

MUG FOUNDATION

PAD A GIRL CAMPAIGN

BUSSI ISLAND



ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF 07/07/2023

NANSANA WAKISO DISTRICT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank the entire MUG Foundation staff from the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and the Secretariat for the tremendous efforts displayed throughout the two days of the activity on the Island of Bussi. We further thank the entire team of village volunteers for their efforts to help us in the mobilization process and also send our gratitude to the schools administration that allowed us engage the learners and lastly the community and local government leaders like the chairmen and Gombolola Internal Security Officer with church leaders Bussi Island specifically Kaziba village for helping us meet our goal, mission and vision and we know your work supported us in our struggle to end period poverty.

We further thank the church leadership especially Apostle Kawuki Mukisa David of World Changing Ministries for the invitation and partnership to do this activity and support the young girls of Kaziba, village community on Bussi Island.



Interacting with the community religious leaders who hosted us for the outreach

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of MUG Foundation, I extend my sincere greetings to all the stakeholders of this organization. In the same spirit, I also congratulate our team upon completing a fruitful Pad a girl campaign outreach at Bussi Island, Wakiso district, in a special way I thank the management of General Ware Uganda LTD for supporting this campaign, Gracy Minds Empowerment Initiative Uganda, COULD YOU? Cup, Health Concern Initiative for supporting this campaign which enabled us as MUG Foundation to push our objectives forward. As advocates for the girl child empowerment, I encourage everyone on this campaign to keep the spirit of volunteerism shining as we push our mission and objectives to higher levels.

At MUG Foundation we continue to extend this Pad a girl campaign to other districts in Uganda as we know our target is 50,000 young women and girls, pushing for awareness and sensitization about menstrual hygiene management as well as training these girls how to make their own pads and towels as well as striving to end period poverty. I pray that this will create a platform to further our target of empowering young girls, supporting to uplift their superiority one at a time and keeping them in school as well as improving the Primary Health Care Systems in our country.

Therefore we are looking forward to a continuous growth, service delivery and opportunity building in the times to come as we strive to end period poverty.

Yours,

NANTUME PROSSY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THEME

Girls are mankind's greatest hope, if we care for them humanity will have a future.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAD A GIRL CAMPAIGN

- Sensitize girls about the menstrual hygiene management.
- Counseling of girls about the mental stress surrounding menstruation and to keep them in school.
- Training of girls between 12 and 25 girls in reusable sanitary pad making.
- Donate at least a single pack of sanitary pads to those that attend the training.



Despite some member's health statuses, we never failed to deliver

INTRODUCTION:

General information.

MUG Foundation is a Civil Society Organization incorporated as a Community Based Organization with its Registration No. NMC/CBO/924/23. Among other objectives, the organization is in partnership with sister organizations and seeks more partnership with government, local and international organizations, individual and private sector in furtherance of her mission and vision. The organization emphasizes among other programs, sexual reproductive health, research and advocacy, women and youth empowerment and education.

PROBLEM DEFINITION.

Menstruation is an integral and normal part of human life, indeed of human existence. Menstrual hygiene is fundamental to the dignity and wellbeing of women and girls and an important part of the basic hygiene, sanitation and reproductive health services to which every woman and girl has a right. Globally, approximately 52% of the female population (26% of the total population) is of reproductive age. Most of these women and girls will menstruate each month for between two and seven days.

This critical unavailability of sanitary products is a major barrier to education for girls of school-going age. The inability to effectively manage menstruation contributes to absences of up to 4-5 school days each month, equating to as much as 20% of the academic year intentionally skipped, simply due to menstruation. Eventually many of these girls drop out of school entirely, increasing their risk to the likelihood of early initiation to sex with associated risks of HIV, early pregnancy, teenage pregnancy with its associated maternal health complications, and further limiting their future career and economic opportunities.

ACTIVITIES

- Counseling and guidance on mental stress surrounding menstruation
- Sensitization about menstrual hygiene management
- Training in making reusable pads
- Donation of pads



Pads ready for donating to the young women and girls of Bussi Island

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- Inadequate funds for the smooth running of the activities. The support was little this time, people complained of money and so the potential supporters really found it hard to support the Bussi outreach.
- Transportation was a hustle as we had to move for a long distance on dusty murram roads and then the challenge of travelling on water on canoes. This was a major concern because most of the members had fear of water and this turned out to be some kind of trauma. Due to the dust some members have suffered from influenza.



The fear of travelling by water was tense in the beginning.



We had to use boda bodas as a means of transport on the Island for the long distances.

- Time management, most activities were behind schedule because some people first wanted to attend to their gardens before gathering for the activities.



The team was very ready for the activity in time

- One of the members fell sick before setting off thus a setback for the whole crew as we had to attend to her before beginning the journey.
- Given that we had one of the facilitators who was facilitating in English, some community members were left behind because they couldn't understand English making communication hard.
- Also we had a challenge of disorganization among members and ambassadors resulting from little planning before the activity.
- We were challenged by one observation at the Island, when we visited one of the schools (St Mark Bulenge Primary School) at the Island, we found out that the water used at the school is got directly from the water and we couldn't imagine it would be having such reusable sanitary pads and yet the water system on the island is poor. When we talked to the head teacher of this school Mr. Kasozi Vicent about how they go about and managing a school without a sustainable water system, he said that there is nothing he could do about it and that sometimes the water comes totally green from the lake and that they have to take like 2 hours to purify this water locally.



School children getting water directly from the lake for school use.

- Basing on the infrastructure, the island didn't have electricity and this hindered charging of our electronic gadgets.



Pad girl team members waiting to cross the swamp to the Island.

- We also had a challenge of food given a long distance to travel to get to the nearest market.



Pad a Girl team having supper on their night stay at the Island

INTERPRETATION

So many girls spend 5 days every month out of school due to menstruation and so many have acquired these sanitary pads through sleeping with boys for just 3000 shillings to buy pads. So many young girls below 15 years have been impregnated by these boys thus early marriages and some die while giving birth.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the pad a girl campaign is more than we see it, focusing on menstrual hygiene is more than pads but rather goes as far as advocating for WASH programs in these areas visited, it goes as far as advocating for budget allocation and tax holidays on sanitary products.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend General Ware Uganda LTD for coming on board to support the Pad a Girl and indeed the Bussi Island outreach was a success due to their generous contribution. We are grateful for this and further call upon other actors and stakeholders in the private sector to join the campaign as we have quite a number of areas to reach out to.

We need also to intensify on the resource mobilization, visit government offices and engage more offices in the private sector and engage more in networking and online fundraising as well as intensifying the social media awareness about the campaign.

We call upon all international agencies to come on board and join the pad a girl campaign because it takes more than giving pads to having improved water systems. There is no way we can talk about an improved menstrual hygiene management system without talking about water.

OUTREACH EXPENDITURE

No.	Description	Quantity	Rate (UGX)	Total (UGX)
1	Sanitary pads	500	5000	1,250,000
2	Food	8	15,000	200,000
3	Transport	8	35,000	280,000
4	T-shirts	5	25,000	100,000
5	Caps	12	8,000	96,000
6	Accommodation	8	15,000	120,000
7	Media	2	50,000	100,000
8	Staff and allowances	8	20,000	160,000
9	Banner	1	100,000	100,000
10	Mobilization	2	10,000	20,000
11	Water	3 cartons	12,000	36,000
12	Travel expenses	8 people	10,000	80,000
TOTAL				2,542,000

WAY FORWARD

We still need more implementing and supporting partners to come on board and support this campaign. A lot of girls out there need our help but we cannot reach out to them without extreme support partnerships.

So many girls are still missing out on their studies due to menstruation and lack of sanitary towels and pads. We have to intensify on the training sessions we give to the girls about making their own reusable pads so that they can help themselves in absence of disposable pads.

Currently we are skilling girls to make their own pads using bare hands, a process that takes some few hours and so if we could get good Samaritans to donate some sewing machines then this will soften our process and register quicker success.

In this campaign we request the government to intervene the issue of taxes on sanitary towels and pads and other sanitary materials so that it becomes affordable to even that young girl down there living a low life. *(much as it is known that the government waved off taxes on sanitary pads, companies are still producing them at high costs and so it's difficult to lower the prices)*. We also request a tax reduction on the materials used in making reusable sanitary pads such as, PV, threads, polythene, baby blanket material like and other items.

We wish to see that a sanitary pad becomes so essential and also seen as a matchbox in a home that houses young girls and mothers.

The government and its partners, local and international agencies should also work on the issue of WASH programs in these villages because it's hard to maintain reusable sanitary pads in areas where water systems are poor.

Electricity should also be extended to the villages because the communication in the area is not stable on solar systems.

Through the Pad a Girl campaign we have come to discover that girls face a lot of problems in their lives because of just a mere 3000 shillings for pads. It all begins with lacking a sanitary pad during the time of her periods and this young girl will think of getting it from a boy who will facilitate this young girl with that packet of sanitary pads and she will give in for sex as a means of payment, then after this young girl will end up getting pregnant at a teen age which will result into early marriages which marriage comes with all sorts of problems which can even lead to untimely death of this young girl.

























Ending period poverty is more than giving pads but rather train the girls on how to make their own pads and support themselves during their periods.











Mothers took the initiative to acquire skills in making sanitary pads to support their daughters as well as make a living out of pad making.



On standard, menstruation begins at the age of 12 and ends at 45 years



The Executive Director of HCI left with the Gombolola Internal Security Officer









It was all joy for the girls after receiving sanitary pads from the team. We thank you so much everyone who managed to make this outreach a success especially the General Ware Uganda LTD who donated 10 cartons of softcare pads to brace the Bussi Island outreach.