

## MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED AND HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



#### **Professor Marni Sommer (Chair)**

Marni Sommer is a Professor of Sociomedical Sciences in the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. Dr. Sommer has worked in global health and development on issues ranging from improving access to essential medicines to humanitarian relief in conflict settings. Her areas of expertise include conducting participatory research with adolescents, understanding and promoting healthy transitions to adulthood, the intersection of public health and education, gender and sexual health, and adolescent-focused interventions. Dr. Sommer leads the Gender, Adolescent Transitions and Environment (GATE) Program, which explores the intersections of gender, health, education and the environment for girls and boys transitioning into adulthood in low-income countries and in the United States.

#### **Bansaga Saga (Presenter)**

Bansaga is an Environmental Health Technical Advisor with the IRC covering the West Africa region and is based in Belgium. He has over 25 years of management and leadership experience in the WASH sector, and has worked extensively with INGOs, largely in fragile contexts impacted by conflict, natural disasters, and epidemics. Bansaga holds a master's degree in water resources mobilization from the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering in Burkina Faso, and an Agricultural Engineering degree from the University of Lomé in Togo. His expertise covers the fields of Environmental Health and Integrated Water Resource Management, and he has also made significant contributions in mainstreaming Menstrual Hygiene in humanitarian and development projects in West Africa.



#### **Florence Uwineza (Presenter)**

Florence Uwineza is an active humanitarian worker specializing in community engagement, public health promotion and gender equality. She has been involved in humanitarian response in a range of settings and has successfully responded to different outbreaks such as cholera, Ebola virus disease, Hepatitis E and the COVID 19 pandemic in different countries. Florence is a member of the global humanitarian team from OXFAM. She worked with French Red Cross as a project manager, with CARE USA as a behaviour change communication specialist and with MSF as hygiene promoter team leader. Florence holds a master's degree in international development and administration from Andrews University/ Berrien Springs Michigan.



### **Alexandra Machado (Presenter)**

Alexandra has over 20 years of combined experience in Africa, Southern America and Asia, where she has gained a variety of skills in the areas of resource mobilization, project proposals, delivery of technical assistance, as well as monitoring and reporting of development projects through different RCRC national societies and other non-governmental organization (NGO). On the technical side, Alexandra holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering and a master's degree of Science, Technology and Management Water Resources. In her current position, Alexandra's main objective is to provide technical support to RCRC national societies to strengthen their capacities, strategies and activity plans in response, preparedness, recovery and development in water, sanitation and hygiene. With strong emphasis in Public Health, Climate Change adaptation, Hygiene Promotion and Menstrual Hygiene Management. You can find her MHM publications [here](#).

### **Tom Ogello (Discussant)**

Tom is a WASH practitioner with over 15 years' experience working with different humanitarian INGOs leading WASH programs in emergency and development contexts across countries in Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Sudan, DRC, Zimbabwe, Cameroon and Sierra Leone); Yemen in the Middle East, and Afghanistan in Asia. Tom is currently working with the IRC as Environmental Health (EH) Technical Advisor based in Kenya supporting EH programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh of the Asia region. He is passionate about MHM mainstreaming in humanitarian response programming and was involved in piloting the initial draft MHMie tool kit, in Tanzanian refugee camps, a process that led to the current MHMie tool kit in place.



### **Raissa Azzalini (Discussant)**



Raissa worked for more than 20 years in the Public Health Humanitarian sector responding and coordinating Public Health Promotion responses in various contexts and countries first with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) where she supported their first established Global Public Health Promotion team when it became evident that more expertise was needed to the soft component of WASH responses. In 2010, Raissa joined Oxfam as a surge capacity for emergency responses before becoming one of the Global Humanitarian Team Public Health Advisers. She is leading on two projects (funded by Elrha) piloting the effectiveness and appropriateness of reusable menstrual products (Reemi products) in high severity contexts and in rapid response emergency in Gaza. She is passionate in supporting changes in Menstrual Hygiene and Health responses in humanitarian crisis according to preferences and priorities of adolescent girls and women as well as exploring how men and boys participation can have positive impact in reducing stigma.