

SWEDISH EDUCATION FUND for LIBERIA in COLLABORATION WITH THE VERSATILE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC.

Role	Date	Name	Remark
Author/Program manager	20 th June 2025	VPS Joseph K Jomah	
Review/approved / SEFL Governance	30 th June 2025	SEFL Peter Henning	
Review/approved / SEFL Governance	30 th June 2025	SEFL Matilda Salén	

History

Version	Date	Author	Remark
0.1	4 th May 2025	VPS Joseph K Jomah	Draft for feedbacks by SEFL
0.2	10 th May 2025	VPS Joseph K Jomah	Updated for final review /approved
1.0	20 th June 2025	VPS Joseph K Jomah	Final updated, Approved version

THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment is defined in an assignment specification and how the assignment is achieved is specified in APPENDIX 1. This report summarizes the project.

PROJECT SUMMARY

- Production of Re-usable Sanitary pads and facilitation of contraceptives for eligible school going girls in Voinjama, Lofa County.
- Coordinated by the Versatile Professional Services In., and implemented by the Voinjama Multilateral High School, Tailoring Department
- Submitted on May 4, 2025

1. Overview:

This project which ran from December 2024, to April 2025, was originally designed to run from December-2024 to March 2025, to pilot a production of 17,000 (seventeen thousand) re-usable sanitary pads for students, provide sexual and reproductive health education, also in parallel with the facilitation of contraceptives for eligible students in Voinjama, Lofa County.

2. Main Objectives/Background:

It has been observed that during menstruation, girls are faced with many challenges ranging from not being able to securing regular sanitary pads, menstrual discomforts which all leads to them not attending schools for days during these periods. Despite government and donors efforts, there still exist a gap where many school going girls are not fully aware when it comes to contraceptives and processes that leads to them securing one, which has led to many girls falling prey to teenage or unwanted pregnancies, eventually causing them to drop out of school before completing earlier. ***Teenage pregnancy is a major reason for girls dropping out of school, as pregnant girls are often forced to leave school to care for their babies or due to societal pressures and discrimination against pregnant students, [according to Educate HER](#).*** Liberia has a high teenage pregnancy rate, with a considerable percentage of young women aged 15-19 already mothers or pregnant. Teenage pregnancy can create a vicious circle of poverty, as it limits educational and employment opportunities for young mothers, making them more vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion, [according to a report by CAF-banco de desarrollo](#).

Based on the above, this pilot project was designed to address key areas such as:

- a. **Education and training**, providing education and training to girls and boys will bridge the gap of discrimination, where students will feel confident, safe and be able to seek assistance from their colleagues during menstruation while in school. The barrier of shame will be broken gradually. Reproductive health education will take different trends, where it become inclusive of boys and girls freely participating in discussions and decision making.
- b. **Empowerment and sustainability**, engaging into the production of re-usable sanitary pads for students which goes a long way, and helps to reduce the financial burden that is naturally posed on girls as a

result of menstruation, where many girls find it difficult to purchase the regular sanitary pads. The production of these pads also comes with skill and economic empowerment for students / girls within the tailoring industry and innovation.

- c. **Minimize the Rate of School drop-out & teenage pregnancy**, through education, counseling and pathways establishments, SRHR coordinators are able to interact with girls to discuss about contraceptives and what kind one can be eligible to use. This aspect places students at a better chance where they can escape unwanted and teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and so forth. Thereby reducing the rate of school dropouts as a result of the above mentioned.

3. Project Objective:

- a. The objective of this project was to produce and distribute 17,000 re-usable sanitary pads from December-2024 to March 2025, where at least 3,400 students can receive a package containing 5 pieces of pads and 10 pieces of condoms. The production broken down in phases to determine the capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness of the producer (VMHS Tailoring Department). **As seen in table 1.**
- b. To facilitate the administration of contraceptives for 300 girls based on eligibility. **See table 2**
- c. To provide training and awareness to about 30 schools in Voinjama district, targeting about 7,000 plus student in the selected schools. **See in table 3**

Table: 1 PADS PRODUCTION TIMELINE

Months	December	January	February	March	Total
Quantity to be produce	500	1,500	5,000	10,000	17,000 pieces
	0	1500	5000	10500*	17,000 pieces
				*buttons added in April	3,400 packages

Table: 2 CONTRACEPTIVES SUMMARY

NO	Number of students	Category of Contraceptives served				Remark
		Injectable	Implant	Pills	Condom	
1.	178	178	0	0		girls
2	52	0	52	0		girls
3	0	0	0	0	3,100	Boys and girls
Total	230				3,100	
Limited stock could not allow us reach the targeted number of girls for the first phase (300)						

Table: 3 AWARENESS, TRAINING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PADS

No	Name of School	Date of Awareness & approximate Number of Students in attendance	Date of Training and Distribution	Number of Students that received Pads
1	Child Welfare Committee Public School	January 21, 2025 600	February 6, 2025	300
2	W. K. Lutheran School	February 17, 2025 300	February 21, 2025	150
3	Free Pentecostal Mission School	February 24, 2025 700	March 20, 2025	350
4	Kormah Shephardhood High School	February 26, 2025 700	March 25, 2025	300
5	Japan School System	February 28, 2025 300	March 21, 2025	200
6	Multilateral High School	March 3, 2025 900	March 24, 2025	500
7	Champion of Faith	March 7, 2025 350	March 25, 2025	150
8	Answeru English & Arabic School	March 10, 2025 360	April 2, 2025	180
9	St. Joseph Catholic Mission School	March 11, 2025 1,080	April 10, 2025	270
10	Rev. Kullie School	March 17, 2025 300	April 2, 2025	50
11	Redeem School	March 18, 2025 300	April 1, 2025	50
12	New Life community School	March 24, 2025 510	April 2, 2025	100
13	Kids Connection School	March 25, 2025 300	April 1, 2025	50
14	Voinjama Public High School	March 26, 2025 750	April 14, 2025	500
15	Akoi's Loyal School	March 31, 2025 300	April 15, 2025	250
	Total	7,750		3,400

4. Methodologies:

- a. In order to produce re-usable sanitary pads, an assessment for local producers was done, where Voinjama Multilateral High School, with a well-equipped tailoring department was engaged, and was selected based on the willingness of the administration and capacity to pilot such delicate innovation.
- b. A recommendation to recruit a female coordinator was made and a trained SRHR volunteer teacher (Rachel K. Tarnue) was recruited by VPS, later joined by Korto B. Gizzie, a licensed nurse, who works with the SRHR department at the Tellewoyan Memorial Hospital in Voinjama, Lofa County.

- c. With the aid of our partners (SEFL), and donors, researches were made to determine what kind of materials can be suitable and available in the production of the re-usable pads. From these findings and deliberations, a sample was made available for the tailor to see and produce same.
- d. From the tailor's experience in sewing, and considering the materials needed to produce one pad, he requested that 85 LD would produce one including materials and sewing cost. This was shared with our partners and a budget to produce 17,000 pieces, with compensation for coordinators and project management was prepared and transferred immediately upon completion of all formalities.
- e. Pilot production however began in January-2025 instead of December-2024, because finding the right materials was a challenge, and testing them for approval also delayed and interfered with the pattern of production as earlier planned.
- f. For contraceptives, the coordinators had special sessions with girls who wanted to get on either of the contraceptives based on eligibility. They are processed through the pathways to the reproductive health department of the hospital for their procedures. The students provide updates to the coordinators regarding their status after the administration of the contraceptive in case of any situation.
- g. Planned awareness, training and distribution in place by the coordinator to each of the selected schools from start to completion of the project.

5. PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, DISTRIBUTION, STATUS UPDATE FOR BOTH PADS AND CONTRACEPTIVE ARE IN THE EXCEL SHEET ATTACHED. RATIO FOR NEXT PHASE AND PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTY / DIATRICT.

6. Update

6.1.: Project Overview Dec-2024 to March-2025

The production of 17,000 pieces of re-usable pads at the cost of LD 85 or 0.50 Cent USD for students in Lofa County schools, supported by SEFL & Donors was agreed and started in December-2024 to March 2025 as a first or piloting phase. The production is done by VMHS Tailoring Department, and supervised by VPS Inc. This phase was further arranged to have, 500 pcs in December 2024, 1, 500 pcs in January 2025, 5,000 pcs in February 2025, and 10,000 pcs in March 2025. The opening production in December was meant to be used as a test production, aimed at getting the right materials, right assembly, purposeful and production duration based on capacity. However, pilot production began Jan1 to 10, 2025. Distribution of test pads began Jan 22, 2025. Feedbacks, recommendations and adjustment lasted from Jan 25, 2025 to Feb 13, 2025. Mass production began 15 Feb, 2025 to 20 March, 2025 accompanied by awareness, training and distribution.

6.2. Production Overview 1-Jan 2025 to 20-March 2025

Selection of materials for this delicate project has been much keyed, which led to the extension of the start of production. However, after the pilot production from 1-10 Jan, 2025 and feedback gathered from 25 Jan -13 Feb, 2025, further research and consultations continued during that time. Finally, mass production for approved pads began 15 February to 20 March 2025, in which the full amount to be produced was achieved. 16,500 + pieces are produced in the final process but 2,500 pieces are still being prepared by attaching buttons and packaging by the tailoring department of VMHS.

6.3. Distribution Overview 20-March to 10 April 15 April -2025.

15 schools are captured in this first phase for a partial distribution to girls. Therefore, on 20 March-2025, distribution began at the Voinjama Public High School and continued to other schools listed to benefit. Meanwhile, challenges encountered in the distribution process, which led to the extension of about 2 weeks are based on the following:

- a. Delay in arrival of buttons to complete the pads.
- b. Absence of more girls from school due to the fasting by Islamic students at the start of the mass distribution, leaving schools with outstanding numbers to receive.
- c. Current administration of the 4th marking period exams interfering with training and distribution.

7. Lessons learned:

- Fear of physically interacting with pads alleviated, and end users happily handle it with proud.
- First ever locally made pad with high quality in this region
- Easily sustainable and economical
- A great new project that started and completed successfully, despite challenges.
- Trainees / students work with proud and happy to be a part of the team
- Management and coordination with different institutions and school authorities

8. Challenges:

- Materials costs constant changes and distances for some materials.
- Delay as a result of beginning for the first time, locating of materials was difficult. This led to going beyond the actual project duration.
- Trainees adjusting to new innovation
- Packaging of pads and flyers costs was not included in pads production cost.
- Trainees overspending time in school

9. Recommendation:

- Allocation for the production of flyers that contain information about menstrual hygiene, re-usable pads and the importance of contraceptives to make the awareness simple and more interesting.
- Detergents be included in the package of the re-usable pads.
- That rain attire be given to our team during rainy season outreach.
- That megaphone be made available to enable us team communication with large group of students.
- Extend the training, awareness and distribution of pads to 10 senior high school outside of Voinjama district, and retain 5 high senior high schools in Voinjama, total 15.
- Extend the training, awareness and distribution of pads to 7 remote junior high schools in Voinjama district, 3 in Salayea district, 5 in Zorzor district, 5 in Kolahun District, and 5 in Foya district, total 25 remote junior high schools.
- Provision of means of transport to enable coordinators to reach to approved districts and remote communities.

Summary:

From the onset of the discussions that led to the implementation of this project, VPS got engaged with meeting local education and health authorities to understand the situations on ground and to discuss possibilities and partnership engagements. These earlier engagements led to the involvement of key decision makers from both sectors, Example, the HR Mr. Edmond N. Mbokar who in representation of the CEO provided usable statistics on schools, number of students and information on partners who provided sanitary pads for some selected school. He also joined the VPS team to negotiate with the Voinjama multilateral High School. Mrs. Dormowah Samukai representing the health sector, especially the SRHR department provided updates on the county health team engagements in past and present, and how outreach on contraceptives and reproductive health education are done in selected high schools quarterly a year.

On the other hand, our partners (SEFL) and donors coordinated the raising of funds, using data and information provided to them by the VPS team. They also aided in research, sharing of ideas, views and transfer of funds. All of these combined efforts led to the pilot launching of the “SEFL-VPS SRHR PROJECT”, where VPS was asked to recruit a female SRHR coordinator, who fortunately became Mrs. Rachel K. Tarnue. She then join the VPS team in the continuous arrangements and negotiations for the possibilities to run the project.

The administration of the Voinjama Multilateral High School, through the tailoring department, headed by Mr. Kessellie Guluma and Mr. Varfee Dumbuyah, in collaboration with the VPS team and the education authorities represented by the HR at the time together came up with a proposal on how a re-usable sanitary pad can be produced to meet up with standard.

With the available data and arrangements in place, the project was set to run from December-2024 to March 2025, with breakdown of timeline for pilot production, testing, and mass production. The transfer of fund was done in time, however due to the nature of the project, considering the first time for both the project coordinators (VPS) and the implementer of the production (VMHS), it took time to gather additional information, materials sourcing, sample production and testing. These aspects led us to begin the pilot production in January-2025, instead of December-2024 as originally planned.

As displayed in the pads production breakdown table in the excel sheet, pilot production began from Jan 1-10, 2025, where samples were distributed on January 22, 2025 during the visit of SEFL representative, Mr. Peter Henning at the VMHS.

After the collection of feedbacks from students who received the pilot pads, modifications and adjustments were made which gradually evolved into what we finally got as approved and quality assured. These feedbacks and regular update to our partners and donors were made through emails, calls, messaging and video meetings as scheduled. Ideas and views shared through these interactions kept us on path and focused in achieving the goals of the project.

Mass production began in February, where regular monitoring of production processes were carried out by VPS lead and SEHR coordinator in assurance of quality from start to end, including capacity. At the same time, with the aid to Rachel, Mrs. Korto K. Gizzie, (a licensed nurse) jointly structured a work plan, capturing 15 schools in Voinjama city, with dates of visit for reproductive health education outreach, training and distribution of re-usable pads. Parallel to this, included the establishment of pathways where girls willing and eligible for various contraceptive were taken to the government health facility for administration. During major distributions of pads, condoms were also added, in order to not only prevent pregnancy but to also prevent the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

Between the end of February and March where mass production were made, we encountered a situation where buttons used on the ears of the pad for attachment to the pants were delayed to reach Liberia from the Republic of Guinea where they were ordered. Distribution were halted until they later arrived, which led us to extend in April instead of March 2025.

Considering all these challenges, contacts have been established to get those materials needed on time going forward. This will keep all parties on track and time bound.

For the contraceptives, we encountered some challenges as a result of improper or adequate information sharing regarding supply and stocks from the custodian of these commodities at the level of the county. This led to many students not being served at the time they needed or the particular type they are eligible for. Fortunately, through constant engagement of our partners to UNFPA representatives, a pathway linking to those in charge of pharmacies at the government hospital was made clear and contacts were shared. As a result of this, stock disclosure was made.

Other efforts has also been made through contacting major suppliers of contraceptive in the case where government stocks are low or a particular commodity is not available. With the bridging of these gaps in the two aspects of the project, that caused the challenges and delays we encountered, we are optimistic to precede on a good path going forward.

Pads Summary in Table 1.

Contraceptive Summary in Table 2.

APPENDIX A How the assignment specification was fulfilled

Project Summary Report, SRHR Lofa Phase 1			Summarized by:
			VPS Joseph K Jomah
			reviewed SEFL: Peter Henning, Matilda Salén
Area	Assignment Specification details	Achieved	Project results
Objectives	Better SRHR education in the areas where SEFL has been engaged in Lofa	YES	Good, 15 schools and approx 3,500 boys students and 4,250 girls students received SRHR-training and 3,400 girls received reusable menstruation pads
	Increase girl school attendance by supporting with menstrual recyclable Liberia produced pads.	Note	Attendance increase will be evaluated long term after 6 mon and 12 mon
	Decrease teenage pregnancies in the areas of supported communities	Note	In first phase only limited contraceptives was possible to distribute, based on a limited availability. It will not be possible to get statistical data to check this, but by having contraceptives - a limited effect is expected.
	Increase SRHR awareness and reduced stigma regarding menstruation.	YES	Good, based on the training, and how it is done in a positive open spirit
	Entrepreneurial production – Promote TVET & vocational students as role model to others	YES	Good, in the delivery model, a TVET-school has manufactured the reusable pads
	Encourage local entrepreneurs for wider local production of female health products	Note	By more girls learning the production, a wider future production is prepared in a first step, making a production outside of school more likely. The objective is to use the TVET as long as volumes can be handled there.
Success criteria	Work closely with local schools, authorities and entrepreneurs-	YES	Good, a close good working relation with the TVET school doing production represented by Mr. Kessellie Guluma, the CEO and DEO and the schools receiving trainings. For contraceptives and lack of availability, there has been good dialogue with UNFPA liaison, Mr. Kamara Local health authorities Mr. Jusu Dunor, the pharmacist at the government hospital.
	Assure strong local role models for women and men representatives	YES	The SRHR trainers have provided modern good training to students and the TVET students have been acting as role models helping sisters receiving the production.
	Reach out to girls, via sanitary pad support through school repr's, and District health org	YES	
	Establish delivery model sanitary pad production and distribution	YES	In the VMHS TVET and distribution by trainers
	Keep it simple – as per SEFL model	YES	Our view is that the project very well meets SEFL requirements of an efficient project, also considering that it was a new kind of project. Throughout the project, the VPS has shared updates in the dedicated WhatsApp-channel.
	Assure and scale up in small steps	YES	It was a small, but large enough step to evaluate the whole concept. During the phase several changes have been made; e.g. 3 redesigns of the pads based on user group feedbacks, establishing incentive model for students participating in the production, better understanding of the Liberian supply/network for contraceptives etc

Steering representatives	SEFL Board representative – Liisa Kiviloog	YES	Attended key governance meetings
	SEFL Project Representative – Matilda Salén	YES	Attended, active governance
	SEFL Governance – Peter Henning	YES	Attended, active governance
	VPS CEO – Joseph K Jomah	YES	Attended, local implementation
Delivery team	VPS Project Manager Joseph K Jomah	YES	Attended, local implementation
	VPS SRHR Lead Madam Rachel K. Tarnue	YES	Attended, local implementation training/distribution, health authorities coord
	VPS SRHR Aid: Mrs Korto M Barkolheh	YES	Attended, local implementation training/distribution,
	Production: Voinjama Multilateral High School	YES	Attended, coordinated by Mr. Kessellie Guluma
			Both a Christmas fundraising (Matilda Salén, Sofia Niklasson, Märta Henning, Peter Henning), as well as an additional large event in Stockholm for a phase 2 (by Matilda and Ninni Salén)
	SE Fundraising: SEFL board & Matilda Salén	YES	
	SE Digital Media: Sofia Niklasson & Märta Henning Planck	YES	Support in fundraising events
			For the contraceptives, we were not able to reach the targeted goal or number due the shortages and inavailability. Students could not be served due to those factors. However, contacts and links has been established with, e.g. UNFPA and DKT Liberia to ens
			The production and distribution of recyclable pads couples with training contributes immensely to the personal hygiene, physical, social and emotional well being of students receiving them. Also alleviating financial constraints attached to menstrual periods. However, to prevent teenage or unwanted pregnancies, spread of Sexual Transmitted Infections, the contraceptives are needed to have it complete.
Scope	The SRHR trainings, production of recyclable pads and delivery to girls. Analyses and decision how contraceptives can be included.	Note	
	Targeted number of youth 2025 Q1-25:		
			17,000 pads were produced and distributed during this phase- 1, which has also heled in bridging some financial gaps, especially for those who benefitted. This exercise also helping in reducing the stigma and discrimination that has long been associated with menstrual periods.
	Girls Startup & assurance pad: 3400*5	YES	
			For the contraceptives, we were not able to reach the targeted goal or number due the shortages and inavailability. Students could not be served due to those factors. However, contacts and links has been established with, e.g. UNFPA and DKT Liberia to ensure that contraceptives are in stock and available to be reached.
	Girls Contraceptives: 600 Implanons/service	Limited	
			The targeted number of youth for the phase-1 could not be served due to supply inavailability. With the established links in place, we are hoping to achieve the goals next phase, through the services and collaboration of UNFPA and DKT Liberia to
	Youth condoms contraceptives (10 each): 5000	Limited	
	Rest of 2025 Tbd after phase1	N/A	To eb evaluated based on report with VPS/SEFL
			SEE SCHOOL DETAILS IN OTHER EXCEL WORKSHEET
Key assumptions	Only support where early strong local community engagement can be assured (as per standard for SEFL supported projects)	YES	Via strong partnership with VMHS TVET and local school and health authorities. Locally all that is possible to do locally is done.

Activities	Phase 1 (Dec-24—Mar-25)	YES	One month delay (due to lack of material) within budget, but all scope achieved.
	Dec-24: Startup, SRHR training mtrl, establish production, small 1 st batch / start evaluation	YES	One month delay (due to lack of material) within budget
	Jan-24: Evaluation/Trainings+2nd batch of 1500 pads / 2-3 schools	Note	Plan change to focus on smaller batches/tests for feedback and redesign, before large productions
	Feb-24: Trainings+3rd batch of 5000 pads	Note	Rampup started, some delays due to some material missing. Now with sources and procedures of receiving these materials being arranged, we are hoping to skip such delay going forward.
	Mar-24: Trainings+4th batch of 10000 pads	Note	Full production, some delays due to some material missing
	Evaluation of SRHR Lofa Phase1. Decision go/nogo / assignment spec SRHR Lofa Phase2	Note	To be done in May-25 by SEFL and VPS, after full project completion in Apr
Opportunities	+By taking limited risks, have a delivery that gives big impact at limited costs	YES	Met well
	+Reusing the trust built up in the areas where school projects have been done	YES	Met well, also used at UNFPA
	+Look for supplies via e.g. Hospitals, UN for contraceptives	YES	Activities to get insight of what is available partly done, including contacts at hospitals, UNFPA, DKT
	+Look for funding co-partners	YES	Several fundraising events in Sweden done successfully. No funding co-partners identified in Liberia
Threats	-New area where SEFL has not yet engaged	Note	Managed well, and also by in a good way adopting schedule to manage materials missing and design of the new pad product
	-New production, volume&quality	Note	Productions has been successful and quality focus kept for product improvements
	-Hard to reach out well in a trusted way	Note	Focused in Voinjama area, worked well
Milestones	Internal pre-analyses H1-24	YES	
	Local prep's/stakeholders Sep-Oct-24	YES	
	Scope and Charter agreed Nov-24	YES	
	Project assignment/funds in Lib Dec-24	YES	
	Dec-24—Mar-25:Start and deliver per plan, see activities above	YES	Yes, but 1 mon delay
Finances		YES	Overall budget kept, details is reported in a separate project report