Men, Masculinities and Change

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Driving Questions

• Why does masculinity matter?
• Why does it matter in the international development agenda?
• Can men and boys – and masculinities – change?
• Can they change quickly enough to matter for this generation of girls and women?
• How can we promote change with men and boys? What works? Can we take it to scale?
Masculinity Matters: Men with Non-equitable Views More Likely to Have Used GBV

*\(p < 0.001\) - Chi-square test
Men with Non-equitable Views More Likely to Have Been Arrested

Men arrested or taken into custody by the police x Attitudes about Gender in Bangu (N=564, 15-59 years old)

- Low Equitable: 38.90%
- Medium Equitable: 34.90%
- High Equitable: 26.20%
Becoming a man when socially recognized manhood is in short supply ...

- Manhood = provider, family formation
- Sexuality frequently driven by social pressure
- Violence often part of socialization – in home, streets
- Extremes of violent manhood emerge when manhood in short supply
- Variation, change, local realities
Urban Brazil: The *comandos* Homicide Rates -- Rio de Janeiro (per 100,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Homens Jovens 15-29 Brasil</th>
<th>Homens Jovens 15-29 Rio de Janeiro</th>
<th>População em Geral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>113,8</td>
<td>188,8</td>
<td>27,8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fonte: Min. Da Saúde, 1999
Gender-specific homicide in Brazil leads to “missing young men”

Number of Men and Women, 25-29 years old, Brazil National Census data

- Men: 6,814,000
- Women: 7,035,000
Being a young man in the slums of Mumbai, India

- *Asli marg* – a real man – is virile, aggressive, willing to fight, dominates women
- Sexual harassment – “eve-teasing”
- Concerns about sexual performance, masturbation
- Local Hindu and Muslim groups recruit young men for political “agitation” and sectarian violence
Being a Young Man in sub-Saharan Africa

- Generational hierarchies; power held by “big men”;
- Rites of passages and initiation rituals;
- Centrality of work and owning land as markers of manhood;
- Active recruitment of specific of young men and boys by armed groups
- The warrior identity as a pathway to achieving manhood
Finding resistance to prevailing social constructions of manhood

- Young men who empathize with the challenges girls/young women face
- Personal reflection
- Family experiences
- Role models who question prevailing discourses
Understanding Changes in Gender Norms and Related Behaviors

- **Individual characteristics**, critical reflection, higher educational attainment;
- **Situational factors** (new relationship, short-term unemployment);
- **Broader contextual factors** (perceiving changes in social norms, new laws/policies);
- **Relationships and role models**
Program Interventions Achieve Change *(WHO-Promundo review of 57 evaluated programs engaging men & boys)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Intervention</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Effective</th>
<th>Promising</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Education</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services-Based</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach/Mobilization</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated (includes more than 1 of the above)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>57</td>
<td><strong>14 (24.5%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 (38.5%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>21 (36.8%)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Gender Transformative Programs Were Even More Effective in Achieving Behavior Change (n=27 programs)
Final Considerations

- Scale up, start earlier and go longer
- Go beyond measuring individual change to assess changes in social institutions, socialization
- Promote the common interest of women and men in changing
Final Considerations

• Take to the policy level (health, education, social welfare)
• Identify key “gateway” behaviors – involved fathering?
• Engage men for their own well-being, for the well-being of women and for the well-being of children