

Improving Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in Emergencies for Rohingya Women

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Introduction: Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is a long-overlooked aspect of humanitarian response. With more than 52% of the displaced population (FDMNs) consisting of women and girls, there is a growing urgency for the humanitarian community to better address such gender-specific needs.

During emergencies, managing menstruation safely, hygienically and with dignity is a vital challenge to women and girls. Displaced adolescent girls and women face significant barriers to managing monthly menstruation in a safe, private, and dignified manner. These constraints can lead to

poor MHM and significant health and psychosocial implications for women and girls including social exclusion and vulnerability. Even in emergency context, MHH is important for the fulfillment of girls' and women's rights, a key objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MHM intervention's overarching goal is to ensure that menstruating adolescent females are able to manage this healthy biological process in a sustainable, hygienic and dignified manner. Common goal is to ensure greater access to products and services and to improve behaviors for better health

and greater empowerment of girls and women.



Background: RTM International sub awarded for implementing the additional project activity like MHM intervention revising the budget modification and increasing the ceiling award by the Pathfinder International. MHM Intervention started the follow up grooming sessions on the 9th February, 2021 and ended with volunteer's payment.



Specific Objectives of this intervention:

- i. To ensure that menstruating adolescent FDMNs can manage this normal biological process in a sustainable, hygienic and dignified manner.
- ii. To improve behavior and to ensure greater access to products and services for better health and greater empowerment of adolescent FDMNs.

Location and beneficiaries: This intervention has been implemented at Block-C and Block-D of Camp-22 that covered approximately 650 FDMN adolescent girls Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Duration of the Project: Five (05) Months; October, 2020 to February, 2021.

Methodology: The MHM Intervention Pilot Project is led by RTM International & a journey of long official processes:

- RRRC Permission
- Inception Meeting with CIC & Coordination
- Coordination with DDFP & UFPO
- Recruitment of Host Community Volunteers
- Selection of FDMN Volunteers
- Coordination with Site management
- Logistics Management & Volunteers support
- Risk Assessment & Mitigation Plan



Major Activities:

- Develop partnership with different stakeholder for Policy Advocacy/ Policy Concentration and ensure sustainability.
- Create PEER Group (Change Maker/ Ambassador) with 10 FDMN Females from Camp-22.
- Develop Training Handouts on Basic Menstrual Hygiene Management, Early Marriage & Early Pregnancy, FP, SRHR and Safe Disposal of Sanitary Pads
- Conduct training of PR Group.
- Conduct Training on Basic Menstrual Hygiene Management, Early Marriage & Early Pregnancy, Family Planning, SRHR and Safe Disposal of Sanitary Pads for PR Group (Change Maker/ Ambassador).
- New IEC Materials development
- Create Adolescent Girls Group
- Procure MHM Products and Garbage Bags from local sources
- Provide Camp Based awareness raising grooming sessions.
- Distribute MHM products
- Distribution of Garbage Bags
- Conduct Meetings with different stakeholders
- Develop video Documentaries and newsletters
- Conduct FGDs & KII with Adolescents and health service providers.

Appreciation

“On Behalf of team of Packard Foundation Project, Pathfinder International, I am thanking you & your whole team working in camp 22 for your cordial support & dedication for the MHM intervention program. It was great support. We are team & in future we Pathfinder International will work with our proud partner RTM International with the same effort & motivation.”

Mst. Monira Hossain

Project Manager, Packard Foundation Project, Pathfinder International

Acknowledgement

“After attending MHM training, now I know how to manage menstruation. As such, my pace and attention at community awareness among FDMN and host community has also enhanced”.

Jannatul Fatema

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