



Working with Menstrual Hygiene Management at Scale

Gabrielle Halcrow- 18th November 2016



The CS WASH Fund is supported by the Australian Government and managed by Palladium International Pty Ltd.



The issue

In managing their menstruation safely and with dignity, women and girls face specific barriers and challenges that impact their health, their capacity and right to work, their education, and their ability to engage in society (Winkler and Roaf, 2015)



SNV and MHM

Developed an integrated rights-based approach at scale to improve safe MHM, through both:

- Integrating MHM within our ongoing Sustainable Sanitation & Hygiene for All (SSH4A) programme in Nepal, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia; and
- Strategically investing in MHM initiatives : Girls in Control, a multi-country programme intervention using a common framework to improve MHM in schools in Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

In 2015 we undertook an analysis of the multi-country MHM programme intervention using an embedded case study research strategy to inform our approach and identify opportunities to integrate.

The “case”



1 programme model

5 countries

25 districts

491 rural and peri-urban schools

70,000 schoolgirls with safer MHM practices (self-reported)

960 school health clubs

4 million people reached through campaigns, dialogues, and advocacy events in 2015.

Findings

- Rights based approach to - strengthen governance, behaviour change communication, menstrual product supply chain and improve hygienic access, collection, disposal and reuse.
- One common framework and performance monitoring system for five country-based projects adapted and tailored to contexts.
- Supported regionally through knowledge, learning and coordination.

In practice

Initiated with communication strategies to “break the silence”– catalytic role.

Strengthen the supply of affordable and accessible menstrual products by a “hierarchy of satisfaction” – under-developed

Capacity building to improve the management, maintenance, budgeting of WASH services and piloting designs – slow and challenging

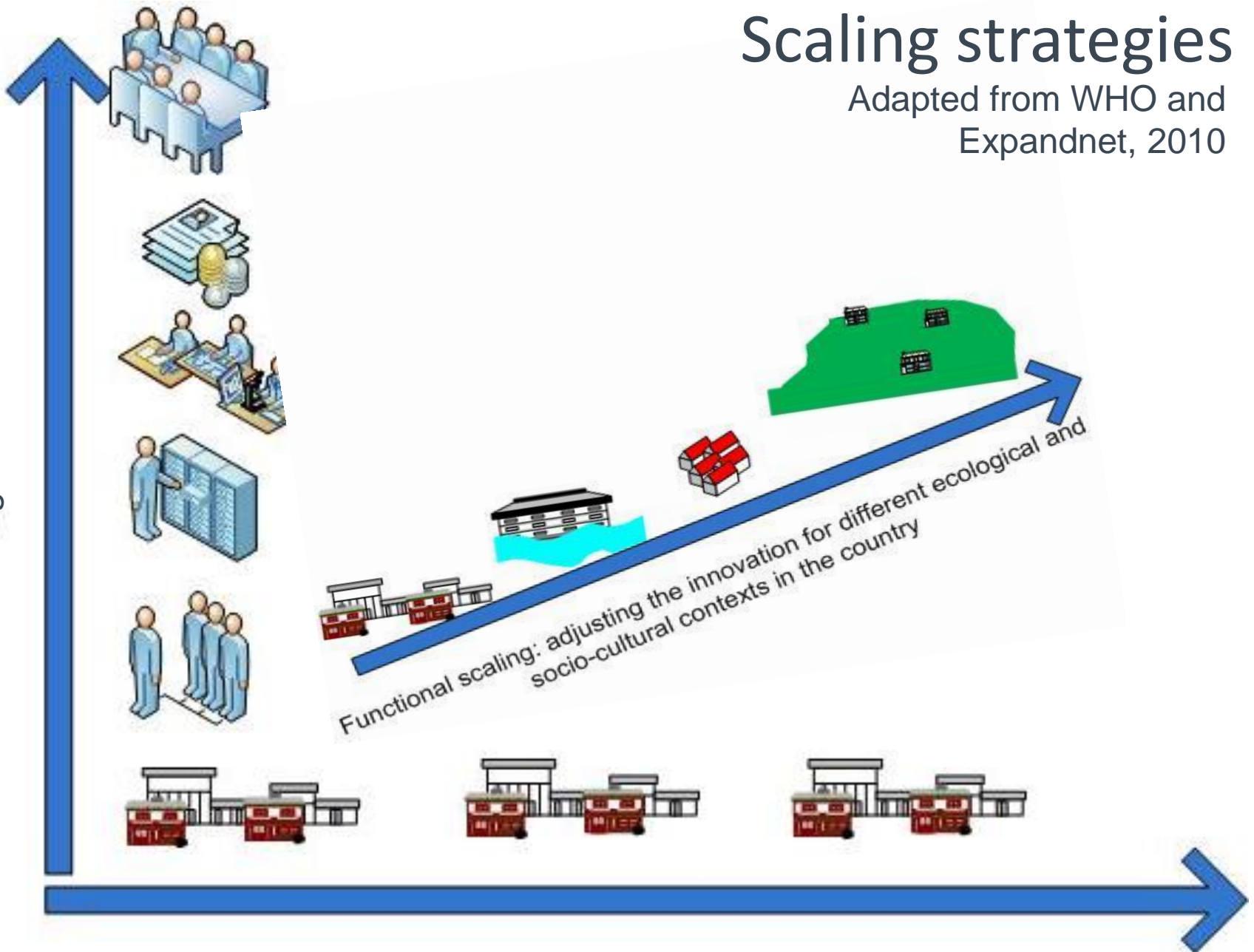
Linking district level activities to national actions to strengthen governance–
key



Scaling strategies

Adapted from WHO and
Expandnet, 2010

Vertical scaling : institutionalize MHM



Horizontal scaling : geographic expansion

Reflections on scaling up



- Importance of defining MHM holistically
- Catalytic role of breaking the silence
- Challenge of measuring outcomes and impact
- Commonality of experiences across diverse contexts
- Market based approach for affordability and accessibility
- Investment and testing of low cost solutions
- National level cross-sectorial issue





IMPACT INDICATOR: ACCESS TO SAFE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Level	Descriptions / mini scenarios
0	No facilities for menstrual hygiene management available.
1	Facility for MHM (i) A private place is available for changing and washing oneself and has water and soap.
2	BENCHMARK
2	Facility for MHM + acceptable disposal (i) A private place is available for changing and washing oneself and has water and soap; and (ii) A place is available for disposal of used menstrual products within an accessible distance that prevents littering.
3	Facility for MHM + acceptable disposal + products (Reuse or disposable) (i) A private place is available for changing and washing oneself and has water and soap; and (ii) A place is available for disposal of used menstrual products within an accessible distance that prevents littering. (iii) A place for drying reusable materials is available OR emergency MHM materials are available (eg within the school) OR disposable MHM materials are the main product used in this context.
4	Facility for MHM + <i>safe</i> disposal + products (i) A private place is available for changing and washing oneself and has water and soap; and (ii) A place for drying reusable materials is available OR emergency MHM materials are available within the school. (iii) A place is available for disposal of used menstrual products within an accessible distance, that prevents littering, and. (iv) There is safe final disposal of used menstrual hygiene products (burning or off-site disposal).

In conclusion



- Think at scale and move beyond piloting
- Link the “learning” between WASH and MHM e.g. supply chains and subsidy
- Scope that looks beyond rural school settings to workplaces and beyond
- Needs for examples in urban and informal settings
- Integration AND strategic investment



Acknowledgements

Selamawit Tamiru, GiC Programme Leader, SNV

WEDC

MHM Dgroup network

<http://www.snv.org/project/girls-control>



Process

1. Mapping Activity : Who is doing what where and in what role?

2. Small Group Work on MHM Programming for

- Girls in Schools,
- Girls out of Schools
- Women in workplaces

3. Report back 3 most significant lessons / reflections.

Small Group Process

Guiding questions

- What is your/ your CSOs experience of this issue?
- Key challenges of working in this area? Key lessons?
- What are the most useful guidance documents people use for this topic?
- What are gaps in knowledge and/or information sharing on this topic? And actions for future sharing?

Please nominate a note taker and someone who will report back.