



PRIORITY ACTIONS TO ADDRESS KEY CHALLENGES FOR MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) practices vary significantly based on culture, wealth, education, water and sanitation access, and product availability. The Ghana WASH Sector Development Programme (GWASHSDP) identifies the key challenges associated with MHM and the priority actions needed to address them and agencies responsible for some of these priority actions. This brief presents priority actions to address the identified challenges for MHM.

Key sub-sector challenges	Priority actions to address challenges	Responsible agencies
<div data-bbox="55 741 131 909"> </div> Service provision		
<p>Sanitation facilities, including those in public places, do not meet MHM needs</p> <p>Majority of girls do not have accurate information on menstruation before their first period</p> <p>Most girls between 15 and 19 feel excluded from school, social, and home activities during their period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure gender, disability and MHM-friendly sanitation infrastructure in schools, healthcare facilities, offices, and other public spaces and/or public toilets are complied with and supervised. Operationalise national MHM guidelines by creating awareness and publication of documents. Each school to develop and/or implement their school WASH O&M plan to ensure that toilets can remain functional and continue to provide MHM services. 	<p>MMDAs/MWH/GES/GHS</p>
<p>No clear regulatory framework for MHM in Ghana, including school and community settings</p> <p>Inadequate regulation against taboos, and negative traditional rules, values, and norms in the country</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a defined regulatory framework for improved accountability for MHM and service delivery in Ghana, especially for low-income community and school settings. Operationalise regulatory mechanisms that restrict and abolish negative traditional norms, rules, and values, including stigmatisation. MHM-related violence and abuse should be well defined as part of sexual and gender-based violence handled by the Domestic Violence Support Unit of the Ghana Police Services. 	<p>MMDAs/MWH/GES/GHS</p> <p>GES/MMDAs</p> <p>MSWR/GES/MMDAs</p>

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<div data-bbox="66 392 126 461"></div> Finance		
<p>High cost of sanitary pads driven by 20% import tax limiting access and increasing vulnerability, especially among young girls from poor homes</p> <p>Insufficient financing to maintain functional sanitation and water facilities for improved MHM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government should increase investments in school WASH infrastructure that supports effective MHM. Operationalise the commitment to remove import duties on sanitary pads to increase affordability and to move towards ending menstrual period poverty. Support local private sector ventures producing sanitary pads in Ghana to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Prioritise and commit funds for effective O&M of WASH facilities to support MHM in schools. 	<p>MoF/GES</p> <p>MoF/GES</p>
<div data-bbox="66 1012 126 1081"></div> Monitoring and evaluation		
<p>Inadequate disaggregated data on MHM in schools and public places of convenience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve monitoring data and reporting on MHM-compliant sanitation facilities in schools and public places markets, bus terminals, recreational centres, etc. EMISs should capture and report on stocks of emergency MHM materials for girls in school. Synchronise and/or ensure collaboration between MoE's EMIS and GSS's MICS data collection systems on menstrual hygiene. 	<p>MSWR/GES/MMDAs</p>