QUALITATIVE RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY CHALLENGES TO MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT AMONG SCHOOL GIRLS IN THE PHILIPPINES
Context for Research

- 2012 UNICEF & Emory University formative research:
  - Identified: MHM in schools challenges
  - Demonstrated: MHM has impact on girls’ participation in school
- 2013 SC & Emory University situational analysis for SC programs
Study Sample

- Sample Size: 6 schools (4 elementary, 2 secondary)
- Number of Participants
  - Girls: 47
  - Boys: 48
  - Teachers: 25
  - Mothers: 6
  - Fathers: 6
Research Tools & Analysis

- IDI, KII, FGD: Girls, Boys, Mothers, Fathers, Teachers
- Facility observations
- Data analyzed to identify challenges around SC’s School Health and Nutrition (SHN) Program:
  - Skills-based health education (SBHE)
  - School based delivery of health services
  - Safe school environment and physical facilities
  - Community support and school health and nutrition policy
Research Tools & Analysis

FGD girls:
- Before and Now: Participatory Learning Activity
  - Interactive brainstorming activity

FGD boys:
- Boys’ knowledge and attitudes
- Curriculum
- Boys’ experience with puberty
Research Tools & Analysis: New Tools Added

- FGD Fathers:
  - Knowledge and attitudes
  - Wives and children’s experience
  - Programming recommendations

- Questionnaire for Save the Children staff
  - Program focus
  - Girls services
  - Opportunities to address MHM
Evidence used to Influence Programming

- SBHE - comprehensive understanding of menstruation
- Services:
  - sanitary towels, pain killers, iron supplements
- School Environment:
  - O&M - WASH
  - waste disposal mechanism
  - gendered toilets
- Community support/ policy:
  - parent support, advocacy to government for gendered toilets, O&M, child protection/ anti-bullying
Methodological Recommendations

- FGD Fathers:
  - important to gauge attitudes, but not adding much information to data collection.

- KII for Teachers
  - Should be measured against curriculum available to teacher

- SC Staff Questionnaire

- Facilities Observation:
  - Added information about the location of toilets
Methodological Recommendations (cont’d)

- **Time Restraints:**
  - prioritize key questions within guides

- **Successful tool adaption:**
  - build in enough quality time to ensure tool adaptation is iterative
  - 3 rich data sets, better than 6 thin data sets
  - Tools are only as good as the people trained to use them.
Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Intense data collection process – time consuming
- Lack of national level DepEd interviews and private sector interviews
- No parents FGDs collected in metro manila

Next Steps
- Findings will influence advocacy and inform programming
Comparisons: Masbate, Manila and Mindanao

- SBHE:
  - Manila teacher’s: more knowledgeable

- WASH facilities:
  - Greater challenges in Urban schools

- Services:
  - Pads- students knowledge high, usage low due to access issues in schools and affordability - especially in Manila.
  - If cloths used - impact attendance – especially in Manila

- Policy/ community support
  - PTA, Teacher, DepEd support
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