

2023 - 2024

Annual Report



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Introduction

Girl Now Woman Later, Inc., was established in 2020 to provide menstrual health and hygiene services to girls in Burkina Faso, a country in West Africa.

In Burkina Faso, one in five girls miss school during their period. The lack of feminine hygiene products and a social stigma attached to menstruation in the country prevent girls from obtaining the equal access to education they deserve.

Girl Now Woman Later ensures that period poverty, isolation, and shame surrounding menstruation do not stop girls from achieving their full potential.



From Our Founder



Dear Supporters,

Girl Now Woman Later has grown tremendously since our establishment in 2020, as a Black-led and volunteer-based 501(c)(3). This year, we continued to expand our capacity to provide menstrual hygiene workshops and feminine supplies to girls in underserved public schools in Burkina Faso.

In addition to providing our workshops to more than 375 girls in the last year, we began including parents in our programs. Gender inequality, forced marriage, and taboos surrounding menstruation threaten opportunities for young girls to obtain their education.

Expanding our program to include parents will improve the community support for girls' education and break stigmas about feminine hygiene.

This is part of my commitment as a founder, "to leave the uncomfortable at the door." My experience growing up in Burkina Faso was a depressing one filled with sorrow and low confidence in myself once I had my period. I did not have anyone with whom I could freely ask questions about my period without being shamed.

Nevertheless, I promised myself that this distressful experience was a stepping stone in making sure that the next girl did not have to go through what I did. But I know that I can't do this work alone.

That is why Girl Now Woman Later has developed relationships with other period-focused organizations. In 2023-2024, they provided us with hundreds of menstrual cups, reusable pads, and period underwear through in-kind donations to distribute at our workshops. In Burkina Faso, one in five girls will miss school during a period, often because of a lack of hygiene products. The supplies we received this year will help us keep girls in school.

Girl Now Woman Later also could not continue our life-changing work supporting girls' education without our dedicated volunteers and donors.

Our volunteer team greatly expanded our social media and fundraising presence in 2023, allowing us to reach even more people online about the importance of ending period poverty in Burkina Faso.



Continued...

Through funding provided by our generous donors, we distributed much-needed hygiene supplies, educational support, and mentorship to girls who otherwise would not have received this crucial help. We are so grateful to everyone who supported us this year.

As we look towards 2025 and beyond, a big priority is working with schools to provide female students with gender-safe latrines. Across Burkina Faso, many school toilets lack privacy and proper sanitation which leaves girls feeling unsafe and uncomfortable, especially during menstruation. Creating gender-safe latrines is key to helping girls feel more supported in their education. We are also looking to develop a learning center for girls with a library, study room, and tutoring opportunities to develop girls' vocational skills/ market-based skills, and career preparedness. We have accomplished great things in the last few years, with much more to come!

Thank you for being a part of the Girl Now Woman Later community. We could not have done this much if it wasn't for your support and dedication to the dream that one day girls and boys can freely engage in a conversation about menstruation – and that boys will then grow up to teach their daughters about it! That dream is only possible if together we ensure that girls in Burkina Faso receive the menstrual health education they deserve.

Thank you for all your support,

Bienvenue Konsimbo

GNWL Founder



Our Impact

Menstrual Health Education Workshops

In Burkina Faso, **90% of girls are unaware of what happened to them when they began menstruating**. Lack of knowledge about their bodies leaves girls confused, scared, and ashamed.

Girl Now Woman Later's menstrual health education workshops help girls understand and manage their periods. The workshops teach girls about their menstrual cycle and how to use sanitary products so they can properly take care of themselves and their health.

When Zongo Ouédraogo was growing up, she wasn't educated on her menstrual cycle. She is grateful that Girl Now Woman Later's workshop provided her daughter with critical knowledge that she lacked when began menstruating.

"In my time, we didn't have the opportunity to be informed about managing menstruation. It took us by surprise," she said. "I extend my gratitude to Girl Now Woman Later and hope their initiative reaches more schools."

Girl Now Woman Later also hosts a separate workshop for men and boys to learn how to support women and girls through their period. There are stigmas surrounding menstruation and girls' schooling in Burkina Faso. Girl Now Woman Later challenges these stigmas through education to help girls stay learning.

Workshop attendees also receive information on other aspects of sexual and reproductive healthcare. Participants learn about how HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases are contracted – and how to protect themselves against infection. Girl Now Woman Later also provides resources to help cope with sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.

According to one participant, it was a "gift" to be able to attend Girl Now Woman Later's workshop. The 490 girls who received Girl Now Woman Later's programs in 2023-2024, received valuable, life-changing education to support their health and future opportunities.

 **8**
Workshops

 **10**
Schools

 **490**
Girls

 **765+**
Feminine Hygiene Products



Our Impact

Tuition Assistance

According to Inoussa Sissao of the Department for the Promotion of Inclusive Education, Girls' Education and Gender, parental poverty is one of the main reasons girls in Burkina Faso drop out of school. (APA News) The costs of books, uniforms, school supplies, and tuition fees can be too expensive for poor families.

Some parents experiencing poverty rely on their children to perform domestic tasks or work to support the family. The loss of income that results from a child going to school is often overwhelming to those living below the poverty line. Girl Now Woman Later helps support families' financial well-being so they can keep their daughters in school.

Two girls had their enrollment fees and school supplies covered by Girl Now Woman Later this year. To help support the girls' families, Girl Now Woman Later also gave their parents bags of food. By providing girls and their families with these resources, Girl Now Woman Later relieves some of the financial pressure that often prevents girls from attending school.

Parental poverty

is one of the main reasons girls in Burkina Faso drop out of school.



“She Speaks” Campaign

Girl Now Woman Later is proud to have created the “She Speaks” Campaign, a motivational platform for high school girls to discuss their dreams and ambitions. “She Speaks” provides a safe, supportive environment for girls to share their stories, connect with others, and seek support and encouragement from a community of coaches and role models.



Partnerships



PERIOD

Girl Now Woman Later received several boxes of menstrual cups, period underwear, and pads from PERIOD., and its sister organization, August. These donations of sustainable menstrual products will be distributed to participants at Girl Now Woman Later workshops to help alleviate the impact of period poverty.



The Pad Project / Too Little Children

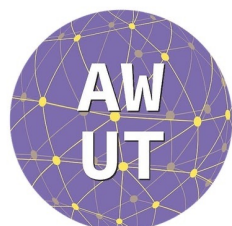
The Pad Project, a program hosted by Too Little Children, provided Girl Now Woman Later with hundreds of reusable pads and underwear.

Too Little Children's founder Jessie Starich and Pad Project Coordinator Emma Stober arranged for their affiliates to sew the reusable pads in late 2023. When girls in Burkina Faso return to school in October 2024, these supplies will help ensure their periods don't keep them out of class.



Target

A Target store in Marietta, Georgia donated 350 notebooks to Girl Now Woman Later. The notebooks will be instrumental in supporting Girl Now Woman Later's mission to provide young girls with the tools they need to learn.



Ambitious Women UT

Ambitious Women UT, a student organization at the University of Twente in the Netherlands, connects students with opportunities to learn from – and become – role models for women. The group raised \$130 for Girl Now Woman Later in December through an on-campus bake sale. The funds raised through Ambitious Women UT will be instrumental in supporting Girl Now Woman Later's work.

Partnerships

I Support the Girls



Since 2015, I Support the Girls has provided bras and menstrual hygiene products for people experiencing homelessness. Girl Now Woman Later was thrilled to partner with this powerful nonprofit organization; I Support the Girls graciously donated more than 340 bras and more than 160 pads for Girl Now Woman Later to distribute at workshops. These supplies will go a long way to ensure girls in Burkina Faso have the tools they need to effectively manage their periods and complete their education.



Covrd

Covrd generously contributed 360 pads for Girl Now Woman Later to give away to its program participants. Every pad will go directly towards keeping a young woman in school and is instrumental to Girl Now Woman Later's work.



The Pollination Project

Girl Now Woman Later received a \$1,000 grant from The Pollination Project, a foundation that offers grants to organizations committed to social change. The pollination Project grant will go directly towards the first gender safe latrine project in our partner school.



LiquiDonate

LiquiDonate matches and moves reclaimable items into the hands of people who need them. Girl Now Woman Later received 1 queen size mattress, 800+ phone cases, and 200+ reusable cloth face mask and filters from LiquiDonate



Future Priorities

1. Gender-Safe Latrines

A major challenge to promoting equal access to education for girls in Burkina Faso is the lack of private and sanitary latrines in the country's schools. Girl Now Woman Later is partnering with Goughgin Nord C to renovate the latrine area to better support menstruating students.

Currently, the school's latrine does not have access to hand-washing stations. Unfortunately, lack of clean water is a common issue in Burkina Faso's educational institutions. One-third of schools do not have water, and those with water often do not have it reliably available in toilet areas. (Journal of Global Health, 2022).

Without proper water and sanitation facilities in school, girls cannot.

1/3 of schools do not have water, and those with water often do not have it reliably available in toilet areas.

2. Activity Space

Girl Now Woman Later is focused on expanding our ability to provide menstrual health workshops and a supportive environment for young girls in Burkina Faso by establishing a dedicated learning center. This will be our hub for teaching girls about menstruation, and sexual and reproductive health education. This space will also be dedicated to developing the ability of girls to succeed by providing them with a library, study space, and tutoring opportunities to prepare them for all kinds of careers.

3. Workshop Expansion

In Burkina Faso, childhood marriage remains commonplace, leaving girls extremely vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases and complications from early pregnancies. Currently, our workshops provide girls with resources for handling trauma, but Girl Now Woman Later would like to expand our programs to cover sexual harassment and abuse to make sure girls have the protection they deserve.

Staff

Board of Directors

Bienvenue Konsimbo
Founder

Janice L. Baker
Board Chair

Mina Zandbar
Board Vice-Chair

Clark Jensen, MPA

Asia Nelson, MBA

Tatiana Overina, MBA
Board Secretary

Advisory Board

Parul Malik

Gourbega Lady Fatou

Staff

Volunteer Team Burkina Faso

Joel Konseimbo
Accountant & Operations Volunteer Officer

Laure Congo
Program Coordinator

Sakande Koanda Sanata
Health Training Program Volunteer

Salamata Toure
Program Director

Volunteer Team United States

Kelly Lauturner
Donation & Ambassadors Advisor

Heather MacDonald
Bookkeeper

Catherine Rompais
Content Specialist

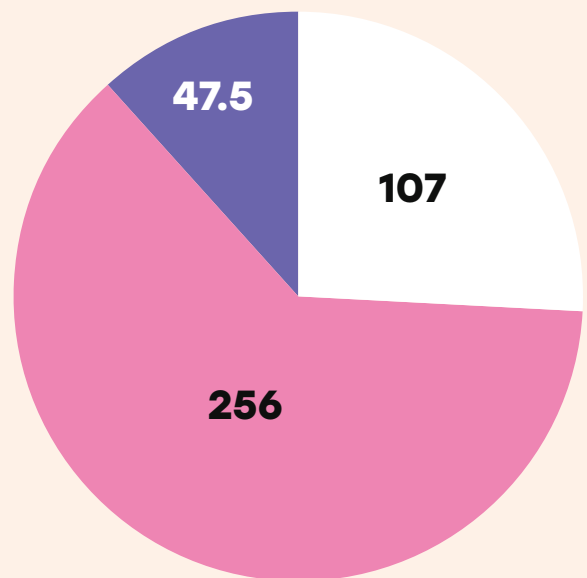
Diane Adelson
Website Designer

Ashley Votaw
Social Media & SEO Specialist

2023

410.5 Hours Volunteered

■ Catchafire □ Burkina Faso Team ■ US Team



Donors

Gwyneth Edmunds Mulligan

Robin Kneblick

Elizabeth Castellani Diane

Adelson

Wendyam Tiendrebeogo

Janice Baker

Clark Jensen

Ashley Votaw

Mollett McCloud

Safia Johnson

Judith Silue

Syed Ibrahim

Kelly Lauturner

West Windsor, NJ Community

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous



How to Give



Financial Contributions

Girl Now Woman Later accepts financial contributions which can be made through links on our website, girlnowwomanlater.org, or our Facebook page; Global Giving and GeorgiaGives.org; and our GoFundMe page.



Stocks

Through StockDonator.com, individuals can transfer shares of stocks to Girl Now Woman Later.



In-Kind Donations

Girl Now Woman Later accepts donations of menstrual pads and cups, underwear and bras, and reusable sewn fabric pads, as well as personal hygiene items like toothbrushes, which we distribute to girls at our workshops.

Get in Touch

Contact GNWL

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