A long way to go: an analysis of the Proposed engagement of men and boys in 13 country implementation and action plans

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IUSSP Session:
Programmatic Interventions in RH Involving Men or Couples
“If SDG #5 is to be achieved by 2030, we cannot ignore boys and men in the name of supporting girls and women” (Blum et al. 2019)

Global goals related to FP/RH, including FP2020 focus on women and girls

- To achieve those goals, important to include men and boys:
  - As users of services
  - Partners of women
  - Influencers in their communities
FP2020: FP Costed Implementation Plans

Domains of FP CIPs

- Policy and Advocacy
- Financing & Governance
- Demand Generation
- Service Delivery / Human Resources
- Measurement
Methodology

- **13 strategies** related to FP2020 commitments –
  - 2012 and 2017 commitments
  - CIPs
  - Annual action plans
  - Self-reporting questionnaires to FP2020

- **Countries:**
  - Africa: DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria (national, Gombe, Kaduna and Lagos states), Niger, Senegal
  - Asia: Pakistan (Sindh, Balochistan, KP, and Punjab provinces)

- **Analysis:**
  - Based on definition of male engagement
  - Components of CIPs + gender norms and men’s services

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Male Engagement is

The intentional inclusion in and participation of men and boys in family planning programs as supportive partners, contraceptive users, and agents of change, with an emphasis on addressing gender norms and power differentials throughout the life cycle.
Limitations

Analysis does not include:

◦ Non FP2020 country documents
◦ Progress made in implementing male engagement programming
◦ What is not in the plans but is being done
Findings

- Few policies, norms, and protocols reinforce targeted behavior change at individual/family/community levels
- Advocacy with leaders does not explicitly target male leaders
- Demand generation programming engaging men lacks focus on gender norms

Current CIPs and related strategies have insufficient focus on male engagement and addressing gender norms.
Recommendations

- Address harmful gender norms throughout the life-cycle
- Address male engagement explicitly through policy, standards and protocols
- Implement couple-centered approaches
- Develop men’s capacity as advocates and change agents for SRHR
- Include attitudinal and behavior change measures for men/boys in assessing program impact
- View men as users of contraceptive services, too
- More research is needed...
Thank you

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