

## Community Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene Management, Gender Awareness, Sexual and Reproductive Health and importance of girls' education in Mubende

### Activity Report 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 then 6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

#### Objective

To create awareness on responsibilities of different stakeholders on issues related to MHM, Gender Awareness, Sexual and Reproductive Health and importance of educating a girl child.

The meetings focused on reminding and teaching stakeholders including both male and female parents, community leaders and teachers of their responsibilities on issues regarding Menstrual Hygiene Management and the importance of keeping children at school especially the girl child.

#### Attendance

The meetings were conducted for two hours in all the 10 project schools. In attendance were members of the PTA (Parents Teachers Association), community leaders, teachers and parents. Important to note is that the eight schools including; Kiyiita, Kasasa, Kasaana, Dyangoma, CAWODISA, Gwanika, Kabowa, and Ikula had already conducted their general parents' meetings by the time the community sensitization was conducted which led to a low turn up during the meetings compared to the 2 schools meetings including Katega and Christ the King Primary Schools that were conducted in June 2022

The meetings took place between 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/June/2022 then 6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the 10 project schools.

About the formation of the MHM clubs for Christ the King and Katega Primary schools, the project team engaged the schools regarding the club formation which was done successfully.

#### List of schools visited and the total number of participants (PTA and parents)

School	Female	Male	Total Participants
1. Katega Primary School	12	34	46
2. Christ the King Primary School	34	31	65
3. Kabowa Primary School	13	21	34
4. Kiyiita Primary School	18	20	38
5. St Mary's Gwanika Primary School	20	10	30
6. Ikula Primary School	14	12	26
7. Dyangoma Primary School	14	10	24
8. Primary School	5	13	18
9. CAWODISA Primary School	13	21	34
10. Kasaana Primary School	17	11	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>343</b>

#### The table below shows attendance of PTA members by gender

School	PTA- FEMALE	PTA -MALE
1. Katega Primary School	2	4
2. Christ the King Primary School	2	5
3. Kabowa Primary School	1	4
4. Kiyiita Primary School	1	0
5. St Mary's Gwanika Primary School	0	2
6. Ikula Primary School	1	2
7. Dyangoma Primary School	0	2
8. Kasasa Primary School	0	4
9. CAWODISA Primary School	0	2
10. Kasaana Primary School	0	1

### Key findings;

- Male involvement in MHM issues is a new innovation that needs more advocacy because participants were totally green about it and it is majorly attributable to cultural rigidities.
- Some female participants were green about the availability of material used during menstruation as they are used to reusable clothes since childhood.
- Some participants had never seen a pad before.
- It was the very first time for majority of both male and female participants to attend such a training and they requested for more trainings of the kind.

### Methods Used

#### 1. Group Discussions

The project team used the same approach in all the 10 schools where the presentation started with project introduction followed by the topics of discussion. An open discussion followed where participants reacted to the presentation. The leaders present would give their remarks and conclude the session.

#### 2. Questionnaire

At the end of the discussion, participants were given a questionnaire as a tool to evaluate the sessions and guide on any improvements.

#### 3. Reactions from group discussions

##### ■ Katega primary school (16/06/2022)

- Participants noted that it was an eye opener that males too can be supportive when it comes to issues of menstruation and they promised to act accordingly however, one of the male participants noted that “I would like to support my daughter during her menstruation but her mother does not want me to do so claiming that MHM issues are female affairs.” He was advised to explain to his wife that MHM issues are for both males and females not specifically for females.
- Another parent wanted to know how she can go about the problem of her daughter who always gets severe back pain during menstruation. She was advised to seek medical advice.
- The participants appreciated the service and requested for more of such trainings.
- One of the parents wanted to know when the pads will be readily available and she was informed that the school will be in charge of producing the pads after receiving the sewing machine.

##### ■ Christ the Kind primary school (24/06/2022)

- One parent advised the project team to also mind about the hygiene of the boys as well and this was welcomed by the members.
- The chairperson school management committee advised leaders and parents to encourage children to go to school because according to him those who deliberately stay at home are much more than those who come to school.
- On behalf of the teachers, the head teacher appreciated the training by SORAK and promised to be cooperative.
- Another parent requested SORAK to extend the sensitization to their villages.

##### ■ Kabowa Primary School (6/07/2022)

- One of the participants appreciated the initiative undertaken by SORAK and noted that he has been observant that in the ten project schools as mentioned by the projects manager, the turn up for girls is higher than that of boys unlike before the project intervention in those schools for example Kabowa Primary School.
- It was noted that currently parents do not have time for their children and most of the time children end up missing out on such basic needs like material used during menstruation including nickers.

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- A male participant noted that some tribes like the “Bafumbila” consider issues of menstruation as a secrete and it is an abomination to talk about such issues before men. If one does so, they are regarded as too obscene.
  - A request for the School Management Committee to spearhead the sustainability of the project activities and equipment like the tailoring machine.
  - The senior woman noted that “We appreciate the support from SORAK because before, our girls did not have privacy as the wall to their washroom was lower and boys would laugh at them whenever they would go to use the washroom but now the wall is raised and girls’ privacy is ensured.” **Photo 3” shows some of the project outcomes)**
  - Because of the project interventions in the school, the Head teacher buys pads to cater for the emergencies that might arise at school unlike before.
  - The senior woman requested parents to take care of their children because most of them when asked about who provides support to them while in periods none of the children said that it was their parents but it is their friends who help them. Children noted that parents are harsh and not friendly so they fear to share with them.
  - One of the male parents noted that, “My daughter was sleeping on the veranda yesterday, when I asked what the problem was, she told me that she had stomachache, so I quickly went to her mother and I requested her to find out what had happened to her daughter because I had suspected that it could be her first time periods.” He noted that the training has been an eye opener that even male parents are responsible for MHM issues at home.
  - Male involvement should have a boundary beyond which a female guardians should takeover. For example, they can provide with money for pads, soap and ensure that clean water is available at home and the rest of the resistibility be left for their mothers or female guardians to handle.
  - Members requested for more of such trainings.
  - A request for SORAK to work with the Local Council Chairpersons of the different villages to ensure that such information gets shared with community members at the community level during community meetings.
  - Most of the male parents do not support their women financially and they should participate in such meetings for them to learn that women and their daughters need such materials during menstruation.
  - Some of the female participants still insisted that menstruation should be a secret and that men should not know about this. The projects manager gave an example to justify the relevance of males’ involvement in MHM.
  - One of the teachers noted that after the teachers’ training, they made an effort to teach the students about issues of MHM and that currently the boys are supportive in that regard.
  - One of the participants requested that there should be a plan of buying another tailoring machine to supplement the one which will be provided by SORAK. The two machines can be used to initiate a tailoring project to empower students in such skills.
  - One of the female participants noted that a child does not belong to one parent hence issues of MHM should be handled jointly by both parents.
  - A request to the headmaster to invite SORAK whenever there are parents’ meetings at the school to ensure that issues of MHM are taught to a bigger number of participants.
  - A request for support towards the construction of more class room blocks. Primary one has a population of 430 students and they study from outside in temporary classrooms.
  - As a result of the MHM project, the school has identified a room which shall work as a changing room for girls.
- **Kiyiita Primary School (7/7/2022)**
- One of the female participants noted that, “This is a heaven-sent opportunity for men to also have access to such information because most of them do not even know how a pad looks like.”
  - Another female parent wanted to learn if pads cause cancer. In response the projects manager informed the participants that pads do not cause cancer for as long as one knows the proper way of using them. She gave an example of not using one piece of a pad for the whole day but one should ensure that they change the pad at an appropriate time.
  - One of the male participants wanted to learn if the project only belongs to the public schools and if there are any plans of reaching out to the private schools as well. In response the project manager informed the participants that so far, the project is being piloted in 30 selected schools found in

the respective districts and there is hope for the project to reach out to other schools including the private ones upon successful implementation.

- One of the male parents wanted to know the age at which one can begin to use the pad. In response the Projects manager noted that pads are used during menstruation so it depends on the age during which one experiences menstruation that one can begin using the pads.
- A male parent wanted to learn how pads are used. To this, the projects manager illustrated to the participants how this is done.
- A request was made for the project team to come up with a strategy of how to reach out to the girls who are not at school but not married in order for them to also benefit from such information.
- Some of the female participants noted that such information should be given to the female parents alone as it should be regarded as a secrete. To this end, the project manager emphasized the relevance of male involvement in issues of MHM.
- Some participants noted that it is first time to attend such sessions and requested for more of such sessions.
- Some participants wanted to find out how the project team intends to involve the community at the grassroot level for them to have access to such important information.
- One of the male parents confessed that he had never seen a pad and it was his first time to see it.
- Participants appreciated the initiative and requested that the project team should find time to meet the parents during the general parents' meetings for the message to reach out to the bigger audience.

#### ■ **St Marys' Gwanika Primary School (7/7/2022)**

- Participants wanted to know how girls will be able to receive such important information. In response the manager reminded the participants that teachers had started teaching the girls in reference to the teachers' training in MHM which was conducted by SORAK earlier.
- One of the male parents noted that, "Boys too face challenges especially when they experience their wet dreams but parents do not buy panties for them. A reminder to the parents that also boys need enough undergarments in order for them to maintain body hygiene."
- Parents were requested to create a friendly environment at home in order for their children to be able to open up to them regarding issues of MHM.
- The chairperson LC 11 Gwanika ward noted that, "It is a shame for us to be reminded of such issues of MHM! As old people we should be knowing how to handle such issues for us to support our children."
- Members appreciated the training especially the male parents who did not know that they are also responsible for issues of MHM.

#### ■ **Ikula Primary School (8/7/2022)**

- One of the parents noted that there are things she was not conscious about before as a mother of girls only but she learnt a lot and will also use the same knowledge to guide her daughters.
- A request that SORAK provide some more time specifically for the mothers only in order for them to have chance to express themselves freely during the absence of males.
- A request to SORAK to provide time for training the girls directly in order for them to learn issues of MHM.
- More sensitization on male involvement is required.
- A request for SORAK to conduct another training during the parents' meetings at school.
- The chairperson PTA noted that, "All along we as male parents considered MHM issues to be for the mothers alone which is a wrong perception."

#### ■ **Dyangoma Primary School (8/7/2022)**

- A request to SORAK to conduct more trainings about MHM because most of the cultures consider it as a secrete and strictly for women.
- One of the female parents wanted to know if MHM information applies to the girls who have not experienced menstruation. In repose, the projects manger informed the participants that it depends on the age of the girls that guides one to estimate if they are about to experience their menarche. It is good practice for girls to know MHM issues before their menarche for them to know how to manage themselves.
- Parents were reminded of taking care of their children equally because most of the time boys got to school without putting on panties.

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- One of the parents who is a medical practitioner informed the parents that not all panties are good for the boys. He promised to bring a sample of a good and bad quality panty to the senior woman who will communicate to the parents and children about the same to ensure the safety of the children.
- The Headteacher noted that, “Out of the support given by SORAK, the girls’ washroom was improved by working on the floor, a basin and soap availed and there is water to help the girls manage themselves during menstruation. The MHM president, Senior woman teacher and the Head teacher have copies of the key to the washroom.” Girls also use the washroom for other purposes for example after participating in games and when they fill, they should freshen up.

### Photo 2 (Some of the project outcomes)

#### ■ Kasasa Primary School (11/07/2022)

- One of the female parents noted that if parents prioritize issues of MHM, girls will not face such challenges like missing class due to menstruation.
- It is a matter of fact that Nabingoola sub county experiences a problem of water scarcity especially during the dry seasons where water is collected from dirty sources which put the students at a risk of suffering from diseases related to using dirty water. A call to action by leaders to ensure that the community has access to clean water which is one of the necessities for a safe MHM environment.
- A female parent noted that she just learned that some of their girls borrow reusable pads from their friends who use the same pads during menstruation and promised to teach her girls the dangers of sharing pads.
- One of the male participants noted that the training was informative. He informed the meeting that long ago in the 1970s while he was still a teacher, the schools used to have emergency uniforms and pads and that he kept on wondering why schools of now days abandoned the practice yet this would keep girls in school.
- “As male parents, it’s hard to know if our girls are experiencing their periods yet their mothers too fear to inform us.” Said one of the parents
- The youths district counselor noted that, “The training has been an eye opener to me as a male parent and learnt a lot out of it. I have a sister who I pay school fees, but all along I would not imagine that she at one time needs to have such material like pads. From now on, I will endeavor to provide her with the necessary support in that regard.”
- One of the male participants confirmed that lack of material used during menstruation is one of the major causes of school dropouts by girls. He gave an example of one of the girls who stopped in Primary three due to a lack of material used during menstruation.
- One of the male participants requested his fellow male parents to always provide support towards the MHM needs of their daughters and that they should avoid being reminded about such issues
- “As male parents its high time we created a friendly environment for our daughters in order for them to be free and open up to us in case they need any help. Male parents should ensure to buy material needed during menstruation and directly deliver to their girls without going through their mothers.” Said one of the parents
- One of the teachers noted that having attended the teachers’ training in MHM issues, teachers embarked on training the students in issues of MHM and as a result, boys are now supportive and no longer bully girls in case such situations occur while at school.
- leaders present appreciated the support towards ensuring a friendly MHM school environment which was given by SORAK.
- Participants promised to disseminate the information to other key stakeholders including during the general parents’ meeting.
- One of the male participants acknowledged that, “You have brought us to light as this has been the very first time for me to attend such a training and I knew nothing about MHM but now I have learnt.”
- “As a result of the intervention by SORAK, we now have a changing room which is well stocked with, two bars of soap, two basins, ten packets of disposable sanitary pads, ten knickers and two emergency uniforms all of which are meant to support our girls during emergencies related to menstruation while at school.” Said the Senior woman teacher. She however noted the only challenge is scarcity of clean water especially during the dry seasons. **Photo 4 (Some of the project outcomes)**



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### ■ CAWODISA Primary School (12/07/2022)

- It has been a wonderful session and we are kindly requesting that SORAK finds time to engage with the boys and girls directly.
- A kind request to SORAK to spare time and conduct the training to the girls and women with disabilities in order for them to have access to such important information.
- The meeting was the first of its kind to most of the participants including male involvement in issues of MHM.
- A kind request for SORAK to organize more trainings of the kind especially during the general parents' meetings.

### ■ Kasaana Church of Uganda Primary (13/07/2022)

- “These are issues that are overlooked but very important. This is my very first time to attend such an important session. It is a pity that at my old age, I have never attended this before.” Said the chairperson P.T.A.
- Government should come up with a policy where girls are supposed to move with emergency pads and knickers in their bags as they go to school.
- It is a fact that even the old women too face challenges related to menstruation and not only the girls so the session was very crucial.
- This has been a unique opportunity for us to learn about issues of MHM. Teachers and parents present are requested to disseminate the information for other people to have access.
- A request to SORAK to conduct a training for the Trainers of Trainees who will become experts in sharing such important information for them to carry on with creating awareness to the rest of the people in the community.
- A request to conduct such trainings to all the family members in order to inform them that such issues are not supposed to be considered as a secrete in order to bridge the communication gap.
- Most of the male participants appreciated the training because they got an opportunity of getting the nitty gritty about Menstrual Hygiene Management.
- “There is need to ensure that there is a specific budgetary allocation for MHM in schools. Last term we did not have this in mind and so there is no budget for it but moving forward this shall be given priority as a result of this interaction.” Said one of the teachers.
- There is need to train our children in issues of MHM and stop being shy.
- We should learn how to lobby for support regarding issues of MHM in order to ensure a friendly MHM environment at school.
- It has been an opportunity that has opened our eyes regarding how to support our children during menstruation.
- Long ago such issues would be addressed by their aunties but nowadays things changed and their mothers cannot provide support to their girls because they are shy.
- One of the female teachers requested parents to buy school bags to their girls where they can keep the used sanitary pads after changing and to keep emergency pads safely. “Most of the girls have polyethene bags. These compromise the protection of the pads.” Said one of the female teachers.
- It is a fact that most of the female parents do not have adequate information regarding MHM. Due to this, some of them end up backbiting instead of supporting their fellow women who experience such challenges like the blood spot on their clothes.
- A request to SORAK to come up with a strategy of extending such training sessions to the young girls who are not in schools.
- A request to also train the female parents in making reusable sanitary pads to ensure accessibility.
- Parents invited SORAK team to make a presentation during their meetings with all parents of the children in the school in order for the information to reach out to a bigger audience.
- A female parent inquired if community members would also receive training in pad making. The manager answered positively that this will be put into consideration.

### Challenges

- Language barrier. Having over four tribes in the region, the project team used Luganda as a language of communication which most of the members could understand and the few needed interpretation to pick the message and give feedback which was done appropriately.

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- Parents came late during the community meetings at most of the schools like Gwanika and Kiyiita but the project team had to wait until there was a reasonable number of participants and started the meeting.
- Most of the parents do not know how to read and write and this called for one-on-one interaction during the process of filling in the questionnaire.
- Some participants were shy and refused to respond to the assessment tool.
- Schools had already conducted their parents' meetings for the term and they decided to invite a few parents of the students in the specific classes. During which, some of the PTA members did not attend and in addition the number of participants reduced.

### Positive influence

- Some of the schools like Dyangoma appreciated the idea of providing a sewing machine for pad making and the Head teacher noted that he is planning to buy another machine which will supplement the one which shall be given by SORAK.
- Schools have appreciated the relevance of a friendly MHM environment and ensure that things like emergency pads, nickers and uniforms are available at school. For example, Kasasa, Dyangoma and Kiyiita Primary schools
- SORAK's visibility has been enhanced in the respective schools as a result of the project undertakings where most of the parents and students are appreciative of the support from SORAK.
- Through the MHM clubs, boys are much more supportive to girls than before.
- The meetings were an eye opener regarding male involvement in MHM issues.

## 4. Post Training Evaluation

### Q1. Are you Male or Female?

Gender	Statistics
Female	160
Male	183
Total	343

### Q2. Did you like the training?

1) Yes/ 342 respondents 2) No/ 1 respondent

Reasons:

One female respondent did not like the training because she was against involving boys in the issues of MHM but the rest appreciated the training.

Respondents that said yes gave the following reasons;

- learnt new ideas for example how to clean a reusable sanitary pad.
- Learnt how to be supportive to their children during menstruation.
- Learnt the importance of involving boys in issues of MHM.
- The sessions revealed the lies about menstruation for example in some cultures it is believed that girls do not have to bath while in menstruation. They discovered that it is a lie.
- Learnt that menstruation is not a secret.
- Training increased their awareness about MHM for example the material used, how they can be disposed of in case they are disposable.
- Because it changed their mindset on girl child education.
- Learnt the challenges faced by the girls during menstruation and will be supportive.
- Learnt the relevance of a friendly MHM school environment towards keeping girls in school.
- Training enhanced the responsibilities of parents, teachers and community about how to handle the body changes of adolescents/teenagers.

### Q3. Did you learn something new from the training?

All respondents answered Yes.

Respondents who answered YES above, said they learnt one of the following;

- a) Menstruation is normal / natural/ healthy/ part of a woman's life.
- b) Fathers have a role to play in affairs of the girl child.
- c) Boys too should be supportive when girls are experiencing menstruation.
- d) Learnt how to prepare a girl for her menarche.
- e) Not to be shy but talk to the children about issues of MHM.
- f) One of the female parents noted that, "I did not know that girls need such materials like pads because I grew up using reusable clothes during menstruation."
- g) Learnt about reusable sanitary pads for the very first time.
- h) Learnt that one should not use a pad for the whole day but has to change to avoid infections.

#### **Q4. In which ways can one promote MHM at home?**

Respondents gave the following answers;

- a) Providing clean water and soap..
- b) Making sure that pads are readily available.
- c) Parents befriending their daughters in order for them to be open when it comes to issues of MHM.
- d) Maintaining clean toilets and washrooms.
- e) Providing means that ensure the proper disposal of pads.
- f) There should be money to buy the material used during menstruation.

#### **Q5. What is required to ensure a friendly MHM environment?**

Respondents gave one or two of the following answers;

- a) Clean water sources.
- b) Making information about MHM readily available.
- c) Keeping toilets and bathrooms clean.
- d) An environment that enables personal hygiene.
- e) Encouraging boys to be supportive of the girls during their menstruation.
- f) Not segregating girls in case, they are experiencing menstruation.
- g) A friendly environment where parents are approachable by their children.
- h) Guidance and counselling sessions about MHM.

#### **Q6. Any comment?**

Below are some of the key comments as recorded from the questionnaire;

- a) The training has created awareness about MHM issues.
- b) More trainings needed especially directly to both girls and boys.
- c) A request to provide with clean water in the community.
- d) Boys too should not be left behind.
- e) The trainings should be extended to other communities.
- f) Where can one have access to the reusable pads.
- g) Male parents need to be sensitized to provide MHM material to their wives and girls.
- h) Parents should also be trained in making reusable sanitary pads and a request for more sewing machines.
- i) The training was the first of its kind regarding the issues of MHM one of the male respondents noted that, "I am just happy because ever since I was born it is my first time to learn this topic."
- j) "All stakeholders should constantly be trained in issues of MHM." Said one of the male participants
- k) "Good work done, maintain the sensitization about MHM."
- l) "I wish this training can be extended to all the districts of Uganda to benefit a bigger number of people."
- m) "It was an interesting session please always come and conduct more every term."
- n) "It would be very good if both parents' male and female from the same home attended the training."
- o) "Good job, a difference has been created in parents' mindset."
- p) "As a P.T.A member I request that you help us to acquire a quality mark from the Uganda



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National Bureau of Standards such that we can begin producing pads for school consumption and sale once we receive the sewing machine.”

- q) ” The training should be conducted in all the schools countrywide and not for only a few selected ones.”

**Pictorial for Community sensitizations in Mubende**

		
Participants at St. Mary's Gwanika Primary School	Project Manager at St. Mary's Gwanika P/S	Participants at Ikula Primary School
		
Participants at Dyangoma P/S	Participants at Kasaana P/S	Participants at Kasasa P/S
		
Participants at Kaabowa P/S	Participants at CAWODISA Primary School	Participants at Kiyiita P/S
		
Director talking to participants at Christ the King P/S	Participants at Katega P/S	Head Teacher making remarks at Christ the King P/S


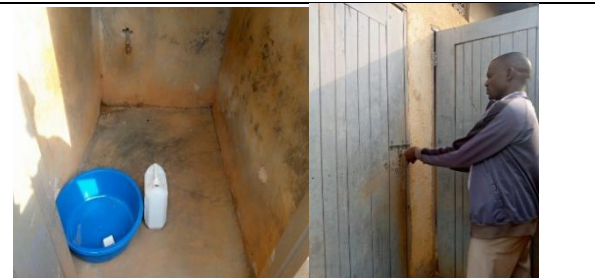


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**Pictorial for MHM Clubs in Mubende**

		
Participants at St Mary's Gwanika Primary School	Participants at Ikula Primary School	Participants at Dyangoma Primary School
		
Participants at Kasaana P/S	Participants at Kaabowa P/S	Participants at Kasasa P/S
		
Participants at CAWODISA Primary School	Participants at Kiyiita Primary School	Participants at Christ the King Primary School
		
Participants at Katega P/S		

**Some of the project outcomes regarding the MHM facilities at the respective schools**

	
Photo1: Improved toilet facility with a changing room as the first room as you get in at CAWODISA.	Photo 2: Lockable washroom at Dyangoma Primary School. The Head teacher, MHM club president and the Senior woman have a copy of

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<p>Photo 3: Improved washroom facility at Kaabowa Primary School</p>	<p>Photo 4: Newly constructed Changing room at Kasasa Primary</p>
	
<p>Photo 5: A changing room and a wash room at Kiyiita Primary School</p>	<p>Photo 6: Number 1 is the water tank, 2 is the washroom and three is the changing room at Gwanika Primary School. The girls keep their own keys by the MHM club president.</p>

## Community Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene Management, Gender Awareness, Sexual and Reproductive Health and importance of girls' education in Wakiso

### Activity Report 4th/July-8th/July/2022

#### Objective

To create awareness on responsibilities of different stake holders on issues related to MHM, Gender Awareness, Sexual and Reproductive Health and importance of educating a girl child.

The meetings focused on reminding and teaching stakeholders including both male and female parents, community leaders and teachers of their responsibilities on issues regarding Menstrual Hygiene Management and the importance of keeping children at school especially the girl child.

#### Attendance

The meetings were conducted for two hours in all the 10 project schools. In attendance were members of the PTA (Parents Teachers Association), community leaders, teachers and parents. The meetings took place between the 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the 10 project schools. Important to note is that in all the 10 schools, the community meetings were successfully conducted.

About the formation of the MHM clubs for the 10 project schools, the project team engaged the schools regarding the club formation which was done successfully.

#### List of schools visited and the total number of participants

Date	School	Female	Male	Total Participants
4 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	1. Ssayi Bright p/s	43	6	49
4 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	2. Kitanda C/U p/s	22	18	40
5 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	3. Ssanga C/U p/s	22	21	43
6 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	4. Lwadda C/U p/s	34	8	42
7 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	5. Kitungwa C/U p/s	27	15	42
7 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	6. Kirolo UMEA p/s	29	15	44
7 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	7. Kanyange Mixed p/s	26	23	49
8 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	8. Buwambo C/U p/s	29	17	46
8 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	9. Jinja Karoli p/s	30	21	51
8 <sup>th</sup> /7/2022	10. Maganjo UMEA p/s	27	21	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>454</b>

#### Methods Used

Like in Mubende, the same methods were also used in Wakiso.

##### 1. Guided Discussions

The project officer took lead by asking questions about the responsibilities of the stakeholders and from the responses we made conclusions on what each one of them is expected to do. Gender awareness was also part of the discussions.

##### 2. Questionnaire

At the end of the discussion, participants were given a questionnaire as a tool to evaluate the sessions and guide on any improvements.

##### 3. Reactions from group discussions

##### ■ Ssayi Bright P/S (4/7/2022)



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- The area Councilor asked whether we can help them out with other problems and the response was the funding is strictly about MHM.
- Another lady raised a complaint that we are talking about hygiene but all they need is water which is a problem in the school hence still requested for help.
- One parent asked if we have a program for the children because some of the parents are too shy to talk about menstruation. The response was yes, we had a program for the children including the boys.
- One female parent was totally against the boys knowing about menstruation at that age but this reaction was thrown back to the audience and majority had appreciated the boys' involvement.

### ■ Kitanda C/U P/S (4/7/2022)

- One of the parents loved the sensitization and requested SORAK to make time and go back to sensitize more parents.
- A parent who was male appreciated the issue of gender equality giving an example of his step mum who forced him to cook yet he was a boy but he later on appreciated it and encouraged all parents to give children equal opportunities when nurturing them.

### ■ Ssanga C/U P/S (5/7/2022)

- One of the parents asked whether they have a chance to learn how to make pads as parents if they are interested. These were advised to keep in touch with the head teacher such that when the training of the children start, they can be part of it.
- At what age are boys supposed to know about menstruation? In response to this, all boys who are classmates to the girls being taught about MHM should know about it.

### ■ Lwadda C/U P/S (6/7/2022)

- The Head teacher asked if there is a chance to have more bathrooms and toilets constructed because the population was too high. Response was there was no chance since this was not planned for in the budget.
- Will there be training for the parents in pad making?  
Response: It was made clear that construction was not budgeted for but rather renovation of the washrooms and toilets. As for the training of the parents in pad making, they were advised to keep in touch with the head teacher such that when training of the children begins, they can benefit.

### ■ Kitungwa C/U (7/7/2022)

- If at all it's the man present and the girl gets her menarche what should be done?
- How should we handle children who don't study?  
Response: The head teacher appreciated SORAK and advised parents especially the female to be mothers to all children and help were need be because she has helped many at school and would love to see others take on the same. She also emphasized the need to involve the boys.

### ■ Kirolo UMEA (7/7/2022)

- One parent asked whether the tailoring machine would stay at school after the project is completed and whether they would benefit from it.  
Response: Yes, the machine would stay and it will depend on the school management committee to see how the parents would benefit from the machine.

### ■ Kanyange mixed p/s (7/7/2022)

- One of the male teachers asked how to really differentiate between a girl sick due to menstruation and one who is taking advantage of menstruation to misbehave in class?  
Response: The teacher was advised to be patient with the children when they raise such issues but should take note of how often they give such excuses. The children should also be sensitized on the importance of education. This way they will value every minute they spend in class.

### ■ Buwambo C/U (8/7/2022)



## Wakiso District

- We are grateful for the project however my concern is, for how long are you going to be with us?
- Generally, the male parents were willing to support financially but not the ones to do the counseling of the girls at home  
Response: The project will last for two years and a half and so far, 8months have gone.

### ■ Jinja Kalori p/s (8/7/2022)

- “We appreciate your concern about hygiene but my school is one that is inclusive with PWDs and we need a lot of water, should we have hope of helping us in that sense?” Asked the head teacher.  
Response; We would love to help but we are constrained by the funds however we shall try to lobby for you in the future since it’s a common problem.

### ■ Maganjo UMEA (8/7/2022)

- Head teacher appreciated the efforts by SORAK especially renovating the washroom however he raised need for more washrooms.
- One parent issued a concern about the neglect of the boy child because most of the organizations focus on the girls and SORAK is almost not any different.  
Response; The girls are so vulnerable compared to boys and to reduce on that vulnerability we need to educate them as a way of empowering them and that is why we are addressing some of the issues such as MHM that may hinder their stay in school.

### Challenges

- Time keeping was a big problem as the meetings started late for most of the schools and I had to wait until good parents were enough to start the meeting.
- Language barrier. Very few parents knew how to read and write English and in some cases I was helped by the teachers to interpret and help parents answer the questionnaire.

### Positive influence

- Through the MHM clubs, boys are much more supportive to girls than before.
- The meetings were an eye opener regarding male involvement in MHM issues.
- Most schools together with parents appreciated the idea of providing sewing machines for pad making

### Post Training Evaluation

#### Q1. Are you Male or Female?

Gender	Statistics
Female	289
Male	165
Total	454

#### Q2. Did you like the training?

All the parents liked the training however some of the parent did not like some sections like boys getting to know about menstruation and fathers talking to their daughters about menstruation.

Reasons:

Respondents that said they liked the training gave one of the following reasons;

- They learnt new things.
- I have a child here at school and she is going to benefit a lot.
- I have loved it that SORAK will teach our children about menstruation.
- They were good words.
- We benefit a lot as parents.
- It has taught me that girls need to be taught earlier about menstruation.
- I have learnt about the changes in a girl’s life during menstruation.
- What you talked about is very vital for parents.

## Wakiso District

- I liked that our children are going to make their own pads.
- It is useful.
- I would also have loved to learn about pad making.
- You taught us well.
- We are going to benefit as a school and as a community.
- Gender awareness is very important.

### Q3. Did you learn something new from the training?

All Respondents who answered YES above, said they learnt one of the following;

- We should sensitize the girls before their menarche.
- Gender equality is often ignored.
- Keeping girls in school even when in menstruation is very important.
- How to keep our girls clean when in menstruation.
- How to keep pads safely.
- How to take care of a girl during menstruation.
- I have learnt better menstrual hygiene management practices.
- I have learnt how to handle the girl child when in menstruation.
- I have learnt how to stay with children at home.
- Treating children, the same way at home irrespective of their gender.
- Some parents still believe in myths about menstruation.
- The difference between sex and gender.
- How to encourage the boy child to help the girl child.
- I have learnt techniques of how to raise my children well at home.
- I have learnt the responsibilities of a parent to the girl child.
- Being friendly to my children helps them to be free with me.
- I have learnt about pads.
- I have to realize that there are people who care about others like SORAK.
- Male parent should equally be responsible when it comes to menstruation.

### Q4. In which ways can one promote MHM at home?

Respondents gave the following answers;

- Educate the girls before they start menstruation.
- Encouraging girls to bath regularly during menstruation.
- Providing the girls with what to use such as soap, pad and knickers.
- Ensuring that enough water is available at home.
- Teach them how to be clean.
- Constantly reminding the girls the importance of cleanliness.
- Letting the children know about the changes in their bodies before ‘they happen.’
- By creating awareness to both boys and girls.
- By making sanitary pads for our children.
- By counseling the girls constantly.
- Providing the right information to the children.
- Giving them support physically and emotionally.
- Guiding the girls on how to wear and change pads during menstruation.
- By providing and burning the used pads such that they are not exposed to children.
- By ensuring that toilets and bathrooms are clean always.
- By building toilets and bathrooms.

### Q5. What is required to ensure a friendly MHM environment?

Respondents gave one or two of the following answers;

- Ensuring water is available.

## Wakiso District

- Providing incinerator to burn the used pads.
- Carrying out community sensitizing meetings about MHM.
- Government should help construct public toilets in busy places.
- Training the girls on how to take care of themselves during menstruation.
- Teaching all the children in pad making.
- Ensuring that all homes have clean toilets and bathrooms.
- Buying material such as pads, soap and nickers for girls to use during menstruation.
- Encouraging the girls to be open and friendly to their parents.
- Preparing girl about MHM before their menarche.
- Encouraging girls to have pads all the time for safety.

### Q6. Any comment?

Below are some of the key comments as recorded from the questionnaire;

- We are badly off with water please help us.
- Boys should not know about girls being in menstruation.
- Thanks for the training.
- Continue coming and sensitize more parents because many are not around.
- I pray we put what we have learnt into consideration.
- It's a good training but I'm against boys in lower primary to know about menstruation.
- Good work done but we need incentives to have fathers participate actively.
- I'm glad our children will do pads practically.
- We need more support to promote MHM in our schools.
- We need more training.
- Some of the senior women teachers don't keep confidentiality of girls MHM challenges. They do this by sharing with other teachers which is not good to the girls who do not want to hear comments about their MHM situation.
- Provide refreshments to participants please.
- May the good lord provide more for this program.

### Photographs for the community meetings in Wakiso

		
<p>Community meeting at Ssayi Bright P/S</p>	<p>Community sensitization at Kitanda C/U P/S</p>	<p>Community sensitization at Ssanga C/U primary school</p>
		



**Wakiso District**

Community sensitization at Kirolo UMEA primary school.	Community sensitization at Lwadda C/U P/s	Community Sensitisation at Kitungwa C/U primary school
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**Photographs for the MHM Clubs in Wakiso**

		
Participants at Ssayi Bright	Participants at Kitanda P/S	Participants at Ssanga C/U P/S
		
Participants at Lwadda C/U p/s	Participants at Kitungwa P/S	Participants at Kirolo P/S
		
Participants at Kanyange Mixed Primary School	Participants at Buwambo P/S	Participants at Jinja Karoli P/S
		
Participants at Maganjo Umea P/S		

## Community Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene Management, Gender Awareness, Sexual and Reproductive Health

### Activity Report (Butambala District)

#### Objective

To create awareness on issues related to menstruation, gender, sexual and reproductive health.

The awareness campaign aimed at reminding girls and boys, parents, teachers and community leaders about their individual roles in proper menstrual hygiene management. It also involved gender awareness as well as information sharing on sexual and reproductive health.

#### Attendance

The team carried out 2 hours awareness sessions in all 10 selected schools between 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022. In attendance were members of the PTA (Parents Teachers Association), learners/MHM club members and community leaders.

180 out of the target 400 community members as well as 188 learners were reached by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

More community awareness meetings were held on 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 respectively. Several school communities were met in groups as shown in the table below.

Date	District /Location	Progress
14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	<b>Butambala</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lwamasaka Primary school and Butende primary school</li> </ul>	60 community members attended (30 from lwamasaka and 30 from Butende)
16 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitagobwa, Nkokoma, Ntolomwe and Bule primary schools</li> </ul>	65 community members attended (16 from Ntolomwe, 20 from Bule, 18 from Kitagobwa and 11 from Nkokoma)
21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kiwala, Nawango, Kayenje and Butalunga primary schools</li> </ul>	100 community members attended (27 from kiwala, 25 Nawango, 23 from Butalunga and 25 from kayenje)

A total of 225 community members were reached in the above meetings to add on the 180 members reached in June 2022. The target members totaled to 405 members.

School	Parents & Teachers	Learners
Kayenje P/S	45	15
Ntolomwe P/S	40	15
Nawango P/S	40	15
Lwamasaka P/S	45	15
Kiwala P/S	43	23
Butende P/s	50	15



Butalunga P/S	40	15
Nkokoma P/S	32	35
Kitagobwa P/S	34	25
Bule P/S	36	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>188</b>

The table above shows attendance of school community (PTA) and Learners during the community awareness held between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

The graph below summarizes the attendance per school community.

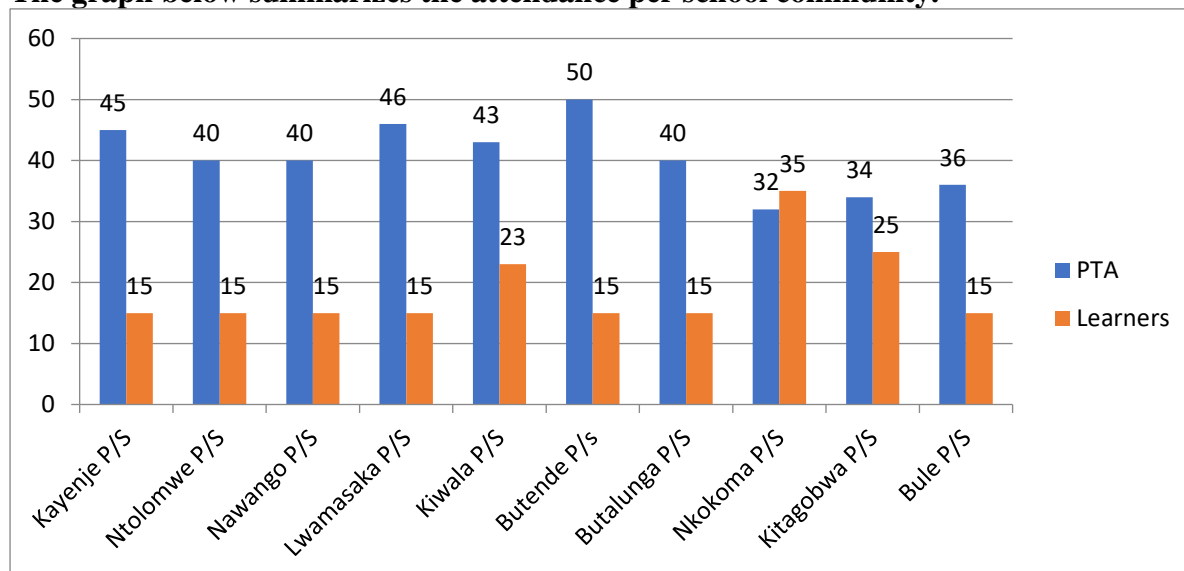


Figure 1: Graph showing general attendance per school

The table below shows attendance by gender

School	PTA- FEMALE	PTA -MALE	GIRLS	BOYS
Kayenje	30	15	10	5
Ntolomwe	21	19	10	5
Nawango	23	17	10	5
Lwamasaka	30	15	10	5
Kiwala	30	13	16	7
Butende	30	20	10	5
Butalunga	22	18	10	5
Nkokoma	15	17	18	17
Kitagobwa	26	8	15	10
Bule	21	15	10	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>69</b>

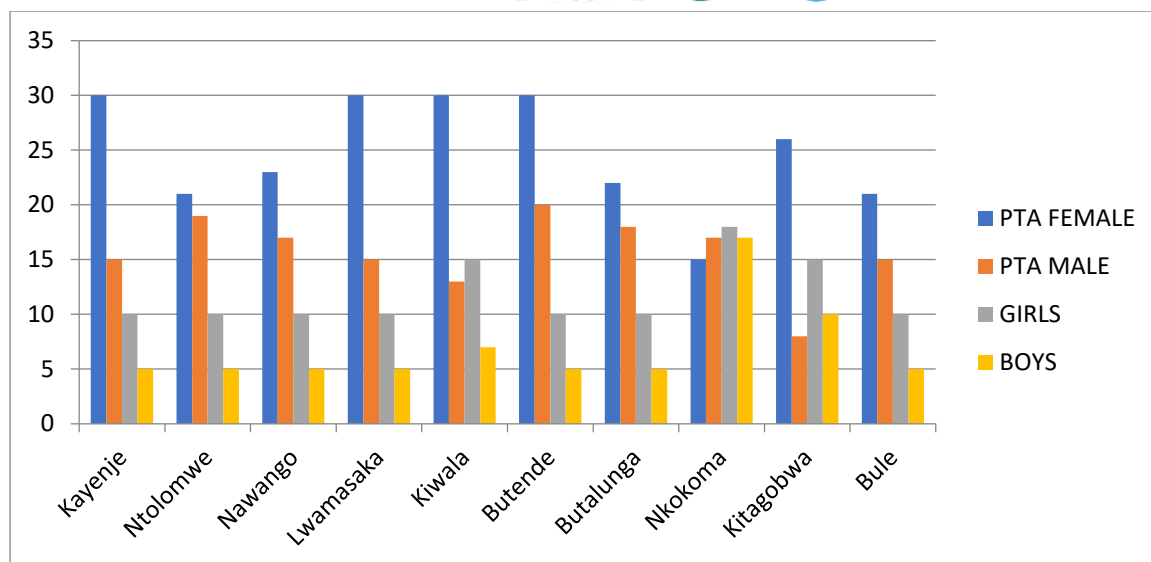


Figure 2: Graph showing attendance by gender per school

From the community, more female (248) attended the community awareness than the male (157) members.

### Methods Used

#### 1. Group Discussions

The team used the same approach in all 10 schools. Open discussions were held concluded by reactions from the participants and responses from VOTU team.

During each awareness session, VOTU played the spot message on a Bluetooth audio device to which all participants listened. Spot message was shared with all participants who had smart phones.

VOTU team mandated the MHM club of each school to be the drivers and managers of MHM activities with support from senior woman and senior man teacher. MHM club T-Shirts and booklets were issued to the club. Teachers and parents also received booklets.

Team made sure that each MHM club has a female president and a male assistant as the leaders responsible to spearhead MHM activities.

Teachers were advised to listen to opinions and possible solutions from the MHM club members in a child centered approach.

Teachers received a monitoring tool and a reporting tool from VOTU, which they could use to guide them on how to effectively implement the project.

#### 2. Questionnaire

At the end of the discussion, participants were given a questionnaire as a tool to evaluate the sessions and guide on any improvements.

## Reactions from group discussions

Date	School	Reactions from members
13-6-2022	Kayenje P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female parent inquired if community members would also receive training on pad making. The team answered positively that at the time of training, the teachers will inform them and those interested will be trained.</li> </ul>
13-6-2022	Ntolomwe P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male parent accused wives on how they have been sidelining them on menstrual issues.</li> <li>• A female parent responded by saying, “even if we tell our husbands, they care less and always tell us they do not have money for pads”.</li> <li>• LC3 councilor (male), advised VOTU team to continuously reach out to the communities and create more and more awareness.</li> <li>• Senior teacher promised to work together with the MHM club. He further confessed learning from the previous teacher’s training on how to involve children to create solutions to problems affecting them Senior man teachers had already designed a work plan for the learners’ trainings. (image attached in appendix)</li> <li>• No cultural driven responses were received from the participants.</li> </ul>
13-6-2022	Nawango P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male parents appreciated the need to openly talk with their daughters and to start supporting them.</li> <li>• Teachers appreciated VOTU for the opportunity.</li> <li>• Parents asked for more awareness trainings especially on menstruation.</li> </ul>
14-6-2022	Lwamasaka P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local leader pleaded with VOTU to intensively monitor the ongoing project so that it does not suffer the same fate as many similar projects by the government which have died off shortly after their project time. He was concerned about continuity of the current project beyond its two years.</li> <li>• “We have conducted recent surveys at the district where we discovered reducing numbers of girls advancing from primary, to secondary and to institutes,” he said. “Girls keep dropping out due to challenges related to menstruation, poverty and school gender-based violence leading to fewer girls at each level of education,” he continued.</li> <li>• Participants asked for the dates when pad making would start.</li> <li>• Teachers invited VOTU project officer to make a presentation during their upcoming meetings with all parents of the children in the school.</li> </ul>
14-6-2022	Kiwala P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher raised concern about tampon and menstrual cup. Inquired whether these products do not break girl’s virginity.</li> <li>• Male participants including teachers feared to even mention menstruation in their local languages. At the end of the session, they started opening up realizing it was equally important to break the silence.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They invited VOTU team to participate in their upcoming PTA meeting with parents for more awareness.</li> </ul>
<b>14-6-2022</b>	Butende P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members especially the female started with a staunch belief that girls shouldn't cross a road junction at menarche.</li> <li>• When asked about the possible repercussions if a girl crossed a junction a menarche, no participants had a reason. To them, they grew up being told so.</li> <li>• The trainer (Amos) used several life scenarios to deconstruct this myth. He gave a scenario of a girl child who gets her menarche on a day she is supposed to sit her final exams. The second scenario was for girls who get menarche while in boarding schools in the middle of the school term. Participants couldn't reason this out and thus started to be objective. Trainer further discouraged such restrictions against girls emphasizing that girls shouldn't miss classes because they cannot cross a road during periods.</li> </ul>
<b>14-6-2022</b>	Butalunga P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just like Butende, members of this school community had the same myth. Here, it was even tougher as mothers threatened to storm out of the meeting.</li> <li>• Asked why they believe this myth, they responded saying             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A girl would experience irregular periods</li> <li>b) Girl can bleed for many days every month (longer period days)</li> <li>c) Increases deaths at child birth</li> </ol> </li> <li>• In response to the above cases, the project manager Moses had to explain the biology of menstruation. Explained hormonal imbalance and unhealthy living as the true causes of the cases a), b) and c) above.</li> <li>• He further explained that the herbal medicines recommended by elders for the girls at menarche seem to contain elements that balance hormones. We are only inclined to think that "the myth of not crossing the road junction" is what helped the victims (girls).</li> <li>• This myth is based on ignorance. Its mechanism is to instill fear among girls so that at menarche, they can quickly notify elders for quick attention plus any quick remedies for possible anomalies.</li> <li>• Project manager emphasized the objectives of the MHM project among which is creating an environment where girls, boys, women and men feel free to discuss and address menstruation related topics. Breaking the silence, understanding the biology of menstruation and embracing menstruation as a natural, normal and healthy process.</li> <li>• Senior man had already designed a work plan indicating dates for the different training sessions for the students.</li> </ul>
<b>15-6-2022</b>	Nkokoma P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and teachers made a promise to spread the information using the booklets they received</li> <li>• Parents welcomed the idea of empowering children to spearhead the activities in schools. "If children are at the center, they grow into responsible citizens," said a parent from Nkokoma primary school.</li> </ul>

15-6-2022	Kitagobwa P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants asked for more awareness sessions for parents especially the fathers.</li> </ul>
15-6-2022	Bule P/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern was about availability of water. The head master said his biggest challenge was water. “With the number of students using the washroom, it requires regular cleaning but the nearest water source is 1 to 1.5 kilometers away making it hard to maintain hygiene,” said the head teacher.</li> <li>Senior woman gave testimony on how she learnt to be open with learners about menstrual related matters. “I used to feel shy myself but after the information I got in the teacher’s training, I feel happy not only about menstruation but also as a woman,” she said.</li> <li>There was a call for any support towards emergency pain killers at the school. A mother said many girls like her 14-year-old daughter experience intense pain during periods.</li> </ul>
14-7-2022	Lwamasaka group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents in the PTA meeting acknowledged improvement in the hygiene witnessed in the washrooms at Lwamasaka. This was an agreed position by parents of the other schools in attendance.</li> </ul>
16-7-2022	Kitagobwa group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents promised to put into action whatever had been taught to them and also use the acquired knowledge to improve their lives.</li> <li>Schools appreciated grouping them during community meetings.</li> </ul>
21-7-2022	Kiwala group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mothers from Kiwala community meeting asked fathers to rise and help their daughters and bridge that "dad-daughter" gap.</li> <li>“There is need for more awareness, because a lot of misinformation and barriers still exist,” said a parent of Butalunga primary school</li> </ul>

### Challenges

- Sit down strike on the 15<sup>th</sup>-06-2022 by teachers who were demanding increased pay. The team had to convince the head teacher to stay around with the MHM clubs for the awareness to continue since the activity was for the community majorly.
- Language barrier. Many of the parents could not ably write. Teachers administered oral questionnaire and wrote responses on behalf of the parents who couldn’t write.
- Culture: this was a big hindrance especially in the communities of Butende and Butalunga primary schools. It was an experience that prepared us for even bigger challenges. It was a finding that deconstructing cultural beliefs needs a planned approach and a well-informed team of trainers.
- Religious misconceptions that sometimes oppose the parental responsibilities in MHM.

### Post Training Evaluation

Q1. Are you 1) Male 2) Female ?

Gender	Statistics
Female	63
Male	37
Total	100

Q2. Did you like the training?



- 16 Respondents answered NO, they did not like the training.
- 70 Respondents answered yes
- 4 Did not respond

Why?

- 13 respondents did not like the training because it was against their cultural beliefs. Another 3 respondents doubted the sustainability of the project saying several organizations came in the past promising to continue supporting but never fulfilled.
- Respondents that said they liked the training gave one of the following reasons;
  - a) They learnt new things
  - b) Learnt how to be supportive to their children
  - c) Learnt importance of involving boys
  - d) Realized the lies they have been living in the community
  - e) Learnt that menstruation is no secret
  - f) Boys and girls attending one session about sensitive discussion about sex and menstruation
  - g) Training increased their awareness
  - h) They were more enlightened
  - i) Training showed equality in a family

Q3. Did you learn something new from the training?

Response	Statistics
<b>YES</b>	73
<b>NO</b>	8
<b>Un answered</b>	19

What did you learn?

Respondents who answered YES above, said they learnt one of the following;

- a) Menstruation is normal / natural/ healthy/ part of a woman’s life - 20 respondents
- b) Fathers have a role to play in affairs of the girl child- 12 respondents
- c) Girls and boys have equal rights / Women and men were created equal - 6 respondents
- d) Challenges girls face and how they affect their education – 7 respondents
- e) How to use reusable pads - 7 respondents
- f) How to handle a girl in her periods- 7 respondents
- g) New menstrual hygiene products – 5 respondents
- h) Learnt how to help a girl in her first menstruation (menarche) – 4 respondents
- i) How to guide children – 5 respondents
- j) How to maintain body hygiene and how to guide children – 7 respondents
- k) Menstruation is not a disease – 5 respondents
- l) Learnt not to fear boys knowing about my menstruation – 6 respondent
- m) Girls can go to school even during menstruation - 6 respondents
- n) 8 respondents said they learnt nothing

Q4. In which ways can one promote MHM at home?

Respondents gave the following answers;

- a) Providing water sources - 27 respondents

- b) Providing soap and pads - 18 respondents
- c) Separate bathroom for girls and women - 10 respondents
- d) Encourage bathing regularly / body hygiene / shaving - 11 respondents
- e) Disposing used pads in latrine - 2 respondents
- f) Knowledge sharing – 9 respondents
- g) Stop boys laughing at girls – 15 respondents
- h) Open discussion with children - 3 respondents
- i) Others -5 respondents

Q5. What is required to ensure a friendly MHM environment?

Respondents gave one or two of the following answers;

- a) Borehole water / water sources
- b) Teaching children about MHM
- c) Re-usable sanitary products
- d) Knickers for girls
- e) Separate bathrooms
- f) Open parent – child relationships
- g) Boys not laughing at girls
- h) More awareness
- i) Personal hygiene
- j) Proper dumping of used pads
- k) Involving boys
- l) Not discriminating girls during periods
- m) Good relationships with children
- n) Good communication at home

Q6. Any comment?

Below are some of the key comments as recorded from the questionnaire;

- a) “I was completely ignorant about some of these topics but at least I am enlightened”
- b) “This approach if followed can boost the self esteem of the girls”
- c) “More training needed, time was limited”
- d) “How I wish we have another session of the same again”
- e) “More efforts in providing more teachings”
- f) “The training was very good, but boys shouldn’t be there”
- g) “I hope VOTU will fulfill ad not lie to us”

In general participants were thankful to VOTU and her partners for the support and sacrifice. They are eagerly waiting to learn how to make the pads.

## Pictorial



Bule Primary School Community



Project Officer Creates awareness at Bule Primary school



Community awareness meeting at Kiwala



Community awareness at Lwamasaka



Community awareness meeting at Kitagobwa



Project officer presenting at Kiwala primary school





Kayenje C/S Primary School MHM club (Boys excited to participate in the project)



Team Leader (Twahah Sekitto) guides Kayenje primary school MHM club about their roles



Group photo at Kitagobwa primary school



MHM club president and deputy receive MHM booklets at Ntolomwe Primary School



Ntolomwe Group photo



Lwamasaka Community





Nawango Primary School community Awareness



MHM club at Nawango Primary School



Nawango MHM club president and Deputy



Nkokoma community awareness on MHM, gender and SRH



Nkokoma MHM club receiving booklets and T-shirts



PTA community at Ntolomwe



Awareness session by project manager at Kayenje Primary school



MHM club and community group photo at Butalunga primary school



Senior woman and senior man at Butende receive booklets