Menstrual Hygiene Management in Humanitarian Emergencies

Somalia Case Study: Management of Maturation Project (MMP)

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MMP PROJECT OBJECTIVES

• Promote healthy menstruation practices
• Build capacity among a team of trainers
• Disseminate information on MMP
• Establish and strengthen peer counseling and gender-responsive Child to Child clubs
• Create public awareness

• Promote policy advocacy for gender responsiveness in education policies and strategies
• Emergency/recovery and Development situation

• GER Girls 37%  Boys 46%  Total 41%

• NER Girls: 33%  Boys: 41%

• Lower primary Girls: 45%  Boys: 55%

• Upper primary Girls: 41%  Boys: 59%

• Teachers- Male 82%  Female 18%

• Only 13% of female teachers are trained

• 34% schools with WASH facilities in CSZ
KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM

• Baseline Study conducted in 2008
• Design of project
• Development of radio program
• Development of training materials
• Training of Trainers, teachers and pupils
• Production and distribution of sanitary kits
• Integration of gender into existing clubs/CTC (Child to Child) and gender empowerment clubs
• Evaluation
FINDINGS OF THE BASELINE

- Persistent lack of factual information on maturation among girls, boys, teachers and community leaders
- Myths on maturation
- High absenteeism rates among adolescent girls in grade 6-8 up to five days a month
- Less than 5% of the respondents could afford sanitary towels
UNICEF INTERVENTION

• **Partnership** implement MMP project in 18 schools in Galkayo

• **A Training package for TOTs** on the process of growing up for boys and girls

• **Development of a information guide, TOT manual and facilitators’ guide**

• **Production of 60,000 sanitary kits**

• **Establishment/ reinforcement of clubs**
Girls make kits
UNICEF Intervention cont…..

• Production of sanitary kits by 50 out of school girls from IDP camps

• Talk show on maturation process by religious leaders, teachers and clan elders through 3 local radio stations

• Promotion of participation of girls in games, debates in school clubs and drama competitions
MOE endorsed the MMP
In secondary schools, girls preferred to collect the kit in the absence of boys
In primary schools girls and boys begun discussing MMP issues
Income generation opportunity for IDP girls
Reduced absenteeism among girls in upper grades
In the second year, girls in participating schools recorded improved performance
School club activities empowered girls and boys to debate culturally sensitive issues
The MOE has integrated gender and girls’ education in the Education sector strategy.
Implementing partner recognized as expert in production of sanitary towels.
LESSONS LEARNT

• More knowledge on maturation required among girls, boys, public and educators
• Locally produced low cost sanitary towels were more affordable for girls
• Provision of sanitary kits enhances retention, attendance, completion and performance.
• Mass production of sanitary kits reduces unit cost and provide income generation alternative for poor girls
CHALLENGES

• Somali culture – no discussions on sexual subject

• Water- reusable sanitary kits require lots of water to clean

• Disposal- girls in Somalia do not use toilets confidently, and where there weren’t pit latrines, disposal was an issue
• Advocate for replication of the intervention through gender units of the MOE and development partners in other areas of Somalia.

• Knowledge on maturation will be continuously disseminated through school clubs.

• UNICEF will support gender unit to explore how to integrate maturation content into the school curricula.
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