



General Information

Fund	MPTF_00349: UN MPTF for Catalytic Finance in Sanitation, Hygiene and Wastewater					
FMP Record	MPTF_00349_00003: Menstrual Health & Hygiene: Unlocking Women's Power A joint initiative for East and Southern Africa					
MPTFO Project Id	00141156					
Start Date	16-May-2025					
End Date	15-Sep-2026					
Applicants	Status	Contact Type	Name	e-mail	Position	Telephone
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Signatories	Signature Process	Role	Name of Organization		Name	User Email
	Digital	Signatory	UNFPA: UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)		Ms Lydia Zigomo	zigomo@unfpa.org
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Contacts	Contact Type	Name	e-mail	Position	Additional e-mail	Telephone
	No data available.					

Description	<p>The project, stemming from initial discussions between UNFPA, East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) and the Sanitation & Hygiene Fund (SHF), aims to establish national platforms for dialogue between government and national institutions on one side and market actors on the other to improve the standards and regulatory environment for Menstrual Health (MH) markets across 5 countries in East and Southern Africa (ESA), plus Nigeria. The project will strategically advocate for: (1). National participation in the development and adoption of ISO standards for menstrual products; and, (2). regulatory reforms on market barriers, specifically taxes, levies and fees across the MH value chain - from raw material to finished products. This will be achieved by systematically identifying and through advocacy addressing existing gaps in product quality standards and regulatory barriers that currently hinder accessibility and availability.</p> <p>The key objectives of the project are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring together national MH market stakeholders and government in target countries to identify, discuss and prioritise policy and regulatory reforms. 2. Function as a national mirror committee/voluntary advisory committee for ISO TC 338, to ensure the selected countries and its national market stakeholders contribute to the development of global ISO standards. 3. Ensure the voice, interests and technical expertise of selected countries is represented in ISO TC 338. 4. Advocate for a detailed review and revision of the tax structures that menstrual products and raw materials are subject to. 5. Ensure that the needs and interest of menstrual product users and enterprises in the MH value chain are represented in national and international discussions. 			
Universal Markers	<p>Gender Equality Marker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEM2 - GEWE is a significant objective of the Key Activity's overall intent 	<p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Risk 		
Fund Specific Markers	No data available.			
Geographical Scope	<p>Geographical Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional 	<p>Name of the Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East and Southern Africa 	<p>Region(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa 	<p>Country</p>

Participating Organizations and their Implementing Partners	UN Participating Organizations	Government/ Multilateral/ NGO/ Other	New Entities	Implementing Partners

- UNFPA - UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)

UNFPA will use its mandate and regional and country presence to bring collaborative partnership that is important to the project from its extensive experience in SRHR, MHH, supply of reproductive health commodities and gender equality. UNFPA will also tap into existing relationships with regional governments and institutions to implement the project and deliver its outputs. In addition, the project will bring other stakeholders together at country level depending on specific contexts. Specifically the project will collaborate with:

Manufacturers, including small, mid-scale, and social enterprises, who will play a crucial role in ensuring that quality menstrual products are available in the market while aligning with evolving policy and regulatory frameworks. Their participation will be key in shaping discussions on tax structures affecting menstrual products and raw materials, ensuring affordability and sustainability.

Regulatory and standards authorities, such as the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), the East African Community (EAC), and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO), will be instrumental in facilitating national discussions on menstrual health (MH) policy and regulatory reform. Additionally, they will serve as national mirror committees for ISO TC 338, ensuring selected countries actively contribute to the development of global ISO standards for menstrual products.

Advocacy groups and civil society organizations (CSOs) will work to ensure that the voices and interests of menstrual product users and producers are well represented in both national and international discussions. Their role in policy advocacy will also include pushing for a detailed review and revision of tax structures applied to menstrual products and raw materials, addressing affordability and accessibility challenges.

Technical experts and research institutions will contribute their knowledge to national and international standard-setting processes, ensuring that selected countries' technical expertise and perspectives are effectively represented in ISO TC 338. Their input will be critical in shaping evidence-based regulatory decisions and refining product safety and quality benchmarks.

User groups will serve as key representatives of menstrual product consumers across different socio-economic settings, ensuring that market reforms reflect the diverse needs and preferences of users. Their participation in policy discussions will help ensure that menstrual health products remain accessible, safe, and appropriate for various demographic groups.

Professional associations of gynecologists and health experts will provide scientific insights into the impact of menstrual products on reproductive health, reinforcing the importance of strong regulatory frameworks that prioritize safety and effectiveness. Their contributions will also strengthen advocacy efforts for inclusive and health-focused policy decisions.

Programme and Project Cost	Participating Organization	Amount (in USD)	Comments	
	Budget Requested			
	UNFPA	\$700,000.00		
	Total Budget Requested	\$700,000.00		
	Tranches			
	Tranche 1		Tranche 2	
	UNFPA (70%)	\$490,000.00	UNFPA (30%)	\$210,000.00
	Total:	\$490,000.00	Total:	\$210,000.00
	Other Sources (Parallel Funding)			
	Total	\$700,000.00		
Thematic Keywords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitation • Hygiene • Menstrual Health • Catalytic finance • Innovative finance 			
Programme Duration	Anticipated Start Date	15-May-2025		
	Duration (In months)	16		
	Anticipated End Date	15-Sep-2026		

SDG Targets

Target	Description
Main Goals	
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	
TARGET_6.2	6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

SDG Indicators

Indicator Code	Description
C060201	6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

Contribution to SDGs

Participating Organization	% TARGET_6.2	% Total
UNFPA	100	100
Total contribution by target	100	

Project contribution to SDG by target	100	100
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