**Additional file 3: Draft of search strategy to be used using PubMed electronic database**

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| **Search terms**  | **Search terms** | **Results** |
| Term #1 | Menstruation OR menarche OR menses OR physiology OR psychology OR sexual and reproductive health OR women health OR reproductive health OR hygiene OR practice OR hygiene practice OR menstrual hygiene management OR menstrual hygiene OR menstrual health OR sanitation OR management |  |
| Term #2 | Menstrual hygiene product OR feminine hygiene product OR sanitary product OR supply & distribution OR toilet facilities OR standard schools OR school health services OR education OR health education OR risk factors OR prevalence OR quality of life OR adolescent behavior OR standard social desirability OR standard OR school absenteeism OR Scholl attendance OR absenteeism |  |
| Term #3 | Human OR adolescent OR female OR students OR adolescent girls OR young adults OR school girls OR school female |  |
| Term#4 | Sub-Saharan Africa OR low income countries OR developing countries OR poverty  |  |
| Term #5 | #1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4=(menstruation OR menarche OR menses OR physiology OR psychology OR sexual and reproductive health OR women health OR reproductive health OR hygiene OR practice OR hygiene practice OR menstrual hygiene management OR menstrual hygiene OR menstrual health OR Sanitation OR management) AND (menstrual hygiene product OR feminine hygiene product OR sanitary product OR supply & distribution OR toilet facilities OR standard schools OR school health services OR education OR health education OR risk factors OR prevalence OR quality of life OR adolescent behavior OR standard social desirability OR standard OR school absenteeism OR Scholl attendance OR absenteeism) AND (human OR adolescent OR female OR students OR adolescent girls OR young adults OR school girls OR school female) AND (Sub-Saharan Africa OR low income countries OR Developing countries OR poverty) |  |