



**ONE GIRL SIERRA LEONE  
LAUNCH PAD PROJECT  
Report on Client's Feedback  
March 2011**

**1. Introduction:** Following a research done on the management of women's monthly menstrual Periods in the *Northern area* of Sierra Leone, a pilot project called Launch Pad was started. The key findings of the research were that women in the afore-mentioned area used pieces or cloth which were washed and re-used in a non hygienic manner. Also the pieces or cloth caused blisters, scabies and other skin diseases. In addition the cloths were very uncomfortable, reduced privacy and as such affected the dignity of women who used the cloths.

Before the pilot project was started, discussions of the concept were held with key stakeholders including UNICEF, Marie Stopes and the First Lady's Office. The main objective of the project is to introduce the use of eco-friendly sanitary pads instead of the pieces or cloth with the view to reducing infections and creating more comfort, ease and dignity during the period of menstruation.

A team comprising the Country Director and a Volunteer did the field trip to the *Northern Sierra Leone* from March 28 through 31, 2011 to get feed backs on the use of the pads which were sold to women when the project was tried in January 2011. A set of 11 questions were used during the feedback exercise.

The project has a total of 147 women including 5 school girls drawn from 5 communities as follows: *Community One* 20; *Community Two* 20; *Community Three* 27; *Community Four* 20 and *Community Five* 60. For the feed back exercise, a total of 100 women were randomly selected as follows: *Community One* 18; *Community Two* 15; *Community Three* 20; *Community Four* 12 and *Community Five* 35

In each community, respondents were briefed on the objectives of the exercise before the interviews started,

**2. Findings:**

**Question 1. *What did you like about the pads?*** All **100** said they like the pads and gave the following reasons:

- Easy to use
- Disposable, no washing
- Much more private
- Soft and comfortable

**Question 2: *What did you not like about the pads?*** All **100** respondents said there was nothing they did not like.

# ONE GIRL

**Question 3:** *Were 8 pads enough for your cycle?* 93 said yes and 7 said No. Those who said No, said they changed up to 3 times daily for up to 7 days.

**Question 4:** *Were the pads more comfortable than what you used previously?* All 100 said yes

- No leakage, thus dignified
- Easy movement

**Question 5:** *Were the pads as absorbent as the cloth you –previously used?* All said the pads were more absorbent

**Question 6:** *Did you have any skin problems with the pads?* All said No.

- No bruises like the cloth
- No itching
- Did not feel like they had anything on.

**Question 7:** *Will you pay Le 3,000 for a pack of 8 pads in future?* 95 said yes while 5 said No.

The five asked that the price be reduced to Le 2, 500

**Question 8:** *Will you pay Le 800 for a pack of 2?* 6 out of 100 women said Yes

**Question 9:** *Did you have any embarrassing moments using the pad?* All 100 women said No.

**Question 10:** *Did you feel comfortable wearing the pad to school?* All 5 school girls on the project answered Yes.

- Quite portable in school bags.

**Question 11:** *Any other feedback?* The following were given:

- Used pads are now properly disposed off and no enemy can use them to harm us (traditional beliefs). Menstrual blood by tradition is said to be very potent in rituals to harm the owner.
- Majority requested for the training of women on how to make the pads.
- Knowledge gained will be passed on to their daughters.
- Looking forward to the social marketing aspect of the pads.

**3. Recommendations:** The clients and even other women in the beneficiary communities felt very pleased and excited over the use of the pads. It was clearly observed from their smiles all through the feedback sessions. The Program should sustain this momentum by maintaining the supplies and also move the project to other communities that have heard about the trial and are interested in been a part of Launch Pad.