UniK Service Learning Program

Active Learning, to Serve Humanity Diligently

SERVICE THAT BUILDS BRIDGES: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SERVICE LEARNING'S SCHOOL SUPPORT PROJECT

REPORT 2025

PREAMBLE

PROJECT TOPIC: SERVICE THAT BUILDS BRIDGES: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SERVICE LEARNING (SL) SCHOOL SUPPORT PROJECT

Service Learning is an educational approach that intentionally integrates academic learning with meaningful community engagement, enabling learners to apply classroom knowledge and skills to address real-life community challenges while reflecting on their experiences. At the University of Kisubi (UniK), the Service Learning Programme is founded on the philosophy of "Active Learning, to Serve Humanity Diligently" emphasizing partnerships between the University, schools, and communities to promote mutual learning models, sustainable development, and social transformation.

The **Service Learning School Support Project** was established to strengthen the capacity of partner schools by supporting the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of learner-led community projects. During the 2025 school support visits, a diverse range of secondary and primary schools implemented innovative projects addressing environmental conservation, waste management, sustainable agriculture, science and technology innovation, entrepreneurship, and community well-being. These initiatives provided learners with opportunities to develop practical skills, leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, and civic responsibility while responding to the unique needs of their communities.

Analysis of the school reports reveals that the Service Learning approach has significantly enhanced experiential learning by moving education beyond the classroom into authentic community contexts. Schools successfully implemented projects such as tree planting and greening initiatives, plastic and paper recycling, organic fertilizer production, prototype engineering solutions, hydroponics, water management systems, and other environmentally sustainable innovations. Many projects demonstrated strong institutional commitment, community collaboration, and student creativity, while also contributing to environmental protection, improved livelihoods, and increased awareness of sustainable development practices.

Despite these achievements, the visits also identified challenges affecting project sustainability, including limited financial resources, inadequate technical equipment, insufficient student participation in some schools, poor maintenance of established projects, environmental constraints, and the need for stronger monitoring and community ownership. These findings underscore the importance of continuous mentorship, stakeholder partnerships, capacity building, and systematic documentation to ensure that Service Learning projects achieve long-term educational and community impact.

This report therefore presents the experiences, achievements, lessons learned, challenges, and recommendations emerging from the school support visits. It highlights how Service Learning has become a powerful vehicle for connecting Education with Community development, strengthening institutional partnerships, and nurturing responsible, innovative, and socially conscious citizens.

SCHOOL: KITALA PRIMARY SCHOOL C/U

PROJECT NAME: PLANT A VEGETABLE PROJET

Description

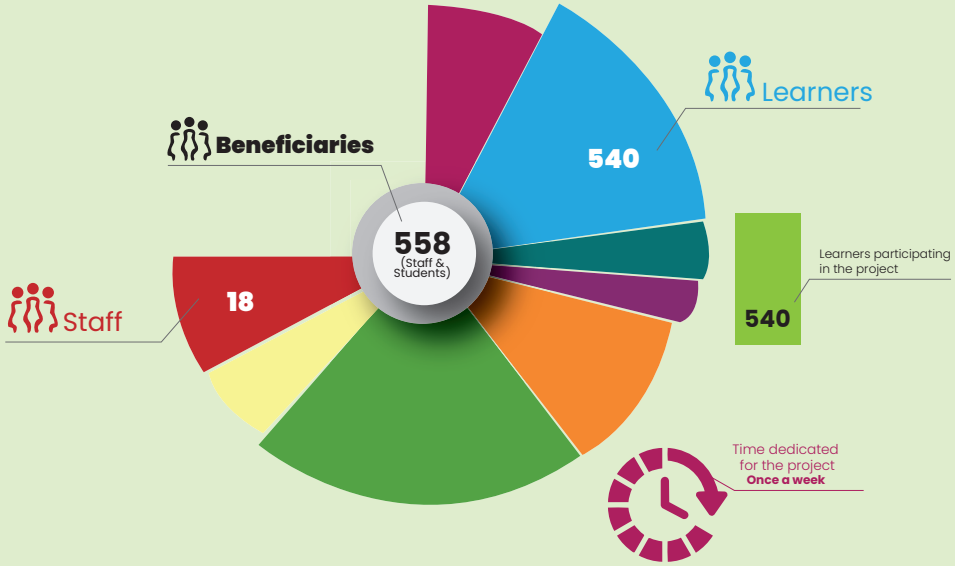
Kitala Primary's "Plant a Vegetable" project is a hands-on, sustainable school gardening program where every learner is responsible for nurturing their own vegetable plant. Under this initiative, students plant, water, and care for their vegetables until harvest time. The produce is then used to supplement meals for all children and staff, promoting nutrition and food security within the school. Additionally, the project supports the school's greening campaign by enhancing the environment, beautifying the campus, and fostering a culture of sustainability among learners.

Objectives

Promote Nutrition & Food Security – Provide fresh, homegrown vegetables to enrich school meals, ensuring a healthier diet for learners and staff.

Encourage Environmental Stewardship – Teach students the importance of sustainable agriculture, conservation, and caring for the environment.

Enhance Practical Learning – Offer hands-on experience in gardening,



fostering responsibility, patience, and teamwork among learners.

Beautify the School Contribute to the greening and beautification of the school grounds, creating a more pleasant learning environment.

Foster Ownership & Responsibility – Empower each student by assigning them a plant to nurture, instilling a sense of pride and accountability.

Support Sustainability Reduce food costs for the school while promoting eco-friendly practices like composting and water conservation.

Achivements

1. Improved Nutrition & Health
2. Enhanced Environmental Awareness & Greening
3. Student Engagement & Skill Development
4. Sustainable Food Production & Cost Savings

The true success of Plant a Vegetable lies not just in the harvest but in the lasting impact on students' health, education, and environmental consciousness. By tracking these indicators, Kitala Primary can ensure the project remains effective, sustainable, and inspiring for generations to come.

Challenges

- Climate change: The dry spell greatly affected the plants
- Pests and Disease

Observations

The leaners and were fully engaged in the project.

The Vegetables were evident around the compound.

The school has engaged on tree planting in an effort to mitigate the climate change.

Proposals for Improvements

The school to have there own Nursery bed to cut costs of buying the seedlings.

Learners could start the same projects at home for continuity of the project in the community.

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MUGEZI SECONDARY SCHOOL, KISUBI

PROJECT NAME: SERVICE LEARNING CLUB

Description

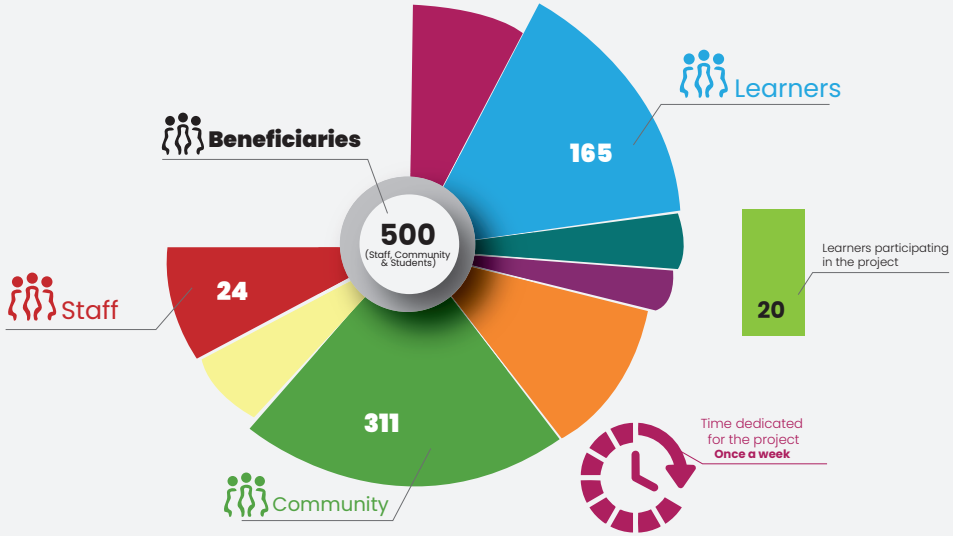
Mugezi Secondary School's Service Learning Club empowers learners to apply classroom knowledge in real-world environmental conservation efforts. The club focuses on maintaining a clean, litter-free school environment by promoting sustainable practices, raising awareness, and organizing cleanup activities. Students actively participate in projects that enhance their sense of responsibility while improving the school's ecosystem.

Objectives

Promote Environmental Conservation – Educate and engage students in practical activities to protect and improve the school's environment.

Eliminate Littering – Encourage proper waste disposal and organize regular clean-up drives to maintain a clean campus.

Develop Leadership & Responsibility – Foster teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills by involving learners in hands-on sustainability projects.



Achivements

Tree planting around the school.

Waste Materials like plastic bottles are collected and re used as dust bins.

The Planting of Vegetables has supplemented meals at the school

Challenges
Lack of cooperation from some staff members
Lack of skills to re-use the littered materials

Observations
The Students involvement in the project was evident, especially the tree planting and vegetables project around the school campus. The school administration has embraced service learning.

Proposals for Improvements

Awareness & Sensitization: Hold meetings to explain the club's goals and how staff support can enhance school cleanliness and student development.

Assign Roles: Involve interested teachers as club patrons or advisors to increase ownership and commitment.
Training Workshops: Partner with local environmental groups or artisans to teach recycling/up cycling skills (e.g., making bins from plastic bottles, paper recycling).

Student-Led Research: Assign learners to explore creative reuse ideas online and share them in club sessions.

KITALA SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

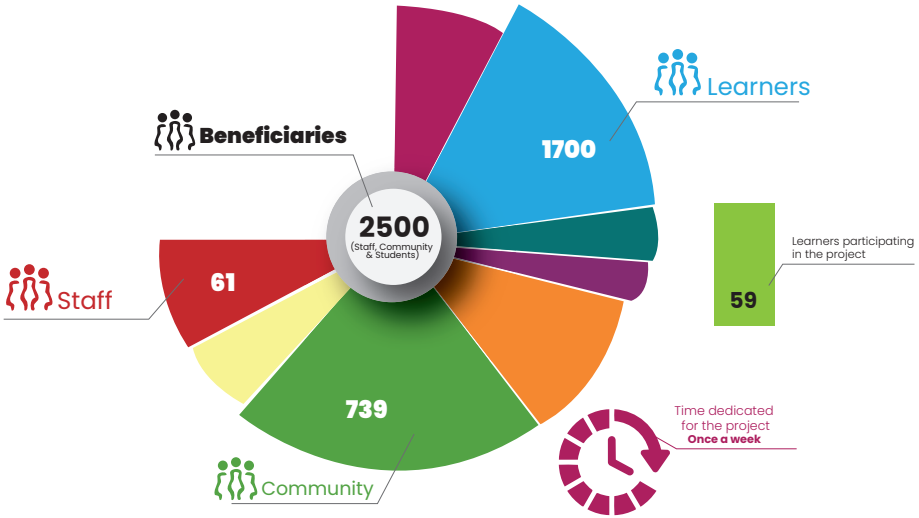
PROJECT NAME: TREE PLANTING AND PLASTIC BOTTLE RECYCLING

Description

Kitala Secondary School runs a service learning project focused on tree planting and plastic recycling, engaging learners and teachers in activities like planting fruit trees and creating fences/dust bins from plastic bottles. The project aims to promote environmental conservation, nutrition, shade provision, and plastic waste reduction in the school and surrounding community. It has been extended to neighboring institutions, including Kitala Prison, to amplify its impact.

Objectives

Environmental Conservation – Combat deforestation and pollution by planting trees and recycling plastics.



Nutrition Improvement – Provide fresh fruits through planted trees to enhance dietary health.

Shade Creation – Increase tree cover in the school for a cooler, more comfortable environment.

Plastic Waste Reduction – Repurpose plastic bottles into useful items like fences and bins to minimize waste.

Achivements

Increased tree cover and biodiversity within the school.

Reduced plastic waste through innovative

recycling initiatives.

Enhanced community involvement by collaborating with Kitala Prison.

Improved environmental awareness among learners and neighboring institutions.

Challenges

Poor Soil Conditions – Rocky and eroded soil makes tree planting and growth difficult.

Threat from Grazing Animals – Goats and other animals damage young trees by feeding on them.

Limited Monitoring & Security – Insufficient supervision leads to trespassing, risking project sustainability.

Observations

The school exhibited wonderful innovations towards environment conservation.

The Learners are Passionate and involved.

The school top administration exhibited top involvement on students projects.

The collaboration with Kitala prison on tree planting highlighted the importance of community collaborations.

Proposals for Improvements:

Soil Improvement: Use organic compost and mulch to enrich rocky soil and prevent erosion.

Protective Barriers: Install thorny fences or recycled plastic bottle fences to keep animals away.

Community Awareness: Engage local herders and neighbors to protect planted trees.

Student & Community Patrols: Assign learners and volunteers to monitor trees in shifts.

Positive Remarks & Future Improvements.

Regular Maintenance: Schedule weekly care routines for trees and recycled structures. Attach trees to at least more than 2 students

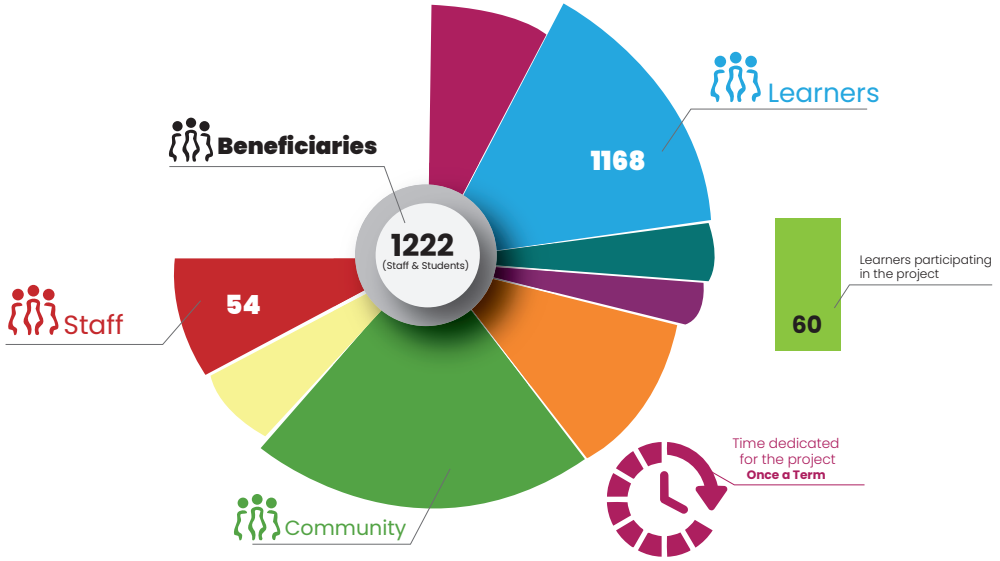
ST. SSEBUGWAAWO PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROJECT NAME: GREENING AND TREE PLANTING PROJECT

Description

Kisubi Boys launched an exciting Greening and Tree Planting Service Learning Project aimed at enhancing the environment while providing students with hands-on learning experiences in fruit tree cultivation. This initiative promotes sustainability, environmental stewardship, and practical agricultural skills among students.

In a generous show of support, Exol Fuel Company donated Mexican avocado seedlings to the project, boosting the school's efforts to diversify fruit tree varieties. These avocados will not only contribute to a greener campus but also serve as an educational resource for students to learn about horticulture, nutrition, and sustainable farming. Through this project, Kisubi Boys is fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and equipping students with valuable knowledge for the future.



Objectives

Environmental Conservation – To enhance the school's ecosystem by planting trees, improving air quality, and combating soil erosion, contributing to a greener and healthier environment.

Practical Student Learning – To provide hands-on education in fruit tree cultivation, teaching students about sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and the importance of biodiversity.

Community Engagement & Partnerships – To foster collaboration with organizations like Exol Fuel Company and inspire collective action in environmental sustainability while promoting a culture of service and responsibility.

Achievements

Partnership with Exol Fuel Company – The project successfully secured a donation of Mexican avocado seedlings, boosting the school's fruit tree diversity and demonstrating strong community and corporate support for environmental initiatives.

Improved shade around the school.

Talking compound that keeps educating students about the importance of trees.

Challenges

Pests, disease and birds.
Hot Weather

Observations

There was limited evidence of students involvement in the projects

Proposals for Improvements

Increase students involvement in project implementation

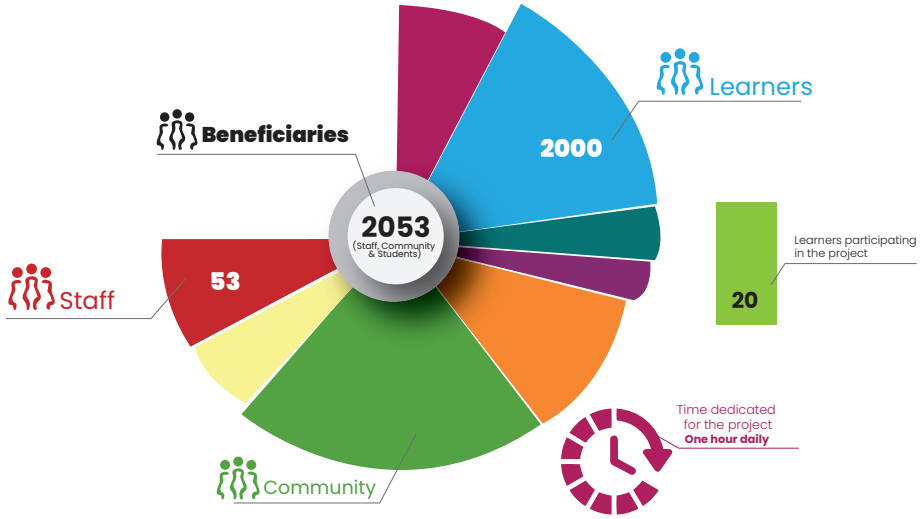
ENTEBBE PARENTS SS

PROJECTS:
PAVERS PROJECT/PLASTIC PAVERS
INDIGENOUS MICRO ORGANISMS PROJECT

Description

Entebbe Parents students have initiated a Service Learning project called the Pavers Project, which focuses on recycling plastic waste into useful products like paver blocks, door mats, and artistic items. The project aims to reduce plastic pollution and promote environmental conservation by repurposing waste materials.

As part of their Service Learning initiative, students at Entebbe Parents have implemented the Indigenous Microorganisms (IMO) Project, which converts food waste into organic fertilizers. This project tackles the harmful effects of synthetic fertilizers on soil health while promoting proper food waste disposal. The IMO fertilizer also helps control candidiasis, pests, and pathogens, improving crop productivity sustainably. Additionally, the students have trained local farmers in producing and using IMO fertilizers.



Objectives

Reduce Plastic Waste: Minimize environmental degradation by recycling plastic waste into sustainable products.

Promote Eco-Friendly Practices: Encourage community awareness and participation in waste management and recycling efforts.

Reduce Food Waste: Convert organic waste into eco-friendly fertilizers, minimizing landfill accumulation.

Promote Sustainable Agriculture: Replace synthetic fertilizers with natural IMO alternatives to enhance soil health and crop yields.

Empower Local Farmers: Educate farmers on IMO production and its benefits for pest control, disease prevention, and soil fertility.

Achievements

Successfully transformed plastic waste into durable paver blocks and other functional items.

Raised environmental consciousness among students and the local community about recycling and sustainability.

Successfully produced organic fertilizer from food waste, reducing reliance on harmful synthetic options.

Improved soil quality and crop resilience by introducing IMO's pest and pathogen-control properties.

Trained local farmers, fostering community adoption of sustainable farming practices.

Challenges

Lack of production machine to reduce production cost of the Pavers and other Plastic products.

Lack of safety gear during the production of IMOS

Observations

Talking business, the Pavers are very expensive for the local market

The IMO project is a well thought through project that addresses the concerns of Artificial Fertilizers on the market

Proposals for Improvements

- Durability & Marketability
- Community & Policy Engagement
- Assess the Environmental friendly ness of the Pavers on the soil in the long run
- Scientific Validation & Quality Control
- Farmer Adoption & Training Expansion
- Documentation & Impact Measurement

ENTEBBE SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROJECTS:
PLASTIC BOTTLE FENCING AND ECHO STOVE PROJECTS

Description

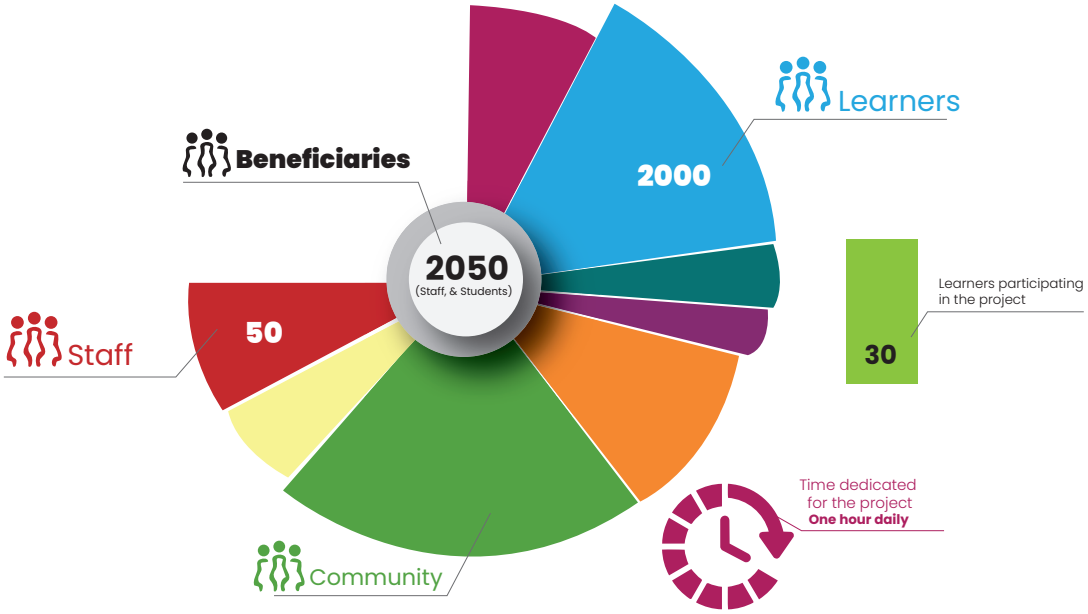
The students of Entebbe SS, through the Service Learning Programme, implemented two innovative projects: the Echo Stove a solution for utilizing crude oil and a plastic bottle fence to protect green zones and vegetable gardens. These initiatives addressed waste management and environmental conservation while promoting sustainability.

Objectives

Echo Stove Prototype – Developed a functional model for crude oil utilization, offering a disposal solution.

Plastic Bottle Fence – Constructed an eco-friendly fence to safeguard school green spaces.

Environmental Awareness – Promoted recycling and sustainable practices among students.



Achievements

Developed a functional model for crude oil utilization, offering a disposal solution.

Constructed an eco-friendly fence to safeguard school green spaces.

Promoted recycling and sustainable practices among students.

Challenges

Frequent fence damage due to trespassing.

Limited time for project implementation.

Observations

The school needs Service Learning orientation for better project appreciation.

The Echo Stove remains a prototype; real community projects are needed.

Proposals for Improvements

- The SL coordinator adviced to attend Service Learning meetings to close the knowledge gap.
- Sensitize the school community to prevent fence vandalism.
- Paint old bottles for improved aesthetics.

BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL

PROJECTS:
PAPER, PLASTIC RECYCLIING AND TREE PLANTING PROJECT

Description

Boston High School has implemented an innovative Paper, Plastic Recycling, and Tree Planting Project, integrating classroom knowledge with practical environmental conservation efforts. Students are actively involved in recycling paper and plastic waste to produce useful items such as flower pots, baskets, wall hangings, table organizers, dustbins, door mats, and crafts. Additionally, the project promotes sustainability through planting medicinal and fruit trees, vegetable growing, pig rearing, and rabbit keeping. This initiative not only enhances environmental awareness but also equips learners with hands-on skills in recycling, agriculture, and animal husbandry.

Objectives

Environmental Conservation – To reduce waste by recycling paper and plastics, combat deforestation through tree planting, and promote sustainable land use.

Skills Development – To equip students with practical skills in recycling, craftsmanship,

agriculture, and livestock management for self-sufficiency.

Community and Health Benefits – To provide medicinal plants, fruits, and vegetables for nutritional and health benefits while fostering eco-friendly practices in the community.

Achievements

Successful recycling program producing sellable and usable products from waste materials.

Establishment of a school garden with medicinal plants, fruit trees, and vegetables.

Livestock projects (pigs and rabbits) providing additional learning opportunities and potential income.

Increased student engagement in environmental conservation and hands-on learning.

Reduction in school waste through recycling efforts, contributing to a cleaner environment.

Challenges

Limited funding for purchasing advanced recycling tools and expanding agricultural projects.

Inconsistent waste collection from students and staff, affecting recycling output.

Maintenance difficulties for trees and livestock due to water shortages or lack of expertise.

Market access for recycled products need for better marketing strategies.

Student turnover (graduating classes) leading to loss of trained individuals, requiring continuous

Observations

Effective Integration of Theory and Practice: The project successfully bridges classroom learning with real-world applications, as students actively participate in recycling, crafting, and agricultural activities.

Inadequate Recycling Infrastructure – Limited machinery and tools hinder large-scale recycling efforts. Manual processes slow down production.

Sustainability of Tree Planting Initiative – Some saplings showed signs of poor maintenance due to inconsistent watering and pest control.

Waste Collection & Participation Gaps – Not all students and staff consistently contribute recyclable materials, affecting project efficiency.

Training & Knowledge Gaps – Some students lacked advanced skills in recycling techniques and livestock management, requiring expert workshops.

Proposals for Improvements

Seek partnerships with environmental NGOs, government agencies, and businesses for funding and technical support.

Strengthen waste collection systems by introducing incentives for students who contribute recyclable materials.

Conduct workshops on advanced recycling techniques, tree care, and livestock management.

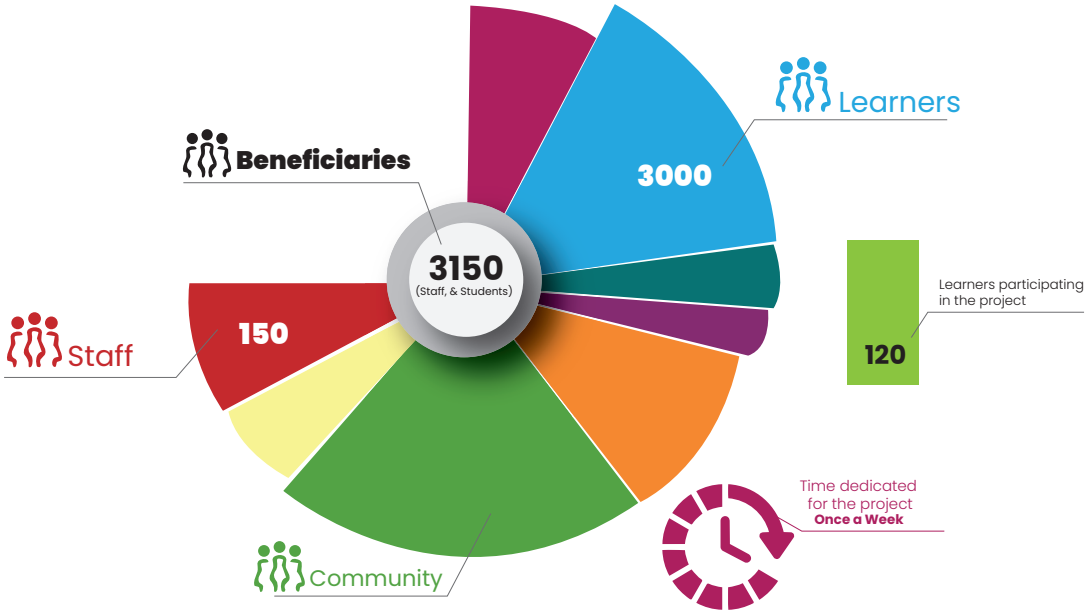
Develop a marketing plan to sell recycled products and farm produce to generate income for sustainability.

Document and monitor progress to track environmental impact and student skill development.

AIRFORCE ARMY SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROJECTS:

"PROJECT PROTOTYPES: WOODEN FOOD FLASK, LASOR FENCE SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM, HYDROPHONIC SYSTEM, WATER PUMP SYSTEM, VACUUM CLEANER SOIL MOISTURE DETECTION SYSTEM"



Description

The Airforce Army Secondary School has developed several innovative prototypes under its Service Learning Programme, aimed at fostering active learning, problem-solving, and community development. These projects combine technical skills, creativity, and social responsibility to address real-world challenges. Below is a detailed overview of the prototypes, their objectives, achievements, challenges, observations, and agreed proposals for improvement.

Prototypes Developed:

Wooden Food Flask – A sustainable and insulated food container designed to keep meals warm for extended periods.

Laser Fence Security Alarm System (Invisible Fence) – A security system that uses laser beams to detect intrusions, enhancing community safety.

Hydrophobic System for Crop Growth – A method of growing crops with minimal water by using soil treatments that repel excess moisture.

Water Pump System – A solution to water scarcity in hilly areas by efficiently pumping and distributing water.

Vacuum Cleaner – A manually or electrically operated device designed for efficient cleaning in households and schools.

Soil Moisture Detection System – A sensor-based system that regulates water usage in agriculture based on weather conditions.

Objectives

Promote STEM Education – Encourage hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Solve Community Problems – Address real-life issues such as water scarcity, food preservation, and security.

Enhance Sustainability – Develop eco-friendly and energy-efficient solutions.

Foster Innovation & Creativity – Encourage students to design and build functional prototypes.

Achievements

Successful Prototype Development – All six projects were built and tested, demonstrating functionality.

Community Impact – The Water Pump System and Soil Moisture Detection System showed potential to aid farmers in hilly regions.

Recognition & Awareness – The projects gained attention from local communities and educational institutions.

Challenges

Limited Funding – Some projects required more advanced materials that were costly.

Technical Limitations – The Laser Fence and Soil Moisture System needed calibration improvements.

Lack of Expert Guidance – Some teams struggled with advanced engineering concepts.

Community Adoption – Convincing locals to use new technologies was a hurdle.

Observations

Students showed strong enthusiasm and creativity in developing solutions.

Projects with immediate practical use (e.g., Water Pump, Security Alarm) received more interest.

Collaboration with local farmers and security personnel could enhance real-world applicability.

Scaling up the prototypes would require partnerships with NGOs or government bodies.

Proposals for Improvement

Seek Sponsorships & Grants – Partner with tech companies or government schemes for funding.

Enhance Technical Training – Invite engineers and scientists for workshops on advanced prototyping.

Community Pilot Testing – Deploy the Water Pump and Soil Moisture System in selected villages for feedback.

Improve Durability – Use stronger materials for the Wooden Flask and Vacuum Cleaner.

Solar-Powered Solutions – Modify the Water Pump and Laser Fence to run on solar energy.

UNIVERSITY OF KISUBI SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMME:

"Active Learning to Serve Humanity Diligently."

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