



MHM in the Pacific

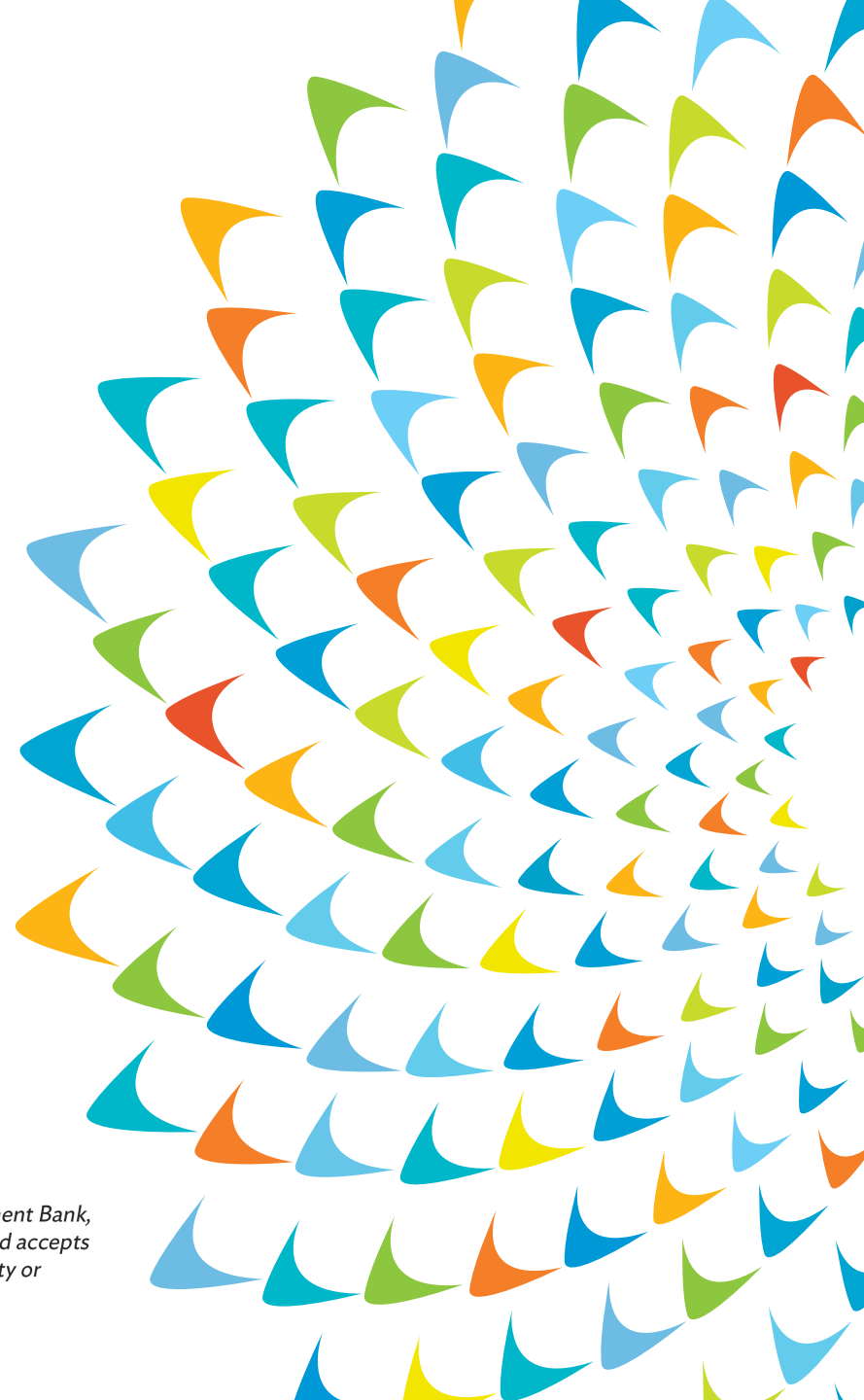
Gender Sensitive WASH: Opportunities for Girls' Education

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Tapu (taboo): Polynesian traditional concept denoting something holy or sacred, with "spiritual restriction" or "implied prohibition".

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Marshall Is: Shops don't stock sanitary materials; Women use diapers cut in half

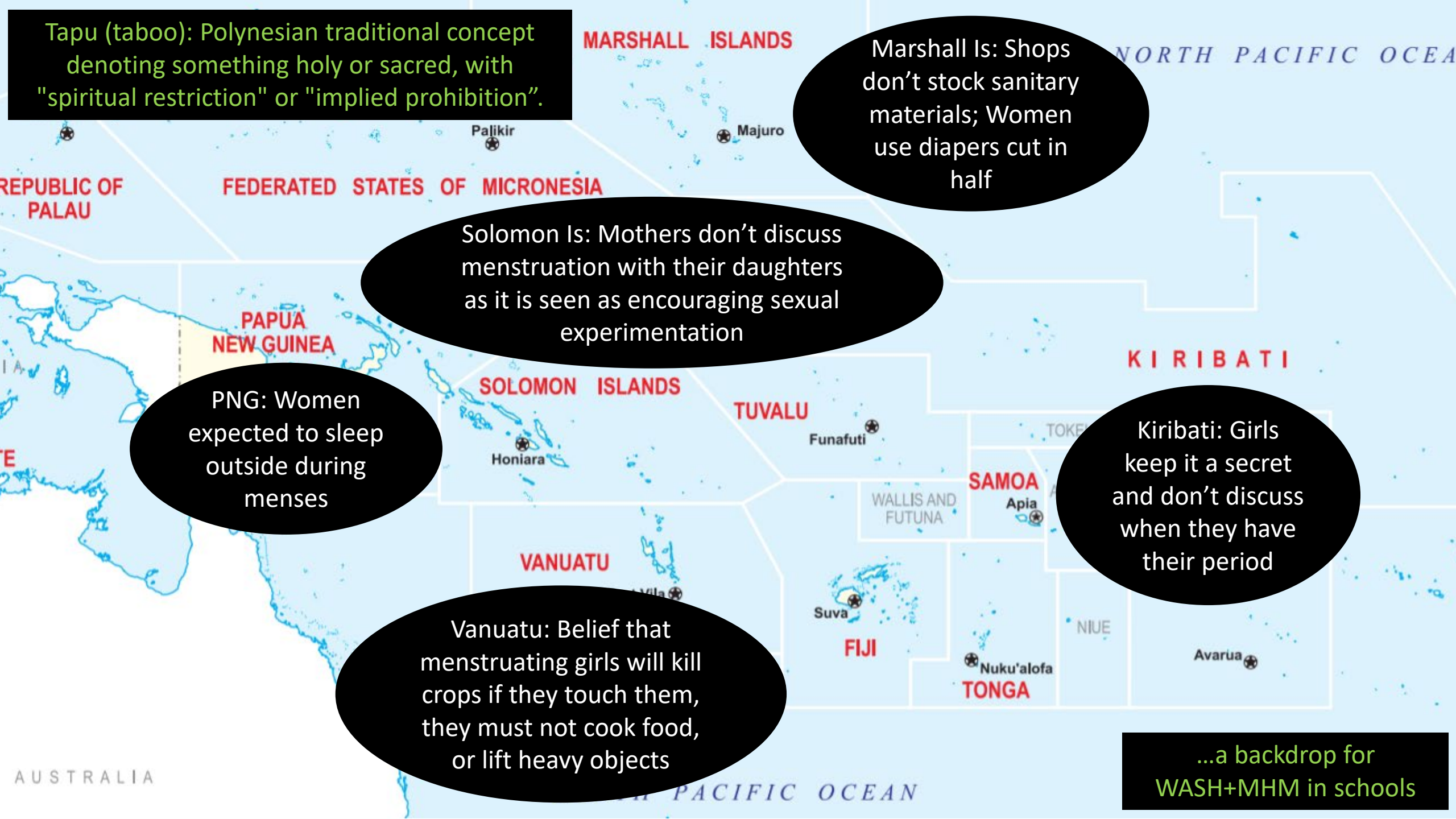
Solomon Is: Mothers don't discuss menstruation with their daughters as it is seen as encouraging sexual experimentation

PNG: Women expected to sleep outside during menses

Vanuatu: Belief that menstruating girls will kill crops if they touch them, they must not cook food, or lift heavy objects

Kiribati: Girls keep it a secret and don't discuss when they have their period

...a backdrop for WASH+MHM in schools







Challenges



Lack of data & policy frameworks



Competing priorities, cost (CAPEX, OPEX)



Infra projects, Infra agencies



Taboos

Opportunities



Economic Benefits



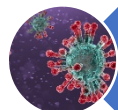
Concessional Financing



Engagement of CSOs, private sector



Improved services & facilities

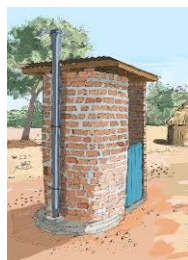


COVID-19; health & hygiene; WinS



Development Impact

% success rates of projects
(e.g. water/sanitation,
education, health)



% achievement of
intended results (e.g.
gender, CSO engagement)

Recommendation (1)

Put MHM in black & white



- Relying on SDG or WASH access indicators alone may overlook opportunities to address MHM
- Capture MHM in project documents, design & monitoring frameworks (DMF), gender action plans, TORs, specs for consultants & contractors, publications...

2019:

- Projects in Solomon Is, Kiribati & PNG

2020:

- Regional WASH TA + projects in Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Marshall Is (example):

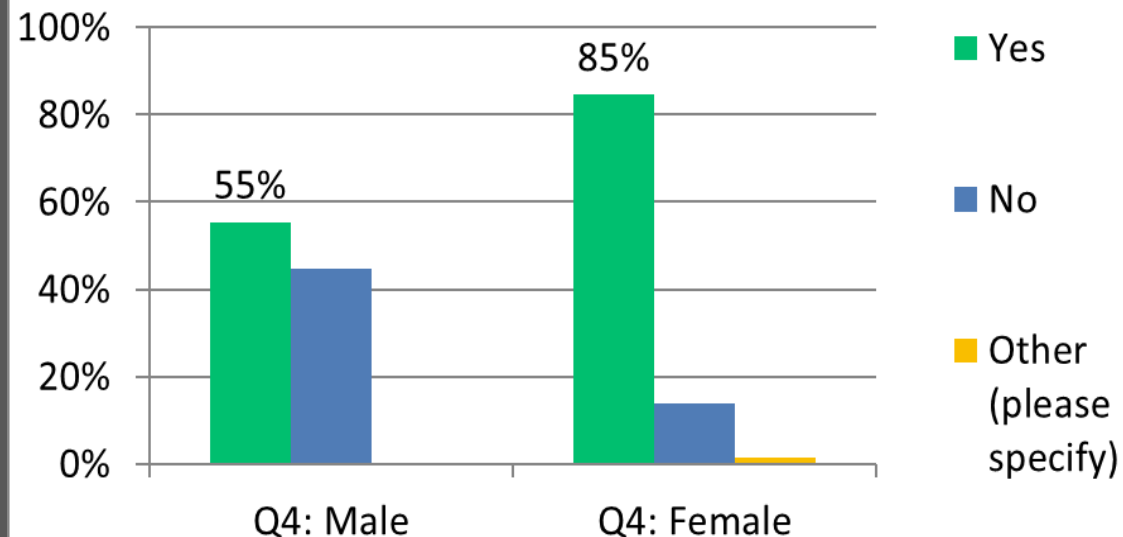
3d. At least 80% of all high school female students in Ebeye receive training in menstrual health and hygiene (including proper menstrual waste disposal and use of reusable pads) and report increased knowledge and awareness on the subject (2020 baseline: 0)

Recommendation (2)

Data

- Sex disaggregated
 - Female & male enumerators
 - Obtain data on men/boys' perceptions
- Proposed survey in PNG to quantify economic benefits of improving MHM

The next questions are about menstrual hygiene, are you ok to continue?



WASH Survey Questionnaire

Topic	No. of questions
General	17
Income & Expenditure	19
Water	27
Sanitation, Health & Hygiene	27
Infant Feces Management	3
MHM	9
Total Questions	102

