

DANIDA Alumni Network Activity Report

Activity Name: *Sustainable Solid Waste Management Workshops in Primary Schools in Gulu Municipality, Uganda (a pilot eco-school project).*

From the 19th – 23rd March 2017, Danida Alumni Network (Uganda) in partnership with Afrigreen Sustain, a waste management company in Uganda held waste management activities across 4 schools in Gulu Municipality. This project was funded by Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prior to starting the workshop, the organizers sought authorization from the Municipal Education Office. The concept of the workshop was welcomed by the officers in charge who then gave us a go ahead

The target participants were pupils from primary five to primary seven (age 10-12) and their teachers. More than 1000 pupils from the 4 schools attended the workshops.



Figure 1: Day 1 of the workshop at Gulu Town Primary School

The first workshop took place at Gulu Town Primary School. Here more than 300 pupils were engaged. From the interactions with the pupils, we learnt that they didn't know much about the impact of plastic waste to the environment. When asked what they do with plastic waste, many confidently said that they dump the plastic waste and burn them. One student was quoted saying

“Sir, here at our school, when you collect plastic bags or plastic bottles, you just throw them in the garbage pit and burn them”

Similar scenario was experienced in all the other 3 schools (Pece Primary School, Layibi Primary School and Kasubi Army Primary School)

Most pupils had no idea about where the plastic waste end up after a heavy down pour. However, even after a description of how the wastes ended up in water bodies, they only identified one problem; makes water dirty. We further carefully probed them to realize the impact of the waste to both plants and animals that live in the water bodies and on land.

We used pictures that portrayed a negative impact of these wastes.



Figure 2: A pupil at Gulu Town Primary School looking at a picture depicting the impact of waste on aquatic life

Participation of Danida Alumni

Though prior communication was made to the DANIDA alumni network, only 2 members (Tabo Olok and Dr. Odama Stephen) made it to the workshops. The failure of other alumni to attend is attributed to busy work schedules due to the fact that the activity ran from Monday to Friday and the distance for most Danida Alumni living outside Gulu. However, a Whatsapp Group was created by the Alumni coordinator, where daily updates about the activity were made.

Also in attendance was Rasmus Tonder, a Danish student from Aalborg University, who by the time of the activity, was undertaking his research at Gulu University.

Partnership with AfriGreen Sustain

To realize the goals of the activity, it was important to work closer with AfriGreen Sustain, a waste management firm already established in Uganda. Most facilitators who participated in the activity were identified from this firm, and they exhibited a high level of performance during the 5 days of the activity.

Outcome of the activity

Pupils and teachers realized the need for proper waste management and also embraced the fact that wastes can be transformed into resources. They actively participated in transforming different wastes into resources. Among the products they made include; brooms from plastic bottles, Flower pots from plastic bottles, paper beads from waste paper, toothbrush/pen holders from plastic bottles and Charcoal briquettes from leaves, rice husks and saw dust.

10 pupils were selected from each school by the facilitators and the teachers to form the “**ECO-CLUB**”. The selection was based on the active participation of the pupils bearing in mind the attribute of gender balance. In total 40 pupils were selected from the 4 schools.

Also, 2 teachers (male and female) were selected from each school to oversee the activities of the “**ECO-CLUBS**”.

Way Forward

On the fifth day of the activity, all the 48 members of the newly established “ECO-CLUBS” gathered to discuss about the sustainability of the clubs. The teachers and pupils applauded the outcomes of the activities and wished the same activities can be rolled out in the other schools that didn't benefit in the pilot phase.

The members also noted that it would be a good idea if local, regional and national waste management events are held frequently. This would make the eco-clubs active in a bid to participate and compete in these events.

Furthermore, they applauded the simple charcoal briquette making technology and asked if more trainings can be offered to the pupils and teachers to roll it out on a larger scale.

Report Prepared By:

Peter Okwoko (Team Lead)

Financial records

	units	rate	Amount (UGX)	Amount (DKK)
t-shirts + Printing	40	25000	1000000	1667
t-shirts (teachers and facilitators)	16	30000	480000	800
Scholastic materials (gifts)			300000	500
Transport	5	250,000	1250000	2083
Facilitators	8 X 5 days	50000	2000000	3333
Other training materials			300000	500
refreshments			400000	667
Photography & Videography			400000	667
mobilization	4 schools	50000	200000	333
Total			6330000	10550

Exchange rate: 1 DKK = 600 UGX

Note: the extra 550DKK was a contribution from Afrigreen Sustain.

Prepared by Peter Okwoko (Team Lead)

Programme:

Day 1: Gulu Town Primary School (19th March 2018)

2:00PM – Arrival of the facilitators at the school

2:30PM – 2:40PM – Welcome remarks from the Headmistress

2:40PM – 3:00 PM – Lecture on waste management from Peter and Janney

3:00PM – 3:05PM – Group formation (all facilitators)

3:10PM – 5:00PM – Practical session on how to transform wastes into resource (All facilitators)

5:00PM – 5:20PM – Selection of ecoclub members and award of gifts (T-shirts + Scholastic materials)

5:30PM – departure

Day 2: Pece Primary School (20th March 2018)

2:00PM – Arrival of the facilitators at the school

2:30PM – 2:40PM – Welcome remarks from the Headmistress

2:40PM – 3:00 PM – Lecture on waste management from Peter and Rubangakene

3:00PM – 3:05PM – Group formation (all facilitators)

3:10PM – 5:00PM – Practical session on how to transform wastes into resource (All facilitators)

5:00PM – 5:20PM – Selection of ecoclub members and award of gifts (T-shirts + Scholastic materials)

5:30PM – departure

Day 3: Layibi Primary School (21st March 2018)

2:00PM – Arrival of the facilitators at the school

2:30PM – 2:40PM – Welcome remarks from the teacher in charge of projects

2:40PM – 3:00 PM – Lecture on waste management from Rubangakene

3:00PM – 3:05PM – Group formation (all facilitators)

3:10PM – 5:00PM – Practical session on how to transform wastes into resource (All facilitators)

5:00PM – 5:20PM – Selection of ecoclub members and award of gifts (T-shirts + Scholastic materials)

5:30PM - departure

Day 4: Pece Primary School (22nd March 2018)

2:00PM – Arrival of the facilitators at the school

2:30PM – 2:40PM – Welcome remarks from the Headmistress

2:40PM – 3:00 PM – Lecture on waste management from Peter and Rubangakene

3:00PM – 3:05PM – Group formation (all facilitators)

3:10PM – 5:00PM – Practical session on how to transform wastes into resource (All facilitors)

5:00PM – 5:20PM – Selection of ecoclub members and award of gifts (T-shirts + Scholastic materials)

5:30PM - departure

Day 5: Bila Wa Eco Centre (25th March 2018)

11:00 AM: Arrival of facilitators and eco club members (pupils and patrons)

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM – Presentations from the pupils about what they learnt from the workshop

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Group formation and brainstorming about the future of the eco clubs

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Presentation from individual groups

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM – Award of diplomas to pupils and patrons of the eco club

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Refreshment

4:00PM - Departure