

WIU NEWSLETTER

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Dear Reader,

Hope you are staying Healthy. Welcome to the first edition of the Windle International Uganda (WIU) internal newsletter.

In September, Windle International Uganda (WIU) celebrated 25 years of providing access to quality education and training for refugees and host communities in Uganda.

WIU also made significant progress over the month to ensure continuity of education for refugees and host communities amidst lockdown and closure of schools by providing learning materials to students.

WIU is currently implementing a number of projects and in this issue, we share some updates and progress thus far.

Starting next month, these updates will be shared externally. Communication department will be getting back to you with further guidance of what is expected going forward. Feel free to share any ideas that you believe will make us better and stronger.

Happy Reading, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy!

Highlights of September

New Project Highlight: Supporting Girls in Nakivale Refugee Settlement Overcome Menstrual Hygiene Challenges

Girls in low- and lower-middle income countries face challenges in menstrual health management (MHM), which impact their health and schooling. This might be exacerbated by refugee conditions. Faced with frequent embarrassing leaks and exposure to recurrent infections, this situation reduces most girls' experiences of menstruation to a monthly dose of discomfort and shame. Girls, especially those in school suffer most from gender inequality, discriminatory social norms, cultural taboos, poverty and lack of basic services which often cause girls' menstrual health and hygiene needs to go unmet.

It is not uncommon for adolescent girls who attend school whilst living in a settlement to miss class if they are unable to manage their periods. A survey of girls living in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda found that 43% of girls miss school during their periods. This is in large part due fears of accidents, teasing from peers, and the staining of clothes. Because of these challenges, Windle International Uganda in partnership with SDG Youth (South Korea) signed a contract to improve Menstrual Hygiene Management at Kabahinda Primary School, Nakivale Refugee Settlement through a number of interventions.

The project which targets vulnerable adolescent and teenage girls of Kabahinda Primary School in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, South Western Uganda will benefit a total of 100 girls who will be selected by different stakeholders. These will be provided with period panties to improve their menstrual hygiene.

Some of the key project interventions include;

- Handover of period panties to Kabahinda Primary School; this will offer an advocacy opportunity to decision makers especially the relevant local government official and leaders to prioritise MHM in their plans.
- Conducting social mobilisation and engagement through schools and local communities to support MHM.
- Conduct radio talk show to disseminate information about MHM
- Printing and distribution of leaflets with information on good MHM practices

The project will put a critical spotlight on the challenges vulnerable adolescent and teenage girls face during their periods and will be supported to address whilst working with the different structures in the settlement.



Scholarship Highlights

DAFI Highlight:

During the month, WIU supported 34 Medical students to report to their Institutions. The students were facilitated with subsistence and rental allowances

All continuing students are studying online for the new academic year and UNHCR approved the payment of subsistence and data allowances to enable students effectively attend their studies while at home.

Worth noting is an additional 30 new scholarships were approved and a total of 60 new students will be supported in 2021. Their placement process is on course and an online orientation by end of the month.



Joint Team Meeting with DAFI Students Pursuing Health Related Science Courses



An online interview ongoing outside the DAFI office

SRP Highlight:

Interviews for Student Refugee Program Conducted

Online Interviews were held for the 4th cohort of Student Refugee Program (SRP) for all the settlements. Ninety two students (47 male, 45 female) interviewed jointly by Windle International Uganda (WIU) and World University Services Canada (WUSC).

The results will be shared in October and feedback will be provided to all the candidates interviewed whether they were successful or not. Verification of academic documents will be done after provision of feedback and profiling of successful applicants.

The SRP is aimed at providing young refugee students' access to quality higher Education and resettlement in Canada.

The Student Refugee Program provides young refugees with life-changing opportunities to continue their education on Canadian campuses and build a better future for themselves and their families.

The SRP is a unique program that combines resettlement to Canada with access to post-secondary education for young refugees. It is a Canadian government program managed by WUSC, a leading Canadian Education INGO.

Auxiliary Department

Currently there are five active projects under auxiliary department namely; Education Management project for Refugee and Host communities, Skills for Employment Project, Adolescent Girls Education in Crisis Initiative project, Children Feeding Initiative and Solar Home Club project. Each of these projects compliments to Government efforts of providing quality education to refugees and Communities. A brief projects highlights is given:



Learner in Kiryandongo using the learning material



The completed teachers Tukulus at Victoria P/S

Education Management Project (ECW)

The Education Management project is funded by two partners, one by UNHCR and the other by Education Cannot Wait (ECW). The project funded by ECW is being implemented by Windle International Uganda in five refugee settlements: Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Kiryandongo, Palorinya and Nakivale. The project's goals are delivered through infrastructure development, distribution of scholastic and instructional materials as well as school furniture, teachers' capacity building and the promotion of child protection and safeguarding

During the month, two teacher Tukulus, 2 units of staff houses (Tukulus and a temporary kitchen) were constructed at Victoria primary school to improve on teachers' accommodation hence increasing their performance.

Furthermore, WIU distributed 22,979 Home Learning Packages to learners in Kyangwali, Kiryandongo and Nakivale to ensure the continuity of learning during the closure of schools. This shall boost learning, revision and improve performance when schools reopen.

Adolescent Girls Education In Crisis Initiative(GAC)

Windle International Uganda (WIU) in partnership with World University Services of Canada (WUSC) and Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) are implementing a project titled 'Adolescent Girls' Education in Crisis Initiatives' (AGENCI) in Moyo and Obongi districts in West Nile Region.

The project focuses on, Enhanced empowerment of adolescent girls and young female youth pursuing educational pathways in crisis affected areas of Uganda

Key achievements this month:

WIU mobilised 1,336 schools' girls to receive solar radio handsets with pre-recorded lesson contents to ensure continuity of learning amidst COVID 19 following the closure of schools. Additionally, 1390 Solar radios and 1390 Flash disks with audio lessons were procured and distributed to support home learning. Home learning is currently taking place in 2 districts using the solar radios with pre-recorded lessons.

The project also supported in the development of two curricula, one for primary and another for secondary to support the life skills training for adolescent girls and young female youth.



Adolescent receiving solar radios for home learning

Children Feeding Initiative

Windle International Uganda has been implementing the Children Feeding Initiative funded by Convoy of Hope in Early Childhood Development (ECD) since 2017 in Rhino Camp, Palorinya and Imvepi Refugee Settlements. As a result of the suspension of ECD education, the project has this year channeled the children feeding to twenty-two (22) community primary schools in Imvepi, Rhino and Palorinya Refugee Settlements.

Through this project, nutritious midday meals are provided to learners from P.1 - P.3. From education perspective, the project aims at enhancing and improving enrolment, attendance, retention and completion rates in the target classes.

The project focuses on enhancing the quality of life and effective learning amongst lower primary school learners (classes of P1-P3) in Palorinya, Imvepi and Rhino refugee settlements in West Nile.

Key achievements this month:

There is ongoing construction of 21 temporary kitchens in the three settlements of Palorinya, Rhino and Imvepi in preparation of school reopening. Procurement of table wares for 21 schools in Palorinya, Rhino and Imvepi is in progress to ensure that the items are ready for school reopening.



Roofing, plastering and pointing of brickwork joints of temporary kitchen in Emmanuel Primary School

Solar Home Club

Windle international Uganda (WIU) in partnership with Book Aid International (BAI) is implementing Solar Homework Club in Rhino camp targeting the 3 secondary schools of; Rhino Camp High School, St. Luke Widi S.S, and Ofua S.S. The main goal is to provide the students and teachers access to quality up to date supplementary subject books, revision guides and youth fiction as well as lamps to increase learning time.

The project supports teachers and students learning through providing books donated by UK publishers, solar lamps, COVID-19 hand washing stations and soap, and grant purchase of local books.

Key achievements this month

In September, WIU procured and distributed 900 solar lamps for supporting self-studies in the three secondary schools; Rhino Camp High School, St. Luke Widi S.S and Ofua S.S.

Persons of concern in Senior one, two and three were selected. These were lent solar lamps to use for a specified period and then return them to other users to also benefit.

Emmanuel Bida, a refugee from South Sudan is a senior two student of Ofua Senior Secondary School and a beneficiary of the solar lamp.



"The Solar lamp which I borrow from school has been so useful for me, it has given me time to support my parents with domestic work and read my books at night. During the day I'm able to help my parents looking after animals, fetch water among others as I charge my solar light, and in the night I'm able to concentrate and read my books without worrying about buying paraffin. I believe that when schools reopen, my performance will greatly improve. I'm forever grateful for this support." Emmanuel Bida

A total of 333 local curriculum books for secondary schools were received awaiting distribution. Accession register and borrowing/ lending register is being used as a tool for monitoring the lending of solar lamps and local curriculum books.

Emmanuel Bida, Ofua Senior Secondary School

Latest from our Social Media

Did you know about the E-learning going on in Rhino High School where students will be able to access online learning material through tabs within a radius of 100 meters from the school? Follow the link below to watch a clip to hear more about this project being implemented in partnership with UNHCR and UNESCO:



<https://youtu.be/tRvNgt6R2c>

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Thank you for being part of our network.
Hope you enjoyed the read!

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