

The PEDN Monthly Digest

PEDN OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES THE YOUTH SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION (YSFE) PROGRAM.

Special points of interest:

- Enhanced Aflatoun Baseline survey
- EGE parents sensitizations
- YEP community dialogues
- YSFE Baseline survey
- PEDN revives end of month meeting

On Friday 23rd February, PEDN in partnership with Makerere University Business School (MUBS), AISEC with support from Citi Bank Uganda officially launched the Youth Social and Financial Education (YSFE) at MUBS library.

“The ultimate goal of the program is to use financial inclusion as a pathway to economically empower youth between the ages 16 -24 into becoming socially and financially empowered members of the community,” said Irene Mutumba

(PEDN Country Director) in her welcoming remarks.

The program is a build-up of the Aflatoun International; Aflateen Social & Financial Education program that focused on youth in secondary schools. The YSFE program has broadened its horizons to reach Universities and community groups as well.

“The current unemployment rate for the youth between the ages of 15-24 stands at 83%, this is because of the limited access to youth friendly financial services and poor financial



Cake cutting during the YSFE launch

behavior, PEDN wants to reduce on this percentage by increasing on the numbers we reach out to,” said Nixon Ochatre (Executive Director of PEDN

EGE CARRIES OUT VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING IN SCHOOLS

Practicability is an important aspect in any child’s education in order to achieve learning, retention and sustainability. The Private Education Development Network under the Empowerment for Girls’ Education carried out vocational skills training in schools across Jinja, Wakiso and Mukono District between 19th to 23rd February, 2018. Some of the practical skills being taught include the mak-

ing of reusable sanitary pads, paper bag making, Vaseline and shoe polish making.

“I have learnt how to make reusable sanitary pads and I am also going to teach my sisters at home so that we can save the money that we usually use to buy pads,” said Bushra Kaaya from Ndejje Quality School.

The administrations of the



Pupils of Billy Community showing off the Vaseline they had made.

various schools trained were also very eager to learn some of the skills that were being taught and thanked PEDN for the efforts in equipping the learners with such skills that will help them in future.

“We are very grateful to PEDN for teaching our learners such practical skills besides the theory. We hope that we shall have another session like this to learn more of these skills especially shoe polish making,” said Sulaina Namaweje (head teacher of Billy Community Primary School)

AFLATEEN PLUS CLUB MEMBERS IN MUBENDE REAPING BIG FROM THE AGRICULTURAL SKILLS TRAINING



The cabbage garden at Mubende Army SS

As most of us have been complaining of the dry season the Aflateen PLUS scholars of Mubende Army S.S are ready to harvest their cabbages that they got from their nursery bed set up during last school term.

The club created a local irrigation system that enabled them to harvest during the dry season. This is part of the Feed the Future which is

an initiative to promote food security by the US Government.

“We are very proud of our garden and are excited to harvest the cabbages so that we can supplement the school food,” said one of the Aflateen PLUS members of Mubende Army S.S.

Aflateen PLUS students of Kasambya Parents S.S in Mubende District on the

other hand started off the school term by learning how to make organic manure from locally available raw materials in order to boost the yields of the school gardens.

The students as well as the teachers were excited to learn how simple it was to make organic manure and pledged to use this knowledge to boost their gardens back at home.

YOUTH SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION (YSFE) PROGRAM CARRIES OUT BASELINE SURVEY



The officer taking the students of Countryside College through the baseline tool

YSFE Program carried out a baseline survey between 12th and 13th February, 2018 in 20 schools and 5 universities across Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts to assess knowledge and skills levels of the youth the program intends to benefit before implementation starts.

A total of 400 beneficiaries were interviewed using a selection criterion of random

sampling in each of the schools and universities. A total of 16 respondents were selected from each school and university six (6) of which being boys and ten (10) being girls.

Learners were eager to answer the questionnaire since many of them thought that it would give them an upper hand when the sessions begin.

“ I am so excited to have been

among the lucky ones who picked “pen” to fill in the questionnaire, I think I will also stand as club president for the YSFE club,” said Pius Nandecha from Bombo Army Secondary School.

The school administrations are also looking forward to the practical sessions for the learners since they have envisioned that the school enterprises will act as an avenue to make more money.

PEDN REVIVES STAFF END OF MONTH MEETINGS.



The YSFE team presenting their work plan for 2018

In a bid to serve our audiences better, PEDN revived the monthly end of month meetings with all satellite offices in attendance at the head office on Monday 19th February, 2018. The move is intended for staff to assess what has worked and what hasn't throughout the month so as to forge a way for-

ward borrowing lessons from other teams.

“We had previously relaxed when it came to end of month meetings last year. This year however we are going to be more serious because I believe meetings such as these are very helpful for team work and team building,” said Tryphosa Kwagala Namubiru (Programs Director) at the start of the

meeting.

The meeting was fun and interesting as various teams from each project broke into groups to discuss their work plans and intended activities for the projects throughout the year. Each group was required to present to the rest of team in a fun and interesting way at any corner of the PEDN compound.

ENHANCED AFLATOUN CURRICULUM AND QUASI EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION CARRIES OUT BASELINE SURVEY

Owing to the successful mapping of over 120 schools across the four districts in Mbale, Mubende, Masindi and Gulu, Enhanced Aflatoun Social and Financial Education program carried out a baseline survey from 19th to 22nd February, 2018.

The baseline survey took a new twist this time round in that learners had a one on one face to face interview with the research assistants

under the supervision of PEDN M&E team unlike the previous surveys where they were required to fill in a questionnaire.

“In order to confidently measure the impact of the intervention, we adopted a Quasi Experimental Design where we have the intervention (treatment) cohorts and comparison groups. In total 4,000 respondents were interviewed by a team of 72 research assistants across the 4 intervention districts. We are

anxiously waiting for the findings” explained the PEDN Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning director Mr. Hiled Mugabe

The Enhanced Aflatoun Activity is designed by USAID Feed The Future, Youth Leadership in Agriculture activity to be implemented by the Private Education Development Network and focuses on empowering young people aged 10-14 with High Order Thinking, Communication, Positive self-concept, Self-control and Social skills especially in relation to agriculture.



During one on one interview

EMPOWERMENT FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION (EGE) PROJECT CARRIES OUT PARENTS

Parents of EGE Club members will forever be grateful for the parent sensitization meetings held in the various EGE schools in Jinja, Mukono and Wakiso from 12th to 16th February, 2018. This is because all the queries that they had about the project were answered satisfactorily and issues leading to high drop out of the girl child were also discussed.



Parents sensitization in Mukono

“I do not think that poverty is the main reason why children drop out of school because I am poor but I sacrifice everything so that my children study. Some of you parents are just lazy and do not want to educate their children,” said one of the parents in a heated discussion at Murona Junior School (Wakiso).

The main purpose of these sensitizations is to link parents to the school, increase support

to children and create linkage between school and community as well as change behaviour of children and by extension to parents as well as find out from the parents the challenges that the girl child faces.

“As parents, I would like each and every one of you to pledge that we shall ensure that the girl child is kept in school despite the challenges that we have discussed using the problem tree,” said Jane Ashley Natamba during the sensitizations in Mukono.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM CARRIES OUT COMMUNITY DIALOGUES.



YEP Community dialogue in Menya-ziraabamuzaale SS in Iganga.

Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) carried out community dialogues in Iganga and Mayuge from 15th to 31st January, 2018 to cover sessions of financial literacy on the parents of the beneficiaries of the YEP .

A total of 19 community dialogues have been held in January and February

and some of the topics facilitated during the community dialogues included savings and spending, loan management and financial service providers.

Some of these community dialogues have yielded results for example Tawheed Institute parents' group in Mayuge has a uniting factor of saving together and are currently in the process of registering the group as a Community Based Organization and

opening up a group account with OBUL. The members have started borrowing from the group with a goal of becoming a SACCO, they have designed and printed member pass books.

“We really appreciate and applaud PEDN for initiating the idea of these community dialogues, many organizations isolate we Muslims thinking that we don't cooperate yet we do,” said the chairman of the Tawheed parents' group.

EMPOWERMENT FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION (EGE) TRAINS PEDN ASSOCIATES



PEDN officer Gerald Monday taking the Associates through savings

As saving of both monetary and non-monetary items is very important in our day to day lives, PEDN Associates were trained under the EGE project to assist in the saving process among the EGE Club members of the various schools in Mukono, Wakiso and Jinja. The move to bring the associates on board is meant to increase the efficacy of the saving process as well as provide a wider platform on which other students who are not part of the club can also be encouraged to save.

“These learners enjoy saving, however when facilitating the process please ensure that they select where they feel is the safest place to keep their money since it creates a sense of trust in the learners,” said Flavia Nakalembe during the training.

The associates were also taken through the different types of saving, the various saving options as well as developing a savings plan. All these are to be transferred to the learners during the saving time in schools.

“I am very eager to go and facilitate the saving process in EGE schools, I have also learnt how to make a savings plan- something which I did not know,” said Sarah (One of the associates)

What to expect next month

March 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Here are some of the activities lined up for the month of March

- ◆ *Aflateen PLUS Endline survey*
- ◆ *Global money week celebrations*
- ◆ *Child protection debates*
- ◆ *Enhanced Aflatoun live in sessions*
- ◆ *EGE exposure visits*
- ◆ *EGE Q4 assessment visits.*

THE PEDN MONTHLY DIGEST

THE PRIVATE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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Start Early Succeed Young

The Private Education Development Network (PEDN) a local Non profit organization in Uganda has contributed to empowering young people through delivering interactive, student-centered and practical learning methodologies in Ugandan schools and training teachers in using the same. Since its inception in 2002, PEDN works with the Ministry of Education to change the traditional rote-learning style in Ugandan schools. PEDN has reached out to over 800 teachers and 500,000 Primary and secondary young people in eleven districts of North, East, and Central Uganda.

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