

PROJECT REPORT

SANYUKA NANGE PROJECT

EXECUTED BY

KAYUNGA COMMUNITY CLUB

ON

11TH MARCH 2021

AT

Sekajja Islamic primary School

1.0. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Sanyuka Nange project is a community intervention by members who subscribe to the Kayunga community Club located in Kayunga in Uganda. The project name “**Sanyuka Nange**” is coined from Luganda one of the local dialects in Uganda and it loosely translates as “**Smile with me**”. The project focuses on environmental conservation, menstrual hygiene management and water and sanitation in beneficiary schools around Kayunga, Jinja, and Mukono.

According to UNICEF and WHO, Menstrual Hygiene Management is defined as Women and adolescent girls are using a clean menstrual management material to absorb or collect menstrual blood, that can be changed in privacy as often as necessary for the duration of a menstrual period, using soap and water for washing the body as required, and having access to safe and convenient facilities to dispose of used menstrual management materials. Research over the years has pointed that managing menstrual hygiene in low-income countries like Uganda is difficult due to lack of access to feminine hygiene products and the few adequate sanitary facilities available especially in schools leaving many girls to struggle to attend and do well in school. Lack of education in this

field means that teachers, communities, and families do not have understanding of menstruation, and do not understand how to support girls to improve school attendance.

The study also assessed the toilet facilities at the schools, and found that only a few schools had toilets adequate for good menstrual hygiene management, based on UNICEF's WASH guidelines for sanitation and hygiene. In Kayunga District only, most schools had pit latrines, with either no soap, water, or disposal area for feminine hygiene products within the latrine itself. Unreliable access to water, making it essentially impossible for girls to clean their hygiene products or wash their hands and toilet facilities with insufficient light necessary for managing menstrual hygiene with no doors necessary to maintain privacy were the other findings reported by a study about menstrual hygiene in Kayunga District.

Many of these studies have identified that there is an understudied problem of poor menstrual health and hygiene management in the school communities that needs urgent intervention. Kayunga Community Club based have orchestrated a community service project that shall resolve the menstrual hygiene management at Sekajja Islamic primary school in its first phase and shall also make intervention in other pertinent areas that need immediate attention.

2.0. ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

Kayunga community club is a registered community based organization dedicated in fostering and promoting good friendly relations, promoting development, Hygiene, education, innovation and awareness, committed to men, women, youths through support of an active community of Kayunga and neighborhoods in order to achieve future development through mobilization of savings and Investment.

This year 2021, the Club has embarked on a five-year project plan of a signature project dubbed **Sanyuka Nange project**. The implementation of this strategic project plan shall see the development of sustainable programmes in environmental conservation, menstrual health and hygiene management, water harvesting and water purification in schools in Kayunga and beyond. To kick start this long-term initiative, community based club executed the first phase of the 5-year project plan at **Sekajja Islamic Primary School** on the 11th March 2021.

Sekajja Islamic is a primary school with a student population of 400 from whom 100 are male and 300 are female students. The school is all inclusive and accommodates students from different walks of life. It was noted that 70% of the students come from very poor families dwelling in the suburbs of Kayunga and neighboring villages like Kyambogo. 40% of the student population are total orphans living with poor extended families that can hardly support half of their school needs. According to the research made, many of the students are not privy to the parental love and care that they ought to receive from their parents and guardians. This has in many occasions left the victims struggling to attain the basic sanitation and scholastic necessities. It is because of that predicament that a number of students are forced to juggle between school and work to fend for themselves and their families leaving them with almost no time for school since work takes top priority to them.

3.0. NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

In a bid to offer relevant services that would be impactful to the students of Sekajja Islamic Primary School, a needs assessment was carried out to identify the community's most pressing needs. The needs assessment exercise was also meant to introduce the Project team to the management Sekajja Islamic Primary School so that the intentions of both parties are well aligned. The exercise was carried out during the months of February and March 2021 by a team of 6 people and below were the findings:

- The school population of 400 students is served by 1 pit latrines. These facilities are overwhelmed and are often filled up posing imminent health threats to the students using them
- Pit latrines are emptied 2-3 times a term leaving the school with a cost implication of UGX 1,000,000 per term.
- Flushing toilets are a challenge to maintain due to scarcity of required resources to sustain the school community.
- The boys do not have toilet facilities at their dormitory end forcing many of them to find alternative places of convenience in the compound.

- The school toilet and bathrooms system require a lot of water which is not available to facilitate the system optimum functionality.
- The girls within the school are faced with a high prevalence rate of UTI (Urinary Tract infections) as a result of poor hygiene which has been attributed to lack of sufficient water access to keep the toilets and bathrooms clean on a daily basis.
- The school drainage network is blocked by solid waste due to inadequate water and poor waste disposal posing health threats to the school community.
- There is limited access to safe water for drinking as well. The school registers several Typhoid cases on a termly basis.
- During scenarios of water scarcity, the school administration goes through hectic effort to collect water from a nearby well. Several water collection rounds are made to one of the wells within the community because of the crucial need and urgency for water to keep the school running.
- Some of the students have resorted to collecting water from a nearby well whose shaky infrastructure poses high risks of accidents. The well does not provide safe water for usage since its surrounding of shrubs and bushes harbors disease causing organisms.
- Students with physical disabilities face myriad obstacles in regard to reaching out for help.

4.0. SERVICES OFFERED

The execution of the first phase of project was utterly successful with a number of services offered. The activities that were held have been clustered under the 4 areas of focus they made impact in as explained below: Below are the areas of the focus where impact was made:

1. Disease prevention and Treatment,
2. Water and Sanitation,
3. Peace and Conflict resolution and
4. Basic education and literacy
5. Supporting the environment

4.1. Disease prevention and treatment

Hand Wash training. Studies have showed that washing hands with soap and water for 15 seconds reduces bacterial counts by about 90%. When another 15 seconds is added, bacterial counts drop by close to 99.9%. The needs assessment at the School revealed that at least 1 student skips class every week because of hygiene related illnesses. It is on this precinct that the students were trained on how to properly wash their hands with running water and soap to prevent hygiene related diseases such as chronic diarrhea and other gastrointestinal infections. The school management was advised to install several hand wash stands outside the toilets and also around the school campus to remind the students to continually wash their hands. This initiative shall mitigate the school absenteeism that has been related to preventable illnesses like diarrhea.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Training: Statistics from the Management of Sekajja Islamic primary school estimate that at least six girls miss school for at least a day every month during their menstruation cycle and some completely drop out of school once they start menstruating. It is on this facade that Kayunga Community Club conducted a Menstrual Hygiene Training with the girls in all classes from upper classes to equip them with knowledge on how to handle their menstruation periods and still retain their dignity. The training further restored confidence within the girls by encouraging them to stand up for themselves especially against their male counterparts who bear ulterior motives of stigmatizing and embarrassing them while in their menstruation period.

The Project donated menstrual hygiene materials in form knickers and reusable sanitary towels. A total of 200 packs with 4 pieces of reusable sanitary towels each and 200 pieces of knickers were donated to 200 girls from different classes. The reusable sanitary towels are designed to offer maximum comfort and no inconvenience to the girls while in their active menstruation periods for a period of one year. For sustainability, the girls were also trained on how to produce their reusable sanitary towels from basic cloth and threads and were encouraged to engage in mass production for both personal and commercial use. This shall curtail on the prevalent school absenteeism by the girl child related to poor menstrual hygiene management and lack

of menstrual materials. This shall subsequently foster more school days and improved grades by the girls that will propel them to achieve their ambitions in life.

4.3. Peace and conflict resolution

Training on sexual abuse: Although reports indicate that a majority of students in Uganda are sexually abused while in school, sexual harassment and its impact on educational attainment is a rampant yet an understudied problem. While harassment in schools by teachers and students is not the only factor leading to high dropout rates among students, the behavior of teachers and students in school, and the lack of discipline towards their actions is an internal contribution to this effect. The students were empowered to work with the school management to prescribe channels and forums through which acts of sexual abuse can be reported without fear of intimidation from the perpetrators. With this training, the confidence of the students to fight for their rights and respect their bodies was restored and their resolve to remain in school took a positive trend.

4.4. Supporting the environment

Tree and Flower planting: Kayunga Community Club planted trees on a school campus of Sekajja Islamic Primary School to improve the aesthetic appearance of the grounds making the campus more inviting to students, parents, and the surrounding community. Since the school has limited classroom space, the trees create outdoor classroom space that can be used as a teaching tool and provide shade to cool down hot recreation spaces and create.

4.5 .PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

At execution of the first phase of the Project, there were achievements that were registered immediately. However, the Project is to be subjected to regular monitoring and evaluation to assess the many achievements over a period of time. Below are the achievements of the first phase of the Project:

- Training on the proper menstrual hygiene management has translated in to improved school attendance and performance by the girl child at Sekajja Islamic primary School simply because they now have the material and mental capacity to honorably handle their menstruation periods with minimal stigma

- Sexual abuse training has empowerment both the boy and girl child at the school to identify uncouth behavior by their counterparts and teachers and stand up for their rights, an ideology that will groom them responsible citizens.
- The proper hand wash campaign shall keep the students free of hygiene related diseases that have been reported as one of the major factors behind school absenteeism.
- The strain that had been exerted on the school medical facility by the students reporting preventable illnesses has been lessened subsequently reducing on the budget that the school management has always spent on acquisition of the related medical drugs.
- With the availability of an additional water facility, there is an improved sanitation situation within the school premises with clean drainage channels.
- The girls are at a less risk of contracting infections for the Urinary Tract because there is adequate water to properly clean the toilet facilities.
- The looming security threats as the students were out of the school premises to fetch water have been mitigated by availing an additional water facility to make up for the water deficit within the school.
- Availability of extra improvised class room space that has been created by planting trees that shall avail shade in the compound to temporarily resolve the issue of limited class rooms.

5.0. PARTNERS

The completion of the first phase of the Sanyuka Nange Project is testimony to how much resources Kayunga wields. Below are the parties that hold stake in the first phase of the Sanyuka Nange project:

Circular Supplies Ltd: a health enterprise that is committed to improving health through supply of laboratory equipment across Uganda and beyond was part of the project by making a donation of reusable sanitary towels.

Sekajja Islamic primary School Management: The management of the school was key in availing crucial information that formed the backbone against which the Project concept was formulated and later executed. Additionally, the school mobilized the project beneficiaries and took over ownership of the project as a matter of sustainability and relevance in the future.

Item	Unit Cost	Description	Amount
Reusable Pads	18000	200 packs	360,0000
Transport	300,000		300,000
Volunteer Facilitation	50,000	25 people	1,250,000
Refreshments	1,000,000	Food & water	1,000,000
Public Address	300,000	One	300,000
Facilitators	250,000	5 people	1,250,000
Total			UGX 4,460,000

7.0. CHALLENGES

Limited funds: The major challenge encountered during project planning and implementation was limited financial resources. This limited the scope of the project to only a few activities visa vie the many needs in the school.

Budgeting issues: During procurement, the project team realized that a few items on the working budget had been under cost. This had the project team spend slightly above the budget, mobilizing the extra financial resources from their personal coffers.

Time constraint: The time limitation during project planning and execution did not permit substantial resource mobilization. Subsequently, many of the school needs were not addressed simply because there was not enough time and money to have all the requisite project activities.

Small facilitation team: The team that was in charge of menstrual hygiene management training was small compared to the number of beneficiaries. With this, there was limited chance for the girls to have personal discussions with the trainers over their specific situations.

8.0. LESSONS LEARNT

- The project team should make sufficient research of the market prices before drafting the project budget to avoid any further budgeting issues that give birth to deficit financial reports.
- The Project team should embark on the planning and execution of the subsequent phases of the Sanyuka Nange Project with immediate effect to beat the time factor.

9.0. PROJECT PLANS

Sanyuka Nange Project is a long-term initiative with a goal to make substantial impact in the areas of menstrual health and hygiene, water and sanitation, environmental conservation in a number of schools around Uganda and ultimately improve school enrollment. The project is to be executed over a period of 4 years (2022 - 2025) with diverse and far-reaching activities. In the subsequent years, the project shall consolidate the success of this phase with the following activities:

- Construction of class room blocks at the vulnerable schools and the installation of water harvesting systems.
- Installation of the water purification systems to purify the harvested water and made safe for drinking by the students.
- Construction of Bio digester toilets at the schools as a sustainable solution to the ever filling pit latrine toilets in the schools. This shall also save the schools the financial resources they lose every time they have to empty the pit latrines.
- Construction of incinerators to effectively and safely dispose of the unhygienic substances that pose a health threat to the people in the community.

10.0. APPRECIATION.

The Club recognizes the efforts of the members that offered resources in form of time, skills and money towards the Project. We are grateful to the individual participants from the community who sacrificed several volunteer hours and gave moral and financial support towards the execution of the Sanyuka Nange Project.

Appreciation is stretched to the management of Sekajja Islamic primary School for accepting and supporting the cause through mobilization of the students and owning the project.

11.0. CONCLUSION

Sanyuka Nange Project was executed at the very time when the community of Sekajja Islamic School needed it the most. However, the Project activities could only solve a portion of the very many needs at the school. It is on that note that the Kayunga community Club calls upon other stakeholders to work with it to make more impactful interventions Sekajja Islamic Primary School and other schools. We believe that with more hands on the jobs, the appalling quality of life that the students live every day shall significantly change positively.

12.0. PROJECT TEAM

No.	Name	Position	Tel
1	Nakabuubi Joan	Project Director	0708549594
2	Nakalanzi Evelyn	Project Co-coordinator	0758272351
3	Kisakye Emma	Mobilizer	0750504417
4	Muyanja Timothy	M&E officer	0702883480
5	Kinalwa Amina	Financial Officer	0754704670