

January 2020

## **HELP THE Menstrual Health Alliance India (MHAI) GENERATE PERIOD POLICY STANDARDS!**

### **What is Menstrual Health Alliance India (MHAI)**

The Menstrual Health Alliance India (MHAI) is a network of organizations working on menstrual health and hygiene in India. MHAI aims to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration across stakeholders, generate and collate evidence to inform policy and programs, and engage in joint (and evidence -informed) advocacy on a range of issues related to menstrual health and hygiene in India.

MHAI was formed in 2016, and is led by a core group comprising WaterAid India (Arundati Muralidharan) and Development Solutions (Tanya Mahajan). There are 40+ organizations across India that engage with MHAI and participate in and contribute to its various organizations.

MHAI has developed several knowledge and policy relevant products (e.g., informed product choice brief, brief on menstrual waste management, Charter of Asks for Government) with our valued partners (e.g., Supriya Garikipati from Liverpool University, UNICEF [India]) and will be happy to share these widely and get feedback on how these may be further strengthened as we take our efforts forward in 2020.

MHAI encourages dialogue, sharing, and cross-learning, and respect the diversity of voices that represent the rich menstrual health and hygiene landscape in India. Come join us by sharing your work, ideas for research and collaborative action. Let us know your policy advocacy asks, and join forces with us to inform robust policies and programs on this critical issue in India.

For further information, contact Tanya and Arundati at [mhallianceindia@gmail.com](mailto:mhallianceindia@gmail.com).

### **MHAI's work on product standards**

One of MHAI's success has been the drawing in sector perspectives to inform menstrual hygiene product standards for disposable sanitary pads and reusable sanitary pads. Product standards in India are finalized and published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); MHAI has been working closely with BIS to ensure that the revisions of disposable sanitary pad standards incorporated key considerations that were previously not included. In late 2018, we started work on standards for reusable sanitary pads. With truly collaborative inputs from all partners, we have also submitted joint inputs for the reusable sanitary pads standard draft (IS 14922) to BIS. Partners both from the manufacturing (Real Relief, Livinguard Technologies, EcoFemme) and civil society (Jatan Sansthan, Green the Red) sectors, provided inputs through e-mail and conference calls. These were discussed and ratified with further research to develop consensus, in order to minimize time for standard development and maximize technical inputs from all possible parties.

### **CALL:**

**The MHAI is looking for policy experts that want to support them in the generation of product standards for reusable cloth pads. Please do send an email to [mhallianceindia@gmail.com](mailto:mhallianceindia@gmail.com) asking for the documents they have created so far for feedback!**