



PERIOD POVERTY REPORT 2023

Kellensoo, Ethiopia



Introduction

The urgent need identified by the village elders of Kellensoo is the high rate of school dropouts among teenage girls due to the inaccessibility of feminine hygiene products. Since 2014, Think Coffee and Nardos Exports have been buying and distributing menstrual kits for the primary and secondary school girls of Kellensoo, Ethiopia. Over 1,750 menstrual pad kits have been delivered.

2016 a new project phase would teach some students how to make and supply kits. However, this phase was unsuccessful due to a lack of students available for kit production.

In our third phase, we worked to address this issue by building a center where kits could be made full-time by volunteers from the community. One person would be responsible for the entirety of kit production, education, and distribution.

However, This new model proved challenging due to the ongoing tension within the region and the lack of support from partners at origin.

It is in no way their fault, as our project proved to be unsustainable for our partners, who are, first and foremost, coffee exporters, not NGOs.

Because of this, we will partner with a local NGO and purchase their reusable menstrual products and literature directly and distribute them immediately. This provides the community with the access they need.

This is not our long-term goal or solution, but it will be a temporary fix at a time when tensions are still strong and civil unrest is still happening in the region. When we are able to manage the project more directly and tensions have resided, the model will be reevaluated.

Our Approach

To make an impact at origin, our approach has always been to listen to the people in the communities where we work.

In the case of Kellensoo, Ethiopia, the community identified the need for menstrual products for girls in primary and secondary school.

Once a project is identified, an additional \$0.30/lb of coffee imported is allocated towards the project for every pound of coffee purchased.

How it works

- We find a coffee community and begin a relationship with the farmers and exporters.
- We identify a project to help benefit the community.
- We import coffee, and an additional \$0.30/lb is allocated towards the project for every pound.
- We purchase reusable pad kits and distribute them.

PROJECT	YEAR	OUTCOME
PERIOD POVERTY	2014-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 760 pad kits distributed
PERIOD POVERTY	2016-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,500 pad kits distributed
PERIOD POVERTY	2019-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project on hold due to COVID and civil unrest.

\$0.30/lb

for every pound of
coffee imported

\$44,444.74

total project budget 2023



The budget reflects the agreement for every price per pound purchased; an additional \$0.15/lb from both importer and exporter should be allocated towards the project. The total is an additional \$0.30/lb for every pound. As of 12/20/22, the total amount of coffee purchased is 148,149.12 lbs, making the total budget \$44,444.74.

Think Coffee: \$22,222.37

Nardos Exports: \$15,873.12

Gujoo Trading: \$6,349.25

4,000+

number of women in
Kellensoo

560

number of girls in
primary school

600+

number of girls in
secondary school

21

the yearly average
number of dropouts
from grades 5 through
8.

7

the yearly average
number of dropouts
from grades 9 through
10

CURRENT ACCESS

Disposable pads are available but limited in the village of Kellensoo. They are more readily available in the nearest city of Bule Hora but inaccessible for most since. A pack of 10 disposable pads costs S.70 cents, and the average daily wage is roughly around S6 per day.

EDUCATION

Girls are educated on their anatomy and the changes to their bodies during puberty; however, there remain to be stigmas, and the conversation is often taboo – typically at home. Our project does work to improve access, but overall, we look forward to introducing more education so girls have the knowledge and feel empowered.

Access to menstrual products is necessary, and while we provide girls with reusable options, we have found that some girls will only use the reusable product once and dispose of it after its single use. In order to combat that, we have worked on providing the girls with some education on how to use the pads properly and how to reuse them. These reusable options are meant to be reused for an average of two years.

We have also learned that there are some challenges to washing the pads. Water in the community is scarce and, for some, a challenge to collect. And while menstrual products are important, they often don't take priority when dealing with limited water supply. We are working on finding a solution to this by working with a local NGO that has more experience in dealing with these issues.

If we do find a solution to water accessibility, we also run into the problem of properly drying the pads. The topic of menstruation is taboo, and the stigmas are still there at home. Women need a discreet place to wash their pads but also a proper place to dry them. Some girls wash their pads and leave them to dry underneath their beds, leading to slower drying and a high risk of forming bacteria on the material. They need to be properly dried in sunlight.

Our 2024 Goals

In order to make an impact, we must continue to learn from our mistakes and adapt the model to find long-term sustainable solutions. Since 2014, we have identified the urgent need; however, we work towards continuously providing access to menstrual products.

1

Partner with a local non-profit.

Find a local organization that produces and supplies menstrual products and education in Ethiopia.

2

Distribute!

Purchase reusable menstrual products and distribute to as many girls in Kellensoo but also to surrounding communities.

3

Scale Up!

Once we tackle the community's immediate needs, we will create a more sustainable model where local women can produce and sell their menstrual products.