



Ghana Coalition of NGOs in the
Water and Sanitation Sector

The Voice for WASH

CONIWAS Statement on Menstrual Hygiene Day

28th May 2025

The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) proudly joins stakeholders across Ghana and the global community in commemorating Menstrual Hygiene Day 2025. This important observance underscores the urgent need to foster a period-friendly environment that ensures dignity, inclusion, and equality for all girls and women in Ghana.

For over a decade, Ghanaian stakeholders have united annually on this day to raise awareness, promote education, and implement impactful interventions around menstrual hygiene. These collective efforts have yielded notable progress; however, the journey toward universal menstrual equity is far from complete.

CONIWAS remains deeply committed to this cause. In partnership with our members and collaborators, we continue to champion access to menstrual hygiene materials, safe sanitation infrastructure, and community education. Our initiatives ranging from; the provision of sanitary pads and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities to the development of accessible educational materials, have supported thousands of girls in managing their menstrual health with confidence and dignity.

We commend the ongoing work of the Ghana Standards Authority, supported by the Food and Drugs Authority and other partners, in finalizing standards for reusable menstrual pads. This important step will enhance the availability of affordable, environmentally sustainable alternatives to disposable products.

We also acknowledge and applaud the Government of Ghana for its initiative to distribute sanitary pads to schoolgirls. However, we encourage the government to consider sustainable strategies that ensure the continuity and equity of this intervention.

A key concern remains the taxation policy on menstrual hygiene products. Although the removal of VAT on locally manufactured sanitary pads is a step forward, it addresses only a fraction of the market due to limited local supply. Imported sanitary products which still bear heavy import duties and are inaccurately categorized as luxury items remain prohibitively expensive for many. Menstruation is not a luxury. It is a natural, biological process, and no girl or woman should face financial barriers to managing it safely.

We urge the government to review and reform these tax policies, while working with stakeholders such as the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) to expand local manufacturing capacity. This dual approach will help lower overall costs and ensure year-round accessibility for families allowing girls to manage menstruation both in and out of school.

It is important to note that in some households, free sanitary products intended for schoolgirls are often shared with mothers or older siblings. By making pads more affordable, families will be better equipped to meet the menstrual needs of all members, ensuring that schoolgirls retain their supplies and can manage their hygiene with confidence.

Furthermore, menstrual health cannot be achieved without access to clean and adequate WASH services. We therefore call on the government and partners to scale up investment in water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, especially in schools and underserved communities as a core component of menstrual hygiene management.

As we mark this year's Menstrual Hygiene Day under the theme of inclusivity and action, CONIWAS reaffirms its dedication to creating a Ghana where no girl is left behind due to menstruation. We therefore calls on all stakeholders to collaborate in ensuring that every girl and woman in Ghana can manage menstruation with dignity, comfort, and safety. Together, we must build a truly period-friendly Ghana.

Thank you.