

## **STUDENTS RISE PADS PEERS AND PROGRESS II**

**Big Idea: End period poverty locally**

**Essential Question: How do we scale reusable pads so Yobe girls never miss school from menstruation?**

**Team Members: Fatima a, Zara I, Ibrahim M, and Muhammad Y**

**School/Organization Name: Empowering Futures Initiatives (Formally Garkuwa Youth Initiative For Development)**

**Location (Damatur, Yobe State, Nigeria.):**

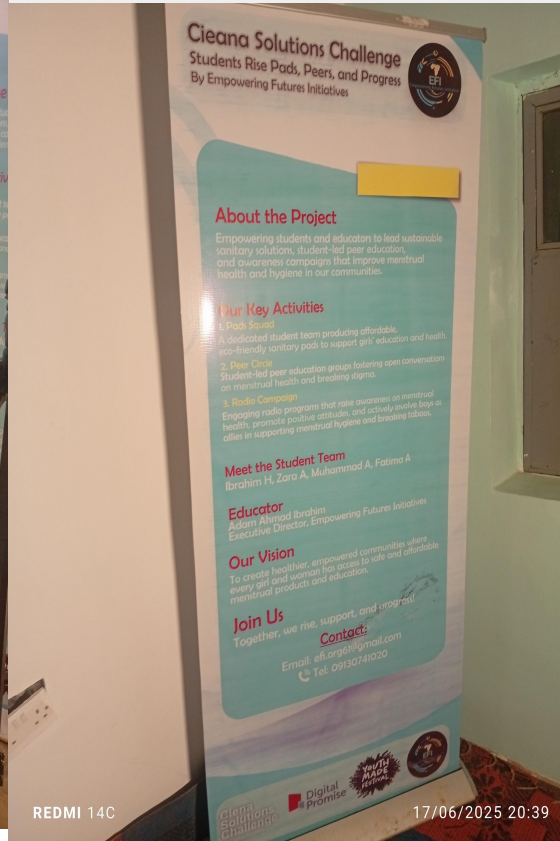
# Engage:

Girls in Damaturu miss almost 1 week of school every month because they can't afford pads and feel too ashamed to ask for help. Fatima and Zara led our first Ciena project last year—they saw their classmates disappear during periods, fall behind with bad marks, and some quit school completely. They live this problem every day and refuse to let it continue. No shops here sell cheap reusable pads, period stigma keeps girls silent at home, and Yobe schools lose thousands of students yearly to this fixable issue. We already trained 500+ girls who want our pads, but after making just 850 by hand, demand far outruns supply.

# Investigation:

Our team surveyed 200+ girls across Damaturu secondary schools—70% confirmed monthly absenteeism due to lack of pads and period stigma. Cost analysis showed disposable pads at ₦1,000/month vs our reusables at ₦200 (2-year lifespan). Phase 1 Ciena radio campaigns (Hausa/English/Kanuri) generated parent inquiries for supply. We've trained 500 girls with 850 handmade pads, but demand exceeded supply 3:1. Community testing proved product acceptance once quality demonstrated. Key finding: manual production bottleneck required dedicated facility—students initiated pad production room construction see pictures in next slide

# Investigation cont:



The pads production room ready with sewing first aid box and other essential stuffs for

# Action

Last year Ciena grant helped us train 500+ Damaturu girls on reusable pads. We hand-sewed 850 pads and gave them free to girls missing school. Radio shows in Hausa, English, Kanuri reached thousands—parents called asking where to get pads. Peer circles and safe spaces got girls talking openly about periods for first time. Fatima and Zara led everything. Demand grew fast but hand-sewing couldn't keep up.

# Action

When money finished, students said "We need factory NOW." We help Fatima/Zara's team with support from there community they set up full production room with sewing machines, weaving machine, bottle snap tools, good computer for tracking, big speaker for school talks. Got NAFDAC registration—all tests passed 100%. 25 students trained for shifts via WhatsApp. Excel ready to log pads made vs girls served. Everything waiting to start full production  
Thanks to Yobe state ministry of basic education.

# What we will do with 3000\$

- Buy sterilizer machine for health-safe pads
- Purchase production materials (fabric, filling, threads)
- Get sealing machine for professional packaging
- Plan World Menstrual Hygiene Day event - distribute first 1,000 pads to schools
- Train 50 new student leaders to teach pad use
- Launch simple WhatsApp tracking for school attendance

# BUDGET

<b>Material</b>	<b>Budget in USD</b>
Industrial UV Ozone Fabric Sterilizer (30-pad capacity)	\$700
Production materials (fabric, filling, threads for 5,000 pads)	\$100
Heat sealing machine + professional packaging film	\$610
World Menstrual Hygiene Day event (May 28) + 1,000 pad distribution	\$390
Train 50 student leaders + awareness materials	\$200
Computer software + WhatsApp data bundle (12 months)	\$100
	<b>Total \$3000</b>

# SDGs

How we help United Nations Goals:

Goal 3 - Good Health: UV sterilized pads prevent infections, clean production room meets NAFDAC standards

Goal 4 - Quality Education: Girls attend full school months instead of hiding at home during periods

Goal 5 - Gender Equality: No more period shame - girls gain confidence, skills, leadership through pad production

## Student Voices

“We saw friends missing school every month. With support from our community and this organisation we Built this room ourselves. Ready to make thousands of pads now.” Fatima

“Phase 1 trained 500 girls who love our pads. Parents call asking for more. Just need equipment to start full production.” Zara

# Call to action

From 850 handmade pads to 5,000 factory pads serving schools

World Menstrual Hygiene Day launch May 28, 2026

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Team leader, student.

Empowering Futures Initiatives ( Formally Garkuwa Youth Initiative For Development)

Damaturu, Yobe State