

Integrating MHH indicators from the short list into research and program monitoring

The short list of priority indicators for menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) is intended for national and global level monitoring. Indicators from the short list may also be integrated into research and initiatives undertaken by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or other stakeholders, as appropriate. Harmonising indicators and measures across different stakeholders and contexts can strengthen the MHH evidence base.

NGO Programs

- NGOs should note that the priority MHH indicators and related measures are not intended to replace more comprehensive question sets which may be more feasible and appropriate for program monitoring (for example, validated scales and indices, questions with Likert-style responding) to assess specific project outputs and outcomes.
- NGOs can integrate the MHH indicators and related measures into monitoring efforts to:
 - Use as indicators where these are aligned with the program objectives and activities;
 - Describe and compare the program population, enabling comparison with national data (where available);
 - Monitor progress against, and contributions to, national targets if these are established;
 - Interrogate the performance of the recommended MHH indicators and measures for possible refinement.
- Note that the priority MHH indicators and related measures include items for school and individual level data collection and should be incorporated into these levels of monitoring as appropriate.
- NGOs may also use the short list to advocate for the inclusion of relevant MHH indicators and measures that are not present in national data and monitoring systems.

Research Studies

- Researchers should note that these priority indicators and related measures are not intended to replace more comprehensive measures required to address study research questions. Validated scales and indices, questions with Likert-style responding, and larger question sets may enable more sensitive, comprehensive, and applicable assessment, depending on study research questions.
- Researchers can integrate the MHH indicators and related measures into primary studies to:
 - Describe characteristics of their study population, enabling comparison with national data (where available);
 - Provide data on the MHH indicators where this is missing for a population;
 - Include as measures of exposures or outcomes where the indicators and measures are relevant to study research questions;
 - Interrogate the performance of the recommended MHH indicators and measures for possible refinement;
 - Test the associations between the indicators and other constructs of interest.
- When using MHH indicators and related measures, sharing the data and lessons learned will strengthen knowledge related to the MHH indicators over time.