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Program Survey Report Research & Lessons Learned

A review of Dear Future's "Her Full Attendance" reusable hygienic pad program and product assessment.



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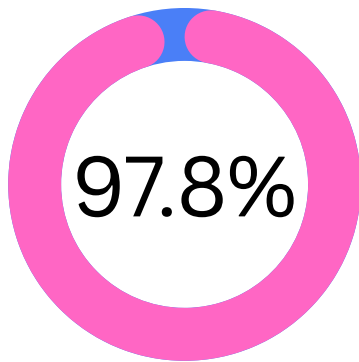
Project Summary



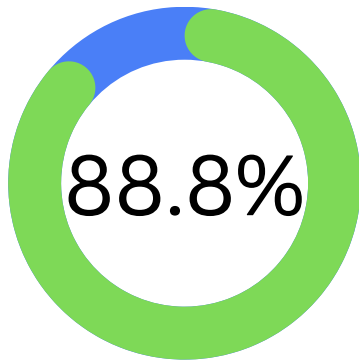
Dear Future's "Her Full Attendance" initiative, is led in partnership with Empathy Children Initiative (ECI), a local non-governmental organizations in Eastern Uganda.

,Our focused work targets period poverty, a leading driver of primary school dropouts among adolescent girls. By providing reusable AFRIpads alongside practical menstrual health hygiene training, the program ensures young women stay in school with dignity.

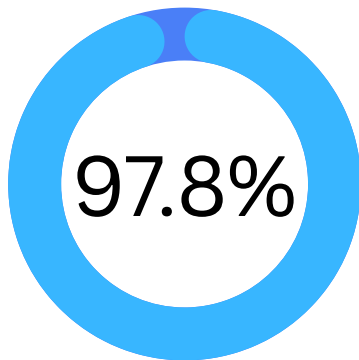
This evaluation summarizes survey feedback collected from 134 primary school students across partner schools (including Luwerere Primary, Mbirabira Primary, Lukungu Primary, and St. Joseph). The findings demonstrate an immediate transformational shift in school attendance, self-confidence, and menstrual hygiene management.



97.8% of participants reported a direct reduction in school absences after receiving AFRIpads.

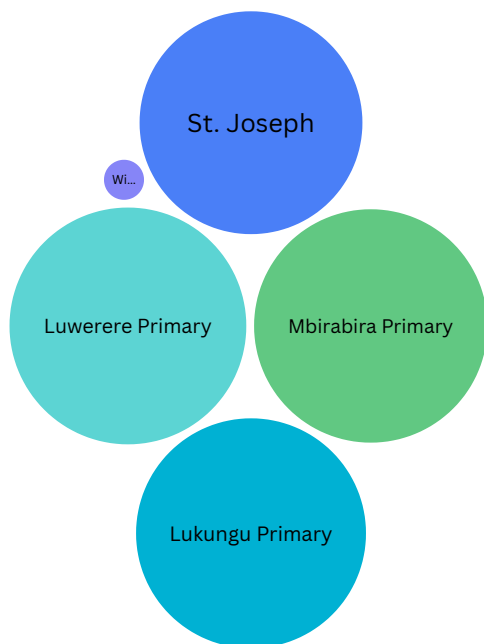


88.8% of girls now feel fully confident attending school during their period (up from just 11.9% prior to the intervention).



97.8% of students confirmed that the accompanying hygiene training was effective in teaching them proper care and washing routines.

Participant Demographics & Baseline Hardships

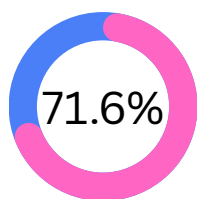


The majority of survey respondents were enrolled in upper primary grades (P7: 71.6%, P6: 25.4%), representing older adolescent girls who face heightened risks of absenteeism and school dropout as they reach puberty.

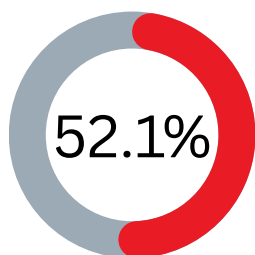
School Breakdown

- Luwerere Primary: 35 respondents (26.1%)
- Mbirabira Primary: 34 respondents (25.4%)
- Lukungu Primary: 33 respondents (24.6%)
- St. Joseph: 31 respondents (23.1%)
- Wisdom Primary: 1 respondent (0.7%)

Baseline Hardships Before Intervention



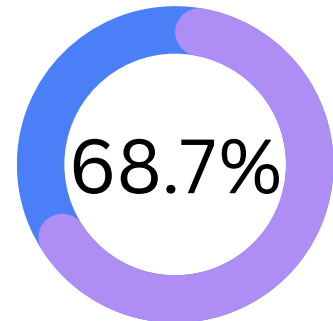
Prior to receiving AFRIpads, 71.6% of participants had never used reusable pads. The baseline survey reveals severe vulnerability and lack of adequate menstrual management options



Inadequate Management Methods: 52.2% of girls relied on makeshift rags, cut pieces of old cloth, or scrap cotton, which frequently leaked, caused skin irritation, or lost absorbency. Another 26.1% relied on single-use disposable pads bought from local shops when family funds permitted, creating an unsustainable financial strain on households

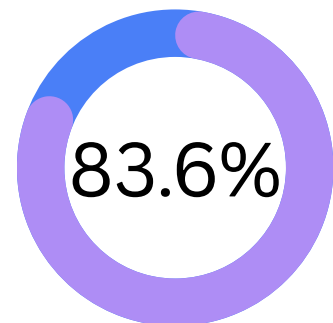
Perceived Experience

68.7% described their monthly period experience prior to the program as "Very Difficult" (58.2%) or "Difficult" (10.4%).



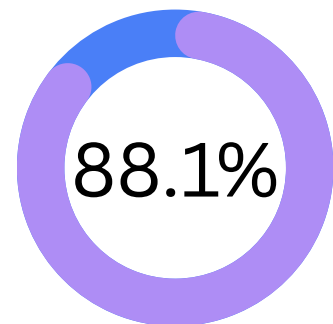
Impact on Attendance

83.6% stated that their period directly disrupted their education—46.3% regularly missed school, while 37.3% missed school occasionally.



Lack of Confidence

88.1% felt uncomfortable or unconfident at school during their period (64.9% reported feeling no confidence at all).



Program Impact & Metric Comparison

Metric	Before AFRIpads	After AFRIpads	Net Change / Impact
School Attendance Disruption	83.6% experienced attendance loss	97.8% reported reduced absences	+97.8% attendance stabilization
School Confidence & Comfort	11.9% felt confident in school	98.5% feel confident (88.8% fully / 9.7% sometimes)	+86.6% gain in full confidence
Product Satisfaction	Unsafe rags / expensive disposables	97.8% rate pads as Comfortable or Very Comfortable	88.8% report "Very Comfortable"
Leakage Protection	High frequency of severe leakage	86.6% report ZERO leaks ("Never")	High absorbency protection
Hygiene & Maintenance Ease	Difficult and unhygienic	93.3% find pads easy to clean and care for	97.8% effective training rate

WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) & Operational Observations

While product satisfaction and absenteeism reduction are exceptionally high, survey data revealed vital environmental and infrastructure factors that impact daily pad maintenance:

Water & Soap Availability:

- 70.9% have sufficient soap and water at home to wash their pads regularly.
- 29.1% experience limitations (14.9% only sometimes have soap/water; 14.2% lack adequate soap/water).

Drying Habits & Stigma:

- 71.6% dry their pads directly in the sun (best practice for UV sterilization).
- 28.4% dry their pads inside the house due to privacy concerns, fear of stigma, or unfavorable weather, which lengthens drying times.

Usage Frequency:

- 88.1% use their pads continuously throughout every period cycle.

**Menstrual Education
Delivered**



Direct Student Feedback & Participant Voices

The open-ended feedback highlights intense appreciation for the initiative alongside practical recommendations for future program enhancements.

"I request for more AFRIpads. They help me to stop fetching firewood to get money for pads. Thank you very much, may God bless you everyday."

— P7 Student, Lukungu Primary

"It has helped us to control diseases since AFRIpads are clean and easy to wash. Thank you very much."

— P7 Student, Luwerere Primary

"First of all, I thank you for putting this program. I beg you to continue to support this program because it has helped me to attend school regularly."

— P7 Student, St. Joseph

Summary of Student Requests

- **Additional Pad Sets:** Because reusable pads require time to wash and dry (especially during wet weather or when dried indoors), many girls requested secondary pad sets so they always have spare clean pads ready.
- **Hygiene Kits (Soap & Undergarments):** Students frequently requested soap for washing and spare undergarments (nickers), as many lack the basic supportive items needed to secure pads properly.
- **Clean Water Access:** Several students highlighted the long physical distance to fetch clean water, requesting water infrastructure support at home and school.
- **Expansion to Mothers & Sisters:** Multiple respondents asked if pads could be provided to their mothers and older sisters, noting that family poverty forces mothers to prioritize buying food over menstrual products.



Strategic Recommendations based on Funding

Scale Product Distribution: Expand kit sizes from basic sets to multi-pad kits to account for drying delays during rainy seasons and heavy flow days.

Integrate Hygiene Kits: Bundle pad distributions with basic supplies—specifically washing soap and supportive undergarments—to maximize dignity and hygienic maintenance.

Synergize with Community Water Projects: Address water insecurity in target villages to ease the burden of fetching water for pad sanitation.

Expand Outreach: Continue funding outreach in neighboring primary schools across Eastern Uganda to ensure no girl drops out due to preventable period poverty.