



Building Futures in Malawi

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From : Go for Girls Officer

To : Global Giving

Subject : March, 2023 Report

This is the second term in the 2022-2023 academic year. There was a delay in opening schools due to a worst Cholera outbreak that spread into all the 29 districts of Malawi. In order to create a safe environment for learning, Ministry of Education extended the first term holiday with 2 weeks so that they put in place measures of safeguarding learners from cholera. Due to the delay, 'Go for girls' project activities resumed its activities in the month of February.

We conducted reusable sanitary pads sewing training in Chiwamba Community Day Secondary School, Chipasula Secondary School, Mseche Community Day Secondary School and SAS-AROMA private secondary school. The trainings were conducted to prevent the girls from using unhygienic sanitary rags that puts them at risk of infection. We managed to train a total of 101 girls in reusable sanitary pads sewing and the girls were excited to gain sewing skills as they will be able to sew more pads for themselves. They are also expected to train more girls so that it has the multiplier effect.



25 participants from Chiwamba Community Day Secondary School



20 participants from Chipasula Secondary school



35 participants from Mseche Community Day Secondary School



SAS-AROMA secondary school- A school in the urban area

Girl Talk

During our training sessions, we interacted with the girls in order to keep the sewing lessons live and entertaining. Girls were encouraged, motivated and advised academically and morally through the girl talk program. They also got to ask questions on areas they need clarity and the challenges which they face at school/household level. We reached about 101 girls through this program

Assisting schoolgirls at Kaps with Sanitary pads

Many girls at Kaps school are very appreciative of the immediate assistance that Go for Girls continuously demonstrates by providing them with sanitary pads whenever they start their menses whilst in class. Our office receives up to 15 or more girls a week, seeking assistance. Class attendance is maintained with this scheme and the head teachers, school teachers and mainly the beneficiaries commend our initiative.

Achievements

- Improve school attendance amongst girls
- Boosted confidence in girls (Girls opening up and asking general questions)
- Sewing skills acquired
- Menstrual hygiene practiced
- Girls become carrier focused

Challenges

- Lack of funding: This still stands as our main challenge as we do operate at the central region only whilst our plan is to extend to other districts and reach as many girls as possible.
- We only have one manual sewing machine which is very challenging to reach out to all the 8 schools in a very effective and timely manner. A sewing machine in each school would be very helpful because each school can be producing their own reusable sanitary pads.
- Transportation: We target schools in rural areas and visiting them frequently has never been possible due to lack of resources to carter for that.

Future Plans

- To expand the project in all the 29 districts
- Immediate assistance scheme to be introduced in all the schools we work with
- To introduce sewing clubs in schools

Conclusion

Some studies in Malawi show that many female students in the rural and urban areas stay away from schools for at least five days during their menstrual periods, a development that affects their performance in class. Training these girls how to make own hygienic protection as well as advising them to be goal orientated and take full responsibility of their lives is the best way of promoting education and building futures in Malawi amongst girls.

We continue to THANK YOU for the support you render to our organization. Many girls' livelihood has changed because of your kind gesture.