November 2017: The Foundation for Mother and Child Health in Indonesia (FMCH-Indonesia) in partnership with Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation (PHMF) successfully conducted training in ‘Reproductive Health’ and delivered washable menstruation pads to 109 female students in Junior High School at Sunu Village, West Timor. The participants said the training was fun and they were all very happy to receive a pack of washable pads as well as improving their knowledge.

During the training, FMCH-Indonesia’s trainers completed a Days for Girls Survey before distributing the packs to the girls. There were two sessions in the survey: a group session and an individual session. The participants were asked questions and they responded using hand motions. For example, if the question DOES apply to them, raise the hand. If it DOES NOT apply to them, raise the hand and make a fist. If they prefer not to respond to the question, raise one finger in the air. If they don’t want to participate at all just keep the head down quietly and their hands behind their back while we ask the questions.

There were 10 questions for this session and the results from the group and individual surveys found 74% of the girls cannot do all they activities they normally do during their menstruation, and 11% of the girls experience shame during their menstruation. Regarding the suitability of washable pads: 100% of the girls were willing to use washable pad to manage their menstruation, however only 85% of the girls had access to water to clean their clothes.

Based on the impact analysis above, we hope to continue this essential training programme in reproductive health during 2018 for a further 300 girls in West Timor.