

Review of sanitation system interactions with menstrual hygiene practices

Presentation to the 16th SuSanA meeting
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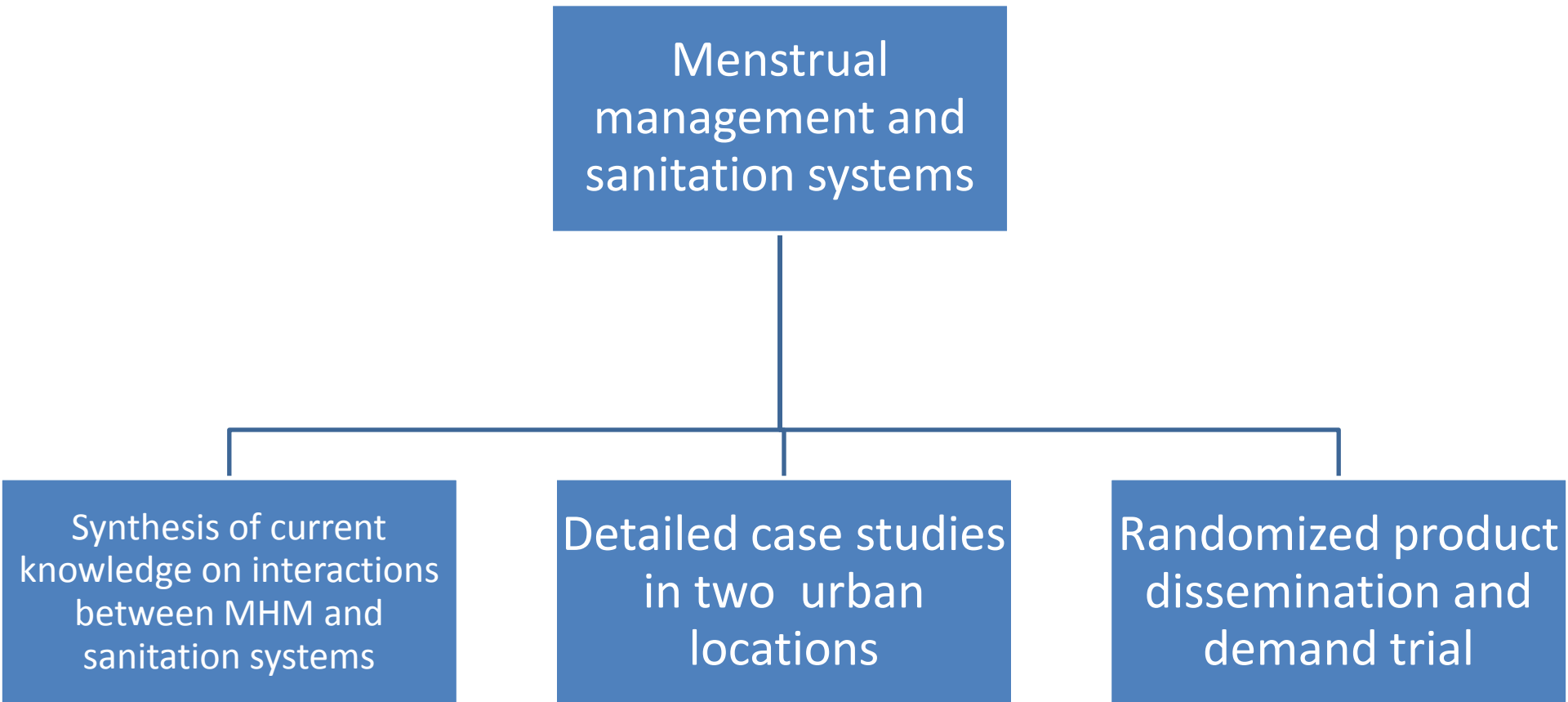
Outline

- The Menstrual Management and Sanitation Systems project
- SEI's Global Review of Sanitation System trends
- Sanitation System Interactions
 - Methodology & Framework
 - Findings: Impact of MHM on:
 - waterborne systems
 - on-site
 - productive
 - Disposal through the solid waste system
 - Recommendations re. privacy, water and information
- Final reflections on education, gender and MHM

Background

- Sanitation – taboo...
Menstruation – a taboo within the taboo.
- Research project
funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
managed by the University of Maryland
- Interactions between menstrual (hygiene) management
and sanitation
 - sanitation hardware
 - women's/girl's practices
 - Future sanitation systems
& menstrual management products.

Project structure

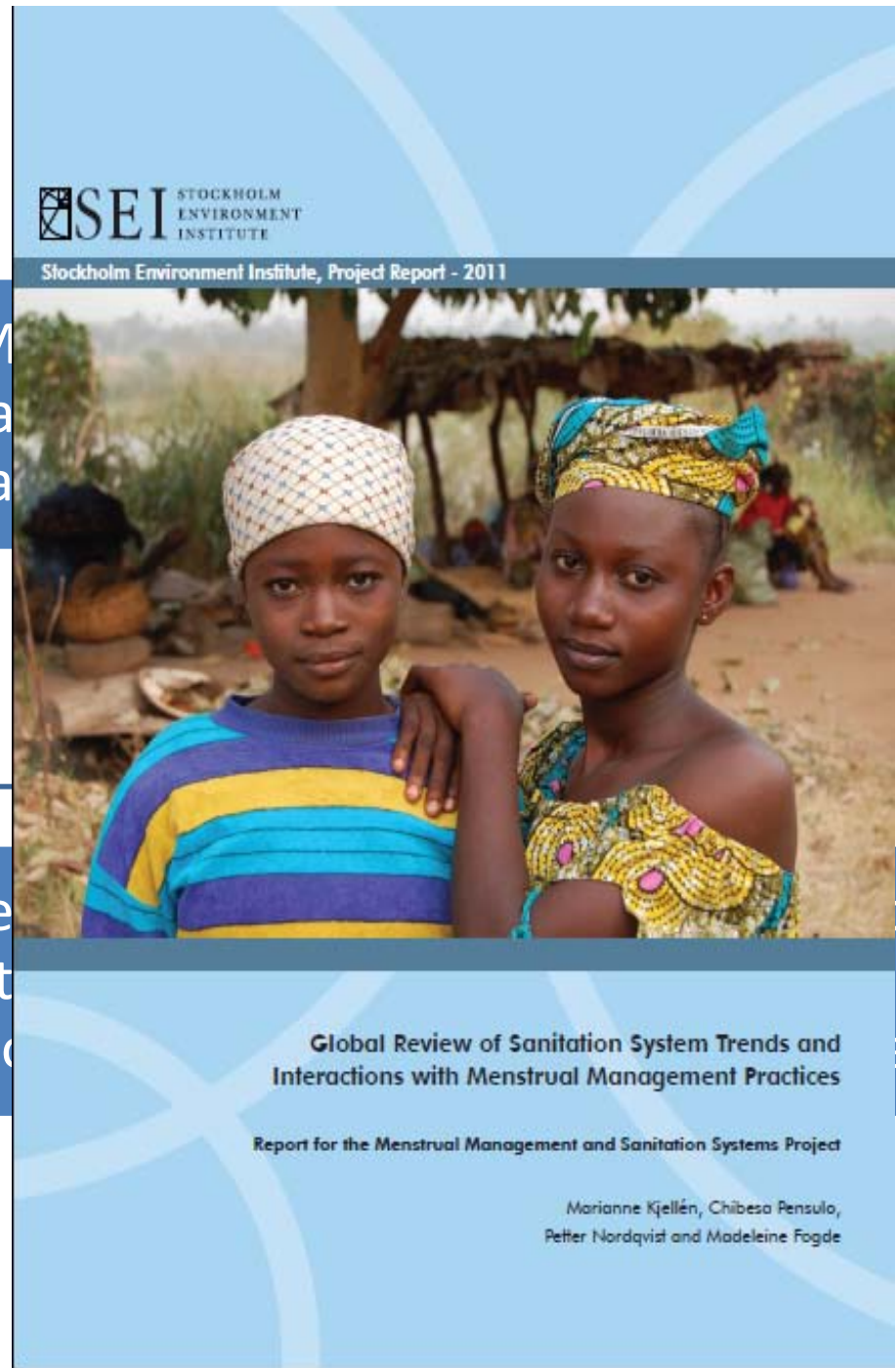


SEI component

M
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sanita

Detailed
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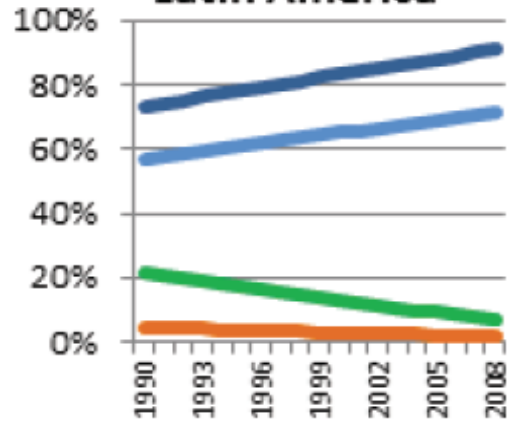
Synthesis of current
knowledge on interactions
between MHM and
sanitation systems



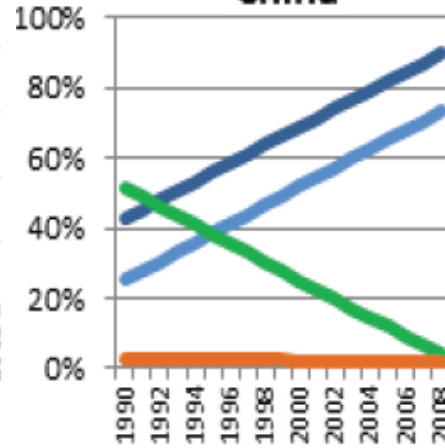
Product
and
al

Sanitation System Trends

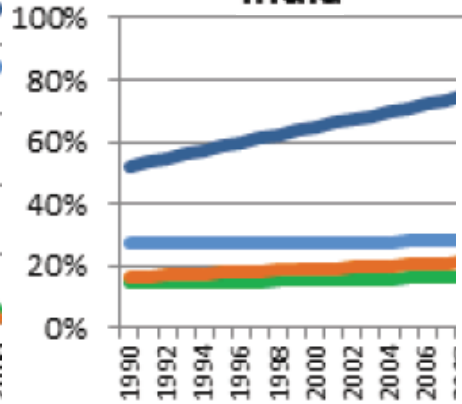
Latin America



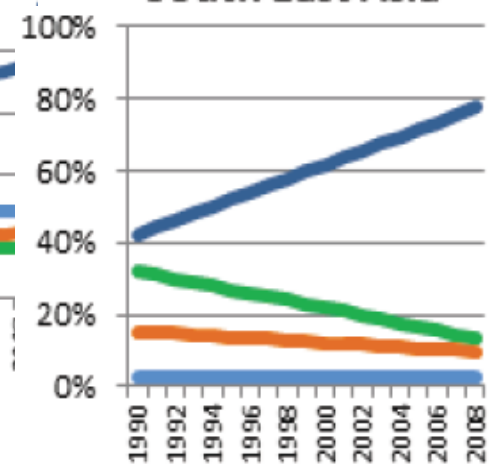
China



India

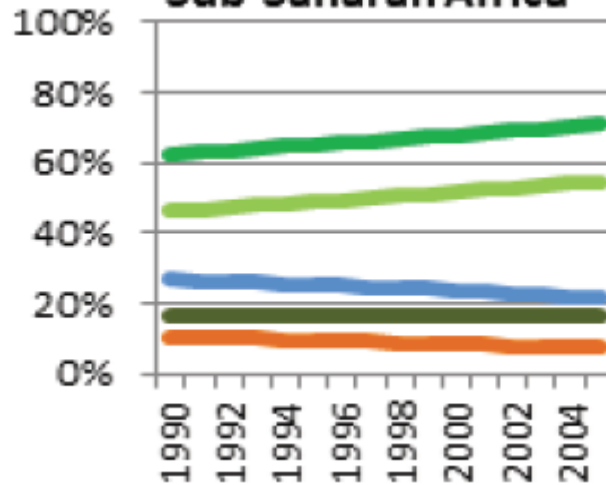


South East Asia



- Flush or pour flush (all)
- Estimated access to sewerage
- Latrines (all)
- No facilities / bush / field

Sub-Saharan Africa



- Latrines (all)
- Traditional latrine
- Septic tank
- Improved latrine
- Open defecation

Sanitation System Interactions

Analysis of impacts of MHM on different sanitation systems:

- Water-borne sewerage;
- On-site systems;
- Productive sanitation systems;

Menstrual waste disposal via the solid waste system

user interface

collection/conveyance

point of treatment

Methods: Literature review (global) and 20 expert interviews

(Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Yemen, India, Philippines, Cambodia)

Findings

1. Conventional sewerage systems



Used MHM products

- superabsorbent
- increase **likelihood** of blockages
- significant **proportion** of materials removed

2. On-site systems



- Preferred means of menstrual waste disposal
- Reduced design life = pits fill up faster
- Problems for emptying
- Research...
(decomposition)

3. Productive sanitation systems



- High level of user information => less frequent menstrual waste problems
- Uncommon to find menstrual waste
- Women/girls must resort to other disposal means
- Concern: menstrual blood contaminating urine (unwarranted???)

Disposal through the solid waste system



- Many unaware that sanitation systems not designed to handle menstrual waste
- Habit change =>
 - 0.3% increase of solid waste
 - considerable cost savings for sewerage utilities
- Contextual – disposal depend on location
- Concern: menstrual waste not to be seen by others
- Menstrual waste management systems lacking in schools

Recommendations

- **Privacy & Space: Toilet design** – space! (&light) change / wash / discard discreetly.
- **Water:** needed **inside** cubicle/toilet.
- **Information:**
 - on 'correct' means of disposal
 - 1) effective
 - 2) implicitly suggests menstruation is ok

Final Reflections

- Streamline MHM into sanitation planning & **education/training**
- **Gender** balance!
Female concerns to influence on sanitation system design
- MHM **rising** on the global agenda