



Kotex Brand Marks 100th Anniversary with Global She Can Initiative to Fast Forward Women's Progress

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Kotex commits \$2.5 million over three years to Plan International to expand menstrual hygiene education and access

DALLAS, May 27, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- The global COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the strength of women around the world who are leading the response as doctors, nurses, scientists, engineers, farmers, public servants, volunteers and in many other essential roles. At the same time, the job loss resulting from pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women and has left more than 743 million girls in 185 countries out of school.



In response, [Kimberly-Clark](#) and its [Kotex](#) brand are engaging consumers, communities and employees in a global effort, the [Kotex She Can Initiative](#), to fight stigma within society, ensure access to education, and open doors for women and girls to pursue their dreams.

"The stigma attached to menstruation or simply the lack of access to products will keep millions of women and girls from pursuing dreams of becoming one of those heroes on the front lines," said **Juanita Pelaez, Vice President, Global Adult and Feminine Care for Kimberly-Clark**. "The Kotex She Can Initiative is a long-term effort to build a future where a period never gets in the way of any woman's progress."

Kimberly-Clark's commitment to menstrual hygiene was born from insights of women working as war-time nurses more than 100 years ago, who stitched together hygiene pads made from Kimberly-Clark's cellucotton bandages so they could stay on the front lines during their period. When the Kotex brand was introduced in 1920, the stigma attached to menstruation required it to be sold in a plain blue box behind a pharmacy counter.

One hundred years later, the company and the [Kotex](#) brand remain focused on eliminating stigma, improving access and improving key outcomes for women and girls in the areas of education and overall health and wellness.

The [Kotex She Can Initiative](#) will focus its social impact of Kimberly-Clark's feminine care brands in four key areas:

- Address lack of access to menstrual hygiene products and education, through the [Alliance for Period Supplies](#) and other efforts around the world;
- Partnership with [Plan International](#) to invest \$2.5 million over three years into girl-centered solutions for basic menstrual hygiene management and education, reach a total of 1.6 million individuals and help women and girls confidently and comfortably manage their periods through our overarching partnership with Plan International;
- Enabling a supportive environment and increasing knowledge and skills for girls, boys and teachers to destigmatize menstruation; and
- Local brand-led efforts around the globe to open doors for women to pursue independent futures.

"For years, menstruation has kept girls and women from opportunities," said **Dr. Tessie San Martin, President and CEO of Plan International USA**. "Kotex and Plan have worked in partnership to dismantle the stigma associated with periods, while providing access to education to help women and girls in marginalized communities manage menstruation and improve hygiene. I'm beyond excited that we're expanding this work. We've covered a lot of ground, but we still have ways to go."

Kimberly-Clark and Kotex are sponsors of [Menstrual Hygiene Day](#), a global awareness program launched by [WASH United](#) in 2014 to bring global attention to the lack of menstrual hygiene management access, education and sanitation affecting millions of women and girls. In the US, U by Kotex is the founding sponsor of the Alliance for Period Supplies, which is raising awareness through [Period Poverty Awareness Week](#).

"Over the past five months, we've donated millions of Kotex products to COVID-19 response and relief efforts around the world," added Pelaez. "We know that we can do more to help her rebuild the future of our communities, and the Kotex She Can Initiative will provide sustained support for women and girls whose futures can be changed through access to period supplies, community education and an independent future."

To learn more about the Kotex She Can Initiative, visit <https://www.kimberly-clark.com/kotex-she-can-initiative>

About Kotex

Our Kotex, U by Kotex and Intimus brands aim to ensure a period never gets in the way of any woman's progress. Kimberly-Clark created the feminine care category with the launch of the Kotex brand 100 years ago, and today, its products are trusted by millions of women in more than 100 countries to provide outstanding protection and inspire confidence that period or not, she can.

About Kimberly-Clark

Kimberly-Clark (NYSE:KMB) and its trusted brands are an indispensable part of life for people in more than 175 countries. Fueled by ingenuity, creativity, and an understanding of people's most essential needs, we create products that help individuals experience more of what's important to them. Our portfolio of brands, including Huggies, Kleenex, Scott, Kotex, Cottonelle, Poise, Depend, Andrex, Pull-Ups, GoodNites, Intimus, Neve, Plenitud, Viva and WypAll, hold the No. 1 or No. 2 share position in 80 countries. We use sustainable practices that support a healthy planet, build stronger communities, and ensure our business thrives for decades to come. To keep up with the latest news and to learn more about the company's

148-year history of innovation, visit kimberly-clark.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

About Alliance for Period Supplies

The Alliance for Period Supplies is an initiative of the [National Diaper Bank Network](#) (NDBN)—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that leads a nationwide movement aimed at helping individuals and families who struggle to afford material basic needs. Launched in May 2018, with the support of founding sponsor U by Kotex, the Alliance for Period Supplies raises national awareness of period poverty ([#endperiodpoverty](#)) and supports the development and expansion of period supply programs in communities throughout the country. The organization is comprised of Allied Programs that collect, warehouse and distribute menstrual/period supplies in local communities. More information on Alliance for Period Supplies is available at allianceforperiodsupplies.org, and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About Plan International USA

Powered by supporters, Plan International USA partners with adolescent girls, young women and children around the world to overcome oppression and gender inequality, providing the support and resources that are unique to their needs and the needs of their communities, ensuring they achieve their full potential with dignity, opportunity and safety. Founded in 1937, Plan is an independent development and humanitarian organization that is active in more than 80 countries. For more information, please visit PlanUSA.org.

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