



Makerere University

Environmental Health Students' Association



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School of Public Health

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WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY BRIEF 2018

Makerere University Environmental Health Students' Association (MUEHSA) every year joins rest of the world to mark 26th September as a calendar event for World Environmental Health Day. This year, the theme *Global Food Safety and Sustainability* focused our efforts to markets which are key places where food is always sold, cooked and stored. MUEHSA therefore worked in three (3) markets with aim of creating awareness among food handlers and community. With involvement of other Environmental Health training institutions such as Uganda Institute of Allied Health and Management Science (UIAHMS) – Mulago Hygiene School were brought aboard to: mobilize the general students, for the first clean up in Mulago market carried out by a total of eighty five (85) students on 15th September 2018. In addition, four (4) tons of garbage from the market were collected and disposed of with market authorities managing the transportation means. Also, desilting of major drainage channels in the market of Mulago and health education of food handlers and market vendors to stop use of polythene bags commonly known as “kaveera”.

Market vendors appreciated the initiative of the students and the awareness creation, and promised to always put into practice all that they had learned during our visit. On 26th September, 10 students prepared health education talks to Kalerwe and Mulago markets in Kawempe Division of Kampala including St. Martin primary school primary fours class (under the request of the school sanitation teacher). Using the existing public address system in the markets, the talks were conducted covering the following topics: personal hygiene, food safety, and waste management among others. On 29th September, another clean up exercise was organized to specifically Kalerwe market which has a total of twenty six (26) mini markets. Market vendors appreciated our efforts to include them in our plans and care about their sanitation and general health. TB screening to 88 food handlers and market vendors was done (10 presumptive cases were found). Therefore, global food Safety was promoted through market vendors and food handlers improving food hygiene and preparation processes through health education sessions in markets and TB screening (methodology). Regarding sustainability, involvement of market leadership in sanitation improvement and the clean-up exercise was key. As Uganda plans to host the 3rd International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) Academic Conference in Kampala next year, MUEHSA is in full preparation to welcome all IFEH members to the Pearl of Africa as we also mark our 16th Annual Scientific Conference.

Oryongatun George, MUEHSA President

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Ensuring food safety through active participation in market cleaning – MUEHSA members collecting garbage next to a heap of cabbages during a market clean-up.



A MUEHSA member (Musitwa Rodgers – Holding microphone) carrying out health education to food handlers and market vendors.



MUEHSA presidents – The current President (George Oryongatun - left) together with past presidents (Tadeo Tumusiime – centre and Silver Eyomu – right) all participated in the clean up exercise.