

INNOVATIVE FINANCE AT THE SERVICE OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

Half the earth's population experiences menstruation. Yet, for many, periods bring about health issues, school drop-outs, and **perpetuates gender inequalities**. KOIS, the French Development Agency and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs plan to support Menstrual Hygiene Management through innovative finance.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM) CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE WITH THREE INTERVENTIONS



Awareness raising



Access to sanitary products



Access to MHM-friendly latrines

ASHA'S JOURNEY

Asha lives in a Sub-Saharan African village. Soon, she will experience her first menstruation. How it is handled & perceived will impact the rest of her life.

Let's have a look at Asha's experience, with and without the help of MHM interventions.



CURRENT CHALLENGES

Asha is bleeding for the first time. She is struck with fear and incomprehension.

70%

Of Ethiopian girls don't know about menstruations before they occur for the first time

Asha runs home to her mother. She is told how to use pieces of used clothes as protection.

63%

of women in Niger report using pieces of clothes/fabric as their main menstrual protection

SCHOOLS DON'T ALWAYS OFFER A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

One day, at school, Asha has blood on her pants. **She is teased by boys and even girls**. She feels ashamed and dirty.

Toilets are **poorly maintained**, and she doesn't feel safe changing her sanitary products.

She starts missing school.

IN CERTAIN COMMUNITIES, MENSTRUATION MEANS MARRIAGE READINESS

Her menstruation propelled Asha into adulthood. She is now seen as a woman, and married at age 15.

When menstruating, she does not go to work and **is excluded from social activities** such as cooking, going to her place of worship or hanging out with friends.

When her daughters grow up, she won't tell them about menstruation. Without interventions, **she will perpetuate the cycle she was born in.**

UNLESS...

First period

Adolescence

Motherhood

WHAT WE'RE STRIVING FOR

As a girl, Asha and her family attend **awareness-raising sessions about MHM**. She learns about menstruation and how to handle it.

GIRLS ARE TAUGHT WHAT PRODUCTS TO USE, AND HOW TO KEEP THEM CLEAN

Asha is trained to **make her own reusable pads**, and knows the importance of keeping them clean. Women groups are also producing reusable sanitary pads.

SCHOOL IS A SAFE PLACE WITH MHM-FRIENDLY LATRINES

Boys are sensitized to girls' challenges and are supporting of Asha.

Schools are equipped with MHM-friendly latrines with access to clean water and soap.

WITH EDUCATION & SELF-AWARENESS, GIRLS ARE EMPOWERED TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES

Thanks to awareness-raising, Asha's family knows **menstruation does not mean she is ready for marriage**. Asha pursues her education.

Asha continues social activities and goes to work while on her period without issue.

When she becomes a mother, her home is a safe place to talk about menstruations.

This way, Asha is able to

BREAK THE CYCLE.



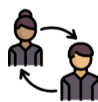
A DEVELOPMENT IMPACT BOND (DIB) TO SUPPORT MHM INTERVENTIONS IN ETHIOPIA & NIGER

Why use a DIB?



INNOVATION

A DIB catalyses innovation by testing different approaches to assess the most successful ones for the targeted outcomes



RISK TRANSFER

It transfers financial & execution risks from donors or service providers to private investors in exchange for potential premiums



FOCUS ON RESULTS

By assessing interventions' outcomes rigorously, it contributes to building the evidence base of MHM impacts. This will enable replication elsewhere.



MANAGEMENT

It upgrades programmes' efficiency by letting service providers focus on impact performance and quality



PARTNERSHIPS

It creates collaboration opportunities between actors not used to working together