

Getting to Equal

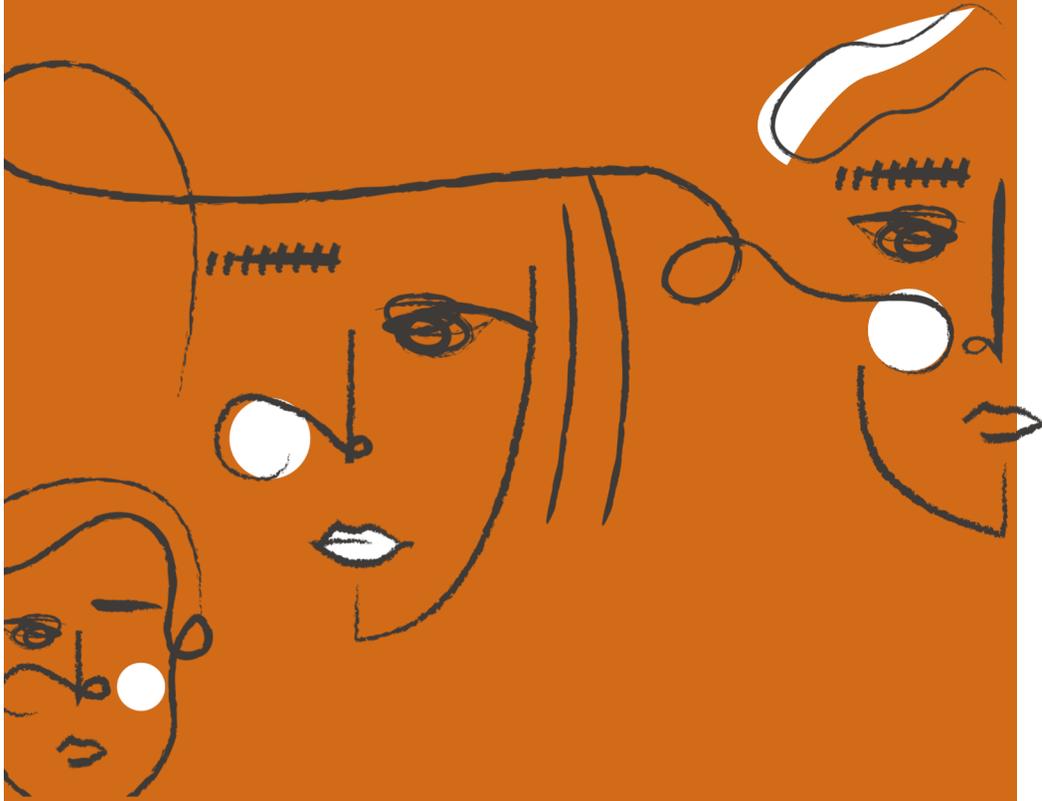
Men, Gender Equality,
and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



An illustration on a dark teal background shows two women. The woman on the left has long, dark, curly hair and is wearing a white headband. The woman on the right has long, dark, braided hair and is wearing a white headband. A white line connects the top of the woman on the right to the text box on the right.

Motivations: Why do we want to engage men?

- Increase contraceptive use
- Improve women's health
- Achieve universal health coverage
- To address men's needs
- Work toward gender equality



Tensions in the field

- Maintain focus on women *and* expand to reflect fuller perspective on men
- Prioritize funding SRHR needs of women and girls *and* address relational power dynamics
- User uptake numbers *versus* shifts in gender norms as measures of success

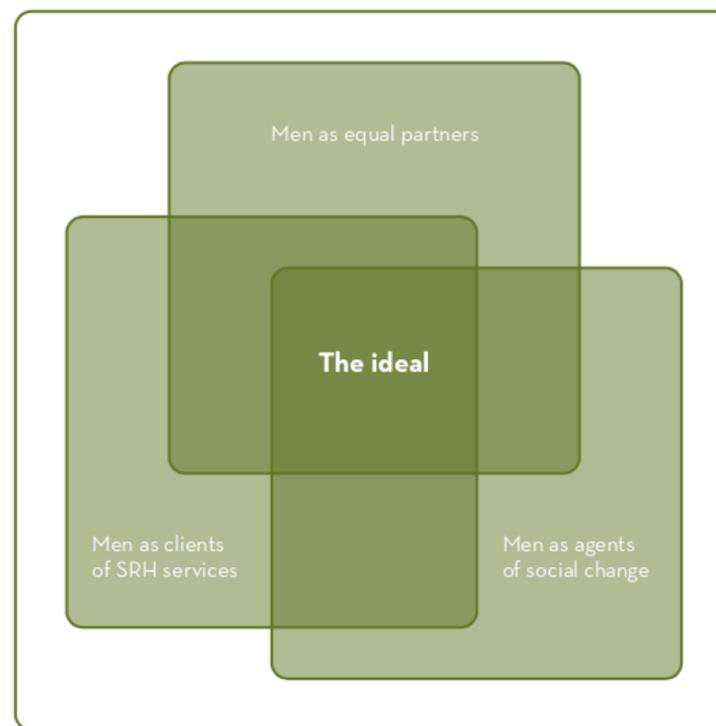
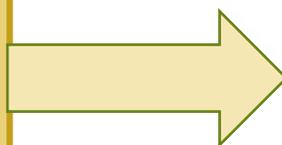
Purpose of the *Getting to Equal* initiative

Could mobilizing data help expand our framing of “men and SRHR”?

- To shift global discourse on men and SRHR toward a more holistic, relational understanding of SRHR
- To reaffirm that *men matter* to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- To make the case that sexual and reproductive health and rights *matter to men*

Framing *men and SRHR*

- Men as partners
- Men as clients
- Men as agents of social change



Source: Greene, M., Mehta, M., Pulerwitz, J., Wulf, D., Bankole, A., and Susheela, S. (2006) *Involving Men in Reproductive Health: Contributions to Development*, New York: UN Millennium Project. background paper to *Public Choices, Private Decisions: Sexual and Reproductive Health and the MDGs*, Millennium Project.

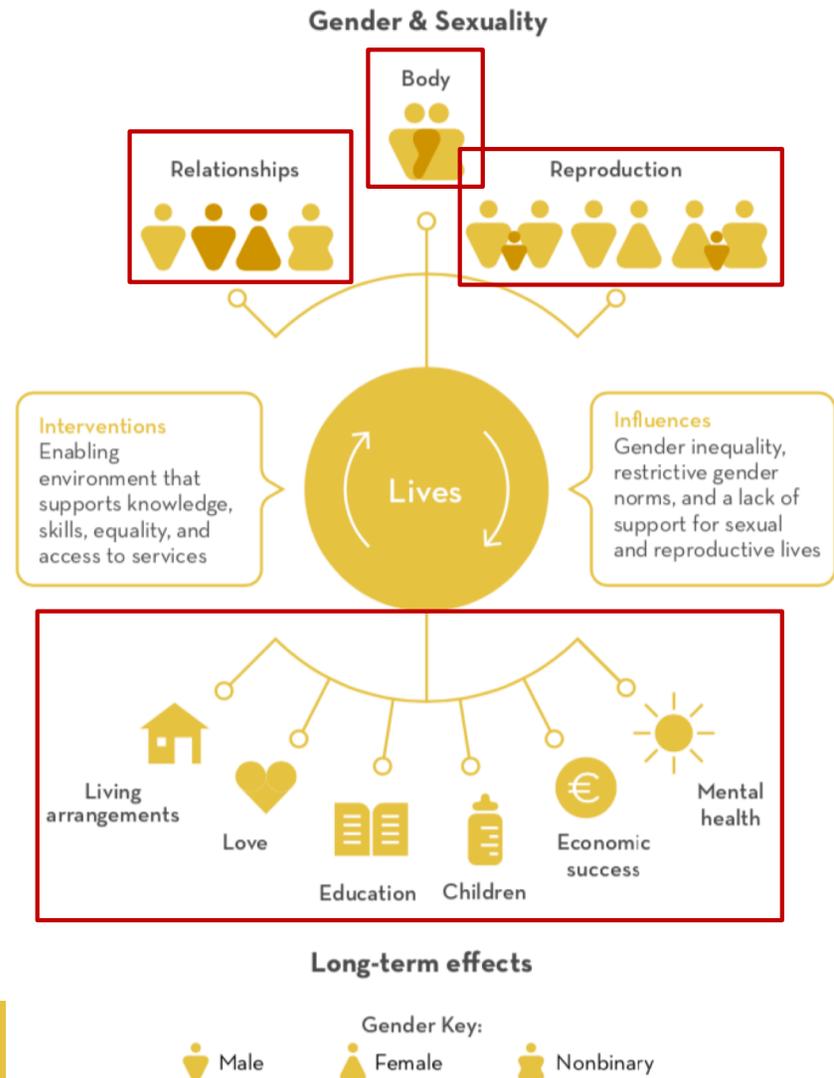
Source: Pascoe, L., Herstad, M., Shand, T., & van den Heever, L. (2012). *Building male involvement in SRHR: A basic model for male involvement in sexual and reproductive health and rights*. Cape Town, South Africa: Sonke Gender Justice Network.

Framing *SRHR and men*

Their experiences of:

- Their bodies
- Their relationships
- Their reproduction

.... and how together, these contribute to shaping men's lives in the long term.



Men's lives: Reframing SRHR and What it Means to Men

Bodies

- Coercion and rough handling of emerging sexuality can harm mental health, school performance, confidence, and attitudes toward body, sex

Relationships

- Parents' son preference has had lasting relationship consequences for their sons
- Effects of more equitable attitudes in couple reinforced by equitable norms in community

Reproduction

- Unintended pregnancy harms well-being and is related to some men's limited participation in caregiving.
- Adolescent fatherhood increases employment, and reduces schooling and long-term income and employment prospects
- Partnership, fertility (whatever it may be), and living arrangements connect to various measures of men's wellbeing across their lives

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Report available here:

<https://promundoglobal.org/resources/getting-to-equal-men-gender-equality-and-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights/>

