

# ADDRESSING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT DURING AN EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

## REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

In partnership with the global humanitarian response community, [Columbia University \(CU\)](#) has been working on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in emergencies research and recommendations since 2015. We are now embarking on a project aimed at exploring how best to address MHM during an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak at clinic and community levels.



## PROJECT BACKGROUND & DETAILS

### BACKGROUND

- In resource scarce and humanitarian contexts, girls and women face a range of safety and privacy challenges in relation to their MHM needs, including a lack of menstrual materials and poor access to spaces for the changing, disposing, washing and drying of used menstrual materials (Sommer et al., 2016)
- In 2015, CU partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the global humanitarian response community, to develop a [comprehensive toolkit](#) providing guidance to humanitarian responders seeking to improve girls and women's MHM experiences. In 2020, we will together publish a compendium providing specific guidance on menstrual waste disposal, waste management and laundering for displaced populations.

### THE ASK

We are currently seeking:

1. assessment tools, research, reports or program examples related to MHM & EVD response; or
2. recommendations of individuals or organizations to contact who have worked in EVD outbreak response such as medical staff, community health workers, SRH and WASH actors involved in response, preparedness and community education efforts.

### THE ISSUE

While conducting this research, we received several inquiries from emergency actors for guidance around addressing MHM during an EVD outbreak. Following a cursory desk review and brief consultation with EVD response experts, we concluded that there exists a lack of specific guidance and evidence available on MHM concerns during an EVD outbreak, including at the health facility, household and community levels.

### THE PROJECT

With this in mind, we have launched a new project investigating MHM during an EVD outbreak. The goal is to develop a brief guidance note targeting emergency response actors that provides practical insights on incorporating MHM into EVD outbreak programs.

To accomplish this, we will be conducting:

- A desk review of existing literature, resources, protocols, reports and guidance;
- A series of qualitative interviews with emergency response experts involved in EVD outbreak response, preparedness and community education efforts.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT OR TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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