



**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND  
INFORMATION NETWORK**

**(CHAIN)**



# World Hand Hygiene Day(WHHD) Activity Report

May, 2023

# About CHAIN



Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN) is a not-for-profit, civil society organization founded in 1998 in UK and established in Uganda in 2004. The organization has a national footprint and is comprised of an integrated network of Community-Based Caregivers, including Patient Organizations, Health Care Professionals (HCPs), and Community Health Workers (CHWs), who are addressing barriers to quality health care amongst the most isolated and vulnerable communities in Uganda.

## **Back ground to the World Hand Hygiene Day 2023**

The World Hand Hygiene Day is observed on 5<sup>th</sup> May every year as a major global effort led by the World Health Organization (WHO). It aims at highlighting the importance of achieving effective hand hygiene and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures at the point of care. Hand hygiene saves millions of lives every year when performed at the right moments and in the right way during health care delivery. Clean care protects both patients and health workers (<https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/infection-prevention-control/hand-hygiene>).

CHAIN implements the whole year-round interventions to promote hand hygiene in the vulnerable communities, such as construction of tippy taps, hand washing training, among others. These activities are conducted at households, health care facilities, schools, religious institutions etc. CHAIN also commemorates the World Hand Hygiene Day with its community beneficiaries every year.

# Why Hand hygiene ?



Hand hygiene helps to prevent and control the spread of many illnesses . It also keeps children healthy and in school as well as reducing the number of young children who get sick and help prevent school absenteeism. It also improves the health outcomes.

The World Health Organization mentions that 15 patients in LMICs will acquire at least one health care associated infection during their hospital stay. At CHAIN we are continually part of the movement to promote hand hygiene, and on May 5th, 2023 we commemorated the World Hygiene Day with our community beneficiaries:

## World Hand Hygiene Day 2023

- **Theme** :Accelerating action to prevent infections and antimicrobial resistance in health care and build a culture of safety and quality in which hand hygiene improvement is given high priority.
- **Slogan** : Accelerate action together. SAVE LIVES – Clean Your Hands”
- While the objectives were to:
  - Strengthen and empower communities of actors in health care to accelerate action to improve hand hygiene and infection prevention and control at point of care.
  - Foster collaboration and working together of people and organizations towards the common goal of minimizing the risk of infections and the development of antimicrobial resistance in health care.

## CHAIN’s community interventions for the World Hand Hygiene Day 2023

CHAIN utilized its Start Early In Life Initiative (SEILI) to promote hand hygiene interventions in May 2023. Several hand hygiene knowledge events were implemented in schools pre, during and post the celebration day. CHAIN’s Start Early In Life Initiative (SEILI), empowers children to be health ambassadors at the family and community level. This initiative has manifold benefits such as instilling impactful health habits in children, so that they can grow while adopted to those habits, then also children act as a channel of communication to continuously sensitize their parents on best practices of health prevention and management. This approach is based on proven evidence that children learn faster, easily adopt to new practices and can be great change agents and ambassadors at households and community level.

**The table below highlights the outputs and outcomes achieved while CHAIN promoted hand hygiene through the “Start Early In Life Initiative”.**

	Output	Outcome
Promoting hand hygiene through CHAIN’s Start Early In Life Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CHAIN’s 4 partner schools in Wakiso district engaged and sensitized during the hand washing campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>686 pupils and 240 guardians empowered with knowledge on hand washing</li> </ul>

# **Start Early Initiative (SEILI) Activities to commemorate World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) 2023 in schools**

## **The burden of hand washing in CHAIN's focus geographies (Kampala, Wakiso, Kiboga) and in Uganda at large**

- Hand washing is just assumed in the community but not practiced by many.
- 70% of households in Uganda access basic hand washing facilities, but only 25% of the households report to practice handwashing with soap before eating and after using toilets (Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, UDHS 2016)
- In Kampala, only 20% households practiced hand washing with soap, and only 25% of households accessed soap and water for hand washing at the designated place (Makerere University School of Public Health, 2020)
- In Wakiso, 63% of households accessed basic hand washing facilities but only 18% of the households reported to wash their hands with soap before eating and 26% after using toilet (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2020), while in Kiboga, 46% of households had access to basic hand washing facilities, but only 12% households reported to wash their hands with soap before eating and 26% after using toilet.

# SEILI Activities to commemorate WHHD 2023 in schools



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## CHAIN's approach to training and promoting hand washing in the schools and their communities

Using the SEILI approach, CHAIN promotes patient safety and health literacy programs in schools i.e.; Wakiso, Kampala, Mukono, Mpigi and Kiboga districts. CHAIN proves that children learn faster, they easily adopt to new practices and are ambassadors and change agents in their communities. Schools are engaged in patient safety and health literacy programs capacitating children with health research skills, training abilities and many other soft and hard skills. Together with school children and their teachers, CHAIN implements activities including; health debates, music, dance and drama, provision of health notice boards, health research competition, experience sharing, teachers and local / national leaders' engagement, to promote patient safety, topics include medication safety, **hand hygiene**, injection safety and prevention of infections.

CHAIN engaged 4 partner schools to commemorate the World Hand Hygiene Day 2023 and these included; Buso Moslem P/S, Damalie Nabagereka P/S, Namulonge C.O.U P/S and St. Kizito Nabitale P/S. children participated through Music, Dance and Drama to depict hand hygiene practices necessary in the community. Four (4) partner.

Schools	Date	Children	Parents /guardians
Buso Moslem P/S	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	200	120
Namulonge C.O.U P/S	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	141	
Damalie Nabagereka P/S	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	221	70
St. Kizito Nabitale P/S	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	124	50

# SEILI Activities on WHHD 2023 in schools



## Overview on the activities implemented

The 4 partner schools located in Wakiso district, Busukuma subcounty, engaged included; Damalie Nabagereka P/S, Namulonge C.O.U primary school, St. Kizito Nabitalo primary school and Buso Moslem primary school. Through this campaign CHAIN impacted 686 pupils and 240 guardians.

The main activities implemented at the 4 partners schools included;

- Music, dance, and drama as well as poem writing and presentation
- Tippy tap construction and demonstration
- 7 steps of hand washing
- Parent / guardians dialogue on hand hygiene
- Puzzle exercises
- Key speeches from key persons from the school institutions

# SEILI Activities to commemorate WHHD 2023 in schools



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Barbara the primary six pupil at Buso Moslem Primary school presented a poem emphasizing how hand hygiene leads to proper personal hygiene .



Buso preschool children presenting a poem on washing hands to control diseases like cholera and diarrhea.



# SEILI Activities to commemorate WHHD 2023 in schools

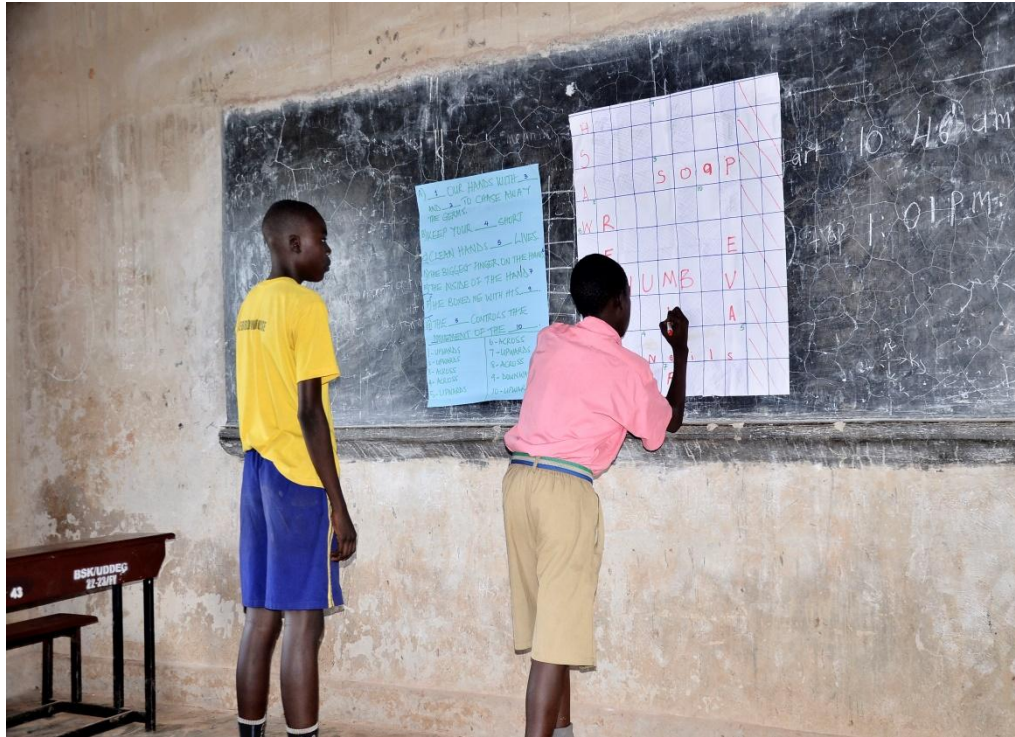


Buso Moslem primary school present a hand hygiene creative dance depicting prioritization of washing hands in all activities done at school and home E.g; after visiting the toilet, before and after eating, among others.



Buso Moslem Primary school children presenting a session on tippy tap construction and urged parents to construct hand washing facilities in their homes. It is easy and cheap to construct.

# SEILI Activities to commemorate WHHD 2023 in schools



Namulonge Primary school pupils filling in a puzzle on hand washing depicting the different parts of a hand to clean, what to use when washing hands and effective ways of maintaining clean hands.

A) \_\_\_\_\_ OUR HANDS WITH \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ TO CHASE AWAY THE GERMS.

B) KEEP YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ SHORT

C) CLEAN HANDS \_\_\_\_\_ LIVES.

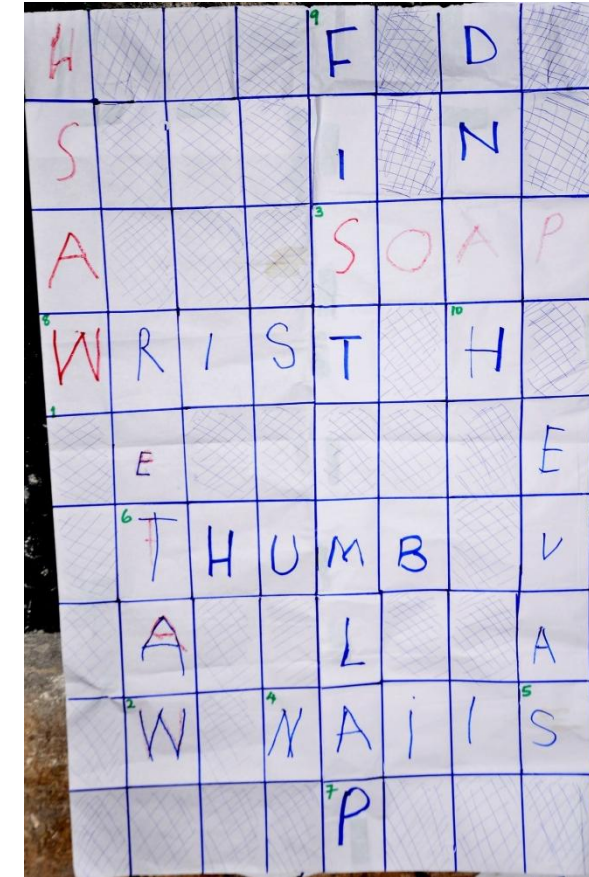
D) THE BIGGEST FINGER ON THE HAND.

E) THE INSIDE OF THE HAND.

F) HE BOXED ME WITH HIS \_\_\_\_\_.

G) THE \_\_\_\_\_ CONTROLS THE MOVEMENT OF THE \_\_\_\_\_.

1 - UPWARDS	6 - ACROSS
2 - UPWARDS	7 - UPWARDS
3 - ACROSS	8 - ACROSS
4 - ACROSS	9 - DOWNWARDS
5 - UPWARDS	10 - UPWARDS



# SEILI Activities to commemorate WHHD 2023 in schools



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- Gladys Nalukenge, the CHAIN Programs Manager trains pupils at Namulonge primary school on the 7 steps of hand washing including, Step 1: Wetting Hands and applying soap, Step 2: Rubbing Palms Together, Step 3: Rubbing the Back of Hands, Step 4: Interlinking Your Fingers, Step 5: Cupping Fingers, Step 6: Cleaning the Thumbs and Step 7: Rubing Palms with Your Fingers.



The primary seven pupil at Namulonge primary school demonstrates on tippy tap construction and how to use it.

# SEILI Activities to commemorate WHHD 2023 in schools



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Pupils of Damalie Nabagereka primary school pointing out diseases like cholera, COVID 19 among others that arise from not washing hands



Pupils at Nabagereka primary school present a drama on proper hand washing behaviors

# Start Early In Life Initiative Activities for the WHHD 2023 in schools



Buso primary school head teacher urges children to participate in activities that address hand hygiene issues in their community



The Buso primary school parent demonstrates the 7 steps of hand washing

## Parent / guardians dialogue on hand hygiene

- Created positive attitudes on hand washing. During the dialogue, parents appreciated the fact that children's performances on hand hygiene created a positive impact on their response to hand washing.
- Parents noted that parental influence on children's hand hygiene is very important since they live as exemplary models to their children.
- They were amazed and inspired by the creativity and knowledge of their children regarding hand hygiene . Thus credited the efforts of teachers and CHAIN for such opportunities to their children.
- Parents / guardians were motivated to adopt proper hand washing skills. They also noted that washing hands was never a serious concern in the community but from the children's performances the need to wash hands was justified.

## Way forward

- Continuous engagements with schools in hand hygiene activities.
- Engage media through radio talk shows, press conferences to advocate for hand hygiene in communities.
- Continuous engagements with key stakeholders at community and national level
- Design and print Information Education and Communication (IEC) Materials about hand hygiene.
- Start Early In Life to engage children in health literacy and patient safety for better health care outcomes.

**Special thanks to the school management teams for their contribution and engagement during the celebrations of the World Hand Hygiene Day 2023.**

These include;

- Buso Moslem Primary School
- Damalie Nabagereka Primary School
- Namulonge Primary Sschool
- St. Kizito Nabitale Primary School







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