

Making a **mark** against period poverty

A reference guide of countries making a difference

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This project aims to raise awareness about the current extent of period poverty and assess the level of engagement by governments in addressing this issue. The provided map is a prototype of a tool for people to learn which countries are making the 'biggest mark' against period poverty. Further, the resource library function provides links and resources for people to refer to and works as a catalyst for open collaboration. By finding where and how people are fighting period poverty we hope to inspire and support others who want to do the same!

WORKFLOW

In the first step, we collected data on our topic through online searches as well as a short online survey asking people to contribute resources about their home countries. Following that we decided to focus on the four most comprehensive datasets, setting up a collection of data in Excel. For project planning, map design and setup of the

interactive map prototype we decided to use the design app Figma. Vector files of each country in a Natural Earth projection were obtained using ArcGIS.

CHALLENGES & LEARNINGS

Our biggest challenge for this project was the amount of time required to collect data due to period poverty data being inconsistent and scarce.

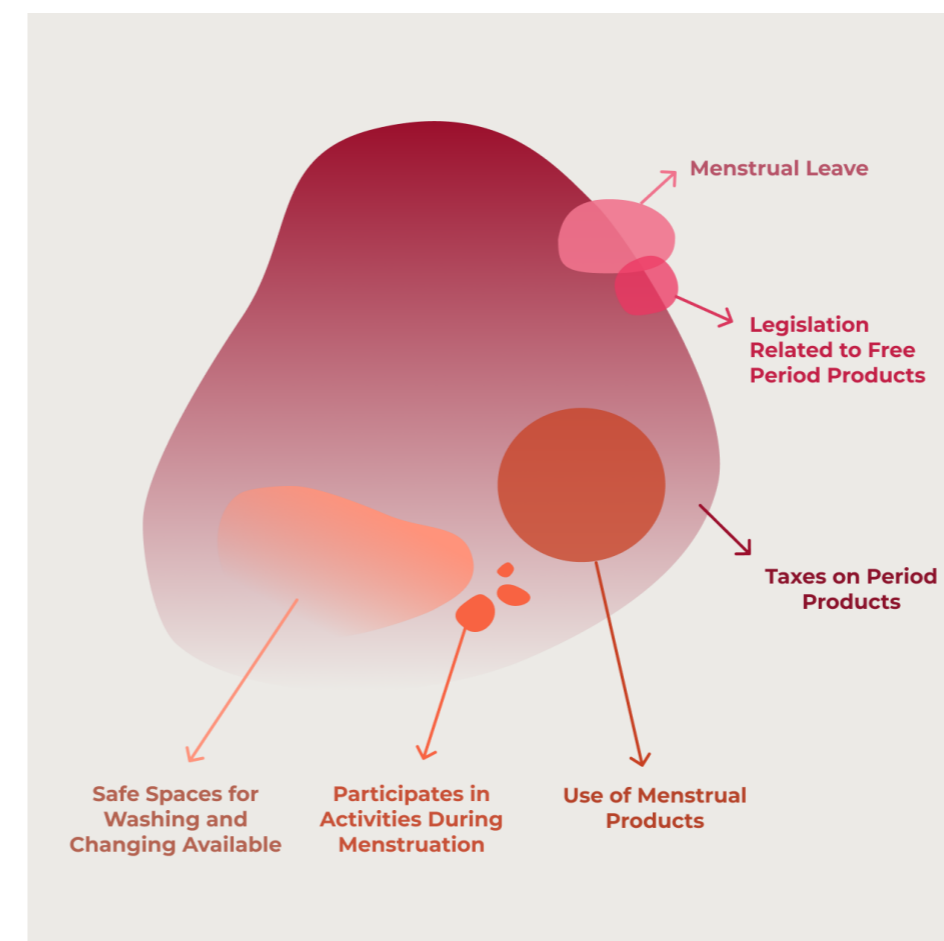


Figure 3: The "mark" allows to quickly identify countries which make the biggest impact in the fight against period poverty.

Hence, we had to learn how to make tough decisions on data selection and how to deal with missing information. Another challenge was the limitations of Figma in creating interactive maps. We intentionally decided to use Figma for this project to experiment with it and discover the capabilities of using a user interface tool for cartographic purposes. Despite it working very well for our goal, we realized that the scope of our map combined with Figma not having a lot of automation for applying datasets to our components posed a challenge. This meant we had to limit by the number of countries that could be prototyped within the allotted time. These adaptations allowed us to try and implement various cartographic design principles and taught us how to keep a flexible mindset.

CONCLUSION

What we are most proud of is how we used every challenge as an opportunity to be flexible in our way of thinking and to keep researching the best way to implement our project vision. Ideally this concept could innovate the way we use maps to do research for social change. Despite all of the changes our project went through, or maybe due to that, we found a comprehensive way to implement a map using an unusual mapping tool as well as an innovative design to depict data through the mark. In the future, we would like to prototype every country as well as implement our prototype as a functioning web map and interactive collaboration platform.

Further, we believe that our prototyped concept could easily be adapted for other topics in social action and research.

IMPRINT

Mapping Project
Winter Semester 2022/2023
Technical University of Munich

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KEYWORDS

Making a mark, period poverty, menstruation, collaborative map, social action, data visualization

LINK



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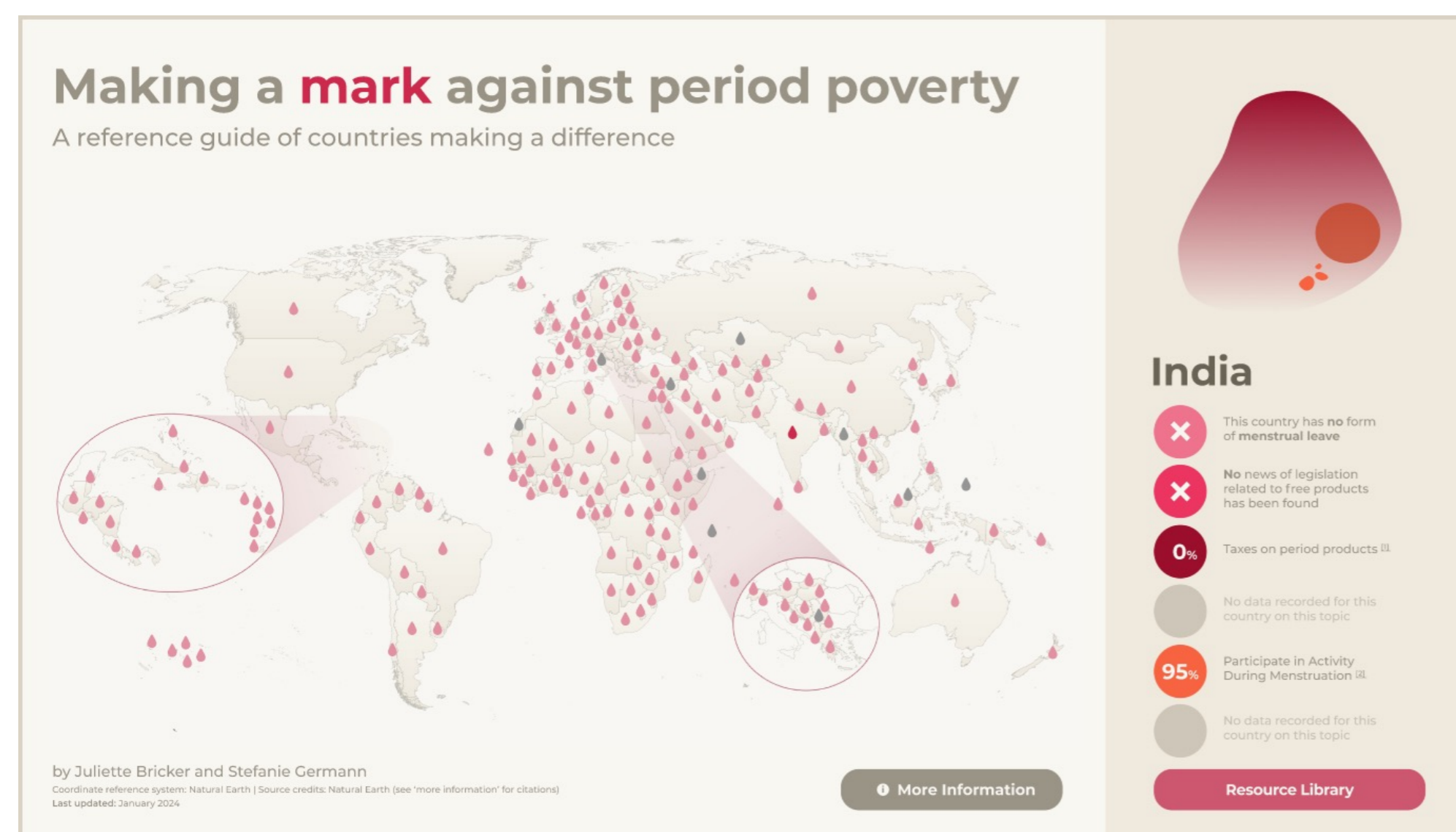


Figure 1: A screenshot of our main page with a map on the left side with pink resp. grey drops indicating countries where data on period poverty is available resp. not available. When clicking a pink drop the corresponding country information sheet will appear on the right side.

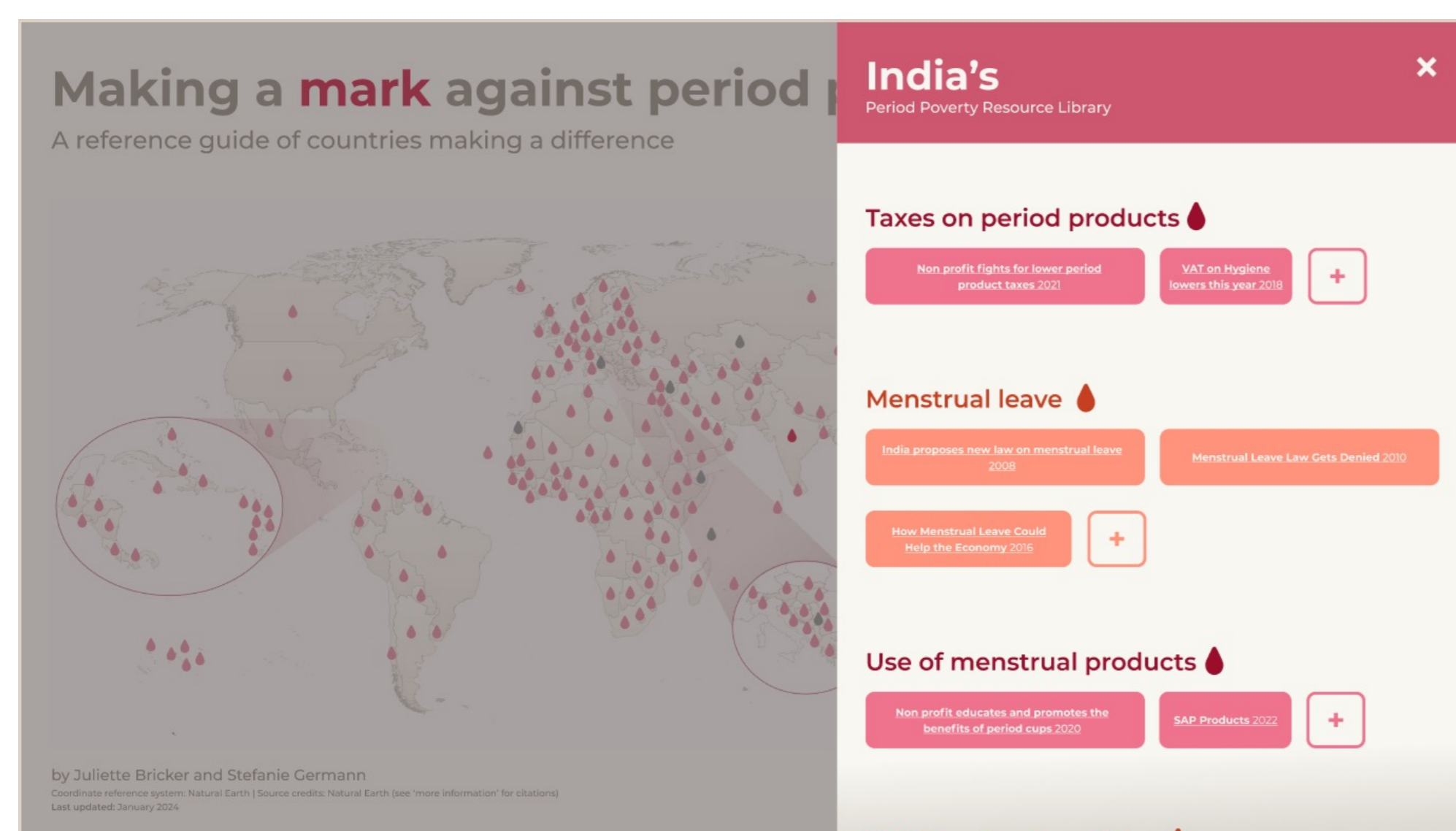


Figure 2: When clicking "Resource Library" this panel will appear showing gathered resources on different aspects of period poverty. There is also the possibility for individuals to add resources by clicking the "+" button.

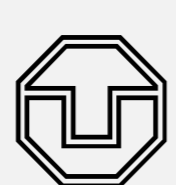
This project was created within the Cartography M.Sc. programme – proudly co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.



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