

SUMMARY REPORT ON:

RE-USE ABLE SANITARY PADS DISTRIBUTION AT ARINGO PRIMARY SCHOOL

**IN LAMBWE CENTRAL LOCATION, LAMBWE WARD IN
SUBA- NORTH SUB-COUNTY, HOMA-BAY COUNTY.**



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@2024

Introduction:

In low and middle income countries worldwide, HIV besides other health related vagaries is the leading cause of death and disease in women in reproductive age (15-44). In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 60% of those affected by HIV are women and in the East Africa countries, Kenya being one of them, the prevalence among the young women aged 15-24 years is on average of about three times higher than among men of the same age. These disparities are as a result of biological, structural and cultural conditions that place women and girls at greater risk of acquiring HIV, such as gender norms that impact expectations and behaviors, as well as differences in access to resources that limit prevention and mitigation of the disease and other social vices i.e. violence against women. Men and boys are also affected by gender expectations that may encourage risk-taking behavior, discourage accessing health services, and narrowly define their roles as partners and family members.

It's against this background that Kindred Health Mission Inc.-Kenya, based in Homa-Bay County but working across other neighboring Counties of Migori, Siaya, Kisii and Kisumu in the republic of Kenya in collaboration with Building Together Kenya acronym BTK, a Community Based Organization-CBO working with the local community around Homa-Bay town and neighboring sub-county of Suba-North realizing the precarious position of the girl-child organized for a health talk session and distribution of re-use able sanitary pads for over fifty school going girls of Aringo Primary and Junior Secondary School located in Lambwe Ward, Suba North (Mbita) Sub-County in the larger Homa-Bay County.

The overall objective of KHMI-K and BTK is to address health related issues, Education and Empowerment of the vulnerable groups especially the young women, girls, and those affected by the vagaries of Orphan hood and diseases through promotion of Agri-business activities as income source.

This report thus summarizes the activities conducted and the myriad of challenges facing these girls. It also provides windows of hope amid these challenges.

2.0. Mobilization of the girls:

Aringo School is found in the remote parts of Homa-Bay County and the majority of the community members derive their livelihood from peasant farming and fishing due to the proximity to the shores of Lake Victoria. The KHMI-K and BTK enlisted the services of a volunteer social worker from the community to engage the school authority and help mobilize the girls. This was successfully done through the teacher in-charge of health and sanitation and a total of 58 girls aged between 11-16 years were mobilized and trained on how to use the re-useable pads. The health talk exercise was spearheaded and facilitated by volunteer team from the KHMI-BTK Office. The team distributed 174 pads with each girl receiving three set of pads packed in KHMI-K branded packages as depicted in the pictures.

3.0. Achievements and Constraints:

In the Oasis of hope, there exists the desert of calamities; the project at its infancy stage can pride itself to have started on a better footing in Suba-North though amid slight challenges which can be surmounted moving forward.

Some the challenges include;

- **Accessibility to the school and logistics;** given the remoteness of the place, its sometimes expensive to visit the school due to transport cost and poor road network.

- **High expectation by the community members;** the mention of a CBO/ NGO to the local community is a creation of impression of direct monetary benefits to the targeted cohort.
- **Insufficient pads;** the population that need to be reached by this service is at the moment beyond the capacity that can be presently met by KHMI-BTK project office.

4.0. Aringo activities in pictorials;



Figure 1 Aringo teachers welcoming KHMI-K and BTK Team



Figure 2: Community mobilizer addressing the girls



Figure 3: Two cohorts of mobilized girls



Figure 4: KHMI-K-BTK taking girls through a training session



Figure 5: Training session for the girls continues



Figure 6: A participant displaying the re-usable pad



Figure 7: Trainer gifting a JSS student her package of pads



Figure 8: Teacher-in charge of Health and Sanitation gifting one of the girls with the pads packed in KHMI-K branded package.



Figure 9: Its Snr. teachers turn to present the gift package to the youngest participant.

Conclusion:

The old adage goes “*where there is a will, there is away*” and as such, there is every hope that the targeted community especially the Aringo school pupils, teachers and the larger community have embraced and welcomed the project .We intend to conduct training for the women groups from the same community on soap making and bee-keeping as alternative income source and economic empowerment. There lie a bigger number of girls whom the project would wish to train on how to make these pads and liquid soap. In turn, these girls, the young mothers who either dropped out of school due early pregnancies or school fee challenges would become trainers of trainees or self employed by making these products.