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for sustainable development

Founding Partners



 **GENDER
EQUALITY
WINNER 2015**

Days for Girls Uganda empowers girls and women around menstrual hygiene. Partnering with local community groups, the enterprise provides training for women to produce and distribute washable menstrual hygiene kits and soaps, while supporting with business training, reproductive health education, and community awareness.



Days for Girls, Uganda

BUSINESS MODEL

The enterprise partners with local organisations to train women in producing and distributing soap and menstrual hygiene kits. The innovative design of the kits uses locally sourced materials that can last for up to three years, can be washed with little water, and fold out to look like handkerchiefs when drying.

After training, members of the partner organisations become ambassadors for women's health and hygiene services, providing both products and vital health knowledge at the community level.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS:

Location	Rural Uganda
Year founded	2013
Sector	Waste & Sanitation
Product/Service	Menstrual hygiene kits

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Social impacts:

- Reducing the estimated 50 % of girls who miss school due to their menses.
- Empowering women and girls to take control of their bodies and initiating broader dialogue to eliminate stigma and shame.
- Providing accessible childcare facilities to workers, encouraging mothers to join the enterprise.

Environmental impacts:

- Reducing environmental impact of importing raw materials by sourcing locally available materials.
- Reducing the number of disposable pads entering landfill, as kits last for up to three years.
- Lessening the amount of water needed to clean pads compared to competing products.

Economic impacts:

- Establishing a new value chain based on local raw materials.
- Increasing overall productivity by empowering women through improved access to education and workforce, additional income and training on savings schemes.

” In 2014, Days for Girls trained 16 organisations in the region, enabling the distribution of more than 38,000 hygiene kits to women and girls.

Scaling up activities:

- Expand trainings to participants from neighbouring countries at the Days for Girls University in Kampala, a newly established facility with accommodation and training space.
- Develop a mapping application to track where kits have been distributed and determine which locations are still in need of hygiene solutions.
- Further develop online reporting tools and supplemental business resource packs for partner organisations.
- Work as part of a committee towards establishing a Uganda Bureau of Standards national standard for washable pads.



Partnership

• **Days for Girls Uganda** is a local NGO providing women in Uganda with access to health education as well as feminine hygiene products.

• **Days for Girls International** developed and patented the menstrual hygiene kits, and provides umbrella support to affiliate enterprises.

• **Days for Girls USA** has generated 50% of the enterprise's operational budget with funds raised from small foundations, individuals, and awards.

• **SNV Netherlands Development Organisation** collaborates with the enterprise on several training projects and supports with monitoring and evaluation.

• **National Menstrual Hygiene Management Steering Committee** is a coalition of stakeholders advocating for the inclusion of menstrual hygiene at the national and policy level.

” The “Girls in Control” training of trainer programs have reached 212 women's groups and 4,800 students.



The 2015 SEED Gender Equality Award is supported by the international law firm, Hogan Lovells and adelphi, an independent think tank and policy consultancy.

About SEED

SEED identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental enterprises around the globe, enterprises who while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these enterprises with know-how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making. For more information please write to info@seed.uno or visit:

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