Partner:
Sustainable Health Enterprises (SHE) aims to “improve the quality of life for people in the developing world” through market-based approaches.

Need:
With SHE, we will initially market Komera to Rwanda, where currently:
• 36% of women miss
• 50 days of school or work a year because they cannot afford sanitary pads

Solution:
Fiber harvested from the trunk of banana trees can be processed into a fluffy, absorbent material that is effective in sanitary pads. The fiber is inexpensive and locally available, which decreases the price of pads for consumers in the developing world.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Komera, please contact:
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Affordable Sanitary Pads for the Developing World

General Product Overview
Team Yellow
December 7, 2009
Process:

1. Pull material over heating block
2. Pull down press
3. Fill hole with pulp from bin
4. Blow in pulp material
5. Push down spring loaded press for final seal
6. Place finished pad in slot

Design:

- Polyethylene bottom layer
- Gauze top layer
- Nozzle on sliding rail system
- Thermoformed pulp bin
- Press with spring loaded sealing mechanism
- Polyetherimide heating base with nickel chromium heating elements

Business Plan:

Komera pads will be sold in Rwanda using a social enterprise business model:

- MIT students pass manufacturing information to SHE
- SHE hires local manufacturers
- Women get microloan from SHE to buy manufacturing equipment
- Women produce and sell pads to local community
- Revenue used to pay back microloan

Komera pads can be sold for 35% less than other pads in Rwanda.

Komera Pad Price: $0.75/10 pack
Current Pad Price: $1.10/10 pack