

## **IAW / AIF Water and Pads Project -**

### **Women Comfort Corner Foundation Zimbabwe**

**3 January 2021**

On Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 we hosted the pads program. We partnered with Spar Braeside who generously provided the venue and also contributed snacks for the occasion. With the written consent of the children's parents we targeted girls aged 9 – 15 years.

The lockdown which took effect from January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 has disturbed our programs. Our aim was to teach girls who had not started menstrual periods how to use pads and tampons and cascade the program to 6 different schools, travel to the rural areas where the need is greater.

It was sad to hear that the children were aware of the use of pads but innocently suggested that money could be saved by using materials from old cloths. The proposal, though noble and wise, would be hindered by lack of clean water and failure to iron the materials due to persistent lack of electricity. In our meeting we were joined by girls living with disabilities who averred that they were mostly shunned by society and were not invited to participate in any activities. A plethora of difficulties experienced by the girl child living with disabilities was highlighted, which will help us to have their problems addressed.

Women and girls continue to face unacceptable disparities in accessing personal safety. The water is toxic and as their vulnerability grows, women are at a higher risk because villains are preying on the most vulnerable. That are the unaccompanied girls fetching water which is a women's job. The poor and marginalized women in the society do not have cars to transport the water.

Rita Marque Mbata, President WCCF organization