

## TOOL 4

# CHECKLIST: MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INCLUSIVE, MHM-FRIENDLY SOLID WASTE FACILITIES

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in Emergencies / IFRC / Pilot version – July 2019

## OVERVIEW

The solid waste chain for menstrual hygiene includes waste collection (often in containers or bins), emptying and transfer, and final disposal (through burying, burning or incineration, or composting).

Checklists for three different types of facilities are included below, focussing on aspects of waste collection where the main concerns are privacy and convenience for women and girls, and persons with disabilities to dispose of menstrual waste:

- i. Waste collection containers (*in communal facilities, not individual households*)
- ii. Communal waste pits
- iii. Incinerators

Use these checklists to assess whether solid waste facilities meet minimum requirements for being inclusive and MHM-friendly – including being accessible for persons with disabilities.

Inclusive means that waste facilities are designed to ensure the dignity, access, participation and safety of all persons in the community using the facilities. Accessible means that people with disabilities, older people and pregnant women have access to the physical and built environment, information and communications, and to related facilities and services.

MHM-friendly means that the solid waste facilities meet the minimum requirements that ensure women and girls can privately, safely and hygienically manage their monthly menstruation.

These checklists can also be used as a monitoring tool to track progress towards solid waste facilities becoming inclusive and accessible, and measuring improvements during an operation or program.

There are two parts to each checklist – 1) direct observation; and 2) discussion and direct feedback from women and girls, persons with disabilities and whoever is responsible for emptying, collecting or transferring menstrual waste<sup>1</sup>.

## CHECKLIST: SOLID WASTE FACILITIES<sup>2</sup> (*communal/shared; not household*)

FOR DIRECT OBSERVATION:			
Minimum standard to check		Yes/No	Action or change needed to meet standard
<b>For communal waste collection containers (bins):</b>			
1.	Waste collection container has a lid.		

<sup>1</sup> Note that only key discussion points are included here; more in-depth monitoring of WASH programming should be done (see the full MHM guide [Step 7], Tool 1, Tool 11 and Tool 13 for more guidance).

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Toolkit 3, Menstrual Hygiene Matters and based on IFRC experiences.

2.	Waste collection containers are in a discrete location (preferably inside each latrine).		
3.	The container is clearly identified to be for menstrual waste (and not for other types of waste) using pictures and easy-to-understand local language.		
4.	Waste collection containers are washable and easy to clean.		
5.	Waste collection container is easy to carry ( <i>if</i> it has to be transferred to a disposal site).		
6.	No menstrual waste or other rubbish is visible on the floor around the waste collection container.		
7.	There is a poster or sign near (or on) the waste collection container with instructions on <u>how</u> to dispose of menstrual waste, using pictures and easy-to-understand local language.		

***For communal waste pits (or similar):***

1.	Waste pit is not located near male communal latrines.		
2.	Waste pit is not located near areas where men and boys frequently meet or gather.		
3.	Waste pit is fenced.		
4.	Waste pit is sufficiently deep (so that no one can reach the waste).		
5.	Waste pit can be easily accessed by and is barrier-free for persons with mobility limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has a 90cm wide ramp with &lt;1:10 slope</li> <li>- the path is a solid surface and</li> <li>- has handrails (if needed) etc.</li> </ul>		Target = at least 10% of all facilities

***For incinerators – to be modified depending on the context/situation:***

***(Note: these questions may need discussion with person responsible for maintenance, rather than only observation)***

1.	Incinerator is attached to the latrine block, or is located within 10 metres.		
2.	Menstrual waste cannot easily be seen after it has been thrown/inserted into incinerator.		
3.	The incinerator has barrier-free access for persons with mobility limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has a 90cm wide ramp with &lt;1:10 slope</li> <li>- the path is a solid surface and</li> <li>- has handrails (if needed) etc.</li> </ul>		Target = at least 10% of all facilities. If only one incinerator (e.g. in a school), then it should be accessible (e.g. meet all minimum requirements outlined).

4.	Incinerator is easy to operate and uses a minimum amount of fuel.		
5.	Incinerator can reach a sufficient temperature to burn menstrual materials adequately.		
6.	There is system in place for regular burning / operation of the incinerator.		
7.	There is system in place for regular maintenance of the incinerator.		
8.	The ash from incineration is buried or disposed of in another appropriate way.		

**FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH WOMEN AND GIRLS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:**

	Minimum standard to check	Yes/No	Action needed to meet standard
1.	Do you feel comfortable using the waste collection container or disposal mechanism for your menstrual materials? Why or why not?		
2.	Do you feel the waste collection containers, waste pits (or incinerator) are located in an appropriate and private place? Why or why not?		
3.	Do women and girls, men and boys with disabilities feel the waste collection containers, waste pits (or incinerator) are located in an appropriate and accessible place? Why or why not?		
4.	Do you ever feel embarrassed, shy or get teased when disposing of your menstrual waste? Where and why?		
5.	Who is responsible for emptying the menstrual waste bins? How often do they do it? Where do they put (or transfer) the waste after it has been collected? Is the system working – why or why not, and how can it be improved? <i>[delete if not relevant]</i>		
6.	Who is responsible for burning the waste pit contents? How often do they do it? Is the system working – why or why not, and how can it be improved? <i>[delete if not relevant]</i>		
7.	Who is responsible for burning the incinerator? How often do they do it? Is the system working – why or why not, and how can it be improved? <i>[delete if not relevant]</i>		

FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EMPTYING or COLLECTING or TRANSFERRING MENSTRUAL WASTE:			
Minimum standard to check		Yes/No	Action needed to meet standard
1.	Do you ever find used menstrual products or waste in or around the latrine cubicles? <i>Why do you think this is?</i>		
2.	Do you wear gloves and boots when handling menstrual waste? <i>Why or why not?</i>		
3.	Is there any informal or formal waste sorting done? <i>Who does this? Where?</i>		
4.	Do you face any taboos, restrictions or teasing from your work (including handling menstrual waste)? <i>What are they? Do you have any suggestions to mitigate them?</i>		
5.	Did you receive a training about your work and how to be safe? <i>What information did you think was missing or would you have liked?</i>		