

# Non-Profit Organization “Global Bridge Network”

## Fiscal Year 2017 Activity Report

1. Activity Period: 2017/4/1~ 2018/3/31

2. Activity Achievements :

This fiscal year, the Global Bridge Network (GBN) implemented two International Support programs in Uganda, specifically “Improvement of Educational Environment for School Girls” and “Environmental Protection and Education” which were financial supported by LUSH Japan and ERCA (Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency). Both programs were carried out in collaboration with SORAK, the local partnering NGO, and achieved various results.

In addition, GBN held “Uganda Night” and “Sanyu!” events in Yokohama as International Communication Promotion programs. Through these events, participants learned about Uganda while enjoying African drinks and food, as well as music and dancing. Here, GBN was able to provide an opportunity to introduce Uganda to the general public who were not familiar with Africa. Also, at “CHIMERA GAMES VOL.4”, an event held in Odaiba where various nations held booths, GBN exhibited products in the Ugandan Embassy booth.

GBN activities gained recognition and support from Ugandan people in Japan this fiscal year, thanks to the Ugandan Embassy who invited GBN to collaborate and the many people who participated in our events.

3. Activity Summary:

GBN activities consist of two branches, “International Support” and “International Communication Promotion,” as described below.

① International Support

1)Improvement of Educational 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 stage can hardly afford sanitary pads due to financial constraints. As a result, a large number of girls, especially in the countryside, 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 pupils with no options end up missing school during their menstruation periods, which affects their

performance at school. Blood leakage particularly has been identified as the main cause of bullying and teasing among male pupils towards their counterparts, and this has led to psychological effects. As a consequence, a relatively large number of girls quit school to save themselves from such humiliation. Problems like these show that the educational environment for school girls is faced with many challenges.

This fiscal year, GBN implemented baseline survey, training for making reusable sanitary pads, and workshops on sex education, menstrual hygiene management, and gender awareness. The project is not only targeting school girls, but also boys, teachers, and parents so that the school and families can together support the girls to continue coming to school during their menstruation period.

The school girls learned proper menstrual hygiene management and they can now talk openly about their menstruation period at home. At school, private rooms were installed so that school girls could change their clothes without humiliation along with stocking sanitary pads for usage. There were beneficial results such as a decline in the number of boys who tease girls. Moreover, by recognizing their individual roles as schools, parents, or male classmates, they were able to raise their awareness to the problem.

This project was sponsored by LUSH Japan.

\* Refer to GBN webpage for detailed reports on each activity, baseline survey, and impact assessment.

Project Name: “Improvement of School Environment to Combat Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Challenges to Stop Adolescent Girls School Dropouts in Uganda”

Date: 2017/4/1~ 2017/10/31

Location: Uganda Mubende District

Beneficiary: Approximately 840 (Girls, boys, teachers, parents, education staff in the three targeted schools)

Expenditure : ¥550,000



Making reusable sanitary pads



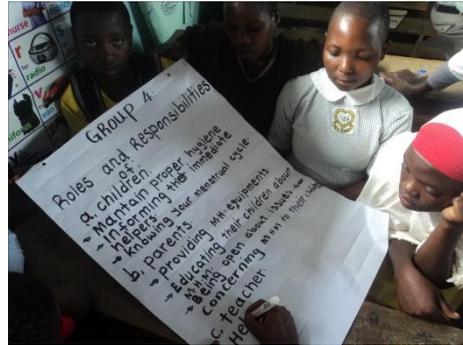
Training for making reusable sanitary pads



Lecture about how to use sanitary pads



Discussions about their roles during menstruation period



Group work to summarize the discussion



Boys presenting about their discussion



Reusable sanitary pads made by the girls



Awareness sessions for the parents



Hygiene management and gender awareness explained at school

## 2) Environmental Protection and Education

From 2011 Uganda, in general, and Mubende district, in particular, have had persistent drought. 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 residents



Wetland reclamation

In order to combat these issues, GBN has started a lemon grass cultivation project for environmental protection in collaboration with SORAK. 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 environmental education for children in the local schools (enlightenment campaign for environmental protection), environmental protection/lemon grass cultivation training for women and youth, mobilizing the local government (representative of sub counties) for political decisions/enforcement of laws and regulations about environmental protection through dialogue/debate & discussion meeting/field monitoring environmentally degraded land, as well as promoting lemon grass cultivation to local farmers. In addition, SORAK purchased lemon grass from neighboring farmers, produced essential oil using their distiller, and sold these products, thus contributing to the farmers' income generation.

As a result, lemon grass production has become an activity that is well accepted well by women, men and youth not only as a means to increase their income, but also as a



Lemon grass can grow among rocks.

means of soil protection for the environment. Also, at the schools where environmental education was implemented, they began planting trees on the school grounds. Furthermore, after discussions with Mubende District and the leaders of the sub counties, awareness towards environmental protection improved, laws related to the efforts were made to enforce the current

laws. As an example, Mubende District enacted the Charcoal Ordinance to prevent felling of trees and deforestation. Furthermore, monitoring and preventing wetland encroachment by farmers in search for arable land was intensified and green forests in the area were enhanced by the environmental department of the local government.

This project was sponsored by ERCA (Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency). GBN supported the project carried out by SORAK as a representative party.

\* Refer to GBN webpage for detailed activity reports.

Project Name: “Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon Grass Growing and Education in Uganda”

Date: 2017/4/1~ 2018/3/31

Location: Uganda Mubende District and Kyegegwa District

Beneficiary: Approximately 6,000 people or more

( 200 women and youths, 4,800 school children (16 schools), 960 stakeholders, neighboring farmers (number unspecified )

Expenditure: ¥3,000,000



Environmental protection and lemon grass cultivation training for the youths



A youth who began cultivating lemon grass



Teaching famers how to harvest lemon grass



Environmental education for school children



Talks from local leaders about environmental problems in their area



Field monitoring of land degradation



Feedback meeting after monitoring



Lemon grass being purchased



Distilling essential oil from lemon grass

## ② International Communication Promotion

### 1) Event "Uganda Night"

GBN held an event called "Uganda Night" in Yokohama in collaboration with Connection of the Children(CoC), an NPO based in the city. The event was held at CASACO, which was previously an old folk (old traditional style) house that has been renovated to become a space for the local community. Various African drinks (Ugandan gin, sherry, whiskey, coffee, lemon grass tea, Kenyan beer, tea, South African wine) and food such as Pilau (Ugandan seasoned rice) and Rolex (eggs and cabbage rapped in chapati) were served. Many Japanese people as well as people with African origins who live in Japan, including counselors from the Ugandan Embassy, participated in the event, tasting Ugandan food and drinks and enjoying cultural exchange through music. There was a presentation to introduce GBN activities and Ugandan culture, and during the Q&A session, Ugandan participants directly answered the questions from Japanese participants. The event became a significant opportunity for cultural exchange and enabled many people to enjoy the feel of Uganda, which is a faraway but a beautiful country.

(Date: 2017/7/23 15:00~19:30, Place: Yokohama, Participants: Approximately 40)



Venue



Ugandan food



Introducing culture, Q&A session



Group photo

## 2) Event "Sanyu!"

A dance event "Sanyu!" was held in Yokohama city, Kanazawa Hakkei. The event was a collaboration between African style dance groups Studio Barjara and tinga tinga, as well as the Djembe (West African drums) group "Afro Shonan". The African style dance groups danced to live music played by the Djembes. GBN introduced their activities and Ugandan culture, and also invited a guest speaker who previously worked as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in Uganda to make a presentation about his work there. Three guests were invited from the Ugandan Embassy and participated in the dance, as well as gave a speech.

(Date: 2017/8/27 12:00~17:00, Place: Yokohama, Participants: Approximately 60)



Presentation about GBN activities



Drums and dancing (1)



Drums and dancing (2)



A great turnout for the event



The Counselor from the Ugandan Embassy also participated.