



GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND SPORTS



MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT CHARTER- UGANDA 2015

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is fundamental to the dignity and wellbeing of girls and women. Ensuring access to MHM services therefore constitutes a significant fulfillment of the rights to sanitation, health and education of the girls and women.

The subject of menstruation, however, is usually a taboo, and has many negative cultural attitudes and beliefs associated with it, including the notion that menstruating women and girls are 'contaminated', 'dirty' and 'impure'.

Quite too often, women and girls suffer from stigma, are inadequately prepared to manage menstrual hygiene, lack wash rooms, are deprived of clean water and necessary materials for managing menstrual hygiene and lack facilities for disposal of menstruation materials/pads.

As a result, girls experience irregular school attendance, while others drop out of school and women experience similar workplace challenges associated with their menstrual cycle.

Hence, in solidarity with the global initiative to promote menstrual hygiene management, the Ministries and Civil Society Organizations whose signatures are appended hereunder, do commit to work together to promote the rights of girls and women during and after their menstrual cycle.

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. We will develop an Issues Paper on Menstrual Hygiene Management to inform the National Development Plan and Post 2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.
2. We shall conduct research on and promote private/public sector partnership in Menstrual Hygiene Management to sustain effective advocacy, resources allocation and increased access to affordable and appropriate sanitary materials.

3. We shall develop a national and global knowledge hub for information sharing and adoption of good menstrual hygiene management practices.
4. We shall empower girls with life skills to manage their menstruation including making their own sanitary pads.
5. We will empower both boys and girls to understand and appreciate menstruation and manage the social and practical challenges associated with menstrual hygiene.
6. We shall bring on board teachers as well as parents and guardians to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in the promotion of menstrual hygiene management.

SIMILARLY, WE URGE GOVERNMENT TO:

1. Establish a National Menstrual Hygiene Steering Committee that will be responsible for effective co-ordination of MHM policies and programmes. This Committee will comprise the Ministries of Health, Water and Environment, Education, Science, Technology and Sports, Gender, Labour and Social Development and Non-State Actors.
2. Design and promote construction of innovative MHM facilities that cater for the needs of girls and women, and in particular, girls and women with disabilities, including the disposal of sanitary materials in institutions.

ENDORSED BY:

MINISTRIES
Uganda Parliamentary Forum WASH
Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports
Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
Ministry of Water and Environment
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Local Government
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET)
SNV
Network For Water and Sanitation (NETWAS)-Uganda
Plan International
WaterAid Uganda
Days for Girls
AFRIpads
Build Africa
Water for People
Soroptimist International
IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre
Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU)
MAKaPads
Education Local Expertise Centre (ELECU) Uganda
IRISE International
AMREF
Fields of Life
Straight Talk Foundation
Teach A Man To Fish
Rotary Uganda
MIFUMI
KWA ECO-PADS
Daily Friends
Kadama Widows Association
International Health Sciences University
VINACEF Uganda
Teach A Man to Fish

Dated this 28th day of May 2015

Kampala, Uganda