MHM Conference Background:

WASH in Schools (WinS) fosters social inclusion and individual self-respect. By offering an alternative to the stigma and marginalization associated with hygiene issues, it empowers all students – and especially encourages girls and female teachers. There are growing efforts around the world to address adolescent girls’ menstrual hygiene management (MHM) needs through WinS programming. Such interventions are increasingly implemented in both development and humanitarian emergency contexts. There is a need to review the range of approaches currently being initiated or implemented, and share lessons learned to date with the broader WinS community around the world. Additional research is needed in the future to understand the specific MHM-related requirements of girls going to school in different social, cultural, and economic contexts; what the global and national priority MHM-related interventions in schools should be; what the most effective and efficient MHM approaches are; and how best to monitor their implementation, use and outcomes.

To promote the sharing of MHM research and practice already underway, we are hosting this joint Columbia University and UNICEF one-day conference to bring together WASH and/or MHM experts, global health and education experts, and on-line (WebEx) UNICEF country offices currently implementing MHM-related activities. The one-day event will provide an opportunity to share experiences, along with enabling joint discussion on the way forward. A summary document capturing the key points/conclusions of the discussion, and the range of MHM-related activities being conducted around the world, will be written up in a short document for UNICEF publication and dissemination to country offices and other interested organizations and experts in the global MHM community.

MHM Conference Objectives:

- To discuss and document the range of MHM activities being initiated or implemented in UNICEF countries
- To share lessons learned from MHM activities with the broader WinS community
- To better understand the barriers girls are facing managing menses in various contexts, and the ways of overcoming existing challenges
- To synthesize the MHM-related experiences of UNICEF countries in development and humanitarian contexts to provide guidance for countries and organizations interested in initiating MHM-related activities

MHM Conference Key Questions:

By the end of the conference, we hope to identify 4-5 key examples of MHM practice that can be recommended to UNICEF countries.

Additional questions the day’s discussion will focus on include the following:

- How can other countries initiate MHM-related research and/or practice?
- What are MHM-related programming gaps (e.g. manuals, intervention design, M&E) for implementing countries?
- What is the potential for scaling up MHM in WinS? What are the barriers and potential avenues?
AGENDA

8:00 - 8:45am  Registration and coffee/tea

8:45 - 9:30am  Introductions
  • Opening Remarks
    ➢ Dean Linda Fried, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
    ➢ Susana Sottoli, Deputy Director, Division of Policy and Strategy, UNICEF
  • Introduction to MHM
    ➢ Marni Sommer, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

9:30 – 11:00am  Session I: Exploring the MHM Barriers faced by girls
  • 3 country presentations – Research Introduction, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Bolivia
  • Discussion led by Matt Freeman (Emory University) and Lesley Bartlett (Columbia University)

11:00-11:15am  Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45am  Session II: Approaches to addressing MHM for girls
  • 4 country presentations – Malawi, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia
  • Discussion led by Julie Fisher (Loughborough University) and Seung Lee (Save the Children)

12:45 – 1:30pm  Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:00pm  Session III: MHM in humanitarian emergencies
  • 3 country presentations – Somalia, Copenhagen, UNICEF HQ
  • Discussion led by Therese McGinn (Columbia University) and Vanessa Veronese (WaterAid)

3:00-3:15pm  Coffee Break

3:15 – 4:30pm  Discussion
  • Group Work focused on identifying 4-5 practices for recommendation

4:30 – 5pm  Brief Wrapping up (Murat Sahin, Therese Dooley & Marni Sommer)
  ➢ Murat Sahin & Therese Dooley, UNICEF
  ➢ Marni Sommer, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

5:00 – 6:00pm  Reception

11pm – 2am  Continuation – Session I, II and III
  • (Repeat) Introduction to MHM Discussion – Marni Sommer, Columbia Univ
  • 5 country presentations – Philippines, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan
## Session Assignments

*Presenters will be online for entire session where assigned

Estimated time slots below but may shift depending on webex connectivity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/Content</th>
<th>Contact Person or Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session I:</strong> Exploring the MHM Barriers faced by Girls (9:30-11:00am)</td>
<td>9:30-9:45</td>
<td>Emory-UNICEF Research Project</td>
<td>Bethany Caruso</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:50-10:05</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Albertine Uwimana</td>
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<td>10:10-10:25</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>Kazumi Inden</td>
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<td>10:30-10:45</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Jeanne Long</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45-11:00</td>
<td>Brief discussion</td>
<td>Matt Freeman &amp; Lesley Bartlett</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session II:</strong> Approaches to Addressing MHM for girls (11:15-12:45)</td>
<td>11:15-11:30</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Clara Chindime</td>
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<td>11:35-11:50</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Astrid Van Agthoven</td>
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<td>11:55-12:10</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Gloria Onyilo</td>
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<td>12:15-12:35</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Daniel Geland</td>
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<td>12:35-12:50</td>
<td>Brief discussion</td>
<td>Julie Fisher &amp; Seung Lee</td>
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<td><strong>Session III:</strong> MHM in humanitarian emergencies (1:30-3:00)</td>
<td>1:30-1:45</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>Woki Munyui</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:50-2:05</td>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>Tabinda Syed</td>
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<td>2:10-2:25</td>
<td>UNICEF HQ</td>
<td>Timothy Hayden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Presentation Details</td>
<td>Speaker(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:15</td>
<td>CU and UNICEF Introductory Presentation</td>
<td>Marni Sommer</td>
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<td>11:20-11:35</td>
<td>Philippines MHM among girls in school research project: Philippines</td>
<td>Jacquelyn Haver</td>
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<td>11:40-11:55</td>
<td>India Menstrual hygiene: Manage it well</td>
<td>Mamita Thakkar</td>
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<td>12:00-12:15</td>
<td>Nepal Reaching adolescent girls: Approaches to address MHM</td>
<td>Purnima Gurung</td>
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<td>12:20-12:35</td>
<td>Pakistan Menstrual hygiene management for schoolgirls in Pakistan</td>
<td>Muhammad Masud Aslam &amp; Patrick Okoth</td>
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<td>12:40-12:55</td>
<td>Afghanistan Menstrual health and hygiene in schools</td>
<td>Esmaeil Ibrahim</td>
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<td>12:55-1:10</td>
<td>Brief discussion and wrap up</td>
<td>Murat Sahin</td>
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**Evening Session:** Combined Session I, II, III presentations (11:00pm-2:00am)

**Webex Connection details for MHM virtual Conference**

**A. Day Session: (08:00-15:00hrs on 27th September, New York Time - check your local timing)**

- **Time:** 8:30 am, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)
- **Meeting Number:** 628 863 290
- **Meeting Password:** Mhm12345
  1. Go to [https://unicef200.webex.com/unicef200/j.php?ED=210613617&UID=498230377&PW=NYTQ1N2E0Mzc1&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D](https://unicef200.webex.com/unicef200/j.php?ED=210613617&UID=498230377&PW=NYTQ1N2E0Mzc1&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D)
  2. If requested, enter your name and email address.
  3. If a password is required, enter the meeting password: Mhm12345
  4. Click "Join"

**B. Evening Session (11:00pm 27th of September, New York Time - check your local timing)**

- **Time:** 11:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)
- **Meeting Number:** 625 963 627
- **Meeting Password:** Mhm12345
  1. Go to [https://unicef200.webex.com/unicef200/j.php?ED=211413622&UID=1418411447&PW=NMmRmZDExOTU2&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D](https://unicef200.webex.com/unicef200/j.php?ED=211413622&UID=1418411447&PW=NMmRmZDExOTU2&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D)
  2. If requested, enter your name and email address.
  3. If a password is required, enter the meeting password: Mhm12345
  4. Click "Join".