

TANZANIA MHM COALITION MINUTES FOR THE BUIGIRI SCHOOL VISIT

18th Aug 2020

List of attendees

| SN O | NAME PARTICIPANT | OF | Position | NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION |
|---------|---------------------|----|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Salvata Silayo | | MHH - Chair | MoHCDGEC |
| 2 | Severine Allute | | MHH - Secretariat | ToneHai |
| 3 | Theresia Kuiwite | | PEO | MoEST |
| 4 | Hyasinthia Ntuyeko | | Director | Kasole Secrets |
| 5 | Oliver Kavishe | | MHH – Secretariat | TAWASANET |
| 6 | Rachel Stephen | | | Plan International |
| 7 | Joyce Nchimbi | | DRCHCO | Chamwino DC |
| 8 | Catherine Sungura | | SIO | MoHCDGEC |
| 9 | Historia Mputa | | Ass. Headmistress | Buigiri School |
| 10 | Monica Mlolere | | School Nurse | Buigiri School |
| 11 | Clementina Njilima | | Matron | Buigiri School |
| 12 | Zubeda Karenga | | Matron | Buigiri School |
| 13 | Mathias Fwejeje | | Teacher and Librarian | Buigiri School |
| 14 | Elijah Mahushi | | MHM Facilitator | Femme International |
| 15 | John Benjamin | | Femme Intern | Femme International |
| 16 | Esther Naiman | | Femme Intern | Femme International |
| 17 | Francisha Sievess | | Femme Intern | Femme International |
| 18 | Joachim Assenga | | PO | SAWA/WSSCC |
| 19 | Lunyamadio Njulumu | | Presenter | Afm Dodoma |

A. Last year training:

Kindly recap on the activities done in May 2019. Including the number of beneficiaries who received training (students and teachers and their respective gender), A number of reusable pads, disposable and cups distributed and a

number of braille books distributed (Direct to the library and the individual students.

B. Agenda for the visit

1. Evaluating the impact of the training
2. Discussion on the challenges and way forward
3. Discussion with students
4. Presented donations to students from various members of MHH Coalition

1. Evaluating the impact of the training

After the general introduction from the Assistant DRCCO- Chamwino; Miss Joyce Nchimbi; The MHH Coalition Chair; Miss Salvata Shayo went ahead and allowed the 13 coalition members to introduce themselves and after that the Ass. Head Mistress; Miss Historia Mpita introduced the teachers and gave a brief history of Buigiri School.

Secretariat Mr. Severine Alute started the discussion after all the introductions were finished.

This particular discussion was happening with coalition members and the following teachers

- Historia Mputa – Ass. Headmistress
- Clementina Njilima – Matron
- Mathias Fwejeje – Teacher and Librarian
- Zubeda Karenga – Matron

The teachers acknowledged the receiving of Hedhi Salama Training last year on 28TH May 2019.

They acknowledged setting one toilet in the 6 available toilets as a changing room and equipping the room with disposable pads, soap, dustbin, water and khanga as the result of the Hedhi Salama last year.

Also, they have set aside a special area where they use for burning used menstrual pads; students also are aware on the importance of using dustbins to dispose of their used pads; before the training, the management of menstrual waste was a bit challenging and contributed a lot to the blocked sewage systems; but for now, they have managed to at least cease the impact of menstrual wastes to that school

The school has a special fund for buying 36 disposable pads every month to cater for 15 menstruating girls age 14-16.

2. Discussion on the challenges and way forward

a. Challenges

Due to the nature of disabilities of girls at Buigiri, the management of washable pads was very tricky, students didn't know whether the pad they are washing is washed thoroughly ready to be hanged, but also drying them was a challenging as it's hard to know whether the place they are using is proper and clean. The hassle of asking their fellows to check for their pads whether it's clean and dried in a proper place made them hate to use washable pads. Teachers decided to recall all the washable pads and burned them; however, the number of how many washable was burned was not available

Also, students complained a lot about menstrual cups; some students reported that the cups were painful; some students reported that they can't sit when they use cups. Teachers decided to recall all the cups from 3 students and burned it. Also, teachers decided to stop distributing the remaining 6 cups, where 3 cups they have returned to the late Teacher Rehema Darueshi and they still have 3 cups at their offices

The school did not establish SWASH clubs in schools as they promised last year, and this has contributed a lot to the existing of silence among students but as well as teachers not to maximum utilize the knowledge they received during the Hedhi Salama training to bring the sustainable impact at Buigiri

The distributed braille books were given to the individual students and many of the students took with them home during the holiday, only 2 students returned the books and therefore added up to the existed 5 books which were given to the librarian. However, few students go to the library to borrow those books. However, Ass. Headmistress highlighted that; When the donor visit the school and distribute things direct to students; it's become very tough for them to collect back those given things from students, so it was challenging to collect back the braille books as they were given to students directly

The corona outbreak took them on shock as the schools were ordered to be closed immediately so teachers were focusing to fundraise for the transport money to take students back home, so they didn't prepare themselves or even remember to give girls pads for them to use when they are home, so many girls during these 3 months of Corona break many of them struggled on the menstrual products to

use, some of them they simply reported to their teachers that they simply used what was available at that moment and some mentioned they used pieces of cloth as they couldn't afford to buy disposable pads

b. Way forward

The school has decided to use only disposable pads since they now have special funds for buying it but also a good number of well-wishers bring disposable pads all the time when they visit them. Also, they highlighted that they receive enough underwear for both girls and boys from the Support of UDOM every year.

Also, Buigiri School and the MHH coalition strategized on the establishment of **SWASH Club** at Buigiri where Miss Joyce Nchimbi DRCCO-Chamwino will supervise the process and Miss AnaMaria Kidonde and Asha Msengi from the Chamwino DC will ensure the availability and technical support of the implementation of SWASH guidelines to ensure the successful running of the club at Buigiri. However, the MHH coalition recommended one of the club activities to train students on how to make washable pads in the light that these students are going to get out of Buigiri and face the same challenges they have faced during corona outbreak. Also, it was advised that with the help of SWASH guidelines the school can construct a simple incinerator for burning the used pads unlike now where they just have a small hole for burning pads. The MHH coalition will make follow up on the implementation of this plan in October.

The MHH coalition advised the school management to be as creative as possible to make these clubs attractive and later to be used as a model to other 3 nearby schools at Buigiri. The school management bought in the idea and they are looking forward to making use of the proposed government officials to make this work.

3. Discussion with students

Teachers set a class of 15 students where we interviewed 3 girls and 1 boy. 'All of the interviewed students seem to understand Menstruation and they acknowledged the friendly support they received from their teachers when they ask for pads or any other related advice

Girls acknowledged the use of pieces of cloth when they are back home however they mentioned that they are not preferring using washable pads when they are in school as washing and drying is very challenging to them

4. Presented Donations

After the visit of schools and finishing of all the discussion the coalition presented:

Things Submitted at Buigiri School include:

- i. Washing Basins
- ii. 6 x boxes (4 x Mzuri Pads and 2 x Glory Pads)
- iii. 12 x Cartons of Water
- iv. 12 x Cartons of Juice
- v. 2 x 15kg Washing powder bags
- vi. 2 x Cartons of liquid soap
- vii. 40 x soap dishes
- viii. 40 x handkerchiefs
- ix. 6 x Toilet brushes
- x. 40 x Soaps
- xi. 15 x reusable pads
- xii. 5 x liters of handwashing soap

5. Matters arise

The uptake of Menstrual cups at Buigiri was severely affected by Minister Ummy Mwalimu's statement during the closure of MHH day at Morena where students and teachers seem to clearly remember what the Minister said *"Vikombe visitumike mpaka hapo kitakapothibitishwa na mamlaka husika na kuongeza kwamba kuna vitu vya kujaribu lakini sio vikombe"* This statement stuck in their mind and it will need extra efforts to convince them

Femme International couldn't manage to donate all 40 kits for reusable pads as they planned due to the fact that students and teachers showed less interest in the uptake of that product.