



**2023**

**International Day  
of Eradication of  
Poverty  
Activities Report**

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## **INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

Abiero Girls' Empowerment (AGE) is a hands-on charity that actively champions marginalized girls at Wasamo Girls Secondary School (the only girls school located on the remote island of Mfangano and its environs, in Kenya), through financial support and mentorship, giving them the opportunity to break generational poverty and become exceptional contributors to society. A lot of these girls, whose community prioritize marriage and children, have sacrificed their education and ambitions to become child brides and adolescent mothers (often against their will).

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, often referred to as the International Day of Poverty Eradication, is observed globally every year on October 17th. This day promotes awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing nations. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty serves as a reminder of the importance of addressing poverty on a global scale and underscores the collective responsibility to work towards a world where everyone can enjoy a decent standard of living, access education and healthcare, and participate fully in society.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The event commenced at 11 a.m. with an introduction by Ms. Lizz Mwemba, the project coordinator of AGE. Ms. Mwemba highlighted the importance of eradicating period poverty and empowering young girls to pursue their education without barriers. Following the introduction, sanitary pads were distributed to all 66 students present at Wasamo Girls Secondary School. A total of 4 sanitary pads were distributed to each girl, ensuring their menstrual needs are met for the next four months. This initiative was well-received by the students and staff alike, creating a positive and supportive environment for addressing this critical issue.

## **RESULTS**

The distribution of sanitary pads has had an immediate impact on the lives of the students at Wasamo Girls Secondary School. By providing these essential items, AGE has contributed to enabling these girls to attend school regularly and participate fully in their education, irrespective of their menstrual cycle. This aligns with AGE's broader mission of empowering young girls and promoting gender equality through education. In the future, AGE plans to continue similar initiatives, collaborating with schools and local communities to eradicate period poverty and provide support to underprivileged girls. By sustaining these efforts, we aim to create a lasting impact on the lives of young girls, fostering a conducive environment for their educational and personal growth.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Sustain Periodic Distribution Events:** AGE should continue organizing regular sanitary pad distribution events in collaboration with schools and local communities. These events should be conducted periodically, ensuring that girls have a consistent supply of sanitary pads to cover their menstrual needs throughout the academic year.

**Collaborate with Local Organizations:** AGE should seek collaborations with local organizations, NGOs, and governmental bodies to enhance the impact of their initiatives. Partnering with like-minded organizations can provide additional resources, funding, and expertise, enabling AGE to reach a larger number of girls in need.

**Implement Menstrual Health Education Programs:** Alongside distributing sanitary pads, AGE should implement menstrual health education programs in schools. These programs should cover topics such as menstrual hygiene, reproductive health, and the importance of regular school attendance. Knowledge empowers girls to manage their menstrual health effectively and reduces the stigma surrounding menstruation.

**Support Sustainable Solutions:** While distributing sanitary pads is essential, AGE should also explore sustainable solutions such as promoting eco-friendly menstrual products like reusable cloth pads or menstrual cups. These options are cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and provide long-term menstrual hygiene solutions.

**Engage the Community:** AGE should actively engage with the local community, including parents, teachers, and community leaders. Creating awareness about the importance of girls' education, breaking menstrual taboos, and garnering community support can lead to a more inclusive and supportive environment for girls.

**Monitor and Evaluate Impact:** AGE should establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of their initiatives. Regular assessments can help in understanding the effectiveness of the programs, identifying challenges, and making necessary adjustments to enhance the outcomes.

**Advocate for Policy Change:** AGE can advocate for policy changes at the local and national levels to ensure that menstrual hygiene products are accessible and affordable for all girls. By engaging in advocacy efforts, AGE can contribute to systemic changes that address period poverty on a broader scale.

**Promote Empowerment Beyond Education:** While education is a vital component, AGE should also consider programs that empower girls beyond the classroom. Skill development workshops, mentorship programs, and vocational training can prepare girls for future employment opportunities, enabling them to break the cycle of poverty.

By implementing these recommendations, Abiero Girls' Empowerment can continue its impactful work in eradicating period poverty and empowering young girls, creating a brighter and more equal future for them.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the International Day of Eradication of Poverty event organized by Abiero Girls' Empowerment (AGE) at Wasamo Girls Secondary School stands as a testament to our commitment to eradicating period poverty and empowering young girls in our community. The distribution of sanitary pads, coupled with the awareness raised about menstrual health, has had an immediate and positive impact on the lives of the 66 students present at the event.

By addressing this critical issue, AGE is not only ensuring that these girls have the necessary resources to manage their menstrual hygiene but also breaking barriers that hinder their education and personal growth. The success of this initiative emphasizes the importance of continued efforts to support underprivileged girls, providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to pursue their education unhindered.

As we move forward, the recommendations outlined in this report serve as a strategic roadmap. By implementing these suggestions, AGE can further enhance its impact, reach more girls in need, and contribute significantly to creating a society where period poverty is eradicated, and all girls have equal opportunities for education and empowerment.

The journey toward empowering girls and ending period poverty is ongoing. With dedication, collaboration, and unwavering support, we are confident that AGE will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these young girls, enabling them to dream, aspire, and achieve without limitations. Together, we can build a future where every girl has the chance to thrive, breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering a more inclusive and equal society.