MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT IN EMERGENCIES: TAKING STOCK OF SUPPORT FROM UNICEF AND PARTNERS

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Outline

• Background
• Methods
• Findings
• Recommendations
• Next Step
Background

• In 2010 estimated 43 million refugees and IDPs.
• Populations often flee with little more than the clothes on their back.
• Lack of appropriate hygiene infrastructure.
• Surviving in an environment that is foreign to them.
Why MHM in emergencies

- Good MHM reduces risk of infection to girls and women.
- Dignity and empowerment to engage in daily activities and survival in an emergency context
- Provision of safe facilities to reduce risk of sexual abuse
- Need for girls to participate in education during emergencies – need MHM friendly facilities at temporary learning spaces
MHM in Emergency

- Multi faceted Approach
  - Personal Sanitary material
  - Community hardware support
  - Access to information
Questions

• How do emergencies affect normal MHM processes?

• What are the needs of menstruating girls and women during emergencies?

• How can UNICEF support the needs of menstruating girls and women during emergencies?
Methods - Qualitative Approach

• Focus Group Discussions
  • Beneficiaries affected by emergencies
  • Use of a FGD question guide -

• Key Informant Interviews
  • With UNICEF WASH and CP staff
Findings Somalia

• Background
  • Beneficiaries in IDP camps
  • Muslim populations primarily nomadic community

• MHM background
  • Before arriving in camps – common for no absorbent support used
  • After arriving in camp use of cloth influenced by confined environment
  • Specific cultural/religious rules on MHM

• Identified Issues
  • Water and support facilities too expensive
  • Lack of private/appropriate washing drying facilities
  • Lack of information – how to conduct MHM in a confined environment
Findings Haiti

- **Background**
  - Beneficiaries in IDP camps
  - Urban population – poor sanitation background
  - Dependence culture

- **MHM background**
  - Before arriving in camps – various sanitary items – cost….
  - In camp use of disposable sanitary napkin
  - Very poor sanitation/facility support – has influence over preference

- **Identified Issues**
  - Water not immediately accessible at facilities
  - Poor maintenance of facilities
  - No washing drying facilities
  - Lack of information – How to prevent/ avoid infection
Findings Philippines

• Background
  • Beneficiaries in relocation centers
  • Mixed population from flood affected areas

• MHM background
  • Before arriving in camps – different types of support used
  • Pads issued in Hygiene Kit
  • Good knowledge of MHM

• Identified Issues
  • Lack of clean water to wash
  • Lack of private facilities in reception centre
  • Issues of protection at facilities for younger girls
## Common Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enabling Supportive Environment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informed approach</strong></td>
<td>Lack of Beneficiary Consultation</td>
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<td>All FGD participants agreed that this was the first time anyone asked them for feedback about Hygiene related issue.</td>
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<td><strong>Coordinated approach</strong></td>
<td>Lack of Sector Coordination</td>
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<td>Activities conducted autonomously</td>
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<td>Evidence of overlap</td>
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<td>Confusion on responsibilities</td>
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Recommendations

• Identify and recognise MHM as an issue to address.
• Coordinated response
  • Identify stakeholders
  • Identify sector focal point
• Informed Response
  • Systematic approach to continued beneficiary feedback
    • Cultural norms
    • How emergency affects normal MHM practices
    • Priorities and gaps of support
    • Ensure women are included in design of facilities and make up of hygiene kits
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Questions? Next Step?