

Fw: AFAWI NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

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Datum: Mittwoch, 13. Oktober 2021, 14:25 GMT

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Gesendet: Dienstag, 7. September 2021, 11:45:19 GMT

Betreff: AFAWI NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021 - COPY



ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN INITIATIVE (AFAWI)

women empowerment - sustainable development - human rights

Quarterly Newsletter

Edition August 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends of AFAWI,

We hope you and your loved ones are doing well.

More than half of the year has passed and our team in Accra is occupied with many interesting projects and

new collaborations.

We are excited to announce that we were able to start with the implementation phase of the **AFAWI/HOPE SEWS - THE VOLTA PROJECT**, which focuses on sustainably empowering female seamstresses in the Volta Region in the fields of financial literacy, health and gender responsiveness.

Additionally, AFAWI is currently taking part in the **COLLECTIVE STORIES PROJECT**, an initiative designed by the journalist Gretel Cuevas to spark a global conversation about how women around the globe experience collective trauma and build collective identities.

Finally, we are working together with the University of Georgia and the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) on the targeted promotion of **female mobile money vendors in the Western Region**.

Besides that, our ongoing **online and offline projects** are of course never neglected and we are recently using our social media profiles mainly for sharing educational videos and materials regarding the topic of menstruation.

Further we are occupied with the preparations for our **Annual General Meeting and are excited to continue our ongoing dialogue between our members from all over the world and our staff on site**. The invitation will follow soon.

Last but not least our amazing supporters enabled us through their generous donations to ensure the immediate access to proper medical treatment for one of our project participants, who suffers from HIV since his birth.

At this point, we want to say a special thank you to all our loyal supporters, who constantly continue to believe in us and our work. Without you, we could not have achieved what we did the last fourteen years!

Yours sincerely,

The Team of AFAWI

What is happening?

THE VOLTA PROJECT - PHASE I
AFAWI // HOPE SEWS



The team of AFAWI collaborated with the sustainable fashion brand Hope Sew's for a project, which focuses on sustainably empowering female seamstresses in the Volta Region in the fields of financial literacy, micro loans, female health and gender responsiveness.

THE VOLTA PROJECT includes **interactive trainings and workshops** in the respective areas, as well as an **establishment of lasting community structures** to ensure a long term impact in the livelihood of the participants.

In addition, our focus is placed on a comprehensive **data collection** of our targeted beneficiaries, to get a detailed insight in the **actual needs** of the women. The results are used to develop a suitable continuation of this first phase of the project.

COLLECTIVE STORIES PROJECT

"It is commonly said that most of history has been told about men and by men. Women's voices have been traditionally silenced and excluded from traditional forms of communication, however, they have never been erased. Weaving and sewing, as traditionally feminine forms of labor, have been used by women throughout history and

across geographies as means to communicate knowledge, history, and identity. From stories of trauma, chronicles of daily life, to complex cosmovisions, textiles are tangible forms of collective memory that can be used to understand women's history. It is no coincidence the word text comes from the Latin verb 'textere' which means "to weave."

The **Collective Stories Project** is an initiative founded by Mexican writer and journalist, Gretel Cuevas Verdin. It is designed as a multidisciplinary non-fiction project about women's negotiation of their historical circumstances through their textile traditions, objects of memory, and personal stories in an inventive act to make the past tangible. Following the stories behind the textile traditions and women of Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Bosnia, Rumania, Vietnam, Cambodia, Peru, and Mexico. The Team of AFAWI is excited to be part of this great initiative and support Gretel with the implementation during her stay in Ghana, which includes the visiting of women in the **Ashanti Region, the Volta Region and the Greater Accra Region**. Trough a journalistic approach, the project is thereby trying to give voice to underrepresented women communities across the globe.



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Did you know...?

PERIOD MYTHS DEBUNKED

Menstruation remains up until today a topic which is highly stigmatized in society and not often and openly talked about. This has severe impact on the socialization of women and girls all around the world. Our team therefore focused the last weeks on debunking myths around the topic of menstruation by reposting educational content from bbcafrica!

There is not a lot of education that goes



It is not normal. Apart from the cramping that signals that the uterus contracting to expel the endometrial lining of the uterus there are also underlying pathological factors that may contribute to this pain, which includes endometriosis, adenomyosis, fibroids or polyps. It can also just be familial, meaning your other family members are also experiencing it.

into the anatomy of a women's body. We don't understand that a hymen actual stretches as you grow up, and that a hymen makes way for menstrual blood to pass trough. So a tampon will not break your virginity and often times its just another way to socially restrict your behavior to always use one product while you can actually use a variety of other products.



Nothing will having to you when you have period sex, in fact you will have a lot of benefits such as less intense cramps and lightening of flow. You are allowed to have sex during your period and moreover it is only your own decision. Society has made period blood to be a dirty thing, but when you are actually doing some research you will know that it is not dirty at all.



Exercising during your period will not damage your uterus. In fact it is suggested

you exercise because it will lighten your flow and the endorphins after the exercise will make you feel much better.



AFAWI ON SOCIAL MEDIA

AFAWI reorganized the social media performance of the organization and we are very happy about the result. Its definitely worth checking it out!

To give you a quick insight in what we are doing, we have chosen our favorite post of the last weeks for this edition of the newsletter.

More interesting content can be found on our social media accounts!





Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



YouTube

AFAWI MEMBERSHIP

Click to watch the video.



This month marks **one year of our AFAWI Membership** and we are more than happy with the outcome of this programme. The AFAWI membership opportunity gives you the unique chance to not only receive first hand details about our work, but also be able to directly engage with our staff on site in Ghana and bring in your own ideas into the organization.

The membership benefits include:

- Participation in our **Annual General Meeting**
- Invitation and free entry to our **International Women's Day Conference**
- **Right to apply** for **Board of Directors**
- **Voting Right** for **Board of Directors**
- **Quarterly Newsletter**

Of course you can also engage in many other ways in our organization, for example by joining us as a [volunteer in Accra](#), by becoming an [AFAWI ambassador](#) or by supporting us with a single or monthly [donation](#).

I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AFAWI

I WANT TO SUPPORT AFAWI

NEW ADDRESS

Alliance for African Women Initiative (AFAWI)
6 Adjetey Street, Adenta Municipality
Accra, Ghana

Don't forget to share our mission with friends and family to support our work!

Thank you very much!

DONATE



reserved.

Alliance for African Women Initiative (FAWI)

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