Globally, 80 million people are displaced by wars, conflicts and disasters. Approximately 1 out of 4 of these people are women and adolescent girls of reproductive age, who need to manage their menstruation because periods don’t stop for pandemics.

Challenge:
The menstrual hygiene challenges for women and girls are exacerbated in humanitarian settings, especially concerning dignity, privacy, access to WASH services and materials, and safety. Humanitarian actors need to prioritize their actions in complex settings, with the result that the menstrual needs of women and girls are often overlooked.

Aim:
Good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) ensures that women and adolescent girls can manage their monthly menstruation safely, hygienically in privacy, and without shame, thereby, ensuring dignity, health, and well-being.

... requires effective coordination across different sectors:

- WASH
- MHM materials and supplies
- MHM education and information
- MHM supportive facilities and waste management
- Health, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH)
- Protection, including GBV and Child Protection
- Education
- Shelter Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM)

A holistic response to MHM in emergencies... consists of 3 elements:

Emergencies are underfunded:

In 2020, the humanitarian appeal has a funding gap of at least $20 billion, which increased due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the menstrual hygiene needs of women and girls are often not adequately addressed.

We need to step up action and investment in menstrual health and hygiene in emergencies now!