

Menstrual Health & Hygiene Funding Tracker

Insight Brief - March 2026

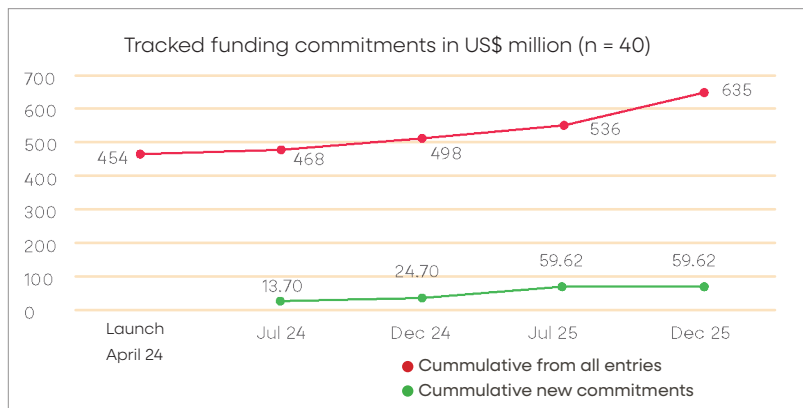
Menstrual health & hygiene (MHH) is critical for women's and girls' health, education, and economic empowerment, and contributes to overall social and economic development. 2 billion women and girls menstruate every month. Out of these, an estimated 500 million lack the resources and support they need to manage their menstruation safely, hygienically, and with dignity.

Thus far, there has been no central source of data on funding for MHH. The MHH Funding Tracker aims to close this gap by collating funding commitments dedicated to MHH of US\$ 1 million and above since 2018. By making MHH-specific funding commitments visible, the MHH Funding Tracker helps to identify patterns and gaps and supports advocacy for increased funding for MHH.

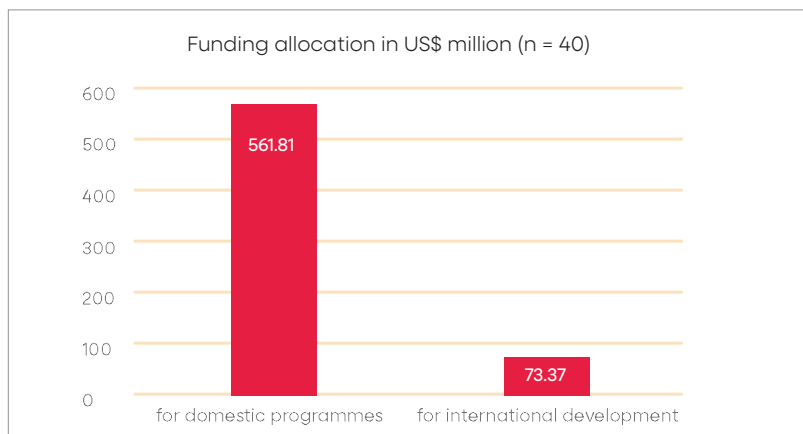
Key insights based on entries

As of end of December 2025, the database includes **40 entries**.

The total accumulated amount committed to MHH since 2018 stands at US\$ 635.18 million. This includes new commitments of US\$ 59.62 million (7 new entries) and US\$ 81.51 million of replenishments (9 entries) since March 2024.



78% of total funding (US\$ 562 million) is allocated to domestic programmes. Dedicated international development assistance for MHH remains very limited (US\$ 73.4 million). Moreover, almost half of this amount is from the Gates Foundation.



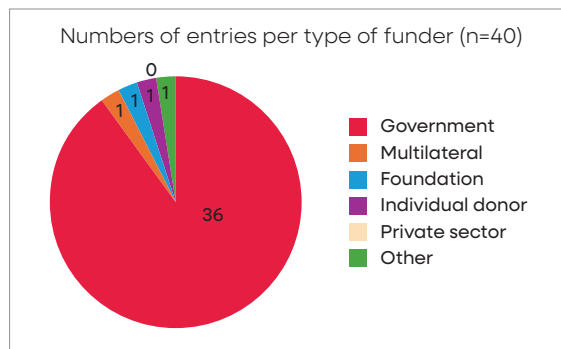
About the data

The MHH Funding Tracker is an open-access database that compiles the name of the funder, the amount, the duration and type of funding, the recipient country, and thematic areas of MHH that are funded. The threshold of US\$ 1 million is intended to enable a focus on substantial commitments.

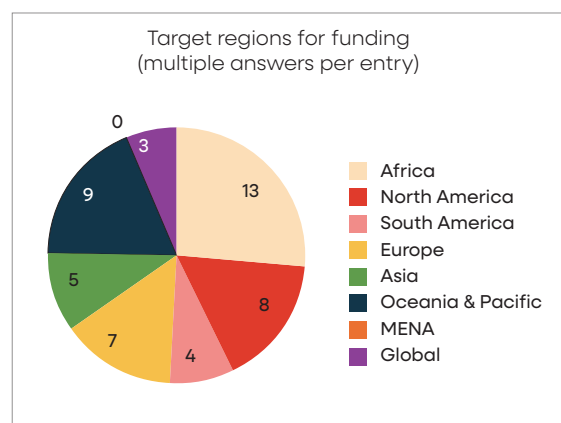
The database:

- only includes funding that has been officially published or directly reported to WASH United by the respective funder.
- only includes funding that is earmarked or clearly allocated for MHH and can include accumulated funding from individual grants made by one donor.
- tracks commitments to funding, not actual spending. Commitments can go beyond 2025.
- does not include funding by intermediate or implementing organisations, such as UN agencies.
- is not exhaustive.

90% of the funding for MHH above US\$ 1 million comes from governments (including domestic funding and development assistance), with foundations, multilaterals, and others lagging far behind. There is no publicly available data for private sector partners.

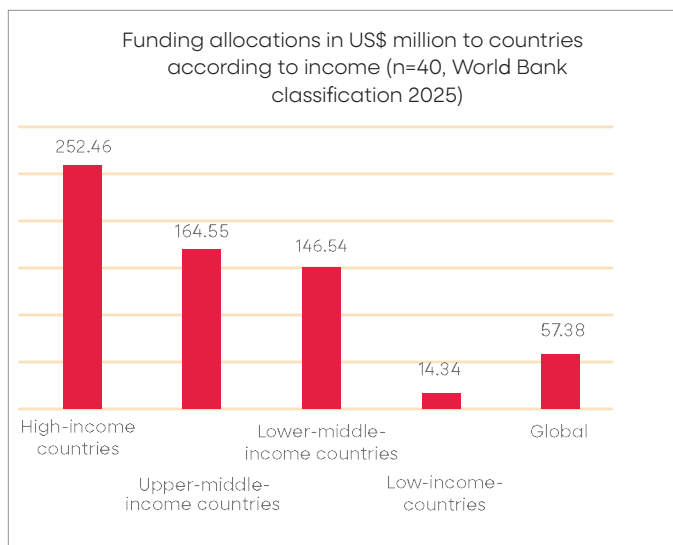


In terms of regions, **Africa is the most targeted (n=13)**. This is followed by Oceania & Pacific (n=9) and North America (n=8), where most of the entries are sub-national funding.

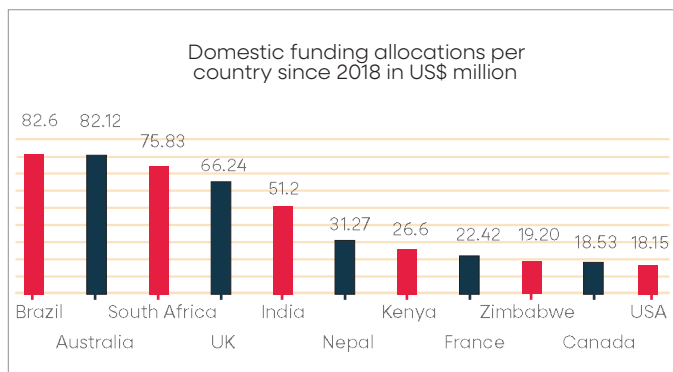


Although high-income countries receive half of funding entries (n=21), **the biggest proportion of funding (total of US\$ 311.09 million) is for upper and lower-middle-income countries (n=11).**

Funding for MHH in low-income countries is extremely limited (n=4, US\$ 14.43 million) and comes exclusively from international development assistance.



Individual upper-middle-income countries are among the largest funders in terms of total investment in MHH, while lower-middle-income countries contribute to a higher percentage of their GDP.



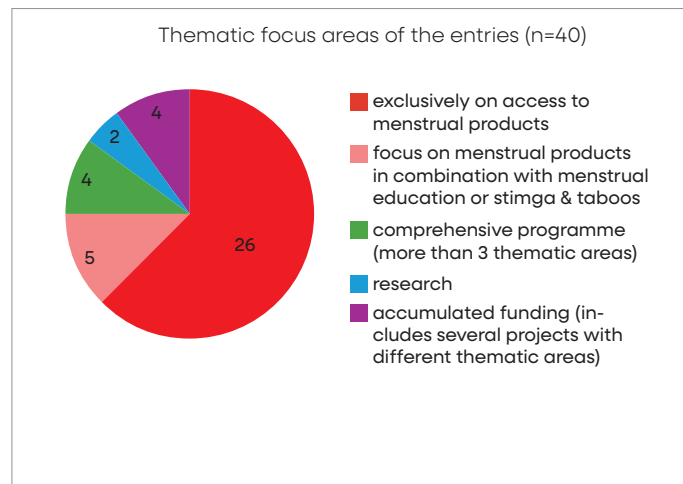
In comparison with funding for related sectors, funding for MHH is staggeringly low (overall and for persons in need). Especially when comparing with the levels of development assistance funding for low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Issues	Scale of problem (number of people in need)	Funding available	Funding/person in need/year
Menstrual Health and Hygiene	500 million women and girls worldwide (FSG, 2021)	US\$ 635.18 million from 2018 to 2025 worldwide**	0.18 US\$ worldwide
Contraception*	259 million women in reproductive age worldwide, thereof 224 million in LMICs (UNFPA, 2025)	US\$ 9.0 billion in 2024 for LMICs only (Lancet, 2025)	40.17 US\$ for LMICs only
Gender-Based Violence*	605 million women in reproductive age worldwide, thereof 546 million in LMICs*** (Estimates based on WHO, 2025)	US\$ 410 million per year for LMICs only, not including domestic funding (from 2018-2023). (Accelerator for GBV, 2021)	0.75 US\$ for LMICs only

*We acknowledge that these issues are likewise important to address, and that existing funding for these issues doesn't meet the needs either. The table is for comparison only. **While for some entries the funding period goes beyond 2025, they count as committed during 2018-2025.

***Global prevalence rate of GBV is 31.6% of women aged 15-49 years (= 605 million) or 30.4% of women aged 15 years and older (= 840 million) (WHO, 2025) There is a lack of consolidated data for low- and middle-income countries, therefore we used the same prevalence rate, although in reality it is likely higher.

Looking at the thematic areas, **the vast majority of entries (n=38) include funding to promote access to menstrual products.** 63% (n=25) of entries focus exclusively on access to products. Only 5 include menstruation education or efforts to address stigma and taboos alongside efforts to promote product access. No entry focuses exclusively on menstruation education, addressing stigma & taboos or advocacy.



Out of the **entries exclusively or focused on access to menstrual products, almost all (n=29) are national or sub-national programmes for free or subsidized products.** The majority of these entries target educational institutions (n=18). The remaining entries are for product provision in public places, sports venues, workplaces, or for low-income households.



Conclusions

- Domestic **public financing is currently the most important source of funding for menstrual health and hygiene (MHH)**, significantly exceeding funding from international development assistance.
- New programmes, as well as the replenishment and expansion of existing ones, show a **growing government commitment** to address challenges in access to menstrual products, especially within educational institutions.
- With an accumulated total of US\$ 635.18 million over the last 7 years, **the overall level of funding for MHH remains very low, also when compared to related issues such as contraception and gender-based violence. Current levels of funding are inadequate to address the challenges faced by more than 500 million women and girls every month.**
Currently available: US\$ 635.18 million for 500 million women and girls over 7 years equals to 18 cents per person in need/year or under 2 cents per person in need/month.
- **Funding for menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) remains uneven across regions and thematic areas.** Efforts to promote menstruation education, improve WASH infrastructure, to address underlying taboos and stigma continue to be overlooked. This is a missed opportunity. More funding for research is needed to fill in knowledge and evidence gaps.
- **There is an urgent need for increased philanthropic engagement in MHH.**



Call to Action

The menstruation-related challenges faced by 500 million women and girls are solvable but require substantially more and sustained funding.

Funders should:

- **strategically integrate MHH into their work.** This entails setting concrete, measurable goals for MHH, creating dedicated budgets for MHH, and tracking progress continuously.
- **be aware of the multi-faceted nature of MHH and look at the issue comprehensively.** Continue funding access to menstrual products, but do not forget other critical aspects of MHH - education, destigmatisation, health services, WASH infrastructure, advocacy and research - without which access to products will have a limited effect.
- **make data about your funding for MHH publicly available.** We acknowledge that funding for MHH is going through larger (cross-) sectoral programmings, such as WASH, SRHR, gender, or health, especially in the humanitarian sector. To be considered for the MHH Funding Tracker, it is relevant to systematically record and disaggregate MHH funding data from the overall programme.

Contribute to the MHH Funding Tracker by sharing information about funding commitments. Send this information to: info@menstrualhygieneday.org



About the MHH Funding Tracker

The MHH Funding Tracker is a collaborative effort led by WASH United, in partnership with the Global Menstrual Collective, PSI Europe, PERIOD., the Menstrual Health Hub, the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, and The Case for Her.

