

YOUTHGANDA PROJECT REPORT

SUMMER 2019



Introduction

Initially the youthganda project was planned to set up a crop farm in a school in Tororo district. The crops from this farm would then be harvested and used to provide meals for the students in the school. This activity did not go as planned because of the changes in the rainy and growing seasons due to climate changes. Due to this effect, we decided to change the project to sensitise the students in schools about climate change through planting trees, workshops and encouraging students to care about their environment through proper disposal of single use plastics.

Most of the population in Tororo district live in rural areas and the people do not have basic knowledge about climate change and how their actions are a great cause of the changes in the weather. Many people in the villages use wood fuel for their home consumption and this has greatly affected the environment as many trees are being cut down without replacement thereby reducing the environmental services such as watershed, soil protection and reduced biodiversity.

Summary of the project

Due to some circumstances, two of the project organisers Jo Saito and Israel Tamale were not able carry out the project. This led to creating changes on the project management. The project included a team of four members (Okaware Thomas, Oyana Andrew, Nabwire Christine and Kemba Emmanuel) who helped me with the project activities.

To start the project, we visited the office of the District Education Officer (DEO) and Chief Administrative officer of Tororo district to obtain clearance to carry out the project in the schools. During the project, we visited three schools, (Atiri Secondary, Peta Community and Katerema Secondary schools). Through the project activities we were able to reach out to about 1000 students and planted 1000 trees across the three schools ensuring that at least each student planted a tree and take care of it. We were also able to plant one dustbin in each school that we visited so that the students can use it to dispose rubbish.

The project lasted for a period of four weeks. The first week involved acquiring the necessary legal permission to carry out the project in the chosen schools and seeking audience from the schools. We then spent a week in each of the schools carrying out activities. In each school, we sensitised the students about climate change, planted a dustbin on the school compound and planted different types of trees such as fruit trees, shade trees, Eucalyptus trees and Pine trees. The number of trees planted in each school varied depending on the amount of land provided to us and the need of the school.

Motivation of the project.

This project aimed at promoting knowledge in a wide perspective. That means while planting trees with the students and member of staff from the schools, we raised awareness about how and why we should plant trees. Through guided instructions and workshops, the students were educated about the importance of trees and how their contributions are vital to our environment in regard to regulating carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and modifying the weather.

Majority of the people in Tororo live in poverty therefore, the students were also advised on ways of using trees such as fruit trees to supplement on their diet. Single use plastics are also improperly disposed without thinking about the environmental impacts and through this project we planted dustbins in the schools and encouraged the students to recycle plastics.

Enduring success of the project:

- 1000 trees were planted, and we reached out to up to 1000 students who were inspired to act as tree ambassadors to their parents and in their communities.
- Dustbins planted in the schools are being properly used by the students.
- The knowledge gained by the students can be directly transferred to their communities.

How did the project make a difference?

Short term benefits.

Knowledge on how to plant a tree

- Finding the right environment for different trees
- How deep and wide to dig the whole
- The need and benefit of manure
- How to prevent the tree from drying out
- Protecting the tree with wooden sticks.
- How to follow up a new planted tree

Environmental awareness.

- Gained knowledge both locally and worldwide
- What benefits a tree can give to people depending the type of tree
- What benefits the tree can give to animals.
- How to use trees to reduce the effects of climate change.
- How dangerous single use plastics are and how to properly dispose them.

Long term benefits of the project.

- The shade trees planted will provide students with shade during the hot days at school.
- The fruit trees planted (mangoes and Oranges) will be harvested by the students in the future to supplement their diet with Vitamins.
- The pine and Eucalyptus trees planted can be harvested by the school to provide timber.
- The impact of changes in the climate in the area like intensive heat will be minimised.

How the project has impacted on the people we aimed to help.

- The students were excited about the tree planting project since most of the schools that we visited did not have enough shade and the students have hope that the tree project will be of great help to them in the future,
- The students actively participated during the project and promised to ask their parents to plant trees in their homes.
- Students in the schools can now properly dispose off rubbish using the dustbins that we provided them during the project.

How the project made an Impact on me and the project team.

Solving a problem theoretically seems much easier than in reality. Through this project, me and my team were able to navigate through a difficult terrain to ensure that the project was a success. Through each step of the project that we passed through, the challenges we encountered guided us with what we should work on.

This project gave me the opportunity to interact with my community in a way that I had not felt before. The smiles on the faces of the students as we improved their school compound was our motivation because this made us learn that what we were doing created joy to other.

Challenges we faced during the project.

- Some few schools took long to reply to us leading to a few delays.
- Some schools had tight schedules, and this limited the number of students that we could access.
- Limited rains in some parts of the district which made watering of the trees difficult.
- It was difficult to balance the request of the students and the school administration who both preferred certain types of trees to be planted in their school.

What we would have done differently.

- Planted more fruit trees in the schools to cater for the students needs.
- Visit more schools to provide the same knowledge to a wider range of students
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Project budget summary.

Item	Quantity	Cost (\$)
Transport and refreshments		320
Eucalyptus trees	600	50
Pine trees	570	80
Shade trees	10	40
Oranges	10	20
Mango trees	10	25
Quest speakers.	2	200
Watering cans	3	15
Dustbins	3	250
Total		1000