

Dealing with the agonizing cry of school girls missing 1.5 months or more of school every year. They stay at home during their menstrual periods because they can't afford sanitary towels/ sanitary pads. This makes them significantly fall behind in their school studies. This fueled Lenana Girls High school's passion to get into the sanitary care project to provide high quality sanitary pads from sugar cane waste. It is hoped this project will revolutionize affordability in the entire country's sanitary pad industry.

Lenana Girls High school is using the abundant resource of sugarcane agro-waste to produce menstrual pads that address the overlooked demand for affordable menstrual products in poor countries.

Lenana Girls High school will manufacture, distribute and sell affordable 'Nalena!' menstrual pads in Kenya, helping more women and girls get access to safe and effective pads. Lenana Girls High school has developed a process that can transform the use of bургesses (sugarcane waste that is problems to farmers and sugarcane processing companies in Kenya – into an absorbent core for the sanitary pads, without the need for any chemicals or super absorbent polymers. This readily available agro-waste allows Nalena pads to be priced lower than other multinational brands, enabling girls and women to access affordable, eco-friendly pads.

We have created a new market for environmentally friendly menstrual pads, thereby creating jobs and income opportunities across the value chain.

Joshua Machinga – School Director

Lenana Girls High school's technology will also enable entrepreneurs to replicate this innovative production process and spread access to more affordable sanitary pads in other regions. To date, Lenana Girls High school has created 10 jobs and helping companies to solve waste problem

Why you should care

Approximately one in ten African girls does not attend school while menstruating, averaging four days of absenteeism every month. For working women, lack of access to sanitary pads can also mean days off work, resulting in lost income and productivity. This lack of access to sanitary pads leads to significant overall losses in terms of education, health, income and dignity for girls and women.

How the Global Goals are addressed



Good Health and Well-Being

When good quality sanitary pads are too expensive, unsanitized alternatives such as rags, tree bark or mud are used, leading to increased chances of health problems, according to Lenana Girls High School.



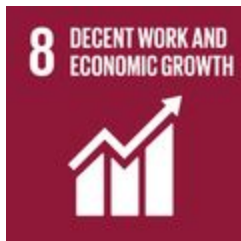
Quality Education

In some areas of the world many girls drop out of school after puberty starts because they lack adequate sanitation materials. The affordable pads from Lenana can help to change this.



Gender Equality

Sanitary pads make it easier for girls to continue attending school and women to not take days off work during menstruation, helping to ensure more equal participation and opportunities. The project also solve the problems of sex for pads



Decent Work and Economic Growth

Besides education, Lenana Girls High school empowers girls, women and entire communities to address the lack of access to affordable products by creating income opportunities and jobs through local manufacturing and distribution.



Reduced Inequalities

Affordable sanitary pads help to improve access to essential hygiene products, reducing the effects of income inequality. At a macro-scale, Lenana Girls High school estimates that menstruation-related loss in productivity and schooling reduces GDP by \$210 million annually in Kenya.



Responsible Consumption and Production

Nalena pads have absorbent, biodegradable cores that contain no chemicals or polymers, so they can be safely disposed with minimal risk of causing environmental pollution.