

# Getting to Equal

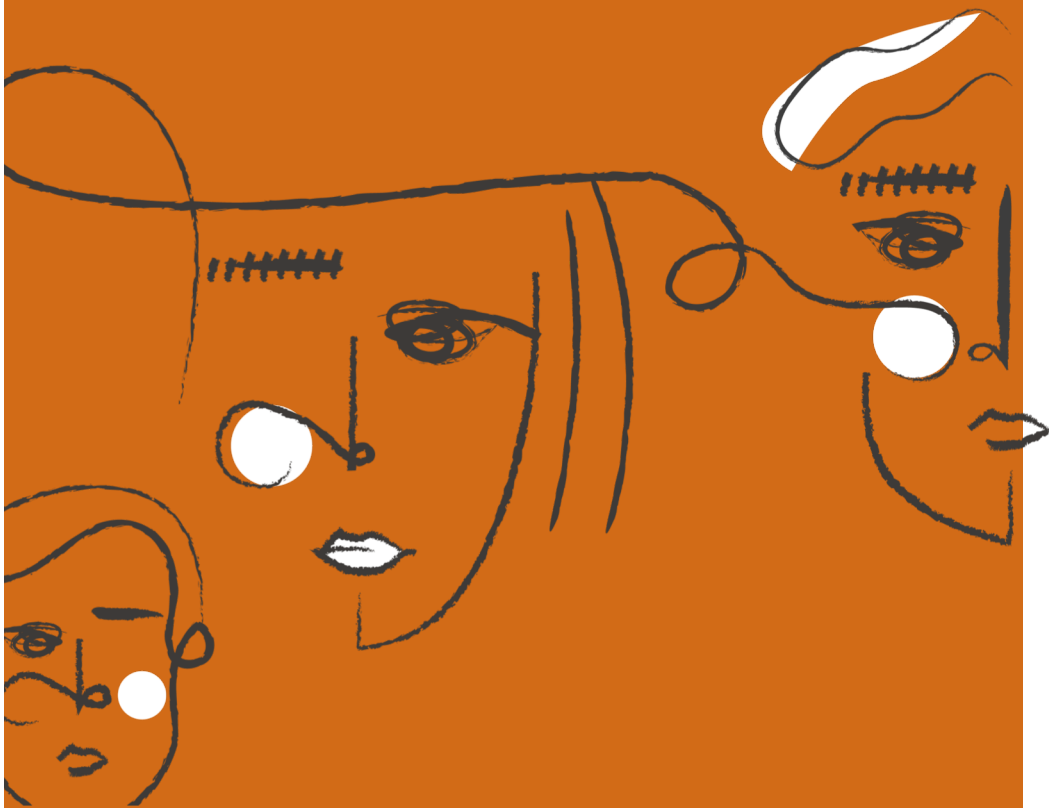
Men, Gender Equality,  
and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



An illustration on a dark teal background. On the left, a woman with dark skin and long, dark hair is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the right. On the right, a woman with light skin and long, dark dreadlocks is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the left. A thin, dark line connects the two women, starting from the top of the woman on the left and ending near the woman on the right. The line is slightly curved and has a small white circle at its end, which is positioned near the woman 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

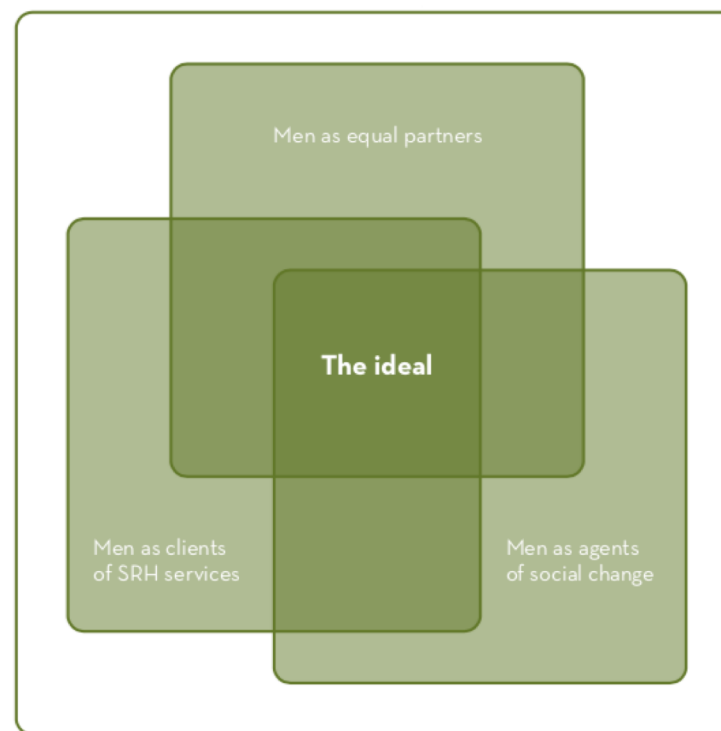
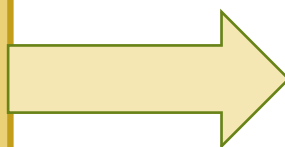
# Purpose of the *Getting to Equal* initiative

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.

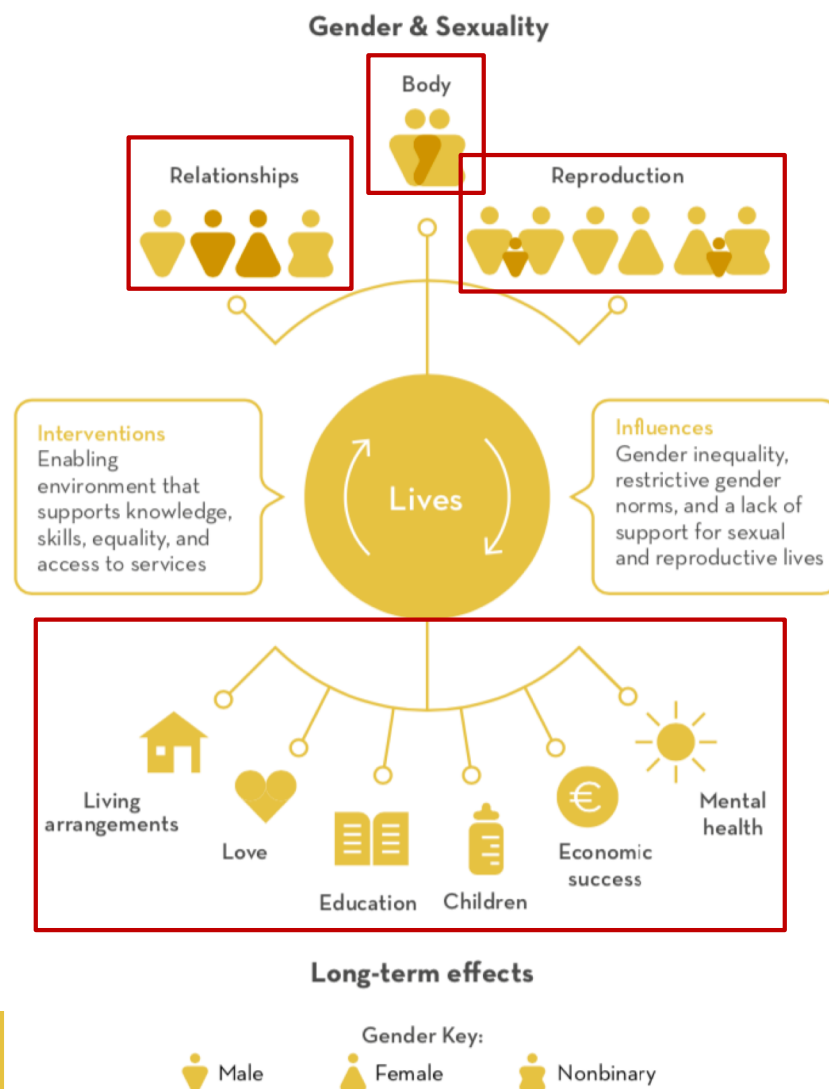
Source: Pascoe, L., Herstad, M., Shand, T., & van den Heever, L. (2012). *Building male involvement in SRHR: A basic model for male involvement in sexual and reproductive health and rights*. Cape Town, South Africa: Sonke Gender Justice Network.

# 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/>



