

OCTOBER 2025

Helping to keep girls in school for longer

Our girl's health projects are designed to teach girls about their menstrual health, providing them with the knowledge and equipment to deal with it. We also tell them how important they are - in God's eyes but also in the role they will play as women.

We run this project in 2 countries: Acholi Girls Fairer Future aka Pads Ministry in Uganda and Nguvu na Hadhi (Strength and Dignity) in Tanzania. Here is an update.

Pads Ministry in Uganda

Thank you so much for your support for the Acholi Girls Fairer Future ministry. Through your donations we have been able to touch the lives of thousands of girls in Northern Uganda, helping them to manage their menstruation, stay in school, and build a foundation for a fruitful life.

Over the past three years we have adjusted our approach to work with a smaller number of schools, but with the goal of helping them to build sustainable ways of supporting girls into the future. We just finished one cycle, working with 988 girls in four schools, and we are in the process of beginning a new cycle with another four schools. Unfortunately, government primary school teachers have been on strike for the past three weeks, which is delaying this process, but we pray that they come to a fair resolution quickly so that the students can get back to learning and we can continue our activities.

Throughout the eight years of leading and teaching at Kwon Kic Primary School, Senior Woman Teacher Atto Innocent's heart has always been that the girls would stay in school, and she does what she can to make that happen.



In Uganda, girls face significant barriers to remaining in school. When a girl gets her period, lack of menstrual supplies



mean that she misses 5 days of school each month. Girls drop out of school if they get married - often between ages 14 and 16 - or if they become pregnant. Where parents lack the funds to send all their children to school, they are likely to prioritize their sons. One female student said watching the gender-based violence in her home is hard. The 669 boys and 626 girls come to this school from as far as 3 km away, and many go 7am-7pm without food. One girl shared that her and her peers feel anger at school, because of their very hungry bellies.



For five years, Milly (with Emmanuel International) has visited this school to distribute sanitary products like reusable pads and underwear, and

provide education to the girls in P4-P7 surrounding topics like body changes, menstruation, love and marriage, self worth, and identity as children of God. Emmanuel International recently hosted debates on the topic of women's issues, giving these girls opportunity to practice self-advocacy, develop leadership skills, and to think critically about the issues affecting them.

Atto Innocent expressed deep gratitude for Milly's work, and notes she sees the fruit: in five years, there has been a significant reduction in student pregnancy and more girls are moving on to secondary school. Commenting on receiving the menstrual supplies, one P7 girl shared, "We feel free in school."

Though their circumstances present significant hurdles to overcome, these young women of Kwon Kic Primary School still have very big dreams. Lawyer. Doctor. Engineer. Teacher. Nurse. Police officer. Traffic worker. Nun. Soldier. Nursery school teacher. Pastor. With supplies to help them stay in school and a grounded and true sense of identity and worth, these girls have a better chance of following their dreams and becoming strong role models in their families, communities, and professions, reverberating through the next generation of young women.



Girls from Kwon Kic Primary School

*Michael Botting,
Emmanuel International Uganda*

Dates for your diary
EIUK Conference and AGM:
Saturday 28 February 2026 at
St John's Church Southbourne

Nguvu na Hadhi, Tanzania

"She is clothed in strength and dignity."

Proverbs 31:25



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5,000. Depending on the context, that's either a big or small number. In Tanzania, 5,000 shillings is the equivalent of £1.50. With that, you can buy 2kg of rice or 2kg of beans. In our "Strength & Dignity" project, that's a big number. It reflects the number of girls and boys who have gone through our project!

Working in a lower-middle income country has its challenges, but I'm proud of the way we've evolved, pivoted, and strengthened the project over the years. In partnership with Igombe Christian Center, we've been able to fill in the gaps of knowledge, correct misinformation, and provide accurate health education and hygiene resources to 5,000 students in North Mwanza.

For those who haven't followed our journey, here's a quick snapshot of how we got there:

- In 2019, we launched the pilot phase of our project.

- In 2021, we launched the project at government schools.
- In 2021, we refurbished the toilets at 3 elementary schools.
- In 2023, we refurbished the toilets at Bugogwa Secondary.
- In 2023, we built 11 new toilets at Bugogwa Secondary.
- In 2024, we launched a health project for boys.
- In 2025, we will continue to teach health education to girls and boys.



Distribution Day

Puberty and menstruation are very taboo topics in Tanzania, so we consider it a real privilege to speak into these students' lives. What makes Emmanuel International special is that all projects aim to meet both physical and spiritual needs. For our project, students learn how to take care of their changing bodies and about their Creator.

I often wonder what's next for these 5,000 girls and boys. Will they go to college? What job will they work at? Will they serve the Lord faithfully? But, I trust and believe the Lord has a plan for each of them.



We're humbled to be a part of what the Lord's doing in Tanzania, and now you are too! The best way you can support the "Strength & Dignity" project is through prayer:

- Please pray for the health of our team.
- Please pray for good partnerships with the schools.
- Please pray for more funding for these health projects.



Laura Kelly, El Tanzania Missionary

You can also subscribe to Laura's monthly email updates by emailing her at laurakathrynkelly@gmail.com



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