

MHM in school in Mali: Exploring knowledge and materials

Conducted by Emory University in partnership
with Save the Children and UNICEF

Tools for Research

Background: Mali



Population	16 million
Religion	95% Muslim 2.5% Christian
Fertility rate	6.25births/wm
Female literacy	24.6%
Female school life expectancy	7 years

Study Aims

- Highlight the unique challenges faced by girls in urban and rural settings in Mali
 - *development of future WASH interventions / advocacy*
- Understand girls' knowledge of puberty and menstruation
 - *development of educational materials*
- Uncover challenges of current MHM solutions
- Explore the feasibility and cultural appropriateness of alternative products (Afripad, Makapad, DIVA Cup)
 - *inform trial of MHM solutions (Save the Children)*

Study Design

- 4 schools per region (2 urban / 2 rural)
 - 4 IDIs with girls
 - 1 FGD with girls
 - 1 FGD with mothers
 - 1-2 KIIs with teachers
- Respondents from 3 ethnic groups (Bamabara, Peuhl, Senoufo)



Study Tools:

Puberty and menstruation knowledge

- Current knowledge and sources of information
- Level of preparedness for onset of puberty / menstruation
- Additional information wished for and desired sources of information
 - Role of teachers, parents

Study Tools:

Current management solutions activity

- Girls given samples of all MHM materials they mention using
- Physical sample to facilitate discussion and comparison

Study Tools:

New management solutions activity

Study Tools:

New management solutions activity



Study tools:

Learning from previous studies

- Ease of tool for interviewer / facilitator
- Repetition
- Flow of conversation
- Difficulty in analysis

Successes and Challenges



Next Steps

- Report for partners
 - Key challenges
 - Recommendations for basic WASH program elements
 - Recommendations for educational materials / programs
- Communications products for government advocacy
- Designing trial of alternative solutions