

# The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

## Creating Better Futures

#DXBXBD6VZM submitted on 1 September 2021

---

### 1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

Before COVID-19, in the Domboshava region of Zimbabwe, girls have been missing school during their menstrual cycles. This was because they could not afford to have hygienic sanitary products. This meant that they do not have the same level of education as their male classmates. Since 2019, we have provided girls with reusable sanitary products. This is manufactured by women. We also have sanitation workshops and reproductive health classes in school and the community.

### 1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

#### REUSABLE SANITARY TOWEL PROJECT

In rural areas such as the Domboshava region, girls are already less likely to attend school than boys. Since the 1990s, all schools in Zimbabwe require fees and for families living in poverty, when faced with this choice, would rather spend money on funding for their sons' education, rather than their daughters', despite not sending a child to school being an imprisonable offence. The girls who do have a place miss school for a few days a month during their menstrual cycles as they either don't have suitable sanitary products due to poverty and the unhygienic alternatives include rags and leaves. Not only does this lead to infections, but these are also inadequate alternatives which may cause leaks. From a report in 2021, 62% girls in rural areas miss school every month. One of our beneficiaries said a pack of sanitary towels is the same price of bread, and they would rather buy food.

#### FREE REUSABLE SANITARY TOWELS TO GIRLS

Since 2019, we have distributed two free reusable, washable sanitary towels to each of the 1,000 girls in the schools we work with. The three different sizes of pads come in discreet packs, which also have a bar of soap, instructions about usage and classes, and a pair of underwear. This has shown to be effective to prevent girls from missing school, so they have the same level of education as their male peers, leading to better skills and work opportunities in the future. We monitor the outcomes by comparing attendance and attainment (teacher's reports, examination results) every six months with their records before. In our 2020 feedback, 84% of girls said they attended school 2 – 4 days more and 72% of girls said they did not have enough.

In addition, girls may not understand how to use, clean, and store these sanitary towels. We have produced educational leaflets and training programmes after training teachers in schools, and in the future, this will be delivered to boys too. This is monitored with training records and student surveys.

#### LESSONS ABOUT MENSTRUAL AND SEXUAL HEALTH

We have lessons in school and the community, for both girls and boys, about menstrual and sexual health. This includes topics such as contraception, sex, vaginal health, and sanitation. It will remove taboos about menstruation. Beverley Matondo, our volunteer in Zimbabwe and our CEO's mother, has trained women in the community to provide educational lessons. This is monitored and evaluated every six months with teacher reports and quizzes.

#### INCOME FOR WOMEN

The production of the sanitary products is in Zimbabwe. The sanitary towels are made using recycled clothing, predominately school uniforms, so the cost of production is minimal. Six women are employed as sewers, and we incentivise them with bonuses based on output and they earn a living wage for

themselves and their families. They have been trained by CBF personnel in Domboshava. This will help them establish a market selling towels to adult women in the community. Once this is sustainable, CBF will hand the running of the business over to the people involved. This is measured by the towels produced. After 12 months, we have purchased a further three sewing machines and 3,000 towels have been made. We hope in the long run it will be a sustainable source of income for up to 1,000 women in the Domboshava region.

### 1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

F - Sustainable development

### 1.4 Which country is the project based in?

Zimbabwe (ZW)

### 1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

### 1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

The project is ongoing so we will still continue the project. We will continue to seek support from the public by appealing for donations, create fundraising events (such as our annual balls and marathons) and applying for grants to charities and trusts online.

This year we have been successful in raising £2,600 from the Big Give. We also have marathons and a ball in December 2021, depending on the guests, will raise thousands

### 1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

The effectiveness of the project will be assessed by comparing schoolgirls' attendance and school grades/teachers reports to before having the sanitary products; surveys after using the sanitary towels (how effective they are, whether they want more, what adjustments can be made); surveys after the training on menstrual and sexual health; and the production will be measured by the number of sanitary products made.

## 2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Sanitary wear material (cotton, fleece, fasteners, waterproof and thread)	£5,004	Per year
Fuel	£1,752	Per year
CBF staff costs delivery of the project	£6,540	Per year
CBF staff monitoring the project	£2,184	Per year
Information booklet design and printing	£146	Per year
Printing of surveys and menstrual cards	£400	Per year
Contingency	£864	Per year
Salaries for women making pads	£2,100	Per year
TOTALS	£18,990	

## 2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
The Big Give	£0	£2,600	Raised
James Tudor Foundation	£4,500	£0	Haven't heard back

The Kitchen Table Charitable Trust	£5,000	£0	Haven't heard back
Joseph Strong Frazer Trust	£2,000	£0	Haven't heard back
TOTALS	£11,500	£2,600	

**2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?**

£4,500

**2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?**

Yes

**2.4b Please provide the date of the previous application**

2019

**2.4c Was this previous application successful?**

No

**2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)**

£88,652

**2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?**

Yes

**2.6b Upload File**

<https://theedithmellischaritabletrust.org/assets/uploads/2021/09/Financial-Report-Creating-Better-Futures.pdf>

**2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful**

Creating Better Futures

33266346

20-76-55

**3.1 Your name**

Sophie Chen

**3.2 Your contact telephone number**

0118 327 1154

**3.3 Your position within the organisation**

Intern

**3.4 Your email address**

[grants@creatingbetterfutures.org.uk](mailto:grants@creatingbetterfutures.org.uk)

**3.5 Organisation name**

Creating Better Futures

**3.6 Please state the status of your organisation**

UK charity

**3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does**

Creating Better Futures (CBF) is a small charity, established in 2012, based in the UK with projects

focusing on education, feeding, nutrition, clean water, hygiene, and sanitation in the Domboshava and Mutare regions of Zimbabwe. Our mission is to empower orphans and vulnerable children in Africa through access to education, enabling them to free themselves from poverty.

**3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation**

First Floor, Unit 4, Beacontree Plaza, Gillette Way, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 0BS

**3.9 UK telephone number**

0118 327 1154

**3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)**

1148929

**3.11 Year established**

2012

**3.12 Website (if applicable)**

<http://www.creatingbetterfutures.org.uk>

**3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)**

<https://www.instagram.com/creatingbetterfutures/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cbfuk>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CreatingbetterfuturesOrgUkCBF>

**4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?**

Internet

Previous application to The Edith M Ellis Trust