



Gender Transformation for Africa: A Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Research Collaborative

Transformation du genre pour l'Afrique: Une recherche concertée sur la santé sexuelle, reproductive et maternelle

Webinar 5!
Male Engagement / Masculinity
and SRMH

Webinaire 5!
Implication des hommes /
Masculinité et SSRM

The Gender Transformation for Africa (GT4Africa) cohort brings together seven implementation research projects (2022–2025) across Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Malawi, and South Africa. Supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the cohort addresses critical gaps in gender-transformative approaches to sexual, reproductive, and maternal health (SRMH).

As part of this effort, the cohort has hosted a series of interactive webinars to strengthen capacity and foster collaboration. These sessions facilitate cross-project learning and knowledge exchange. The slides are from one of these events.



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Male engagement

Conversation starter

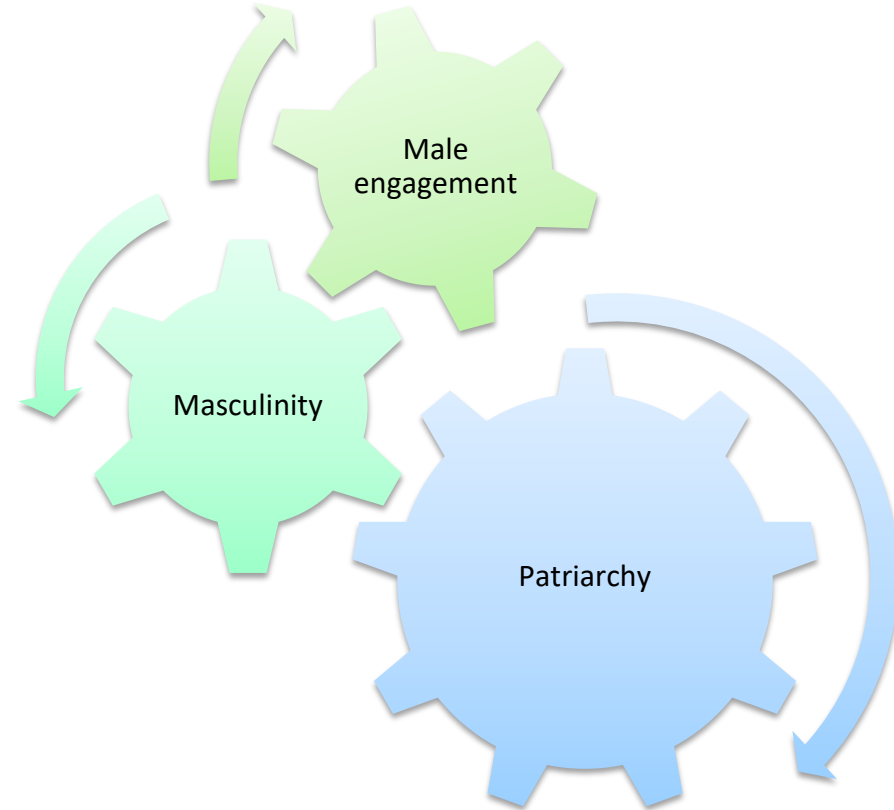
Outline / Aperçu

- Primarily a conversation starter
 - Key concepts
 - Evidence on gender-transformative programming with men and boys to improve SRHR
 - Limitation, criticisms, and lessons
 - Resource list
 - evolution and challenges of male engagement
 - in SRHR, GBV, parenting and care.
- Principalement un moyen d'engager la conversation
 - Concepts clés
 - Données probantes sur les programmes de transformation du genre associant les hommes et les garçons en vue d'améliorer la santé et les droits sexuels et reproductifs
 - Limites, critiques et enseignements
 - Liste de ressources
 - évolution et défis liés à l'implication des hommes
 - en matière de SDRR, des VBG, de la parentalité et des soins.

Patriarchy

- Traditional form of societal organization that often lies at the root of gender inequality.
- Men (or what is considered masculine) are accorded more importance than women (or what is considered feminine).
- Traditionally, societies have been organized in such a way that property, residence, and inheritance, as well as decision-making regarding most areas of life, have been the domain of men.
- Often based on appeals to biological reasoning (the idea that women are more naturally suited to be caregivers, for example) and continues to underlie many kinds of gender discrimination.

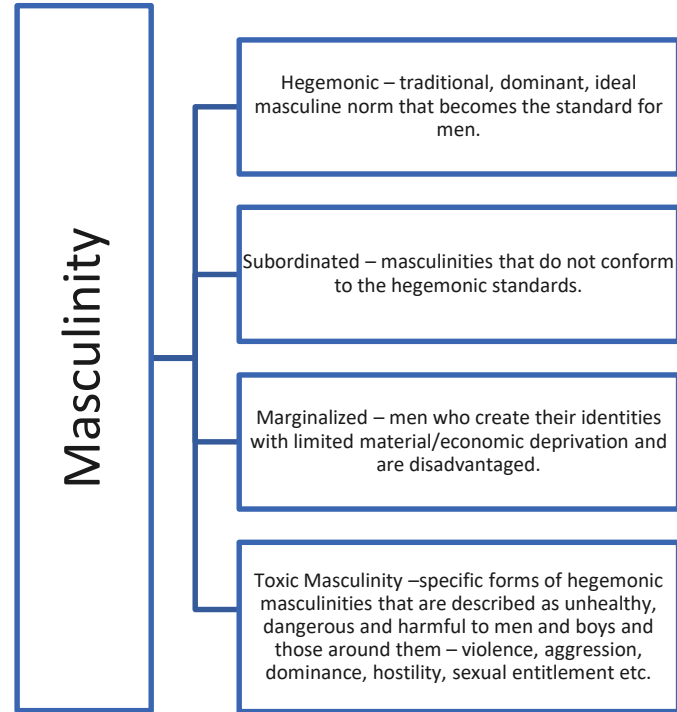
(UN Women)



Masculinity

- Social meaning of manhood, which is constructed and defined socially, historically, and politically rather than being biologically driven.
- There are many socially constructed definitions of what it means to be a man, and these can change over time and differ from place to place.
- The term relates to perceived notions and ideals about how men are expected to behave in a given setting.
- Masculinity is not just about men; women may perform masculine practices and contribute to its meaning as well.

(UN Women)



Male engagement

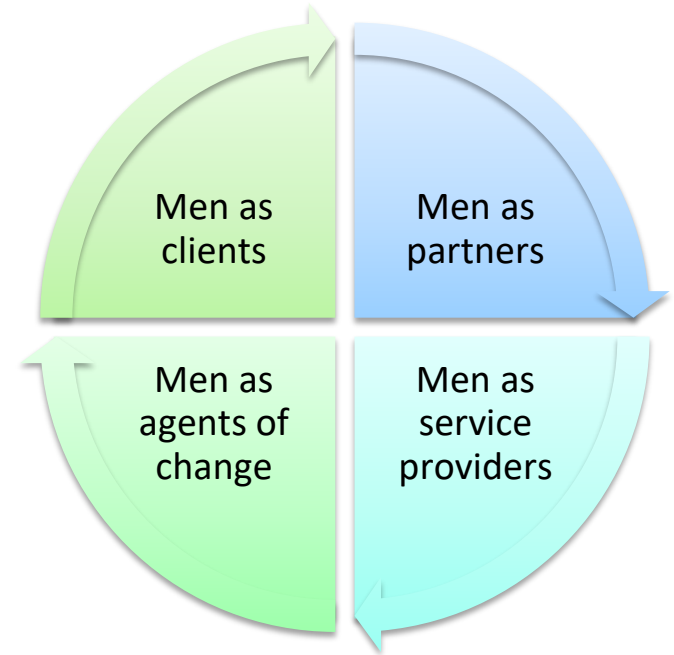
Engaging men/boys alongside women/ girls in gender-transformative programming designed to challenge gender inequality is recognised as an integral part of global strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of gender equality and health for all.

Men's engagement refers to a Programmatic approach (also described as a field or movement) that involves men in actively promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and the transformation of inequitable definitions of masculinity

(IGWG)

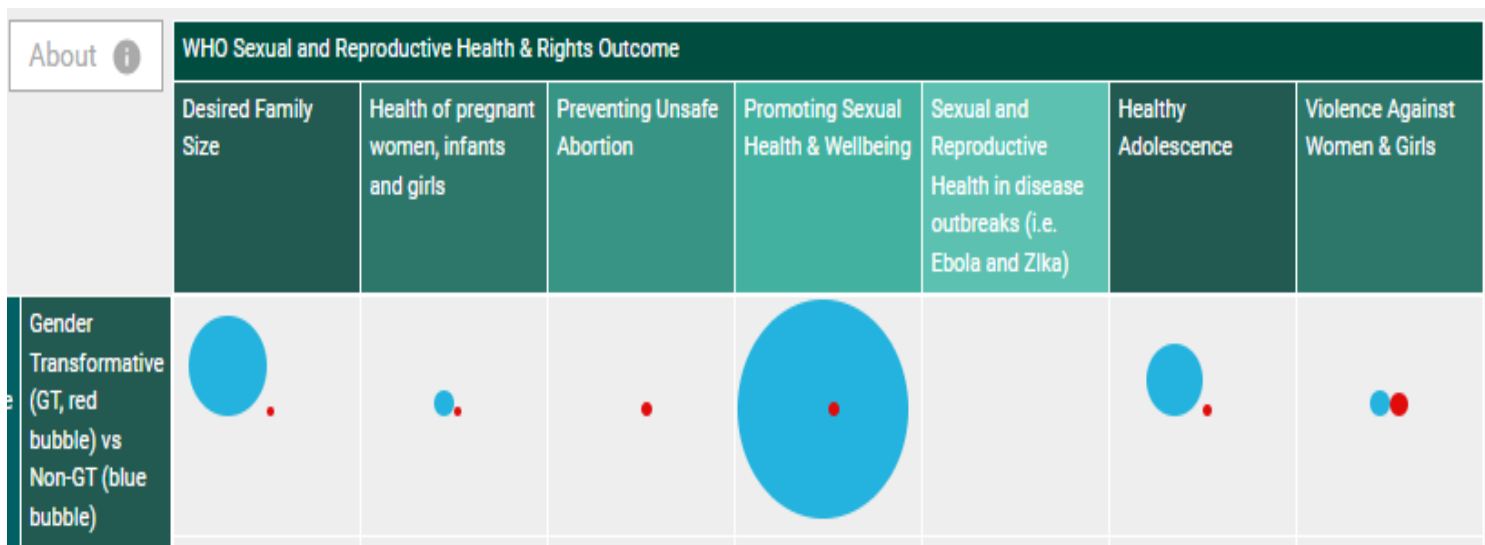
Growing evidence that well-designed interventions can improve men's and boys' gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours in sexual and reproductive health, parenting and care work and GBV.

(UN Women)



Evidence on gender-transformative SRHR programming with men and boys

- The review showed that only 8% of review evidence relating to the engagement of men and boys applied a gender-transformative approach to such engagement.



Evidence on gender-transformative SRHR programming with men and boys

Desired family size: no interventions were identified to address infertility, nor were there interventions to enhance desired family size in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) relationships.

Health of pregnant women: while all three studies included involving men in preparedness for birth, only one addressed male involvement in supporting women to breast feed.

Sexual health and well-being: the predominant focus was on preventing and treating STIs, including HIV, with less on sexual health and well-being and none on sexual dysfunction.

Healthy adolescence: the focus was predominantly on preventing intimate partner violence (IPV), and few studies addressed preventing adolescent pregnancy STIs, or improving sexual competence.

Preventing violence against women and girls: the focus was on IPV, with fewer studies addressing female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage or IPV on males.

Evidence on gender-transformative SRHR programming with men and boys



Map shows where the evaluations have taken place

Evidence on gender-transformative SRHR programming with men and boys

1. Community mobilisation and education is the most common type of male engagement gender transformative programmatic approach
2. Few gender-transformative interventions addressed unequal power relations at the structural level
 - All studies intentionally focused on transforming harmful gender norms, practices or inequalities either among individuals or groups.
 - But all missing policy level programming: guidelines, social planning, legislation, service provision, regulation and fiscal measures.
3. A majority of studies showed either positive or mixed efficacy in relation to behavioural and attitudinal outcomes

(Ruane-McAteer et al. 2020)

Evidence on gender-transformative SRHR programming with men and boys

4. Programme characteristics consistently employed across effective interventions were:

- multicomponent activities of education, persuasion, modelling and enablement approaches that cover all elements of the COM-B model for successful behaviour change interventions: capability, motivation and opportunity;
- multilevel programming that reaches beyond the individual or groups and mobilises the wider community to adopt egalitarian gender norms and practices (i.e, includes gender transformative component at the structural level);
- working with both women and men either in mixed sex groups or separately and
- trained facilitation of interventions for a sufficient duration of time to allow for diffusion and sustaining of change to occur

5. All studies had moderate to high risk of bias

- Issues: participant selection, randomisation, deviations from the intended intervention, missing data and overall reporting standards.

(Ruane-McAteer et al. 2020)

Limitations and criticism

Interventions

- Unexamined use of the category of 'men', which flatten differences and inequalities among men
- Tendency to explain gender injustices in terms of 'harmful gender norms' and failure to centre questions of power
- Most interventions focused only on micro- and meso-level change, focusing on personal behaviours and interpersonal relationships
 - e.g. small-scale education and awareness-raising initiatives
- Lack of interventions that focus on broader structures of patriarchy within which individuals and relationships operate
 - e.g. coalition-building, policy advocacy, community mobilization and strategies aimed at macro-level accountability

Measurement / assessment

- Few evaluations examine wider shifts in gender relations or structures of power.
- Constraints on gathering evidence of the impacts on wider communities and populations
- published accounts ignoring social action initiatives as they do not fit donors' and evaluators' expectations of time-bound projects with discrete outputs and short-term measurable impacts.

(UN Women)

Lessons and examples

- Focus on the masculinity of hegemony
 - A clearer focus on the gendered operations of power and injustice, and how masculinities serve in the maintenance of social hierarchies and the rule of economic and political elites.
- Press for political as well as policy change
 - building internal capacity for and commitment to institutional reform and external pressure for and accountability to a reform agenda.
- Reorient evidence and evidence-based practice to social change toward the extended timelines and complex processes of social change
- Examples of successful accountable advocacy by organizations involved in gender transformative work with men.
 - Men's Action to Stop Violence Against Women (MASVAW) in India has worked to encourage men's support for domestic violence legislation;
 - Men's Association for Gender Equality in Sierra Leone lobbied for new laws on marriage, divorce and domestic violence; and
 - Sonke Gender Justice in South Africa has worked with women's rights organizations to hold the police and other state institutions to account.

(UN Women)

Resource list

GT 4 Africa > GT 4 Africa > Resourc

Type ▾ People ▾ Modified ▾

Name

- Male engagement / Masculinity
- Adolescent_SRHR_GTA/DSSR_genre
- stakeholder analysis / analyse des parties prenantes

> Resources / Ressources > Male engagemer

Type ▾ People ▾ Modified ▾

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- PDF Male Engagement in Family Planning Indicator Brief_FS-18-284.pdf
- PDF Male-Engagement-DosDonts-Final-ENGLISH.pdf
- PDF USAID Engaging Men in Gender Equality July 2023.pdf
- PDF Gender-transformative programming with men and boys to improve SRHR- a
- W Additional resources - Male engagement.docx
- PDF GMH_Participant_GenderAssessmentScale.pdf
- PDF Zielke. Operationalising gender. 2023.pdf
- PDF keith-et-al-2022-a-systematic-review-of-interventions-to-reduce-gender-l
- PDF RuaneMcAteer. GTA with men and boys for SRH. 2019.pdf
- PDF Jewkes. What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls Global Pro
- PDF Stewart. Gendered stereotypes and norms_Sys Review of interventions. 2021
- PDF 18504-18908_MaleEngagementPolicyFramework.pdf



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Thank you