



Success Story: Mamma's Laef Vanuatu

At last the world is starting to openly talk about menstruation. It's a natural part of life and is difficult to avoid, whether you are male or female. In Vanuatu it can not only be embarrassing to speak about "sik mun" but it can be culturally inappropriate and therefore creates layers of behaviour changes that require delicate intervention.

Mamma's Laef Vanuatu (MLV) has been operating in Pango village, near Port Vila since 2015. In 2019 it became a locally owned and operated social enterprise, supported by a charitable Trust in New Zealand. MLV manufacture sustainable menstrual health pads and embarking on reusable incontinence products.

It is our mission to "Support women to take control of their futures". With a small population of 272,000 on 65 inhabited islands, it is our goal to reach all women who want to learn more about reproductive health, who want access to quality, reusable menstrual products, which are locally made.

The social enterprise works across 2 main sectors – education and health. We create positive impact through 6 SDG's.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages – by providing a sustainable health product which impacts positively on communities.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all – by sharing menstrual health awareness to all women (10 years +) and inviting males into discussions.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – by providing an opportunity to talk about sik mun - there is empowerment.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all – by providing reusable menstrual products which create less waste, promotes good hygiene practices and highlights the need to take care of water resources.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all - by creating a locally owned social enterprise, providing employment and skill development for previously unwaged.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts – by providing alternative reusable products for both menstrual and other hygiene needs and reducing reliance on disposables.

To date we have:

- Produced 4,500 packs of menstrual pads
- Distributed 3,800 packs of menstrual pads
- Provided menstrual health education to 3350 women, girls, men and boys in 34 schools and neighbouring communities on 10 islands
- Employed 8 part time locals
- Partnered with 10 organisations to achieve this impact.



Contact

Belinda Roselli
Mamma's Laef Charitable Trust (NZ)
An initiative of Lav Kokonas (NZ)
belinda@mammaslaef.com

www.facebook.com/MammaLaef . www.mammaslaef.com
Vanuatu contacts: Mary & Jack Kalsrap +678543 4414

Most relevant SDGs:

