

Sanitary Towels for School Girls



Facts and figures



inua dada

The basic issue

“For girls, the **greatest challenge** in education is absenteeism that is related to **reproductive health issues**”
- Ministry of Education,
Kenya

“65% of women and girls in Kenya **cannot afford pads**” - Zana Africa

**Lost
education =
lost child**

“A girl misses 4 days a month due to menses. This equates to 2 weeks per term and 6 weeks during a school year” - Ministry of Education, Kenya

- Primary school: 18 weeks of learning lost within 3 years
- Secondary school: 24 weeks of learning lost within 4 years

**So she misses
school...**

Girls **absenteeism** is directly linked to the onset of:

- **Poorer grades vs. boys**
- Increased sexual activity, **HIV**
- Early marriage
- Early pregnancy
- **Female Genital Mutilation**
- Verbal abuse (at home and school)
- **Child labour**
- ... and the list goes on

Food security & pads?!?!

“A girls education is pivotal to the future of Kenya.

Statistics show how this issue can be linked to our county's **food security**, as a girl who is uneducated is likely to have more children, and more mouths to feed” - Dr. Bitange Ndemo (former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information Communications and Technology)

The need

“2.7 million girls
in primary and secondary
schools cannot afford
sanitary protection, or have
access to reproductive health
education and appropriate
facilities” – Late. Mutula Kilonzo
(former Minister of Education, Kenya)

The benefits

- “ Improve income of the girl, as every extra year of education beyond the average boosts wages by 10-20% - UNESCO Study
- “ 100-country study by World Bank shows that increasing share of women in secondary education by 1% boosts annual per capital income by 0.3% - World Bank
- “ Reduction in HIV (girls are 4 times more likely to be sexually active early if they drop out of school)
- “ Reduction in infant mortality rates – an extra year of education reduces infant mortality by 5-10%
- “ Reduction in over-population due to higher pregnancy rates
- “ A more educated family

The GAP

The Government is approx.
20% there
(575,000/2,700,000)

The funding needs to
increase by 4-5x

KES 1.3bn*

The need to lobby...

A dramatic reduction in budget allocation 2013-2014



Inua Dada...

“ **10,000 girls** were given
1 years supply of sanitary
towels

“ **720,000 pads**, 90,000
packets, 30,000 panties

“ In one programme **1,000
school years** or
360,000 school days were
saved!