

Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Package for











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Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the following people for their support and contributions: Daniel McCartney, Shreena Patel, Karthik Srinivasan and Seri Wendoh, IPPF Central Office; Anjali Sen, IPPF South Asia Region; Jimena Valades, IPPF Western Hemisphere Region; Lyasha Leena, Society for Health Education; Lynn Collins, Leyla Sharafi, Laura Laski, Elizabeth Benomar, Luis Mora, Karen Darduryan, Jennifer Butler, Tim Sladden, UNFPA; Andrew Levack, Promundo US; Laura Pascoe and Dean Peacock, Sonke Gender Justice; Fabio Verani, EngenderHealth; David Bell, Columbia University; and Ravi Verma, International Center for Research on Women. In addition, we express our gratitude to the following IPPF Member Associations (MAs): Respect, Educate, Nurture, Empower Women (RENEW) in Bhutan; Centro de Investigacion, Educacion y Servicios (CIES) in Bolivia; Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC); Family Health Association (FHA) of Iran; Society for Health Education (SHE) in Maldives; and Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL). This package was informed by a Global Skills Building and Lesson Sharing Workshop 'Menstreaming: Addressing the SRHR of Men and Adolescent Boys', held 8-9 November 2014 in Delhi, India.

The lead author was Tim Shand (independent consultant) supported by Jon Hopkins, IPPF Central Office; Jameel Zamir, IPPF South Asia Region; Arik V. Marcell, Johns Hopkins University; and Stephanie Perlson, GreeneWorks.

IPPF would like to express appreciation to UNFPA for the technical and financial support that has made this publication possible.

Recommended citation

IPPF and UNFPA (2017). Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Package for Men and Adolescent Boys. London: IPPF and New York City: UNFPA.

Introduction, rationale and overview

Purpose of this service package

The Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Package for Men and Adolescent Boys has been developed to support providers of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services to increase the range and quality of services to meet the specific and diverse needs of men and adolescent boys. This package focuses specifically on the provision of such services integrated within clinical and non-clinical contexts and follows a gender-transformative approach. It covers men and adolescent boys in all their diversity and takes a positive approach to SRH, seeing this not just as the absence of disease, but the positive expression of one's gender, sex and sexuality. In doing so, this service package contributes to efforts to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as prioritized in the Sustainable Development Goals.¹ This package is in no way intended to detract from the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and adolescent girls, nor to divert resources, funding or attention from much-needed SRH services and programmes for women and adolescent girls.

Why a service package for adolescent boys and men?

Men have substantial SRH needs for contraception, prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual dysfunction, infertility and male cancers. Yet these SRH needs are often unmet due a combination of factors that include a lack of service availability, poor health-seeking behaviour among men, SRH facilities often not being seen as "male friendly spaces" and a lack of agreed standards for delivering SRH clinical and preventative services to men and adolescent boys.² Better meeting the diverse SRH needs of men and adolescent boys improves their own health. It also improves the SRH of their partners, and is an effective way to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Ensuring that the SRH needs of men and adolescent boys are sufficiently addressed, along with those of women and girls, is also part of a comprehensive gender-transformative approach. Existing gender inequalities, in large part due to rigid gender norms and harmful perceptions of what it means to be a man, have far-reaching consequences on health and well-being. For example, in many contexts, women do not control decision making, including SRH choices, yet they bear a significant burden of contraceptive use and childbearing. Where men and adolescent boys are engaged in tackling gender inequality and promoting women's choices, the resulting outcomes are positive and men and women are able to enjoy equitable, healthy and happy relationships.³

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action calls for governments to "promote gender equality in all spheres of life, including family and community life and to encourage and enable men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour and their social and family roles".4 The ICPD and a number of other international instruments provide states with a mandate to develop gender-transformative programmes and policies that include engaging men and boys in the context of family, reproductive health, violence and health equity. International commitments include the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and its review (2000)⁵, the Beijing Platform for Action (1995)⁶, the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (2001)⁷, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (2004 and 2009), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Action Framework Addressing Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV (2009). Multiple other policy efforts, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)8, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also address this challenge. To be most effective, these international conventions and agreements need to be adapted at the national level into rights-based actions that will have an impact at many levels: policy, law, health systems and service delivery.¹⁰

Many organizations are committed to working with men and adolescent boys as SRH clients, partners and agents of change, regardless of age, social or health status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) frames this commitment within a human rights approach as outlined in two policies, the 2014 Gender Equality Policy and the 2009 Men and Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy. For UNFPA, this dedication to protecting women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights is detailed in their Gender Equality Strategy (forthcoming) and the 2013 Strategy on Adolescents and Youth (see Annex 6 for the full policies). These policies reflect the importance of addressing men's SRHR, and the need to work with men and adolescent boys, together with women and girls, as equal partners in the provision of SRH services. These policies also highlight the need to create conditions for equitable relationships for individual health and the development of communities.

This service package supports IPPF, UNFPA, partner organizations and national health systems to address these challenges and increase the range and quality of SRH services that are tailored to men and adolescent boys. Importantly, the implementation and use of this service package should not lead to a reduction in the quality and quantity of services provided to women and girls. The approach of this package is that scaling-up services for men and adolescent boys will improve SRH for everyone. A key consideration in this work, explored further below, is that women's sexual and reproductive health and rights and their access to services, continues to be at the forefront of our efforts.

This service package recognizes that men and adolescent boys are not a single, homogenous group but have diverse experiences and identities. Though each man has his own SRH needs, some groups have a distinct set of SRH needs due to particular risks and vulnerabilities. This needs to be highlighted to service providers. In this service package, specific health and service delivery considerations are outlined in relation to adolescence, sexual orientation and gender identity. For ease of communication, while this service package includes men in all their diversity, throughout the document the overall term men and adolescent boys is used.

Who is this service package written for?

The primary audience includes all levels of staff/service providers in clinical and non-clinical settings that offer, or would like to offer, SRH services for men, from adolescence through to adulthood. Programme managers, policy makers and advocates working in this area will also find it useful. The package can be used by organizations currently providing SRH services to men and adolescent boys to improve the range and quality of services, or by those intending to develop their work in this area. The contents are applicable to organizations across the globe, but will need to be adapted to local contexts (see section 6). This package supports those needing guidance for serving and engaging men and adolescent boys in SRH, and is not intended to shift attention away from women and girls.

How to use the service package

This service package provides an overview of the SRH services that need to be provided for men and adolescent boys and links to existing tools, service delivery guidelines and resources utilizing a gende-transformative approach.

The service package may be used in the following ways:

- To learn about the importance of addressing men's SRH and the principles for this work;
- To understand the components of an organized approach to providing a package of SRH services for men and adolescent boys;
- To determine what SRH services for men and adolescent boys should be provided by an organization or where existing services should be improved;
- To scale-up and strengthen SRH service provision and programming for men and adolescent boys, through key building blocks and strategies to operationalize this package;
- To advocate for a stronger focus on this issue within the work of an organization; and
- To gain insights from country case studies on the work of IPPF and UNFPA in providing SRH services for men and adolescent boys.

How this service package is organized

Section One of the package provides an overview of why it is important to use a gender-transformative approach to provide SRH services for men and adolescent boys, the history of this field, and the evolution of this area of work at global, regional and national levels. It also outlines the key principles important for work on men and SRH, and a conceptual framework to guide this work.

Section Two outlines seven building blocks critical to scaling-up work on men and SRH that should be considered prior to operationalizing the service package.

Section Three outlines the SRH package for men and adolescent boys, including an overview of the key service components.

Section Four outlines each of the elements of the SRH package in greater detail and provides links to relevant guidelines, tools and resources, including related clinical and commodity information.

Section Five looks at specific health and service delivery considerations related to adolescence, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Section Six provides key steps for operationalizing the framework, including assessing the current situation, building capacity and commitment, programme design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Section Seven provides a set of country case studies on the work of IPPF and UNFPA around the world engaging in innovative practices to address men's SRH needs.

Section Eight provides an extensive list of associated resources for additional information and guidance on scaling-up work on men's SRH.

The Annex provide a set of checklists, templates and further resources, linked to different sections within this publication.

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