

WEBINAR NAVIGATOR

Role of Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28)



CanWaCH
Canadian Partnership for
Women and Children's Health

CanSFE
Partenariat canadien pour
la santé des femmes et des enfants

On October 23, 2019, CanWaCH hosted a webinar on Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) and the importance of the global health community coordinating its activities. CanWaCH will be working with WASH United to help coordinate Canadian activities.

If you would like to join these efforts, please email Erin Jex, CanWaCH's Gender Equality Officer at ejex@CanWaCH.ca.

Summary

Following an introduction from CanWaCH, Ina Jurga, WASH United's International Coordinator for Menstrual Hygiene Day, presented on the history and evolution of their global campaign, the rationale behind their approach, a snapshot of the events celebrated globally in the past, as well as examples of key advocacy successes.

Looking ahead to 2020, Jurga noted that increasingly there is a desire to move beyond awareness campaigns to focussing on the push for concrete action from governments around the world, including Canada.

Plan International Canada and WaterAid Canada then shared their past experiences in celebrating MH Day in Canada, as well as some of their key learnings and advice for other organizations looking to get involved.

The final portion of the webinar was open for questions and comments from participants. A participant spoke about her Edmonton-based NGO's work with girls involved in sports in a number of communities in Sierra Leone.

Go to full webinar on Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=0m0s>

View webinar by section:

Section 1. Introduction (5 mins)

Introduction by Megan Aikens, CanWaCH's Director, Strategic Partnerships and Gender Equality. **Go to Section 1:**

<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=0m0s>

Section 2. WASH United Presentation (16 mins)

Presentation by Ina Jurga, International Coordinator Menstrual Hygiene Day for WASH United. **Go to Section 2:**

<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=5m3s>

Section 3. Plan International Canada Presentation (8 mins)

Presentation by Saifullah Chaudhry, Senior Advisor, Gender Equality at Plan International Canada. **Go to Section 3:**

<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=22m5s>



Section 4. WaterAid Canada

Presentation (9 mins)

Presentation by Julie Truelove, Head of Program Development and Policy at WaterAid Canada. **Go to Section 4:**
<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=30m50s>

Section 5. Q&A: A review of highlights from the three presentations (2 mins)

To kick off the Q&A portion of the webinar, Megan Aikens provides some highlights and key messages from the three presentations. **Go to Section 5:**
<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=39m22s>

Section 6. Q&A: A story from Sierra Leone (6 mins)

Speaking on behalf of an Edmonton NGO, a participant tells a moving story about a girl in Sierra Leone experiencing her first period. The story highlighted the need to advance menstrual hygiene awareness and action in the country. **Go to Section 6:**
<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=41m49s>

Section 7. Concluding Remarks and Next Steps (2 mins)

Megan Aikens makes concluding remarks and invites participants to contact CanWaCH's Gender Equality Officer, Erin Jex at ejex@canwach.ca, if they have additional questions and want to join the planning effort for MH Day 2020. **Go to Section 7:**
<https://youtu.be/DDcvb0-ZYqk#t=47m37s>

Resources

[WASH United, Plan International Canada, WaterAid Canada webinar presentations](#)

[WASH United MH Day Newsletter](#)

CanWaCH Member Resources

Plan Canada International carried out a [2019 National Survey](#) on the social, emotional & financial impact of menstruation. Their ongoing [Periods Matter Campaign](#) advocates for free access to menstrual hygiene products and information about periods as a basic human right.

WaterAid Canada convened the Canadian water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to develop a business case for WASH as a critical pathway to transforming gender relations: [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A pathway to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls](#)

Read about **Aakar Innovations, a Grand Challenges Canada** funded social enterprise that [empowers women through menstrual hygiene and health](#).

MH Day on Social Media

[#MenstruationMatters](#) raises awareness of and highlight the importance of Menstrual Hygiene Management.

[#NoMoreLimits](#) prepares individuals and organizations to take action.

[#ItsTimeForAction](#) is a catalyst for action on menstrual hygiene around the world.

