

IAW Newsletter Nov. 2019
Water and Pads Project

Two events in October 2019

A. Girl's School in Pakistan

By Ruhi Sajid, President of APWA Punjab Pakistan



Girl's School in Pakistan

"I am sharing the picture of our activity we had with school-girls on menstruation and hygiene. Young girls come up with various questions, which were responded by our trained staff."

writes Ruhi Sayid, President APWA Punjab

B. Preparatory Event at Epworth High School Zimbabwe, Day of the Girl Child

By Rita Marque President of WCC Zimbabwe



Epworth High School Zimbabwe

"The children at Epworth High School have been extremely busy with examinations but happily we have been advised that we can work fully with them anytime from 05 November, 2019. We have visited the school to talk to the children and teachers about the project during break time and many including boys have expressed an interest to participate which we believe the latter's participation will decrease stigma. Most residents in Epworth live in abject poverty and are devastated by the HIV Aids pandemic and we strongly believe it is useful that the boys can be involved and in future they can be of assistance to the girl child in the event of their parents' demise." writes Rita Marque President WCC.

General remarks

We were very happy that the activities in Pakistan and Zimbabwe could take place at the beginning of October, just in time before the IAW International and Board meeting at Geneva. Due to an accident Gudrun Haupter unfortunately could not participate. Thanks to a power-point presentation at the assembly the delegates could follow the whole development of the Water and Pads project during the last year. For all of us it was a great chance that Rita Marque from Zimbabwe and Anuarite Siirewabo of DR Congo were present. So Anuarite told about the security problem when visiting lonely villages, and Rita Marque pointed out how difficult a menstrual hygiene management is in regions with scarcely any water. Both of them are

convinced that the project has to continue also in future, because its positive impact on girls and young women in isolated rural areas is extremely important.



Anaurite Siirewabo (left) and Rita Marque during the IAW International Meeting at Geneva.

We had also a look at the present situation of the WP project:

- Seven highly motivated IAW organizations
- Great success about menstrual education in schools with students, parents and teachers
- Positive coverage by regional media
- 4 brochures have been finalized and edited, 3 of them are printed
- 6 IAW organizations are implementing or planning their WP-activities in 2019
- **Strong wish from all participating organizations to continue!**

These are our future goals:

- continue next year the WP activities in the selected schools – become sustainable!
- distribute reusable pads for teaching in all schools selected by the 7 IAW organizations
- enable the 7 IAW organizations to continue the WP activities in their region
- promote the local production of reusable pads by women in small businesses

It was clear for all participants that the highly successful WP project should also continue in future especially in regions with taboos and discrimination regarding menstruation. Sexual health education is so important for the empowerment of the school-girls!

But this is only possible with

- Much more financial resources
- Continuous cooperation with 7 IAW member organizations
- Wide support by other partner organizations
- Wide media coverage

So we urgently need the solidarity and help from our IAW colleagues and are asking:

- Do you know organizations engaged in menstrual health activities in your country?
- Can you forward reliable addresses for WP-donations to the WP coordinators?
- Can you possibly establish a direct personal contact with an organization / foundation?
- Do you need more background information about the WP-project?
- Can you help the WP project with publicity?
- Do you have other ideas about supporting the WP-project?

Now also after “Geneva” we are asking all IAW members for their helpful solidarity.

For all your inputs, ideas and contacts we are very thankful.... and possibly there might be more IAW member organizations in Asia joining the promising WP project.

Water and Pads website: <https://iawwaterandpads.jimdofree.com/>

U. Nakamura 10.11.2019