

FEMALE HEALTH & HYGIENE ACCELERATOR

KENYA, UGANDA & GHANA

2024/25



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impact



Catalysing Sustainable Business Models in the Female Health & Hygiene Sector. Together.



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global care



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OPERO



WASEU
Businesses For Sustainable World



MDF



THE TECHNICAL PARTNERS



Cewas

Cewas is the world's first dedicated, impact-oriented WASH entrepreneurship support organisation. Since 2010, Cewas has worked with 400+ entrepreneurs all over the globe scaling their business models, growing their impact-potential and enhancing their investment-readiness. The supported enterprises have reached more 4.7 Million beneficiaries.

www.cewas.org



WASEU

Established in 2015, WASEU limited is a Ugandan non-profit business association committed to incubating and accelerating WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and climate-resilient enterprises in Uganda. WASEU primarily supports entrepreneurs in planning, building, and sustaining their businesses while advocating for an enabling entrepreneurial environment.

www.waseu.org



OPERO

OPERO Services Ltd is a Kenyan based business development and engineering firm specialized in practical and sustainable solutions for human and solid waste management. OPERO uses innovative thinking, technical expertise and years of experience working in Kenya and other countries from the region.

www.opero-services.com

THE TECHNICAL PARTNERS



seecon impact

seecon impact develop, support, and manage innovative projects on sustainable development worldwide. Their tailor-made approaches allow them to guide partners on the journey of developing impactful solutions to reach their objectives.

www.seecon-impact.de



MDF

MDF consists of a diverse team of professionals with complementary expertise. That's what has turned them into an industry leader, and a strong force in working toward positive change for a better world. MDF has over 39 years of experience in providing learning trajectories, advisory guidance, facilitation, evaluations, enterprise development, and partnership services worldwide.

www.mdf.nl



IIEA

Irise Institute East Africa (IIEA) has significantly impacted East Africa by promoting menstrual health, providing essential education, and advocating for gender equality. They've empowered women through economic training, influenced policy changes, and expanded our reach to underserved communities, ensuring women and girls have access to vital resources and opportunities.

www.iriseinstituteeastfrica.org

FEMALE HEALTH & HYGIENE ACCELERATOR 2024/2025

First of its kind, tailored for sustainable, women-focused impact businesses, this program combines proven acceleration methods with innovative formats. It helps develop financing strategies, expand client bases, enhance value propositions, and secure investments to scale operations through investment readiness benchmarking, technical support, matchmaking, and networking across the continent.

10 enterprises. 12-months acceleration.



KENYA

- Inteco Kenya
- Empower Her
- A Pack a Month



UGANDA

- Smart Girls Foundation Uganda
- Esonga Menstrual Care
- Chil Femtech Center
- Mapalo Investments Limited
- Wabibi Pads



GHANA

- Eco-Me Africa
- Kodu Technology



KENYA



INTECO KENYA

Inteco introduces its flagship product, **Ari - The Pad ATM**, a groundbreaking fem-tech innovation aimed at transforming how organisations approach sanitary pad distribution and adoption. Ari expands access by strategically placing Pad ATMs at points of need, ensuring that women have easier access to sanitary products. Beyond distribution, Ari offers a comprehensive management and tracking platform that captures real-time data on pad usage. This automated system enables organisations to optimise their distribution strategies, ensuring that resources are efficiently allocated and reach those who need them most. Through Ari, Inteco is **driving meaningful change in menstrual health management across communities.**

Impact so far: **7 schools, 1500 students onboarded, 80% active users, Dispensing over 5,000 pads monthly**



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KENYA



EMPOWER HER

Dedicated to advancing menstrual health through the manufacturing of sustainable period products, menstrual health education, and technology. Their innovative **Digital Menstrual Health Wallet**, known as **Dignify**, is the first of its kind globally, allowing women and girls to access menstrual health products via a "Save Now, Pay Later" mechanism. This enables hassle-free acquisition of products through payment-enabled bracelets and cards, allowing registered users to make flexible payments from as little as 5 KSh. Their product portfolio includes reusable and disposable sanitary pads, menstrual cups, tampons, and period panties. The digital wallet enhances purchasing power for menstrual health products within low-income communities, with prices slightly lower than market rates. Over the next 2 years, Empower HER aims to support 100,000 menstruators in accessing period products through the Dignify wallet.

Impact so far: **12,073 period products sold**



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KENYA



A PACK A MONTH (APAM)

A community-based organisation dedicated to **providing at least one pack of sanitary towels to vulnerable adolescent girls and young women**. APAM aims to end sexual and gender-based violence by supplying menstrual hygiene products while promoting economic empowerment and skill development. The organisation focuses on **gender equity, climate change mitigation, community dialogues, and policy advocacy**. APAM also offers empowerment opportunities through forums that educate girls on menstrual health and sexuality, run anti-FGM campaigns, rescue GBV victims, and provide career development and mentorship programs, as well as sports empowerment and exposure trips. Their mission is to create an informed society that promotes and protects the human rights and sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) of adolescent girls and young women, aligning with the SDGs 5, 10, 13, and 17.

Impact so far: **40,000 sanitary pads distributed within schools, 800 Girls supported monthly.**



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UGANDA



SMART GIRLS FOUNDATION UGANDA

Smart Girls Foundation Uganda has developed the **Recycled Smart Solar Bag**, a durable backpack made from recycled plastic and vibrant African fabric, tailored to **address the educational and menstrual needs of schoolgirls**. Each bag is equipped with reusable sanitary pads, a sewing kit, a menstrual health booklet, and a solar panel with an LED light, providing girls with the necessary tools to manage their menstrual health confidently. By merging practicality with education, the bag empowers young girls to overcome obstacles to both education and hygiene.

Over the past five years, Smart Girls Foundation has refined its operations and product prototypes through strategic partnerships, expanding its impact. The organisation aims to reach one million girls by mid-next year, offering crucial resources to help them navigate menstrual challenges and reach their full potential.



Impact so far: **12,000 primary and secondary school girls supported**



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UGANDA



ESONGA MENSTRUAL CARE

A social enterprise transforming **menstrual hygiene management in Eastern Uganda**. Founded in 2022, empowering women and girls by providing high-quality, **eco-friendly menstrual products and essential education on menstrual health**. Through community-based trainers, local menstrual entrepreneurs, and strategically placed hygiene kiosks, Esonga ensures access to crucial menstrual products while promoting dignity and awareness.

Their product range includes organic cotton sanitary pads, menstrual cups, tampons, reusable products, and educational workshops that equip women and girls with vital menstrual management skills. Committed to sustainability and social responsibility, Esonga actively challenges menstrual stigma, fosters community dialogue, and advocates for improved menstrual hygiene policies.

Esonga aims to expand its reach and offerings, continuing to reshape menstrual hygiene management and create a more inclusive environment for all women and girls in Uganda.

Impact so far: **1040 women and girls reached and supported through MHM trainings.**



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UGANDA

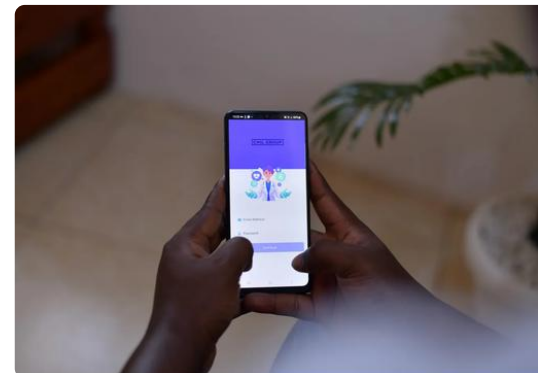


CHIL FEMTECH CENTER

Chil Femtech Center is an **AI-driven telemedicine company** that operates a unique **Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) E-Hygiene Marketplace**. Designed for schools using our telemedicine services, this platform ensures that students receive all essential hygiene products at the start of each term, with payments conveniently made by parents at the term's end. This innovative approach not only enhances hygiene management in schools but also makes it accessible and affordable for families.

Sanitary Pads: Engineered for comfort and reliability, providing adolescent girls with confidence and peace of mind.

Hygiene Essentials: A variety of essential items such as soaps, hand sanitisers, and personal care products that promote cleanliness and well-being.



CHIL GROUP

Impact so far: **15,100 girls served from 59 schools.**



Lumbasi Edrine



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MAPALO INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Mapalo Investments SMC Limited is a pioneering company focused on **empowering women with innovative menstrual and maternity care solutions**. Their flagship product, **Mapalo Pants**, uniquely combines the comfort of underwear with the protection of a sanitary pad, offering a practical and revolutionary approach to feminine hygiene in Africa. Their mission is to transform feminine hygiene across the continent by providing eco-friendly, comfortable, and effective products that meet the diverse needs of women at different life stages, from young girls to elderly women and neonates. With their 2-in-1 design, they hold a competitive edge in the Ugandan market, offering a product that no conventional pad manufacturer currently provides. Mapalo Investments is dedicated to becoming the leading manufacturer of eco-friendly feminine hygiene products in Africa, ensuring that women have access to reliable and innovative care.

Impact so far: **150,000 women and girls benefiting from Mapalo's products**



Honest Fortunate Kansiime



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Mapalo
PADS



UGANDA



WABIBI PADS LIMITED

Wabibi Pads Limited is a social enterprise dedicated to producing **affordable, eco-friendly sanitary pads for women and girls in underserved communities, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa**. Their flagship product, the **Wabibi Pad**, is a high-quality, reusable cotton fleece/flannel pad that provides a sustainable solution for menstrual hygiene. Since 2020, Wabibi Pads has targeted women, schools, NGOs, and community organizations.

The enterprise distinguishes itself through its commitment to environmental sustainability and women's empowerment, providing both essential products and training local women in pad production, thus creating economic opportunities. Future goals include expanding operations throughout Uganda and East Africa, raising awareness about menstrual hygiene management, and continuing to innovate with eco-friendly products.

Impact so far: **Provided eco-friendly, reusable pads to +50,000 users. Empowered +4,000 individuals with vital knowledge and skills about menstrual hygiene management (MHM) training. Trained 250 women who are now producing the pads and creating sustainable livelihoods. 50 schools received pads & MHM education**



Wabibi
Pads | Comfortable
Washable
& Sustainable



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GHANA



ECO-ME AFRICA

A social impact organisation **empowering disadvantaged women to produce and sell eco-friendly menstrual products**. Since 2019, their flagship **EcoPeriod reusable menstrual pads**, made from sustainable organic materials, have been improving menstrual health while reducing plastic waste. Distributed alongside Menstrual and Reproductive Health Education, targeting low-income women and girls in schools, hospitals, orphanages, and refugee camps.

Through the EcoPeriod Diva initiative, local women serve as franchisees, extending reach to remote areas. Their model integrates social impact and environmental sustainability, providing rural women with training and employment opportunities, fostering financial independence, and contributing to community development. Moving forward, they aim to expand partnerships with corporates, NGOs, and development agencies to scale reach and align with the UN SDGs, promoting gender equality and sustainable development across Africa.

Impact so far: **+32,000 people provided with menstrual products, health education, & reducing period plastic waste.**

Empowered 25,000+ women & girls with access to reusable pads and supported 100+ schools in breaking menstrual stigma.



EcoPeriod
Reusable Sanitary Pad



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GHANA



KODU TECHNOLOGY

Ghana-based Kodu Technology is pioneering a **sustainable approach to menstrual hygiene with banana sanitary pads made from plantain and banana fibers**. Kodu aims to end period poverty in Ghana by providing affordable, environmentally responsible menstrual care to women, especially those in financially challenged situations. Their innovative pads not only address menstrual health needs but also support environmental sustainability by utilising local resources. Kodu Technology is committed to improving menstrual wellbeing while promoting social and environmental responsibility through our cutting-edge, eco-friendly products.



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PATH TO GROWTH

Program Kick-off
12 August 2024

Enterprise Diagnostics
25 Aug – 27 Sep 2024

Acceleration Bootcamp
30 Sep – 06 Oct 2024

Transformation Project
November 2024 onwards

Technical Assistance
January 2025 onwards

Financial Modelling
February 2025 onwards

Investment Case Bootcamp
10 - 14 Feb 2025

Investor Matchmaking
April 2025 onwards

Continuous Follow-up Support
Ongoing

Program Closure
August 2025



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