Mainstreaming Menstrual Hygiene in Public Basic Education in the Philippines

Photos by J. Haver
Presentation Outline

• What is there on MHM in Schools in the Philippine public education system?

• How were these realized?
  – Research
  – Policy advocacy
  – MHM in post-disaster
  – Systems building
  – Curriculum integration

• What is coming up?
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Policy and Standards
What is there now?

Policy and standards

• MHM is a key component of WASH in Schools under the National WinS Policy
• WinS Policy provides for a gender-responsive WinS program as a whole

DepEd ORDER
No. 10, s. 2016

POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SCHOOLS (WINS) PROGRAM

3. Hygiene: All students in school shall perform supervised daily group handwashing with soap and toothbrushing with fluoride, while a system and support mechanisms for effective menstrual hygiene management shall be ensured in all schools;
What is there now?

2012 2016 Curriculum materials 2017
Policy and standards
What is there now?

Curriculum material

- MHM booklet adopted for nationwide use
  - Information material on MHM
  - Personal tool for adolescent girls
- Materials developed and used at sub-national level by DepED divisions and partner organizations
What is there now?

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unite for children
What is there now?

**MHM in EMIS**

- MHM indicator - access to sanitary pads - in DepED Enhanced Basic Education Information Information System (E-BEIS)
- Integrates MHM in national level planning
- Enables SDG reporting on MHM

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**Box 13. MENSTRUAL HYGIENE, SY 2016-2017 (As of June 17, 2016)**

1. Does the school have a provision for availability of sanitary pads?
   - Yes (Proceed to 1.1)
   - No

1.1 Where can the learners avail the sanitary pads?
   - School Canteen
   - School Clinic
   - Guidance Office
   - Others, please specify ____________
What is there now?

- Curriculum materials
- Policy and standards
- MHM in EMIS
- MHM in 3-Star System
What is there now?

MHM in National WinS 3-Star Approach

• MHM components in WinS Three-Star rubrics
  – Availability of sanitary pads
  – Disposal of MHM
  – Private, secure functional toilets
  – Rest space for MHM

• Sanitary pads in schools is non-negotiable requirement to reach 1-star and progress
How were these realized?

Research

• MHM in schools research in 2012 - made visible the invisible
  – Challenges to girls school participation and performance arising from MHM issues
  – Gaps
    • Knowledge and awareness
    • Access to MHM supplies
    • WASH facilities
How were these realized?

Policy formulation and advocacy

- Findings of research ushered discussions and inclusion of MHM standards in WinS policy formulation
- Championing MHM - DepED School Health Division took up MHM as priority programme area
- MHM and the bigger and controversial subject of adolescent reproductive health and sexuality
How were these realized

**MHM in post-disaster**

- Gaps in post-disaster work
  - TS WASHI (2011) - gaps in MHM in emergency response
  - TS Ketsana (2012) - gaps in WASH in schools in disaster response and recovery
  - TS Haiyan and Bohol Earthquake (2013) – limited MHM outreach in emergency response

- “How can psycho-social interventions in schools be effective when girls worry and experience discomfort from menstrual challenges?”

Photos courtesy of IMC
How were these realized?

Opportunities in Haiyan Recovery

- WinS recovery needed a pathway
  - → 3-star approach adopted to post-Haiyan context
  - → Draft national WinS policy adopted to regional level policy
  - → Three-star Approach integrated MHM
- MHM as “new” WASH component → entry point for capacity-building on MHM
- MHM supplies donation → conduit for providing MHM info material for girls
How were these realized?

**Systems Building for WinS Policy**

- Development of WinS Policy Implementing Mechanisms
  - WinS Three-Star Rubrics – incremental approach to achieving national standards
  - DepED systems applied to WinS
    - School-Based Management Approach
    - Quality assurance
    - Field technical assistance
  - Recognition and Incentive System for WinS
  - WinS On-line Monitoring System
- Expansion of WinS indicators in E-BEIS to capture key indicators in WinS Policy
How were these realized?

Curriculum integration

• DepED’s biggest strength – the Curriculum
• Engagement of Bureau of Curriculum Development
  – Review and adoption of MHM Booklet
  – Review of Kto12 curriculum on MHM and ASRH-related content and learning outcomes
How were these realized?

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What is coming up?

• Guidelines and mechanisms for MHM in schools in emergencies
• MHM communication for development (C4D) package for curriculum integration
• Models of MHM in schools implementation
• Partnerships for MHM in schools
  – Inter-agency collaboration
  – Civil-society alignment
  – Private-sector support
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THANK YOU!

For more information, please contact

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