

Calling on all member states and stakeholders engaged in the indicator process for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda to add MHM (Menstrual Hygiene Management)

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Why Menstrual Hygiene Management and WASH in schools need to be in the SDG sanitation indicators!

We have started to “break the silence on Menstrual Hygiene”: civil society organisations, UN agencies, Ministers responsible for Water and Sanitation, have in the last years started to work towards ensuring menstrual hygiene management in learning and working environments. This happened as it was recognized that lack of MHM is a main barrier to gender equality, girl’s school attendance¹, women’s participation in public life, and often a reason of health² problems for women and girls.

The Sustainable Development Goal 6 target 6.2. on sanitation for all, calls for addressing needs of women and girls and vulnerable communities.

Of course the indicator for this target 6.2. should therefore include a specific mention of **MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM)** in all working and learning environments. Similarly the Goal on Education should ensure that girls have access to menstrual hygiene management in schools.

Unfortunately this has not been proposed as yet in any of the indicators so far been retained in the overview by the UN statistics committee³. **Till Sept.7** the UN **requests your proposals for indicators** <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>. We **call on you to propose** indicators on MHM for targets 4.2 and 6.2:

- **% of people* using safely managed sanitation services** including MHM in working and learning environments/institutions (target 6.2.)**
- **% of schools with pupils using safely managed sanitation services** with separate toilets for females and males including MHM (target 4.2.)**

These indicators were developed at a meeting with experts from [AMCOW](#), [WECF](#), [UNESCO](#), [UNSGAB](#), [UNEP](#), [UNHABITAT](#), [BORDA](#), [WEP](#), [GWA](#), [GIZ](#), [SWA](#), [SUSANA](#), [WMG](#) during World Water Week (See http://siwi-mediahub.creo.tv/world-water-week/2015-water-for-development/gender_sensitive_indicators_in_sanitation_and_wastewater_planning_and_implementation).

*disaggregated by sex (age and income quintile)

** Definition of ‘safely managed sanitation services’ needs to be extended as follows: “**safe, separate sanitation facilities, with water and soap, including accommodations for menstrual hygiene management in public, private, rural and urban spaces, including schools**” based on WHO http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/wastewater/gsuww/en/

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¹ School children, esp. girls, miss school due to inadequate school sanitation in UNICEF and WHO (2010) Raising Clean Hands http://www.unicef.org/wash/schools/files/raisingcleanhands_2010.pdf

² When Women without access to sanitation suppress the urge to drink and to go to the toilet, this results in dehydration and related diseases in Fisher (2006) For her it’s a big issue, WSSCC Geneva

http://esa.un.org/iys/docs/san_lib_docs/FOR_HER_ITs_THE_BIG_ISSUE_Evidence_Report-en%5B1%5D.pdf

Factory case study in Bangladesh could decrease the absenteeism of workers due to improved MHM in Schappert (2013) HER project and BSR at the Celebrating Women meeting in Geneva, March 8th, 2013

<https://sanitationupdates.wordpress.com/2014/11/17/sca-and-wsscc-partner-to-break-silence-around-menstruation/>

³See proposed global indicators for SDGs <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/List%20of%20Indicator%20Proposals%2011-8-2015.pdf>