



REPORT TO : DINING FOR WOMEN

ORGANIZATION: HURU INTERNATIONAL

PROJECT : DREAMS FOR OUR DAUGHTERS

GRANT AMOUNT: \$32,717.99

DATE : OCTOBER 2012 - July 2013

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Project Overview

Huru International received financial support from Dining for Women to implement a project targeting 2,000 girls in Kenya. The Project Goal and Objectives were as follows:

Project goal: To empower girls through education by reducing rates of drop-out, and to lower their vulnerability to HIV.

Project objectives:

1. Improve school attendance and performance of project beneficiaries over the course of one year.
2. Increase HIV awareness and knowledge among project beneficiaries over the course of one year.
3. Increase the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries accessing external youth-focused services through referrals.

Project Implementation

A) Kits Production

Project implementation started in October 2012 with the production of Huru kits. The process involved: the manufacturing of 16,000 reusable pads; procurement of other components that go into the kit such as: user instructions, girls' pants, bar soap, Ziploc bag as well as Huru backpacks. The pads were produced at the Huru workshop located in Mukuru Kwa Njenga – one of Nairobi's informal settlements; while the other components were procured from various suppliers. The reusable pads and the other kits components were subsequently packaged into 2,000 complete kits ready for distribution. Each kit was bundled in a backpack, and included: eight RSPs; three underwear; detergent-grade soap for washing the pads; a re-sealable waterproof bag for storing used pads; detailed instructions for proper pad use and maintenance; and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials focused on HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health.

B) Information Education, Communication (IEC) Materials

Huru developed and printed 2000, 12 page IEC booklet materials which focused on menstruation and sexual reproductive health, HIV prevention and making decisions. A bookmark was also developed with critical HIV prevention information and a referral hotline number to One2One which is a Youth Hotline number.

DISTRIBUTION EVENTS

Huru worked with the government's Ministry of Education (MoE) to gain access to the beneficiary schools which are public and under their overall management.

The distribution events were planned in the various schools through the YFs. Where the number of beneficiaries in particular schools was low, these were clustered so as to hold one distribution event. Subsequently the Youth facilitators organized with the school administration for a convenient time to conduct the event.

Distribution events are structured as educational seminars. The event has three sessions which are conducted by the Youth Facilitators. During the first session the facilitators conduct a large group training session. During the session girls were introduced to the Huru kit and given a demonstration on how to use the pad. In addition, girls were taken through a session on menstruation. Training on proper use and care of Huru pads was also provided during this session.

The beneficiaries were also given an opportunity to repeat the demonstration on how to use and take proper care of the pads.

During the second sessions, girls were organized into small groups of 25 each, and they were taken through skills for HIV prevention; and training on how to say NO to sex. Each group was led by a group facilitator. Group discussions were guided by the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) booklet that were provided to every beneficiary. Each beneficiary also received 3 bookmarks -- to share 2 with family members and friends.

The various sessions provided age appropriate information on HIV facts and prevention methods, self-esteem, and other life skills lessons.

The third and final part of the distribution event was the handing over of Huru kit to the girls.

Summary Information on Beneficiary Schools

Name of School	Location	Type	Est. School Population	Girls Population	Huru Kits Beneficiaries	Distribution Event Date
Marura	Korogocho, Kariobangi	Primary, Public	1400	730	187	March 19, 2013
Daniel Comboni	Korogocho, Kariobangi	Primary, Public	1920	1010	171	March 20, 2013
Njiru	Njiru, Kasarani	Primary, Public	500	185	51	March 27, 2013
Neema	Njiru,	Primary,	345	155	52	March 27,

	Kasarani	Public				2013
St Dominic	Mwiki, Kasarani	Primary, Public	1,660	835	187	March 22, 2013
Mahiga	Githurai, Kasarani	Primary, Public	1420	690	135	March 14, 2013
Kwangethe	Githurai, Kasarani	Primary, Public	750	370	94	March 14, 2013
Githurai	Githurai, Kasarani	Primary, Public	1440	700	294	March 14, 2013
Roysambu	Githurai, Kasarani	Primary, Public	1570	780	98	April 5, 2013
Valley View	Githurai, Karasani	Primary, Public	580	250	90	April 5, 2013
Kasarani	Kasarani	Primary, Public	1020	520	187	April 3, 2013
Mathare	Mathare	Primary, Public	1350	670	94	March 28, 2013
Kareri	Mathare	Primary, Public	500	200	42	March 28, 2013
Murema	Mathare	Primary, Public	1250	680	122	March 28, 2013
Dr Mwenje	Kariobangi	Secondary, Public	450	210	114	February 21, 2013
Kariobangi North	Kariobangi	Secondary, Public			30	February 21, 2013
Tom Mboya	Kariobangi	Primary, Public	1820	950	141	February 12, 2013

3. What was accomplished in connection with this project? Please address each stated objective. If any project objectives were changed, please also explain the circumstances leading to the modification of the objective(s).

Accomplishments included, improving school attendance, increase HIV awareness and knowledge and to increase the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries accessing external youth focused services through referrals. We did not modify any of our objectives.

4. What challenges did you face in connection with this project? How did you address these challenges?

CHALLENGES

1. The school administrations included in the lists of potential beneficiaries girls who were pre-menarche. This is because schools saw the project as an opportunity to secure Huru kits for all needy girls in the schools. The assessments were carried out to ensure only girls currently needing the kits would get them, hence reducing number of beneficiaries in some schools. As a result, Huru had to schedule more distribution events than initially planned in order to reach the project targets.
2. The beneficiaries wanted more than one kit so that they could take to their sisters and mothers at home.
3. Some schools have inadequate sanitation facilities, which generally cause a challenge for girls during their menses.

Huru has since partnered with organizations involved with installing toilet and sanitation facilities. Huru has returned to some of these schools to increase the number beneficiaries receiving Huru Kits through other donor funding.

5. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant program staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

Huru's organizational staffing and structure remained unchanged.

6. What were the most important lessons learned?

Huru learned of the ongoing popularization of the Huru pad in Kenya as a more sustainable approach to addressing the challenge of school absenteeism among girls from needy backgrounds who miss school due to lack of resources to purchase sanitary pads. Beneficiary schools have referred other schools to Huru and Huru has increased its reach and strengthened its educational programming since completion of the DFW project.

7. What has changed within your organization as a result of this project?

Huru continues to extend its reach and strengthen its programming with each additional grant for supporting educational seminars and distributing Huru Kits, including the Dining for Women grant.

8. Describe the unexpected events and outcomes, including unexpected benefits.

The project was implemented in accordance with expectations.

9. Did you change your strategy as a result of obstacles you encountered? How will you address these challenges in the future?

The Dreams for our Daughters project was within Huru's strategic plan and furthered its purpose of reaching tens of thousands of girls with Huru Kits.

10. Approximately how many lives have been touched, both directly and indirectly, by the program?

Recruitment of Beneficiaries

Through individual assessment, 2,000 girls were found eligible and now benefit from the Huru Kits. The recruitment strategy for the girls included the school administration, guidance and counseling teachers and other teachers who provided lists of potential beneficiaries. Partners who had ongoing programs in various schools also participated in the process of identifying potential beneficiaries.

Assessment of beneficiaries was done by Huru's Youth Facilitators (YFs) who administered an assessment questionnaire to the 2,152 potential beneficiaries identified above. The purpose was to determine their eligibility based on the criteria below.

Eligibility criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Started menstruation• Misses school because of monthly menstruation periods• Cannot afford the sanitary pads available in the market.• Inadequate supply of pads• Willingness to use the reusable sanitary pads

The Field Coordinator reviewed the individual Assessment Forms and came up with a final list of 2,000 eligible girls.

11. What are the measurements used to monitor success and how was this information measured (e.g., surveys, observation)? Be specific and include measurable results.

Summary of Outputs

Objective 1: Improve school attendance and performance of project beneficiaries		
Planned Activities	Outputs (#)	Comments
Manufacture 16,000 reusable sanitary pads	16,000	
Procure components and package 2000 complete Huru Kits	2,000	
# Target schools for Intervention	16	
Identify 2,000 beneficiaries	2000	
# Distribution events Planned	8	
# Distribution events held	8	
Monitoring & Evaluation of Intervention		90% of girls report not missing school due to menstruation
Objective 2: Increase HIV awareness and knowledge among project beneficiaries		
Planned Activities	Outputs	Comments
Develop and Produce # IECs in form of Booklets	2,000	
Provide # IECs to beneficiaries	2,000	
Hold # of HIV prevention session (small groups) with beneficiaries	84	
Monitoring & Evaluation of impact of HIV Messaging on beneficiaries		HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge reinforced among beneficiaries
Objective 3: Increase the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries accessing external youth-focused services through referrals		
Planned Activities	Outputs	Comments
Print # of IEC materials (bookmarks) promoting the one2one youth hotline	6,000	
Distribute # of IEC materials to direct beneficiaries to share with friends	6,000	
Monitor uptake & usage if hotline among direct & Indirect beneficiaries		Increased awareness of hotline among beneficiaries

MONITORING RESULTS

An M&E system was put in place to ensure data capture and analysis for decision making and project reporting. Data collection tools in form of a questionnaire were designed to capture key indicators. A baseline survey was conducted using the M&E tools. All 2,000 girls participated in the baseline survey, while a sample of 400 participated in the endline. Data entry was done and analysed using SPSS

Most girls who received the Huru Kits were in grades 6 to 8 in primary school and grades 9 to 12 in secondary school, aged between 11 years to 15 years. However some girls from lower grades who may have enrolled in school late also received kits based on their ages, status of period and reports of missing days of school.

About 60% of girls reported missing schools during menstruation. This is a significant loss of school each year; roughly 8 weeks, as school terms cover 9 months of the annual year in Kenya.

Endline survey data show that more than 90% of those who received Huru kits regularly report not missing any school days due to menstruation. Following distribution of kits, teachers and head masters, as well as partner organizations made important qualitative observations.

A decrease in rates of routine absenteeism and improved academic performance among project beneficiaries.

Girls reported that the kits had improved their school attendance. They also explained that pads improved their ability to concentrate in school. These results were particularly pronounced in the remotest of the villages.

The students felt motivated by the fact that 'someone is concerned with their lives' and looked forward to improving their education standards.

Increased knowledge on menstruation and self-esteem among beneficiaries.

The inaccessibility of menstrual products resulted in embarrassment, worry and shame when girls and young women stained their clothes. The school girls who attended the distribution described menstruation as a time of anxiety and discomfort especially at school, leading to low concentration in class.

Teachers and communities recognize that beneficiaries of Huru Kits display higher confidence and better participation in a range of everyday activities while menstruating. Negative experiences related to soiling and embarrassment declined, and measures of well being improved. The girls have also reported a strong preference for the pads over traditional methods, primarily due to their greater effectiveness in protecting against accidental soiling and reduced odor.

Increased beneficiary knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention.

The educational sessions reinforced knowledge on HIV/AIDS/STI and sex and sexuality education among the school going girls.

12. If the program is ongoing, provide plans and expected results, including projected timeframe.

The project is complete.

13. Provide a detailed list of all expenses incurred during the grant cycle which have been paid for with the Dining for Women grant.

See attached Financial Report.

14. Did this grant and relationship with DFW assist your organization in obtaining other funding, partnerships with other organizations, or public recognition in some capacity?

PARTNERSHIPS AND REFERRALS

Partnerships were developed in all the areas that distribution events took place and this made it possible for a smooth implementation of the project in the mapped areas and this also provided base for referrals.

During the implementation period Huru partnered with Liverpool VCT, care and treatment the purpose for the partnership was for LVCT to offer care treatment to beneficiaries through the toll free one2one hotline. The hotline provided basic counseling and referrals. In each Huru kit it included a supplemental IEC bookmark in triplicate. Each beneficiary was encouraged to keep one bookmark and give the other two to their friends; the bookmark contained critical HIV prevention facts and details of and contact information for the one2one hotline. This enabled the project to reach 4,000 indirect beneficiaries in addition to the targeted 2,000 direct beneficiaries.

Teachers at the various schools were also supportive and instrumental in identifying youth friendly centers that provide HIV counseling and testing services to youths for free.