



ETHIOPIAN GIRLS GRADUATE COLLEGE

2016 News Letter

A Sustainable, Economical, Environmentally Friendly Project Keeps Ethiopian Girls in school.



Ethiopian School Girls make their own reusable feminine pads at school

Progress

2010 Introduced Project to-

- **Ato Balcha Berhanu Midwifery Professor Addis Ababa University & his students.**
- **Taught Six school Administrators in Mekelle & 206 students & 75 HEV/.**
- **Dr. Zerihun Dean of Mekelle University & the midwifery students supported the project.**
- **2011 Took the project to new Schools**
- **2012 Mekelle Workshop**
- **2013 Midwifery Student Collaboration**
- **2014 Bahir Dar Uni. Workshop**
- **2015 Fifth Anniversary Yekati School**
- **2016 Workshops Gonder, Bahir Dar, Addis Ababa**

Partnerships

Tigray Midwifery Association	1
Health and Wholeness	2
Int'l Fund for Africa	3
Bahir Dar University	4
Addis Ababa University-Professor, Balcha Berhanu & Science teacher Elsa Hailemariam teach students. In Addis Ababa	5
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Training Session in Addis Ababa

In 2010 Ethiopian girls were missing 3—5 days of education per month due to lack of adequate menstrual supplies.

By 2012 **NOT ONE** girl in-Mekelle schools reported missing school due to menses.

School Administrators not only embraced the project of teaching girls how to make their own reusable pads, they also made it possible for girls who had been trained to teach their peers in nearby schools.

Homeroom teachers kept pads available for emergencies. Privacy, tissue, soap & water are being made available in schools. Male teachers are educated to recognize symptoms of menstruation and to

the girls to their homeroom teachers.

Health Extension Workers, Mekelle Midwifery Association have taught thousands of school girls in Tigray Region how to make their own reusable, feminine pads from Ethiopia cotton and best menstrual practices.

As time passes the girls graduate from high school and continue to college, taking with them their empowering skills. Many colleges support the project through the Gender Affairs Office—assigning a work/education room & latrine managers.



Bahir Dar Interactive Workshop January 9, 2016

Alehubal Alemaw, Founder & Director of HAWE of a local NGO that supports orphaned and displaced children organized a full day interactive workshop at his training center. It was attended by teachers, students & Nursing Professors.

G2W has been working collaboratively with HAWE since 2014. Student groups developed plans to improve menstrual hygiene in their schools.

Each student successfully completed a pad and panty set to take home.

A certificate of attendance with a pledge to teach others was presented to the students.

Girls2Women supported the workshop financially, which included refreshments, lunch, water, transportation fee and all materials.



Columbia Students Roma & Andrea work with Eden Amsalu, Pediatric Nursing Lecturer at Bahir Dar University.,

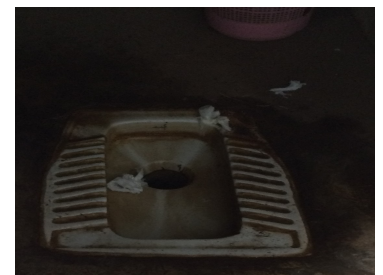
The power of making feminine pads



Train the Trainer workshop in collaboration with International Fund for Africa [IFA]. Sixty teachers attended this training workshop. IFA will support the training in schools for the next 12 months.



Hela Genet IFA & Teachers at the workshop. 2016



Pad, holder and carrier by Yekati School students.

Girls2Women

Att: Mary B. Moran
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New York, N. Y. 10032

Phone:
646-662-9239
E-mail: girls2women@live.com

<http://girls2women.org>

How Donations are used

Material Costs: 1 yard/meter cotton material - \$10
\$12 dollars—makes 16 pads —4 pads/girl.

Commercial pads \$4.00 /pack of 6 one time use.
Needles, thread & scissors \$10 per school'
Repurposing of T shirts & gabs used where available
Foot-pedal sewing machine \$350.00

Girls2Women has been granted **501C3 status**
through the **African Services Committee**,
429 West 127th St
New York, N. y. 10032

Checks payable ASC for Girls2Women.
All donations are used for the program.
Travel & administration costs are from private funds.

Girls2Women grew out of a need to keep Ethiopian girls in school. Studies had shown that girls were missing as many as 5 days per month because they lacked adequate menstrual protection. Keeping girls in school was the problem Dr. GebreAb Barnabas, Health Bureau Chief of Tigray challenged me with when we met in 2009. With the help of Columbia Nursing Students 2009-2010 we developed a product that was culturally sensitive, economical and reusable. The project was launched in 2010 and it has continued to grow exponentially ever since. Donations from wonderful friends like you and my family affords us to support our partners in Ethiopia.

Our mission is that every Ethiopian girl will know how to make her own feminine pads and underwear by 2017. School attendance, menstruation management and sanitary latrines are a major part of the program.



Columbia students Kripa, Sylvia & Kinikia worked with student at Maylaham school Here they proudly displays there completed pads.



Hana Conlon Columbia Student panty design 2013. Well received by the girls in Ethiopia. "It leaves enough material for another pad," the girls report

Students Learn Tailoring in High School



Dr. Gebreab interviews a teacher at the IAF workshop Jan 2016

Kasanet School, Mekelle has shown real progress since our first visit in 2010. Students with their home room teacher's have made a surplus of pads for distribution at school in case of an emergency.

Prior to introducing the project, teachers contributed part of their salary to purchase commercial pads.

In consultation with the school Administrator and teachers the benefit of school sewing machines was explored. Teachers were willing to study tailoring and sewing machine management in their own time. Girls2Women sponsored the training which was provided by a local NGO—Moms for Moms. Upon completion of their studies G2W supplied the school with sewing machines.

As of January 2016 the school has a class of 15 students training to become tailors. They are learning how to make school uniforms, children's clothing and alterations.

Imagine students will graduate from high Reusable baby diapers have really taken off made possible by **Health and Wholeness in Ethiopia**



New latrine for girls at Kassanet School.2016

Many schools in Tigray have hired latrine managers which has improved sanitation & privacy.



GebreAmlack, Gedey President of the Tigray Midwifery Association with his students leads many teaching session throughout Tigray Province Thousands of students have been taught in this way.



Columbia students Kelly, Mary Marni

