

MHM Virtual Conference UNICEF & Columbia University

September 27, 2012

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

Session	Country	Title/Content	Contact Person or Presenter
<p><i>*Presenters will be online for entire session where assigned</i></p> <p><i>Estimated time slots below but may shift depending on webex connectivity</i></p>			
Session I: Exploring the MHM Barriers faced by Girls (9:30-11:00am)			
9:30-9:45	Emory-UNICEF Research Project	Brief Intro to Methods	Bethany Caruso
9:50-10:05	Rwanda	MHM in Schools: An assessment for applied learning and improved practice in Gicumbi District, Rwanda	Albertine Uwimana
10:10-10:25	Sierra Leone	Baseline study on MHM in school girls in Sierra Leone	Kazumi Inden
10:30-10:45	Bolivia	MHM among girls in school: getting to a model of an enabling environment	Jeanne Long
10:45-11:00		Brief discussion	Matt Freeman & Lesley Bartlett
Session II: Approaches to Addressing MHM for girls (11:15-12:45)			
11:15-11:30	Malawi	MHM in Malawi schools	Clara Chindime
11:35-11:50	Tanzania	Supporting Tanzanian school girls with their MHM	Astrid Van Agthoven
11:55-12:10	Nigeria	MHM in schools and communities in Nigeria	Gloria Onyilo
12:15-12:35	Ethiopia	Developing washable sanitary pads and raising MHM awareness	Daniel Gelan
12:35-12:50		Brief discussion	Julie Fisher & Seung Lee
Session III: MHM in humanitarian emergencies (1:30-3:00)			
1:30-1:45	Somalia	Somalia case study: The management of maturation (MMP) project	Woki Munyui
1:50-2:05	Copenhagen	MHM: a supply chain challenge	Tabinda Syed
2:10-2:25	UNICEF HQ	MHM in emergencies: taking sock of support from UNICEF and partners	Timothy Hayden

2:25-2:40		Brief Discussion	Therese McGinn & Vanessa Veronese
Evening Session: Combined Session I, II, III presentations (11:00pm-2:00am)			
11:00-11:15	CU and UNICEF	Introductory Presentation	Marni Sommer
11:20-11:35	Philippines	MHM among girls in school research project: Philippines	Jacquelyn Haver
11:40-11:55	India	Menstrual hygiene: Manage it well	Mamita Thakkar
12:00-12:15	Nepal	Reaching adolescent girls: Approaches to address MHM	Purnima Gurung
12:20-12:35	Pakistan	Menstrual hygiene management for schoolgirls in Pakistan	Muhummad Masud Aslam & Patrick Okoth
12:40-12:55	Afghanistan	Menstrual health and hygiene in schools	Esmaeil Ibrahim
12:55-1:10		Brief discussion and wrap up	Murat Sahin

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>

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>

2. If requested, enter your name and email address.

3. If a password is required, enter the meeting password: Mhm12345

4. Click "Join".