



## IMPORTANCE OF DATA COLLECTION AND EXPERIENCE

Collection of data has always been the backbone of a good and successful program. This step not only benefits data collectors, but the participants giving information because their perspectives are represented, and are included in decision making. Most of the time, people assume the needs of their beneficiaries bringing us to the slogan *What is us without us?* *This is why* Femme International, make sure to be inclusive with our beneficiary hence the Need assessment.

We always visit the community or school or institution to collect data through need assessment before we even settle to do an actual reproductive health workshop with them, by taking a certain number of girls, who represent the community, who will fill out the need assessment questionnaires.

### WHY NEED ASSESSMENT

To us Femme International, need assessment being our first step, enable us to enhance performance by keeping us on toe to know how better manage resources available example whether to distribute cups or washable pads, whether to do more than one MHM Workshop, it keeps us in tune with the beneficiaries before we do workshop. Also thanks to the team we have that makes us learn day by day on need assessment especially Jenipher Rubli who is the Monitoring and Evaluation coordinator at Femme International and Rachael Ouko, Femme International Nairobi office who doesn't rest making sure my collected data is always up to date and can be presented anytime anywhere.

To Femme International, Need assessment plays a very important role in terms of gathering more information that can be analyzed and utilized for better results. It also helps Femme International prepare for better technique to use when giving access to menstrual and sexual reproductive health education, whether to use practical, theory or games approach when delivering education. It also helps find best needs that should be addressed for better end results, Also Helps Us To know our beneficiaries and the limiting factors that might affect the program either negatively or positively for example if water/ wash rooms are a limiting factor in a community then we know what to do immediately.

Our Work experience in data collection has been made much easier and lovely because of Need assessment.

### HOW

Our work on need assessment comprises three stages, which include ***Initiation, Data collection and analysis and Final***



**product.** We feel that without these steps one can not even start a project.

**-INITIATION:** At this stage we always identify a school or community that can benefit from our program, identify limiting factors, identify logistics involved, target number of beneficiaries, if there is need to set up a consulting meeting and budget involved if we were to collect data, After all all this then the final step of initiation is a kick off.

**-DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:** Most big organizations would include PEST (political, economic, social and technology) which are the external factors and SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities and Threats) which are the internal factors, at Femme International we don't dwell much on the two since they don't affect our work but politics sometimes hinder the flawless continuity of our work.

Our data collection method include Mostly questionnaires that the target group fill out, these questionnaires are set in a way that can enable us as facilitators to figure out which topics we should dwell in and to know if the target group are really in need of the menstrual-managing products we will be distributing or they are just in need of reproductive health education. We also use surveys as another way of data collection. Final step of data collection is ANALYSIS where I study the answered questionnaires and input them in software that would finally give us percentages of data collection



**FINAL PRODUCT** : This is the third and final phase of need assessment. Mostly this includes the summary of the findings of data collected in terms of percentages, it also shows which strategies to be used in the next step and what to prepare for, at some point it also includes recommendations. My belief is that the final product should have these five qualities, that is **effective** in that it can be used anytime anywhere, **simple** to understand, **efficient** in terms of trustworthy, **qualitative** and **quantitative** where it brings out numbers or

estimations. Our Recent data collected and and final product from girls in Gomongo showed that:

- . that their age ranged from 10-22 years.
- . 50% of girls said their periods have changed during COVID 19 while the other 50% said their periods have not changed at all.
- . 61% use disposable pads, 29.6% use cloths and khanga, 3.8% use mattress stuffing, 3.8% use toilet paper and newspaper and 3.8% use disposable pads with reusable pads/washable Pads.
- . 60% find it hard to get their product of choice during COVID 19 while 24% wrote their product of choice is not available
- . 65% find it harder to afford products, 15.4% want privacy, 7.7% said getting soap and water is a Challenge.
- . 34.6 % wrote that seeking medical care is a challenge to them.

CHALLENGE: The challenge we face when doing data need assessment is when am doing data entry ,sometimes we find unanswered questions, which makes it harder to come up with the final summary, this at some point made us lose morale but we figure out that some of our target group do not know how to read or simple don't understand the question, this has helped us update the need assessment questionnaire every time to make it simple but also giving more information, we have also decided to go on one on one with some target group to help them better understand.

FUN FACT: The fun thing when doing Need assessment is when we go through the questionnaires that have been filled, some of the answers are funny that we always end up having discussion about them, some make us learn new things that girls do or believe are true especially myths and taboos surrounding menstruation and sexual reproductive health. All in All we love seeing girls and women trying to express themselves through the platform that Femme International provides

It is a collective effort of both the target group/community and us data collectors to make sure the voices of voiceless are heard, represented and included in decision making.

*Femme International Kenya!*