



STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND
GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS TO SCALE UP APPROACHES

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

A TOOL FOR ACTION

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

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| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CSO | Civil society organizations |
| GDVT-MOLISA | General Department of Vocational Training within the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (Vietnam) |
| GDSW | General Directorate on the Status of Women (Turkey) |
| GBV | Gender-based violence |
| ICPD | International Conference of Population and Development |
| IMAGES | International Men and Gender Equality Survey |
| JICS | Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (South Africa) |
| LGBTQI | Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex |
| M&E | Monitoring and evaluation |
| MOES | Ministry of Education and Science (Georgia) |
| MOU | Memorandum of understanding |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| RS | Republic of Srpska |
| SASEM | Turkish National Police's Training Center for Crime Investigation and Research |
| SRHR | Sexual and reproductive health and rights |
| TOT | Trainer of trainers |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| VAW | Violence against women |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| YMI | Young Men Initiative |

INTRODUCTION

Today, there is a sizeable breadth of research on the role of men and boys, particularly in the arenas of violence, health, sexuality, and masculinities. This body of research and program evidence demonstrates that the meaningful participation of men and boys in support of gender equality, as well as in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including safe motherhood and family planning, can lead to positive changes in their attitudes, perceptions, and behavior that benefit women and girls. In recent years, there has also been increasing recognition of the need to build program approaches and strategies to support the active participation of adolescent boys and young men that recognize the context-specific needs and vulnerabilities of boys and young men themselves and supports engaging men and boys as beneficiaries of and stakeholders in gender equality. That said, according to a review of the implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference of Population and Development, 'gender norms and male engagement' was a priority for only 22 percent of governments globally and not prioritized in most low- and middle-income countries.¹ Additionally, a World Health Organization (WHO) review of health-based initiatives engaging men and boys found that overall, "these programs have been mostly short-term and in relatively limited target areas."² This review states that more needs to be invested in understanding which programs are most effective and how and when to scale them up.

In order to achieve gender equality, the transformation of gender inequitable norms and practices within public institutions must be part of the strategy to achieve a healthy and sustainable future. Strong civil society organization (CSO) and government partnerships are key to making such necessities a reality. More explicitly – governments together with their partners have the resources and ability to replicate evidence-based initiatives – including those pioneered by CSOs that engage men and boys in gender equality and SRHR, in ways that will have larger scale impact over the long term.

WHAT IS THIS TOOL?

This tool is a living document that provides guidance on good partnership practices that promote strong relationships between civil society organizations and government representatives on engaging men and boys in gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Its goal is to strengthen these partnerships in order to enable the scale up and/or institutionalization of evidence-based approaches to engaging men and boys.

This tool is not meant to be a comprehensive 'how to' on scaling up or institutionalizing programs engaging men and boys for SRHR and gender equality. See Annex 1 for excellent resources on scaling up and institutionalizing programs.

1 United Nations, "Framework of Actions for the Follow-up to the Program of Action of the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014," Report of the Secretary General, New York, 2014. Available from: <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about/view/29-global-review-report>.

2 World Health Organization (WHO), "Engaging Men and Boys in Changing Gender-based Inequity in Health: Evidence from Program Interventions," Geneva, 2007. Available from: http://www.who.int/gender/documents/Engaging_men_boys.pdf.



WHO IS THIS TOOL FOR?

This tool is intended for **CSOs** already engaging men and boys in their current programming, such as members of the MenEngage Alliance, and who are looking to collaborate more effectively with government partners in order to scale up and/or institutionalize their approaches. It is useful for **government leaders** who are interested in partnering with CSOs to implement these types of programs and would like to point potential partners to good practices. This tool will also provide insight on how **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, at the country level, can facilitate government and civil society partnerships on engaging men and boys.

HOW WAS IT DEVELOPED?

The tool was developed based on the findings that emerged from a global mapping of government-supported initiatives on engaging men and boys in gender equality and SRHR, carried out by Promundo-US, as well as an expert group meeting convened in October 2014 by the UNFPA and Promundo-US.

WHY IS THIS TOOL NECESSARY?

This tool is part of UNFPA's broader effort to support and strengthen duty bearers' commitment to gender-transformative action. Most existing evidence-based initiatives that engage men and boys alongside women and girls in gender programs are often implemented at a small scale and for a short period of time. More resources are needed to support organizations and their government counterparts to scale up these initiatives in order to have impact. Strong partnerships and meaningful dialogue are often the foundation of such efforts, but no tool on CSO-government partnership building exists particularly as it relates to men and boys. This tool aims to address this gap.

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMS

Gender-transformative approaches actively strive to examine, question, and change rigid gender norms and imbalance of power as a means of reaching health as well as gender equity objectives. Gender-transformative approaches encourage critical awareness among men and women of gender roles and norms; promote the position of women; challenge the distribution of resources and allocation of duties between men and women; and/or address the power relationships between women and others in the community, such as service providers or traditional leaders.

Source: Elisabeth Rottach, Sidney Ruth Schuler, and Karen Hardee for the IGWG, Gender Perspectives Improve Reproductive Health Outcomes: New Evidence (Washington, DC: PRB for the IGWG, 2009).

HOW SHOULD THIS TOOL BE USED?

This tool, organized by stages of the program cycle, can be used to highlight key entry points to gain, strengthen, and maintain government support for CSO-implemented programs. It provides guidance on how CSOs can serve as more effective partners in these collaborations. At the same time, it is important to recognize the limitations of this tool – it is **not** meant to be a detailed, operational “how to” on institutionalizing or scaling up a particular program. Instead, it aims to provide generalized guidance to CSOs on how to collaborate with government. This tool can be used to facilitate conversations between CSOs and government leaders to lead, support, and/or fund integrated gender-transformative approaches engaging men and boys.

KEY DEFINITIONS

What do we mean by "government"?

- "Government" can mean national government, local government, or any level of governing body in between.
- "Government" can mean branches, ministries, agencies, or other kinds of bodies. Most initiatives included as case study examples in this tool are supported by ministries of health, education, youth, gender, or women's affairs. There are also examples of successful programs supported by traditionally male-dominated institutions, such as the military and police.
- Government is not a homogenous or static entity. Some groups and individuals will be supportive of programs engaging men and boys in SRHR and gender equality, while others will be reluctant to partner. This support can also change over time as a result of staff turn over, shifting national priorities, and other reasons.

Government support

Any action taken by a government counterpart that enables the implementation of an initiative and allows it to meet its goals.

Scaling up

Deliberate efforts to increase the impact of programs successfully tested in pilot or experimental projects so as to benefit more people and to foster related policy and program development on a lasting basis.

Expansion (also called "horizontal scaling up")

When innovations are replicated in different geographical sites or are extended to serve larger or new categories of populations.

Institutionalization (also called "vertical scaling up")

When formal government decisions are made to adopt the innovation on a national or subnational level and its uptake is promoted through national planning mechanisms, policy changes, or local

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