

Menstrual hygiene management in communal sanitation facilities: recommendations to eThekweni municipality

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Presenter:

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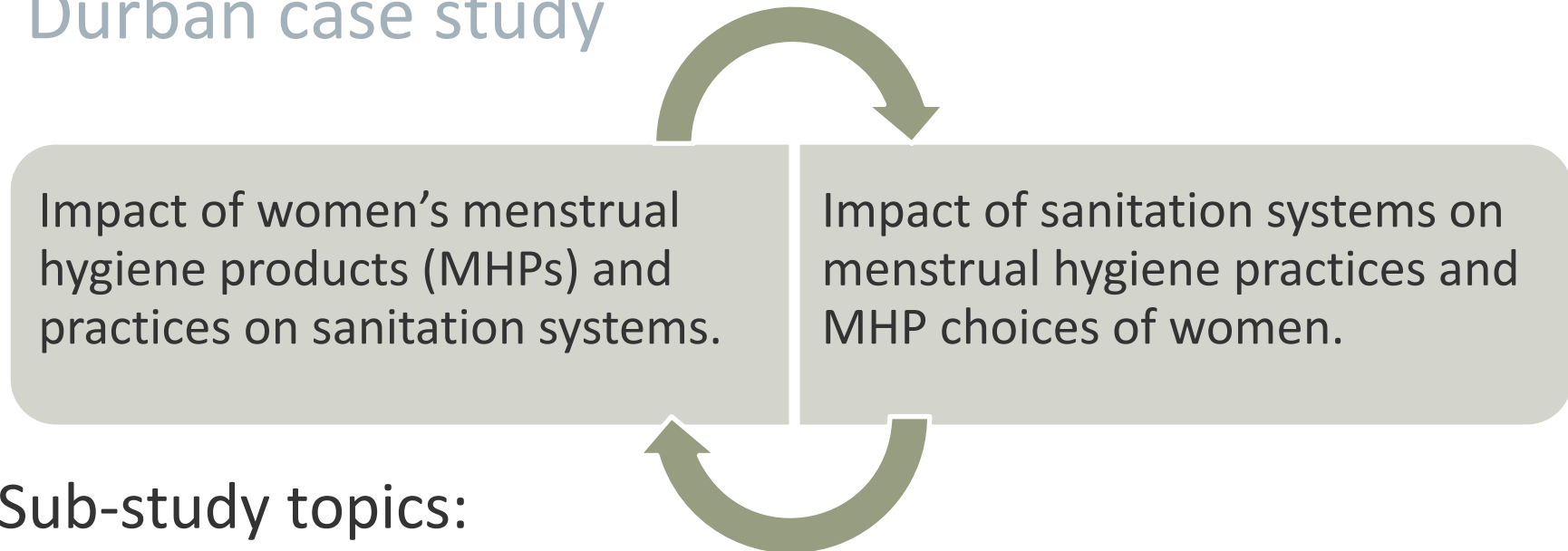
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Photo: PATH/Robyn Wilmouth

Durban case study



Sub-study topics:

- Perceptions of risk and caretaker knowledge
- Facility maintenance and disrepair
- Solid waste management and disposal for MHPs
- Supply chain for consumable goods, with implications for future MHPs distribution

Methodology

- Half-day ride-along with pipe blockage removal team
- 12 facility assessments consisting of three components:
 - Photo documentation
 - Observation checklist
 - Structured caretaker interview



Photo: PATH



Photo: PATH/Robyn Wilmouth

Findings: perceptions and misperceptions



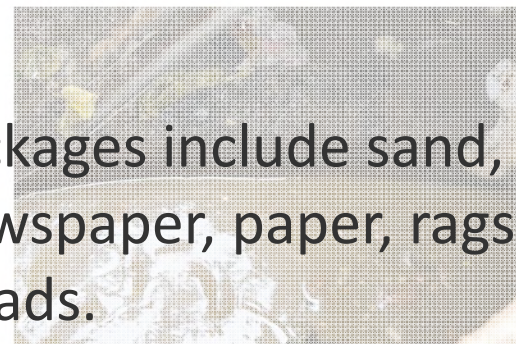
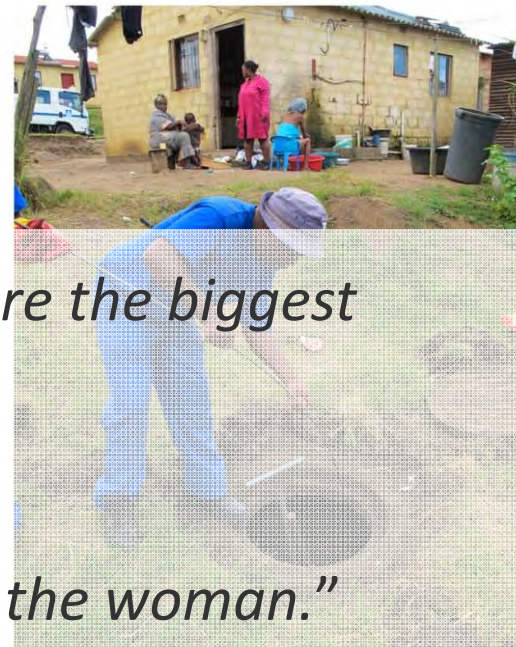
"Newspaper and sanitary pads are the biggest problems."

-Blockage team member

"All the blockages are caused by the woman."

-Blockage team member

Materials associated with blockages include sand, fat/grease, stones, fetuses, newspaper, paper, rags and sanitary pads.



Photos: PATH/Robyn Wilmouth

Findings: perceptions of risk and caretaker knowledge



- All caretakers concerned about contracting diseases from menstrual blood

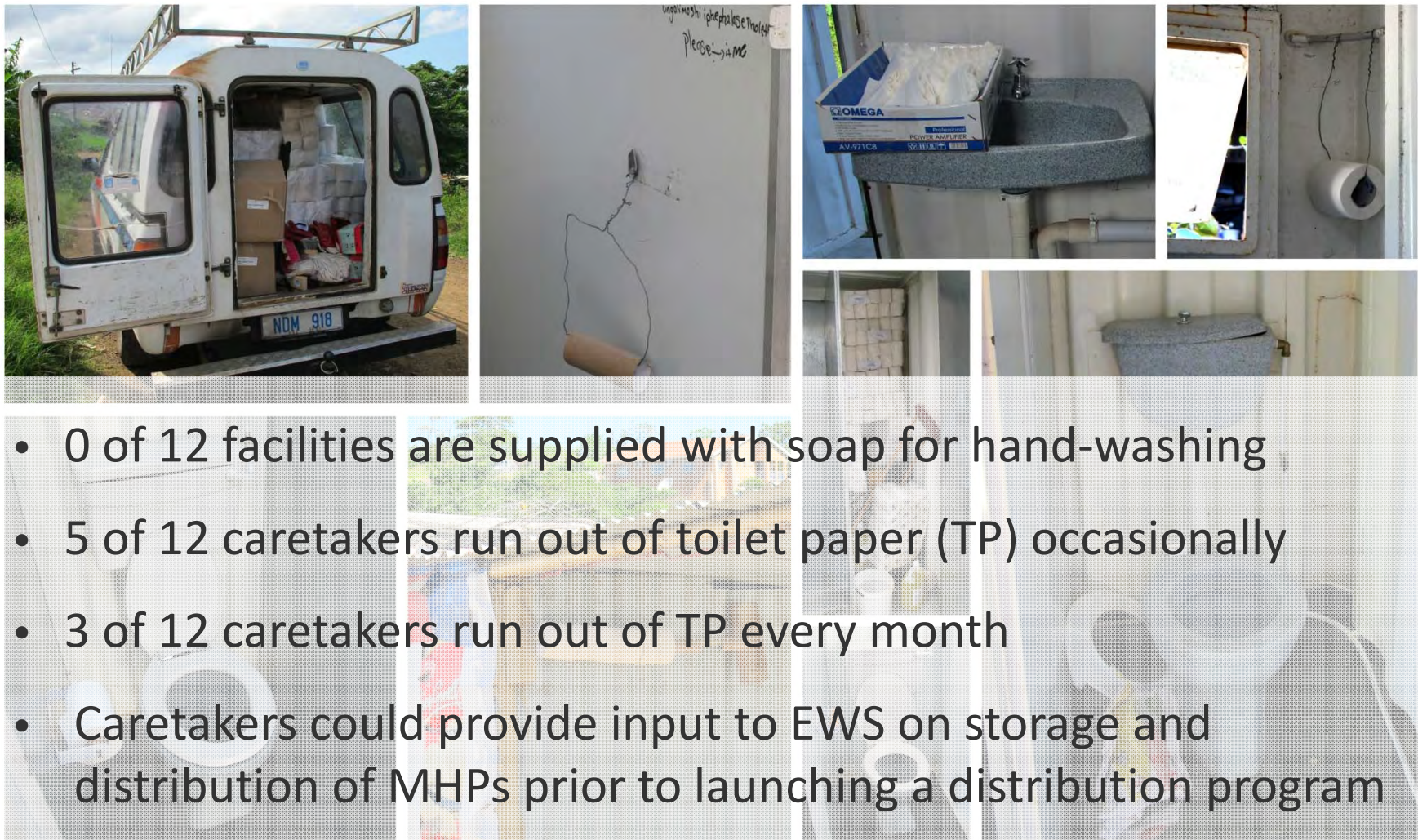


- 10 of 12 caretakers concerned about contracting diseases from feces and urine
- All caretakers used some personal protective equipment (PPE) regularly
- PPE not be suitable for all personnel



Photos: PATH/Robyn Wilmouth

Findings: supply chain



- 0 of 12 facilities are supplied with soap for hand-washing
- 5 of 12 caretakers run out of toilet paper (TP) occasionally
- 3 of 12 caretakers run out of TP every month
- Caretakers could provide input to EWS on storage and distribution of MHPs prior to launching a distribution program

Photos: PATH/Robyn Wilmouth

Findings: solid waste management



- 7 of 12 caretakers found soiled sanitary pads in toilets or on floor
- 0 of 12 community ablution blocks (CABs) had waste bins inside facility

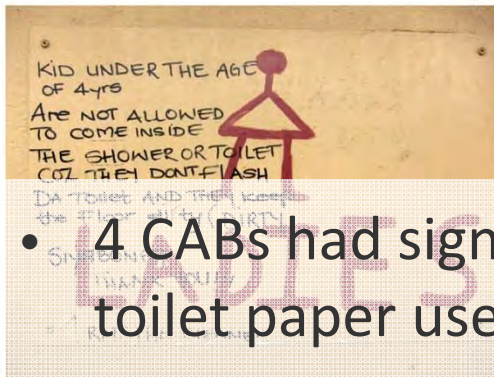


- 2 of 12 CABs had bins outside facility
- EWS does not provide garbage bags
- 4 of 12 caretakers obtained garbage bags independently
- Need for coordination between departments/units



Photos: PATH/Robyn Wilmouth

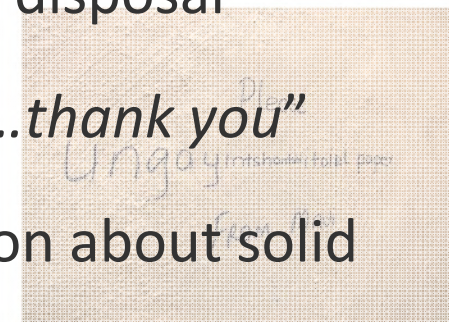
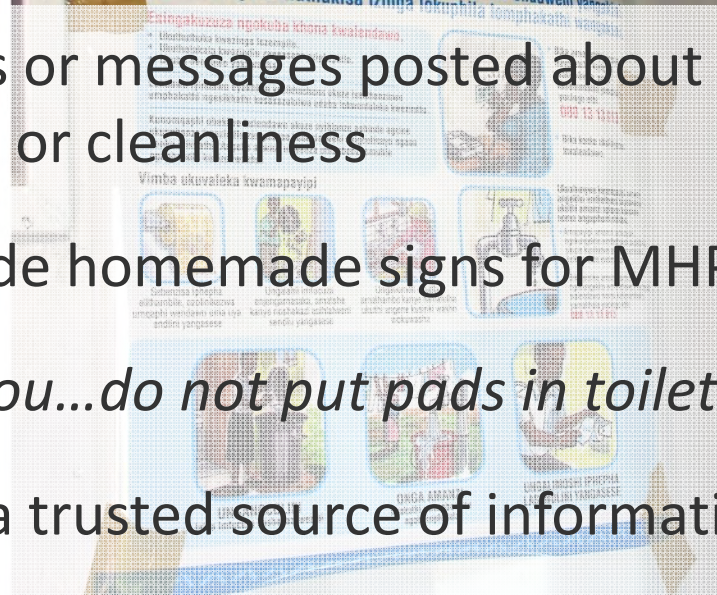
Findings: sanitation and hygiene education



- 4 CABs had signs or messages posted about waste disposal, toilet paper use, or cleanliness

- 2 caretakers made homemade signs for MHP disposal
e.g., *"I beg of you...do not put pads in toilet...thank you"*

- Municipality as a trusted source of information about solid waste disposal



Photos: PATH/Robyn Wilmouth

Summary of proposed recommendations

- Enhanced **training** of caretakers and sanitation workers on risk
- Assessment of **suitability** of personal protective equipment
- Use of lessons learned from toilet paper distribution to inform MHP **distribution** for the Sanitary Dignity Campaign
- **Improved coordination** between Department of Solid Waste and the Water and Sanitation Unit
- Further **empowerment of caretakers** for community awareness
- Increased use of durable **signs** and “**street theater**” team to address MHM messaging

Water is Life, Sanitation is Dignity

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