



**Working session
on Programmatic Interventions
in Reproductive Health
Involving Men or Couples**

IUSSP – November 10, 2020

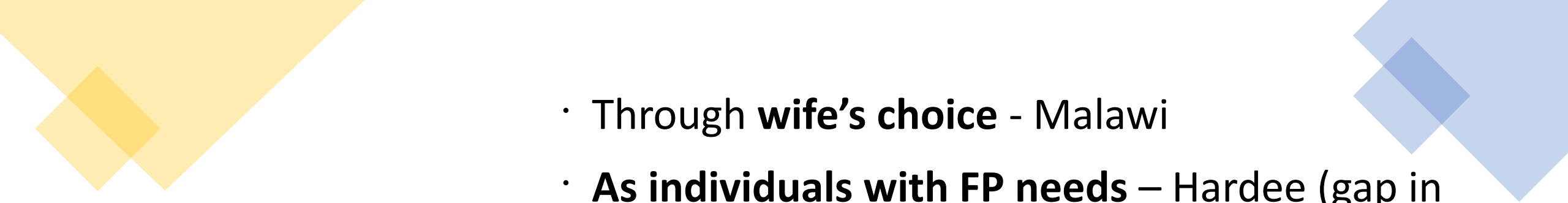
How I will use my time

Discussant ground rules:

- Not undertaking scientific review of papers (since only had presentations)
- Consider what we have learned from engaging men/couples
- Provide thoughts on talks with one slide per presentation
- Introduce areas for group discussion (time permitting)

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.



So, how have we engaged men and boys?

- Through **wife's choice** - Malawi
- **As individuals with FP needs** – Hardee (gap in male methods/services)
- **As partners**– CHARM 2
- As part of a **couple** – IMAGINE (Bangladesh); CHARM 2
- In **small groups** – IMAGINE (Niger)
- As **community (or religious) leaders** – Not discussed here but done in Senegal (ISSU)
- As **policy makers** or through changing policy/protocols – Hardee (little found)
- Measurement – rarely measure male engagement and gender equality which affects

Hardee et al. paper

- Examination of 13 Costed Implementation Plans (some country-level; others lower level)
- Important limitation: does not assess progress nor what is not in CIP

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



GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
Population Welfare Department (PWD)
Department of Health (DoH)
Peoples' Primary Health Care Initiative (PPHI)



December 2015

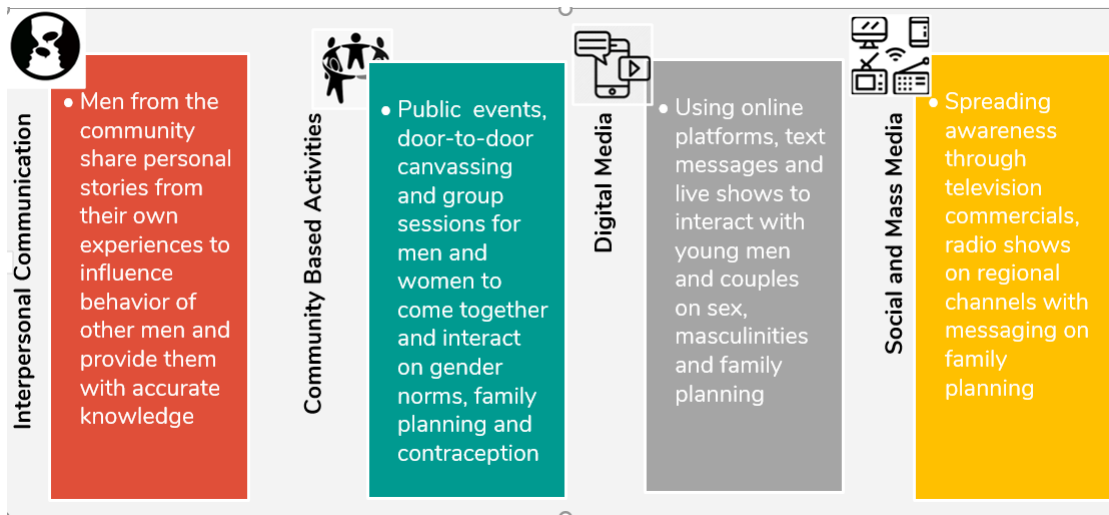
Recommend:

- **Address harmful gender norms**
- **Incorporate policy, standards, protocols**
- **Implement couple-centered approaches**
- **Support men as change agents**

Sahay and colleagues

Multiple levels of engagement: Engaging men in their varying capacities within programs have emerged as promising. These are:

Project Name	Men as Clients	Men as Partners	Men as Influencers
SASA!		√	√
PRACHAR	√	√	√
CHAMPION		√	
Smart Couple		√	
A360	√	√	
Ujjwal	√		
Malawi Male Motivators	√	√	
Transform/PHARE	√	√	√
Cyber Rwanda		√	√



Important gap identified:

- Need to help men unlearn gendered power dynamics that forgo harmful masculine behaviors

Ways to better engage men and couples proposed:

- Focus on couple-level activities and games
- Identify missed opportunities to address men's gendered power norms

Raj and Battala – CHARM

- Designed an approach that addressed challenges with earlier intervention (i.e., couple sessions led by men)
- Still waiting for follow-up data for results
- Qualitative results sound promising in terms of receipt of intervention by women and men

Session 1

Husbands by male health provider, **Wives** by female health provider
Family planning methods, Risk assessment, health and financial benefits of family planning, provision of condoms and pills

Session 2

Husbands by male health provider, **Wives** by female health provider
Gender equity concepts such as son preference, intimate partner violence, joint-decision-making regarding sexual behavior and contraception use

Session 3

Couples by male or female health provider
Overview of benefits of FP and methods, assess family goals, GE issues on son preference, reproductive control, marital communication and joint decision making, method provision and referral

Questions:

- **What does 68% participation mean when the # of couples is on target?**
- **What does success look like (what do you hypothesize)?**

Laterra - IMAGINE

Carefully manage expectations about primary focus of the program from the start

- Niger – focus on Men
- Bangladesh – focus on couples
- Implemented through differing models (male facilitators in Niger; female health workers in Bangladesh)
- Formative findings demonstrate importance of men's/husband's involvement
- Presentation demonstrates what came out of prototyping – I assume next step is evaluating, including

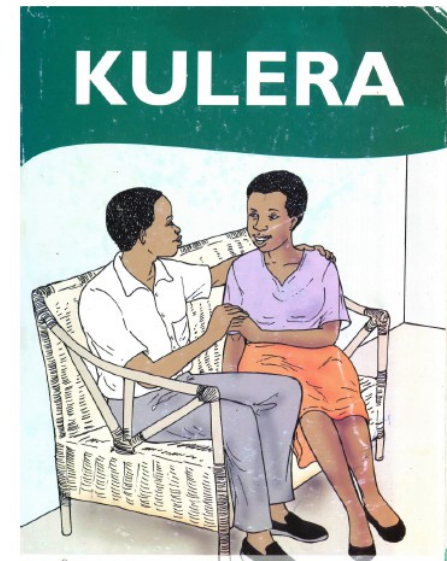


Questions about sustainability and scale-up

- **Anchor in existing structures – definitely important for sustainability!**
- **Important that interventions have been designed with local inputs – but how adapt to other regions within country and across countries?**

Zhang and Karra - Malawi

- Investigate two channels through which user-centered information provision affects concordance between stated and revealed preferences: **male involvement** and tailored counseling
 - Male involvement means “invite husband to participate in counseling” (no information on what percent of wives actually invited them)
- Authors find changes in stated ideal method over time (tailored counseling group)
- Those who received short counseling – “more unsatisfied” with current method at



- **How is stated vs. revealed preference measured and what is hypothesized about this?**
- **How is satisfaction measured? (follow-up ideal vs. actual?)**
- **Lack of change may make sense (e.g., 3 month injectable is method she is using)**

Final observations

- Interventions discussed here cover different areas:
 - Men as partners (some of young wives)
 - Men as target group
 - Couple-based activities
- We still lack clarity on what works best for engaging men; we just know that many strategies have been tried (or proposed in CIP)

Question:

- **Are any participants...**
 - **Working with male/community religious leaders**
 - **Addressing policy/protocols to support male engagement**
 - **Helping men (and women) unlearn harmful gender norms**

Would love to hear what you are doing and how it compliments what we learned today