



VICTORY CHILD CARE PROJECT- TY CARIAD HOME

NAMUGONGO, NSAWO ZONE

We deliver care and support for lasting improvement to the children in Uganda

KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL PROJECT–REUSABLE SANITARY PADS PROJECT

Introduction

Keeping girls in school is one of the projects implemented by Victory Child Care Project here in Uganda, and its main objective is to provide reusable sanitary towels and knickers to primary school-going girls in rural government aided schools as a way of improving their menstrual hygiene management while in school. The project started in 2019 and in 2020, 642 packs of reusable sanitary towels were distributed in fourteen primary schools in Nansana Municipality and Kyengeru Town Council within Wakiso District.

Many village primary school-going girls face significant challenges related to menstrual hygiene management without the access to affordable hygienic menstrual products, girls often resort to using unsanitary materials like rags, leaves and papers or even mud, which can lead to infections and other health problems. The target beneficiaries of this project are primary school-going girls between the age group of 10-15yrs in government aided schools with in Wakiso district. Due to the post COVID 19 effects, the project was put on hold, yet it had a great impact in the schools where it was implemented.

Below are the positive outcomes of the project previously and the current situation of target beneficiaries in its absence following the feedback from the probation officers in these areas.

❖ **The project yielded several positive outcomes during its time of implementation as indicated below;**

The project increased the school attendance rate among girls in government-aided schools within Wakiso District. Girls would often miss school due to their menstrual cycle, and the reusable sanitary towels provided a hygienic and reliable solution to the problem.

The project had reduced the school dropout rate among girls. Before its implementation, girls who could not afford to purchase sanitary towels often dropped out of school due to shame and stigma associated with menstruation. However, with the availability of reusable sanitary towels, girls could continue with their studies without fear of being ridiculed by their peers.

Furthermore, the project improved the hygiene and sanitation conditions in schools. Disposable sanitary towels were not environmentally friendly, and their improper disposal always leads to environmental pollution. Therefore, the project provided a sustainable solution that does not harm the environment.

❖ **Current Situation of the beneficiaries when the project is on hold due to financial constraints;**

The absence of the project currently has led to a regression in the positive outcomes that were achieved previously. Girls are once again missing school during their menstrual cycles due to the lack of affordable and hygienic menstrual products. This situation has led to a decline in the school attendance rate and an increase in the school dropout rate among girls. The lack of proper sanitation facilities in schools has also led to a decline in the hygiene and sanitation conditions in schools.



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Pictorials of the previous distribution of reusable sanitary towels conducted in Nansana Municipal Council.



Conclusion

The project has been a success in improving the menstrual health of young girls in government-aided primary schools, but its absence has currently led to a regression in the positive outcomes that were achieved previously. Potential donors are encouraged to kindly finance this project to ensure that young girls have access to affordable and hygienic sanitary towels, which will improve school attendance and reduce the school dropout rate of school going girls before attaining the primary level, which secures a bright future of a girl child in Uganda.

Compiled by; Nabaziwa Teddy – VCCP Social Worker

Reviewed by; Namuddu Prudence- VCCP Administrator