

Pushing the Boundaries on the MHM Dialogue in India

CALLS TO ACTION FOR MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

	What exists across the MHM value chain					Calls to Action
	Awareness	Access	Use	Disposal	Treatment	
Convergence across Ministries						The key Ministries noted here to form an inter-ministerial group to support implementation of coordinated, comprehensive MHM programs across the country
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Menstrual Hygiene Scheme Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a wider product basket, including disposable sanitary pads, reusable products (cotton pads, menstrual cups), and compostable pads. • Expand availability and access to information, support structures and services across the MHM value chain in communities and institutional settings • Endorse implementation of MHM programs in schools and rural communities, as well as urban communities, and worksites.
Ministry of Women and Child Development	SABLA, through Anganwadi centers					
Ministry of Rural Development	National Rural Livelihood Mission					
Ministry of Human Resource Development	National Guidelines for MHM in schools					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalize guidelines at the state and district level with corresponding budget allocations • Model convergence across government departments for MHM programming
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation	SBM (Gramin) Guidelines on gender issues in sanitation			SBM (Gramin) Guidelines on gender issues in sanitation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness on MHM and break the silence and stigma around menstruation. • Enable safe management of menstruation for all women and girls inside and outside the home. • Offer safe and appropriate waste management solutions in addition to incinerators, specifying their suitability for various types of products, and their environmental impact • Encourage the operationalization of the MHM Guidelines in Schools • Disseminate and capacitate stakeholders at all levels on SBM gender guidelines and how they can be integrated into ongoing work, including collective behavior change, resource allocation, monitoring and verification of open defecation free status.

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Ministry of Environment and Forests				Solid Waste Management Guidelines 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturer responsibility for product cover design • User responsibility for waste segregation • Bio-medical Waste Management guidelines • Specifications for transportation and incineration for bio-medical waste 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the categorization of menstrual waste to all relevant stakeholders • Specify standards for waste management, including their suitability for various types of products • Align categorization and positioning of menstrual waste across Government Ministries • Develop and disseminate IEC materials on menstrual waste management (from segregation, disposal, transportation, containment, and treatment)
Ministry of Urban Development				SBM (urban)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer safe and appropriate waste management solutions in addition to incinerators, specifying their suitability for various types of products, and their environmental impact. • Development of protocols, standards and accreditation for incinerators
Bureau of Indian Standards		Standards only exist for disposable sanitary napkins				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standards for a wider basket of menstrual hygiene products, including reusable products, disposable pads, and compostable pads. • Existing standards to go beyond guidance on product dimensions and materials to include environmental impact, user preferences, hygienic production and packaging, and accurate and comprehensive product information on packaging.