**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Kibera Community Communication Network (KCCN) is a community based organization dully registered under the Kenyans ministry of gender, children and social development that realizes the importance of a positive influence on the girl child in the overall development of the society. The group was established in 2011 with 15 members ,with a strong inclination of networking with other light minded state and non-state Actors with a vision for proactive community based development whose organization and design ,seek to empower the girl child, women and the youth at large.KCCN as the mother it has been running different programmes at its jurisdiction; water and sanitation project, Advocacy on gender based violence, monthly feeding family package, women economic empowerment among others

KCCN is currently on the verge of raising funds to provide re- usable sanitary pads to female students in kibra , sub county of Nairobi at an affordable price for its sustainability. This sanitary towels project target school going girls from disadvantage, social and economic background in their puberty.

The initiative will distribute the pads to female students in kibra tentatively the initiative will target 10 schools both primary and secondary categories. At the primary level, girls from grade 5-8 will be the working target. The initiative will organize trainings and question answers sessions geared towards giving girls a forum to discuss related topics along with female teachers and other staff in the school, with topics exploring on menstrual hygiene and management being the central thing. Another target group on training will be on willing parents/guidance who are going to be the makers/tailors of the proposed re-usable sanitary towels, through cottages existing locally.

This project will be on-going and is envisioned to address not only girls in kibera but also those in other slums and rural areas neighboring Nairobi.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

For girls in developing countries, menstruation often means missing a week of school every month. When your family struggles to put food on the table, the purchase of disposable sanitary products is impossible. Girls use old clothing, dirty rags, or even leaves to manage their periods, however these methods are both dangerous to their health and difficult to conceal, often leading to shame and girls being targeted with violence.

Kccn will produce washable sanitary kits for girls in kibera and its environs, so girls can stay in school while menstruating. Each kit gives a girl 150 days—equivalent to 3 years—where she has the supplies to focus on her education rather than worrying about menstruation.

Female student face enormous challenges in matters of hygiene and sanitation. For girls who are menstruating. This problem compound the difficulties posed by the in ability to afford sanitary towel as well as cultural taboo and myths around menstruation.consequately,many girls miss an average four Days Of school every month which translate to over a month in a year, meaning they lag behind in class and a times drop out of school all together. This is definitely an added challenge to the other entrenched problems that needs to the high drop high rate of female students in primary and secondary schools. Key among the main problem face by women and girls in this regard are thus;

* The expense of commercial sanitary Pads
* Absenteism, where girls stay at home rather than attending school when menstruating.
* Limited, education about the facts of menstruation.
* Un hygienic ways to dry menstrual materials.
* Leakage from poor quality protection materials.
* Inadequate waste disposal facilities.
* Lack of privacy for changing menstrual materials.
* Lack of resources for washing. such as soap/detergents,
* Limited access to guidance and counseling.
* Fear caused by cultural myths.
* Embarrassment and low self esteem
* Un supportive attitude of some men.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SOLUTION

Description of the re-usable radically proved to create a world where women and girls can step boldly into the promise of their future. The goal of our initiative is to empower the vulnerable girls through provision of re-usable pads and capacity building on menstrual hygiene management and reproductive health for improved performance and self esteem. This will be done through distribution of re-usable sanitary pads as well as ensuring provision of menstrual hygiene management education and facilities to girls in primary and secondary schools in kibera by acquiring knowledge on menstrual hygiene management, the overall health status of the girls will be enhanced as myths and misconception that surround puberty and menstruation will also be demysyfied.

* The vision of distributing the sanitary was to ensure and empowered girls and capacitate to be in charge of their own socio-economic development long after completing their educational pursuits
* A study by the ministry of education in 2007 found out that sanitary pads provision coupled with sexual and reproductive health education could reduce absenteeism amongst girls by over 3.5 days per month; and brought other important benefits in terms of girls self esteem and self confidence. Another finding from a survey conducted by Kenya industrial research institute (KIRDI)in 2011 among piloted users of the re-usable sanitary towels reveal only 5% of the respondent were unable to attend school during menstruation sorely because of cramps/pain if this is compared with school upsentism prior to the pilot (27%),then the use of re-usable sanitary towel arguably significantly improves the school attendance of the pilot group. The use of the disposable pads currently on the market is estimated to be ksh 1,020 per girl per year. Commercialization of this mechanized is another concern, where all sorts of unscrupulous business persons are making a kill at the expense of women and girls whose only crime is to experience a periodical biological Phenominal.Ensuaring the safe disposal of the disposal pad still remains a major as unsafe disposal carries with it attendant environmental and health risk. This has continuously been sighted in the county integrated development plan (CIDP) by public health ministry docket as well as their environment counter parts.Actually,disposal sanitary towels is exebate sewerage blockages and water sanitation.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The project aims at producing the re-usable sanitary towels locally. Women and young girls will be taken through a training on how to do the production using materials which can be found locally, which should be chemical free material and safe to use.

WHAT’S IN A KIT?

* 2 shields with a moisture proof barrier and ‘wings’ that wrap around a pair of underwear.
* 8 tri-fold liners. Each square liner can be folded in three to act as the ‘pad’.
* Zip-lock bags, a washcloth, soap, and a beautiful carrying bag.

WHO MAKES THE KITS?

Young women and mothers attending a sewing school will be hired to produce kits for KCCN . . Each kit requires several hours of detail work, but the sewers love the chance to help keep other girls in school through this project!

**TESTIMONIAL:** we needed to switch to more sustainable and eco-friendly menstrual napkins that are re-usable and washable yet long lasting, comfortable and very importantly eco-friendly.

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES (logical Framework)

|  |
| --- |
| Resource mobilization |
| Conduct familiarization visit to pilot schools |
| Procuring materials and Equipment |
| Development of detailed instruction for pads use |
| Building the capacity of 5,000 girls on menstrual hygiene and management |
| Staff induction on the project |
| Training of the women on the detailed design for the sanitary towel |
| Mobilization of school management committees(smcs) and heads |
| Design, development and production of materials(Booklet) |
| Menstral Hygiene management training |
| Undertaking a girls open day Event |
| Periodic staff planning and review meetings |
| Monitoring and Evaluation(M&E) |
| Conducting baseline survey |
| Undertaking monitoring visits |
| Evaluation |

PROJECT IMPACT

Upto 5,000 girls from informal settlement will benefit from the project. The project will have impact on health status of girls through improvement in health and personal hygiene of the girls as a result of using re-usable sanitary towels and hence do well in school.

It is consequently anticipated that by providing the re-usable sanitary wares, the no. of days a girls attending school will increase by 60%.ultimately there will be significant reduction in the rate of school drop-out as well as reduced vulnerability of the girls to early engagement in sex in order to get income for acquiring the basic need like sanitary pad.

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVMENT

* Increase in girls attendance in schools
* Local cottage manufacturers commissioned to produce affordable sanitary towels
* Exportation of the affordable re-usable towels to the neighboring countries
* Improved performance of girls in school
* Creation of job opportunity

**PROJECT BUDGET**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item Description** | **Quantity** | **Unit** | **Total** |
| Electric butterfly sewing machine  Manual Singer machine  Overlocking machine    Towelic fabric | 8  4    2  4 rolls(25mtrs) | 22,000  11,500    15,500    9,500 | 176,000  46,000  31,000  38,000 |
| Flannel cloth(100%)cotton  Tic-tac buttons  Scissors | 1000 metres  500pcs  25pcs | 300  10  650 | 300,000  5,000  16,250 |
| Thread(cotton)  Panties  Training of master craftman | 150pcs  500pairs  10\*2 | 25  100  1500 | 3,750  50,000  15,000 |
| Visibility  (branded t-shirts)  Communication  Local travel  Documentaries  Contingencies | 100pcs | 500 | 50,000  20,000  50,000  30,000  50,000 |
| **Total** |  |  | **1,241,750** |