



Directorate of Fire Prevention and Rescue
Services, Uganda Police Force

MASESE COMMUNITY WATER AND FIRE SAFETY OUTREACH PROGRAM 2021-JINJA CITY

At Masese landing site



Partners:



The Global Aquatic Project



Embers Aquatics

Rotary
Club of Brisbane International

SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES

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1. ACTORS/PARTNERS

Different actors have been involved with varying support and roles. These include;

- I. Swim Safe Uganda which organized and implemented the project on behalf of other actors.
- II. Uganda Police Directorate of Fire Prevention and Rescue Service
Uganda Police Force provided financial support and a team of instructors.
- III. Marines Unit Uganda Police Force.
- IV. Ray United FC.
- V. The Global Aquatic Project.
- VI. Ember Aquatics.
- VII. Rotary Club of Brisbane International.
- VIII. Uganda Red Cross - Jinja branch.
- IX. Jinja city which carried out project mobilization, school classrooms availed for theoretical training and accommodation of Trainees and Sanitation Facility among others
- X. Local community provided project goodwill as they encouraged community members to take part in the outreach and also provided landing site beach line and cleaned well to enable survival swimming and rescue practical among others.

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT.

Community water and fire safety outreach Program is part of the drowning prevention, water and fire safety interventions that are being carried out in Uganda. These involve trainings tailored towards water safety, fire safety and pre hospital care with an aim of improving aquatic emergency response on landing sites and islands in lake based districts of Uganda. Masese Community water and fire safety outreach program was carried out from 8th to 17th December 2021 with a preparatory needs assessment/ stakeholders' engagement meeting taking place on 18th November 2021.

The Program is a brainchild of Swim Safe Uganda partnering with the Directorate of Fire Prevention and Rescue services and Marine Unit of Uganda Police. This program has been delivered to different lakeside communities in Uganda since 2017.

The 10 day training attracted 94 participants of whom, 82 were certified. These composed of 9 female and 73 male. The participants were capacity built as community first responders and acquired knowledge and skills in; water safety, fire safety, aquatic rescue and pre hospital care. The trainings were both theoretical and practical using both classroom learning and case scenario simulations.

The program was supported by different partners notably; The Global Aquatic Project, Ray United Foundation, Embers Aquatics, Rotary Club of Brisbane International and Uganda Red Cross, Jinja Branch.

The pass out was graced by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Joseph Mugisa and other Officers of the Police fraternity from Directorate of Fire Prevention and Rescue Services and Marines Unit, Uganda Police. These included Regional Police Commander, Senior Superintendent of Police, Dauda Hiriga, Kiira Region Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police, James Mubi, Deputy Resident City Commissioner, Jinja City Mr. Peter Banya, a representative from our drowning prevention research partners, Makerere University School of Public Health, Mr. Frederick Oporia, Local Council leaders, Opinion leaders and Parents and relatives of the Trainees.



AIGP Joseph Mugisa Director Directorate of Fire Prevention and Rescue Service Uganda Police Force awarding on of the trainee during the pass out.

The trainings involved both male and female and were conducted in observance of set COVID 19 Ministry of health set guidelines.

At the beginning of the training, the participants listed the areas in which they were interested to learn.

The commonly listed training needs included:

- I. Knowledge on how to prepare and respond to a drowning and fire emergency.
- II. To get updated and new techniques in first aid Knowledge and skills
- III. How to use personal floatation devices (PFDs)
- IV. Refresh and perfecting through practical.
- V. Survival swimming skills
- VI. Management of fractures.

- VII. Becoming a trainer.
- VIII. Doing the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (C.P.R) maneuvers
- IX. Management of a Head injury.
- X. The firefighting skills
- XI. Management of Drowning.
- XII. Knowledge on how to inspect and use modern lifesaving equipment's.

3. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The project goal was achieved as 82 community members were capacity built and certified as Community First Responders.

3.2 Project Objectives

- a) To train 80 community members in water and fire safety skills and knowledge.
- b) To provide 80 personal floatation devices (Lifejackets) and water safety manuals distributed to the trained group.
- c) To promote rescue and recovery of those affected by drowning and fire experience.

4. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Key activities included;

4.1 Preparatory stakeholders meeting/ needs assessment exercise which was carried out on Thursday 18th November 2021.



Stake holders meeting chaired by Resident City Commissioner (RCC) of Jinja city in preparation of the Outreach at Masese landing site.

4.2 Training of 94 participants in fire prevention and control, aquatic survival program (water safety education), survival swimming, aquatic rescue skills and resuscitation.



Trainees practicing aquatic rescue

4.3 Training in pre hospital care with an emphasis on airway opening, cardio pulmonary resuscitation and recovery position.



Trainer demonstrating airway management during CPR lesson

4.4 Carrying out fire safety drills in most at risk communities especially overcrowded areas, with grass thatched housing and storage of fishing boat engine inflammable petrol in living quarters/homes.



Participants practicing how to use firefighting equipment during fire safety lessons.

4.5 Pass out and certification of 82 Community First Responders.



The 82 participants during the pass out ceremony

The training attracted participants from Islands of Samuka, Kisiima 1, Kisiima 2, landing site of Masese and different Recreational facilities like Jinja Sailing Club among others.

The trainees underwent 10 days intensive training on how to prevent fire and drowning using sustainable practical life skills and knowledge.

On the pass out on 17th December 2021, the trainees showcased how to rescue someone without using an object, using an object, putting a conscious survivor in recovery position, applying cardio pulmonary resuscitation for unconscious survivors, stopping fires on water and on land, long distance and survival swimming, using personal floatation devices on lake among others.

The training had 82 participants certified as Community First Responders with trainings at Lakeside Primary School and A One Beach, Masese landing site, Masese Ward, Walukuba Parish, Southern Division, Jinja City Council, Uganda.

4.6 Given the background of the training, the following topics were delivered:

- Fire Safety Education
- Water Safety Education
- Identification, Inspection and use of personal floating devices
- Survival without floating devices
- Treading and Sculling
- Rescue observation
- Recover a casualty
- Tow and Rescue
- Spinal rescue shallow water
- First Aid
- Firefighting Skills
- Drowning recognition, Response and Rescue
- Safe entries
- Survival techniques
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)
- Initial assessment of Scene and casualties using (DRABC)
- Management of Life- threatening conditions (ABC)
- Management of Unconscious casualty
- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation
- Use of AED and its safety precautions
- Dressing and Bandaging
- Uses of equipment's in an Ideal First Aid Kits.
- Transportation of casualties

5. PROJECT PARTICIPATION

5.1 Participants were chosen from the community. These belonged to divergent work groups notably: fishermen, boat coxswains, health workers, youth groups, local traders, Teachers, Law Enforcement Officers among others.

These as being residents of the landing site or having livelihood operations on L. Victoria, they were linked to the Marine Police Unit at Jinja and Regional fire station in Jinja for timely deployment when need arises.

The trained group are tasked with periodic monitoring and reporting of aquatic emergencies on their landing sites and the responses taken. This information is periodically collected at Uganda Police marine Units at respective landing sites.

5.2 Number of Participants

Initial participation had 94 attendees though 82 participants were certified.

Of these;

9 were female.

57 were youth

25 were adults.

None were persons with disability due to the physical demands of the

5.3 Methodology

The training methods used included among others:

- I. Instructor lead exercise
- II. Group discussion
- III. Practical exercises learners centered problem solving and brainstorming
- IV. Simulations and mocks

5.4 Mode of Assessment:

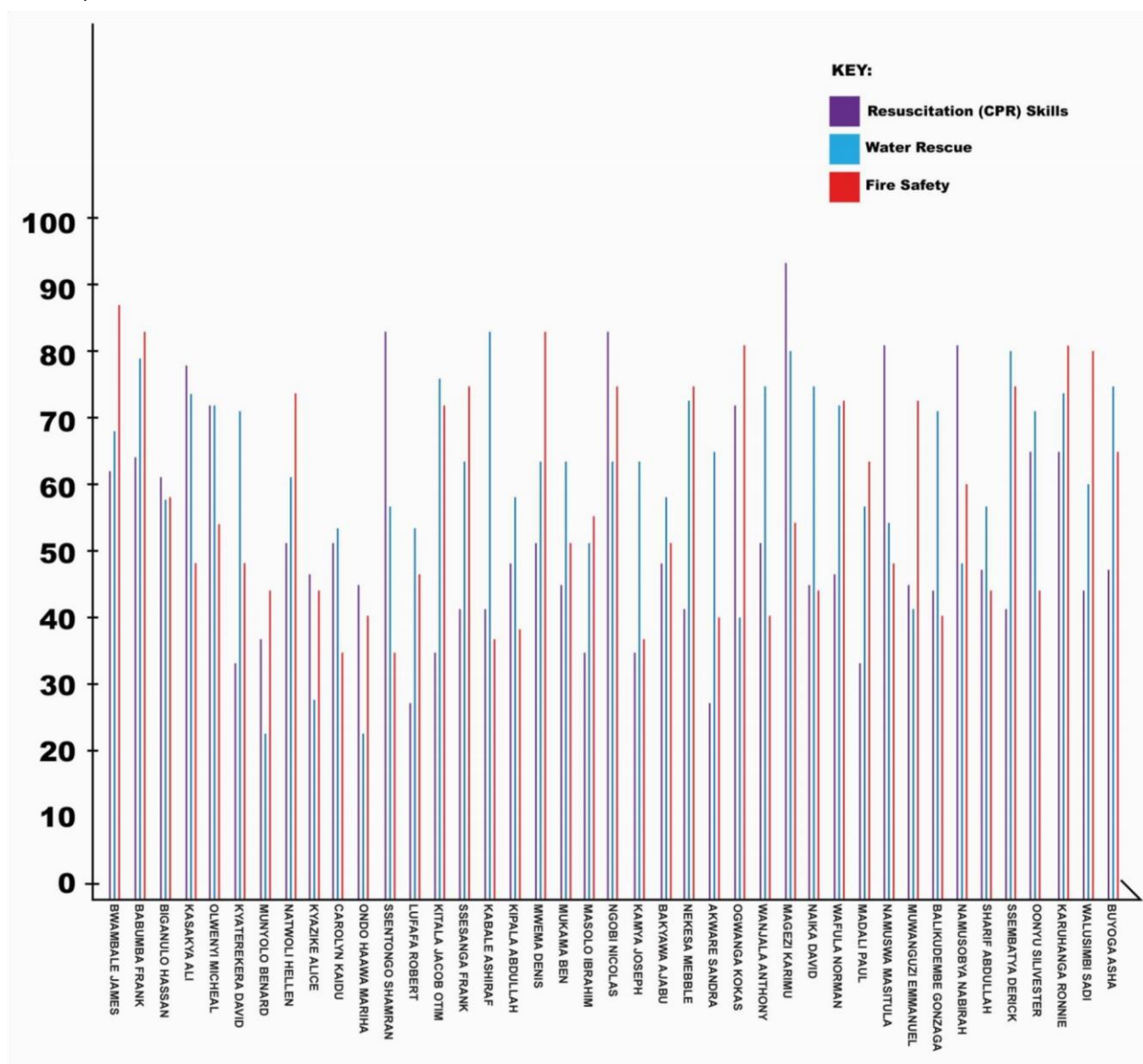
The facilitators gave pre and post knowledge tests to establish how knowledgeable each participant had in Water Safety, survival techniques, rescue, resuscitation and First Aid at the beginning of the training and the gain at the end of the training.

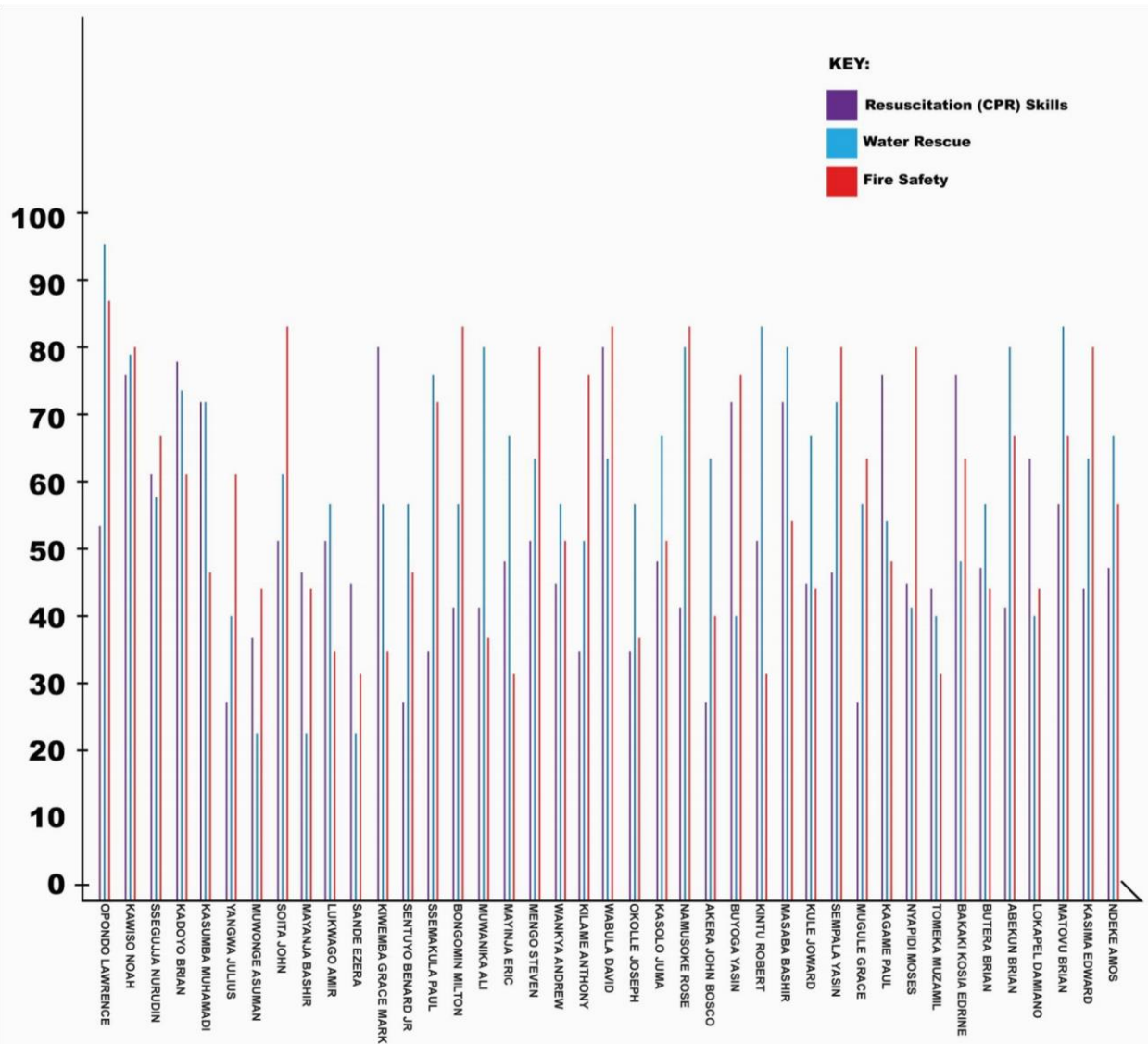
Different emergency scenarios were created and the participants were tasked to respond and manage them. The participants were assessed by both the peers and the trainers using the skills development progressive test. This approach helped in the participant self-discovery,

learning by correcting mistakes and to ensure maximum participation of learners.

The scores generated in the whole process were used to rank and certify the participants who met the minimum required scores.

5.5 Below are the respective lists of participants and their scores MASESE COMMUNITY WATER AND FIRE OUTREACH PROGRAM 2021, JINJA CITY





6. PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Improved understanding of water safety practices
- Improved fitness and knowledge living on and around water
- Improved knowledge on the use of rescue requirements

- Significantly improved the capacity for rescue and promote recovery during and post incidents on and around water
- Enhanced deliverables to local communities by trained personnel
- Reduced preventable deaths by drowning

7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The trained Community First Responders are to be part of Uganda Police Marine Unit community policy initiatives. The district local leadership gained importance towards water safety plans for the communities in Jinja City.

The project has encouraged Stakeholders to mobilize more resources for training other at risk locations on Lake Victoria. These have greatly contributed to program resource mobilization, implementation, goodwill and evaluation

8. AUTHORITY ROLE

The project has encouraged the district Authorities to set up a water and fire safety plan and mobilize resources related to training on other high risk landing sites on Lake Albert. These have provided a Primary school facility to ease trainings especially on rainy days.

The local community leadership has been instrumental in the registration of trainees, taking part in the needs assessment and provision of a training ground at a beach front on Walukuba landing site.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Program monitoring has been periodically done throughout the Program. Daily evaluation meetings were carried out and different actors were briefed on program progress for evaluation and feedback.

Key daily monitoring of the project was done by Key stakeholders at the district through the local Council Leaders at the District, Sub county and Villages.

Daily reporting of aquatic emergencies including; drowning and fire outbreaks are recorded by the Community First Responders who timely register emergency cases with Uganda Police marine units.

Swim Safe Uganda plans continuous skilling and refresher courses for Community first Responders and project evaluation will be done in six months with an initial research on drowning cases on L. Victoria and the effect of trained Community first Responders on the aquatic emergency response on Lake Victoria.

10. SUSTAINABILITY

Swim Safe Uganda plans to continuously skill the trained Community First Responders. They shall also form a swim Safe District Branch for quicker coordination and collective effort towards aquatic emergency response in the district.

We hope that the water and fire safety plan would be more realistic and sustainable.

Key needs assessment findings and program recommendations call for continuing the activity on other landing sites. However, the project is not self-supporting. Key approaches to help the project become selfsupporting be oils be the introduction of life jacket loaner schemes to help raise some funds to enable trained Community First Responders carry out their roles effectively in the community.

11. BUDGET

Day to day procurements were made by our Administrator and cash payments followed invoicing as decisions were based on; cost of services, quality of products and need for particular payments among others.

Swim Safe Uganda had to make a preparatory trip to seek training clearance, more trainees were included in the training as they had traveled from a far to reach island which was most at risk in Kisiima.

Financial deviations existed as the activity was close to the festive Christmas season often characterised by inflation. Prioritisation was done to enable value for money service delivery.

All these have been adhered to in the financial report attached herein.

12. CHALLENGES

The trainee numbers increased due to good mobilization which improved the project implementation costs especially towards feeding. Different Partners were requested for financial top up to cover the increased costs arising from increased trainees.

Financial limitations hindering budget requirements. The community first responders were supposed to be given lifesaving equipment's at the end of the training but due to budget constraints none was given.

During the training 12 participants fall sick this was due to the training condition they were not used to which made Project medical costs go high which had not been planned for.

13. LEARNINGS

Different learning's have occurred to help carry out effective water and fire emergency response on Victoria. Key lessons include;

Need to facilitate community first responder district based branches as a means to have manpower for fire and aquatic emergency response.

Support projects are needed including the setup of lifejacket loaner schemes and health centers on the landing sites.

Need to constantly record fire and aquatic emergencies on L. Victoria and related support from the trained Community First Responders and periodically document findings for evidence based decision making for water and fire safety and drowning prevention measures in Uganda and neighboring Great lakes region of Africa.

Key lessons learnt is that the training of bystanders/ Community First Responders in survival swimming, aquatic rescue, pre hospital care and fire control is timely and appropriate to rural island communities as the first line of health care provision in Uganda.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

Need to have follow up of Communities we have trained and help strengthen emergency health systems with a need to mobilize for Branch operation funds, set up life jacket loaner schemes, train in data collection and reporting to help guide in set up of water safety plans.

Carry out similar activities next year more preferably along L. Victoria, L. Albert and L. Kyoga.

Need to make a follow up of the community that we have so far trained for effective skills use in the communities.

15. CONCLUSION

Swim Safe Uganda takes this opportunity to thank the different stakeholders that have partnered in 2021. Following our continuous program evaluations, we intended to increase on the number of community water and fire safety outreach programs, be involved in research, community sensitization, policy advocacy and refresher trainings in 2022.