

**“Education of 90 girls on Menstrual Health Management through arts in 3 primary schools and challenging MHM stigma and discrimination with their parents, teachers and other community stakeholders in West Cameroon”**

September 2018

Objective: *The objective of this project is to use arts (drawing, poetry and music) to help 90 preadolescent girls from a conservative tribe in 3 primary schools gain basic knowledge on MHM, SRHR and address the stigma and taboos surrounding those topics in their community through an advocacy campaign towards their parents, teachers and other community stakeholders*

Strategy

The project will be implemented in Bafoussam, a small town where we have people from the “Bamileke” tribe in West Cameroon, a very conservative tribe. Menstruation and sex are taboo subjects. From our experience of over 16 years of work with girls, 4 girls out of 5 have never heard about menstruation when they have their first menses. First menses surprise them; they are ashamed, feel that something is wrong when they see blood for the 1st time. It’s a humiliating experience, they don’t know what to do/what to use. Some use dirty papers, old rags. The project is needed to provide information about MHM and SRHR to girls (8-13years), engage their parents, teachers and other community members to break the stigma around menstruation.

Activities

The creation of 3 safe discussions spaces in 3 schools (the girls clubs) where we will use arts to share information and encourage peer to peer discussions among 90 preadolescent girls on MHM during 6 months. Girls will be able to increase their knowledge and confidence on sexuality, a subject considered taboo in their community. Working with schools, teachers, parents and local government stakeholders on the education of girls on MHM will also build grounded knowledge for a change of behaviors to strengthen their contributions to gender equality and advance girls rights. The activities will be as follow:

- Form 3 clubs/3 schools to educate 90 girls on MHM through arts during 6 months. We will facilitate 36 sessions with girls and we will use dance, poems and drawings to pass information on MHM to encourage peer to peer discussions and support girls decision making on SRHR and MHM.
- Advocate at the level of key local stakeholders to engage discussions that can challenge the stigma attached to MHM and discrimination: organize 6 meetings with the 3 Parents Teachers Associations (1 quarterly meeting - 2 meeting in each school). A part from the parents (about 400 parents are members of the PTA in the 3 schools), and 39 teachers in the 3 schools, we will invite 10 stakeholders to the meetings: 3 nurses and 1 medical doctor, 6 government officials from the Ministry of Women’s empowerment & the family (2), Ministry of Basic Education (2) and the Ministry of Health (2). We will provide secretarial support and follow-up to ensure that resolutions taken during meetings are implemented.

Project Outputs

- 3 clubs of girls created and functional in 3 schools with an enrollment of at least 90 girls (aged 8-13 years) who have comprehensive information about MHM and discuss it openly with their peers in school and at home after 9 months.
- 6 PTA meetings facilitated in 3 schools with 39 teachers, 450 parents and 10 local government officials invited.
- 39 teachers & 10 local government officials are aware of challenges girls face during menstruation and facilitate MHM amongst female students in a safe and dignified manner. There is an evidence of commitment at government and school authorities’ level; they publicly endorse the MHM campaign through intervening in some local radio/TV programs.

Budget Summary

The African Youth Alliance requests a total contribution of US \$ 2,264 as follows:

<b>BUDGET SUMMARY (US\$)</b>	
Establishment of girls clubs	\$157
36 lessons and group discussions on MHM through arts activities with 90 girls in 3 schools	\$ 1,064
6 advocacy and PTA meetings in 3 schools with parents and other stakeholders	\$ 678
Communications and Materials	\$ 365
<b>TOTAL (request to this funder)</b>	<b>\$ 2,264</b>