

TOOLKIT: Menstrual Hygiene Management

FOREWORD

One of the challenges identified in both the 2013 menstrual hygiene management (MHM) pilot study (Ministry of Education, 2013) and 2014 MHM study was lack of knowledge about menstruation amongst female learners expressed through what their reactions were at onset of menstruation. Revelations from the 2014 study showed that those that claimed to have adequate knowledge did not; in fact, it appears that the knowledge about menstruation is often conflated with prevailing myths and taboos. Providing information on menstruation will, therefore, equip female learners with relevant information needed to help them manage menstruation and also enable male learners and teachers offer the necessary support. It will also help dispel myths and taboos associated with the subject.

This toolkit is the result of the 'WASH in Schools for Girls (WinS4Girls): Advocacy and Capacity Building for MHM through WASH in Schools Programmes', supported by UNICEF in 14 countries and funded by the Government of Canada. It was developed following research conducted by the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), an organisation with vast experience in conducting research in health. Formative qualitative research was conducted in six schools of Mumbwa and Rufunsa Districts, with technical support from Emory University, USA and the University of Zambia's (UNZA) Department of Gender Studies. Previous MHM studies and tools were reviewed including the MHM Toolkit developed in Eastern Province by the USAID funded Schools Promoting Learning Achievements through Sanitation and Hygiene (SPLASH) Programme. The toolkit development followed a consultative process steered by the Ministry of General Education's MHM Thematic Working Group with active participation from integral line ministries, cooperating partners, non-governmental and community based organisations.

In a bid to ensure equitable access to education, the toolkit provides relevant information and facts on menstruation. The toolkit has four modules: Module 1, an introductory and assessment module, outlines steps towards making a school MHM friendly. It describes how to evaluate a school to qualify for being classified "MHM Friendly", and guides how to integrate MHM into the School WASH Club; Module 2, which provides basic knowledge on puberty and menstruation; Module 3, which presents key elements of 'MHM friendly toilets' and 'washing areas'; and Module 4, which covers ways in which menstruating girls can manage leaks and stains while at school, and stipulates how schools can ensure access to appropriate, affordable, hygienic menstrual materials and discusses their disposal.

Finally, this toolkit is meant to complement the National MHM Guidelines.

Ministry of General Education, Lusaka, Zambia

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The members of the **MHM Thematic Working Group** who participated in the consultative meetings for their constructive contributions and technical expertise in the WASH in Schools and MHM programming.

We also thank **USAID** and the Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene (SPLASH) Programme for allowing us to take into consideration the MHM toolkit developed under SPLASH, which was based on experiences in Zambia's Eastern Province, consolidating the current research study.

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ACRONYMS

- **CDF** Constituency Development Fund
- **DEBS** District Education Board Secretary
- **EHT** Environmental Health Technician
- **FPP** Focal Point Person
- **HW** Handwashing
- MHM Menstrual Hygiene Management
- **MoGE** Ministry of General Education
- PTA Parent Teacher Association
- **SHN** School Health and Nutrition
- **SLTS** School Led Total Sanitation
- **WASH** Water Sanitation and Hygiene
- **ZICS** Zonal in-Service Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the toolkit

The Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) toolkit is a practical guide providing information on MHM at schools. The toolkit together with the accompanying MHM National Guidelines were developed by the MHM Thematic Working Group under the lead of the Ministry of General Education (MoGE). This was an output the formative research conducted in Rufunsa and Mumbwa Districts. The toolkit aims at improving MHM through the provision of basic practical solutions to the challenges girls face at school when they start their menstruation.

How to use the toolkit

The toolkit has been designed for use at the school level by teachers, male and female pupils, and at the zonal and district levels by the relevant trained facilitator. The toolkit, which begins after the Facilitators' Orientation on the following page, is organized into four modules, or sessions. Each module has a set of activities that the pupils and/or teachers have to work through to meet the module objectives. The modules are based on the challenges identified during the formative research and are as follows:

- **Module 1:** Getting Started with Menstrual Hygiene Management in School is an introductory and assessment module targeting the MHM Focal Point Person (FPP), who can be a teacher, aims at assessing the eligibility of the school as MHM Friendly and introducing MHM in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Clubs.
- **Module 2:** Knowledge on Menstruation aims at providing basic information on puberty and menstruation.
- **Module 3:** MHM Friendly Toilets and Washing Areas highlights emphasizes on key elements required for MHM toilets and personal MHM.
- **Module 4:** Materials and Disposal aims at improving girls' access to appropriate, affordable, hygienic materials and teaches how to manage stains and leaks.

The introductory page to each module has three key framing notes including the **Objective** of the module, the **Duration** of all activities in the module to be conducted, and the **Materials** needed for the activities to be conducted. Furthermore, each *tool* under the modules is preceded by **Guidance Notes** that provide important notes on how to facilitate each activity. Facilitator notes are also included for selected tools to assist the facilitator to conduct the session.

On the next page is the **Facilitators' Orientation**, which details the roles of those necessary to implement the MHM toolkit.

FACILITATORS' ORIENTATION

Who is involved?

It is important that district staff undergoes training and orientation of the toolkit and guidelines prior to implementation in schools. MoGE with support from UNICEF will identify and train district level facilitators that shall be responsible for training the schools in the use of the toolkit.

Whoho should be a facilitator?

The facilitators should be identified from the district level. The role of facilitator can be done by anyone deemed suitable by the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS). The Environmental Health Technician (EHT), from the Ministry of Health, involved with the school health services can also be trained to be a facilitator.

All MHM facilitators shall receive orientation training on the MHM guidelines and the MHM toolkit.

What is the role of the facilitator?

The facilitator/s shall be responsible for conducting orientations with teachers in the Toolkit as well as supporting the schools and their communities to fully integrate MHM in the SHN programme. Orientation shall also involve going through MHM tools with the Head Teacher, Focal Point Person (FPP), and pupil representatives of the WASH club. They will also be responsible for introducing the toolkit and guidelines to the Head Teacher and should facilitate the selection of an MHM focal point at the school level. Lastly, the facilitator should work to ensure that MHM activities are merged in other relevant clubs for example the WASH and SHN club.

What is the role of the Head-Teacher?

The Head Teacher is the custodian of all MHM activities at the School level and he/she should be trained in conducting MHM activities together with the MHM FPP. A representative from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) can also be trained in the Toolkit and can act as the FPP in the absence of the MHM FPP. The Head Teacher should be involved in the assessment of the school as MHM Friendly and in the MHM programme. he/she should be key in advocating for and mobilizing financial resources for MHM activities in the school. Furthermore, he/she should support the mobilization of the community through the PTA and other organisations including the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Committee.

Who will be the MHM Focal Point Person at the school level?

At the school level, each school shall identify and designate at least two MHM FPPs, preferably the Guidance and Counseling Teacher and the SHN Coordinator. Please note:

- If the Guidance and Counseling Teacher is male and the SHN is female, the SHN can be the main point of contact while the Guidance Teacher can help with facilitating MHM activities.
- If both Guidance Teacher and SHN Coordinator are male, a female teacher shoule be identified as the MHM FPP while the Guidance Teacher and SHN Coordinator facilitate the MHM activities.
- Where possible, a representative from the PTA can also be designated as the MHM FPP.

The MHM FPP at the school level shall be responsible for conducting the activities of the MHM programme. They will also support girls needing guidance and counseling. However, care must be taken to avoid duplication of roles and responsibilities. (See also Guideline #5: Guidance and Counselling)

THE MHM TOOLKIT MODULES

MODULE	ACTIVITIES	TOOLS	TARGET	USERS
MODULE 1: Getting started with Menstrual Hygiene Management in the school	School Assessment and Introduction of MHM Club activities	Tool 1: <i>Checklist</i> Is Our School MHM Friendly Tool 2: <i>Checklist</i> Starting your MHM Club	Head Teachers, FPPs	MHM Facilitators
MODULE 2: Knowledge on menstruation	Talking about menstruation	Tool 3: <i>Checklist</i> Physical Changes During Puberty Tool 4: <i>Flash Card</i> Human Anatomy Showing Biological Changes Tool 5: <i>Flash Card</i> Stages of Development Showing Physical Changes Tool 6: <i>Fact Sheet</i> Menstruation Tool 7: <i>Flash Card</i> Female Reproductive Organ Tool 8: <i>Calendar</i> Menstrual Cycle Calendar Tool 9: <i>Fact Sheet</i> Myths and Misconceptions Tool 10: <i>Quiz</i> Questions on MHM Knowledge	MHM Club Members	MHM FPP, Teachers
MODULE 3:	Toilets, soap and water	Tool 11: <i>Line Drawing</i> MHM Friendly Toilet Tool 12: <i>Line Drawing</i> MHM Unfriendly Toilet	Boys and girls	MHM FPP, Teachers
MHM Friendly toilets and washing areas	Keeping the toilet clean	Tool 13: <i>Fact Sheet</i> What Every Girl Must Know About MHM Friendly Toilets Tool 14: <i>Comic Strip/Play</i> Hygienic(clean) and Un-Hygienic (dirty) Toilets	Boys and girls	MHM FPP, Teachers
MODULE 4: Menstrual hygiene materials and disposal	Stains, leaks and used materials	Tool 15: <i>Checklist</i> Care and Disposal of used Menstrual Material Tool 16: <i>Checklist</i> Managing Stains and Leaks – Teachers Guide Tool 17: Checklist Managing Stains and leaks – Pupils Guide	MHM club members Girls of menstrual age	MHM FPP, Teachers
	Making washable pads	Tool 18: Comic/Play Building Girls' Confidence Tool 19: Sewing Instructions Making Washable Pads Tool 20: Sewing Instructions Making a Padini	Boys and Girls	

MANAGEMENT IN THE SCHOOL

OBJECTIVE

Assist the school in starting up the menstrual hygiene management programme

DURATION

Variable; you are encouraged to take your time in completing this activity



MATERIALS

Tool 1: Checklist – Is Our School MHM Friendly

Tool 2: Checklist – Starting Your MHM Club Meeting



GUIDANCE NOTES

Tool 1: Using the Checklist – Is Our School MHM Friendly?

In order to help girls manage their menstruation well, you need to ensure that your school is MHM friendly. Tool 1 is a checklist to assess whether your school is already MHM friendly, and if not, when you can commit to ensuring that it reaches that objective. You can conduct the assessment before and after implementing all the tools of the MHM toolkit.

Steps for Completing the Checklist:

- a) Copy the checklist on a paper or a flip-chart to put it in the head teachers' office.
- b) When going through the list, if the item is present in your school, tick under "Yes" in the space provided. If the item is not present in your school, tick under "No" in the area provided.
- c) Discuss each item with the school management team. Together you can find solutions on how to improve MHM in areas that are lacking. In the last column (Notes and Date to Turn No to Yes!) you can indicate some notes on your plans to improve the school to MHM where lacking. Also add a date on when you plan to ensure that the item on the list is MHM friendly.
- d) Repeat the same exercise at the end of the toolkit implementation and find out if you have attained the MHM Friendly status.

TOOL #1 CHECKLIST - IS OUR SCHOOL MHM FRIENDLY?

Objective : To determine to what extent a school is already MHM friendly Target : MHM Focal Point Teacher, Head Teacher, Pupils User : MHM Focal Point Teacher or Head Teacher

MHM School programme elements in place	Yes	No	Date and Notes for Turning No to Yes!
Is there a trained MHM focal point teacher present in the school?			
Is there a WASH / SHN or any other existing club with MHM activities?			
Does the school provide information for girls and boys on menstrual hygiene?			
Does the school have visual aids or tools on MHM?			
Has the recommended average of one toilet to 30 female pupils been met?			
Are there separate toilets for girls and boys?			
Are there separate toilets for higher grades (grade 5 and above)?			
Are there HW facilities with water and soap?			
Does the school have a WASH/MHM schedule in place (for cleaning, filling up water facilities etc?)			
Do girls & female teachers have access to hygienic toilets with washing facilities to manage their menstrual hygiene privately?			
Is there water & soap in girls' toilets?			
Does the school provide for discrete disposal of used menstrual materials?			
Does the schools have a supply of emergency menstrual materials?			
Does the school PTA, school boards and teachers regularly discuss menstrual hygiene in their meetings?			
Is sewing of washable pads included in school activities?			
Have pupils been oriented in MHM?			
Are their school funds available for MHM?			



In order to promote MHM in your school, you can conduct the MHM Club activities within your existing WASH or School Health Nutrition (SHN) Club.

a) Recruitment of club members:

As MHM is a relatively new topic, you can recruit pupils who are interested in MHM into the WASH club. Be sure to advertise the upcoming MHM club activities in your classes to find those who are interested.

b) Gender inclusion:

Both boys and girls are free to join MHM club activities. Do **not** restrict the club to only one gender, as it is important to develop positive peer-to-peer relationships around MHM.

c) Activities within the WASH MHM Club:

The MHM Toolkit has information and activities around MHM that can be used within the club. The club members will decide how to conduct the various activities. For the first club group you will conduct, you can use material from the MHM toolkit to start talking about menstruation.

d) Club rules:

The MHM club members will be responsible for setting club rules.

e) Number of club members:

The MHM FPP and Head Teacher will decide the maximum number of members within the club.





Objective : To conduct MHM activities in a classroom or the MHM club Target : MHM Club members and other pupils User : MHM FPP

Step 1: Welcome the MHM Club members and conduct introductions

Say:

- Welcome to the MHM Club Meeting, we are happy to have you here!
- Let's start by introducing ourselves to one another. (Allow for students to introduce themselves)
- Tell us why you are interested in joining this MHM Club (Allow for students to share interests

Explain: The purpose of the meeting and why you are forming the MHM Club

Step 2: Establish what the members know about menstruation

Ask:

- Can someone tell me what menstruation is? (Allow for only two or three responses)
- What stories do we know about menstruation or 'periods'? (Allow for only five or fewer responses. write all responses on the board but **do not** go through the stories until the next step)
- Does anyone want to add any comments to the list? (Write down comments alongside the stories on the board)

Step 3: Discuss the existing issues around menstruation

Say:

Before we go into the stories on the board, we should know the barriers that girls face in managing menstruation:

1. Firstly, girls do not know what is happening to their bodies and usually become scared, sad, shy, and worried. Does this sound familiar? (2 minute discussion; assess club's familiarity with the barrier)

Share the following positive message:

- A girl should be happy to have her period because it is a mark of GIRL POWER! All of us were born from a woman who menstruates. Without menstruation, a girl cannot have children. A menstruating girl is a healthy girl.
- **2.** Girls do not always find menstrual material when they are in school. Do you agree that **that's true? (**2 minute discussion; assess club's familiarity with the barrier)

Share the following positive follow-up:

- Just as everyone has the right to wear underwear or pants to feel comfortable, every girl has the right to have menstrual material to feel comfortable.
- Can you imagine coming to school without trousers or dresses? What will people do if they saw you like that? (*Wait for responses*)

Then say:

If a girl starts her period at school, she will only be comfortable if she knows that the school will help her with menstrual material.

3. Girls cannot use the toilet to clean themselves or to change their used menstrual materials because the toilet is usually dirty with no water, soap or privacy. Have any of

you experienced that? (2 minute discussion; assess club's familiarity with the barrier)

Share the following positive message:

- Everyone should be able to use clean toilets in school whether you're a boy or a girl. Girls often have to go home or to the neighbor's house to use the toilet because the toilets at school can be too dirty. Others said that they had to stay with the menstrual material the whole day because they couldn't use the toilet. Imagine that you have an accident and diarrhoea in your pants. (*Give members time to reflect*). Now ask:
 - Can you stay like that the whole day? (Wait for the pupils to answer)

Share the following positive message:

We believe that every menstruating girl has to have access to a clean toilet that has water, soap and privacy.

4. Girl's are teased by boys when they begin their period or when they have accidentally stained their uniforms/dresses with bloodwhile in class. This makes them feel bad and then they miss classes or stop school. (2 minute discussion; assess club's familiarity with the barrier)

Share the following positive message:

In a good school, boys and girls are friendly and respect one another. In a good school boys and girls help one another. We should be a good school and stop boys from teasing girls when they are in their menstruation.

Step 4: Club Membership

At this point I would now like to ask, who is interested in supporting girls manage their menstruation by helping them through whatever problem they may have? If you agree, please write your name on the MHM club membership form.

Step 5: Activities of the Week

Now use the MHM toolkit to plan activities to conduct with the MHM Club members for the week.

MODULE 2 BASIC KNOWLEDGE ON MENSTRUATION

OBJECTIVE

Provide basic knowledge and understanding of menstruation amongst teachers and pupils, both girls and boys.



DURATION N/A



MATERIALS

Tool 3: Checklist Tool 4: Flash card Tool 5: Flash card Tool 6: Fact sheet Tool 7: Flash card Tool 8: Calendar Tool 9: Fact sheet Tool 10: Quiz Physical Changes During Puberty Human Anatomy Showing Biological Changes Stages of Development Showing Physical Changes Menstruation Female Reproductive System Menstrual Cycle Calendar Myths and Misconceptions Questions on MHM Knowledge



- a) Before talking about menstruation it's important for pupils to understand puberty. Tools 3, 4 and 5 should be used together to talk about puberty. *Flash cards are provided separately, too, so that they can be passed around to the members for closer study.*
- b) These tools will help you describe the different physical changes that take place in boys and girls during puberty.
- c) You can conduct a session on puberty in a classroom where boys and girls are both present or in a MHM Club with both boys and girls. You can start this session with a brief discussion of puberty, by asking the pupils:
 - Who can explain what puberty is? (pause for responses)
 - What are some of the changes that will show that a girl or a boy is going through puberty? (pause for responses)

Let the group/class know that puberty is the stage in a boy or girl's development and growth when a number of physical changes take place to prepare the body for becoming a young man or woman.

- d) After discussion, use Tool #3 on puberty to go through each of the physical changes that take place during puberty with the class.
- e) Tool #4 on human anatomy will help show the different changes that take place in boys and girls and Tool #5 will let members compare the differences

Facilitators' Notes:

The facilitator should be able to:

- Define puberty as a biological process where boys and girls experience rapid growth, their bodies begin to develop, and they look more like adults
- Explain that boys and girls experience puberty differently
- Explain that the age of puberty also varies between boys and girls. Girls may experience puberty earlier at about 10-11 years and boys could vary from 11 years to 12 years

TOOL #3 CHECKLIST – PHYSICAL CHANGES DURING PUBERTY

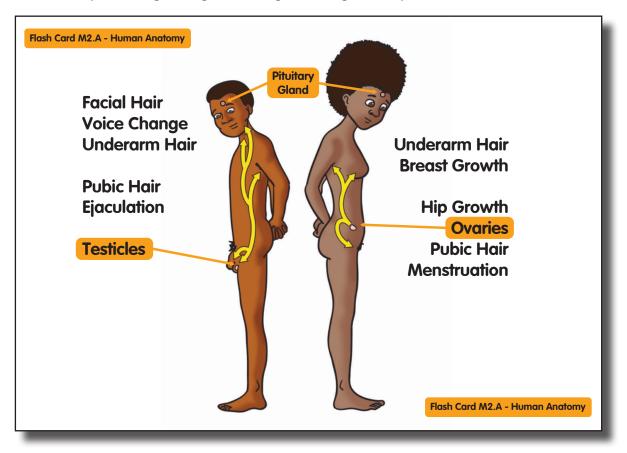
Objective : This tool is designed to educate pupils on the physical changes associated with puberty and to show the link between menstruation and puberty **Target :** All Pupils

User : Teachers/MHM FPP/Pupil mentored in MHM

Boys	Girls
Enlargement of the testes	Breasts starts to grow
Changes in texture and color of scrotum	Hips start to get much rounder and/or wider
Increase in size of penis	Increased size of uterus, vagina, labia, clitoris
Appearance of pubic hair	Appearance of pubic hair
Boys are able to produce sperm	Girls start menstruating or have monthly periods
Changes in skin texture	Changes in skin texture
Chest broadens	Chest broadens
Increase in the body height	
Growth of facial hair	
Deep voice	

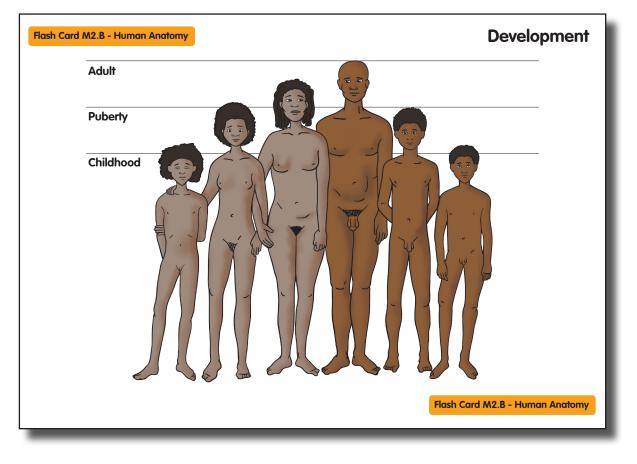
TOOL # 4: FLASH CARD

Human Anatomy Showing Biological Changes During Puberty



TOOL # 5: FLASH CARD

Stages of Development Showing Physical Changes





Tool #6, #7, and #8 are designed to share information with both boys and girls on the facts about menstruation. When girls start their menstruation they usually do not know anything about it. Therefore they experience negative feelings of sadness, disappointment and sometimes fear. Equally, girls who have already started menstruation have limited knowledge on the purpose of menstruation or why women menstruate. It important that this information is given both to girls that have not yet started menstruation and those that have already started menstruation.

Note: Before starting this module, print out Tool #8 or find templates of months to pass out to members.

- a) These tools can be used through a simple talk with members. Start your talk with a few discussion questions below, and give space for discussion:
 - Can someone tell us what menstruation is?
 - What other terms are used to describe menstruation?

(Emphasize to the boys that they need to understand girls moods may be as a result of them menstruation)

- b) After discussing the questions above, review Tool #6 with the MHM members
- c) Tool #7 on the Female Reproductive Organ is a tool that will help explain how girls menstruate and where the blood comes from.
- d) Tool #8, the Menstrual Cycle Calendar, explains the whole menstrual cycle. Mention that the *average* menstrual cycle is 28 days and that this cycle can sometimes change and a girl can miss her monthly period.
- e) During the calendar exercise, mention that a girl can miss her period due to various reasions such as pregnancy, illness, when a girl has low blood levels (anaemia) she would miss her period, exercise, stress and geographical changes during travel.
 - Say: You can count your period using the cycle below (At this point distribute the calendars to the class)
 - After passing out the calendar templates, conduct the following exercise:

Story: Jelita starts her period on the 1st of May, when does she get her next period? Note: *Using the calendar, count 28 days starting from 1st of May. Answer is 28th May.*

Exercise 1: If Jelita starts her period on the 6th of May, when does she get her next period? (*Count 28 days from the 6th of May*) Answer should be: is 2nd June

TOOL #6 FACT SHEET - MENSTRUATION

Objective : To educate MHM members and other pupils on the facts about menstruation **Audience :** All members including those who have not yet started menstruation **User :** Teachers/MHM FPP/Pupil mentored in MHM

- 1. Menstruation happens to each and every girl during puberty, usually between 10 and 15years. In some cases, it may start earlier than 10years and later than 15years.
- 2. Menstruation is a normal or natural process by which girls bleed through the vaginal canal.
- 3. Another term for menstruation is monthly period.
- 4. The first menstruation is called menarche.
- 5. The uterus is a body part which is shed during menstruation as menstrual blood (show the class the female reproductive organ tool).
- 6. Every month the uterus grows a wall to prepare for menstruation.
- 7. A girl bleeds every month after she begins her menstruation in the absence of pregnancy or illness.
- 8. Menstruation usually occurs every 28 days. However, for some girls it can come earlier than 28days and for others later than 28days. The menstrual cycle sometimes irregular for the first and second year after menstruation starts. *(Practice counting the days using the Place Card M2.A-mesntrual calendar)*
- 9. Menstruating girls bleed between 2 to 7days with some lighter and heavy flows.

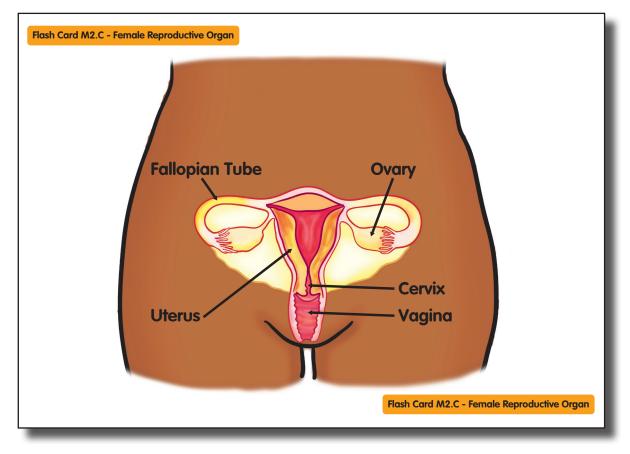
What does a girl experience during menstruation?

Some girls experience the following:

- Heavy or light blood flow
- Pain in the lower part of the stomach and/or lower back
- Emotional changes

TOOL# 7: FLASH CARD

Female Reproductive Organ



TOOL# 8: CALENDAR

Menstrual Cycle Calendar

			MAY			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



There are a number of myths and misconceptions that exist among different communities in Zambia. Some of these myths hinder the safe management of menstruation and hurt access to menstrual hygiene support for girls.

To encourage discussion around myths and misconceptions and dispel the negative ones, follow the steps in the checklist below:

- a) Conduct this tool in a classroom or MHM club.
- b) Do not show this fact sheet on myths and misconceptions to the group before the discussion, but you can make copies to share with the group after the discussion.
- c) Kick start the discussion on myths and misconceptions by asking the class/group to mention some myths and misconceptions that they know about menstruation. (write down their answers on a board or flip chart, and count how many people have heard about the myth shared)
- d) After the group has shared all of its answers, go through each myth and ask the group if it believes the myth is true or not. Count raised hands and mark it down.
- e) You can then use Tool #9, the fact sheet, to mention other myths and misconceptions and the facts about them.

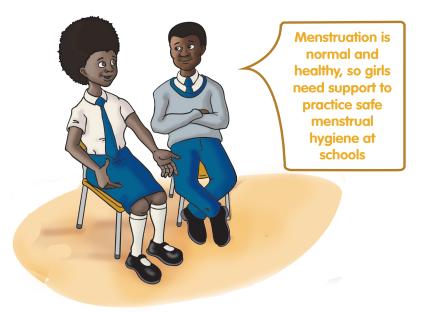
IMPORTANT: As you discuss myths related to menstruation, seize the opportunity to discourage child marriages and teenage pregnancies

TOOL #9 FACT SHEET – MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Objective : To dispel negative myths and misconceptions hindering safe practice of MHM **Target :** All Pupils and MHM members

User : Teachers/MHM FPP/Pupil mentored in MHM

Myths & Misconceptions	Facts
Menstruating girls are unclean	Menstruation is a natural and healthy process
Disposal of used sanitary material in public places may lead to ritual activities that make girls bleed all of the time	A girl cannot menstruate continuously for life, unless she has a serious illness or infection. Girls can only menstruate for 2-7 days a month. It is still important to dispose used materials0 safely to keep a clean and healthy environment.
Disposal of used sanitary materials by burning or burying leads to infertility	Infertility has nothing to do with burning because menstruation is a sign of fertility. Burning used sanitary materials is the safest way to dispose them.
Menstruating girls should not eat certain foods such as yogurt or vegetables, or drink cold water, etc.	Menstruating girls need to eat iron-containing foods such as vegetables, fruits, yogurt, etc. to replace iron lost due to bleeding. Girls should continue to drink water to replace the lost fluids and not be thirsty.
Menstruating girls should not add salt to the food because they can cause a prolonged cough in men.	Girls can cook food while on their menses. Girls adding salt cannot cause a cough in men. Practicing good hygiene when handling food is important.
Starting menstruation means you are ready to marry.	Menstruation is an important stage in a girl's growth. It does NOT mean a girl is ready for marriage. It's a process of growing up but it doesn't mean that girls are ready for marriage or getting pregnant.
Taking a bath during menstruation causes infection or infertility.	Taking bath when having a period is necessary. It actually prevents a girl from infection and keeps her clean, fresh, and smelling good!
Menstruating girls smell.	Menstruating girls do not smell. The smell will only occur when the sanitary napkin has been worn for a long time without changing. This can be done if schools are able to support the girls in practicing safe menstrual hygiene management.
Girls should not move around during menstruation to avoid the menses taking many days.	Girls moving around has nothing to do with the length of menses! Actually, when girls move around while on menses, it keeps them healthy and relieves menstrual cramps.





Procedure:

- 1. Divide MHM members or pupils into two groups
- 2. Have each group pick a representative
- 3. You can ask five (5) questions at a time for each quiz

Note: Feel free to create additional questions for the quiz.

Then give the following Instructions/rules:

- 4. Ask each group one question at a time
- 5. Representative from the group is allowed to give an answer for each given opportunity
- 6. Each question is to be answered within 10 seconds
- 7. If one group gives an incorrect answer, the question will be transferred to the other group
- 8. Every correct answer will carry 5 marks and every wrong answer will carry 0 marks
- 9. If both groups don't know the answer, no one gets marks; do NOT explain wrong or unknown answers until the very end)
- 10. At the end of the quiz, tally the marks and announce the scores to the teams; proclaim one team as the winning team
- **11.** If both teams draw, go into sudden death by asking each team additional questions. If one team does not get the answer, the other automatically wins.
- 12. If the class is too big the teacher should take the intiative to split the class in smaller groups.

Note: Inform the groups that the winning team will receive a reward from the club (you could use soft rewards such as promotions or creating 'champions' who will oversee MHM activities such as cleaning toilets. Initiatives on rewards to motivate pupils are welcome.

TOOL #10 QUESTIONS - MHM QUIZ

Objective: this is a game aimed at assessing how much pupils know after learning about puberty and menstruation.

Audience: All pupils

User: Teachers/MHM Focal Point Person

Question	Answer
List 4 changes that boys and girls experience during puberty (4 for each)	
What is menstruation?	
At what age does menstruation start in girls?	
Another commonly used term for menstruation is	
On average, how long is a menstruation cycle?	
True or False: Sometimes boys also menstruate.	
Will you be cursed if you burn used sanitary materials and why?	
Which body organ sheds mensuration blood?	
Why does a girl need to eat more fruits and vegetables, and drink more water, while menstruating?	

MHM FRIENDLY TOILETS AND WASHING AREAS

OBJECTIVE

Promoting privacy, safe and clean toilets and washing areas that are accessible by girls who are menstruating

DURATION



MATERIALS

Tool 11: Line drawing Tool 12: Line drawing Tool 13: Fact sheet Tool 14: Comic Strip/Play MHM friendly toilet MHM unfriendly toilet What every Girl must know about MHM Friendly toilets Hygienic(clean) and un-Hygienic (dirty) Toilets



WHAT TO DO

You will conduct talks and have discussions with pupils (boys and girls) on the toilets, the washing areas and the use of toilets. You will also use comic strips and possibly conduct plays designed to motivate pupils to keep toilets clean.



GUIDANCE NOTES

How to Use tool 11 & 12 Line drawings: The MHM Friendly and unfriendly Toilets

- a) The line drawings are designed to show the main features of an MHM friendly toilet. In order to educate girls on this, you will play a game called "Spot the Difference" using two line drawings. Tool 11 shows all the features of an MHM friendly toilet and tool 12 shows a toilet that does not have all the features.
- b) To play this game, follow the following steps:
- c) Make photocopies or have the drawings redrawn by a good artist, an Art teacher or pupil can also be used.
- d) Divide the pupils in 2 or 4 groups depending on the number, at least 4-5 pupils in each group and give them each group one line drawing, either tool 11 or tool 12
- e) Allow the pupils to spot the MHM features or what is not supportive of MHM using the two tools, they can write their answers on the piece of paper or flip chart if available.
- f) Let the groups present and allow time for discussion, other groups can be asked to make contributions if they have any additions or subtractions.
- g) Conclude the exercise by telling the pupils what makes the toilet MHM friendly.

Facilitators' Notes:

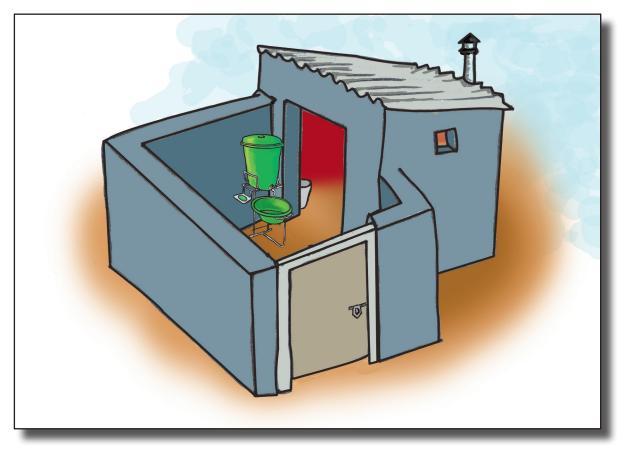
- a) The facilitator should be able to know all the features of MHM friendly WASH facilities which every school should be aiming to achieve in order to support/improve the girls' learning outcomes.
- b) The design and features of toilets for girls at schools should be able to cater for their menstruation needs, therefore, the following features must be part of the girls' toilets;
 - Water for MHM within the facility, in situations where there is no running water, the 20lt Kalingalinga bucket or an alternative PVC container should be used, include soap for maintaining personal hygiene including handwashing.
 - Screen wall and lockable door for privacy
 - Means of disposal for used menstrual materials eg. Bin with liner of incinerator for burning.

(Refer to the MHM guideline 1 – WASH facilities and Disposal)

c) Tool 11 and 12 can also be done as flash/flip cards with the drawing at the front and the writing which the teacher uses at the back of the card.

TOOL# 11: LINE DRAWING

MHM Friendly Toilet



FLASH CARD A: TOOL # 11

MHM friendly toilet or not? Find the differences

THIS IS AN MHM FRIENDLY TOILET BECAUSE...

The toilet and washing area is private: there is a fence or a wall.

- If there is no private area, the school can build a grass fence or a wall to create a private area
- Ideally there should be a door that can be locked from the inside

Girls are able to change menstrual material in private. In some schools there are private washing rooms instead of a fence or a wall.

There is a washing stand with a basin:

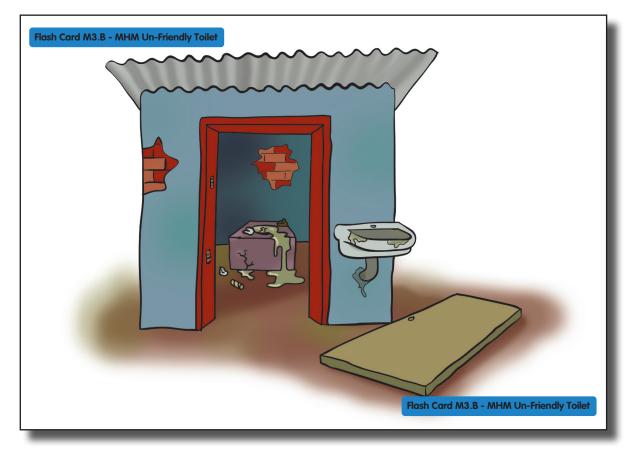
- The washing stand needs to be filled with water each day
- Use soap and water to wash during menstruation

The toilet is clean:

- The school has a cleaning schedule and toilet brooms
- The toilet is cleaned with water every day (1 or 2 times daily)

TOOL# 12: LINE DRAWING

MHM Un-friendly Toilet



FLASH CARD B: TOOL # 12

MHM friendly toilet or not? Find the differences

THIS IS A MHM UN-FRIENDLY TOILET BECAUSE...

The toilet and washing area is NOT private:

- There are no doors or the doors are not lockable
- There is no washing area that is private

Girls are NOT able to change menstrual material in private.

There is NO washing stand with a basin

The toilets are NOT clean

• The school HAS NO cleaning schedule

TOOL #13 QUESTIONS - MHM QUIZ

Objective : To educate pupils on MHM

Target : All Pupils

User : MHM Focal Point Person/Teachers/Pupils mentored in MHM

Question	Answer	
What is Menstrual Hygiene Management?	The use of clean materials to absorb or collect menstrual blood, Be able to change menstrual material in private Use soap and water to wash during menstruation Safe care and disposal of menstrual material	
How can I make our school toilets MHM friendly?	 PRIVACY Separate boys and girls toilets. Make sure there is a door, a wall or a fence Throw your menstrual pads in the waste bin provided 	
	 FLUSH TOILETS Remember to clean your urine/wee wee if you have messed up the toilet seat Flush or pour water in the toilet ball to let faeces/poo poo and urine pass away Mop any water that has spilt in or on the toilet 	
	 PIT LATRINES If you have messed the area around the toilet hole with urine, sweep it with the toilet broom, clean it with water If faeces/poo poo is on the toilet floor, pour sand on it and sweep it in the hole Mop any water that has spilt on the toilet floor Throw your menstrual pads in the waste bin provided 	
What things make a Good WASH room?	Bucket and basin in girls' toilet Water must be available for girls to clean and wash where necessary and for washing hands after toilet use.	
	Soap is needed to wash away germs.	
	Privacy is important for a girl to feel comfortable to change her menstrual material.	
	Waste bin should be present to discard of disposable sanitary wear.	



In order to help pupils keep the toilets clean, you can use the comic strips (Tool 14) to educate on the importance of leaving the toilet clean. You can also try and act out this play. The purpose is to trigger emotions so pupils are motivated to keep the toilets clean.

To act out this comic strip as a play you will need:

- 5 people
- Some mud in a container, leaves and water
- Paper, crushed into a ball
- Cloth, broom, bin
- 2 desks

Instructions for the Play:

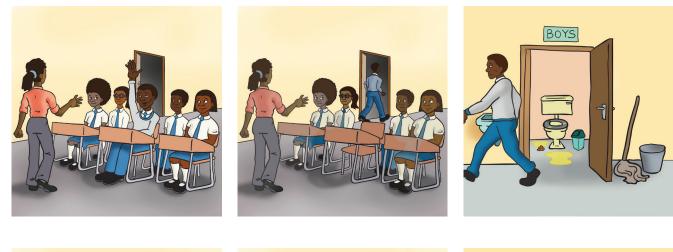
- a) The actors will act out this skit in the classroom and will pretend that they are using the toilet.
- b) The first actor enters the room and pretends that s/he is using the toilet. He/ she will leave mud (feces) or water (urine) when they use the toilet.
- c) The Actor will then come out without washing his/her hands and return to his/her desk.
- d) The actor will then go and join the rest of the group.
- e) The second and third actor will repeat this.
- f) The fourth actor will do the same but will clean the toilet with a broom and cloth after use and wash his/her hands. S/he will also discard the paper ball into a bin.
- g) The fifth actor will repeat this good behaviour. This is all to happen in front of the audience.

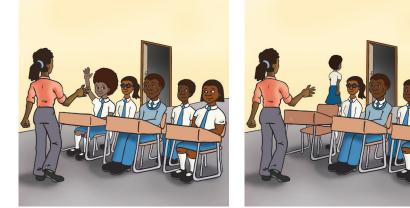
After acting out the comic strip/play ask the following questions:

- How do you feel when you enter a clean toilet?
- How do you feel when you enter a dirty toilet?

TOOL #14 PLAY

Hygienic and Un-hygienic Toilets



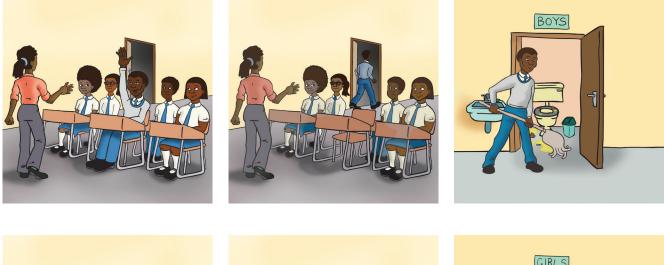


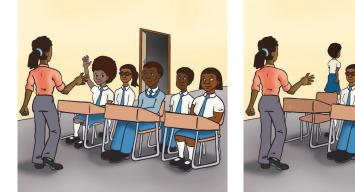




TOOL #14 PLAY

Hygienic and Un-hygienic Toilets









Module 4 Menstrual Hygiene Material and Disposal

OBJECTIVE

Improving girls' use and access to appropriate, affordable, hygienic menstrual materials and disposal options

DURATION



MATERIALS

Tool 15: Checklist Tool 16: Checklist Tool 17: Checklist Tool 18: Comic/Play Tool 19: Sewing Instructions Tool 20: Sewing Instructions Care and Disposal of used Menstrual Material Managing Stains and Leaks – Teachers Guide Managing Stains and leaks – Pupils Guide Building Girls' Confidence Making Washable Pads Making a Padini



WHAT TO DO

- In this module you will teach girls how to care for their used material and what they need to do when they have accidentally stained themselves.
- Using a comic strip or play, you will also teach girls and boys how to help a girl when she has had an accident.
- Another activity you will enjoy is how to sew washable pads and making a padini!

GUIDANCE NOTES How to Use tool #15: Care and Disposal of used Menstrual Material

Tool # 15 will be used as a teaching aid to girls only.

- a) You will arrange to meet with a group of girls and carry along kit containing the following items:
 - Pads
 - Cotton Wool
 - Cloth Material
 - Washable pads
 - Tampons
- b) With each sample use the checklist to describe how to care for it.
- c) You can also ask the girls to find out if they are familiar with the items and what they have done in the past to care for the used items.

TOOL #15 CHECKLIST - CARE AND DISPOSAL OF USED

MENSTRUAL MATERIAL

Objective : To educate pupils on how to care for and dispose of used menstrual material **Audience :** Girls Only

User : MHM Focal Point Person/Teachers/Pupils mentored in MHM

Disposable sanitary napkin or pad



Source: By derivative work: Saibo (Δ) Maandverband.jpg: Original uploader was Michiel1972 at nl.wikipedia - Maandverband.jpg, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/ index.php?curid=4577340

Usage:

- Pad should be placed comfortably on the pant in a position to properly collect blood
- Pad should be changed after a few (4-6hours) hours to avoid staining and bad smell. If blood flow is heavy change the pad often.

Disposal:

- Pads should be burnt after use
- At school, pads should be thrown in a bin and the school will burn the used pads.
- Throwing pads in the pit latrine can make the pit fill up quickly.
- Throwing pads in a flush toilet can cause blockages in the pipes.

Cotton Wool



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/ File:Cotton_Roll_-_Kolkata_2003-10-30_00526. JPG; accessed May 2016

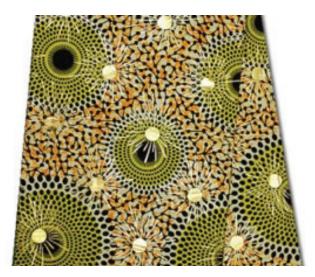
Usage:

- Get a thick piece of cotton wool and make it into a shape of a pad (rectangle).
- Cotton wool should be changed after a few hours (4-6hours) to avoid staining and bad smell. If blood flow is heavy change the pad often.

Disposal:

- Cotton wool should be burnt after use
- At school, cotton wool should be thrown in a bin and the school will burn the used cotton wool.
- Throwing cotton wool in the flush toilet can cause blockages in the pipes.

Cloth Material



Usage:

- Cloth should be folded into a long thick layer and placed in the elastic of a pant.
- If you have no pants see Tool #20 (Making a Padini)
- Cloth should be changed every few hours (4-6hours) depending on the blood flow. If stayed for a long time it presents a bad odor.

Disposal:

- Cloth should be washed with soap and water after use and hanged in sunlight *TIP:* Hang the cloth under a piece of clothing on the washing line.
- Cloth can also be burnt if user will not use it again.
- At school, girls should carry a little plastic bag where they can put their used cloth after a change. The cloth can be washed at home.

Tampon



Usage:

- Tampons should be inserted in the vagina with the string hanging out.
- The string helps you pull out the tampon when it's full.
- A tampon should be changed every few hours (4-6hours) depending on the blood flow.

Disposal:

- Tampons should be burnt after use.
- At school, throw tampons in the bin and the school will burn used tampons



Tool #16 is a guide for teachers when dealing with pupils who accidentally stain their uniforms/clothes with menstrual blood.

Here are some of the important things you should **SAY** to make a girl comfortable;

- a) It's a normal and natural process for a girl to menstruate
- b) If the pupil is experiencing menstruation for the first time say that it is a normal process that happens to each and every girl.
- c) Ask how do you feel about what has happened?
- d) Say: You should be happy that you are now a grown up girl!

Below are some of the **important things you should DO:**

- a) Provide the pupil with a sanitary pad. Demonstrate how the pad should be used.
- b) You Can Say: This is a pad that girls wear to prevent themselves from staining their dresses. You put it on your pants. The sticky part is placed on your pant.

How do you deal with Teasing?

If an incident arises where a female pupil is being teased because she had a menstrual accident, you can speak to the whole class and say:

- a) Menstruation is a normal process
- b) Be kind to a pupil who has experienced a menstrual accident
- c) Teasing a girl who has had a menstrual accident can lead to punishment.

TOOL #16

CHECKLIST – WHAT EVERY TEACHER MUST KNOW ON MANAGING STAINS AND LEAKS

Objective : This tool is designed to help teachers to handle menstrual accidents at school.

Target : Male and Female Teachers

User: MHM Focal Point Person, All Teachers

What is a Menstrual Accident?	 A menstrual accident happens when a girl unknowingly stains her dress with menstrual blood. It can happen to any girl! It can happen when: A girl starts her first period When a girl does not know her cycle The material is not absorbent enough A very heavy menstrual flow
How Do Girls Behave When They Have a Menstrual Accident?	 Girls become very quiet Girls will not stand up if told to do so by the teacher if they know they have stained their dresses. Girls disappear from class the without giving a reason. Girls do not conduct in any physical activity even during break time.
How can I help a girl who has a menstrual accident?	 Take the girl to a separate room where she is comfortable to talk without any disturbance. Explain to the girl what menstruation is using Tool 3. Give the girl a sanitary pad and explain how to use it using Tool 8. Tell the girl to always carry a spare pad/material in her bag at all times.
Should I send the pupil home?	 Use your discretion to assess whether the pupil needs to go home or not.



- a) Girls are usually scared and embarrassed when they experience menstrual accidents. Therefore, Tool #17 - Checklist on Managing Leaks and Stains is designed to help the girls on how best to deal with a menstrual accident.
- b) Tool #17 can also be used by MHM Focal Points or Teachers to educate boys on how they can support girls who experience menstrual accidents.
- c) The checklist on managing leaks and stains is best used in a classroom setting where both boys and girls are present.

TOOL #17 CHECKLIST - WHAT EVERY PUPIL MUST KNOW ABOUT MANAGING STAINS AND LEAKS

Objective : This tool is designed to help pupils to handle menstrual accidents at school. **Target :** Boy and Girl Pupils **Users :** Pupils

BOYS AND GIRLS		
What is a Menstrual Accident?	 A menstrual accident happens when a girl unknowingly stains her dress with menstrual blood. It can happen to any girl! It can happen when: A girl starts her first period The material is not absorbent enough A very heavy menstrual flow 	
What do I do if my fellow pupil has a menstrual accident?	 Do not laugh at her because it is not deliberate and this will make her feel bad. Politely pull her to the side and whisper to her that she has a stain on her dress. Tell her to go and see the MHM Focal Point Person 	
GIRLS ONLY		
What should I do if I have a menstrual accident?	 Do not panic Tie a jersey around your waist and go and see a teacher you are comfortable with who will give you a pad. 	
What do I do if my fellow pupils tease me?	• Teasing is a punishable offense. Go and report to the MHM Focal Person on anyone that is teasing you for having a menstrual accident. If you are not satisfied with the response, you can report to the Head Teacher	



The comic strip is a visual tool designed to motivate boys and girls to help girls when they experience menstrual accidents.

There are two comic strips.

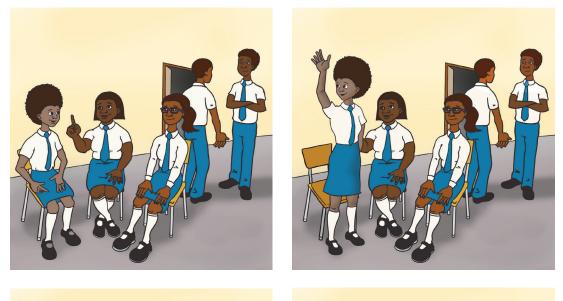
- a) Comic Strip 1: shows a scenario where a girl has stained her dress and her friends notice. They mock her and laugh at her, she starts crying and runs away.
- b) Comic Strip 2: shows a scenario where a girl has stained her dress and her friends notice. They tell her about the stain in a polite way and escort her to the Teacher. She is a happy girl.
- c) You can ask volunteers from the class to act out each comic strip in the classroom for the pupils to gain more benefit.
- d) After showing or acting out both comic strips/plays, ask the following questions:
- e) Who of you are the friends in the first scene? Lift up your hands.
- f) Who of you are the friends in the second scene? Lift up your hands.

Now discuss the following points with the class:

- a) How would you have felt if you were the girl in the first comic/play? What would you do after being laughed at? Can you come back to school the next day?
- b) How would you feel if you were the girl in the second comic/play?
- c) What is the best way to support a girl who has stained her dress at school?
- d) Boys How would you support a girl who has experienced a menstrual accident?

TOOL #18 COMIC STRIP 1

Build Girls' Confidence



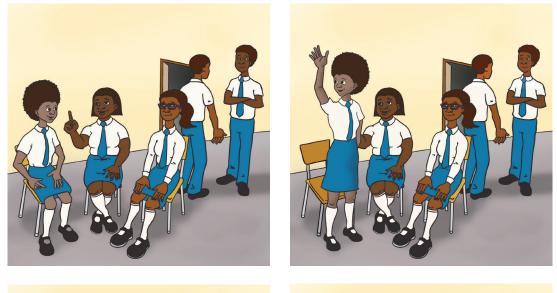






TOOL #18 COMIC STRIP 1

Build Girls' Confidence











This is a fun activity that is designed to teach pupils how to make their own washable pads.

The Tool includes instructions on how to make a washable pad designs. You can do this activity in an MHM club or any other club that is willing to perform this activity.

Start with a group of maximum 10 pupils. It is advisable to give them a time period in which they are able to make the pads. Once they are finished you can recruit another 10 pupils to make the pads.

You will need to prepare and ensure that all the items needed for sewing the washable pad are contained in the sewing kit as listed below.

Note: All supplies for this activity must be kept by the focal point person for MHM and locked up after each activity.

Facilitators' Notes:

The Facilitator will need to know the contents of the sewing materials for washable pads; the materials include the following items:

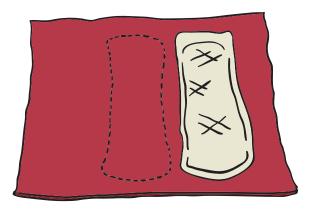
- Needle and thread
- Fleece like material or T-Shirt material (instead of fleece)
- Chitenge or cotton fabric or towel
- Button or Velcro
- Scissors
- Marker
- Plastic

Other suggested materials that can be used are;

100% cotton fabrics, e.g., old towels, sheets, pajamas, t-shirts, cotton flannel, or hemp, anything you feel is comfortable, soft, and gentle next to your skin.

TOOL #19 SEWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WASHABLE PADS

Target : All Pupils **User :** Home Economics Teacher and MHM Focal Person

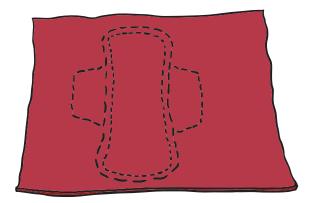


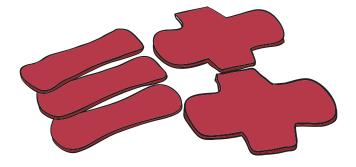
Trace around your pattern again, this time creating a 1 centimeter (half-inch) seam allowance around the pad, and also creating wings.

These wings should be wide enough to meet and slightly overlap under the crotch of your underwear. This will be the outside of the pad. This will be piece B.



This will be the pattern used for the middle part of the pad, which is the liner part that does all the absorbing. This will be piece A.

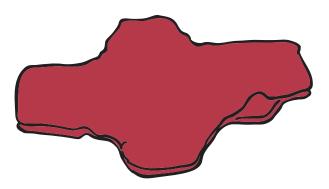


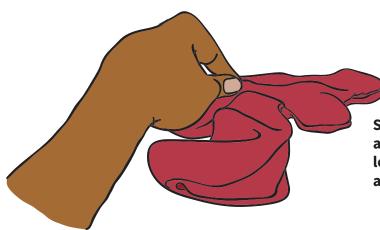


Cut out two of Piece B and 3-5 of Piece A for each pad

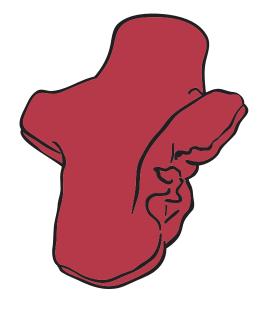
Place right sides together (ie: inside out).

Sew the two pieces of piece B together, leaving a 3 centimeter (1.2 in) gap to turn it right side out again. You may need to use scissors to make a number of small clips and notches around the curvy bits, so that it flattens properly when you turn it the right way out. Press with the clothes iron.

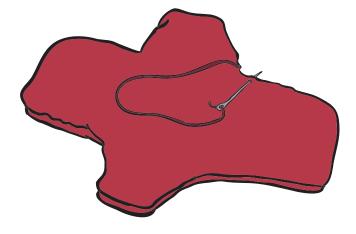




Stack 3 to 5 of piece A on top of each other and slide them in through the gap you left in the outside of the pad, to make the absorbent core.

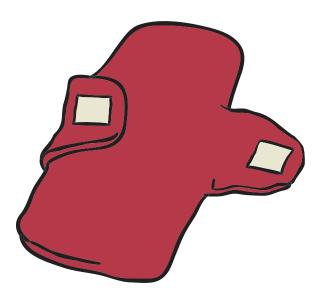


Anchor the core in place by sewing around it on the right side of the pad.

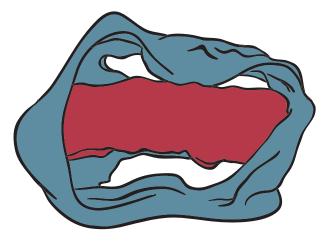


Try them out in a pair of underwear.

Wrap the wings around the underwear and mark where the wings overlap underneath the underwear.



Sew the gap you left closed by hand.



Sew snaps or a small piece of Velcro to the wings where they overlap, to keep them in place.

If you do not have Velcro to put on the wings you can use buttons.

One the pad has been designed you can sew a piece of plastic at the bottom of the pad to avoid soiling your pants.



This is a competition and a fun way of motivating pupils to make a different type of pad called a padini.

- Divide the pupils in small groups of at least 10 pupils
- For each team of 10 pupils you can ask them to make a padini using the sewing instructions below skills they have acquired. Whoever makes it first and makes it right will get a prize determined by you.

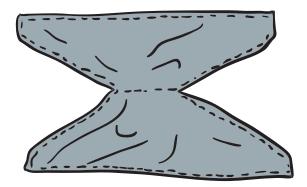
You can show them this tool and ask them to figure out how to make it.

Facilitators' Notes:

The facilitator needs to know what a Padini is, a Padini is a combination of a pad and bikini. It is good for the Facilitator to have a sample of an already made padini in the sewing kit to show the pupils.

TOOL #20 MAKING A PADINI

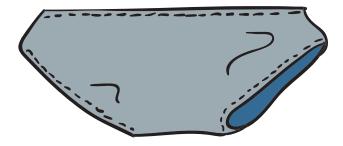
Objective : This is a competition designed to enhance skills **Audience :** All Pupils **User :** Teacher or Parent

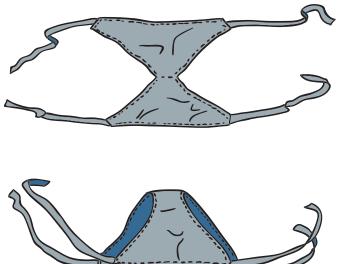


Fold your chitenge material to make two.

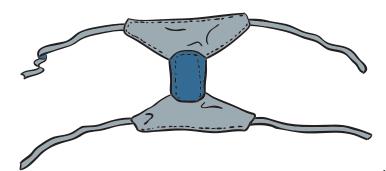
Cut out a rectangular piece, one end should be at least the length from ones forefinger to the elbow and the other according to individual's preferred size.

Fold the material in half twice to get a quarter size of it. Cut out a triangular shape in the bottom end of material you have, a shape such as the one in the picture.

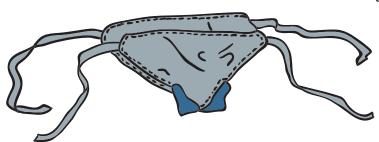




Then roll out the triangular cut material to save as much material as possible and cut out the longer edges giving you four strings. And attach them to all top four ends of your design.



You can securely wear it by tying both right strings together and the left ones. You can further attach you sanitary towel on the middle to prevent menstrual accidents





The zipper bags and other alternatives storage bags. These are washable or dump wiped toiletry bags that can be used to carry clean and used pads. You can also use any plastic bags for storage while at school (although these should have plastic lining inside).

Facilitators' Notes:

The facilitator can give options on what to use for storage of pads while in school. They can sew different designs of toiletry bags made from chitenge material, with two provisions inside and with zips to close tightly. This is an option for those who do not want to dispose of their used pads in school but would rather do it at their homes, or those who are taking a re-usable pad home to wash.



Usage:

- Have two plastic bags for keeping the used pads and for the clean pads in the zipper bag
- Place the used pad in one of the plastic bags and tie it tightly
- Place the tied plastic bag with used pad in the zipper bag or chitenge-made toiletry bag
- Take out the clean pad for use from the other plastic bag in the zipper bag or chitenge-made
- toiletry bag

Care:

- Always wash the chitenge-made bag with soapy water, or wipe the inside of the one with the plastic lining with a soapy wet cloth after disposal of pads, or after removing the washable pads
- Rinse in clean water and dry with a clean cloth both inside and on the outer part (all to have plastic lining inside)
- Air it on the line with the opening side facing downwards to ensure water drains out
- Do not leave the bags in the hot sun for a long time
- Remove from the line immediately when dry in and outside

This document has been developed with the contribution of:







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