



Presentation on:
**The Role of WASH in
Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)**

Mole XXVI

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Outline

- Background
- Critical MHM Issues to the WASH sector
- UNICEF's Response through the WinS4G project
 - Overview
 - Key Strategies/Activities
 - Expected Benefits
- Discussion

Background

- Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is a global emerging issue
- In Ghana MHM is a verbal taboo – based on cultural and religious beliefs, norms and myths
 - Up to 59% and 90% of girls felt shame in urban and peri-urban/rural respectively (*WaterAid, 2012*)
- Low girls' school attendance, particularly in JHS:
 - 95% of girls sometimes miss school days during menstruation (*WaterAid, 2012*)

Critical Issues to the WASH Sector

- Low water and sanitation coverage for basic schools – 46% and 61% respectively (*EMIS, 2013*)
- Girls miss up to 5 days a month of school days due to inadequate sanitation facilities, lack of sanitary products at school and feeling of discomfort, e.g. cramps (*Montgomery et al., Sanitary Pad Interventions for Girls' Education in Ghana, 2012*)

UNICEF's Response through the WinS4G Project

- WinS4G: WASH in Schools for Girls
- Overview:
 - 2-year project : Nov. 2014 – Sep. 2016
 - Supported by Canada
 - 14 participating countries (including Ghana)
 - Location in Ghana – North Dayi district in the VR and Zabzugu district in the NR
- Objective:
 - To strengthen evidenced-based advocacy and action on MHM in Ghana through the UNICEF-supported WASH in Schools, leading to a more supportive school environment that is ready for girls.

WinS4G Project.....

- Key Strategies/Activities:
 - Mobilizing local academia, Civil Society Organisations, Ministry of Education and other relevant partners
 - Conducting research and disseminating report
 - Reviewing WinS guidelines to incorporate gender sensitive MHM into existing national WinS programme
 - Developing and disseminating MHM basic tools
 - Trainings (capacity building at various levels)

WinS4G Project.....

- Expected Benefits:
 - Provide UNICEF-GoG (and the entire WASH sector) a credible document for MHM programming for the country
 - Contribute to increase in girls' school attendance and retention rate
 - Ensure realization of child rights and gender equality (UN Resolution A/RES/64/292)
 - Every extra year of a woman's schooling reduces the probability of infant mortality by 5 – 10% (*UNESCO, 2011*)

Discussion

- How can our basic schools be made more friendly to menstruating girls (from WASH perspective)?
 - Policy reform?
 - WinS design modification?
 - Breaking the verbal taboo barriers (the ‘secrecy’ syndrome)?
 - Investment?
 - Capacity building?
 - etc

Our ideal situation

