**DOCUMENT FOR SANITARY TOWELS PROJECT**

1. In 2011, we started supporting needy girls with sanitary towels. When an orphaned girl under the care of her aunt was brought for counseling in our tiny office, she had stained her dress in school when the piece of cloth she was using got soaked, letting the blood stain her dress. She vowed never to go back to school after boys scolded her and fellow girls made her a gossip topic. We counseled her back to school, gave her sanitary towels. However, it dawned on us that this wasn’t a one-time need. We later realized there were very many girls who go through similar problems. We began to solicit support from well-wishers. Currently we support over 300 needy girls. The results are these girls never miss school as they used to and recover their self-esteem.
In our sponsorship program we have been supporting 100 children in primary school and 25 in high school, all affected by AIDS and a few living with AIDS. We were able to do this through the support of AMREF. However, the support from AMREF ended in 2012, we are yet to find other committed partners that can raise funds both locally and internationally to enable us implement our project at a large scale. It has been our wish to scale up our programme to meet the high demand in the region. But lack of adequate resources has been our major challenge. This has complicated our desire of giving back hope and ensuring a better future to the beneficiaries and the community at large. This called for immediate solution through community participatory approach initiative. Some identified problems that needed solutions are as follows:
2. **Sanitary Towels Problem**:
There was a problem of girls from needy homes dropping out of school and many of them registering poor academic performance. We took ourselves to task by talking to the girls what the problem was and we realized many of them missed school when they had their menses, while some dropped out of school after they had embarrassing incidents in school when the cotton wool or pieces of cloth got soaked and stained their uniform with blood. Upon checking the school registers it was confirmed that many missed up to many tuition days which contributed to the falling of their grades.
3. **School fees, School Uniform Problem:**

 Many orphans and other vulnerable children had dropped out of school due to lack of school fees, school uniforms and school levies demanded at school. Those children who had dropped out of school especially girls were vulnerable to child labour, child prostitution, child early/forced marriages, child trafficking, teenager pregnancies, HIV new infections high rate, child defilement among others.

**(iii) Impact/Results**

The impact of our sanitary pads support to needy girls is rising of academic performance of the beneficiaries and more people including the ministry of education in Kenya realizing that this although never realized by many is a huge problem it is indeed. Though the Ministry is considering pushing the government for budgeting for sanitary towels and supporting such initiative many needy girls from Western Kenya are still most vulnerable.

The greatest impact of education sponsorship program has been actually been seen in parents rather than direct beneficiaries-children. Many are able to live even longer because the greatest fear and stress of their children education has been taken care of. We are able to exhibit parents who had given up and despite being on ARV therapy were going down because of stress and thinking what would become of their children without education when they are gone. We are looking for donors both locally and internationally to sustain our valued initiative.

**(iv) Budgetary Plan per Year Subject to Revision as Need Arises.**

1. Sanitary Towels Cost = $ 20,000
2. School Fees for Needy Children = $ 40,000
3. School Uniform for Needy Children = $10,000
4. Orphans Food and Care = $ 10,000
5. Administrative cost = $ 5,000

**Grant Total = $ 80,000**