

## JICA Monthly Report September 2023

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

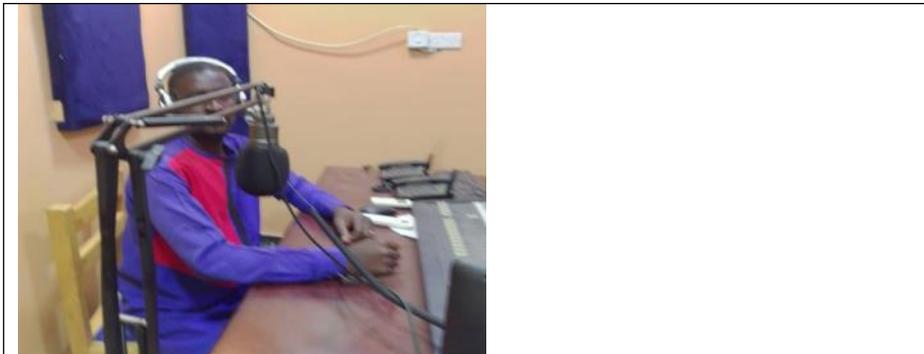
#### <Activities conducted>

1. Radio talk shows
2. Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users
3. Project schools monitoring visits (Mubende, Wakiso, and Butambala)
4. Sensitization of parent about MHM at Lwadda C/U Primary school
5. Happy pad promotion centre (Butambala)
6. Conducting MHM at the TiCAD cup 2023 held by JICA.

#### 1. Radio talk shows

##### In Mubende

A talk show was conducted in a duration of one hour at Luna FM located in Kibalinga sub county on 28/September/2023. The respective schools which had issues during the monitoring visit were encouraged to work on the improvements where necessary. Schools which were on track with the project implementation plan were appreciated for the commendable job. Parents were encouraged to be supportive towards availing material used for making reusable sanitary pads in order to ensure availability of pads at the school and to avoid missing school due to lack of pads.



Project officer encouraging parents to provide support towards providing material for making reusable pads among other issues

##### In Wakiso

A one-hour talk show was conducted at Tiger FM on 30/ September /2023 beginning from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The Executive Director took listeners through the project overview and the achievements attained so far. He however stressed the need to provide material for making reusable pads. In that regard, he encouraged parents and other key stakeholders to be supportive. Listeners were encouraged to make use of reusable sanitary pads as ever which are cost effective and eco-friendly.



The Executive Director during the radio talk show at Tiger FM

### In Butambala

A talk show was conducted at Voice of Butende on 26/September/2023 and Voice of Kikambwe on 30/September/2023, with the emphasis of using the reusable sanitary pads as well as maintaining proper menstruation hygiene.



Adam and Winnie who are members of VOTU and the Radio Presenters at the different radio talk shows (Kikambwe and Butende)

## 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: via Voice of Butende 8 times and Voice of Kikambwe 8 times. At prime time very early in the morning 4times and evening hours at 7:30pm 4 times making it 8 times.

## 3. Project schools monitoring visits

**In Mubende**, project schools were visited on the 26 and 27/ September /2023. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to track progress of the project activities in line with pad making and MHM counseling sessions among others. Schools are appreciating the pad making sessions as they noted that they keep on improving steadily and the number of learners who have acquired skills in pad making has increased only that parents are not supportive towards buying material for pad making. This will be addressed by encouraging them to provide support in that regard.



MHM Club members at Christ the King during the counseling sessions



Pad making session at Kasasa P/S



Pad making session at Kiyita P/S



Pad making session at Ikula P/S



Pad making session at Gwanika P/S



Pad making session at Katega



Pad making in progress at CAWODISA P/S



Kabowa P/S MHM club members

**In Wakiso**, the project officer attended a pad making session on the 22/September/2023 conducted by the MHM club members under the supervision of the Senior teachers at Maganjo UMEA. The Head teacher provided the material for pad making and both girls and boys were eager to learn

		
<p>Learner during cutting of the material</p>	<p>Male student takes lead during sewing</p>	<p>Female student teaches others how to use the sewing machine</p>

**In Butambala**, school monitoring was carried out in 4 days on 26th ,27th, 30th and 31st of September. During the school monitoring programme, we realized that the WASH rooms were properly managed according to the status we found them clean and comfortable for the girls. The MHM clubs were actively replicating the acquired skills and knowledge from the training so far have been attained, despite the fact that they still have a problem of broken sewing machines.

From the monitoring and evaluation of the 10 school, we realized that the schools were carrying out the daily routine work of training and mentoring students since it has part of their school curriculum and more so VOTU members visit encouraged them that they would wish to show progressive impact in case you meet them another time.

		
<p>Kitagobwa C/S MHM club With Miss Winnie, a VOTU secretary during the monitoring visit.</p>	<p>Nkokoma C/S MHM club acting out a hygiene and sanitation skit during the monitoring visit.</p>	<p>Kayenje C/S pupils welcoming the Mr. Twaha during the monitoring visit.</p>

		
<p>Bule Headteacher with the MHM club after the monitoring visit.</p>	<p>Butende Umea MHM club, the Senior woman and Miss Winnie during the monitoring visit.</p>	<p>Kiwala Umea MHM club posing in the after monitoring their school.</p>
		
<p>Miss Winnie, Senior woman and the MHM club member sharing ideas during the monitoring visit at Lwamasaka Umea.</p>	<p>Ntolomwe Umea MHM club, Miss Christine, Senior man, and Mr. Twaha during the monitoring visit.</p>	<p>MHM club of Butalunga P/S posing for a photo after the Monitoring visit.</p>
		
<p>Pupils learning how to make re-usable pads at Nkokoma P/S</p>	<p>Pupils learning how to make re-usable pads at Butende UMEA</p>	<p>Pupils of Lwamasaka UMEA showing the finished re-usable pad to the team leader of VOTU</p>

#### 4. Sensitization of parent about MHM at Lwadda C/U Primary school, Wakiso

SORAK attended a parent and teachers' meeting at Lwadda C/U Primary school on the 15/September/2023 where 20 minutes were given to the project team to talk about MHM regarding sensitization of parents about the importance of supporting their children regarding MHM issues. Emphasis was put on involvement of the male parents and supporting the school to get materials for pad making.



SORAK executive director speaks to parents



A parent reacts after the presentation

### 5. Happy pad promotion centre (Butambala)

At the promotion center after putting more emphasis through the radio talk shows at Voice of Butende and Voice of Kikambwe there has been a high turn up of clients for the month of September though the number is not constant it keeps on changing day by day.

The number of pads produced this month was higher than for last month because we managed to purchase more materials from the earning we collected from the sold pads for JICA. A marketing strategy for the reusable pads was put in place by selecting 7 trainees from our team of trainees whom we gave responsibility to sell 2 to 3 reusable pads in the field. A few feed-backs were received from the field by the trainees namely:

Most of the buyers in the field were willing to buy but at low price i.e., ranging from 6,000 shillings to 7,000 shillings selling 1 to 2 packets. Some left them there for the clients as debts and others came back with the pads.

A total of 70 girls were trained and 98 pads were produced in the month of September, and from the time of production VOTU has so far produced 1,119 reusable pads since March 2023 and it has sold 442 pads and donated 100 pad and apparently, we have 577 reusable pads in stock.



Skilling trainees at the promotion center in Butambala.



Trainees exhibiting finished re-usable pads



Some of the selected trainees displaying the reusable pads.

### 6. Conducting MHM at the TiCAD cup 2023 held by JICA

TiCAD cup 2023 held on 4th September 2023 in Jinja at the FUFA Technical Center Njeru and there were 6 teams from different regions. Besides the football tournament, VOTU was privileged to be given the responsibility of training all the participants in Menstrual Hygiene Management. We appreciated JICA's decision to involve VOTU with TiCAD activities and also to purchase our product 200 sets of Happy Pads.

VOTU conducted a training workshop of 65 participants with a theme of making menstruation a normal fact of life and a methodology of question-and-answer approach was used. The participants enjoyed, embraced, and actively took part finalizing the workshop by distributing the Happy pad.

This was a very milestone given the number of over 48 participants that received our good message of the happy Pad that we think is spreading all over. These have become our brand ambassadors of the Happy Pad.



TiCAD CUP 2023



Miss Fatuma Kigongo with a JICA Member distributing MHM



Mr. Kavuma Moses from VOTU greeting JICA team member during MHM workshop.



JICA member addressing the tournament participants during the MHM talk show



JICA members examining the packaging of the Happy Pad produced by VOTU



VOTU, JICA with some of the participants of TiCAD Tournament after receiving happy pads

**Key findings:**

- There is increased replication in the making of the reusable pad among the pupils.

**Positive influences of all activities**

- Listeners to the radio talk shows appreciated SORAK for the project work. (Mubende and Wakiso)
- The parents appreciated the efforts by SORAK and agreed to cooperate to support the girls during menstruation. (Wakiso)
- Despite the lack of space, MHM club members at Maganjo UMEA keep running the club activities with the help of the senior lady and the head teacher.
- The sewing machines at Buwambo C/U, Lwadda C/U and Jinja Kalori were all repaired.
- Most of the learners were no longer spending money on buying disposable pads.

**Challenges**

- Space is a challenge to the MHM club members at Maganjo UMEA as their sessions are done under the tree and being a rainy season, some club meetings are not conducted.
- Some activities need finances of which they were not budgeted for during the proposal writing.
- Materials for making reusable pads were still a major problem to most schools.

**Lessons Learnt**

- A permanent technician for repairing is needed because the sewing machine breakdown from time to time due to the big number of learners using sewing machines.

**Recommendation**

- There is need to come up with a strategy of ensuring availability of material for pad making.
- A permanent technician is needed who can move around in all the schools. If there is a permanent technician to repair all the breakdowns for the sewing machines in all the schools, this will lead to increased number of learners as well as increased production of the reusable pads.
- Schools should come up with strategies of acquiring more sewing machines in order to enable a big number of learners to learn how to make reusable sanitary pads.
- There should be school exchange learning visits where learners visit other project schools located in the different districts for sharing experiences.