

Non-Profit Organization Global Bridge Network

Fiscal Year 2024 Activity Report

1. Activity Period: 2024/4/1 – 2025/3/31

2. Activity Summary

The project, “Improving schools’ educational environment for adolescent girls by addressing menstrual hygiene challenges,” funded by with a grant from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Kusanone Partnership Program and continued to be implemented in Uganda from the previous year, concluded at the end of June 2024. In April, the Global Bridge Network (GBN)’ member, Ms. Ohnishi visited Uganda with the JICA Yokohama officers to assess the progress and impact of the two-and-a-half-year project. In the latter half of the year, we proposed a new project titled “Support the introduction of School Menstruation Hygiene Management (MHM) under local government for a Girl-Friendly Educational Environment”, which was approved for the 2024 JICA’s Kusanone Partnership Program and will start in FY2025.

In Japan, we delivered lectures at Tokai University in July and December 2024, reaching approximately 250 students to introduce GBN's activities. We also participated in some events such as the “Yamate Ennoba NGO Marche & Workshop” and the “SDGs Multicultural CITY Café,” promoting awareness and understanding of our organization.

Throughout FY2024, we continued sharing updates and reports on our international support activities through our website, Facebook, blog, videos, and so on.

3. Activities Conducted

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

<International Support>

1) Improving schools’ educational environment for adolescent girls by addressing menstrual hygiene challenges in Uganda (Supported by JICA’s Kusanone Partnership Program)

- Project period: 2021/11/1～2024/6/28 (extended two months therefore 2.5→2.8 years)
- Location: Uganda Mubende district, Wakiso district, Butambala district
- Beneficiary: 4,310 people (3,000 students, 60 teachers, 1,200 community members, 50 trainees at Happy-Pad Promotion Centre) (2.5 years)
- Project Overview :

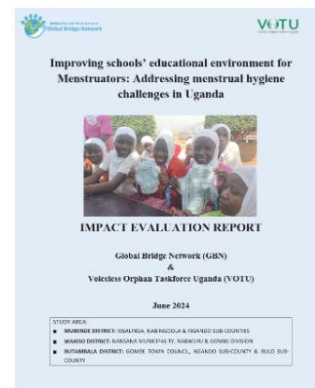
This project aimed to resolve the issue of girls missing school due to the inability to afford menstrual products. The project included improvements to school facilities, promotion of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) education, and training in making reusable sanitary pads, aiming to create a safe and supportive environment for girls to attend school during menstruation.

In FY2024, we conducted a final impact assessment, compiled the results into a report, and shared it with local stakeholders, including school staff and local governments. The monitoring at the end of the project confirmed significant successes including improved MHM among girls, better school attendance, and academic performance. The project's main goal, School-going girls in the target schools can comfortably attend school during menstruation, was achieved.

However, some challenges remain, such as maintenance of sewing machines, sustainability of activities after external funding ends, and expansion of the project scale.

The following goals were achieved as a result of the impact assessment.

1. The percentage of girls who felt anxious about attending school during menstruation dropped from 90% to 38%.
2. The rate of girls absent due to menstruation dropped from 91% to 15%.
3. The school dropout rate decreased from 33% to 18%.
4. 93% of girls had experience using reusable sanitary pads.



Project Report and Videos:

- **Report list:** <https://globalbridgenetwork.org/en/mhmgirlseducation/>

- **Introduction videos:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@gbnglobalbridgenetwork4808/videos>



Monitoring visit at the end of the project

2) MHM start-up project

- Implementation Period: May 2024 – March 2025
- Location: Uganda (Kampala municipality, Naguru Parish → Mityana region)
- Beneficiary: Girl students from Naguru Primary School → Students and women in the Roadside Primary School (60 boys and girls aged 12–18, 20 local women aged 19–40)
- Project Overview:
Initially, we collaborated with the VLF (Visionary Lady Foundation) in Uganda and donated sewing machines and materials to Naguru Primary School in Kampala to support reusable sanitary pad production. However, due to difficulties in follow-up, the project was relocated in April 2024 to Roadside Primary School in the Mityana region, where a new initiative was launched. Starting in May, they conducted awareness-raising activities on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and practical training in reusable sanitary pad production for students and local women. The aim is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to produce reusable sanitary pads, helping them improve their daily lives and continue their education.

◆ See below for details of the report.

- [Project progressive report for May-June 2024](#)
- [Project progressive report for July-October 2024](#)
- [Project Progressive report for November-December 2024](#)



Activities at Roadside Elementary School

3) Collaboration with Other Organizations

During a 2024 visit to Uganda, our representative Ms. Ohnishi met with three organizations from Kasese District who had proposed collaboration. As it was difficult for GBN to provide immediate support, we instead proposed that the three local organizations work together to initiate a project on menstrual

hygiene management (MHM) in schools. We also shared know-how of activities from our previous experiences. As a result, we received reports that the three organizations successfully began implementing MHM projects in 14 primary schools across Kasese District.



Meetings with three organizations



A menstrual hygiene management project conducted in collaboration with three organizations

<International Communication Promotion>

1) Transmitting information

We utilized platforms such as our website, Facebook, blog, Syncable (donation site), and YouTube to share information in both Japanese and English about local situations and project outcomes. While we aimed to increase our supporters and members through these outreach efforts, we were unable to gain new members. We plan to continue strengthening our PR activities to attract new supporters.

- Japanese Website: <https://globalbridgenetwork.org/>
- English Website: <https://globalbridgenetwork.org/en/>

2) Project activity in introduction

2-1) Guest Lectures at Tokai University

On July 10 and December 11, 2024, we delivered lectures to approximately 250 first- and second-grade students at the Department of International Studies at Tokai University. The lectures focused on menstrual hygiene issues and GBN's activities in Uganda. Student reflections showed deepened understanding on GBN's activities related to MHM. And some students noted the lack of open discussion about menstruation and sex education in Japan, and male students mentioned about the importance of education on MHM issues for both genders.

We were encouraged by the sincere reactions of students aspiring to work in international cooperation, who took the issues to heart and began to think about what they could do themselves.

◆See below for details of the report.

- [One-frame Lecture at Tokai University \(Dec 11, 2024\) \(Japanese\)](#)
- [Supplemental Explanation to Student Questions \(Japanese\)](#)
- [One-frame Lecture at Tokai University \(July 10, 2024\) \(Japanese\)](#)



The first lecture



The Second lecture

2-2) NGO Marche & Workshop at Yamate Ennoba

On December 15, 2024 (Sunday), from 11:00 to 17:00, we participated in the NGO Marche held at Yamate Ennoba (<https://en-no-ba.com>), where we introduced GBN's activities and shared information about the current situation in Uganda.

2-3) SDGs Multicultural CITY Café

On March 15, 2025 (Saturday), from 11:00 to 17:30, we organized an event titled “The Pearl of Africa: Uganda – Supporting Girls' Education and the Gift of Coffee” at Taisei Porch Front in Yokohama. The event featured talks on Uganda’s attractiveness, challenges girls face in accessing education during menstruation, a story about a naturally grown coffee business that has been implemented in Uganda for many years, and live interactions via Zoom with our local partners.

◆See below for details of the report.

【Event report】 SDGs Multicultural CITY Café – The Pearl of Africa, Uganda: Supporting Girls' Education and Gift of Coffee】 (March 15, 2025) (Japanese)

We sold African goods and also Crystal Coffee during the event. Crystal Coffee is made from 100% pesticide-free, chemical-free, naturally grown beans. Not only is it delicious and safe, but expanding its market directly supports local communities.

We hope more people will come to know and enjoy this amazing coffee.



<https://crystalcoffee.net/>

