



Leading with Passion

Koboko Municipality in Uganda is making significant strides in championing quality education for all its residents. Under the leadership of Dr. Wilson Kirkfixer Sanya, the mayor of Koboko Municipality, every citizen, resident, or refugee is accorded a dignified life thereby leaving no one behind. This is a top priority for the municipality. On the other hand, Dr Sanya a known advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sees quality education as a fundamental right the reason he is passionate about it.

Situated in West Nile, in greater northern Uganda, Koboko Municipality is one of the 31 municipalities in the country. It borders the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan, making it a safe haven for children from neighboring countries to come and study in Uganda.

EALGA under the SDG Local Action programme caught up with the Mayor of Koboko Municipality who shared about the great strides they have made in transforming the municipality into an all-embracing environment that prioritizes education for all.



What is SDG Local Action?

The [East African Local Governments Association \(EALGA\)](#) together with the [Commonwealth Local Government Forum \(CLGF\)](#), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have since February 2023 been implementing the SDG Local Action Project, which is part of the UN SDG Action Campaign. The partners aim to showcase how cities and local governments are actively contributing towards the implementation of Agenda 2030, accelerating transformative action to achieve the SDGs for all, and everywhere, with a particular focus on Africa.

Through the SDG Local Action Project, the East African Local Governments Association (EALGA) is supporting local and regional governments in the East African Community as well as other African countries to exchange SDG local implementation practices, knowledge generation, and replication of successful experiences in implementing Agenda 2030 at the local level.

The state of affairs in Koboko Municipality

The municipality currently has 10 government-aided primary schools, 3 secondary schools, 23 privately owned primary schools, 16 secondary schools, and 43 privately owned nursery schools. To meet the education goals set for 2030, there has been a focus on reducing the classroom-to-pupil ratio. Previously, the municipality had a ratio of 1 classroom per 120 pupils, falling short of the national standard of 1 classroom per 53 pupils. To accommodate the large number of students, they removed the few desks and instead used mats on the floor. The high pupil-toilet ratio also resulted in a high school dropout rate for girls.

Finding a way out

In order to mitigate these challenges, Koboko Municipality has implemented several measures:

1. Building more classrooms: By constructing additional classrooms in government-aided schools, the municipality has managed to reduce the classroom-to-pupil ratio from 1:120 to 1:70. However, the continuous influx of refugees still makes it difficult to achieve the national target.

2. Constructing storied classroom blocks: Taking advantage of the available land, Koboko Municipality has started constructing storied classroom blocks in government schools. This approach maximizes land use and has already resulted in the completion of three blocks out of the planned ten. The introduction of storied classrooms has attracted more children to enroll, thereby increasing the pressure on the municipality to expedite its plans. The mayor envisions that within the next 7-10 years, all government schools will have storied classroom blocks.

3. Building waterborne toilets: To reduce the school dropout rate for girls, Koboko Municipality has constructed waterborne toilets in schools. This ensures proper sanitation facilities are in place, providing a conducive environment for girls to attend school without interruptions.

4. Building inclusive schools: To foster inclusivity and leave no one behind in the realization of SDG4, the municipality has constructed schools specifically for the visually impaired and hard of hearing. These specialized schools aim to cater to the unique needs of these students and ensure they have access to quality education.



Looking Ahead

“The future of Koboko depends on us having more of our children educated”, posits Dr Wilson Kirkfixer Sanya. His dedication and vision, along with the support of the municipality, are set to transform the educational landscape of Koboko and improve the lives of its residents.

The municipality was also recently recognized with a City and Mobility Award for its inclusive approach to managing migration and integrating refugees. See the video here

<https://youtu.be/1XdvdG7DUEY>