

## JICA Monitoring Report November 2023

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

#### Mubende

#### **Introduction**

Ten public Primary schools in Mubende district have been implementing MHM activities since January 2022 including; rehabilitation of WASH facilities, training learners in MHM, formation of MHM clubs and reusable sanitary pad trainings among others. The schools include; Christ the King, Dyangoma, Kasasa, Kasaana C/U, CAWODISA, St. Mary's Gwanika, St. Mary's Kiyita, Katega and Ikula. This monitoring was conducted from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. The report details findings from the monitoring activity as below.

		
Pads made at CAWODISA P/S	St Mary's Gwanika MHM club members fetch water to be kept at the washroom	MHM club president and the Senior woman Ikula P/S
		
MHM club members CAWODISA P/S	Pads made at Kasana C/U P/S	Pads made at Katega P/S

#### **Objective of the monitoring activity**

To track the progress of project activities in the respective schools to generate lessons and corrective action where need be.

To Follow up on the key action points from the School to School MHM club visit.

#### **The monitoring processes**

Monitoring was done with aid of a tool that looked at different aspects of the school including;

1. Demographics
2. Status of facilities
3. Awareness
4. Re-usable pad making
5. Remarks from MHM Club members; girls and boys, then senior teachers
6. Next plan

## 1. Demographics

It should be noted that all the ten schools had a file of project documents including minutes of the teachers’ training meeting about MHM, sexuality education and gender awareness, community awareness meetings on MHM, sexuality education and Gender Awareness, pad making trainings, invitation letters and MOUs and other related documents. Below is a summary of the demographics;

School	Indicators (Demographics)			
	Total population	Population of Girls P.4-P7	Number of female teachers	Number of male teachers
Kasasa	402	82	7	5
Kabowa	706	209	5	10
Christ the King	300	80	5	5
St. Mary’s Gwanika	528	80	6	7
CAWODISA	693	349	9	10
Katega	206	68	5	5
St. Mary’s Kiyita	550	110	3	10
Dyangoma	572	116	5	7
Ikula	436	112	4	5
Kasaana c/u	354	134	6	5

## 2. Status of facilities (Washroom/changing room)

### a) Privacy

Washrooms in most of the schools had doors in order to ensure privacy, cemented with clean water, basin and soap except at Kabowa where a curtain is still in use to work as a door to ensure privacy.

### b) Hygiene

- All the washrooms in the ten schools were clean with a good drainage system

### c) Materials

In some schools like Kasasa P/S and Dyangoma P/S, material are kept in the washroom whereas at the rest of the schools, materials are kept with the senior lady or in the head teacher’s office as ever and these included; soap, basin, a jerry can and emergency reusable sanitary pads made by the learners themselves.

**At St. Mary's Gwanika P/S**, a parents' meeting was held on the 24/September/2023 during which parents were made aware of the challenge of lack of material used for pad making and it was resolved that every parent contributes 1000UGX/ every term. It was noted that at least 40% had complied and that the challenge was solved because materials used for pad making are always available and emergency pads too.

**At Christ the King P/S** parents promised to always contribute 1000UGX/ which will be used for buying material used during pad making. The Head Teacher plans to complete the toilet facility once he gets funds in February 2024.

**d) Water**

Schools still have a challenge of scarcity of water especially during the dry season apart from Kasasa where a community bore hole was constructed near the school. Schools like St Mary's Kiyita and Dyangoma have their children fetch water early in the morning to cater for kitchen activities and hygiene when the water reservoirs or tanks are empty. It should be noted that water remains the greatest challenge in most of these schools.

**3. Awareness**

**a) MHM Club members**

All the ten schools had at least 15 members of the MHM club where some of them who replaced those who left the school especially the ones who belonged to Primary Seven were actively involved in MHM work especially reusable sanitary pad making among other activities.

**i. Topics of the training covered.**

The topics of discussion are generated from the MHM booklet including; Menstrual hygiene management, reusable sanitary pad making, how to use the reusable pad, Sexuality education and Gender Awareness and have been taught in all the project schools.

**ii. Number of girls who missed at least 1 day of school during their periods**

It was noted from all schools that since the project activities begun in their schools, there was no single girl who missed school during menstruation because the environment is friendly whereby, they can confidently approach the Senior woman teacher or any responsible person to support them during menstrual emergencies while at school and their needs are catered for. Schools have emergency pads made by the learners themselves.

**iii. Activities conducted by club members**

MHM club members are involved in a number of activities such as;

- a)** Formation of discussions about their personal and general hygiene in order to maintain the general cleanliness of the school, ensuring that water for washing hands after visiting the toilet is available, helping those who are challenged due to menstruation or lead them to the teachers.
- b)** They supported other members outside the MHM club with information regarding proper menstrual hygiene management
- c)** Training other members in pad making and how to use the machine

- d) The club presidents worked hand in hand with the senior teachers to ensure continuity of the club
- e) Club members still raise funds for the continuity of MHM club activities at Kiyita and Dyangoma Primary Schools. This being a good practice, other schools would be introduced to the idea during the school -to- school learning visit.

iv. **Any findings/comment about the MHM club.**

- In most of the schools like Dyangoma, St Mary’s Gwanika, St Mary’s Kiyita and Katega, boys are more active when it comes to making reusable sanitary pads because they are interested in acquiring the skill.
- Club members in most of the schools would wish to learn other skills using the sewing machine apart from making reusable sanitary pads.
- Club members are now better equipped with knowledge about MHM and are very active when it comes to supporting others with menstrual emergencies at school.

**b) TEACHERS**

All the schools had senior teachers a male and a female teacher but it was clear that the female teachers were more active for issues to do with Menstrual Hygiene Management. SORAK is encouraging school managers to ensure that both male and female teachers are actively involved in MHM issues for both girls and boys. Most of the schools had female head teachers and these were well informed about the situation especially the head teacher of Gwanika Primary School which is the best performing school as far as project activities are concerned.

Below is a summary of how MHM is incorporated into the schools’ time table

\*Term: 3 months from September to November

School	Senior teachers	Timetable	No. of training done by Sr. teacher	No. of MHM meeting with fellow Teachers
St. Mary’s Gwanika	Mrs. Kusemererwa Dorothy Mr. Matovu Charles	Once in 2wks	Once in 2wks	Twice a term
Kasasa	Mrs. Namuyunga Sarah	Once in a month	Once in week	Twice a term
Ikula	Mrs. Nabukenya Joan Mr. Nyirahimana Nickson	Once a week	Once in week	2 times a term (6)
Dyangoma	Mrs. Nakabiito Allen Mr. Kushabe Emmanuel	Once a week	Once a week	Once a term (3)
Kasaana	Mrs. Namuyunga Sarah Mr. Twikilize Amos	Once in 2 weeks	Once in 2 weeks	Once a term
Christ the King	Mrs. Kanoel Maria Clare Mr. Tukamusiima Julius	Once in 2 weeks	Once in 2 weeks	Twice a term (6)

Katega	Mrs. Namala Patience Mr. Buhwaghe Joseph	Once a week	Once a week	Twice a term (6)
CAWODI SA	Mrs. Kirabo Lovinah Mr. Muhairwe Joram	Once in a week	Once in a week	Once in a term
St Mary's Kiyita	Mr. Muhangi Jackson	Once in a week	Once in a week	Twice a term
Kabowa	Mrs. Kaindependance Jennipher Mr. Uzei Delmas	Twice a month	Twice in a month	Twice a term

**Below are some of the comments by the teachers**

- The lack of enough material for pad making was a common comment in every school but they plan to identify similar material that is a bit cheaper to be used for pad making. This is a persistent issue, though through the school -to -school learning visits schools have started learning from another in addressing such challenges. For example, they learnt about where to get materials for pad making, how to raise money for ensuring that such materials are got.
- The community members especially females are interested in learning how to make pads in addition to buying some at St. Mary's Kiyita Primary School.
- Most of the MHM club members who were well conversant with pad making belonged to Primary Seven and had left the schools but they were replaced

**4. Re-usable pad making**

At the time of the monitoring visit all the machines were in good condition below is a summary of pad making in the different schools

School	Pad making training in a month	Students involved		No. of pads produced in a month November	Emergency pads available
		Girls	Boys		
St Mary's Gwanika	5	50	30	25	Yes
St Mary's Kiyita	5	60	35	30	Yes
Ikula	3	50	24	13	Yes
Kasasa	4	83	39	15	Yes
Kabowa	5	55	47	12	Yes
Kasaana	2	47	30	8	Yes
Dyangoma	3	64	37	25	Yes
Christ the King	2	42	19	31	Yes
Katega	3	80	45	10	Yes
CAWODISA	3	75	54	12	Yes

Different schools use different approaches of pad making. At Gwanika P/S, the tailor groups the learners in different groups responsible for executing different tasks for example the one that makes measurements for the shapes, the one that makes the shapes of the pad among others and different groups are taught on different days throughout the week from Monday to Friday and this helps to reduce congestion at the tailor's place. At Kasasa Primary school, three learners including one boy and two girls were identified and are taught directly by the tailor, these in turn teach their peers after grasping the processes

there is. The rest of the schools choose different classes from P.4 to P.7 and teach them on different days regarding pad making.

## **5. Remarks from MHM Club members; girls and boys, then senior teachers**

### **5-1. Remarks from the MHM club members (girls)**

#### **a) What is your role?**

The roles of club members were to organize fellow members to participate in club activities of ; pad making, participation in counselling and guidance sessions.

#### **b) What did you newly learn**

Members had newly learnt that they would now be able to make other garments/dresses, shirts with the sewing machines.

#### **c) Have you trained or supported other students outside the MHM club**

In each school there was constant recruitment of new members

#### **d) Do you feel comfortable going to school during menstruation?**

It was noted across the entire project schools that all girls were now more confident in going to school than before.

#### **e) How do boys behave towards girls during menstruation?**

Boys were not more supportive to girls during menstruation than the situation was before.

#### **f) How is pad making going on**

The girls were fine with pad making which they enjoyed very much as a new skill. They however noted that they use little time for the sessions yet they are many while using one machine.

#### **g) Any challenges?**

- Scarcity of materials used for pad making and scarcity of water during the dry season were the two main challenges.

### **5-2. Remarks from the MHM club members (Boys)**

a) Boys give assistance to girls during pad making and when collecting water to fill the hand washing tanks. This is done irrespective of whether the girls are in periods or not.

b) They were excited that they have learnt how to make pads which are used by girls during menstruation.

c) At St. Mary's Gwanika, the Vice President noted that he would utilize brake time and lunch time for him to learn how to make pads and that is how he succeeded.

d) Boys noted that they have learnt to make shirts, skirts among other clothes especially the ones from Kasasa,Dyangoma, St. Mary's Kiyita and St,.Mary' Gwanika.

### **5-3. Remarks from the senior woman teacher and the senior man teacher**

#### **a) What did you teach?**

- The topics taught by all the schools were; Menstrual Hygiene Management, Sexuality Education, teenage pregnancy and pad making as reflected in the MHM booklet.

**b) What is your challenge?**

- Scarcity of water emerged as a common challenge for all schools except for Kasasa where a community bore hole was constructed near the school.
- Scarcity of materials used for making reusable sanitary pads was a challenge in all the schools but schools like St Mary's Gwanika had engaged parents and were supportive towards buying material for pad making.
- Time is not enough because the schools run a line of activities but they plan to engage learners during holidays.
- Most of the schools have one machine which is cannot adequately be used by the big population of learners.
- Most of the MHM club members belonged to P.7 yet they were more knowledgeable when it comes to pad making. They were replaced by others for the continuity of the project activities.

**c) Have you learnt anything new?**

- Most of the senior teachers learnt how to use the machine and how to make reusable sanitary pads a skill they did not have before.
- They did not know that learners had such talents like tailoring until the project activities were implemented in the schools.

**6. Next step.**

- a) Schools like Kiyita, Kabowa and Kasasa were looking forward to teaching more girls and boys who do not belong to the MHM club and to that effect, they were planning to utilize weekends and holidays as ever.
- b) Some schools like St. Mary's Kiyita P/S school have plans of buying another machine in year 2024 in order to avail an opportunity to a bigger number of learners to acquire the skill in addition to providing a dressing mirror and a table where the emergency uniform and pads will be placed in the girls 's changing room. Also build a water tank behind the girls 'washroom.
- c) Schools like Kasasa, Kasana and Christ the King plan to work with P.7 leavers during holidays to train their peers who will teach others once the term resumes in February 2023 in order to increase the number of learners with skills in pad making.
- d) Schools like Kasasa, Kasana and Katega plan to implement the lessons learned during the MHM club school to school visits.
- e) St Mary's Gwanika plans to encourage other parents who have not paid their contributions towards pad making to do so. The school also plans to encourage parents to contribute towards buying another machine to ensure that a bigger number of learners who access the machines during the pad making sessions.
- f) At CAWODISA P/S, due to the fact that the time table has a line of activities, they plan to include MHM issues during trainings regarding counseling about prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- g) At schools like CAWODISA, Dyangoma and Christ the King, they plan to encourage learners to bring their torn clothes for mending at school at a fair fee to act as a source of income

# Wakiso

## Introduction

Monitoring of the project schools in Wakiso was done on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The issues to look at were; Enrolment, hygiene in the school, status of the washroom, toilets and their privacy, MHM club, topics covered and creation of awareness about MHM as per the monitoring tool. Below are the key findings.

		
Senior Woman Teacher Kitanda C/U guiding learners how to make pads.	Girls at Ssayi Bright cutting material for pad making	Senior Woman Teacher Ssayi Brigfht teaching learners how to take measurements.
		
Primary five boy repairs a trouser at Ssayi Bright	Primary six girl from Kitungwa C/U making a pad using a sewing machine	Young boy setting a sewing machine before starting to sew
		
During a discussion about MHM with learners from Kirolo UMEA P/S	Project officer interviewing the Head Teacher Ssayi Bright	Girl assembles pads for sewing at Kitanda C/U P/S

## Objective

To check on the status of the hygiene in schools, awareness creation, MHM club and progress of the pad making.

### 1. Administration

It should be noted that Primary Seven learners had left after seating their final exams and the general population of all schools was less by the number of P.7 learners.

Below is the summary of the demographic.

School	Indicators (Demographics)
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	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Population of Girls p4-p7</b>	<b>Number of female teachers</b>	<b>Number of male teachers</b>
Kirolo UMEA	220	35	6	1
Kitungwa C/U	219	39	6	5
Ssaayi Bright	188	40	5	3
Kitanda C/U	279	57	8	2
Ssanga C/U	827	203	10	6
Lwadda C/U	885	187	13	6
Jinja Karoli	655	161	14	5
Maganjo UMEA	1317	356	25	15
Kanyange mixed	748	174	13	5
Buwambo C/U	840	225	11	6

## 2. Status of facilities (Washroom/changing room)

### a) Privacy

Nothing has changed about the privacy of the washrooms. Where all have doors to ensure privacy in all the schools.

### b) Hygiene

The hygiene of the schools is generally good where the toilets, washrooms and compound were clean at the time of the monitoring visit. Maganjo hygiene situation had improved and now they had obtained access to water from public main line supply.

### c) Materials

Materials remain a challenge almost in all the schools. However, Ssanga C/U, Ssayi Bright day and Buwambo C/U P/S who had been provided materials by Save the Children but other project schools lacked materials to use for pad making. They plan to engage parents during the parents' meeting in February 2024 to provide support towards availing material.

### d) Water

All the schools need water especially during dry seasons when the reservoirs are dry except Ssanga C/U primary school and Kirolo UMEA who have boreholes.

## 3. Awareness

### a) MHM Club members

MHM clubs are active however some members from Primary Seven who were part of the clubs in different schools had left. For some schools like Ssayi Bright Kanyange Mixed and Ssanga C/U primary school new recruits were already on board but elsewhere replacements will be selected next year in February.

#### **Any findings/comment about the MHM club.**

Club members in Primary Seven had finally left and most of the schools had not replaced these members and were planning to do so next year in February.

### b) TEACHERS

- The teachers' comments don't differ much from the previous comments as they still call for help with materials, more sewing machines and water reservoirs.
- The Senior Woman teacher at Kirolo UMEA appreciated the school visit and informed team that she had shared with the head teacher about how best they could improve pad making using the sewing machine as one of the lessons learned from the visit.

#### **4. Re-usable pad making**

- Generally, more learners have learnt how to operate the sewing machine but they are limited by the scarcity of materials. However, in many schools like Kirolo UMEA, Kitanda, Kitungwa and Lwadda C/U primary school, learners are practicing sewing using pads already made by hand.
- The needles of the sewing machines often break during practice and they are replaced by the head teachers and some learners who are passionate about sewing in the different schools.
- The Head Teacher of Ssayi Bright day primary school facilitates a tailor every Thursday to teach learners how to use the sewing machine.

#### **5. Remarks from the MHM club member**

- Club members are so appreciative for the project but request for more t-shirts for the new members joining the clubs.
- One of the club members at Kirolo UMEA requested that next year we should choose their school to host the school-to-school visits.

#### **6. Challenges**

- The challenges in the different schools remain the same most especially scarcity of water and lack of material used for pad making. However, absenteeism is too much for both teachers and learners due to the heavy rains across the whole country. Some learners and teachers don't go to school when it starts raining early morning and those who attend on such days arrive late at school.

#### **7. Positive influence**

- Many learners have perfected the art of sewing especially the boys at Kitanda C/U and Ssayi Bright Day primary school. Each of these schools had a boy who could confidently make ten pads a day.
- Head Teachers of all project schools have been very supportive when it comes to repairs on the sewing machines.
- Some parents have been also supportive in a way of providing materials to help their children learn how to use the sewing machine for example at Ssayi Bright P/S. All MHM club members at Kitungwa are required to come with a sewing needle as these often brake when using the machine.
- Schools plan to budget for materials for pad making in their annual school budgets.

## **Butanbala**

We conducted in the ten schools as listed below:

- ❖ Butanlunga c/s primary school
- ❖ Butende Umea primary school
- ❖ Bule Umea primary school
- ❖ Ntolomwe Umea primary school.
- ❖ Kayenje c/u primary school
- ❖ Nawango primary school
- ❖ Lwamasaka primary school
- ❖ Nkokooma primary school
- ❖ Kitagobwa primary school
- ❖ Kiwaala Umea primary School

### **SCHOOLS POPULATION, NUMBER OF GIRLS FROM P.4 TO P.7, NUMBER OF TEACHERS (FEMALE, MALE)**

Demographics	Lwamasaka	Namwango	Nkokooma	Kitagobwa	Kiwaala	Bule	Kayenje	Butende	Ntolomwe	Butalunga
Total School population	300	150	456	187	280	233	651	565	427	540
Number of girls P4 to P7	82	97	140	51	100	64	196	114	114	290
Number of female teacher	6	6	4	7	5	4	9	6	7	5
Number of male teachers	2	2	7	2	3	4	7	4	4	3

### **PRIVACY OF THE WASH ROOM FACILITIES**

Names of schools	Doors fixed	Doors have locks	Walls have no dent	Roof exists
Butanlunga c/s	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Butende Umea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bule Umea	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ntolomwe Umea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kayenje c/u	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Namwango	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lwamasaka	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nkokooma	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kitagobwa	No Toilet under construction	No	No	No
Kiwaala Umea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### **HYGIENE OF THE WASHROOM FACILITIES**

Name of schools	Facility clean	Floor cemented	Source of water available
Butanlunga c/s	Fair	Yes	Yes
Butende Umea	Clean	Yes	Yes

Bule Umea	Clean	Yes	Yes
Ntolomwe Umea	Fair	Yes	Yes
Kayenje c/u	Clean	Yes	Yes
Namwango	Fair	Yes	Yes
Lwamasaka	Fair	Yes	Yes
Nkokooma	Clean	Yes	Yes
Kitagobwa	Clean	Yes	Yes
Kiwaala Umea y	Clean	Yes	borehole under construction/was drilled



The status of changing rooms is being inspected by Atala and Nakato during the field time.

A few of these schools had the materials (Soap, Basin/bucket, Pads, Cloth/uniform, Towel) being used in the washroom/changing room. But we advised them to make sure the changing room (washroom) should have those requirements in order to promote a clean environment for menstruation.

#### **NUMBER OF TRAINING AND COUNSELING SESSIONS DONE IN THE TEN (10) SCHOOLS BY SENIOR MAN AND SENIOR WOMAN TEACHERS.**

<b>Names of schools</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Number trainings in the month of November</b>
Kayenje c/s p/s	Once a week	4
Ntolomwe UMEA	Once a week	4
Butaalunga c/s	Twice a week.	8
Butende UMEA	twice times a week	8
Namwango c/u	Twice a month	2
Kiwaala c/s	Every Friday	4
St.kizito Nkokooma p/s	Twice a term	1
Buule UMEA	Once a week	4
Lwamasaka UMEA	Once a week	4
Kitagobwa c/s	5 Times a term	2

#### **Problems facing reusable pad making.**

- ❖ Lack of enough materials for making pads.
- ❖ Lack of enough water to support the MHM club.

#### **Learnings the children have received from the trainings.**

- ❖ Learnt how to run the machine.
- ❖ Learnt how to care about yourself.

- ❖ Learnt to care about the girls.
- ❖ Learnt how help others.

### ●KITAGOBWA PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am really happy to say that Kitagobwa has been blessed to make another toilet constructed. They are just digging the pit. This is because their toilet has been fallen for quite long period of time so they were not using their washrooms ever since and now the changing room will also be connected on this new structure.



The pit latrine is under construction in Kitagobwa CS



The old pit latrine that collapsed

#### 1. Problems facing reusable pad making

- ❖ Lack of enough materials for making pads.
- ❖ Lack of enough water to support the MHM club.

#### 2. Learning's the children have received from the trainings

The schools were having many P7 leavers in MHM club so they are to re-elect members so that to fill the club.

- ❖ Learnt how to run the machine.
- ❖ Learnt how to care about yourself.
- ❖ Learnt how to care about the girls.
- ❖ Learnt how to help others.
- ❖ Learnt how to clean the washroom

#### 3. How many times they carryout counseling session

- ❖ They carry out counseling session 4 times a month that is to say once a week.

### ●BUTALUNGA C/S PRIMARY SCHOOL

We visited Butalunga c/s primary school and they were very happy to be in the school because they were very welcoming. The headmaster gave us report that the PTA is yet to sit at the end of the year, so that they are committed to take on sensitization amongst meeting. Then he asked the MHM club members the following questions.

#### 1. Problems facing reusable pad making

- ❖ Lack of enough materials for making pads.
- ❖ Lack of enough water to support the MHM club.

#### 2. Learnings the children have received from the trainings

- ❖ Learnt how to run the machine.
- ❖ Learnt how to care about yourself.
- ❖ Learnt to care about the girls.
- ❖ Learnt how help others.
- ❖ Learnt how to clean the washroom.

#### 3. Importance of MHM club trainings

- ❖ Children like the girl-child no longer miss school during their periods.

- ❖ The boys can now ably help the girls when they are in periods.
- ❖ The children are thankful for the training given to them in MHM club. And they are grateful for the machine provided to their school.

#### **4. Do your parents support?**

- ❖ Yes, parents support but not fully. They support with what they can afford.

#### **5. Butalunga Giving thanks to VOTU**

- ❖ They are thankful for the machine and in the making of sanitary pads
- ❖ They are thankful that before they didn't know that girls are going through menstruation and when they got to know they learnt that they can ably assist the girls to see the senior woman teacher.



The head teacher of Butalunga sharing with team leader over the issues mentioned above.

### **● BUTENDE UMEA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

During the Butende Umea visit the team leader of VOTU advised that the school should send 5 member/people to the promotion centre to be trained in the making of re-usable pads (happy pads) during come this holiday since it is going to be long enough. The good if it they managed to repair the machine now operating well.

#### **1. Challenges for the re-usable pads**

- ❖ Children no longer absent themselves as if was the case before.
- ❖ Children are benefiting from the re-usable pads
- ❖ They now have self-esteem in them when they are requesting for the pads.
- ❖ The session of training of the reusable pad is done once a week for each class since their machine was repaired.

#### **2. Trainings carried out**

- ❖ The children/pupils were trained in gender awareness, washroom construction for the girl child
- ❖ Taught about the sexual reproductive health and other general knowledge concerned the program.

#### **3. Issues raised by the pupils of this school**

- ❖ Pupils are grateful for the support given to Butende since this project started.
- ❖ No longer shy of when they go in their periods.
- ❖ They can ably make re-usable pads
- ❖ No longer spend money to buy pads.
- ❖ No longer laugh at girls when they are going in their periods.
- ❖ Now know how to clean themselves during menstruation.
- ❖ They can ably change using the washroom and clean it.

#### **4. Challenges faced by MHM Club**

- ❖ Lack of enough materials.
- ❖ Still need time to get used of a sewing machine.

- ❖ Machine shorts down very quickly.

### 5. Speech from the head teacher

He said nowadays they make their own pads. It is good now that their machine has been repaired and is now functioning well, despite the fact that it easily exhausted due to many students using it and most especially learners.

He confessed that the project has added a lot to the school, where he specifically thanked the team leader for choosing Butende.

- ❖ The boys' behaviors have changes towards girls. They no longer laugh at the girls.
- ❖ They also have MHM club handling or helping with menstruation issues.
- ❖ And most of all the word menstruation is no longer a shy

### 6. Changing room

- ❖ It was in good shape, cleanness was of good, roofed and it had all the materials to be used.
- ❖ The head teacher wants to put another washroom because of the increased number of girls

### 7. MHM Club Challenges

- ❖ Butende machine got a problem.it got spoilt but at least they repaired it and is now in good use.
- ❖ They still need more machines so as to improve on their productivity and avoid rampant mechanical problem of machine because of many hands on it.
- ❖ The pupils have got skills of making pads and they are very happy.
- ❖ They can also use their hands, the pupils shown VOTU team on how they made the pads.

### 8. Why boys help girls

- ❖ They do it in order to help the nation.
- ❖ They help them because they are their sisters.

### 9. How do they help girls

- ❖ By taking them to the senior woman and senior man teacher.
- ❖ They advise them to pad themselves well so that next time such issues don't occur.

### 10 How many times do they carry out counselling session

- ❖ They carry out counseling session two times a week.



During their training using machines as well on how to make reusable sanitary pads (happy pad)



Monitoring of their changing rooms with senior woman.

●LWAMASAKA UMEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

We visited Lwamasaka Umea primary school and they were very happy to be in the school because they were very welcoming. So they asked the MHM club members the following questions

**1. Problems facing reusable pad making**

- ❖ Lack of enough materials for making pads.
- ❖ Lack of enough water to support the MHM club.

**2. Learnings the children have received from the trainings**

- ❖ Learnt how to run the machine.
- ❖ Learnt how to care about yourself.
- ❖ Learnt to care about the girls.
- ❖ Learnt how help others.
- ❖ Learnt how to clean the washroom.

**3. Importance of MHM club trainings**

- ❖ Children like the girl-child no longer miss school during their periods.
- ❖ The boys can now ably help the girls when they begin their periods.
- ❖ The children are thankful for the training given to them in MHM club. And they are grateful for the machine provided to their school.

**4. Do your parents support?**

- ❖ Yes, parents support but not fully. They support with what they can afford.

**5. Activities conducted by club members**

- ❖ Counseling session
- ❖ Pad making
- ❖ Peer training
- ❖ Training on machine(tailoring)



Nakato (VOTU member) training Lwamasaka students another skill of hand crafts.



Lwamasaka MHM club group photo with VOTU

**●KIWAALA C/U PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Kiwaala was really blessed to a get a chance of borehole.it has really helped them because they used to fetch water from a very far distance which made them miss lessons and more so it has been one of the factor that hindering the hygiene to impose. The problem has now been solved.

**1. Problems facing reusable pad making**

- ❖ Lack of enough materials for making pads.
- ❖ The problem of water has been solved due to the constructed borehole water.

**2. Learnings the children have received from the trainings**

- ❖ Learnt how to run the machine.
- ❖ Learnt how to care about yourself.
- ❖ Learnt to care about the girls.
- ❖ Learnt how help others.



❖ Learnt how to clean the washroom.

### 3. Importance of MHM club trainings

- ❖ Children like the girl-child no longer miss school during their periods.
- ❖ The boys can now ably help the girls when they begin their periods.
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### 4. Do your parents support?

- ❖ Yes, parents support but not fully. They support with what they can afford.

### 5. Activities conducted by club members

- ❖ Counseling session
- ❖ Pad making
- ❖ Peer training
- ❖ Training on machine(tailoring)

### 6. How many times do they carry out counseling session.

- ❖ They carry out counseling session once a week.



Pupils at the distant borehole where they used to get water.



All materials at school for making them source of water.

## ● BULE UMEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bule is one of the best schools with our project that is to say the cleanness, order, participation, organized and very active. Only the challenge of making the changing room up and put on the roof.

On this case therefore it is lucky that we have got them already have necessary materials for roofing such as timbers and now the head teacher is soliciting for fund of iron sheets. The team leader VOTU in the heart of well-wishers managed to offer 3 pieces of iron sheets in order to see that the problem solved. The team leader gave money to Bule Umea primary school in order to buy the three iron sheets.



Hajji giving a donation to the senior man and club chairperson for buying the iron sheets

### **1. Speech from the head teacher**

He was so excited and happy with VOTU for the activities taking place mostly the school to school visit this because of the gift given to them. This gift made them to be very excited.

He also thanked VOTU for the wonderful work they are doing. He really promised us that he will always be welcoming to VOTU activities. He thanked Mr. Sekitto for the donation of the iron sheets and he said that within few days the work will be done.

### **●NAWANGO C/S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Nawango always is a bit slow in terms of showing up but when it comes to any competition or questions, they are active. This school changed headteacher by beginning of year 2023 and some students including MHM club members went with old HM. But the good of it senior man and senior woman remained on the ground who are very active enough to make the new headteacher to know best our project. Begging of the year project team had a very good time with this new HM explaining him all about the project and he promised a positive cooperation which is now the case in terms of results; hence our project is not affected at all. Yes the new members were trained by the senior man and senior woman teacher in order to fit in the club.

### **1. Challenges faced by senior man and woman teachers with the Club members at large**

- Lack of enough funds for running the club activities e.g. buying of materials for making of pads.
- Lack of changing pads in the changing room this is because girls don't have pads with them for changing when gone under menstruation unless those of at school.
- Lack of parents' participation towards the project this is because most parents when asked to contribute they don't comply to it easily.

### **2. Times they carryout counselling sessions**

- They carry out counseling session twice a month this is due to their busy schedule at the school because the head teacher is not yet well conversant with the project.

### **3. Lessons learnt from the club**

- The pupils learnt how to keep their bodies clean during menstruation period.
- The senior teachers taught them on how to make pads and how to handle changes in their body accordingly.

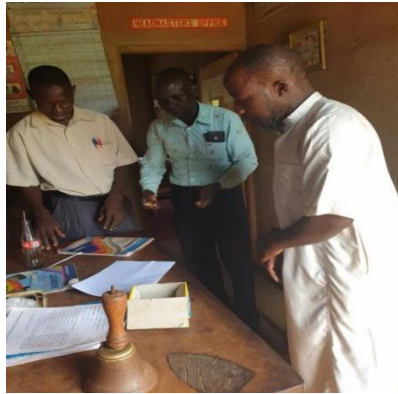
- They also learnt how to interact with others about menstruation.

#### **4. Do boys still laugh at girls**

- They actually told us that mostly the lower classes still laugh but the upper classes don't laugh at girls because they are really sensitized about menstruation.

#### **5. Absenteeism**

- Girls no longer absent themselves from school this is because they are counselled well during their meeting time hence reducing on absenteeism.



Team leader introduces himself to H/M Nawango being a new Head teacher in the school.

### **● NKOKOOMA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Nkokooma is a school found at the trading center so it has the highest number of pupils making it a best school for our project's promotion. This makes it easy for our project to be known throughout the communities because different pupils come from different communities. The pupils of this school would really be actively involved in building up the club, but the negative attitude of the Head teacher and his team is making things move otherwise like as we visited them with the whole team from GBN and JICA and let us down.

This time round they are also going under the construction of new Latrine which they promised to consider the raise of the wall for changing room onto the new look of their washroom.



Nkokooma primary school new latrine

#### **1. Challenges facing the club in this school**

- This school there is lack of enough organization among the club members. That is to say they always carry out counseling session once a month due their busy schedule.

- But their washroom is really kept well and clean. They have also learnt how to make pads.

## 2. Absenteeism

- They said that absenteeism is not too much like before.

## 3. Do boys still laugh at girls

- They said boys no longer laugh at girls instead they help them by taking them to their senior man and woman.

## 4. Lessons learnt

- They learnt menstruation hygiene.
- They learnt how to make pads.
- They also learnt how to use the sewing machine.

## ● KAYENJE C/S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kayenje has put more effort to train and sensitize other teachers over the project so as to raise the motivation among the school teamwork since this school is overwhelmed by cathedral religious norms and its population is highly noted which had led them to become out of hands with sanitation within their washrooms. Now is a gone case ever since we advised them over it.



Kayenje primary school washroom  
Clean and having enough materials

It is so lovely in terms of welcoming sight, is a school of their organization and participation in all aspects. They are really self-involvement. The last school to school visit we did we really enjoyed this pair that is to say Ntolomwe and Kayenje did very well in the quiz.

Their participation really amazed everyone because they were very active.

## 1. Challenges facing the club

- Continuous changing of club members also affects the club activities. This happens because most of the members are primary seven members who left the school after their examinations. This made them elect more members from other classes.
- Lack of materials for making pads.
- Electricity problems that is to say. The machine being run by electricity when power is off it affects the production of pads.

## 2. Opportunities got within the project

- Gave them a sewing machine.

- They were taught how to make pads.
- Meeting of new people during quiz, inter-club competitions.
- Built for them a washroom.

### **3. Bottle of thanks**

Kayenje really thanked VOTU for everything they are doing. The support, care and love they get from VOTU. They its God to reward VOTU abundantly and let them continue with what they are doing and extend to more schools.

### **● NTOLOMWE C/U PRIMARY SCHOOL**

This school has the best senior woman and senior man teacher, friendly, caring, supportive, understanding and participative due to their activeness the tailoring machine which was down is repaired and now working.

The head teacher really appreciated VOTU for the wonderful work they are doing, because this is the same as for Nawango who was transferred to another school and this is a new one.

#### **1. Challenges in the club**

- Poor participation of parents that is to say most parents are not willing to contribute towards the project.
- The project also needs more funds to run the club such as buying materials for making pads.
- They need a clean water source so that they get water for cleaning themselves when they are in menstruation.
- They need more training so as to perfect their pad making.
- More machines are required. This is due to many numbers of pupils at the school.

#### **2. Benefits of this project**

- Provision of reusable pads at the school.
- Built a washroom for the school.
- Provision of the sawing machine to the school.
- Training of pupils how to make pads.

#### **3. Their requests**

- They are recommending to at least giving them any allowance per month due to the effort they put in project's work to be achieved.
- They request for more beneficial projects like of those helping for the number of orphans they do have in school and they are needy.