

## REPORT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT CAUSED ON THE GIRLS BY REUSABLE SANITRY PAD PILOT PROJECT

Following the Pilot Project that was conducted at the Canan Nursery & Junior Academy school in Agule county (Pallisa district) which mainly targeting young girls from classes P4 to P7 organized by members of Visionary Lady International (VLI) in conjunction with the Global Bridge Network, a Japan-based organization with the help from the Japanese people, On Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 VLI carried out an assessment survey in the targeted schools (Canan Nursery & Junior Academy school & Opadoi P/S) in Agule county Pallisa district to determine the impact of the impact caused by the project previously carried out. Testimonies from various girls indicate that girls and the teachers are very happy to have received the pads.

A questionnaire approach was once again used on the girls and most of the girls' results showed a tremendous improvement on the school grades and also limited absenteeism from school in the shortest time (4months) given that the activity took place in June and assessment in October.



*Girls filling the questionnaires and a video clip*

As noted in the previous survey that in many communities, Menstruation is one of the leading problem causing most of the girls to drop out of school, as a result of the menstrual Hygiene Management workshop that VLI carried out in various schools and also provision of reusable pads and cotton knickers to the girls, caused a great positive impact. It is said that in this short time there is a big change, teachers said the number of girls missing school had tremendously reduced in this term compared to the previous ones. The girls share their new experiences with the joy of having pads,

“These days I just stand up from my seat and go out or answer a question while standing up when a teacher picks me without the fear that maybe I have stained in my dress/uniform” one girl said and all the whole class said in a chores me too, me too. Another girl said there has been an improvement in cleanliness, we are now very smart, take my bath, wash up each time am changing the pad, it just feels good, thank you.” The class monitor/prefect said for Primary six (P.6) class said “The number of girls who absent themselves in class has reduced, E.g. In the month of September & October no girl missed class.



One of girls by the name Achipa Loy who had dropped out of school due to menstrual stigma tells her story “After I received reusable pads from VLI office, I went home very happy and I started to practice how to wear it because we were taught from the office, after trying it on, I washed it and hanged it under the sun to dry. I am very happy because this term I returned to school, my classmates don’t laugh at me because they don’t even know when am in my periods. Receiving this pads has changed my life, I am transformed to a new person, my fears, shame and embarrassment due to period stains that had led me to drop out of school are gone, and I am very grateful and happy to be back in school, thank you.”



*Achipa Loy returned to school after receiving pads from VLI*

The greatest achievement of the project is that four of the girls who had dropped out of school have returned to school ( Achipa Loy, Agote Irene & Amoding Barbara. However Stella Achom didn't return to school due to lack of scholastic materials) and also there is a reduction in girls absenting themselves from school due to lack of pads. Girls are willing to stay in school and complete their education however the only challenge is the continuity to supply pads. We discovered that some girls had joined the school and didn't have pads and were requesting to be given too. The girls are also faced with the challenge of sharing the toilets with the boys, due to this they have no privacy when changing the pads because a boy can walk on them when dressing. There is also a problem of lack of water in school, the schools don't have water supply system so the girls can't wash up when changing the pads and the water wells are far from the school. Some girls don't have school bags to keep the sanitary pads after use before going home however the good bit is pads have a paper bags where the used pads can be kept.

In summary the project was instrumental, most girls learned and improved on their lives basing on the technical guides imparted. Visionary lady also experienced a lot of learnings in this adventure except that due to financial constrains we can't extend the help to wider areas, this would be a very good process to retain girls in school and we just recommend for continuous support so that girls remain and study at the same rate as boys.



*Girls in their classroom*