

Love Binti Annual Report 2018

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There is 66% of the population leading a life under poverty line.

BACKGROUND

Love Binti International is a fully registered international Non-Government Organization under registration no. FORP000767NB as per the Non-Governmental Organizations Act 2016 of Uganda.

Love Binti was formed in Uganda to come to the plight of girls who leave school because of Menstruation. In Uganda, 83% of girls face problems with having access to menstruation facilities and as a result, girls always miss out of 10-20 school days every school term because they do not have menstruation pads, and at least 1 out of every 10 girls completely drops out of school because of menstrual related issues.

In April 2018, Love Binti was registered to help keep girls in school and since then, Love Binti has actively empowered women and girls in Kaberamaido, Nebbi and Kampala districts, teaching girls and women how to make their own reusable pads, educating them about menstrual health and hygiene, empowering women to be self-reliant through tailoring skills, and building a very strong and positive business mindset among women and girls.



MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING LOVE BINTI WORK AREA IN 2018

To empower youth, orphans, women and vulnerable children that have poor education background with knowledge and life skills to have full potential in the community.

Background

Our Vision

To become the best supporters of African women.

Our Mission

To build and elevate the self-esteem, standard of living and financial independence of women and girls in Africa through vocational education, menstrual health and hygiene.

Our goal

To keep girls in school



MAP OF AFRICA SHOWING LOCATION OF UGANDA

Our Programs

No	Program	Program description
1	Reusable pad training Work shops	In this program, we visit churches, schools and communities and work together with local pastors and villagers teaching women and girls how to hand-sew their own reusable pads, providing school going girls with career guidance and counselling and giving them basic knowledge on personal hygiene and menstrual health
2	Training centers	In this program, women and girls are empowered with vocational skills on tailoring and garment making, together with business knowledge and skills to improve their mindset to work. Through this program, women's earning capacity is improved, their self-esteem raised and they become more financially independent hence having more stable families and better livelihoods
3	Seed Teachers	This is a women empowerment program where women are empowered to empower fellow women and girls. The seed teachers are the women who go out to communities and teach girls how to make their own pads, teach them personal hygiene, menstrual health and hygiene



Women in Nebbi take a picture after a pad training workshop

I believe that the program is helping me because I got tailoring skills and some of my future prospects.

Reusable pad training workshops

Project Description

Through our reusable pad trainings, we ensure no girl leaves, misses or drops out of school because of a menstruation period. Every week, we conduct different training workshops in three regions of the country where Teenage girls and women are taught the pad making skills, this can be a school, under a tree, a church building or a community gathering. In the workshop, women and girls are taken through the pad making skill, basic health and personal hygiene, not forgetting menstrual hygiene training and how to use and keep the reusable sanitary pads safe and hygienically clean for the next use.

Project Beneficiaries

At least 49,281 girls and women have benefited from our weekly pad training and menstrual health workshops across Uganda weekly since July 2018.

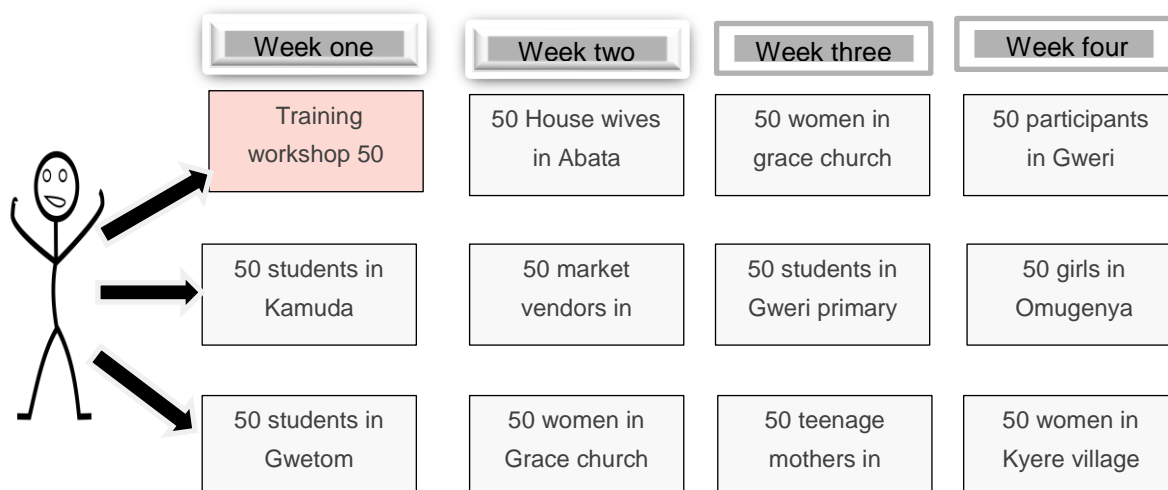


Girl with disabilities makes a reusable sanitary pad

Project Execution

We have a team of committed seed teachers who have made our training workshops a success. With total of 30 seed teachers, 10 working in Kaberamaido, 10 in Nebbi and 10 in Kampala. Every seed teacher is tasked with a weekly target of conducting at least 3 training workshops, empowering at least 150 women and girls with the pad making skills, and menstrual hygiene knowledge. By the end of every month, the seed teachers are expected to have reached a total of 600 women and girls with proper verifiable data reports, pictures and videos of the workshops held.

Below is an illustration of a seed teacher's monthly work plan:



Nebbi seed teachers take a picture after a meeting

Project statistics

District	Total number of trainings done by Love Binti	Total population of women and girls	Total reached with pad Making skill
Kaberamaido	321	71,627	16,456
Nebbi	272	139,007	14,589
Kampala	380	794,318	18,241
Total	973	1,004,952	49,286





Trouser pattern on blackboard in tailoring course



Training centers

Training Centers is a women empowerment program that empowers and builds capacities of women through vocational training in Tailoring and garment making, raising their self-esteem through life skills training, creates awareness of health issues concerning women as a way to enhance women lead more sustainable lives.

This year, Love Binti has set up two training centers with one in Lira Northern Uganda at Marina Hardee memorial training center, and the other in Kampala at Makerere University, the most influential University in Uganda.



Women at Makerere Training center learning how to sew

#1 Marina Hardee Memorial Training center in Lira

Located in the outskirts of Lira town, Marina Hardee memorial training center is a hope for many young teenage mothers and school drop outs. Marina Hardee memorial training center is Located on Obutuwelo in Lira Municipality, Ojwina division in Lira district in Uganda. The Training center is under the leadership of Pr. James Odongo who also coordinates the United Joint Christian Council, a team of over 40 pastors leading different churches.

At Marina, Love Binti runs a training center that empowers young women most of whom are teenage mothers that have suffered the consequences of war in the northern region of Uganda.

At Marina, love Binti restores the hope and self-esteem of these young women by giving them vocational skills that will enable them become financially independent.

The training center started in July 2018 and since then,80 young women have been fully equipped with tailoring skills and a very positive business mindset and attitude towards work.



Robert Mugabe training teenage mothers in Lira business skills and entrepreneurship



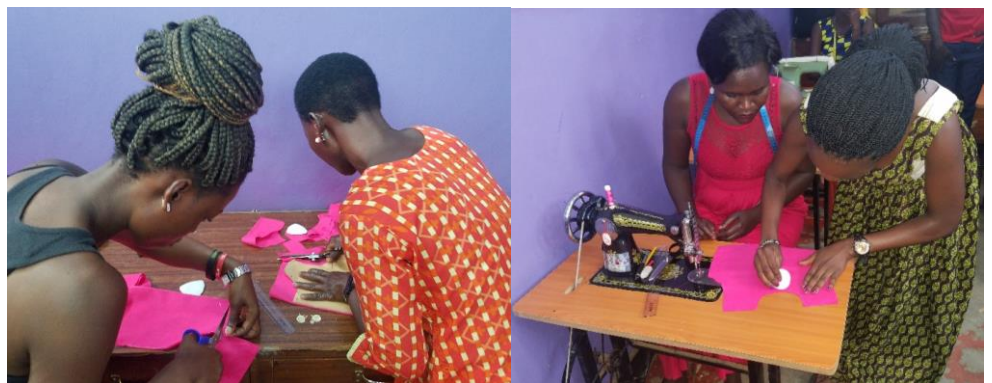
A student in Lira uses her notes to make a cloth

#2 Makerere University Training Center

Makerere University is the most prestigious University of Uganda, well known for having mentored and groomed most influential leaders in East Africa including most East African presidents.

For the past five months, Love Binti has partnered with the Makerere University Department of lifelong learning. A training center was set up to empower University students with hands-on skills, and elevating the livelihood and esteem of slum women living around the University.

Since June 2018, Love Binti has conducted 4 different trainings, each training is held for one month and at least 120 participants have participated and graduated in accordance to Love Binti's standards.





A student does her final project on graduation day



Love Binti graduates pose for a picture at Makerere University

Seed teachers

Seed Teachers are Love Binti field staff that go out to communities, schools and churches and hold reusable pad training workshops, teaching women and girls to make reusable pads, giving career guidance, teaching menstrual and personal health and hygiene and empowering girls and women to break the culture of shaming periods.

In 2018, we have had a network of 30 seed teachers based in Kampala, Kaberamaido and Nebbi districts

Every week a teacher conducts three training workshops of at least 50 participants. Accumulating to 600 participants trained by a seed teacher by end of month. After each training, the seed teacher brings back training reports that include pictures, GPS location of the training workshop, data of every participant and a list of all participants.

See appendix for reporting tools, activity map (GPS)

Work Flow of a seed teacher

A seed teacher identifies a new and virgin community that has not had any menstrual health trainings, the seed teacher then connects to persons in charge of that community as the contact person to legally acquire permission to conduct the workshop. Building connections with local pastor or managers of the organizations, schools or churches is one strength we look out for in seed teachers.

After acquiring permission, a date for the training is agreed on and scheduled. The mobilization of the participants starts immediately while the seed teacher does the preparation of sufficient material for the training which includes pad making material, questionnaire paper, Love Binti banner and registration forms

On the due date, the seed teacher introduces the Love Binti project and the main objective of Love Binti, Seed teacher introduces herself and teaches the participants basic health knowledge, personal hygiene and menstrual health knowledge

Seed teacher takes the participants through the pad making tutorial, emphasizing the fabric type and name, to ensure that participants can relate the fabric to what they can access in their local markets.

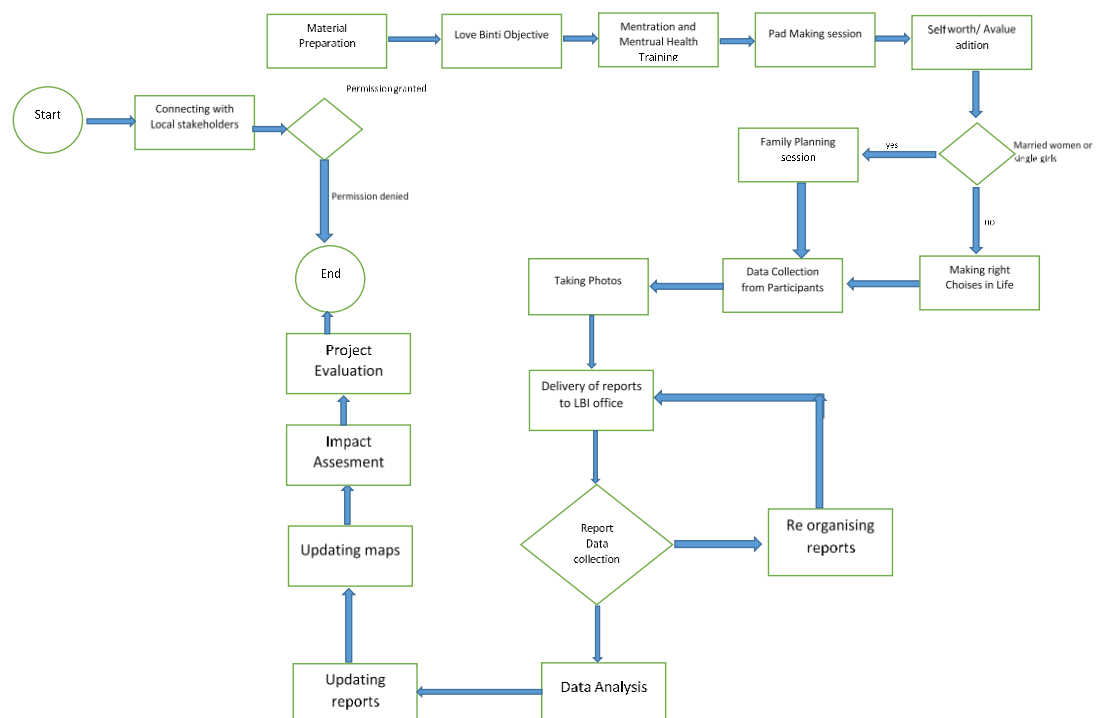
The seed teacher then takes the participants through the cutting and sewing of the reusable pad and how it is used and how to keep it clean and hygienically safe.

The self-worth lesson includes personal stories and feedback from the participants, life talk on Gods plan on sex and marriage if the participants are students.

If participants are students, they are encouraged to make a decision to stay away from sex before marriage and make a commitment to stay away from sex.

If participants are married, they are taken through a session of basic family planning and having sustainable families.

Flow chart of seed teachers



Our 2018 Partners

Being a young organization in Uganda, Love Binti would not create impact without the help of our strategic partners. Through partnership, Love Binti has been able to connect and work with grassroots people and effectively fulfill her mission. We have been blessed with organizations that have pushed us achieve our goal in a very short period of time. Some of the partners we have been actively engaged with include:

- **#1 Makerere University college of Education and External studies (CEES)**



A close partnership with the College of Education and External studies has greatly supported Love Binti with available resources at the college such as the training facility and Volunteer Human resources that have selflessly worked to keep the training center running.

- **#2 Fountains of Hope Africa**

In Partnership with Fountains of Hope Africa, Love Binti has been able to access permission and acceptance by local authorities in Nebbi, reaching out many women and girls.



Love Binti PM meets with Fountains of joy staff in Nebbi

Fountains of Hope is a ministry under the leadership of Pastor Christopher Agenorwoth who is currently voluntarily coordinating the Love Binti seed teachers in Nebbi, and ensuring that all reports of pad trainings are done and sent to the Love Binti office in time.

- #3 Kaberamaido Sustainable Development Initiative (KASUDI)



Under the leadership of Hon. MP Maria Gorreti Ajilo, the Kaberamaido Sustainable Development Initiative management coordinates the Pad training workshops in Kaberamaido districts. KASUDI management coordinates the seed teachers in Kaberamaido.

Kaberamaido seed teachers pose for a picture in front of Kasudi office

- #4 Marina Hardee Memorial Training Center

Together with Marina Hardee memorial training center under the leadership of Pr. James Odongo, Love Binti has since provided vocational training to students at this training center, providing material that the students use in their trainings as well as facilitating the basic needs of the training center.

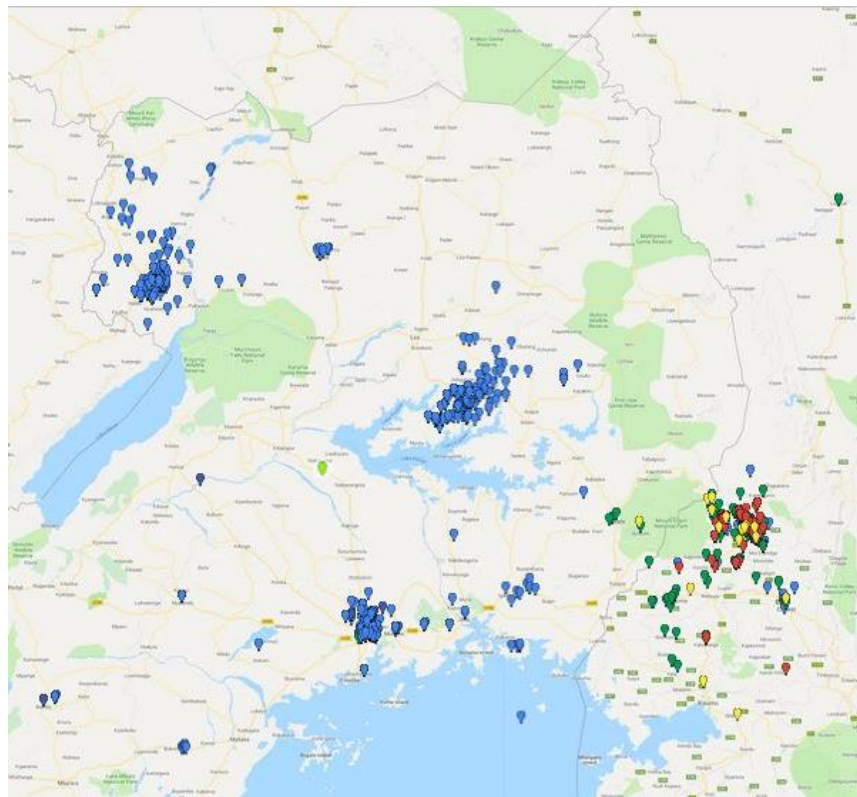


Front View of the Marina training center

Impact of Love Binti

By the grace of God, we have been able to reach 973 places with the Love Binti pads training workshops, and 2 places with Love Binti training centers for vocational skills training. The map below shows GPS locations of places reached with the Love Binti pads training workshops.

MAP SHOWING GPS OF PLACES COVERED BY LOVE BINTI TRAINING WORKSHOPS



Stories of lives Changed

When Love Binti is introduced to a place, lives must change! The community must transform. Below are a few stories that highlight changes that took place when the people were introduced to Love Binti.



In July, love Binti held a training in Chungalwoki and Jackeline was one of the girls invited to be trained. She realized her major problem had been solved! She had the skill and all the resources to make her own pads. In August, Jackeline went back to school and will soon be completing her primary school. Jackeline is so happy to be associated to Love Binti. Today, Jackeline is training other girls who have never got the opportunity to be trained how to make their own reusable sanitary pads.

This is a 13-year-old Jackeline living in Chungalwoki village in Nebbi district West Nile region and had dropped out of school for a whole year because while she was in school, she often missed school every month because she had nothing to use during her menstruation period. One day after talking to her mother to buy her sanitary pads and the mother could not afford, she got angry saying she will never step in school again. For one whole year, Jackeline did not go to school.



Jackeline's dream is to see that all her peers attain education without the interference of monthly menstruation challenges.

In Kucwiny sub county Chungalwoki village, life has become better for a Thirty-one-year-old, Jane, a mother of four who is so happy about the Love Binti pad training project. Over the years, she has been using rags during her menstruation periods. These always limited her movement and work during menstruation. She could hardly go to the market or the garden because the rags she uses were not comfortable to move long distances, and could easily fall out causing embarrassment. She vividly remembers one day when she got so embarrassed in the public. The rag was peeing out of her dress causing someone to ask what she had in her pants. She is grateful to Love Binti to the simple yet effective pad making technique that is very comfortable and useable in all conditions. With the new pads she has made, Jane is able to continue with her normal house chores and garden work even during her periods without any worry.

Lillian's story....

Lillian is a young mother but also a student born and raised in Kaberamaido. Lillian got her first child at a young age of only 17. She gave birth to a beautiful girl who is now four years old. Unlike many of such cases of early pregnancies that limit young girls from achieving their full potentials, working with love Binti as a seed teacher has given



Lillian had an opportunity to go back to school. Through her work with Love Binti, Lillian is able to pay for her school fees and take care of her daughter. Lillian is a role model and is working towards staying one in her community. She is also able to support herself with basic requirements at school and also save money for herself. She dreams of maintaining

herself as a young and successful inspiration to young girls in school. She wants to finish her school with very good grades and thereafter join the corporate society.

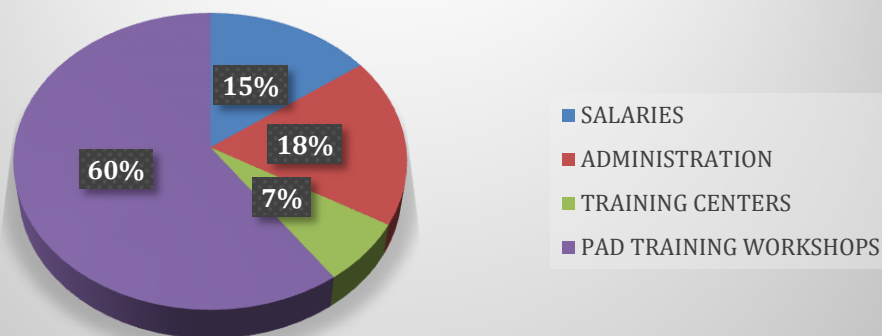
She is thankful to Love Binti for giving her a second chance in life to be a person of substance and for making the future bright for her.

Finances

Love Binti finances have solely been from Step30 ministries in Taiwan. The table below shows a summary of how funds have been spent.

NO.	ITEM	TOTAL COST IN UGX
1	Salaries	16,325,000
2	Administration	20,054,000
3	Training Centers	7,400,000
4	Pad Training Workshops	65,254,000
	TOTAL	109,033,000

A pie-chart showing expenditures from July to December 2018



Challenges faced in 2018

The Organization has been faced with Limited financial resources to run her program activities as planned.

The reporting tools used by coordinators and seed teachers which foster timely reporting are insufficient. Most of the trainers do not have laptops, cameras or smart phones that can be used to take photos during training sessions.

Limited supplies such as scissors for the pad training sessions

Unfavorable weather together with very poor road infrastructure is a challenge to reaching out to communities.

Some Workshops places are hard to get to because they are expensive

Reports from seed teachers living in the North and Eastern region delay to arrive and this affects the effectiveness of the administrator in charge of updating data.

Fabric used for pad making is very scarce and also very expensive in the market. Often, material is out of stock and is not readily available in the market.

The community perception to issues of reproductive and menstrual health. They often shun from the trainings saying it's a taboo to talk about menstruation.

The bureaucracy in some government schools and organizations requesting for different kinds identifications and permission from different leadership in the community from the trainers is a big challenge.

The expenses involved in setting up a training center are overwhelming

Machines and equipment used in training centers are expensive

Way Forward

Lobby for more funding from partners to enable us fulfil our KPI

Provide all coordinators and field staff with necessary equipment's like Laptops and smart phones for reporting and communication enhancement.

Provide sufficient supplies for seed teachers trainings

Have enough fabric in store to avoid inconsistency in market prices and scarcity.

Sensitizing the community more about menstruation as a natural and normal process that should not be shunned

Partnering with Government agencies to avoid inconveniences in cited training areas.

Partnering with organizations that share the same vision as a way to reduce project expenses that would be incurred in setting up independent training centers.

Conclusion

Love Binti as a very young 8 months old organization in Uganda but she has impacted greatly on the lives of over 49,000 girls and women by building their self-esteem, teaching them life skills and mentoring women to be self-reliant irrespective of her limited financial resources. This shows that the existence of Love Binti in Uganda brings hope and a bright future to women and girls.