



AFRICAN CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (ACYDI)

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Community Leader

Name	Organization	City/Country
Prossy Nakattudde	African child and Youth Development Initiative (ACYDI)	Uganda

Project Title

Managing Menstruation for Education Project (MMEP) 2020/21

Project Goal

Managing Menstruation for Education Project (MMEP) will **reduce the rate of school absenteeism, dropout, early marriage and teenage pregnancies** for girls of reproductive age in primary & secondary schools in Buvuma & Mukono by increasing access to menstrual health support materials, scholastic materials and improving Knowledge, Attitude & Practice on menstrual health management (MHM) among males and females. Girls and boys of reproductive age will have increased access to the right information on sexual reproductive health & will be able to support each other thus staying and completing their education.

Project SMART Objectives

- By March 2020, conduct two key stakeholder's training workshops for 3 days on MHM, its importance to education and key roles & responsibilities of different stakeholders, targeting 40 participants each (total 80) including district education & health officers, religious & cultural leaders, head teachers, women councilors, health workers, VHTs and organisation staff.
- By May 2020, form 2 schools health clubs with 60 girls, 40 boys and 10 teachers and conduct a 3 days training on menstrual hygiene/health management (MHM) & its importance to education and making local pads to increase accessibility to hygienic cheap menstrual materials.
- By June 2020, conduct 2 community advocacy dialogue meetings to sensitise communities about girl child empowerment through education and menstrual health management;
- [Continue inserting objectives as applicable]

Project Beneficiaries

- Girls of reproductive age in and out of primary & secondary schools;
- Parents of school going & dropout girls;
- Boys and men who will support in advocacy, pads making and provision of materials
- Community members of the villages the dialogues will be facilitated
- District policy makers on education & health matters
- [Continue inserting beneficiaries as applicable]

Project Description

Research shows that when a girl has 7 or more years of education, she marries 4 years later & has 2.2 fewer children, and an empowered woman is responsible, can speak up for herself & others, contributing to her community development. **Managing Menstruation for Education project** aims to improve knowledge, attitude and practice on menstrual health management (MHM) by the different stakeholders, and increasing accessibility to hygienic cheap menstrual materials & sexual reproductive health information for girls in and out of schools thus reducing frequent absenteeism, school dropout, child marriage and teenage pregnancies. The project targets to train 100 (40 boys: 60 girls) school teens and 20 teachers & 80 influential leaders & policy makers (100) and conduct 2 community dialogues reaching 500 community members to advocate for girl child education support. This is the first of a three-phase project whose goal is to train 500 teens (200 boys: 300 girls), 50 teachers and 200 influential leaders by December 2021. More 6 communities will be mapped for dialogues reaching 1,500 members, hence supporting to improve the enrolment, retention and completion of primary & secondary education by girls and this will bring about reduced child marriages & teenage pregnancies.

Community Context

Menstrual management has been reported as the leading cause of absenteeism, dropout among school girls in Uganda. The Ugandan government through ministry of education & sports estimates approximately 23% of girls between the ages of 10 -18 drop out of school after beginning menstruation. A 2017 report by Build Africa showed that in some districts, Mukono & Buvuma included, 2-3 out of 5 girls miss 3-4 school days per menstrual cycle because they cannot afford sanitary towels while an estimated 800 girls contemplate dropping out of school annually.

Menstruation is an issue that is insufficiently acknowledged & has not received adequate attention in the reproductive health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectors in developing countries and its relationship with and impact on achieving many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) is rarely acknowledged.

It continues to be taboo, stigmatizing & fostering a sense of shame in many girls. This prevents them from actively engaging in their classes & communities during their periods, thus limiting their opportunities.

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Project Need for selected locations;

According to the national population census report 2014, 6.2% of children aged 0-17 years in Buvuma Islands alone are orphans rendering them vulnerable, 23.3% of young girls aged 10-19 years have been married, 25.5% of those girls have given birth and the rate of school

dropout is greatly increasing at the rate of 11.1%. From a similar mini survey report in 2017, 6.9% same age are orphans, 26.2% of girls 10-19 yrs have dropped out of school, been married with one of the reasons being menstrual hygiene management, 30.7% (above national level) of those girls have given birth and the rate of school dropout continues to increase by 11.8%

Project Activities

The key activities in this project include;

- Facilitate 2 three 3 day's training workshops for key stakeholders on Menstrual health management (MHM), its impact to education, and local pads making (This targets 100 men in policy & leadership positions)
- Form & train 2 school health clubs (teachers & pupils) on MHM and local pads making (This targets 40 boys & 60 girls)
- Train 2 community drama groups that will facilitate Community Theater during dialogues and sensitisation campaigns;
- Conduct 2 community dialogues/advocacy meetings to sensitise communities on MHM, its impact to girls education & everyone's responsibility.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan

#	Project Success	Target	Data Source
1.	Key stakeholders attend the MHM & advocacy training workshops	100 men (key stakeholders) are trained & sensitised by June 2020	Attendance lists Commitment petition signed to support girl education
2.	School health clubs (SHC) formed & trained on MHM and pads making	2 SHC with 60 girls, 40 boys and 10 teachers trained	Attendance lists Sample pads made & available
3.	2 community dialogues carried out in 2 operation areas	500 individuals attend the dialogue meetings	Attendance lists, activity photos, reports from the activities
4.	Reduced school absenteeism and dropout by girls of reproductive age	10% improved attendance by July 2020	Follow up of school term turn-up
5.	Improved access to hygienic menstrual materials	20% of trained girls report improved access by July 2020	School follow up and post training assessment
6.	Men & boys changed attitude and practice due to improved knowledge on menstruation	20% of the men & boys report supporting girls by June 2020	Survey administered to men after community dialogues
7.	Girls who dropped out of primary and secondary school enroll back	40 girls are supported with scholastic materials & are enrolled back to school by June 2020	School enrollment lists and interview with the girls
8.	Parents change their perspective on allowing their girl children to remain in school even when they start menstruating.	30% of parents report a change in attitude for their girl child's education	Survey administered to parents after they attend the dialogue meeting.

Men and boys involved in menstruation management to empower girls education

Budget

Provide a basic budget for your project. Your budget should include any financial resources, in-kind donations, or cost-shares from partners.

Activity	Resource Needed	Resource Source
Securing training materials including printing, note books, pens, and all other stationary for both stakeholders and school training	\$276	Will buy all training stationary for both men at district level and boys in 2 schools training together with women & girls
Procurement of practical pads making & demonstration materials	\$385	Will buy all the training practical local pads making materials for both men & boys training
Training venues and projector	\$168	\$28 Will hire 2 convenient accessible training venues & projector for a day (6 days required)
Rehearsals venue for drama groups	Safe place	Volunteer and local councils will provide
All days' meals, refreshments and transport refund for stakeholders	\$6,000	\$20 Will facilitate a day's meals, refreshments & transport for a participant (100 men for 3 days each required)
Meals for school pupils and teachers	\$1,556	\$12 Will facilitate a day's meals, refreshments & transport for a participant (40 boys for 3 days each required) with accompanying teachers
Facilitator's professional fees for both schools and stakeholders and transport refund	\$1,000	\$45 Will facilitate a professional trainer on menstruation & pads making for a day (2 required for 6 days of district training, 2 for 3 days of school training) & \$190 for transport refunds
Fuel and Airtime for communicating	\$650	\$650 Will facilitate fuel, airtime for mobilization and communication in districts, schools & community for menstruation management activities, trainings and dialogues.
Hire of a project coordinator to help in the running of the activities in schools and communities for 6 months	\$1,200	Planning to apply for grants & request for funding from any interested partners or call for proposals.
TOTAL	\$11,238	Not yet secured (Looking for funding). I plan to reach different people for support although I currently can't predict their response towards the project.

Prossy Nakattudde, Director of Programs-ACYDI, Uganda