

STADA NEWS

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CRIF ENGAGES STADA YOUNG MUMS

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TOP NEWS



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CRIF aims at stimulating and transforming the global children's rights field by building power with children and youth activists and their allies.



MHM DAY AT WAGAI SECONDARY

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SAVE OUR WATER!

Learning to use only the amount required and preserving water is the only way to save it for our generations and the generations to come.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

This is an invitation to the STADA Newsletter, herein, we share with you our day to day activities and some of the strides we have made in the second quarter of this year.

I wish to commend every department that has been working tirelessly to make the organization create an impact in the community.

In this publication I have highlighted some of the work they have and continue to do.

To our donors and partners, we are truly grateful for the trust you have bestowed upon us. We particularly thank you for buying into our dream of creating a better world for girls and women.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.



Vivian Onyango

Project Officer Gender Department /Managing Editor
(For and on behalf of the Communication
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PATRICIA NUDI ORAWO

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FROM WHERE I STAND

Growing up in the village and schooling in town exposed me to two worlds. My young mind couldn't comprehend how one part of my world looked very different from the other. I schooled with people who had more than enough and came home to a community where a huge percentage couldn't afford the basics. I was specifically drawn to the plight of girls and young women. As a young girl I knew something had to be done. I knew I had to do something.

In campus I started sanitary towels drive and sponsored a bunch of children through primary school. This went on for a decade before I birthed STADA. It was important that I brought it to the community I grew up in.

Seeing the impact of our programs is more than humbling, yet I know that we have a long way to go. Incredibly grateful to all our partners especially Lifewater Canada for believing in us. Special thanks to Children's Rights Innovation Fund (CRIF), Primary Health Care Performance Initiative (PHCPI), Western Kenya Sanitation Project and County Government of Kisumu.

The future looks bright and we cannot wait to transform more lives and impact more communities.

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The Director, Terry and Opiyo having a good time during the of International Women's Day 2023 Celebrations.

CRIF ENGAGES YOUNG MOTHERS

By Vivian Onyango

FOLLOWING THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAD

STADA Kenya has remained committed to creating an environment for girls and women to thrive economically, socially and psychologically for the sake of their children and the society. This is why we have created a safe space for young mothers to explore and innovate even as they get impacted through our survivor-centered programs.

It is for this reason that Children's Rights Innovation Fund (CRIF) took a keen interest in our young mothers group to work together with them in driving positive and impactful change in society. CRIF's main goal is to stimulate and transform the global children's rights field by building power with children and youth activists and their allies.

CRIF and STADA acknowledges that there are too few resources available for the critical work that children and young people are doing to advance their human rights. While funding is available to child protection programs with children and young people as beneficiaries, very little funding is available for the projects they need to advance their own protection and well-being.

In April, CRIF paid STADA a courtesy visit. During this visit the young mothers participated in a three-day story telling and empowerment sessions that informed CRIF of the root causes of child vulnerability in families, school and the community in Nyando and Kisumu county.

From these findings, CRIF will be able to cultivate innovation and collaboration to dismantle the root causes of children's vulnerability and strengthen the root drivers of their well-being by focusing on children's power and the youth-led organizing and movement building that are required to make children's rights real.

KEEP IT HERE FOR AN UPDATE ON THIS DEVELOPING STORY!



MHM DAY AT WAGAI SECONDARY

NORMALIZING MENSTRUATION

By Vivian Onyango

On May 27, STADA Kenya in collaboration with Boka Haven, Tunza CBO, Bishop Wasonga Foundation and Agape Counseling and Training Services commemorated Menstrual Hygiene Day at Wagai Secondary School, Siaya County. Menstrual Hygiene Day is an annual awareness day celebrated on May 28 to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene management globally. The day aims to advocate for the integration of menstrual hygiene management into global, national and local policies and programs.

We have discovered that the infection and discomfort caused by poor hygiene during periods affect the health and dignity of women and girls hence affecting the attendance and concentration levels in school.

According to a research carried out by the Kenyan Ministry of Education, girls in marginalized communities miss an average of four days of school monthly, this translates to six weeks of the Kenyan academic year, during this period, their male counterparts continue with their studies uninterrupted.

In developing countries where clean water and toilets are often inadequate, access to menstrual hygiene has proven to be a serious challenge. The access to materials such as sanitary towels in such countries is still limited by the cost, availability, and cultural norms. Cultural norms have a far-reaching effect even on the access to information and education for women and girls on the importance of menstrual hygiene management.

On this day STADA Kenya joined the world in pledging their allegiance to the commitment to make periods a normal phenomenon by 2030. During the event the girls and boys were taken through sensitization sessions which covered areas including; Water and Sanitation Hygiene, ending period poverty and stigma, Gender-based violence and the role of men in ending period stigma and making period sanitation materials available for women and girls. STADA also took the time to distribute reusable sanitary towels, which have a rising uptake among women and girls, as well as disposable sanitary towels.

In her remarks, Patricia Orawo, Director STADA said, "it's a shame that we are still talking about the inaccessibility of period management commodities in the 21st Century." She added that it is for this reason that STADA is committed to bringing to an end the plight of women and girls during periods for the sake of their dignity in the society.



STADA ATTENDS TAMU AND NYANDO CUC WORKSHOP

By Vivian Onyango

One of present day's most common human rights violations is sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It is a global epidemic with far-reaching implications on countries, communities, families, perpetrators and survivors.

A multi-sectoral strategy and comprehensive effort is needed to prevent and address SGBV, ensuring that victims receive help and that offenders are brought to justice as a result of coordinated efforts across many sectors. The Court Users Committees (CUCs) have been the most successful in fostering collaborations between the many justice system stakeholders, improving coordination using a multi-sectoral approach (MSA).



Nyando CUC members pose for a photo after the workshop

The workshop was meant to bring together all the actors in the justice system. The sessions focused on enhancing participants' understanding of the legal framework surrounding SGBV, exploring the barriers of access to justice for survivors of SGBV and identify strategies to address them, provide a forum for participants to share experiences, challenges, and good practices with regard to the implementation of GBV laws and strengthening the execution of roles and mandates by the actors towards ensuring accountability when addressing SGBV in Kisumu County.



CUC members during the workshop

As members of the Nyando Sub county Court Users Committee (CUC), STADA Kenya was invited to a three-day, 17th, 18th, and 19th, training for Tamu and Nyando CUCs organized by Equality Now, Kisumu Medical and Education Trust (KMET) and the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ). The training brought together both state and non-state actors with the aim to foster Multi-sectorial Approach which has proven to be most effective in making issues of women's rights a national priority.

By the end of the workshop, the members collectively agreed that the County needs to do more in terms of protecting the victims and perpetrators of SGBV, it was also noted with great concern that the county has only one safe house for survivors which is detrimental to the healing journey of the survivors. They also called upon the county to fast track the implementation of the commitments made in the Kisumu County policy on SGBV and called upon the Judicial Service Commission to put up SGBV and Children courts so that the journey to justice is short and bearable to the survivors.

REUSABLE SANITARY TOWEL PRODUCTION

OUR IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

By Vivian Onyango, Christine Were, Vera Atieno & Lydia Otieno



A sample of STADA reusable sanitary towel.

STADA Kenya has continued to work towards the implementation of the National and Global Menstrual Health Management Policy that aims towards a future where women and girls have unrestrained access to free, hygienic, and dignified stigma-free access to MHM information, menstrual products, services and facilities as well as safe disposal of menstrual waste by instituting a reusable sanitary towels production center that produces up to 2400 sanitary towels monthly.

Since inception, STADA has distributed a record of 6200 reusable sanitary towels to school-going girls.

N/B: The presentation below sampled 600 women

WASTE REDUCTION

If the average length of a woman's cycle is 5 days, she is likely to use 20 pads per month, which is 240 pads.

240 pads in 1 year translates to 144,000 pads for 600 women

One used disposable sanitary towel weighs approximately 15grams.

144,000 pads * 15 grams = 2,160,000 grams of waste is produced by 600 women in a year, that is 2.160 tonnes of waste!

Multiplied by the 6200 sanitary towels we have distributed, we have hit the 22.32 tonnes in waste reduction.

POCKET FRIENDLY

1 packet of pad costs about 60 Kenyan shillings; 1 packet has 8 pieces; women need 2 and a half packets per month totaling to 150 per month, in 12 every woman spends up to Ksh. 1800.

Ksh. 1800 times 600 women is 1,080,000 shillings

Our reusable pad costs ksh. 600 shillings distributed to 600 women brings the total to Ksh. 360,000.

Ksh. 720,000 saved!

7.44 million saved by 6200 girls!

WASH REPORTS

'SAVE OUR WATER'

By Vivian Onyango

Water is one of the essential resources required for the existence of all living beings on planet Earth. It is unfortunate that for some parts of Kenya this common and precious resource is not common. Learning to use only what is required and preserving it is the only way to save water for our generations and the generations to come.

Our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) department ensures easy access to water, hygiene and proper sanitation in the community.

The department has done extensive work in Kisumu county and has also extended its services to Kitui County-Mwingi constituency. Activities in the department include but are not limited to Borehole drilling, pump repair, rehabilitation, and construction of toilets and hand washing facilities.

Besides, the department also offers sanitation and hygiene talks as well as collaborate with the Health Department in distribution of reusable sanitary towels to the young women and girls in the community and the surrounding schools.

Below is an illustration of how much impact we've been able to create in the community:

Drilling	Repair/Rehabilitation	Health & Hygiene Talks
16+	149+	2000+

