

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Period covered: **July to December 2022**

Completed by: Justus Ahimbisibwe

Date submitted: 30th Jan 2023

1.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Identification		
Project Name	Marianne Foundation Empowerment Program	
GDG Project Number	J1128N	
Country / Region / Province / Specific Location	Southwestern Uganda	
Project Duration: Date Started	Start: 01/07/2021	
Expected Finish Date	Finish: 01/07/2024	
In-Country Partner		
Name of Organisation	Marianne Foundation for Youth Development	
Street Address of Organisation	Kasuku Road, Ibanda Municipality, Ibanda District Uganda	
Phone / Fax	+256 773 060208	
Email	contact@marianne-foundation.org	
Website	https://marianne-foundation.org/	
In-Country Project Manager Name	Justus Ahimbisibwe	
In-Country Project Manager email	justusahimbisibwe@gmail.com	
In-Country Project Manager Phone	+256 773 060208	
Beneficiaries	Male	Female
Number of Direct Beneficiaries of this Project	1000	6400
Approximate Number of Indirect Beneficiaries	2000	12000
Number of new beneficiaries this period	600	3500

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Activities Report

This has been a very successful year for our programs and shorter term projects. We were able to host our public health consultants as well from July to August 2022.

Programs

- **VSLA Program Report:** We managed to train 17 more groups of women to be a part of our VSLA program. The consulting team helped us to facilitate the design of a process evaluation plan, including a survey and focus group discussion guides, to collect useful data that is being analyzed to help measure our progress. We mobilized the groups that have been in operation for a while into a VSLA SACCO that is operating smoothly. A SACCO is a Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization that is registered with the local government to operate similarly to a credit union or an independent bank. They are member owned and operated to encourage collective financial empowerment and security. In the future, the SACCO requires more funding to support women entrepreneurship and also a digital platform that will enable women to bank from their rural areas.
- **EmpowerPads Menstrual Health & Pad Making Report:** We did training in four schools, Nkondo Secondary School, Ankole Secondary School, Nsasi Secondary School and Mukara Primary School, reaching 1000 school-aged girls with menstrual hygiene education. Our consulting team also helped to facilitate the design of a process evaluation plan for this program, including a survey and in depth interview guides for girls who receive the education and pads. We plan to go back and conduct data collection in February or March of 2023, to understand the girls' experiences with our reusable pads, EmpowerPads, as well as the impact of the education programming in this area.
- **Marianne Women's Skilling Center Report:** This was a success. We continue to expand this and the goal is to increase employability of those graduating through our skilling program. However, this requires intensive Marketing as well as establishing a first class industrial hub to be competitive in Uganda and abroad.
- **Maternal Health and Kitagwenda Health Centre Report:** This year, mothers continued to access antenatal care services as well as accessing other services. We distributed mamakits to 100 mothers and we hope to continue with efforts towards tools. We request for funding to provide tools to equip this medical center.

Projects

- **Consultant Visit:** From July to August 2022, our public health consultants, Clare Killian and Carly Cote, traveled for a site visit at Marianne Foundation for Youth Development. During their visit, they facilitated a program management, monitoring and evaluation workshop with the Ibanda University Research Division and MFYD for 45 participants across various research, public health and social work industries in Uganda. They assisted in the development of process evaluation surveys, focus group discussion and in depth interview guides, and trained our staff and Ibanda University interns on quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. We worked on updating our menstrual health and hygiene education materials and conducted a couple of training sessions with students at local schools. Finally, they updated our program logos and website. They lived and worked within the community, focusing on our needs and ensuring sustainability throughout their participation in our programming.
- **Consulting with Solid Rock Life and Business & ACTS For Water Uganda:** In July 2022, Marianne Foundation was hired by Solid Rock Consulting to carry out skills training in Isingiro and Ibanda Districts, funded by ACTS For Water. Marianne Foundation also conducted a needs assessment in each community, as well as skilling workshops in soap making, brick making, and reusable pad making. All beneficiaries also participated in our entrepreneurship training. Our needs assessment report from this project is available upon request.
- **Kagiira Farms Skills Training:** In July 2022, Marianne Foundation partnered with Kagiira Farm in Ibanda to conduct a day-long training event inviting women from all VSLA groups to participate in training in piggery, poultry, and strawberry farming. Over 500 women participated.
- **Program Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop with Ibanda University:** Our public health consultants, Clare Killian and Carly Cote, facilitated a week long workshop in program management, monitoring and evaluation utilizing reflexive participation education, whereby the students utilized Marianne Foundation program areas to apply course concepts. All participants were awarded certificates of completion upon the end of the course. Course materials available upon request.

2.2 Project Outputs Report

Goal #1: Improve the livelihoods of 100 out-of-school girls/women aged 14-30 through the creation of sustainable employment opportunities through skills training by June 30th 2024			
Expected Outputs	Actual Output	Expected Outcome	Actual Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 100 of out of school girls (both refugee and non-refugees) selected for skills training ● 100 girls trained in vocational and hand skills like baking, hair dressing, tailoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40 of out of school girls (both refugee and non-Refugees) selected for skills training ● 40 girls trained in vocational and hand skills like hair dressing and tailoring 	<p>100% of girls employed (or self-employed) upon completion of their vocational training</p> <p>100% of girls able to improve their standard of living due to increased</p>	<p>Cumulatively 7 million Ugandan shillings has been paid to the girls in compensation for their work, enabling them to access income.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 girls employed at the end of training • 100 tools procured and handed over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 girls employed at the end of training (10 at the skilling center and 26 in their own businesses and 4 in Rwamwanja Refugee settlement. The refugees were supported with start up sewing machines • 30 tools procured and added to the skills center 	<p>income as a result of having an employable skill</p>	<p>3 million Ugandan shillings have been put in raw materials procurements.</p> <p>A business outlet was opened in Ibanda town center to provide business support to the girls in the program. 10 girls are regularly working at the business outlet.</p> <p>5 industrial sewing machines procured for the Marianne Women's Skills Center.</p>
<p>Goal #2: To contribute to improved health conditions of women and children to enable their households get out of poverty by increasing access to maternal and child health services as well as general medical services to the community</p>			
<p>Expected Outputs</p>	<p>Actual Output</p>	<p>Expected Outcome</p>	<p>Actual Outcome</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the construction of a community-based health centre with and outpatient department • Purchase of an ambulance to help mothers quickly access the health services and other emergencies • Construction of water pumping system at 3 health centres 	<p>One village ambulance procured pending clearance from the Ministry of Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to timely medical care in emergency health situations due to availability of an ambulance • Incidences of waterborne diseases will be greatly reduced • 100% of water needs for the centre and patient care will be able to be supplied by the health centre. Patients will no longer need to carry water to use at the health centre, which will reduce a barrier that affects the ability for people to access health care. 	<p>Rural communities will walk shorter distances to access health services once the village ambulance is delivered.</p>

Goal #3: To end the lack of access to menstrual health products and to increase knowledge about reproductive health and menstruation in schools in Ibanda District and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement through development of a pads production centre and implementing educational components by June 30th 2024

Expected Outputs	Actual Output	Expected Outcome	Actual Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of pads made Number of pads distributed Number of trainings provided (including attendance numbers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 pads distributed in schools Data to be collected again to measure the progress (aim for March 2023) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of women and young girls receiving menstrual education and supplies report greater confidence during menstruation and greater sense of dignity. 100% of girls attending school report increased attendance during menstruation (overall attendance rates increased – measured by # of days absent per month) 	Data not yet collected - to be collected in March 2023

Goal #4: To increase the income access of 1250 VSLA group members by 30% in Ibanda District by June 30th 2024

Expected Outputs	Actual Output	Expected Outcome	Actual Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1250 of people mobilized 1250 of people trained 50 Saving groups formed Number of business management trainings conducted Monitoring Progress Reviews and Reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization/VSLA Group Formation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 mobilization meetings conducted 508 women mobilized, trained and formed into 48 groups as of November 2022 Registered the VSLA groups into Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) (<i>Registration certification upon request</i>) 570 women trained in farming enterprises like poultry and vegetable growing in July 2022 in partnership with Kagiira Farms in Ibanda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of participants report improved knowledge of savings, budgeting and increased financial security. 100% loans repaid and in a timely manner. 80% report increased household income 100% report improved standard of living 	<p>In July 2022, we conducted surveys with 336 VSLA participants in order to determine the successes with or gaps in the program. The survey respondents represent about a third of our total VSLA participants.</p> <p>92.5% of participants reported improved knowledge of savings and 93.4% of participants reported improved knowledge about budgeting.</p> <p>97.3% of participants reported that they feel more financially secure since being involved with VSLA.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developed an online system to mobilize farmers (Agri Katale - Uganda Best Market Place) ● Financial Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 156,000,000 Ugandan Shillings disbursed from savings as small loans to farmers ○ 170,600,000 Ugandan Shillings saved by VSLA members ● Developed an online system for the purpose of financial records for the VSLAs <p>Login through the credentials below:</p> <p>www.mariannewomensaving.org</p> <p>Login Details:</p> <p>Email: josh@globaldevelopment.org.au Password: gdg20022</p> <p>Dashboard: You will be able to see total groups by names and membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This tab, click in to see each member and each group with savings ● Total savings: 		<p>77% of participants reported that their income and livelihood has improved since participating in the VSLA program with the second area of impact being access to education.</p> <p>93.2% of participants reported that they have taken a loan, with the most common reason being to pay for school fees (49%). 100% of loans were repaid and 85% of participants who have taken a loan also reported paying back their loan between 1 and 3 months later. This will be further explored, as when asked what challenges or problems impacted their VSLA, 42% of participants reported that delays in payment of borrowed loans was a challenge.</p> <p>98.2% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that their standard of living has improved since joining the VSLA program.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is the aggregated total savings by all the groups ● Total loans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total of the savings that has been loaned out to group members 		
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2.3 COVID-19 Pandemic Impact Update

	Explanation
How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted the project activities?	<p>As a consequence of COVID-19, schools in Uganda were closed for two years. Therefore, the Marianna Foundation was forced to suspend our menstrual hygiene and health educational programming, since our target audience for this activity is predominantly adolescent girls in school.</p> <p>Schools reopened in January 2022 and all activities related to menstrual hygiene and health have resumed.</p>
Have you implemented any new activities in response to the virus at this time?	<p>At our residential skilling center, girls were trained in sewing masks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The masks were distributed to the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement as well as the surrounding communities in Ibanda in an effort to provide PPE and prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>With funding from Search for Common Grounds, we distributed COVID prevention materials in Refugee settlement as well as the host communities. Girls sewed 5000 cloth masks, we distributed these in Rwamwanja refugee camp and we distributed 40 hand washing facilities to schools, market centers, refugees food collection points and schools in the refugee settlement and host communities.</p>
Effect of COVID-19 on Kitagwenda Medical Center	<p>The biggest effect of COVID-19 on the Kitagwenda Medical Center was a decrease in client turnout at the facility. The main barrier contributing to this decrease was due to the travel and restrictions related to COVID-19. Low patient turnout resulted in a decrease in revenue for the Kitawenda Medical Center.</p> <p>The facility started conducting more community-based outreaches, bringing medical and other related services into surrounding rural villages to overcome this obstacle. During this time, the Kitagwenda Medical Center increased its operational expenses, in reflection of the increase in outreach campaigns. Additionally, the facility increased its staff remuneration efforts in the form of meals, refreshments and allowances to keep staff motivated during outreach projects.</p>

<p>Do you have any beneficiary stories to share from these new activities?</p>	<p>Our ability to adapt quickly and pivot our skills centre in order to create masks helped us to spread more information about COVID-19 as well as Marianne Foundation within our community. Our ties and relationship with the community also benefited us during this time. Many community members relied on Marianne Foundation programming that continued to operate within the guidelines of COVID-19 restrictions, but still were able to reach very rural community members where other services may not have during the height of the pandemic.</p>
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3. SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40 out of school girls (both refugee and non-refugees) selected for skills training and successfully trained in hairdressing or tailoring. All 40 girls found employment after completing their training, including 26 who now own their own business. ● Procurement of village ambulance ● Field visit by international public health consultants ● Created business outlet to sell crafts made in the skilling center ● Opened Ibanda Women VSLA SACCO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The procurement of village ambulances has been delayed due to bureaucracy of the Ministry of Health that must provide and approve the ambulance. However, recent follow up indicates that the ambulance is arriving in the first quarter of 2023. ● There is still a problem of lack of bigger markets which is key towards employment of the girls under the skilling and business outlet. We need to get contracts from schools and other larger companies to provide work to the girls at the outlet. ● The international public health consultants used their personal funding to travel and do the work, whereas the Foundation only managed to take care of the data collection costs. We hope the end of project assessment in 2024 can have us facilitate their travel and their time to facilitate program monitoring and evaluation so that we can focus on the daily operations of the Foundation.

4. BENEFICIARY STORIES



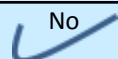
Beneficiary Impact Stories	
1.	Atuahire Pauline: Pauline is a member of Marianne Women Group that deals with crafts, and cottage and sits every Sunday at Marianne Office. This year, she saved 10,158,300 Ugandan Shillings (about \$2800 USD). She has used the funds to boost her hotel and guest house business.
2.	Kabanzira Judith: Judith says that she has learned discipline through being a part of the VSLA and has saved 3,450,000 Ugandan Shillings (about \$1000 USD) which I have used to start a business. Before she joined the VSLA group, she was a housewife with no business and now she is able to make her own income to help support her family.
3.	Klevia Kajuly: Kajuly is a member of the Kagando Group. She thanks Marianne Foundation because since she joined the group, she has been able to access loans and pay school fees and medical expenses for her children and family. Her daughter had dropped out of school due to their family's financial constraints. She was supported by Marianne Foundation to receive training and she now works in Marianne Women's Skilling Center as a tailor.

5. SAFEGUARDING (This now includes both Child Protection (CP) & Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH))

Safeguarding Implementation	Evidence	During this Reporting Period	
		Yes	No
Child Protection Policy	Do you have a documented Child Protection Policy in place?	✓ Yes	No
	Is it on display at the project?	✓ Yes	No
	Details – where is it located? In our office, on our administration shelves		
PSEAH Policy	Do you have a PSEAH Policy in place?	✓ Yes	No
	Is it on display at the project?	✓ Yes	No
	Details – where is it located? In our office, on our administration shelves		

Training Needs GDG has a Safeguarding training program for partners – speak to your Project Officer for more details	What are your current training priorities regarding Safeguarding? - <i>Are you confident in your policy understanding?</i> - <i>Are you confident in your implementation plan?</i>	Details: We need to be trained in these policies. We will speak with our Project Officer to schedule a training session.	
Staff	Child Protection/Safeguarding Officer	Yes, according to the agreement with GDG, any staff is supposed to be near the women that live at the residential skilling centre to play the role of safeguarding officer at all times. All of our staff live on or near the office/Skilling Centre and are confident in our abilities to protect the girls at our centre. We would like to engage in training with GDG's safeguarding training program in order to strengthen our policies and procedures.	
	All staff agree to the latest Safeguarding Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Details:	Yes, all staff must agree to the policy.	
	New Staff inducted and trained in Safeguarding this period, and have signed the CP and PSEAH policies?	Names: Akangumya Pericia Musinguzi Godwin Prossy Akatuhurira	
	Safeguarding training conducted during this period?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Next Safeguarding training scheduled?	Dates: May 2023		

Reporting	Incident reporting document in place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	How can children, vulnerable people or community members report suspicious behaviour?	Details: All of the girls and staff at our Foundation are encouraged and empowered to discuss any inappropriate or suspicious behaviour with staff and we take these incidents extremely seriously.	
	How many Child Protection or Sexual Misconduct incidents occurred this period?	Number: Zero (0)	
	Reported to GDG?	Yes N/A	No N/A
Visitor Process	All visitors, including sponsors and volunteers, are identified and inducted with your Safeguarding behaviour guidelines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
		Number of visitors: 10 - This includes our international public health consultants, both of whom are highly trained in their fields (both hold Masters in Public Health) and trained in protection of human subjects in research, in protection of children and vulnerable populations, and in reporting of child protection or sexual misconduct issues. They are consistently held to very high standards for cross-cultural, international work and remain dedicated to anti-racist, anti-colonial behaviours and education.	
Changes	Any changes to your CP or PSEAH Policies?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
		Details:	

Child Resettlement (Residential Care projects only)	Does this project operate a residential care program (includes group homes, orphanages, family-based care etc)?	Yes 	No
	How many children are in residential care?	# Girls [Number]	# Boys [Number]
	How many children have been reintegrated in the last 6 months?	# Girls [Number] N/A - We operate a Skilling Center that houses only girls over the age of 18.	# Boys [Number]
	Do you have documented Reintegration guidelines (e.g. Reintegration policy)? <i>Reintegration/Resettlement definition at top of section.</i>	Yes	No 
Other	Are there any other Safeguarding or sexual misconduct matters to report?	Yes	No 
		Details:	

6. SUSTAINABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Sustainability aspect	Approach of Project
Financial	Every project is designed to continue after the funding period from our partners has ended. We subscribe to the thought process of teaching our clients how to fish, rather than just giving out fish. To achieve this philosophy, we focus on empowerment and mindset change in each of our programming areas. For example, our VLSA programs do not just give out loans, but also include an educational component that teaches our participants about costing, saving, budgeting and other personal finance tools. All our groups are linked and

	registered into local government sub counties as community based groups within 2 years after formation in order to keep them accountable and encourage longevity.
Environmental	All of our programming areas aim to be environmentally sustainable. For example, the VSLA groups and girls in our residential skilling center create eco-friendly bags to replace the polythene bags that are commonly used throughout the community. Additionally, our EmpowerPad program is based around producing reusable pads, which in turn, reduces the amount of waste generated by the community.
Community participation & ownership	Our projects are Ugandan driven (based on addressing challenges faced by Ugandans) but most importantly, they are community led. The VLSA groups are self-selected village-based economic empowerment groups. They are trained to raise their own revenue and are empowered to make their own decisions based on the group's needs and interests. Additionally, the Kitagwenda Health Center was partially funded by the community, bolstering local interest and involvement. The village ambulance was procured based on community input, collected through a series of publicly held meetings. All of our decisions are made with our community at the forefront.
GDG can provide Sustainability training for partners – please discuss with your GDG Project Officer We are interested in these training sessions.	

7. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building Initiative	Description
Community Based Trainer Model	Community based trainers were selected from the community at the start of the project. All of the trainers selected are well respected and exemplary community members whom we call 'model families' that stay in the communities where we work from.
VSLA methodology Model	The VSLA model requires continued refresher training. We regularly offer training to group leaders in order to build capacities of these groups. This also inspires new group members to become involved and dedicated to their VLSA group, as this opportunity is open to any group member that exhibits leadership skills.

8. KEY STAFF CHANGES

N/A

9. LESSONS LEARNT & CHANGES TO PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Lessons Learnt	Change to Project Description/Project Activities
Early mobilization is key to realizing project results.	Most activities related to pads production and distribution were delayed because of the COVID-19 related school closures. EmpowerPad production and distribution is now ongoing, however, our timeline has been shifted.
We need to always innovate more ideas like medical outreaches to reach the communities in villages and eliminate the barrier of transportation.	The Kitagwenda Medical Center conducts regularly scheduled outreaches within the villages to overcome barriers to medical access. We anticipate that after the village ambulance is in operation, the frequency of this outreaches may decrease.
Many women are demanding for the formation of more groups. With the next release of funds still far away, we have stopped the formation of more groups until the next fiscal year.	508 women mobilized, trained and formed into 48 groups as of November 2022. We estimate that we exceed our target of 50 savings groups formed by June 30th, 2024. We have registered the VSLA groups into Savings and Credit Cooperative, giving veteran VSLA members additional opportunity to evolve their financial knowledge and participate within the community.

10. ANY OTHER MATTERS TO REPORT?

N/A

11. PLANS FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of 31 VSLAs (1250 women) in business management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of business management trainings conducted Impact assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% report increased household income

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pad making and distribution to the community and markets based on in-depth scans by Marianne Foundation ● Training provided to women in reproductive and menstrual health curriculum ● Upkeep of the Pad Bank and information to disseminate throughout the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of pads distributed ● Number of trainings provided ● Number of new trainers identified and educated to provide instruction ● Impact assessment (data collection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 100% of women and young girls receiving menstrual education and supplies report greater confidence during menstruation and greater sense of dignity ● 100% of girls attending school report increased attendance during menstruation (overall attendance rates increased – measured by # of days absent per month)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project review meetings with stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct one meeting to present project success to the Government of Uganda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up meetings scheduled in order to continue receiving support from local government

12. PHOTOS: In addition, please see photos on our website at www.marianne-foundation.org! We regularly update the website with new photos and information.

VSLA Groups and SACCO



EmpowerPads



Women's Skilling Center & Ibanda Business Outlet



Projects & Consultant Visit (July-August 2022)

