The Global Menstrual Health and Hygiene Collective

1 Foundational Statement (version February 2020)

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creating a new global fund, or directly channelling investments. We have come together to use our collective strength to increase and guide investments toward menstrual health and hygiene at all levels.

Members of the Collective will work together to build the evidence and advocate for investment, policy and programming across relevant sectors (WASH, health, education, gender, etc.) including access to information, products and services, and establishing positive social norms and practices around menstruation.

Existing alliances, coalitions and groups engaged with menstrual health and hygiene are invited to be members of the Collective. The Collective will work with them to leverage their functions and strengths.

The Collective will further develop its membership structure and reach out to potential members to build a diverse membership of individuals and representatives of organisations that identify with the Collective’s purpose and priorities as agreed by the Founding Members.

Advocacy for improved investment will include the voices and priorities of young people and marginalised groups.

**The following agencies have co-created the Global Menstrual Health and Hygiene Collective:**

- Africa Coalition for MHM
- Columbia University
- Emory University
- Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- Johns Hopkins University
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Menstrual Cup Coalition
- Menstrual Health Hub
- Menstrual Hygiene Alliance
- Save the Children
- Simavi
- The Case for Her
- Toilet Board Coalition
- UNFPA
- WASH United
- WaterAid
- WHO
- WSSCC
- Youth Ki Awaaz

3 **The Collective’s Purpose and Priorities**

**Our purpose is to drive and guide investment in menstrual health and hygiene through evidence-based advocacy.** As members of the Collective we will work together on the following four priorities. Each priority is illustrated with potential activities to give an idea of the type of collective efforts envisaged that members may
engage in under the Collective’s banner related to the priority. The actual activities of the Collective will be determined by members and included in the annual plan.

3.1 **Menstrual health and hygiene are incorporated into relevant policies**
- Provide guidance for policy development and integration
- Knowledge management and sharing including best practice, measurement tools and processes
- Develop positions for specific policies e.g. menstrual product taxation

3.2 **The availability and use of evidence to drive investment in menstrual health and hygiene is strengthened**
- Influence investment in research to address evidence gaps
- Establish MHH Collective as trusted source of credible evidence
- Make available tools to improve program evidence

3.3 **A clear and strong public narrative for more and better investment in menstrual health and hygiene is mainstreamed**
- Build a positive narrative around menstruation and counteract negative stories
- Increase media coverage on menstruation and menstrual health
- Provide a reliable voice to addressing the need for more and better funding

3.4 **Connection and collaboration across global menstrual health and hygiene is strengthened to enhance collective effort**
- Regular communications to members and wider audiences
- Communication and sharing of learning and resources
- Inspire collective actions through initiatives such as awards
- Identifying and facilitating opportunities for members and stakeholders to engage in collective efforts

4 **Governance**

The Collective will represent members through a system of distributed leadership. The Collective’s governance structure is purposefully light; with a loose alliance in place initially rather than a registered, separate entity. Formal registration may be pursued in the future based on need, i.e. form will follow function to ensure it is fit-for-purpose. The governance structure may evolve depending on the shape the Collective takes beyond its formative stages.
4.1 Core Group

The Collective is currently led by a Core Group comprising of volunteers from the founding members endorsed at the co-creation meeting. Members of the Core Group are individuals who have decision-making power at the institution they represent. ²

4.2 Action Groups

The initial activities of the Collective are delivered by Action Groups that were self-selected at the co-creation meeting. The Action Groups are self-governing. They provide updates to the Core Group and are supported by the Coordination Team. New Action Groups may be formed by members and proposed to the Core Group. Action Groups may exist for a specific activity or be continuous and may disband over time.

The initial action groups are:³

1. Building and consolidating the evidence
2. Global advocacy framework
3. Mobilizing the public narrative
4. Collective action
5. Investment case (SROI+ROI)
6. Common Language and Terminology

4.3 Coordination Team

Day-to-day activities to coordinate the Collective and support the Core Group and Action Groups are conducted by a Coordination Team who report to the Core Group. The Coordination Team is responsible for carrying out a programme of work in line with the stated aims of the Collective. The members of the Collective, particularly the Core Group and Action Groups are required to support the Coordination Team in responding to requests in a timely manner.

The key roles and responsibilities of the Coordination Team include:

- Contributing to strategic thinking and planning
- Fulfilling agreed actions in the operational plan and work plans
- Coordinating meetings of the Core Group, supporting facilitation, agenda preparations and logistics
- Ensuring governance documentation is up-to-date, shared with members, signed and filed as required

² See the Core Group’s Terms of Reference for more information.
³ For more information contact the Coordination Team.
Day-to-day management of the Collective – including membership requests, communication with potential members, reporting on progress to members and the Core Group, managing budgets

Managing internal and external communications

5 Membership

The Collective is a global level initiative and currently does not intend to have a devolved structure with regional and/or national chapters of membership. Existing regional and national coalitions with mutual interests that align with the Collective’s purpose will be invited to become members of the Collective to strengthen linkages from global to national levels. The Collective will actively seek diverse members from across different sectors and stakeholder groups.

5.1 Membership criteria

The Collective will develop an ethical policy that includes specific membership criteria. At present the following principles will be applied to determine eligibility for new members.

- Members must have a mutual interest in achieving the Purpose of the Collective and endorse human rights, particularly gender rights.
- Most members will represent an organization. Individual members will be considered, particularly if they can contribute to the Purpose at a global level. National or local level organisations located where existing coalitions or collaborative platforms are members of the Collective are expected to engage with the Collective through these rather than directly.
- Government departments (e.g. Ministries / departments of gender, health, education, water and sanitation etc.) can become members of the Collective. Governments as a whole are not eligible.

5.2 Membership process

Organisations and individuals should apply to the Coordination Team to become members. If the request is not straightforward the Coordination Team may consult with the Core Group to decide on membership.

6 Reviewing the Foundational Statement

The Global MHH Collective should undertake a full review of the governance arrangements after one year.

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