Menstrual Health, and Hygiene (MHM) in Schools
UNICEF - Afghanistan

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Outline

* Afghanistan Scenario
* Background
* Menstrual Health and Hygiene (KAP) in school Finding
* Result achieved 2011-2012
* Way Forward
* Challenges for school girls
Afghanistan Scenario:

- Total number of schools: 12,476
- Number of enrolled students: 6,767,313
- 37% are girls
- 42% of children are estimated to be out-of-school
- Illiteracy rate: 90% of rural woman 65% of rural men
- Infant mortality rate: 129/1,000
- Under 5 mortality rate: 191/1,000
- Number of school age disabled children: 22.4%
- In some critical areas, such as where the Kuchis children (minority tribe) attending schools: 11% boys 6% girls

Source: Ministry of Education Interim Plan 2011-2013 and UNICEF Statistics
Background

- Most of schools in Afghanistan have single-sex education.
- Therefore separate toilets for boys and girls not an issue.
- According to MOE- 2010 assessment report from 24 provinces as supported by UNICEF:
  - 40 per cent of schools have toilets for girls and boys (adequacy is questioned)
  - 37 per cent of schools have drinking water (safety is an issue)
  - Small percentage of schools have toilets for disabled students (standard is questioned)
  - Functionality/maintenance of the facilities !!!!
Menstrual Health and Hygiene (KAP) in school Findings

• 29.41% girls do not attend school
• 70.59% neither play sports, nor eat certain foods such as sour foods, vegetables, and also not take shower up to the end of menstruation

Source: UNICEF assessment of Menstrual Health and Hygiene in Girl’s Schools of Afghanistan, September 2010
Cleanliness with water and soap during menses

- 80% use washing hands with water without soap after changing pads
- 20% water with soap after changing pads
Restrictions practiced during menstruation

- 85% girls are practicing
- different restrictions, among them
Napkins used as per family economy

55% of interviewed girls’ father are labors
61% of girls use old pieces of cloths
30% of girls use new pieces of cloths
8 % of girls use sanitary pads
Result achieved 2011-2012

- MHH Guidelines developed for:
  - Trainers
  - Adolescent girls
- MHM facilities designed/constructed:
  - Wash room
  - Incinerator
- Cost effective sanitary pads:
  - Designed and demonstrated
- Capacity building program (34 provinces)
• The MHH promotion for adolescent girls
• picture card developed and pre-tested
• Sanitary napkin added to emergency hygiene kit
Way forward

- MHM concept in National communication strategy
- MHM analysis in Emergencies
- Rapid assessment for sanitary napkins’ availability and affordability
- Impact evaluation of MHM facilities in Kabul and Jalalabad
- MHM Integration in national education curriculum
- Recruitment of international consultant for promoting sanitation and MHM
- MHM Advocacy with MoH&RA
Challenges for school girls

- Lack of sufficient water
- Lack of girl's Friendly facilities
  - Special wash room
  - Dustbin
  - Incinerator
- Limited access to counselor
- Insufficient #female teachers
- Lack of fund
Thank you for attention
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