

A monthly challenge, a sustainable solution



Organisation: Stichting AFRIPads Foundation
Document: Annual Report 2015

Board:

Sanne Bolkenstein (chair)
CeesPieter Boender (board member)
Laurens Buijs (board member)
Nicoline Evers (board member)
Hans Spaan (board member)

AFRIpads Foundation in 2015

The Foundation

The main goal of the Foundation is to raise funds to enable the development of school attendance amongst girls in Uganda. The Foundation concretizes this goal by supporting AFRIpads Ltd., a small, local social enterprise in Uganda. This company provides low-cost, washable sanitary pads for young girls to curb the high rates of menstrual-related absenteeism.

All practical facilities which the Foundation needs are provided by Bolkenstein BV, run by Bert Bolkenstein, free of cost. Bert Bolkenstein enabled both the start of the AFRIpads organisation in Uganda, and the AFRIpads Foundation in the Netherlands. Bolkenstein BV offers the Foundation:

- Co-use of the AFRIpads website;
- Secretarial support;
- Office facilities;
- Administration.

AFRIpads' website is built and maintained by Artventure. Artventure offers many services against no or reduced cost to support AFRIpads. The Foundation is able to keep her overhead costs at a bare minimum this way.

The board consisted in 2015 of:

- Miss S.B. Bolkenstein (chair)
- Mister C.P. Boender
- Mister L.J. Buijs
- Miss N.A.A. Evers
- Mister J.L. Spaan

The board was supported in 2015 by madam C.E. Bolkenstein as secretary and treasurer.

Eefje Notten and Cerise Kruize were working for the communications and fundraising department as volunteers.



Donations

The AFRIpads Foundation aims to reach her goal through financing projects of the AFRIpads organisation in Uganda. These projects are meant to introduce the AFRIpads product in new areas. This introduction requires thorough and intensive planning and organisation. A project usually consists of:

- Contacting local organisations to introduce AFRIpads to, mostly schools;
- Giving sexual and feminine hygiene education to groups of girls;
- Demonstrating the use of AFRIpads;
- Donating AFRIpads kits (sanitary pads that last for one year).



Through financing these projects the Foundation realizes three goals:

1. New groups of girls in Uganda are provided with sanitary pads, enabling them to go to school even when they have their period, and to participate in social activities such as sports;
2. The target group for the use of AFRIpads is enlarged;
3. The Foundation pays for the AFRIpads kits which are distributed by AFRIpads employees at their promotional projects in new areas. AFRIpads Ltd. has a certain guaranteed revenue this way which contributes to the continuance of the company.

The most important projects which have been supported in Uganda is 2015 are:

Karamoja donation by AFRIpads Foundation



Following the success of the AFRIpads Foundation charity dinner (see further in this report), 6.000 AFRIpads kits have been donated in Karamoja, the poorest and least developed district of Uganda. Karamoja is located in the North East of the country and has very low literacy rate, no tarmac roads and no industrialisation. Large parts of the area go without electricity and water supply. Moreover, to this date only 5 Karamajong women have completed university!



It is for this reason the AFRIpads Foundation chose Karamoja as her destination for the funds raised with the charity dinner. More than 30 schools have been visited over the course of 2 weeks by the AFRIpads Foundation local staff, distributing AFRIpads kits and educating the girls about female and sexual hygiene. The kits have been received with a lot of gratitude, giving a boost to local girls' education and making a severe impact in this remote and often forgotten district!





Mityana donation by Give First Aid Uganda

Give First Aid Uganda is a community based organisation in Mityana, Kigogwa, working with HIV-AIDS infected widows, grandmothers and orphans. It was started in 2008 and has been relying on local donors. The AFRIpads Foundation has supported Give First Aid Uganda with 60 kits for the school girls they are working with.



Kabale donation by One Village Uganda

One Village Uganda is a local community organisation that operates in Kabale district, in the South West of Uganda. Once they realised that a lot of girls are dropping out of school because of a lack of means to manage their menstruation, One Village Uganda reached out to the AFRIpads Foundation. The AFRIpads Foundation has supported One Village Uganda with 400 AFRIpads kits, which were distributed to primary school girls in the district, aged between 10 and 16 years old. Not only was this donation a huge success and has it helped to keep girls in school, this was also the starting point of several local points of sales to ensure ongoing distribution of AFRIpads in this area!



Western Region of Uganda donation by Peace Corps

The AFRIpads Foundation has worked together with Peace Corps, active in remote local communities, to distribute AFRIpads kits and improve girl school attendance on several occasions. The recipient of this donation was a primary school located in the western region of Uganda. They requested a donation of 150 AFRIpads to use as a prize for the winner of their organization's World Malaria Challenge. During the month of April 2015, they asked that their volunteers participate in engaging their communities, schools, and health centres in a variety of educational activities to teach about malaria prevention and treatment. The volunteers who completed the most activities earned

the opportunity to compete for prizes. The volunteer who won works at a primary school in western Uganda and was very excited to be able to distribute 150 AFRIpads kits to girls from P4-P7.



Kamuli district donation by URICT

URICT is a local organisation, active in Kamuli district in Uganda. They support amongst others an orphanage, for which they requested 200 AFRIpads kits from the AFRIpads Foundation, so the girls could stay in school when they have their period. The girls were trained on how to use the AFRIpads kits before they received them, ensuring proper use!



Amolatar district distribution by the AFRIpads Foundation and Kindara

On the 14th of July, AFRIpads traveled to Amolatar district in Uganda to visit the six Makerere medical students who received the donation of 1,050 AFRIpads Menstrual Kits on behalf of Kindara. The students are doing a project on Menstrual Hygiene in Amolatar district, where they have been located to do community service for 3 years now, and therefore requested for a donation of

AFRIPads Menstrual Kits to give out to the community. Thanks to Kindara, they were able to help out 1,050 girls at the schools in the district with a hygienic solution to manage their menstruation.

Amolatar is a quite remote area in the central part of Uganda. In order to get there, you have to take a ferry which takes about 1.5 hour to cross, 3 times a day. The students are located at Amai hospital, but for this particular donation, AFRIPads travelled with them to Apuuti town to visit the primary and secondary school there. Our first stop was Apuuti Secondary School. First we had to greet the headmaster of the school, so we all gathered in his little office. He expressed his gratitude that his school was selected to receive a donation, and told AFRIPads how the two female students of the group served as an example for the girls at his school. The fact that these girls were at university, studying to become a doctor, was very inspiring for his pupils. The students already visited the school several times, and the week before they sat down with the girls to discuss good menstrual hygiene practices. So after gathering all the girls in one class room, they first checked whether the girls had any questions about the session the week before, and if they still remembered everything. After that Ashley, one of the students, started to demonstrate how to use, wash and re-use the AFRIPads. She asked for a volunteer to copy her demonstration after she finished, to make sure that the girls understood everything. Holding the pads up in front of the class, and using a pair of underwear for demonstration, led to a lot of uncomfortable giggles from the girls, as they are not used to discussing this topic so openly. But the students did a great job in explaining the pads and answering all the questions.

After that it was time to distribute the pads. The girls were so excited when they realized that each of them would receive their own AFRIPads Menstrual Kit. To thank the Makerere students for everything they did, the pupils of the school rehearsed two songs and a dance. So after the distribution we had to sit down outside the school in the shade, and there was a whole performance. All the pupils of the school stopped with what they were doing and gathered outside as well, to enjoy the show!



Charity dinner

On the 23rd of May, the AFRIpads Foundation organised her very first charity dinner in the Geertekerk in Utrecht. Almost 150 guests joined to celebrate this special evening, which consisted of a lovely three course dinner, an auction and drinks and music at the end! All revenue of this evening was of course meant for the AFRIpads Foundation, to fund a large donation in remote Karamoja district.

Several presentations and speeches were given to highlight the importance of the work of the AFRIpads Foundation and the results that had already been realised, but also an outlook on what is yet to come. The AFRIpads Foundation surely showed it is an ambitious and passionate group of people working together for one goal: to get all girls to school, every day of the year!

The evening was a huge success, bringing together supporters of AFRIpads from all over, with a pleasant mix of conversation, fun, good food and wine. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of Phionah Oshemeire, sales manager at AFRIpads Ltd. in Uganda, who impressed the audience with her first hand experiences of the challenges facing a girl growing up in rural Uganda. In total, almost €50.000 was raised in this one evening, thereby surpassing its goal by €20.000! This evening will long be remembered by everyone present and will hopefully be repeated once again!



Financial report AFRIpads Foundation 2015

Income:		Expenses:	
donations < € 100	€ 730,-	website	€ 1.824,-
donations € 100 - € 1.000	€ 3.025,-	flyers	€ 678,-
donations > € 1.000	€ 21.242,-	other fundraising costs	€ 317,-
donations via website (PayPal)	€10.921,-	bank costs	€ 73,-
		expences for Charity Dinner	€18.517,-
revenue from Charity Dinner	€ 48.987,-	purchase 9.000 kits	€ 45.000,-
total IN	€ 84.905,-	total OUT	€ 66.409,-

Cash mutation:

€ 2.190,- **1 jan 2015**

€ 20.686,- **31 dec 2015**

Excluding the costs and benefits of the Charity Dinner the fundraising costs amount to 8,1 % of the raised funds.