ENGAGING YOUNG MEN AND BOYS IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN VIOLENT SETTINGS
Recent Findings and Implications for Programming

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The Topics

◆ How conflict and war shape and influence masculinities and implications for children and youth
◆ Reflect about key findings from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)
◆ Discuss a few ways forward in terms of programming
Masculinities and conflict

◆ **Deliberate manipulation** of unemployed boys and men by armed groups;
◆ Armed groups become surrogate families, offer **male role models**;
◆ **At the hands of the gun**, being part of armed groups offers sex, status, income, power
◆ **Challenge of returning to civilian life** in which men revert to status of being “boys” and being **powerless**
◆ The challenge in unlearning violence
◆ The challenge of men accepting the new roles that women have taken on during conflict/war
The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)

Coordinated by Promundo and ICRW

- Multi-country study on men, gender equality and GBV, asking men and women about behaviors and attitudes
- To date, >18,000 interviews in 7 countries completed
- One of the most complete surveys of its kind that includes men’s and women’s assessments and includes a range of gender issues
- Brazil, India, Croatia, Chile, Mexico, Rwanda, Bosnia (3 post-conflict, 2 high violence)
- In process: DRC, Zambia
- “Sister” studies with Partners for Prevention: China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Cambodia, PNG
Violence is a Defining Feature of Boys’ and Men’s Lives with Implications for Women and Girls

Results from IMAGES find that:

- **20% to 85%** of men report having experienced psychological violence as children;
- **26% to 67%** of men report having experienced physical violence as children in their homes;
- **16% to 44%** of men report witnessing their mother being beaten by their father or another male partner;
- **1% to 21%** of men report having experienced sexual violence as children;
- **34% to 79%** report having been bullied in their neighborhoods or physically punished by teachers.

Parents’ education, fathers’ participation in domestic duties or childcare and equitable decision-making in the childhood home can all reduce the likelihood of violence.

*The good news: in all settings studied, violence is declining*
AKNOWLEDGING VIOLENCE IN BOYS’ AND MEN’S LIVES: The persistent costs of IPV for women and men

Results from IMAGES find that men who report having seen a man use violence against their mother when they were children:

- Have less equitable views
- Have higher rates of delinquency
- Have higher rates of use of physical violence against partners and higher rates of use of sexual violence
- Are more likely to pay for sex as adults
- Participate less in the birth of their children
- Are less likely to take paternity leave
- Experience higher rates of depression
- Have lower self-esteem
- Are more likely to abuse alcohol
- Are more likely to experience work-related stress

Witnessing violence against one’s mother was a stronger effect on all these variables than having been a victim oneself
THE IMPACT OF WAR IN MEN’S AND WOMEN’S LIVES
(IMAGES/Bosnia)

War experiences: Men (N=1623), Women (N=665) %
- Live in war-affected areas 74.2%
- Left the family home due to war 49%
- Permanent migration from home because of war 25.3%
- Lost my job because of my ethnicity 11% (8% for women)*
- Direct participation in war (combatant) 24.2% (5% for women)*
- Wounding or capturing of close persons 34.6%
- Was a witness of sexual violence during war 3.5%
- Experienced death of a family member 43.7%
- Was injured in the war 10.3% (4% for women)*

*Significant differences for women and men
FROM WAR-RELATED VIOLENCE TO PEACE-TIME VIOLENCE: Baseline data from the Young Men’s Initiative – CARE-Balkans (CARE, ICRW and Promundo) (294 for Sarajevo, 339 for Zagreb, and 682 for Belgrade)
Violence Witnessed in Conflict Can Bring Long-term Effects: Example from Rwanda

(Rwandan Men’s Resource Center, Promundo and ICRW)

- Nationally representative sample: n=3612; carried out mid-2010
- 39% of men say they have used GBV against partner; 57.2% of women say they have experienced violence
- 37% of women say they experienced marital rape; 3.7% of men say they have done it
- 66% of men and 53.5% of women experienced violence growing up; 44% and 40% witnessed GBV in home
- 80% of men and women witnessed/experienced violence of some kind during genocide
- *Men who witnessed or experienced violence during genocide were 50% more like to have used violence against a sexual partner*

LINGERING EFFECTS OF SILENCE AROUND VIOLENCE
Another Theme Where Implications of Children Must be Considered: Children Born of Rape
Recent study Helen Liebling-Kalifani, Coventry University, and Henny Slegh, Promundo (Rwanda)

- Study of 26 women who had children as a result of rape in Eastern DRC
- 80% under 18; most perpetrators were boys/young men, men in camps, teachers – ie civilians
- Rejection from family, husbands, community
- Chased from schools and home
- Displaced to other village
- Insecure accommodation (neighbours and relatives)
- Overwhelming responsibilities
- Mocked and teased by family members and community (both survivor and child)
- Children considered ‘dangerous’

How to engage men and boys in the solution?
In multiple evaluation reviews, which programs to engage men and boys show impact?

✓ Those that made **questioning what it means to be men** central to their intervention
✓ Those that have a **longer duration** (10-16 sessions, campaigns that last 6-9 months)
✓ Those that have **multiple components**
✓ Those that engage **men as part of the solution** and in the design of messages
The Young Men’s Initiative in the Balkans (CARE and partners)

- Engaging young men in the **Balkans** in vocational training high schools with CARE-Balkans and local NGO partners

- Using *group education based on Program H and community campaigns* to promote new ideas about “Balkans manhood” and promote dialogue across post-conflict settings

- 41-55% used violence against other boys in past 3 months; significant change measured in impact evaluation

- *Working with ministries* of youth, sports, education to embed the process in policy

- Providing a space for young men who are willing to question prevailing norms and making it a part of young men’s identities
What works in fragile settings? (Where there is no gender expert …)

◆ Build on positive, local cultural practices (young men’s roles in the lives of children, elders, positive rites of passage, youth culture)
◆ Identifying the “voices of resistance” – young men who already showed willingness to embrace new ideas about masculinities
◆ Helping young and adult men find new identities together with women and girls
Taking GBV Prevention out of the Box and into the Spaces Where Young Men Hang Out

- Taking it into the *health sector* Getting it out via *sports*/football leagues
- Using *local/popular culture*
- Using *social media*
- Using the *classroom*
- In collaboration with *economic empowerment, poverty alleviation*
Emerging Good Practice in Supporting Boys and Young Men in the Transition to Gender Equitable and non-Violent Adulthood

- Promoting positive identities for young men
- Engaging the health system
- Targeted, youth-led evidence-based campaigns to change social norms
- Build evidence-based approaches into teacher training
- Promoting the intergenerational transmission of caregiving, parenting classes
- Making questioning of masculinities part of existing violence prevention activities
- Use of sports and other community-based approaches together with school-based approaches
- Always doing this with young women and young men