different institutions turned up including a religious leader, teachers, program directors, project officers, parents among others.



The key learnings from the Online Discussion included the following;

- a) There is need to use age-appropriate information regarding Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) of the children/youths
- b) A number of religious leaders have limited access to information regarding SRH which prevents them from sharing such information to their followers.
- c) It is paramount for parents to choose the right coaches to their children who can be in position to empower them with the right information.

Positive influences of all activities

- Listeners to the radio talk shows appreciated SORAK for the project work which has greatly improved the standards of the schools for Mubende.
- During the online discussion, the religious leader noted that it was an eye opener to him that it is crucial to always guide children in line with issues of SRH and that he promised to encourage his colleagues to attend such sessions moving forward.
- The participants appreciated the project team for conducting the online session which was informative.

- Community members who are also the main listeners of radio talk showers mainly appreciated VOTU and GBN for the project work which has mainly helped in elimination of school drop outs.

Challenges

- Network was not stable for some of the participants during the online session but they kept on trying until they managed to participate.

Lessons Learnt

- Online sessions are vital and should be conducted from time to time in order to increase the project visibility and impact among the different stakeholders.

Recommendations

- It is vital to work with different stakeholders in order to avail information regarding MHM.