

**Water and Pads Project - Activities in Bunyakiri DR Congo**  
**A report by Anuarite Siirewabo, Coordinator of SOFEDEC DR Congo**  
29.05.2019

**PREPARATIONS**

I had to organize the activities at Bunyakiri during a period of insecurity. Dubious elements of the FDLR, Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda, have infiltrated this region threatening children i.e. families, with their heavy weapons. The motive of their presence is not known; it is rather sure that they will commit crimes any day now.

On Sunday 25 May 2019, at 1 p.m. I left Bukavu direction of Bunyakiri. The road through the National Park Kahuzi Biega was almost impassable but at 5 p.m. I reached the site of the activities. There I was welcomed by the population, mainly by members of the association SOFEDEC.

Monday morning at 8 o'clock we went to the Institute Bunyakiri in order to greet the head prefect and prepare the room for the activity; then we called on the office of the staff supervisor to get his o.k. on my agenda. We also informed the office of ANR, the National Agency of Information, of our arrival, so they could take safety measures during our activity.

Finally we went to the office of the head inspector for elementary schools, for the authorization of the activity. We thanked each of the authorities for their support.

**CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITIES**

The day of our activity on puberty and the menstruation was May 28, exactly on the International Day for menstrual hygiene.

The activities on May 28 **at Institute Bunyakiri started at 7.30 and lasted until 11 a.m.**

40 schoolgirls of the elementary school Bunyakiri et Mulala, as well as from the Institute Bunyakiri participated.

All of a sudden 40 more schoolgirls, from the elementary school Bunyakiri, appeared at the entrance, showing up unannounced. The number of participants was too high. However, their interest was apparent and sending them away would have been frustrating.

The subject fascinated the children, above all the 45 % who had already their period. We noticed that the majority of the participants did not have any knowledge about the menstrual cycle. We saw that only 45 % had already the menstrual period.

**RESULTS**

The schoolgirls followed the teaching, highly motivated and interested.

Afterwards they recommended:

- distribute sanitary pads
- set up clean and separate toilets
- continue with the teaching.

The schools that had not been invited begged us to extend the program to them as well.

All activities have been broadcast by the local station Amka (RCA) BUNYAKIRI.