



## Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)

### Terms of Reference (ToR) MHM-Model Development

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#### **1. Background**

On average, a woman spends seven years of her life menstruating, making menstruation a natural and essential part of the reproductive cycle. It is an essential human right to have the ability to manage menstrual health with adequate knowledge, safety, and dignity and without stigma. However, when menstruation begins many women and girls in low-resource settings aren't well-prepared for it. Cultural and religious norms around menstruation including taboos and stigma create barriers for women to participate in normal daily life, go to school and work or participate in society. Furthermore, women and girls lack access to the information, products and infrastructure that is needed to manage menstruation with dignity. This has a severe impact on their health, well-being, and the realisation of their rights.

In the context of Bangladesh, menstruation and menstrual hygiene is a taboo subject; a topic that many women are uncomfortable discussing in public. It is neither discussed openly nor are girls given educated about it at the family or school level.

In fact, before 2014 there was little or no organized information about Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) which could provide a detailed idea about personal hygiene practices and the situation related to knowledge and facilities available at schools for menstrual hygiene management of students in Bangladesh. In 2014 Bangladesh had its first ever national hygiene baseline under Local Government Division (LGD) which has given a new direction to Water,



Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector. This survey revealed that 86% students use old cloths, around one fourth of the girl students do not go to school during menstruation. Consequently, this problem interfered with their school performance. In fact, only 11% of schools have separate latrines for girl students, which means around 2,585 high schools out of 23,500 schools in Bangladesh do not have separate toilets for girl students.

Based on these findings, the government, private sectors, NGOs and CSOs started to address the issue in many ways. Now, local governments and other sectors jointly observe the menstrual hygiene day and discuss the issue with different platforms and meetings to bring attention to the important of managing menstruation properly in schools and at home.

## **2. About the Ritu Programme**

Because of the necessity to address MHM in Bangladesh, the Ritu programme was launched in 2016 to promote improved Menstrual Health (MH) especially among school-going girls. The program was implemented by Simavi, RedOrange and TNO (a Dutch technology and research company) and funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The project ended in July 2019 yet received an extension up to March 2020.

At the local level, the programme initiated school & community intervention, where teachers received trainings to provide adequate sessions on menstrual health at schools and were schoolgirls, schoolboys as well as parents learnt more about menstruation, how to manage it properly and how to ensure that girls can access their human rights, also during menstruation. Moreover, MHM-friendly toilet facilities were installed to enable girls and women to manage their menstruation properly.

At national level, an online platform was created as a part of a 360-degree media campaign; with an aim to increase netizens access & interaction on MH. The campaign also produces mass communication materials (e.g. television series, TVC, RDC, docu-movies etc.) and circulated to aware the mass-population. Ritu has collaborated with the existing sector actors (i.e. MHM, WASH, SRHR etc.) and confronted towards achieving a common agenda, increasing the national level government's commitment towards MHM. The process brought the sector actors (e.g. INGOs, un-agencies, NGOs, private sectors, media etc.) together to form a platform named MHM Platform. It also capacitated the platform members with MH-knowledge and advocacy techniques; so that all the stakeholders can advocate towards the same agenda, individually and collectively. Among the advocacy agendas were to bring change to the secondary school curriculum, to create MHM focused national guidelines/strategies and to ensure budget allocation for MHM-friendly toilets in institutions.

## **3. About the MHM platform**

The MHM Platform was established and launched in 2017. It comprises of more than 35 organisations from different sectors, including SRHR, WASH and education, including the WASH Alliance, the UBR Alliance. Among the member organizations are NGOs, UN, research organizations and private companies. The MHM Platform is steered by the Core Committee of



13 members. The chair position is rotated between members on a yearly basis. The general members actively play a role in the activities and events of the MHM Platform.

The MHM Platform became a trusted face in the field of advocacy and receives acknowledgement, from both government and non-government agencies, as an independent entity. It successfully advocated sensitizing the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and respective government agencies (e.g. DSHE, NCTB, TTC) about the incorporation of necessary MH issues in the school curriculum. The NCTB became positive and accepted must-to-know topics as well as agreed to jointly develop a teachers training curriculum. Moreover, the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE) along with UNFPA included MHM information in the Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) curriculum (Co-curriculum).

#### **4. Objective and Focus of MHM Model Development**

The MHM platform aims to use successful interventions/strategy/approaches that could be sustained and lessons learnt/success stories from different national/international organizations of the MHM implementation on the ground to create a MHM model to share with the government, the MHM platform members and other stakeholders throughout the country. The project believes that without such initiatives the sustainability of the achievements won't be ensured.

Building up on the created momentum, the MHM model will consist of interventions/actions and guidance on what to include at a later stage, how to address MHM in its strategy. The MHM platform will use the MHM model for advocacy and lobbying at the national level. In addition, this model will be shared and submitted to the relevant departments of the government of Bangladesh (Ministry of Health, Ministry of education, NCTB, Director General of Family Planning, Department of Public Health).

**5. Language of MHM model:** The MHM model should be provided as both Bangla and English version.

#### **6. What we want to see in the model:**

The model must include the following aspects:

- About the MHM-model: Purpose, sustainability
- Evidence and description of successful intervention on MH education, awareness, capacity building, material development, systems/mechanism/coordination, resource mobilization, WASH, disposal systems
- Evidences of successful intervention on methodology, strategy and approach
- Successful intervention on creating linkage with govt. system, between stakeholders, other thematic areas; such as child marriage, sexual violence, nutrition etc., strategic areas; such as; gender equality and girls/women empowerment
- Evidence on how successful interventions affected (improved) women empowerment and gender equality and SDG.

- Interventions must be disaggregated by different target groups (girls, boys, parents, teachers, community leaders, other stakeholders).
- Successful intervention will include mechanisms to monitor the process and measure outcomes of interventions.

## 7. Existing Materials

Sl#	Name of the document	Purpose
01	Ritu Project proposal	To understand the Ritu programme
02	MHM training module	To understand Ritu context and issues
03	Ritu Evaluation report and RCT findings	To learn about Ritu challenges and successes
04	Ritu Annual reports	To understand the Implementation process, achievements, success, and challenges
05	RituTake home modules	To know about the messages of Ritu project
06	Position papers (BNPS+ DORP)	For Ritu content
07	National level program reports	To understand the situation of national level advocacy
08	MHM platform members add here their materials available	For more information about MHM situation in Bangladesh

Note: If BNPS finds further papers/materials that will support the consultant, then BNPS will provide these papers to the consultant.

## 8. Scope of work

The assignment includes the following aspects:

1. Collect successful intervention and models from national, international, UN organizations and govt. agencies (including MHM platform members).
2. Review govt. projects and programs/models to identify relevance for the MHM-model
3. Explore and identify the scope to include the model (or elements of the model) in existing government system or mechanism.
4. Consult with developers of MHM strategy (UNICEF, Practical Action, Water Aid, PSB) to align the model with the strategy
5. Facilitate a one-day **reflection workshop** with the MHM platform partners to present the collected information and jointly identify the priorities for the MHM model (to be included in the final model)

6. Based on the identified priorities a **draft copy of the MHM-model** (on which platform partners will provide feedback) will be shared with national, international, UN organizations and government (MOWCA, LGD, Finance, Youth, Education, DPHE, NCTB, TTC, SDG etc.)
7. A **Final copy of the MHM-model** (in which the feedback of partners on the draft model has been addressed) will be submitted.
8. The final MHM-Model is presented and discussed to the MHM platform members in an MHM-Platform meeting.

### 9. Team, organization and coordination

The contact person responsible for the coordination and management of the programme evaluation process is **Quazi Robiul Alam**, Project Coordinator, BNPS (robiul.bnps@gmail.com).

### 10. Requirements of the Consultant(s)

The assignment is to be fulfilled by a consultant with expertise listed below:

#### a. Mandatory requirements

- Proven track record in developing models;
- Proven track record of experience working on MHM/ WASH and SRHR, Gender equality, education. issues in the context of Bangladesh;
- Proven track record of working collaboratively to achieve a shared goal;
- Relevant university degree;
- Fluency in English and Bangla, both spoken and written.

#### b. Preferred skills

- Excellent writing skills;
- Excellent intercultural and interpersonal communication skills, including coordination, facilitation and presentation.

### 11. Timeframe and budget

The consultant will strictly follow the timeline below and thus must be available in the given period:

22 December 2019	Contracting consultant
22 December 2019	Programme briefing meeting
22-29 December 2019	Document review
30 December 2019	<b>Reflection workshop with MHM Platform members</b>
09 January 2020	Draft model



16 January 2020	Feedback by MHM platform members
30 January 2020	Final model to be submitted and presented to the MHM platform members. The consultant will make a power point presentation on the final model to present.

Budget: BDT 5,00,000/- (maximum) inclusive of all other costs and also including VAT (15%) and tax (10%).

## 12. Recruitment and appointment

Interested and qualified consultants are invited to submit the following application documents by 17 December 2019.

- Draft action plan, including financial proposal in BDT (including VAT);
- Suggestion of methodology (approach to document review)
- Sample of model work/ any relevant work done in the past;
- CV of consultant;
- At least 3 relevant references

Applications should be sent electronically to the following e-mail address: [bnps.bd@gmail.com](mailto:bnps.bd@gmail.com)