



AFYAPLUS ORGANIZATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**P.O. BOX 1562
IRINGA, TANZANIA**

website: www.afyaplustz.or.tz

Abbreviations

CBO	-	Community Based Organization
IGA	-	Income Generating Activities
MHD	-	Menstrual Hygiene Day
MHM	-	Menstrual Hygiene Management
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
SIDO	-	Small Industries Development Organization
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and hygiene

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to all Afyaplus partners who have supported our operations in various ways including – funding, capacity building, information and know-how as well as those who participated in all our projects, fundraising event (Afyaplus WASH Gala) and other organization activities. We thank the school teachers, students and other beneficiaries for good participation during our project implementation. To our partners and stakeholders, we would like to see that your active participation in 2022 projects and activities and you have to know that your participation is highly appreciated and valued by Afyaplus Organization.

About Afyaplus

AFYAPLUS is a not-for-profit organization operating its core development agenda of prevention and control of diseases through promotion of water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and empowerment of girls and young women. Initially, the organization was established and registered in June 2017 as a Community Based Organization (CBO) operating in Iringa region. Later, in June, 2020 it attained registration as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, No. 24 of 2002 as amended from time to time.

Afyaplus Organization dealing with prevention and control of diseases through Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), adolescent girls and young women empowerment and also sexual reproductive health has the main goal of improving school performance and create a community

free from diseases caused by lack of safe and clean water, poor sanitation and hygiene as well as the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women in a community.

Our Vision: A responsible healthy Tanzanian community free from diseases caused by unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene services; and where adolescent girls and young women are empowered.

Our Mission: To cultivate behavior change and build a strong community through the promotion of water sanitation and hygiene services and empowerment of adolescents' girls and young women through engaging relevant stakeholders.

Where We Work

1. Iringa Municipal
2. Iringa District Council
3. Kilolo District council
4. Mafinga Town council

Strategic goals

1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Services Improved in Schools and Community.
2. Adolescent Girls and Young Women Empowered to Exploit their Potential.
3. *Afyaplus* Organizational Capacity Improved.

Target Audience:

Afyaplus: aims to impact the lives of girls and young women (say, age 16 to 30). The current geographical area of Iringa region is expected to scale-up to other needy areas of Tanzania as the organization grows up.

Goal no.1 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Services Improved in Schools and Community.

In Tanzania, millions of children are at risk due to lack of safe drinking water and hygiene behavior. A survey revealed that 6% of the schools have no latrines, 84% have no hand washing facilities, 86% have no water for hand washing and 38% of the schools have no water supply. Inappropriate hygiene behavior is disastrous for young school children. This situation not only affects children's health and physical development also increase poor school attendance, performance and school dropout.



Fig. 1 Students from Ipogolo secondary posing for photos after session on how to produce reusable sanitary pads.

In promoting water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Afyaplus organization conduct the following project namely the menstrual hygiene management and water in schools through construction of hand washing facilities. These two projects aim at promoting WASH facilities in Schools, provision of WASH training and promote behavior change together with advocate and lobby for support from decision makers for improved WASH services in schools and community.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)

AFYA PLUS continuing to implement a project of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM Project) in 2021 to both primary and secondary schools due to biggest challenge found. The study conducted by SNV on the status of MHM in schools in eight selected districts of Tanzania reported that schools had inadequate, poor, and unsafe MHM facilities; and menstruation problems have been highly reinforced by cultural, religious, traditions, local customs, and taboos concerning menstruation:



Fig 2. Afyaplus organization represented by project officer Catherine Peter conducting awareness sessions to students of Kigonzile primary

Afyaplus organization through this project aimed at breaking the silence attached to menstruation and to build awareness on good MHM. It gave MHM greater visibility and prioritizing solutions and interventions. It focused on provision of sanitary products, education around puberty and painless menstrual periods to increase girls' attendance at schools.



Fig 3. Adolescent girls and young women trained on how to produce reusable sanitary pads.

Communicated messages to end stigma against menstruation, sensitize policy makers to make them realize that feminine hygiene products deserve more credits and encourage stakeholders to proactively support school girls to access and afford MHM services and keep schooling uninterrupted. To that end the project has been mobilizing girls and women to raise their voices to agitate for the removal of sales tax on feminine hygiene products so that women and girls can afford to get sanitary pads for their menstruation. Hence this will guarantee the rights of girls and females to a decent life and education.



Fig 4: Afyaplus organization provided sanitary pads to school girls of Kigonzile Primary school after conducting training session

Also, the project came out to fight traditions, taboos, myths, misconceptions and negative cultural attitudes on menstruation. During this year Afyaplus organization in collaboration with Local government authorities and other stakeholders managed to conduct MHM project to 3 school (Primary and secondary school). The following issues concerned MHM were delivered during school visits

- Awareness creation on safe menstruation hygiene management.
- How to use menstrual health facilities and safe disposal after usage.
- Adherence to safe procedures of hygiene maintenance during menstruation period.

- Provision of puberty education and painless menstruation period
- A safe environmental education.



Fig.5 Azyplus in collaboration with Global outreach in Africa conducting MHM awareness to school girls and boys

The table below summaries the number of students reached per school together with number of sanitary pads provided

S/No	Name of school	Boxes of Sanitary pads
1	Mkombozi Primary School	11 boxes
2	Nduli secondary	2 boxes
3	Kigonzile Primary School	38 Reusable Pads

Project Achievement

- The team succeeded to provide education on safe menstrual hygiene management to 3 schools (secondary and primary).
- The team managed to provide sanitary pads both reusable and non-reusable pads to 3 schools.
- The team received good cooperation from Head teachers and other teacher and thus inspired team member to deliver the message effectively.

Challenge faced the schools visited

- Poor understanding of safe menstrual hygiene management
- Poor cooperation between teachers and parents of the students, which makes students, feels shy to express their menstrual period life.
- In active participation from student during provision of safe menstrual hygiene management.
- Inadequate facilities for safe menstrual hygiene management such as sanitary pads to the student in case of emergence during school hours.
- Lack of private or changing room for female student to maintain their privacy during menstruation period.
- Inadequate hand washing facilities and poor water supply.

Way forward proposed

- Sustainable provision of education on safe menstrual hygiene management and early pregnancy.
- Provision of sanitary pads based on schools needs
- Afyaplus organization insisted on provision of changing room to girls in order to maintain privacy during menstruation period.
- Improving water supply systems.

Water supply in Schools and Community

The *Afyaplus* WASH project's main goal has been to help increase the access to clean water at school level so as to help school children practice proper hand-washing and get clean drinking water at school. This project also focused on the development of life skills and the mobilization and involvement of parents, communities, local government and other institutions to work together to improve hygiene, water and sanitation services.



Fig.6. From left Afyaplus organization handing over 15 water storage facilities to Iringa Regional commissioner for distributing to 15 targeted schools and to the right students from Ipogolo secondary school practicing hand washing procedures through water tank donated by Afyaplus.

As a mechanism to achieve WASH goals Afyaplus organization developed a culture of conducting WASH Gala in International water day every year. The 1st WASH Gala was conducted in 17th April, 2021 with the aim of supporting availability of hands washing facilities to 20 schools and sanitary pads to 2000 school girls. Through availability of hands washing facilities in schools and availability of sanitary pads to school girls will help to prevent outbreak of WASH related diseases, girls will stay in school during their menstruation period which will increase the school attendance to both girls and boys as well as the school performance.



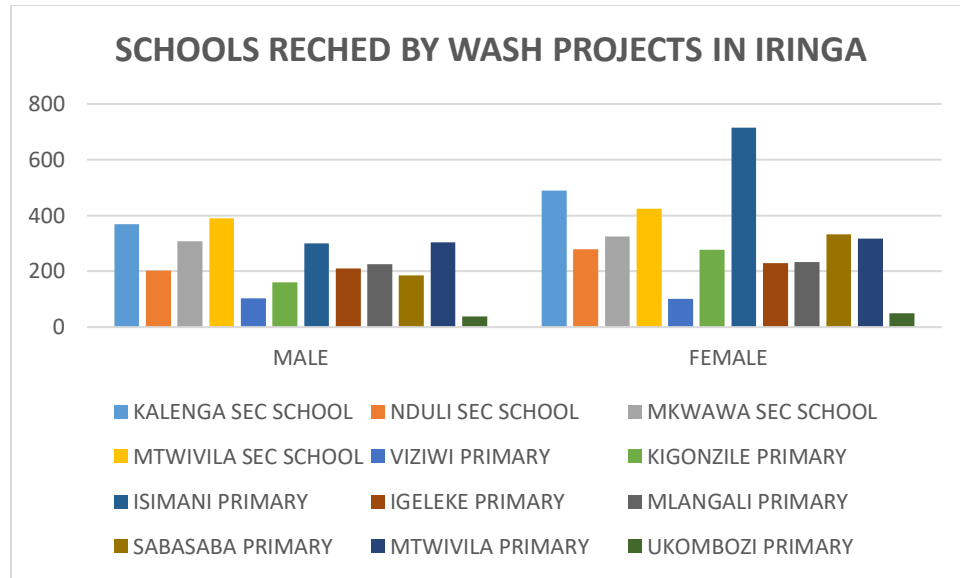
Fig 7: Students practicing on proper hand washing procedures as taught by Afyaplus

In the 1st Wash gala, Afyaplus organization managed to raise 3.2 Mil fund both cash and in-kind which supported to provide hands washing facilities to 16 more schools and sanitary pads to 500 school girls. Through Afyaplus 1st WASH Gala, the organization managed to support Water supply in school project where it provided hands washing facilities to 16 schools which are water tank of 500 liters to each school, education about prevention and control of WASH related diseases and sanitary pads to 500 school girls in both primary and secondary schools. This project supported by Afyaplus 1st WASH Gala managed to reach a total of 6660 students whereby 2798 boys and 3774 girls.

Activities conducted during the visit

- **Provision of education on proper hand wash procedures**

During this year 2021, the organization managed to provide education on good sanitation and hygiene practices to 4 secondary schools namely Kalenga, Mtwivila, Nduli, Mkwawa, and 8 Primary schools namely Ukombozi, Viziwi, Ismani, Kigobnzile, Igeleke, Mlangali, Sabasaba and Mtwivila.



- **Provision of 16 water storage facilities which are water tank of 500 liters connected with two taps.**

Based on the survey conducted during school's visits, the organization managed to identify schools with no/fewer storage facilities. As the goal of the organization is to improve water supply in schools and community hence the organization managed to provide 16 storage facilities to 6 secondary schools and 10 primary schools. More storage facilities will be provided in the future as the fund increase. The table below summaries number of water storage facilities distributed per school

No	NAME OF SCHOOL	WARD	NUMBER OF STORAGE TANK DISTRIBUTED	WATER TAPS
1	KALENGA SEC SCHOOL	KALENGA	1	2
2	NDULI SEC SCHOOL	NDULI	1	2
3	MKWAWA SEC SCHOOL	MKWAWA	1	2

4	MTWIVILA SEC SCHOOL	MTWIVILA	1	2
5	VIZIWI PRIMARY	MTWIVILA	1	2
6	KIGONZILE PRIMARY	KIHESA	1	2
7	ISIMANI SEC SCHOOL	LWANG'A	1	2
8	IGELEKE PRIMARY	MTWIVILA	1	2
9	MLANGALI PRIMARY	MLANDEGE	1	2
10	SABASABA PRIMARY	GANGILONGA	1	2
11	MTWIVILA PRIMARY	MTWIVILA	1	2
12	UKOMBOZI PRIMARY	MTWIVILA	1	2
13	MAKALALA PRIMARY	WAMBI	1	2
14	MATANANA PRIMARY	BUMILAYINGA	1	2
15	J.J MUNGAI SEC	BOMA	1	2
16	CHANGARAWA SEC	CHANGARAWA	1	2
	TOTAL		16	32

Project Achievement

- The team managed to identify available water source present in the school compound like wells which helped the organization to decide how to improve water supply in schools' example Kalenga Sec.
- Provision of education on good hygiene and sanitation procedure to both primary and secondary schools as planned.
- The team received good cooperation from Head teachers and other teacher and thus inspired team members to deliver the message effectively.
- The team managed to visits schools project available in school example Kalenga Sec
- Student had a chance to practice proper hand washing procedures as explained during sessions.
- Active participation from student through asking question and their commitment as a promise to share the knowledge provided to their family member and community as well.

Challenge identified during project implementation

- Inadequate knowledge on proper hand washing procedures
- Inadequate hand washing facilities compared to number of student available.
- Inadequate dormitories for example in Kalenga sec there are 2 dormitories for about 859 students and thus makes the students to live far from schools' compound hence reduce their performance.
- In active participation of some student during the sessions hence failed to practice what were taught
- The project failed to reach many students due to the fact that as student were attending national examination.
- Lack of transport infrastructures
- Lack of stationaries like printing machines, photocopy machines canning and computers.

Way forward proposed

- Education about prevention and control of WASH related diseases in schools should be provided frequently in order to protect students from diseases.

- Teachers are responsible to encourage student to practice hand washing frequently before and after eating and immediately after visiting the toilet.
- Proper utilization of WASH clubs available in schools in order to improve student knowledge on proper sanitation and hygiene practices.
- Afyaplus organization managed to provide water storage facilities to schools with few or no water storage so as to improve availability of water supply within school compounds.
- Organization to recruit more personnel either employees or volunteers in order to increase work force.
- Other stakeholders to keep supporting the organization to ensure availability of resources for project implementation.

Goal no.2 Adolescent Girls and Young Women Empowered to Exploit their Potential.

Improve 100 project is the inclusive for young girls and women more than 100 especially those who has drop out from school because of the different reasons such as pregnant or financial status that led them not to continue with school. Improve 100 Cohort 3 aims to empower adolescent girls and young women aged 16-30 with necessary skills which will allow them to explore their capacities and improve their economic status.



Fig 8. Adolescent girls and young women participated in Improve 100 sessions conducted by Afyaplus organization in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Afyaplus organization is working with different stakeholders which are Feed the future Tanzania and SIDO to implement this project by providing training about leadership, - Coding and programming, Hot culture and entrepreneurship so that after the project they could either be employed or employ themselves and become financial stable. Participant selection was based on narrative information provided by the participant in their respective area of interest.



Fig.9 Improve 100 beneficiaries (Adolescent girls and young women) trained on how to produce bar soap by Afyaplus organization in collaboration with SIDO.

In this project Afyaplus economic empowered 100 candidates from six wards of Iringa Municipal Council namely, Mkwawa, Kihesa, Isakalilo Kwakilosa, Mtwivila and Kitanzini. The project managed to reach 100 adolescent and young women aged 16-30 years. As success of the project done, out of 100 women trained, 23 women managed to establish their own business, and 6 women managed to establish an income generating group (IGA) for making Peanut-butter. This project will create an environment where they can have a voice in economic, political and cultural by providing education and skills, giving them mentors to guide them, building their communication skills, ability to make decisions and provide leadership space in Iringa region Tanzania.

Project objective

- i) Mindset Growth
- ii) To empower adolescent girls and young women aged 16-30 with entrepreneurship skills.
- iii) To build capacity on financial management through village savings groups.
- iv) To improve economic status of adolescent girls and young women through formulation of village saving and loan associations.
- v) To advocate and lobby for support from decision makers to empower adolescent girls and young women.



Fig 10. Adolescent girls and young women benefited from Improve 100 project posed for photo

EVENTS AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD HELD ON 11/10/2021 IN DAR ES SALAAM AT HYATT REGENCY HOTEL

During this year Tanzania united with other different stakeholders at national level to celebrate this day and the event were conducted in Dar es Salaam the guest of honor was a Deputy Minister

of health, community development, gender, elderly and children. Afyaplus organization managed to participate in the commemoration day and was represented by Catherine Peter. The theme of the year was “***Digital Generation, Our Generation***”. This event is globally celebrated each year in 11 October and its marks the significant important to adolescent girl children at identifying and discovering their powers and potentials by opening opportunities for them. All over the world, girls face gender-based challenges such as child marriage, discrimination, violence, and poor learning opportunities, by understanding and observing this hence this day, is very special and it has been made to talk about and eradicate the issues concerning adolescent girl children. It also aims at strengthening and empowering the voices of adolescent girls around the world. Issues discussed during commemoration day were

- Ending gender-based violence
- Strategies to ensure gender equality
- Lack of digital knowledge to girls which hinder employment opportunities
- Parent fear over digital world
- Women and Employment
- Access to girl and women rights
- Strategic plans to eradicate gender-based violence
- Social media and girl safety

Beside different challenges facing young girls and women still there are a lot of success which were proudly mentioned during the celebration as a result of gender movement and these were majority of girls children are actively participating in this world of science and technology, majority of girls can develop websites, majority of girls created employment opportunities through the use of science and technology, technology use has simplified communication inside and outside the country, Opportunity of business adverts and used as and used as teaching aid for teachers. At the end awards were given girl child who did well with digital use to impress others.