

WOMEN'S SOROPTIMISTS MASAKA

#UGM2016

BASIC HYGIENE FOR WOMEN IN PRISON

September '16 Project Update



ABOUT WOMEN'S SOROPTIMISTS MASAKA

The Women's Soroptimists Masaka is part of a global family of Women's Soroptimists groups that improve the lives of vulnerable women from all backgrounds in their communities.



Prossy & the Women's Soroptimist Group

Here in Masaka, this group run by Prossy Nampuuga have a passion for sustainably supporting their sisters in Masaka Women's Prison.

BASIC HYGIENE FOR WOMEN IN PRISON

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Women in prison in Uganda are exposed to some of the worst living conditions in the country and with a court system that is openly corrupt, many are imprisoned due to backhanded bribes. This situation is made even more terrible as, in cases where the woman is arrested whilst pregnant or if they are raped in jail, the children accompany their mothers in the prison.

Currently, Women's Soroptimists Masaka support 68 Women and 18 children who are caught in the prison system. They provide the essentials of sanitary pads and nappies that allow for basic hygiene and dignity to be kept within the prison walls.

In order to do this, the 30 strong group use their own money to buy these items to donate. This is unfortunately not a sustainable system and they can only do this a few times a year. To overcome this, the organisation are currently trying to expand through having already brought and learnt to operate machines that allow them to make sanitary pads out of banana leaves, water and scrap paper. Incredible!



The supporters of Women's Soroptimist Masaka holding the sanitary pads, bought for the female prisoners

But they need your fundraising money to get this project off the ground. What they need is an initial injection of funds to buy raw materials, market the excess goods they make for sale and also to fund the next item of machinery that will enable them to make nappies as well. All this at a cost of just £2,300.

This project is hugely sustainable, as the profits that will be made from selling the excess stock, will pay for the raw materials used for the stock for the women in prison.

SEPTEMBER '16 PROJECT UPDATE

Women's Soroptimists are raring to go! They are readily building up for their busiest time, the beginning of the school term. It is at this point that they sell most of their sustainably made sanitary pads. They sell them at a subsidised price to vulnerable young women about to embark on another 3 months of education before the next holiday.

They have 30 new banana stems already at their small factory just outside Masaka town. The soft banana fibres will be extracted and dried before being disinfected. It is then a task of weighing sealing and packing the fibres into the hand cut material used for the pads. This will allow Womens Soroptimists to have 3,000 pads ready for sale on the 19th September when the school term starts again.





With each pack of 7 pads being sold at 2,500 ugx this will give vital income to their program that gives dignity and hygiene to young women across Masaka.

Availability of affordable sanitary pads will see most girls from poor families stay in school! Thanks for the support towards Women's Soroptimists

We have also been helping WS to market their pads to a wider audience and, since the marathon, a New Vision reporter has visited their modest factory and written an article highlighting the great work they do. The article is set to come out in the next few weeks in the most widely read paper in Uganda.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!