Menstrual Health Symposium 2021

Agenda
25 May - 27 May
Title: Africa Coalition Symposium on Menstrual Health - Opening Ceremony

Description: This high level opening ceremony will highlight the importance of addressing menstrual health (MH) as a multisectoral priority, underpinned by the life cycle approach and the right to dignity. Panelists will reflect on the progress made by the Africa Coalition for Menstrual Health, while also acknowledging challenges that have arisen, including the global pandemic. This plenary will underline the importance of MH for gender equality and sexual and reproductive health, and will affirm political will to act now for the realization of the 2018 Call to Action on MH.

Speakers:
Mr. Robert Kampala, Africa Coalition on Menstrual Health and Regional Director, Water Aid
Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director for Programme, UNFPA
H.E. Madam Monica Chakwera, First Lady of the Republic of Malawi
H.E. Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia
H.E Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Moderator:
Ayanda Makayi, Host
Stephanie Sandowns, Host

Format:
High level speeches, artist performance and video presentations

Artist:
KrTC - artist from Eswatini; spoken words
HIGH LEVEL PLENARY

Title:
Menstrual Health Stock taking - from 2018 to date: Sharing Progress and Reflecting on the ‘Unfinished Business’

Description:
This session is divided into two segments. The first one will be an opportunity for the Regional Director of UNFPA East and Southern Africa and the President of the Africa Network of youth on population and development (AfriYAN) to share their reflections on the progress made since 2018 to date and highlighting the ‘unfinished business’ to be tackled in order to achieve the 2018 Call to Action. The second segment is a high-level panel that will explore the current situation of MH in East and Southern Africa and beyond while assessing the progress made. Panelists will speak to barriers that remain and will showcase evidence about high impact practices for MH. The session will also highlight the contribution that the African Coalition for MHM and the 2018 Call to Action have made for advancing MH in the region.

Speakers - Reflections:
Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, Regional Director, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Office
Ms. Lorence Kabasele, President, AfriYAN

Moderator 1:
Stephanie Sandows, Actress, TV Presenter and Movie Producer

Speakers - High level panel:
Ms. Siri Tellier, Author of the Stock taking Report on Menstrual Health, WoMena
Prof. Marni Sommer, Professor, Columbia University
Prof. Penelope Phillips-Howard, Professor, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Ms. Halima Lila, Tanzania MHH coalition and Hope Centre for Children, Girls and Women

Moderator 2:
Shenard Mazengera, Regional Advocacy Manager, WaterAid

Format:
High level speeches and presentation followed by panel discussion

Artist:
Zuhura the African Lioness - poet/singer from Tanzania - personal experience of the onset of her period
Title: Bodily Autonomy, Harmful Practices and Menstrual Health

Description: This session will explore the right to bodily autonomy and why it is critical for MH. The impact of COVID-19 on bodily autonomy and MH will be discussed. Speakers will also address the intersection of MH with harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, as well as innovative solutions to advance MH.

Speakers:
- Ms. Mandi Tembo, Research Fellow, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Ms. Maria Carmen Punzi, Innovation Advisor, Menstrual Health Hub
- Ms. Annely Chibwe, Education Program Manager, Plan International Zambia
- Ms. Noel Apanyijuka, Chief Executive Officer, EcoSmart Uganda
- Ms. Valerie Browning, Director, Afar Pastoralist Development Association
- Ms. Jedidah Lemaron, Executive Director, Malkia Foundation
- Mr. Sipiwo Matshoba, Director, Social Empowerment and Participation, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Moderator: Nafissatou Diop, Chief Gender and Human Rights Branch, UNFPA HQ

Format: Panel discussion
Title: Menstrual Health and Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Description: This session will explore the potential to increase access to MH information and services through in-school and out-of-school CSE. Panelists will share how MH features in international standards for CSE and how to deliver MH education through different CSE modalities. Panelists will also highlight opportunities, challenges and recommendations for expanding MH content in CSE programmes from a gender, rights and equity perspective. Practical examples of how to teach MH will also be shared.

Speakers:
- Ms. Maria Bakaroudis, CSE Specialist UNFPA East and Southern Africa Office
- Ms. Deborah Ewing, Project Manager at Gateway Health Institute and ACMHM leadership member
- Ms. Charity Banda, Country Coordinator, MIET Zambia
- Dr. Renjini Devaki, M&E Manager, MIET Africa and ACMHM member
- Ms. Judith Msusa, Director, Department of Youth at the Ministry of Labour and Youth, Malawi

Moderator:
- Dr. Remmy Shawa, Regional Education for Health and Well-being Officer, UNESCO ROSA

Format:
Panel discussion with practical demonstration and video
Title: Menstrual Health in Humanitarian Settings and Health Emergencies

Description: This session will explore the MH needs of people in humanitarian contexts, including in the COVID-19 response. Speakers will share considerations and challenges faced by girls and women in humanitarian settings, including those related to SRHR and gender-based violence. Key goals for MH programming and coordination will be discussed, and innovations by social enterprises will be showcased.

Speakers:  
Mr. Robin Lloyd, Senior Regional WASH Officer, UNHCR Kenya Regional Office  
Ms. Anne Hyvarinen, Associate WASH Officer, UNHCR Tanzania  
Ms. Sonia Sophia Grinvald, Co-founder and Director, AFRIPAD  
Ms. Letizia Cottafavi, WASH, Health & Care Department, International Federation of the Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies  
Mr. George Mugambi, WASH Delegate, Netherlands Red Cross Society - Uganda  
Ms. Jennifer Akumu, Public Health Officer, Uganda Red Cross Society  
Ms. Audrey Anderson Duckett, Chief Operating Officer, BeGirl  
Mr. Data Emmanuel Gordon, Program Coordinator, Okay Africa Foundation

Moderator:  
Ms. Dennia Gayle, Representative, UNFPA Ethiopia

Format: Panel discussion and pre-recorded videos with testimonials and experience sharing
COUNTRY LED SESSION: MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA

Title:
MHM in Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Settings through the COVID 19 Pandemic - Evidence from two pilot experience in Mozambique and Angola

Description:
This session will share examples from Mozambique and Angola on how to meet the MH needs of girls, women and people who menstruate in the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. Good practices for MH interventions in humanitarian and development contexts will be shared, including the role of innovation by social enterprises, and key considerations for scale-up will be proposed. The session will also explore considerations and recommendations for MH in light of COVID-19.

Speakers:
Ms. Alcina Cunha, National Coordinator of JIRO Program - Ministry of Youth & Sports, Angola
Ms. Olga Lourenço, Youth Leader and Coordinator of Mentorship Program with Girls Muheto Wawaba, Angola
Ms. Graciana Pita, Provincial Gender, Child and Social Action Directorate Director, Mozambique
Dr. Arlinda Chaquise, National Director of School Health Promotion, Minister of Education Mozambique
Ms. Cristina Brito, Partnerships Senior Management, Be Girl, Angola and Mozambique

Panel Facilitators:
Mr. Luís Samacumbi, Programme Specialist, Youth, Gender and Humanitarian Issues UNFPA Angola
Ms. Carmelinda Manhiça, STV Presenter Mozambique

Master of Ceremony:
Carmelinda Manhiça, Psychologist, Presenter and Activist

Format:
Panel discussion and video presentation
COUNTRY LED SESSION: SOUTH AFRICA

Title: South Africa’s Holistic Approach to Menstrual Health

Description: South Africa has successfully created an enabling environment to address menstrual health holistically. This includes the development of the sanitary dignity implementation framework (SDIF); sanitary dignity programme (SDP) national roll-out; the removal of value added taxes on sanitary towels; committing a budget of R757 million from 2019-2023; the development of standards to increase product quality, safety and choice; creating multi-sectoral partnerships and coordination between government and non-governmental organizations; comprehensive sexuality education; improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and disposal of products; as well as the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the SDIF. This session will share how South Africa created an enabling environment for holistic menstrual health.

Speakers - Part 1: Enabling Environment to Achieve Holistic Menstrual Health
Mr. Sipiwo Matshoba, Director, Social Empowerment and Participation, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
Mr Mahesh Nagessar, Standards Writer, South African Bureau of Standards
Ms. Charity Nshimbi, Programme Manager, WaterAid

Moderator 1:
Dr. Linda Nkomo, Chief Executive Officer, LoveLife

Speakers - Part 2: Lessons Learnt to Achieve Holistic Menstrual Health
Dr Lewis Ndhlovu, Director, Masazi Development
Dr. Mags Bekinska, Deputy Executive Director, MatCH Research Unit
Dr. Tamaryn Crankshaw, HEARD
Ms. Anita Jack, Material Developer, South African Bureau of Standards

Moderator 2:
Dr. Ntsiki Manzini-Matebula, Programme Specialist: SRHR and HIV/AID Linkages, UNFPA South Africa

Format:
Two-part session with panel discussions
Title:
Integrating Menstrual Health (MH) into Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH)

Description:
This two-part session will explore the importance of integrating MH and SRHR. The first part will introduce and officially launch UNFPA's new technical guidance on the integration of MH and SRHR. The second part will share learnings from research and programmatic experiences on the integration of MH and SRHR.

Session 1: Launch of Technical Guidance on the Integration of MH and SRHR:
Ms. Anneka Knuttson, Chief of Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch, UNFPA
Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, Regional Director, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Office
Dr. Ian Askew, Director, Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH), and Director of the UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP).
Dr. Margaret Agama-Anyetei, Head of Health, Population and Nutrition at African Union Commission
Dr. Njoki Ngumi, Executive Director, HEVA Fund

Moderator 1:
Ms. Dudu Simelane, Director Social & Human Development, SADC Secretariat

Session 2: Learnings from Research and Programmatic Experience
Ms. Mandikudza Tembo, Research Fellow, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Ms. Alethea Osborne, Technical Specialist - Gender and Social Development / Menstrual Cup Coalition, Mannion Daniels
Ms. Marie Baptiste, Country Representative, Population Services International (PSI), Côte d'Ivoire

Moderator 2:
Danielle Keiser, Menstrual Health Hub

Format:
High-level addresses, followed by a panel discussion

Artist:
King Kaka - artist from Kenya and advocate against period poverty
DAY 2  Wednesday 26 May, 2021

15:00 - 15:30  THE MARKETPLACE EXHIBITIONS

15:30 - 17:00  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Title: Human rights, Leave No One Behind and Menstrual Health

Description: This session aims to demonstrate the urgency of protecting and realizing human rights related to MH as part of the essential package of SHRR services within Universal Health Coverage. The session will present recent data, share country experiences of using human rights mechanisms to advance MH, and will include a focus on populations of menstruators who are commonly left behind.

Speakers:
- Dr. Nicola Jones, GAGE Director and Principal Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute
- Ms. Alda José, Head of Supervisory Board, Associacao Amor a Vida
- Ms. Judith Grace Akinye, ex-detainee from Kenya, Head of Prisons Ministry at Integrity Church (Kwa Ndege)
- Mr. Viwe Goboza, Access Chapter 2 trans safe space group, South Africa
- Ms. Anisie Byukusenge, National Council for Persons with Disability, Rwanda

Moderator:
- Ms. Adwoa Kufuor, Regional Adviser on Gender and Women’s Rights, OHCHR

Format: Panel discussion, followed by video presentation and a moderated Q&A
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Title: Men as Champions for Menstrual Health

Description: This session will share evidence, lessons learnt and promising practices on engaging men and boys as allies in the home, communities and positions of influence. It will include stories of prominent men who have challenged dominant social norms and stereotypes to take a stand in supporting menstrual health.

Speakers:
Dr. Renjini Devaki, Ph.D., Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, MIET
Ms. Meggie Dumas and Ms. Diana Nalunga, WOmenA, Uganda
Mr. Siv Ngesi, Actor, Television, Presenter, Comedian and founder of MENstration Foundation
Mr. Israel Laryea, Broadcast journalist, news editor, anchor and programme host with the Multimedia Group
Mr. Karanja Daniel, Community socio-economic development initiative
Mr. Finn Reygan and Nomthandazo Mabandazayo, HSRC
Bridgit Kurgat and Lestan Kimiri, Days for Girls

Moderator:
Ms. Mpiwa Mangwiro, Regional Advocacy and Campaigns Specialist, Men Engage
Mr. Laxman Belbase and Mr. Hassan Sekajjaalo, Global Secretariat, Men Engage

Format: Panel discussion
Title: Environmental Protection and Menstrual Health

Description: This session will explore the environmental impacts of the production and use of menstrual products, how community-led good practices integrate environmental protection in their programs, and policy considerations moving forward.

Speakers:
Ms. Othembele Dyantyi, Earth Child Project
Dr. Myles Elledge, Executive Director, Human Health and the Environment at Biomass Controls
Mr. Maik Birnbach, Environmentalist, Einhorn products GmbH
Ms. Rolla Khaddouri, Fund Director, Amplify Change at Mannion Daniels
Ms. Alice Parlett, Product Design, Research and Development Manager at AFRipads
Ms. Diana Sierra, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Be Girl
Ms. Noel Aryanyijuka, Co-founder and Lead, EcoSmart
Mr. Sandyson Owusu-Poku, Deputy CEO (Development and Innovation)

Moderator:
Coenie Louw, Executive Director, Gateway Health Institute

Format:
Short video, PPT presentation, Panel discussion and Q&A
Title: Menstrual Health in Uganda - Products and Products Availability

Description: This session will share Uganda’s context and experiences related to MH products and their availability.

Speakers:
- Rosette Nakyanzi, Gender Technical Advisor, Ministry of Education and Sports
- Anne A. Sizomu, Programme Specialist AYSRH UNFPA Uganda Country Office
- Ms. Noel Aryanyijuka, Co-founder and Lead, EcoSmart
- Trudy Emojong, National Marketing and Communications Lead, AFRipads
- Patrick Segawa, Team Leader, Public Health Ambassadors Uganda

Moderator: Olga Daphynne Namukuza, SRHR Alliance

Format: Panel presentation
Title: The Next Steps: Taking High Impact Practices to Scale through Innovation and Sustainable Financing

Description: This session will explore how innovation and sustainable financing can accelerate the scale-up of high-impact practices for MH. The session will take stock of select innovative solutions presented at the 2018 symposium and introduce new solutions that have recently emerged. Speakers will also discuss how to bring MH solutions to scale, ensuring that no one is left behind. Sustainable financing will also be explored.

Speakers - Session 1: Show and Tell
Ms. Jamila Mayanja, Founder and Team Leader, Smart Bags for Girls Uganda
Mr. Gwamaka Mwabuka, Film Producer and Director, TAI Tanzania
Ms. Kristine Sorgenfri Hansen, Gender Officer UNICEF ESARO

Moderator: Natasha Mwansa, MH Youth Advocate, Zambia

Speakers - Session 2: The Business of Menstruation in Africa
Hon. Emma Theofelus, Deputy Minister, Information and Communication Technology, Namibia
Rose Rwabuhishi, Rwanda Chief Gender Monitor, Office of the Prime Minister
Babatunde Omiola, Division Manager, Public Health, Security and Nutrition Division, African Development Bank
Cassie Jaganyi, Corporate Affairs and Citizenship Leader, Procter and Gamble

Moderator: Kanto Ravelojaona, Axian Foundation

Intervention Speakers:
Agnes Makanyi, UNICEF
Muriel Bilger, Axian Foundation

Format: Innovation showcase followed by panel discussion and interactive Q&A

Artist: Mijori - soul singer doing an acapella performance
Teardrops - artist from Kenya - a creative piece on male period allies
DAY 3  Thursday 27 May, 2021

15:00 - 15:30  THE MARKETPLACE EXHIBITIONS

15:30 – 17:00  CLOSING CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION OF THE RENEWED AFRICA COALITION CALL TO ACTION

Description:
As the Africa Coalition Symposium on Menstrual Health concludes, final words from an inspirational speaker will frame the closing session which will include the sharing of the renewed call to action for organizations to be guided to act as they work to realize the right of any person who menstruate to menstrual health in the continent. Final words will be delivered by the UNFPA ESARO Regional director drawing from the sessions and the renewed call to action.

Keynote Speaker:
Prof. Myriam Sidibe, Chief Mission Officer and Founder of Brands on a Mission

Remarks on behalf of the ACMHM Leadership:
Ms. Mary Grace Sanday, Programme manager WoMena Uganda

Remarks:
Mr. Roger Yates, Regional Director, Plan International

The Renewed Call to Action (reading)

Closing remarks:
Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, Regional Director UNFPA East and Southern Africa Office

Moderator:
Ayanda Makayi, Host
Stephanie Sandows, Host

Choir:
Amakhono we Sintu