



Annual report

2023

Implementing the MenEngage Alliance Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Contents

Executive summary: Highlights & overall reflections on the year	3
How this report is organised	19
Report from the Global Secretariat	20
<i>PRIORITY ISSUES</i>	21
- Gender-based violence & discrimination against women & girls	21
- Digital and technological change, online facilitated violence & masculinities	24
- SRHR & masculinities	25
- LGBTQI rights & SOGIESC inclusivity	27
- Militarisation & masculinities	28
- Unpaid care, the new economy & masculinities	29
- Climate justice & masculinities	30
- Decolonization	33
- Youth leadership and engagement	34
<i>RESULT AREAS</i>	36
1. Strengthened MenEngage Alliance networks & leadership	36
1.1 Governance structures and leadership capabilities	37
1.2 Membership engagement	47
1.3 Cross-regional and cross-country collaborations	59
1.4 Engagement and influence of members in MenEngage Global decision-making	64

2. Accountable Policy Advocacy and Political Voice	67
2.1 Advocacy capacity and mechanisms	72
2.2 Joint advocacy actions	77
2.3 Visible public stances and positions	83
3. Effective and Strengthened Programming	85
3.1 Access to knowledge and evidence	86
3.2 Accountability	91
3.3 Backlash against gender justice	94
4. Strengthened Movement-Building Approaches	97
4.1 Intersectional gender and social justice movements	98
4.2 Partnerships and solidarity actions	101
4.3 SOGIESC inclusive organising	111
Reports from the Regional Networks	113
MenEngage Africa	113
Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN)	120
MenEngage Europe Network	126
MenEngage Americana Latina	141
North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN)	144
MenEngage South Asia (MEASA)	148
MenEngage Lebanon	155
A word of thanks	159
Glossary	160

Executive summary: Highlights & overall reflections on the year

The work of feminist social and climate justice movements is taking place in the context of rising global backlash against progress made for women's rights, LGBTQI rights, and gender justice - as well as shrinking space for democracy, freedom of opinion and assembly, and the very notion of human rights. Despite the fact that gender equality has not been achieved in any country, recent studies find that men and boys are feeling increasingly threatened by progress for women's rights (in the [United Kingdom](#), [France](#), [across Europe](#), the [USA](#), [South Korea](#), and [20 countries worldwide](#) including Japan, India, Senegal, Kenya, Colombia and Brazil). Online influencers who appeal to patriarchal masculinities and stereotypical norms based on aggression, dominance, violence, and controlling behaviour are finding mass appeal - particularly among young men. Many boys and men are being exposed to such harmful messaging around masculinities online. They receive disinformation about feminism and gender equality. Such trends have real-world consequences for women, girls and gender queer communities, as well as men and boys themselves.

In this context, the voice and actions by men and boys to support and advocate for gender equality and as allies to feminist movements has never been more relevant. There is a greater importance of MenEngage Alliance to step up with our members, be vocal in our support and allyship, and mobilise men and boys for transforming masculinities and advancing feminist systems change. We seek to make a difference in a hugely and increasingly difficult context, "steering the MenEngage Alliance boat" through extremely rocky waters - building and sustaining a vibrant social change network. As the leading feminist-informed international network, *with members in 92 countries around the world*, seeking to engage men and boys and transform masculinities towards feminist systems change, MenEngage Alliance is uniquely positioned to convene the experiences and expertise of practitioners, activists and researchers. Through the organisation of thematic consultations, expert presentations, peer-to-peer discussions, and online learning spaces, we collectively develop standards for this work to improve how men and masculinities work is done in practice; and articulate critical positions to influence and advance policies and politics related to men and masculinities work.

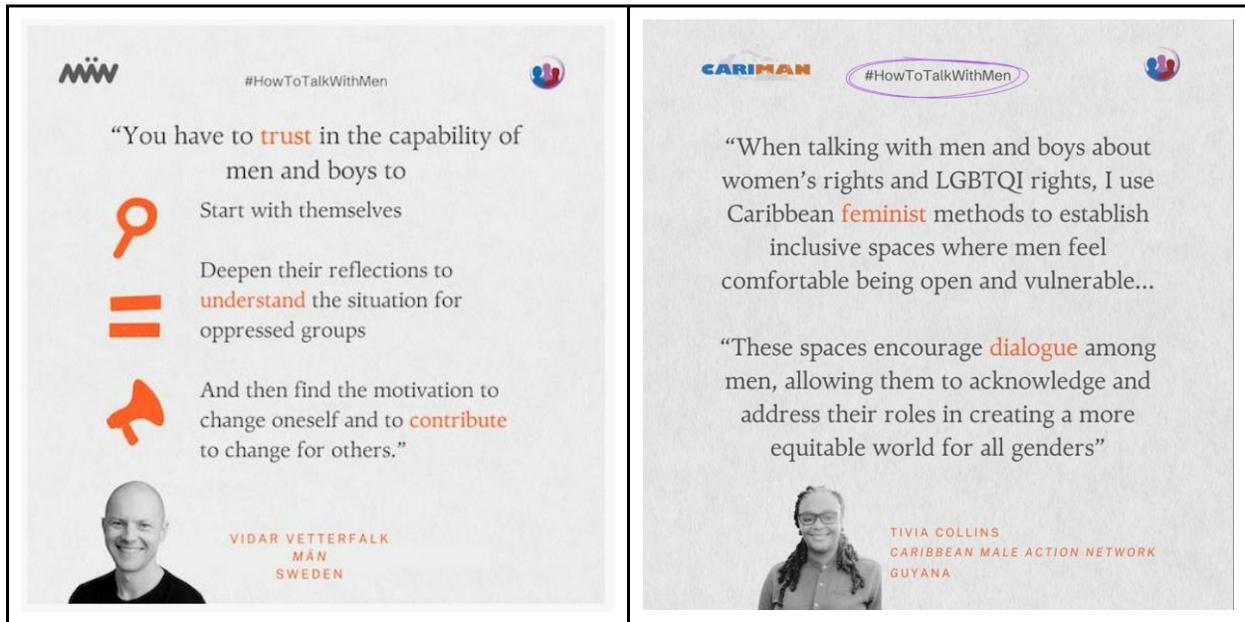
This is some of the progress we made in 2023:

Full details of these activities can be read in the detailed report below.

Building and consolidating the evidence

Bringing men and boys in on the work for gender justice can be challenging, and is often met with resistance. In 2023 we launched the [#HowToTalkWithMen campaign](#), calling for ideas, stories, and reflections of the approaches and messages that have proved to be effective in opening up transformative discussions and engage men and boys on gender equality, women's rights, LGBTQI rights, masculinities, patriarchy, privilege, and addressing the roots of gender-based violence, among other issues. The campaign will continue in the coming year/s and will be adapted to highlight and discuss pressing issues with men and boys, at national, regional and global levels.





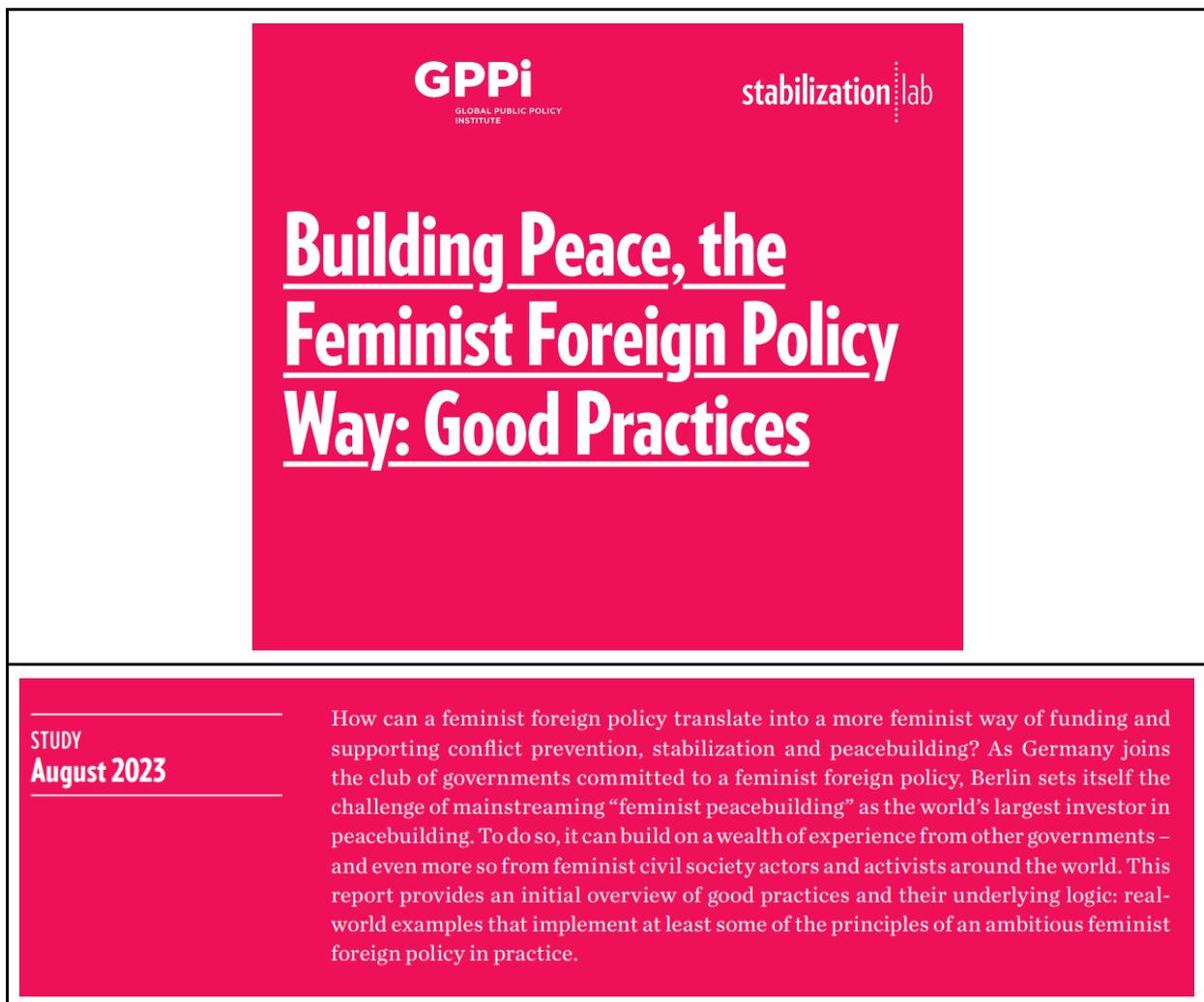
We successfully embarked on a concrete journey to contribute to build knowledge and evidence on what works when engaging men and boys. We launched the **member-led peer learning sessions** as part of the MenEngage Alliance Learning Collaborative (CoLab). In partnership with UN Women, this first series focused on members’ **promising practices to engage men and boys in ending and preventing GBV**, with the aim to consolidate the evidence on what works. We will have the summary report available in 2024. We will continue the peer learning sessions on other priority issues - such as countering the backlash - in the coming year/s. During its first year in-action, the MenEngage CoLab is proving to be a space for Alliance members and partners to co-create, share experiences and knowledge, and strengthen movement building.

We organised over 50 online and in-person **global dialogues with experts on varying issues from a critical men and masculinities lens** - including on redefining masculinities; engaging men and boys in ending VAWG; fatherhood programs; accountable male allyship; decolonization; inner work for social change; working with faith-based leaders; men supporting feminist systems change; uprooting patriarchal masculinities in the digital sphere; unpacking masculinities in media; male allyship in the right to safe and legal abortion; etc. **We published 54 new videos** on the MenEngage Global [YouTube channel](#) in English, Spanish and French-including playlists according to themes such as GBV, backlash, climate, militarism and so on. In total, videos on the channel received nearly 12,000 views in 2023, and close to 1000 subscribers.

Our Regional Networks (co-)organised **regional symposia and colloquia on men and masculinities**, including the [3rd MenEngage Africa regional symposium](#) and its *Youth pre-*

symposium; the *MenEngage Africa SRHR Learning and Exchange Symposium*; the *Transforming Masculinities Symposium* and the *Knowledge Fair: Empowering Voices, Ending Gender-Based Violence* in the Caribbean and North America; and continued partnership of MenEngage South Asia in the pan-Asian *REFRAME conference* with feminist partners. MenEngage Europe co-organised the National Forum in Albania on "Boys and Men who inspire - Transforming patriarchal masculinities".

We built **evidence to inform advocacy**: Our work featured as [a promising practice of networks building for promoting feminist foreign policy](#) by the Global Public Policy Institute, with the aim to influence Germany and other governments' FFP development. The study highlights the transformation of masculinities as a vital part of this work, alongside the resourcing of women's rights organisations, women peacebuilders and young feminist activists in crisis settings.



The image shows the cover of a study report. The top half features a white background with a large red rectangular area in the center. Inside this red area, the GPPi logo (Global Public Policy Institute) is on the left, and the stabilizationlab logo is on the right. The main title, "Building Peace, the Feminist Foreign Policy Way: Good Practices", is written in large, bold, white, underlined text across the center of the red area. The bottom half of the image has a solid red background. On the left side of this red area, the text "STUDY August 2023" is written in white, with "STUDY" in all caps and "August 2023" in title case. To the right of this text, a white paragraph provides a summary of the study's focus.

STUDY
August 2023

How can a feminist foreign policy translate into a more feminist way of funding and supporting conflict prevention, stabilization and peacebuilding? As Germany joins the club of governments committed to a feminist foreign policy, Berlin sets itself the challenge of mainstreaming “feminist peacebuilding” as the world’s largest investor in peacebuilding. To do so, it can build on a wealth of experience from other governments – and even more so from feminist civil society actors and activists around the world. This report provides an initial overview of good practices and their underlying logic: real-world examples that implement at least some of the principles of an ambitious feminist foreign policy in practice.

The MenEngage Network



⁵⁸ Leandra Bias and Yasmine Janah, "Scoping Study: Masculinities, Violence, and Peace," *Swisspeace*, November 2022, accessed May 5, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3QBAP00>.

MenEngage is a global network that brings together organizations working with men to fight against gendered social inequalities and gender-based violence. For instance, the network supports initiatives in conflict contexts that gather men to discuss their ideas of what it means to be a man, how these expectations contribute to violence, and how they can be overcome. This approach is based on the finding that patriarchal characteristics like violence and domination are learned behaviors determined by dominant social ideas of what it means to be a man (i.e., masculinities). As such, these characteristics are one of the root causes of violence.⁵⁸ MenEngage encourages the transformation of masculinities toward less oppressive and less violent alternatives.

Together with the World Health Organization (WHO), Queen's University Belfast, University of Western Cape and Stellenbosch University we carried out a **collaborative research priority setting exercise on SRHR and Masculinities**. MenEngage Alliance led the broad stakeholder consultations of this collaboration. The findings and recommendations are being compiled in an article in *The Lancet*, *forthcoming in 2024*, that will outline the gender transformative research priorities that will contribute to steering the next generation of research on masculinities to advance gender equality and SRHR as twin goals.

Together with WILPF we have been working on a joint multi-year project "[Confronting Militarised Masculinities - Building Alliances, Analysis and Advocacy](#)".

Since 2020 the project includes creating critical space for solidarity dialogues, production of participatory feminist political economy analysis and research, and advocacy. The evidence-base from the project's research has helped to have better understanding on the importance of **going beyond "engaging men" to exploring feminist approaches to gender transformation that tackle militarised masculinities and the war economy**.



**Mobilising Men for
Feminist Peace**

The collaboration has generated a [rich body of research](#) by academics and thought leaders from partner countries and elsewhere around the world and seeks to strengthen our understanding of the causes and impacts of militarised masculinities and of strategies that can effectively mobilise men to take action for feminist peace.

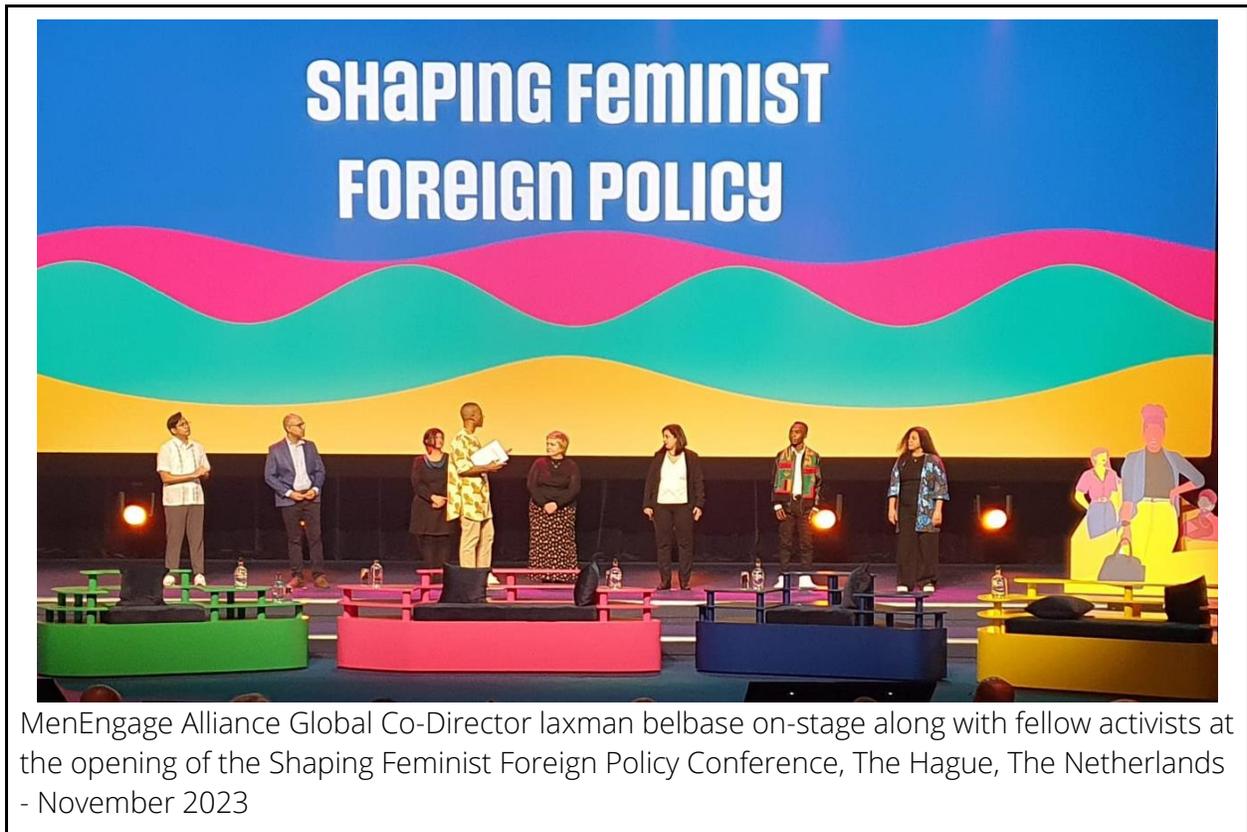
Influencing policy

We were able to have a significant impact on policies to include a more robust normative framework on engaging men and boys through our Alliance-wide advocacy efforts, in partnership with women's rights, LGBTIQ rights and other activist groups.

"Transforming patriarchal masculinity" finally made it in the UN normative framework, through the [Human Rights Council resolution](#) on eliminating child, early and forced marriage. *Why is this important?* Because engaging men and boys as individuals is not enough: sustainable change will also require transformation of "patriarchal masculinities" and dismantling stereotypical social norms, which are at the roots of the current systems that create violence and inequalities. Think of masculinities and violence against women, girls and gender non-conforming people; militarization and nationalism; and the economic exploitation of people and the planet.

MenEngage Alliance members showed-up in-person to hold the line in global policy spaces and to rebuild partnerships with feminist movement and policy makers at the United Nations in New York - including at UNGA and the SDG Summit 2023, the Global People's Assembly, the GEF Mid-Point moment - and at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. We mobilised over 50 members, from across our regional networks, to influence the 67th session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** and raised awareness about the interconnections between online misogyny, the so-called "manosphere" and digital backlash (*see box further down*). At the regional level, MenEngage Malawi was integral to the team that co-hosted the Africa pre-CSW consultations and contributed significant inputs into the Lilongwe Declaration. Malawi and Uganda also contributed inputs into the relevant sections of the ICPD Shadow report launched at the Women Deliver Conference 2023.

We collaborated closely with the **UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls** (part of the UN Human Rights Special Procedures) in the development and launch of their new report on [Men's accountability for gender equality](#). We continued conversation with the **CEDAW Committee** to [support their work](#) to hold states accountable for their commitments, and will provide a briefing to the Committee in 2024 on how they can use their mandate to advance intersectional feminist policy-making inclusive of a critical men and masculinities normative framework. In Sri Lanka the MenEngage Sri Lanka network members engaged and contributed in the development of the [National Action Plan on addressing SGBV \(2023-2027\)](#). In Nepal, MenEngage Nepal network members contributed in finalising the National MenEngagement Strategy with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens, with its adoption still pending.



MenEngage Alliance Global Co-Director Laxman Belbase on-stage along with fellow activists at the opening of the Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands - November 2023

In November we co-organized several sessions on male allyship at the [Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy](#) conference organized by the Dutch Government. Laxman Belbase, one of our Global Co-Directors, was an [ambassador for the conference](#) along with other activists and changemakers committed to women's rights, LGBTIQ rights and gender equality from around the world. Towards the end of 2023 we joined the [FFP Collaborative](#), building the ground for deeper support and collaboration across government, civil society and philanthropy to collectively strategize and advance feminist approaches to foreign policy and international development cooperation in the coming years.

Contributing to movement building & making our voices heard

We contributed to **stronger movements** demanding rights and justice through feminist systems transformation. We joined and/or continued to be part of networks and alliances, including the [Alliance for Feminist Movements](#), the Women's Rights Caucus and the Women's Major Group at the United Nations, the GEF Action Coalition Core Group, the [Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice](#) ("Action Nexus"), and the [Women and Gender Constituency](#) - amongst others.

We made our voices heard through **issuing statements on pressing political issues**, including by calling an [end to technology fueled patriarchal masculinities online and offline](#) (co-signed by more than 170 CSO partners, for CSW67 - see boxed text); called out [male violence towards women and girls](#); and stood with the LGBTQI in [celebration of love and gender freedom](#). We joined the global call for an [immediate ceasefire in the Palestine-Israel conflict](#) - pointing out that militarised, masculine, violence-fueled responses to conflict have gotten us nowhere near the peace and safety that the people so desperately desire. We added MenEngage Alliance support behind calls for sign-ons from intersectional feminist actors around the world (see section 4.2 of the report).

MenEngage Alliance is calling out online misogyny and the manosphere:

Abstract from: [Statement on the issue of masculinities and digital technology](#) submitted by MenEngage Alliance and co-signed by 171 members as part of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women:

Rapid information and technological change is also affecting expressions and experiences of patriarchal masculinities across the globe, amplifying the capacity for men's rights and other misogynistic groups to plan, organize and mobilize violence against women and girls both online and offline. Authoritarian, militaristic, and patriarchal governments continue to use their increasing technological capacities to monitor civilians, especially women-, indigenous-, religious minority-, (dis)ability-, LGBTIQ- and environmental- rights defenders.

Therefore, gender transformative work with men and boys is critically important, including in amplify messaging of alternative expressions of manhood, in organizing against anti-feminist actors and online misogynistic media and groups, and to develop better strategies alongside feminist, youth, LGBTIQ and other marginalized movements in calling for feminist systems transformation in information and technology.

To advance 'men and masculinities' lens on **climate and environmental justice**, our working group joined the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference (Dubai, January); and the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact (Paris, June).

We issued an OpEd calling out [the connections between patriarchal masculinities and the ongoing climate crisis](#). In the meantime, we stood in solidarity with peaceful protesters in Uganda - including a MenEngage Alliance member - who were arrested for speaking out against a fossil fuel project.



We started our **learning initiative on Countering Backlash** with MenEngage members. We launched member consultations to map the impact of anti-gender forces on our members and networks at regional and country levels, and to identify possible strategic actions to disrupt the patriarchal backlash. These consultations will inform a report and proposed strategic direction for the Alliance in 2024. In the meantime, we continue to engage with various partners through the program "[countering backlash](#)" coordinated by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS).

2023 was a significant year on strengthening the **youth engagement and leadership** agenda within the Alliance's work, so that their voices are at the table and meaningfully heard. MenEngage youth representatives from across the eight regions (Africa, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, North America, South Asia, South East Asia and the Middle East) were selected by the Regional Networks and invited at-large member organisations for convening together to develop collective plans for the agenda. They came together in December in Kigali, Rwanda, for a week of community building and strategizing. The group identified its representatives to the Global Board as well as to the various thematic and strategic working groups of the Alliance, strengthening their inclusion in the Alliance's decision making body.



The MenEngage Youth Reference Group at its meeting in Kigali, Rwanda - December 2023

How did we conduct all this work? As an Alliance: working together as members and partners, through our country, regional and global interconnected networks. With over 1100 members in 92 countries around the world, our work on ourselves is important to put our mission to transform patriarchal masculinities into practice:

Transforming the Alliance from within

We are all products of patriarchal society - MenEngage members, and the structures we've built to work together - are no exception. In 2023 we continued our key efforts to transform the Alliance from within, to be the change we want to see in the world. This is part of the Alliance's critical role to support members in the programmatic work they do with men and boys in the communities on the ground - in our collective efforts to improve how that work is done in ways that uphold critical standards of accountability and intersectional feminist approaches.

Strengthening accountable practices in the work to engage men and boys continues to be one of our core areas of work. It is a lens through which we ongoingly assess all of our efforts, and we strive to walk-the-talk in all the actions we undertake. In 2023 we **established an Accountability team** composed of representatives from all the regional networks that collectively lead the accountability initiative thereby reinstating our collective commitments towards strengthening accountable practices at all levels of the Alliance. The group reached a consensus to develop and implement a **Global Accountability Learning Project (GALP)** aimed at fostering synergies to advance our work in accountable ways over the next two years.



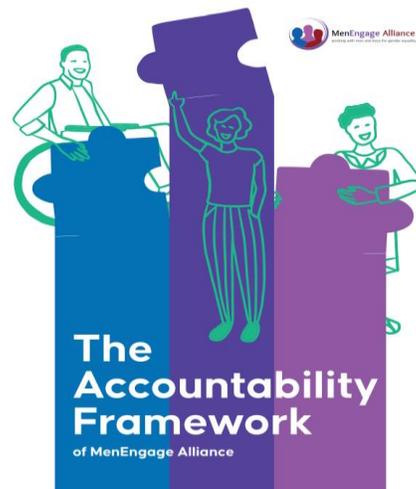
Participants from across the MenEngage Regional Networks at the Accountability Workshop in Istanbul, Turkey - September 2023

Workshops and training sessions on accountability enhanced the understanding of accountable practices among MenEngage leaders and members - including through an in-person workshop in Istanbul with representatives from all our Regional Networks. These capacity strengthening efforts are fostering an increased commitment to critically reflect, improve, and practice accountability in our work. This includes addressing accountability challenges within our networks to set a leading example.

Furthermore, the networks in Africa, Caribbean, Europe and South Asia organised regional sensitisation workshops for their members ([See the regional network section for more information](#)). The [network in India](#) further organised a workshop for its members, following the establishment of MenEngage India network, on the Alliance's Accountability Framework.

We are observing an **increased use of the updated [MenEngage Accountability Framework](#)** as a key reference for member organisations, networks, and other practitioners involved in the field of gender and masculinities work.

We **handled cases** of breach of accountability, sexual harassment accusations and power abuse at the national and regional levels, thereby strengthening our capabilities and resilience in dealing with challenging situations across the Alliance.



We organised a **learning series on decolonization** to create a safer - and bolder - space for discussion about how neo-colonialism and global North-South power dynamics show up within the Alliance and our work. To better understand what decolonization is and isn't, we [heard from experts from around the world](#) with the vision to develop strategy for MenEngage Alliance. A summarised report and articulated commitments on next steps will be shared in 2024.

We continued to convene around the question **how “inner work” can contribute to “social change”**, by convening practice-based sessions, bringing together over 200 participants. The sessions grappled with strategic questions from the perspective of men's and boys roles, and how norms around masculinity inhibit or support inner work. These discussions identified the need to consolidate the knowledge base arising from the last few years of convening members around this agenda and to work together to articulate the Alliance's political stance.

Networks building and membership engagement

Our role is to build a strong and resilient social change community. A support environment in which people and organisations have the community, resources, vision and tools to advance their work. Resulting in our member organisations and activists, who are working with men and boys in the communities and institutions, upholding intersectional feminist quality standards and principles in practice.

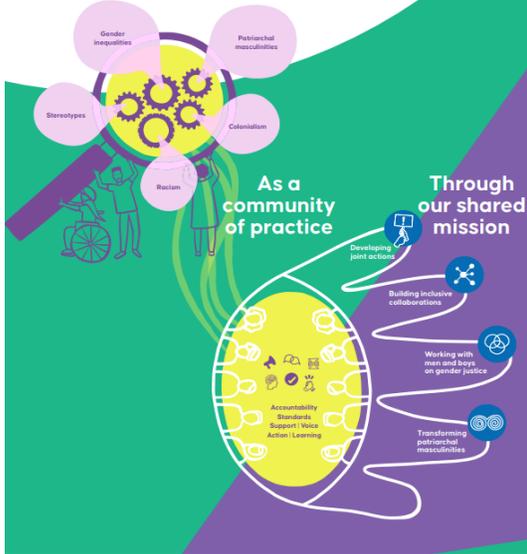
We **strengthened governance structures of the regional networks**, particularly in the Africa, Caribbean, Latin America, South Asia, and Middle East regions. This included **sub-granting to the Alliance's Regional Networks** through funds raised at the global level, as well as initiating the process of mobilising organisations in **South Korea to initiate the process towards establishing a new country-network**.

We improved engagement and influence of members in MenEngage Global planning and decision making. At the start of the year (February) we organised **a Town Hall for members** to learn about and share inputs on the global plans for MenEngage Alliance in 2023. And in June we organised the **3rd MenEngage Alliance Global Members' Assembly**, which included reaffirmation of shared commitments, strategizing on the future of MenEngage Alliance, and engagements in collective reflection and growth on the themes of intersectional feminist analysis and decolonization. The regional network in South Asia initiated the year with its **regional assembly "what it means to be a member"** ([see regional network section for more information](#)).

To **make our Theory of Change and Strategic Plan more accessible**, we launched the [MenEngage Handbook](#): a highly visual guide that includes summaries of the Alliance's vision, mission, Accountability Framework (core principles, code of conduct and accountability standards), theory of change, and our collective roadmap. We developed a **comprehensive member onboarding process** and continued with the **membership reaffirmation process** to strengthen conceptual clarity and a shared understanding of the Alliance's mission and vision among members.

Our Theory of Change

We aim to challenge



Towards a shared vision

A world where all people are equal and free from discrimination – a world in which gender justice and human rights are recognized, promoted and protected.

Using these strategies



Our roadmap 2021-2024

This section summarizes the intended intervention of MenEngage Alliance. It is summarized from the 'Intervention Logic' section of our [Strategic Plan 2021-24](#).

Our Strategies for Change

LINK
LEARN
IMPROVE
INFLUENCE

Our Result Areas

Strengthened Alliance Networks & Leadership

More Effective Programming

Strengthened Movement-Building Approaches

Accountable Policy Advocacy & Political Voice

Our goal

is to be a capable, inclusive and accountable social change network. We aim to harness the collective energy of our members to contribute to improved discourse, policy and programs. We aim to do so in partnership with feminist, LGBTQI, youth, climate and social justice movements.

The impact we want to make

is to contribute to transforming patriarchal masculinities. This includes mobilizing men, boys, and male identified individuals as agents of change for gender justice. By 2024 we aspire to have made a meaningful contribution to ending patriarchal power, protecting human rights and achieving gender equality and social justice.

Core Principles



We stand for women's rights & gender justice



We embrace intersectional feminism



We support human rights for all



We work to disrupt & end patriarchy



We embrace diverse identities and expressions of gender and sexuality



We strive to address racism & its root causes



We believe in the capability of men and boys to support gender justice



We strive to decolonize our systems, practices, values & mindsets



We believe transformation must begin with ourselves



We are accountable for our words, actions & decisions

Visuals from the MenEngage Handbook, a comprehensive summary of the Alliance's vision, mission, Theory of Change and Accountability Framework.

Strengthening communications

People's opinions are increasingly influenced by what they see and hear online. It can hardly be underestimated how important a strong online political voice on engaging men and boys towards women's rights, gender equality, social and climate justice is.

The below summary details the reach and engagement across MenEngage Global's social media platforms. This is in addition to the many more accounts used by our members and country- and regional networks.

We made ourselves visible on social media. We published a total of 774 posts across our [X](#) (formerly Twitter), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. We gained a total of 2130 new followers across these platforms in 2023 - bringing the total to 23,838 followers.

We sent 100+ mail-outs to the global mailing list of nearly 7000 subscribers. Our emails were opened close to 100,000 times, and links clicked more than 10,000 times. Our website received 46,000+ unique visitors, with 120,000 page views.

A highlight was how a campaign like #HowToTalkWithMen was able to actively involve members and partners, leveraging their expertise. The campaign was a moment for our members to share their unique experiences and personal reflections and insights into what it is like to hold spaces with men and boys -whether in the community, workplaces, or institutions. Emphasising collective action and showcasing how the campaign mobilised members truly demonstrates the strength of our network, and supports them to feel the significance of their contributions, understanding that they are fundamental to our work and mission as MenEngage Alliance.

Building strategic partnerships

A milestone this year was the realisation that we have been heading towards being successful in establishing MenEngage Alliance as an unequivocal partner and accountable ally of women's rights and feminist organisations - not only within the "development paradigm" but also, and most importantly, within the "political/ideological paradigm", around increased participation, awareness and responsibility among boys and men regarding feminism, women's rights, gender equality, and social justice.

The Global Secretariat represented the Alliance in key spaces: In addition to our role in the Shaping FFP conference (see above), the MenEngage Global Secretariat was invited at a **strategy meeting by FCDO and the UK Government at Wilton Park** "[What will it take to end gender based violence? Rethinking pathways to preventing violence at scale](#)". The meeting brought together 48 leading experts from the feminist movements to contribute to stock

taking of progress in the development and adaptation of evidence-based GBV prevention strategies and discuss concrete opportunities to strengthen advocacy and funding infrastructure for the prevention of GBV. We were invited by the **EU Mission to the United Nations in NYC and Spotlight Initiative** to present at a high-level side event of the [Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls](#) on “[Engaging men and boys: Showcasing Spotlight Initiative - a high-impact model for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals](#)”.

After COVID19 travel limitations have reduced the capacity to maintain dedicated in-person contact, in 2023 we made a dedicated effort to re-establish in-person relationships with policy-makers, Governments, UN agencies and feminist movements in Geneva and New York. Members from across the Alliance were continually invited by government partners **to provide technical inputs for their global and national gender equality strategies and policies inclusive of men and masculinities lens** - including Sida, Norad, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's office of the Government of South Africa, the Government of Rwanda, UNDP Sri Lanka, UN Women Head Office, WHO Human Rights unit, UN Working Group on Discrimination of Women. We also provided technical support and inputs to NORAD for their global strategy on SRHR and GBV.

In 2023 developing and strengthening partnerships with donor and feminist partner organisations remained a priority. During this year we were able to have a new partnership with UN Women on practitioners led knowledge and evidence building on the prevention and ending of GBV; and we continued to partner with WHO and others on SRHR and masculinities (*see above*). We are a member of **The Nest network-of-networks convened by the UN Foundation**, including networks of women leaders in government, business, and philanthropy, as well as networks of male allies. We were humbled to be reached out to and considered a **partner in organising the SVRI Forum 2024**, which showcases the level of trust and collaborations we have been able to foster ongoingly with key feminist partners within the broader feminist movements.

SVRI and MenEngage Alliance: A powerful partnership model for building the field

By Elizabeth Dartnall, Executive Director, SVRI

“Over the past few years our relationship with MenEngage Alliance has increasingly deepened. The partnership began with MenEngage actively reaching out to discuss accountability and the value of SVRI Forum as a platform to deepen their work with feminist researchers and activists in the field. In our interactions, MenEngage colleagues have always been generous – in terms of time, intellect, and resources. They have modelled feminist partnerships in true and practical ways. For example, they have regularly invited us to share space in platforms for debate and knowledge sharing; when they can, they have provided financial support to the Forum; they have always been available to provide inputs and engage on SVRI processes and events, where our work intersects; they

introduced us to one of their key funding partners, paving the way for us to build a funding partnership beyond our then existing funding partners and they invited us to be part of their Board. For us, the significance of partnering with MenEngage - a powerful voice in our field - is clear. Working together in these many meaningful ways has amplified our complementary expertise, networks and resources for advancing knowledge on how to prevent GBV, promote gender equality and create safer communities for all. Overall, the partnership between MenEngage and SVRI serves as a powerful model for collaboration in the field of gender equality and GBV prevention."

Another milestone for this year was our **collaboration with Sida on co-organising a consultation with governments that have made commitments to work with men and boys in gender equality**, with the objective of orienting them on the politics of the work as well as to offer our support in their efforts on the agenda. We continued strengthening our **partnership with FORD Foundation** which resulted in us being considered for longer term funding to help institutional strengthening and grounding our collective political movement building orientation as an Alliance.

Sustaining the work: an ongoing challenge for feminist and social justice movements

With the upsurge of global contexts of conservative regimes and shrinking space for civil society, the result is an extremely uneven terrain between actors campaigning *for* or *against* the human rights of women, LGBTQI* people, and other politically marginalised groups. Perhaps the most important indicator of this is the current funding scale and landscape, with reduced funding availability and defunding of civil society organisations and networks working for progress, resulting in a significant negative impact on the ability to provide essential services to marginalised populations as well as strengthening political movement building among feminist and social justice actors. Where limited funds are available it has been modified to fund specific development project types of interventions through extremely competitive processes, with no or limited scope to support political coalition and alliance building efforts among the feminist actors. As MenEngage Alliance, we were not immune to this unfortunate reality, resulting in fundraising challenges and to sustain the Alliance going forward. This is a real struggle, as it is for all who are working in the gender and social justice movement.

We express our sincere gratitude to and allyship with our feminist partners who we worked closely with during the year. We are thankful to our solid donors and partners who have shown unwavering commitment and support. And we are grateful to all the members of MenEngage Alliance without whom all this work would not have been possible.

How this report is organised

In this Annual Report for 2023 we - MenEngage Alliance - describe the trends, activities, and anticipated impacts of our work across various issues and levels:

The report is divided into TWO main sections.

In section ONE, you will find the [Report from the MenEngage Global Secretariat](#). This section is divided in two parts:

The first is Priority Issues. This section describes our work on advancing gender transformative approaches with men and boys across priority issues related to gender equality and social justice.

The second part describes our work through the strategic pillars of the Global Strategy of MenEngage Alliance taking place at cross-regional and global levels. Within the section, text in grey boxes shows the desired goals, outputs and outcomes as articulated in the [Alliance's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#).

In section TWO, you will find the [Reports from the MenEngage Regional Networks](#), including regional activities, trends, and 2023 priority areas.

Report from the Global Secretariat

This section of the report details activities conducted at global level and cross-regionally around our Priority Issues and the four Results Areas set out in the [2021-24 Strategic Plan](#):

1. Strengthened MenEngage Alliance Networks & Leadership
2. Accountable Policy Advocacy and Political Voice
3. Effective and Strengthened Programming
4. Strengthened Movement-Building Approaches

These results areas – or strategic pillars – form the framework for advancing the mission of MenEngage Alliance to transform unequal power relations and dismantle patriarchal systems by:

- ❖ Transforming patriarchal masculinities and rigid social norms around manhood;
- ❖ Working with men and boys through intersectional feminist approaches;
- ❖ Building inclusive alliances from local to regional to global levels; and
- ❖ Fostering joint actions in partnership with women’s rights, gender- and other social justice movements.

This report can be seen as documenting how we have used our resources and energy in 2023 to contribute towards the desired impact and goals:

Impact: *By 2024, MenEngage Alliance has contributed to transforming patriarchal masculinities and mobilising men and boys as agents of change for gender justice, thereby contributing to ending patriarchal power, protecting human rights and achieving gender equality and social justice.*

Goal: *By 2024, MenEngage Alliance is a capable, inclusive and accountable social change network, harnessing the collective energy of our members, thereby contributing to improved discourse, policy and programs, in partnership with feminist, LGBTQIA+ and social justice movements.*

See the [2021-24 Strategic Plan](#) for more information about our values and theoretical/political concepts that form the basis of the work of MenEngage Alliance across national, regional and global levels.

PRIORITY ISSUES

- Gender-based violence & discrimination against women & girls

While there is emerging evidence indicating positive effects of gender transformative work with men and boys, a strong evidence base is still lacking. There are many programs and projects among our members at grassroots levels, which are still not well documented and disseminated. This calls for combining existing knowledge with emerging evidence on promising practices in transforming discriminatory norms, intergenerational and human development research, programs and advocacy efforts on men and masculinities work. This links to the urgent need to harvest practice-based knowledge and evidence on transforming patriarchal masculinities to prevent violence against women and girls, to support the decolonization of knowledge and leadership, as well as challenge the existing knowledge hierarchy within the field.

In collaboration with UN Women and members of MenEngage Alliance, we organised [8 peer-learning sessions](#) on engaging men and boys in ending and preventing GBV.

With these sessions we aim to strengthen understanding on the political, economic, social and technological forces and factors that confront the world today, and therefore shape the contexts in which the work on transforming patriarchal masculinities and engaging men and boys for gender and social justice takes place. Through the MenEngage Learning Collaborative (the CoLab) created spaces to collect evidence from members and partners on promising practices, and develop a “go-to” source of information about gender transformative approaches on working with men and boys in prevention of GBV, women’s rights and gender justice. *(For more information see section 3.1: Access to knowledge and evidence)*

On the International Day for the Elimination of All Violence Against Women and Girls we issued a [statement](#) that called on all men and boys, in all their diversities, to step up and be part of the solution as accountable allies to women, girls and gender nonconforming people in preventing and ending all forms of gender-based violence. We argue that ending and preventing all violence against all women and girls will require men and boys to critically examine their own power and privilege, to engage in deep personal reflections, and commit to act for gender justice. We took this moment to encourage men and boys to take a pledge and join the call of [White Ribbon](#) to never commit, condone or remain silent about any type of violence against women and girls.

As part of our advocacy commitments *(See also sections 2.1 and 2.2)* we mobilised and facilitated MenEngage membership engagement in global advocacy and activism spaces, to influence towards an intersectional-feminist informed political agenda on engaging men and transforming masculinities:

We continued to provide our support and technical expertise to the UN [Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls](#) - WGDAW (*part of the Human Rights Special Procedures*). The Working Group addresses the elimination of discrimination against women in law and in practice in all fields from the perspective of States' obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights. It emphasises that national, regional and international human rights mechanisms, as well as grass-roots activists, play critical roles in ensuring the full enjoyment by women of their human rights.

- **Provided technical expertise into WGDAW's new report on [Men's accountability for gender equality](#).** The report argues that achieving gender equality requires a significant shift, from men's mere engagement to focusing on men's accountability for gender equality to redistributing power and dismantling systems of male privilege. The report contains an outline of the Working Group's position on men's accountability for gender equality and sets out lessons from emerging approaches and promising practices and key principles underpinning men's role in advancing gender equality.
- **Organised a strategic political dialogue on Men's Accountability for Gender Equality with WGDAW.** Following the collaboration between MenEngage Alliance and the Working Group on the development of the above report, we worked alongside the special procedures body to organise a hybrid panel to discuss the outcomes of the report and explore areas in need of continued dialogue. The session focused on the fact that gender equality requires a significant shift, from men's mere engagement to focusing on men's accountability for gender equality to redistributing power and dismantling systems of male privilege. Our Co-Chair Samitha Sugathamala spoke as a panellist and supported in identifying a feminist partner, COFEM, to be represented within the discussion.
- **Connected members to WGDAW for their country visits:** We facilitated introduction of the Working Group members and our members located in Malta, to create a space for them to connect during the country visit, with the aim to explore the status of women's rights and gender justice within the context. The WG has a mandate to connect with men and boys doing work for gender equality during their country visits and with the ongoing partnership with MenEngage Alliance, we facilitated a working collaboration in which these direct introductions are possible.

**General Assembly**Distr.: General
7 February 2023

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on discrimination against women and girls
Thirty-seventh session
New York, 8–12 May 2023**Men’s accountability for gender equality****Guidance document of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls**A/HRC/WG.11/37/1

Introduction and context

1. Over the past 12 years, the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls has documented progress, gaps and challenges in the realization of the human rights of women and girls. In the context of fragile gains, slow progress and growing backlash, the Working Group considers it important to mobilize and activate a broad range of actors to advance the human rights of women and girls and change gender norms. Gender inequality is an expression of deeply entrenched systemic discrimination based on unequal power relations that must be transformed to advance gender equality. The engagement of men and boys in achieving gender equality is critical. The notion that men and boys have a role and responsibility, or indeed accountability, for ending gender inequality has a long history in feminist activism, as part of which men have been called upon to support women in ending violence, discrimination and gender injustice.¹

The MenEngage Global Secretariat was invited at a **strategy meeting by Ford Foundation and FCDO/the UK Government at Wilton Park** “[What will it take to end gender based violence? Rethinking pathways to preventing violence at scale](#)”. The meeting brought together 48 leading experts from the feminist movements to contribute to stock taking of progress in the development and adaptation of evidence-based GBV prevention strategies and discuss concrete opportunities to strengthen advocacy and funding infrastructure for the prevention of GBV.

- Digital and technological change, online facilitated violence & masculinities

Rapid information and technological changes are increasingly shaping and re-shaping expressions and experiences of patriarchal masculinities across the globe.

This is amplifying the capacity for men's rights and other misogynistic groups to plan, organise and mobilise violence against women and girls both online and offline. We believe that gender transformative work with men and boys is critically important, including by amplifying messaging of alternative expressions of manhood; in organising against anti-feminist actors and online misogynistic media and groups; and to develop better strategies alongside feminist, youth, LGBTIQ and other marginalised movements in calling for feminist systems transformation across information and technology spaces.

Within this context, we continued to convene, bring together our members and partners to share and develop a more nuanced analysis and political agenda to articulate how digital misogyny and online violence have political effects when it comes to women's rights and gender justice. In order to enhance knowledge and understanding we throughout the year developed a number of resources and materials in order to be more effective in advocating for change/transformation through a critical 'men and masculinities' lens.

We advanced collective bottom-up agenda setting on these themes during our joint mobilisation around the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. MenEngage members were convened through collaborative learning sessions and advocacy working group meetings to analyse connections and trends, and identify **concrete examples of practice on work to transform patriarchal masculinities within the digital sphere, as well as countering the rising manosphere's influence**. The collective agenda identified the following priorities:

- Addressing the proliferation of misogynistic online groups, spaces and narratives, often referred to as the 'manosphere'.
- Preventing, eliminating, and responding to online gender-based violence, including male perpetration of digital harassment and sexual abuse.
- Promoting non-violent actions, attitudes and values by men and boys, and encouraging them to take active part in efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of Sexual and Gender-based Violence in the digital sphere.
- Broadening access to digital tools and technologies for marginalised groups
- Accountability of digital platforms in addressing online harm.

This [Report from Latin America context](#) by MenEngage leadership from the region, fed into our analysis. We launched a [Discussion Paper](#) exploring how rapid technological change is affecting expressions and experiences of patriarchal masculinities. And articulated a call for action through the MenEngage Alliance [CSW68 Sign-on Statement](#) to raise our voices for women's

rights and an end to patriarchal masculinities online and offline, signed by 171 members and partners and shared with policy-makers including the CSW Chair, UN Women Executive Director and UN Secretary General.

We organised a virtual dialogue on [Uprooting patriarchal masculinities from the digital spheres for gender justice](#). This CSW68 session unpacked promising practices, challenges and opportunities from participants from around the world in gender transformative work with men and boys to initiatives addressing feminist systems change in the digital sphere. The speakers of this sessions included representatives from our members and partners, Global Fund for Women (Mexico), The Story Kitchen (Nepal); Breakthrough (India); Defensoras Digitales ([#LeyOlimpia](#)) (Mexico), and Association for Progressive Communications (APC) (India).

- SRHR & masculinities

As an Alliance and together with our members, we continued with our advocacy and efforts in accelerating the achievement of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all and that it requires working with men and boys alongside women, girls and gender non-conforming individuals advancing gender justice as an explicit vision and integrated objective.

For the International Safe Abortion Day 2023, [#Sept28 #SafeAbortionDay](#), we joined feminist partners and in particular the Campaign for the right to legal abortion -the 'unstoppable movement'- and amplified the message of [abortion as care with a call for male allyship](#). *"We believe that male allies must speak up for the right to abortion care in supportive, respectful, healthy, and positive ways. By doing so, men can be part of the unstoppable movement led by feminists to break the stigma surrounding abortion care, to affect policy change, and to act as allies for bodily autonomy of women and all who can become pregnant."* Among activities we supported were sign-on statements, organising critical expert dialogue. ([Also see Result Area 4](#))

Research priority setting exercise on Masculinities and SRHR with WHO and academic partners: There have been several programs and advocacy efforts globally trying to strengthen this focus around the world, including by quite a number of our members globally. Yet systematic reviews of programs and their potential outcomes point towards inadequate levels of evidence on significant contribution of programs and organisations working to engage men and boys in most areas of SRHR and have typically failed to address gender equality. At the same time, there are gaps in existing evaluation approaches and methodologies to adequately grasp and consolidate various types of potential evidence emerging from practitioners-led initiatives at various levels. This points towards inadequate understanding of research and evaluation questions or frameworks which would be important for the field to advance.

In this context and to address these gaps, the World Health Organization (WHO), Queen's University Belfast, MenEngage Alliance, University of Western Cape and Stellenbosch University carried out a collaborative research priority setting exercise on Masculinities and SRHR.

- **MenEngage Alliance continued to lead the stakeholder engagement process** by conducting an extensive mapping of relevant actors and engaging them in collectively setting the research-agenda, including:
 - Academic researchers working on masculinities and SRHR globally, and particularly in low and middle income countries;
 - Professional networks and ad hoc groups working on SRHR;
 - Feminist networks and experts directly or indirectly working on the intersection on masculinities and SRHR;
 - UN agencies, policy makers, bilateral agencies and private foundations such as UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, World Bank, UNAIDS, PAHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Packard Foundation, Ford Foundation;
 - Masculinities programs/organisations not affiliated with MenEngage.

The process opted for a careful screening of stakeholders for relevance to the study to avoid what other studies experienced as an overly broad outreach and a significantly low active participation. We therefore screened the membership database and mapped the members working in related areas. We then proceeded to cross reference their work with SRHR topics such as: family planning, contraception, and abortion; HIV/STI prevention and treatment; access to SRH services and care; teen pregnancy; sexuality and sex education; GBV prevention, gender education and stereotype/social norms change; FGM, women's and girls' rights, LGBTIQ access to care and SOGIESC rights; menstrual rights, gender equality, maternal and child health, pre-post natal care, fatherhood and care work.

Through a bottom-up process, we sent out 309 direct email invitations, conducted 11 focus groups in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and secured the participation of 143 stakeholders in the online survey phase.

- **The exercise forged a collaborative research agenda emphasising four key areas:**
 1. Gender-transformative approaches to men's/boys' engagement in SRHR;
 2. Applied research to deliver services addressing diversity in SRHR among men and women and to generate gender-equality;
 3. Research designs to support participation of target audiences and reach to policymakers;
 4. Research addressing the priorities of those in lower and middle-income countries.

- **The findings and recommendations will be published in an article** (*forthcoming 2024*): MenEngage Global Secretariat worked with QUB and WHO partners to develop and author a paper that was accepted for publication in the Lancet as a peer reviewed article about the study in March 2024. The article includes the findings and recommendations that emerged from the consultation guide the next generation of research on masculinities to advance gender equality and SRHR as twin goals.

- LGBTQI rights & SOGIESC inclusivity

The **MenEngage SOGIESC Learning Circle** met twice in 2023 and welcomed a new member from Europe. The circle serves as a safer space for LGBTQIA+ identified people in MenEngage Alliance to connect and discuss experiences with each other and inform MenEngage's work.

MenEngage members from the Africa region, the Learning Circle, the Global Advocacy Working Group and the Global Secretariat met as an **ad hoc group to monitor the political situation in Uganda after the passing of a [draconian anti-LGBTQIA legislation](#)** in the first half of the year. MenEngage Africa network released a [statement urging the African Union to take actions against the human rights violation](#) in Uganda. Since then members and partners in Uganda continue to experience great uncertainty and threat. The ad hoc group met regularly between July and September to assess the legal implications of the new law for LGBTIQ individuals and organisations; to brainstorm safe actions of support; provide support to each other; and share resources. The MenEngage global secretariat reached out to allies, both organisations and governments, to elicit their support to Ugandans in need to flee the country or in need of local protection.

On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT) we issued the statement "[Together Always: United in Diversity](#)" joining individuals, organisations and movements around the world in celebrating love and sexual and gender freedom. We took this moment to acknowledge LGBTIQ members of MenEngage Alliance and partner organisations and networks, and to stand with LGBTIQ people and communities all over the world in our commitment to bodily autonomy and gender expression. Through our statement we emphasised that the heteronormative and misogynistic patriarchal culture we inhabit still excludes millions of people and denies them the same human rights enjoyed by heterosexual and cis-gender people.

We signed-on to the statement "[There is no Place for Anti-trans Agendas in the UN](#)" **initiated by AWID** - raising concerns on [anti-trans positioning by the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls](#).

- Militarisation & masculinities

Since 2020 WILPF and MenEngage Alliance have been working in a joint multi-year project "[Confronting Militarised Masculinities - Building Alliances, Analysis and Advocacy](#)". The project included local and global activities, including creating critical space for solidarity dialogues, production of participatory feminist political economy analysis and research, and advocacy. The evidence-base from the project's research has helped to have better understanding on the importance of going beyond "engaging men" to exploring feminist approaches to gender transformation that tackle militarised masculinities and the war economy.

The project supported to further reinforce the conviction between the two organisations that to achieve a feminist peace, based on principles of equality, justice and demilitarised security, to address the root causes of violence with a feminist lens that pays attention to power dynamics and that challenges patriarchy and traditional gendered roles, we must strengthen alliances between men and women and other stakeholders around a collective agenda for institutional change and personal transformation.

A [rich body of research](#) has been generated by academics and thought leaders from our partner countries and elsewhere around the world and seeks to strengthen our understanding of the causes and impacts of militarised masculinities and of strategies that can effectively mobilise men to take action for feminist peace.

We supported our members and partners PAX Netherlands, WILPF, and ABAAD for a [session on 'militarised masculinities'](#) at the "Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy" conference. One of the Global Co-Directors contributed by speaking on the importance of a critical analysis on how militarism, war and conflict needs to be analysed from 'men and masculinities' lens, and the importance of addressing the root cause of these problems that is rooted in colonisation and war economy. The session speakers entered into a candid conversation and gave concrete recommendations on Human Security, Demilitarisation and Disarmament. This partnership will continue in 2024.

We joined the [Engaging Men in Feminist Peace launch meeting](#) in Tbilisi, Georgia, co-organized by WILPF, PAX and MenEngage Alliance, with participation from a wide range of actors working on engaging men and boys in advancing de-militarization and feminist peace, including researchers, practitioners and advocates. This meeting brought together nearly 30 participants representing nearly 20 organisations from Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, which included our members ABAAD and Sonke Gender Justice, as well as partners Kvinna till Kvinna, GENSAC, Georgetown University, SIPRI, IPI, Men as Partners in WPS, the National Democratic Institute, Safeworld, and Swisspeace. The meeting, to facilitate ongoing collaboration and progress, decided to establish a community of practice that will

provide a platform for sharing lessons learned, develop common key terminologies and clarifications and facilitate the planning and implementation of future actions.

- Unpaid care, the new economy & masculinities

The MenEngage Global Board had a critical discussion on the links between care-work and masculinities. The group assessed that most of the work from men and masculinities lens to date has been focused on fatherhood and paternity leave, which, while important, are limited. The [discussions during the Ubuntu Symposium track](#) and the [summary report](#) on 'unpaid care and economies of care' highlighted this and initiated a broader discussion in the Alliance. The Board discussed the deep inter-connections between care for people and the planet. Given the pressing impacts of climate change, and in the spirit of *Ubuntu*, there is a need to put *care* at the centre of all we do to transform masculinities and shift the world. This is what a deeply intersectional feminist lens in our work requires of us. An ad-hoc committee was formed to look further into this - however given resource-constraints (time) the group did not meet in 2023.

As part of our advocacy commitments, we mobilised and facilitated MenEngage membership and political agenda on engaging men and transforming masculinities in the following global advocacy and activism spaces: *(See also section [2.1](#) and [2.2](#) on joint advocacy.)*

- **[World Bank 2024-2030 Gender Strategy Consultations](#)**: We held a consultation with the World Bank Gender Team, together with our expert members Breakthrough, SVRI, Independent Consultant Nikki van der Gaag and Shirakat, to provide our technical inputs to the development of the 2024 Gender Strategy. Gender equality is a core development objective in its own right and is at the heart of the World Bank Group's twin goals of reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The 2024-2030 Update to the [World Bank Group Gender Strategy](#) will aim to accelerate equality and empowerment for all, and guide governments and the private sector on scalable, adaptable solutions that help all people reach their full potential. The 2024-2030 Update to the World Bank Group Gender Strategy will be shaped through discussions with country clients, partners, and other stakeholders. We provided 2 rounds of technical inputs provided, with our 4 members.
- **C20 Summit**: We supported the engagement and political agenda-setting of members at the C20 civil society convening in preparation for the G20 meeting. The C20 serves as a civil society engagement mechanism ahead of the G20 meeting, making it a critical space through which civil society actors can collectively define joint inputs towards the official process, in light of the impact of the Group of 20¹, and works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international [financial stability](#), [climate change](#)

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G20>

[mitigation](#) and [sustainable development](#). The MenEngage global secretariat made links between members participating in the space, for better collective engagement. The members' contributions supported the policy agenda developed at the Civil Society-20 (C20) working to advocate under the Gender Equality thematic pillar, in which [Engaging Men and Boys](#) was included as a sub-theme. Members GenderLab and Breakthrough participated in setting the agenda, but noted that civil society recommendations were not substantively taken up by Governments within the official process.

Supporting MenCare Campaign: In addition, we continue to be part of the **Partners' Council** of the Campaign, and make strategic contributions to the campaign. Following up on the Ubuntu Symposium's paper on [Economies of Care](#), we continue to advocate for going beyond the programs focused on fathers and fathers-to-be, *which is important entry point in the work with men*, and integrate feminist systems change approach that [challenges patriarchal norms around care and acknowledges the wider structural contexts of patriarchy](#). This means not just focusing on individual fathers or fathers in groups, or even working with couples. Instead, it is looking at the laws, policies, social norms, and patriarchal institutions that prop up existing understandings of who cares and who provides. We provided technical review and input to the [2023 State of World's Fathers](#) report.

- Climate justice & masculinities

There were significant efforts to put the Alliance's advocacy approaches into practice in support of intersectional climate justice movements and voices. This was done under the leadership of the Alliance's [Climate & Environmental Justice Working Group](#) through 2023, as well as the longstanding experience and guidance of the Advocacy Working Group.

The Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group developed a joint climate justice advocacy strategy for 2023, defining key moments of articulated collective advocacy taking place at national, regional and global level - and alongside feminist and youth climate justice movements - such as the [Women and Gender Constituency](#), [Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice](#) and [Fridays For Future](#). As part of our advocacy commitments, we mobilised and facilitated MenEngage membership and political agenda on engaging men and transforming masculinities in the following global advocacy and activism spaces: (See also section 2.1)

- **Policy Brief - Climate Ambition Summit:** Developed by the Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group, the policy document shared technical inputs towards the UNGA Climate Ambition Summit, as a moment of global attention to accelerate progress towards tackling the climate crisis. YouthNet for Climate Justice and Fridays for Future (Bangladesh); MÄN (Sweden); Rural development initiative (Rwanda); Community Transformation

Foundation Network (COFTONE) (Uganda) - participated in the development of the document.

- **Summit for a New Global Financing Pact:** MenEngage Alliance Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group participated in the session, intended to reach an agreement on a [Transformative Financing Agenda](#). Two alliance members, Fridays for Future Bangladesh and COTFONE represented the working group in person, and raised the group's collective agenda, including on the need for accountability on the agreement to establish new form of finance - in the form of grants vs. loans - for MAPAs and Global South countries, as well as the calls for debt cancellation for Global South countries and obligatory financing to support feminist climate justice. Members worked in concert with the Climate Nexus and Women and Gender Constituency - and elevated the feminist collective agenda: [Towards a Feminist Finance Pact: Unpacking the Bridgetown Initiative](#), by sharing it with policy makers and via social media amplification.
- **28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28)** - The Alliance participated alongside the Women and Gender Constituency in developing a feminist climate justice agenda at COP28, with the Climate and Environmental Working Group developing an [advocacy engagement strategy](#), via the Advocacy Subgroup. We supported one of the members of the Working Group, [Sohan Rahman, a youth leader](#) at Fridays for Future Bangladesh, to attend COP28 and to represent the Alliance's agenda on [climate justice and work to transform patriarchal masculinities](#) for climate justice at the session. He met with policymakers at the session, including the Government of the Netherlands, to share expertise on [youth leadership within climate justice](#).
- **Meeting of the Climate Justice Working Group with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development Surya Deva** - A joint partnership building conversation was organised with the Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group and the Special Rapporteur to explore areas of collaboration and joint action. The conversation included members of the Global Secretariat, four members of the WG (including representatives from NAMEN, MenEngage South Asia, MenEngage Europe and Australia). Key lines of collaboration were identified moving forward, including the invitation for MenEngage Alliance to coordinate on upcoming reports of the SR by providing technical inputs, coordination with members during country visits and submission of reporting of information regarding human rights violations
- **Meeting with the Climate Justice working group and OHCHR focal point for Environment & Climate Change and Human Rights Division** - A joint dialogue was organised to introduce members of the Working Group to the OHCHR department dedicated to advancing the intersection of Environment and Human Rights, following the Global Secretariat's strategic relationship building with the department over the last

several years. This important conversation allowed for mutual exchange of analysis on work to transform patriarchal masculinities as a root cause of the climate crisis, as well as to exchange ideas on potential lines of collaboration over the coming years, including by submitting technical proposals to the upcoming reports lead by the OHCHR, inclusive of a men and masculinities lens, which have been largely overlooked in prior reports.

- **Regional Advocacy at the 77th Ordinary session of African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR):** COTFONE a member of the Climate Justice WG attended an advocacy training at the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR) Mechanisms joined by Commissioner and Chairperson of the ACHPR Working Group on Death Penalty, Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings and Enforced Disappearances in Africa and officials from World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. In addition, doubling as the National Coordinator of TLP Uganda hosted by COTFONE in Uganda, they participated in a Round Table Discussion - "Obstacles to freedom of association and peaceful assembly and the criminalisation of activist status: civic space under threat" to present on “Obstacles to freedom of association and peaceful assembly and the criminalisation of activists status in Uganda” alongside the African Commission for Human and People's Rights Chairperson, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa; Open Society Justice Initiatives, and UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association.
- **Global Online Consultation for the development of the First Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies - 2023:** Alongside members of the working group, we developed joint technical inputs towards the submission of inputs from civil society in advance of the UNSG Climate Ambition Summit. The focus of this process included highlighting obstacles and opportunities in the acceleration of climate and development international commitments.
- **MenEngage Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group listserv message in solidarity with four peaceful protesters who were arrested in Kampala, Uganda.** The protesters were standing up and speaking out against the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) - a fossil fuel project raising serious concerns around human rights, climate justice, environmental destruction, and economic justice issues. The statement supported efforts by MenEngage Africa and WG member COTFONE and partners through the StopEACOP Campaign and other climate justice initiatives such as the Stop Ecocide campaign.
- **Climate & Environmental Justice Working Group of MenEngage Alliance Op-Ed: [Wealthiest 1% fueling climate breakdown](#):** MenEngage Alliance members drafted the opinion piece in order to centre the connections between patriarchal masculinities and the ongoing climate crisis. The piece elevates the fact that patriarchy is harmful to the

environment, and so are masculinities based on patriarchal norms, beliefs and values that perpetuate violence, extraction and domination over people, natural resources and the planet. It also calls on men in positions of power who are responsible for the majority of the world's environmental destruction to be held to account.

- Decolonization

Central to our intersectional understanding of the Alliance's work on gender justice is the recognition that gender relations and hierarchies have long been shaped by histories of colonialism. We recognize our own location within and dependency on a system of international aid and development which, irrespective of intentions, perpetuates a neocolonial paternalism between global North and South. To facilitate a space to discuss these challenges, including how they show up in and what we can do about them as MenEngage Alliance, we hosted a learning series on decolonization, facilitated by Nontokozo Sobic.

The series sought to:

- Facilitate training sessions that deepen understanding and awareness of decolonization - what it is, what it isn't, best practices, etc. to clarify common understanding and definitions on decolonization and decolonial approaches
- Support MenEngage Alliance to identify and implement best practices to support decolonization of learning and the network processes more broadly
- Bring together the diversity of experiences, introduce the colonial common thread, connect with broad MenEngage mission, vision, ToC, etc

During the 7 sessions that were organised throughout the year, speakers from across the regions shared their expertise and experiences. A total of 380 people participated virtually in the series. The recordings were shared directly with everyone that registered for the sessions (approximately 1800 registrants) and are available on the [MenEngage Alliance YouTube channel on decolonization](#). In addition, MenEngage Europe also has put in place a regional working group on backlash. Furthermore, MenEngage Europe organised 2 sessions with Nontokozo Sabide focused on "Power, privilege and rank" and "Accountable practices", also coordinated by Nontokozo Sedibe that engaged 55 members. ([see the regional report section for more information](#)).

- Youth leadership and engagement

Revitalising the Youth Reference Group (YRG) in order to strengthen youth leadership and engagement and being true to the Alliance's commitment of implementing the [Youth Leadership and Engagement Strategy](#). The Terms of References were updated through a collective process with the regions and regions selected as their representatives. To date the YRG consists of 12 representatives from the 7 regional networks and 3 representatives from at-large member organisations (ATHENA Network, Q-Initiative and IPPF ESEAOR).

In person strategic planning and induction meeting recognising the need for the YRG to meet and collectively work on the 2024 work plan and review the 2023 work plan an in person meeting was conducted in December 2023 in Kigali. The meeting agenda which was curated together with the YRG members focused on induction on their roles and responsibilities as YRG members, capacity strengthening on youth leadership within the Alliance, setting up governance structures with the YRG and electing a youth representative to the Global Board, and 2023 work plan review and implementation for 2024. Key outcomes from the meeting included nomination of 2 members as substantive and alternate board members to the Alliances board. This will ensure the voices of young people are strategically placed in the highest decision making platform of the Alliance. The YRG members have since all joined the existing working groups coordinated by the Global Secretariat. This will go a long way to advance the interconnectedness of our work as an Alliance and priorities for youth leadership and engagement.

Strengthened youth led partnerships and strategic alliance to amplify youth leadership from a masculinities lens across different fields. MenEngage Alliance through the YRG members and Global Secretariat continue to strengthen the partnership with YIELD Hub, building onto the previous partnership on the agenda. YIELD Hub developed "[Case Study: Advancing Gender Equity and Intersectionality through Collective Action Learning](#)", that consolidates the experience and lessons from the first phase of the Action Learning Cycle. In addition we joined hands to co-organise a [webinar](#) with YIELD Hub, Engender Health and ATHENA to share on the key outcomes and actions on **gender transformative approaches, leadership, solidarity and accountability towards feminist agendas for gender equality and social justice**. We also participated in a [webinar](#) on "**Addressing Structural Violence against Young Women and Gender Diverse Youth in #AYSRRH**". The continued engagement with the YIELD Hub and members of the Action Learning Cycle has led to collaborative efforts to develop a 2 pager recommendation on [Gender and Intersectionality and call for support](#).

CSW68 Co-Lab Session with CHOICE for Youth Sexuality and Youth Reference Group Members- with a strengthened and more focused youth reference group in preparation for CSW68 a co-lab session was organised with 107 participants engaging. The purpose of the session was to discuss and unpack the CSW68 priority theme and review themes- the youth

reference group members used this as an opportunity to connect the theme to transforming masculinities and youth leadership and accountability. The webinar created an opportunity for the YRG and youth leaders to amplify the role of young people in contributing to systems change towards feminist accountability and advocate for resources needed for that to happen. Despite this being an activity for a few hours, a collective realisation was an increased interest to co-create spaces at CSW68 to engage men in leadership for feminist led accountability towards the CSW68 theme. This collaboration also led to a further collaboration to apply for an intergenerational and youth-led parallel event at CSW68 which was accepted and will be led by young people.

Influencing the Global SRHR agenda -adapting a transforming masculinities lens.

There are 2 members of the Youth Reference Group who have joined the UNFPA Global Youth Reference Group, alongside the Programs Officer-Youth Leadership and Engagement. Being in this platform will serve as an opportunity to create collaborations and linkages on the work that UNFPA does and our own work as an Alliance. We hope to utilise the space to contribute to the analysis, development of UNFPA initiatives incorporating masculinities and youth leadership lens.

Supporting regional Networks in amplifying and coordinating youth leadership:

MenEngage Africa hosted their symposium and prior to it there was the youth symposium. The Youth Symposium resulted in [a declaration](#), as an outcome of an extensive consultation process that began with a 2-day MenEngage Africa Youth Annual General meeting, attended by young people from over 17 countries within the MenEngage Africa. The MenEngage Africa [Youth Declaration](#)'s key ask was for the decision makers to harness efforts to promote a broader and holistic vision for meaningful youth engagement and participation that is founded upon the principles of peace and human rights and one that enables every young person to lead a fulfilling, healthy, motivated, enjoyable and quality life free from all forms of hate, discrimination, violence and marginalisation. This process supported to ensure strengthened youth led governance structures in Africa. Currently MenEngage Africa has an 8 member Youth Steering Committee (including one strategic partner), which is connected to their country networks and has been actively supporting and engaging with the broader regional steering committee.

RESULT AREAS

1. Strengthened MenEngage Alliance networks & leadership

RESULT AREA 1

MenEngage Alliance is an inclusive, democratic and sustainable social-change network undertaking joint actions informed by shared vision and values.

Throughout 2023 we continued our priority of strengthening fair, accountable and democratic network structures and strategies within MenEngage Alliance. Our aspiration is to be a vibrant and pluralistic civil society network, growing flexibly and organically in response to various needs and opportunities, in the context of the varying capacities of our members, and galvanising a disparate set of actors and agendas around common commitments for women's rights and gender justice. We continue our journey of maturation in movement-building orientation, through our bottom-up networking model rooted at grass-roots level and supporting global, regional and national/local actors.

We continued to anchor the institutional mechanisms and coordination required for the daily functioning of the network, and in order to sustain the Alliance in the long term, through a democratised structure. Although it is taking more time than what we had expected, we continue to see an increased level of democratisation in terms of decision making, transparency and opportunities for new and inclusive leadership at all levels of the Alliance. With the increased understanding and commitments, through various capacity strengthening and cross-learning opportunities among the members, we see strengthened interconnectivity, capacity and visibility of our members and partners.

This year we also continued handling the reports of challenging moments and breaches of our principles at country and regional levels. As we have started in the last couple of years to observe the maturation of our political stances and movement building orientation as an Alliance, we are excited at the same time that we have been able to create a more open space where members for members to feel empowered to raise their concerns and situations that go against our principles and values. These experiences have helped us to strengthen our

knowledge base and skills of handling challenging situations, as well as establishing mechanisms and procedures at various levels of the Alliance.

With these developments, we believe that we have become a much more vibrant social change network as envisioned by our Theory of Change, and have shown leadership in adding value in accountable ways to strengthen intersectional feminist and human rights-based approaches in working with men and boys in gender equality, climate- and social justice. In 2023, we continued to anchor, support and bring together the work of members and partners around the world, keeping up with our identity as a membership-based network in spirit and in practice. As an Alliance, collectively we are increasingly becoming efficient in bringing together members and partners in jointly shaping and implementing campaigns and other targeted interventions towards common goals.

1.1 Governance structures and leadership capabilities

OUTCOME 1.1 – Strengthened democratic governance structures and leadership capabilities of MenEngage Alliance at all levels.

As a social change network, strengthening democratic governance structures and leadership continue to remain our top priorities as they form the strong base for our resilient organising structure. Our firm political commitments include applying power-sharing, horizontality and decolonization in how we operate. To strengthen how we do this in practice, we support each other across various levels and create opportunities for exchange and learning from critical voices and partners - as well as from within the Alliance.

Global support to the MenEngage regional and country networks

During 2023 the MenEngage Global Secretariat worked closely with the regional networks in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, North America and South Asia. We also closely worked with the country network in Lebanon and with our new member in South Korea on the aspects of network building.

Initiating MenEngage in South Korea

By Goldie Kim, Executive Director, GET-P

"In February 2023, the Gender Equality Training Platform (GET-P) was approved to become the first Korean organisation to join the MenEngage Alliance, laying the groundwork for global solidarity work, sharing backlash stories from other countries, and exploring joint response strategies. As a member of the Alliance, GET-P is building a sense of solidarity and recognizing that gender backlash is not unique to Korea and that we must work together to make the world a more gender-equitable place. As part of this, GET-P and MenEngage Alliance hosted an online forum on November 4, 2023, to offer solidarity leadership to other groups in Korea to work together on transforming masculinities and gender justice, and are considering convening a MenEngage Korea Network next year. We are also collaborating on collecting and sharing Korean stories for MenEngage's Anti Feminist Backlash Global Report. At the same time, Goldie, the director of GET-P, published a book titled "why feminism is good for men" by MenEngage member Jens van Tricht, the director of Emancipator, under the Korean title "Men's Liberation" on May 1, 2023 in Korea. The book was also announced as the recommended "Books of the year" by the Korea Democratic Movement Commemoration Project in 2023. Van Tricht was also invited to Korea by GET-P to participate in book talks in Seoul, Busan, Jeju, and Gwangju, where they spoke with Korean readers on the topic of gender equality and masculinity, raising awareness of the common interests and solidarity between the two countries. Over the past two years, Goldie has helped train 239 IMAGINE facilitators through 12 workshops. Now, 240 IMAGINE facilitators, including Goldie, are using the IMAGINE toolkit in their local contexts to deliver gender equality education and gender-based violence prevention training in their cities across the country, bringing the Transforming Masculinities agenda to male learners."

- **Technical support and collaboration:** To help strengthen governance structures and horizontal operating modalities across MenEngage Alliance – focussing on the roots of the network in particular - the Global Secretariat worked directly with all six regional networks on strengthening governance. These moments were important to deepen our relationship and understanding of interconnectedness as a community, and support further ownership from the membership across the Alliance.
 - The Global Secretariat participated in the regional leadership meetings, virtually as well as in person.
 - Supported the Caribbean region in initiating value clarifications and sharpening political direction for the network, including extending support in strengthening relationships with the country chapters in the region.
 - Provided technical support to the networks in South Asia and Latin America in strengthening strategic guidelines and clarifications on the roles and responsibilities of the leadership.

- Supported reestablishing a country network in India.
 - Provided technical support to the regional networks in strengthening accountable advocacy efforts. (*for more information please see Result Area 2 on Advocacy*)
- **Financial support through Regional sub-grants:** The Global Secretariat continued with its role to fundraise for and facilitate financial support to the six regional networks in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, North America and South Asia, and one country network in Lebanon. This included core-grant support to 5 regions, to facilitate the implementation of the regional strategic and annual work plans. And an additional 4 regional sub-grants through the UN Foundation grant to deepen our advocacy efforts around the Generation Equality Forum (*for more information please see Result Area 2*). In addition, the Global Secretariat provided support in resource mobilisation directly at the regional level to the regional networks in the Caribbean and South Asia.

Inner work for social change

We continued our collective exploration of advancing transformative inner work to propel social change. We convened two practice-based sessions open to all members and partners, bringing together about 200 participants. The sessions grappled with strategic questions from the perspective of men's and boys roles, and how norms around masculinity inhibit or support inner work. The video recordings are available on the YouTube channel at the links below:

1. [Psychoanalysis and Revolution: Critical Psychology for Liberation Movements](#)
2. [Spirituality for the transformation of patriarchal masculinities](#)

Following a visioning and exploration session at the end of 2022, we continued to convene our Inner Work for Social Change Solidarity Circle for two strategic planning meetings in 2023. The group explored: *How do we understand inner work for social change and MenEngage Alliance, given what we stand for, how we work, and who we work with - men and boys?* These discussions identified the need to consolidate the knowledge base arising from the last few years of convening members around this agenda and to work together to articulate the Alliance's political stance. At the end of 2023, we initiated the search for a consultancy to carry out this synthesis work, which will serve as the basis for the Solidarity Circles' future agenda development.

International leadership meetings through the MenEngage Global Board

The international leadership body of MenEngage Alliance, the [Global Board](#), is composed of representatives of the membership, through regional networks representatives and at-large organisations - inclusive of organisations representing various areas/sectors of work: women's rights, LGBTIQ rights, youth leadership, SRHR, feminist peace, violence prevention, economies of care/men as caregivers and those working from a broader 'men and masculinities' lens. The Board serves as a space for MenEngage Alliance leadership to discuss political developments,

trends and pressing challenges across contexts in the world, broader feminist movements, and the Alliance. The Board met online 5 times during the year.

- **Strengthened feminist leadership diversification and inclusion:**

- Samitha Sughatimala (she/her) was [elected as the new MenEngage Global Co-Chair](#). Samitha has been the coordinator of the MenEngage Alliance South Asia (MEASA) regional network, and in that capacity has been serving on the Global Board since July 2020. She is Director of the member organisation [Foundation for Innovative Social Development](#) (FISD), based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She joined Bafana Khumalo (he/him), representing Sonke Gender Justice, in the Co-Chair role.
- The [Sexual Violence Research Initiative \(SVRI\)](#) joined the Board as a new representative of the women's rights constituency, represented by its Executive Director Elizabeth Dartnal (she/her). Their valuable contributions have further strengthened the representation and participation of feminist women's rights organisations in the decision-making of the Alliance.
- The [Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka](#) was nominated by the Youth Reference Group as a new representative of the Youth constituency to the Global Board, represented by its Director of Communications and Advocacy Bensley Henry Mitchel (he/him).

- **Discussions to politicise the work of the Alliance: *What to do with "International Men's Day"?***

With the realisation that initiatives that do not necessarily align to the principles of the Alliance focusing on men and boys have started co-opting the space and being more and more attracting boys and men in their messaging. To further identify steps that the Alliance can take the Board formed an ad hoc committee to develop strategies and action plans to co-opt the space and narratives by regressive groups. The ad hoc committee deliberated various situations across the regions and concluded that the Alliance does have a responsibility to take some strategic actions to address the situation but in ways that can prevent it from coming off explicitly as concurring to the group or creating negative dynamics with other groups. There was acknowledgement that this approach will further require careful considerations to ensure internal sensitisation which is key in ensuring that the initiatives from MenEngage Alliance becomes more grounded and sustainable. It was collectively agreed that in the context where we as MenEngage Alliance have started the annual celebration of the Ubuntu Symposium it can be strategic to consider using this momentum as a means to generate mobilisation up to the scale that it can possibly deter the association and engagement with groups like IMD. Furthermore, we strategically developed and initiated a week-long public campaign *#HowToTalkWithMen about women's rights, LGBTQI rights and gender justice* during the week before the 16-days of activism with the Ubuntu Declaration and our Core Principles as the base for our messaging and spaces ([see section: 1.2 Membership Engagement for more on #HowToTalkWithMen](#)). For this we invited our members and partners around the world to share quotes and messages on

their efforts that have generated transformative changes among men and boys at various levels.

- **Strengthening accountable practices through global governance and decision making:**

The Board undertook a number of strategic decisions to improve how we uphold and implement the MenEngage accountability framework across the Alliance, while working through our decentralised decision making structure:

- The Board articulated an updated agreement on decentralised decision making in the context of our shared Accountability Framework (see text box).
- The Board established and started to conduct a rigorous vetting process for Alliance leaders, including Board members and Global Secretariat team members, to strengthen upholding the accountability framework through the acts and representation of the Alliance.
- To address and prevent potential misuses of the Alliance’s brand by actors who are not in line with intersectional feminist commitments on men and masculinities work, the Board agreed that: *“The Alliance considers the use of its logo and brand to be aligned to our accountability framework and always remains vigilant to strengthen its brand protection policies. This includes restrictions towards our country and regional networks or any groups to use the brand logo and name to register a local entity or NGO structure.”*

Updated alliance-wide agreement on upholding MenEngage’s Accountability Framework across the country, regional and global networks

The Board strategized on how the political commitments and underpinnings of MenEngage Alliance can be maintained and advanced, while working through a decentralised structure with autonomous decision making by country- and regional networks. A milestone agreement was articulated:

“MenEngage Alliance understands autonomy and decentralisation of its national and regional structures as operating coherently within the accountability framework of the Alliance, including vision, mission, core principles, code of conduct and accountability standards. Autonomy and decentralisation should not be interpreted as operating outside or in breach of our accountability framework or without mutual accountability.”

Two demarcations:

<p><u><i>Governance and decision making:</i></u> <i>The networks at national and regional levels have their own decision making and operational governance processes in place, including the local networks' strategic directions, structures and democratic processes. Where needed, the national and/or regional networks can reach out to the global board and/or global secretariat for support or collaboration, as deemed necessary and relevant. The members and networks at national and regional levels will always have the capability to engage with, question and support the governance and decision matters at the global level, and they will have a role in decision making at the global level through regional network representation in the global board.</i></p>	<p><u><i>Adherence to the accountability framework:</i></u> <i>For ensuring adherence to the collective accountability framework of the Alliance, we have an interconnected process based on mutual accountability that remains consistent and maintained across all levels of the Alliance. In the situations where there will be cases and/or complaints of breach of accountability frameworks at any levels of our organising, the Alliance will have coordinated and unified response with the involvement of the relevant/designated representatives from all levels. For this, the Alliance collectively will ensure transparent and open communication internally and work collaboratively to find the best way to address and resolve the complaint/case.</i></p>
---	---

Resource mobilisation & fundraising

To diversify our funding landscape, this year MenEngage Global Alliance:

- Entered into a new partnership with UN Women to join hands on practitioners led knowledge and evidence building on the prevention and ending of GBV. (See *Priority Issues section on Ending gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls.*)
- Continued strengthening our partnership with FORD Foundation, which resulted in being considered for longer term funding to support institutional strengthening and grounding our collective political movement building orientation as MenEngage Alliance.
- Continued to deepen our partnership with the UN Foundation in our advocacy efforts towards Generation Equality Forum through The Nest network-of-networks.
- Collaborated with Sida on jointly organising consultations with governments that have made their commitment to work with men and boys in gender equality under the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), with the objective of orienting them on the politics of the work as well as to offer our support in their efforts on the agenda. We will continue building on this experience in 2024.
- Three regional networks in Africa, Caribbean and Europe were able to generate additional resources for regional programs and projects. Furthermore the country network in Lebanon, via the secretariat, was able to generate additional resources for the network strengthening activities as well as engaging with other countries in the Middle East region.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
<p>Stronger governance structures and horizontal operating modalities in place at country, regional and global levels, supporting cultural and structural transformation informed by the principles of decolonization, intersectional feminism, accountability and power with.</p>	<p># of country and regional networks and members reporting [more] efficient and effective governance and operating structures in place by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 6 Regional Networks in Africa, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, North America and South Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2 introduction meeting for members (Europe) ◆ 1 regional network underwent strengthening governance process and developed policy manual to strengthen governance structure (Caribbean) → 1 country network in Lebanon
<p>MenEngage regional networks supported with technical and financial resources (subgrants) to facilitate implementation of national and regional strategic plans.</p>	<p># of country and regional networks having quality strategies and work plans in place and implemented successfully by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 6 regional networks had their collective strategies and work plans → 25 country networks in Africa and South Asia developed collective plan
	<p># of dialogue spaces organised to strengthen discourse and quality uptake of programs and initiatives on transforming masculinities and work with women's rights and gender justice actors at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 exchange and learning visit for MenEngage Europe members (Sweden) → 1 model on behaviour change developed on working with men in the Caribbean → 1 literature review on criminal violence and masculinities in Caribbean → 1 regional SRHR Strategy collectively developed in Africa → 1 media toolkit on mobilising men in gender transformative agenda in Africa
<p>Increased representation and participation of feminist women's rights, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and young people in MenEngage leadership and decision making at</p>	<p>% increase of representations of feminists women's rights, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and young people in leadership roles of the Alliance at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 feminist women's rights organisation identified for the Global Board (SVRI) → 1 youth constituency representative to the global board identified

<p>country, regional and global levels.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 regional network reporting LGBTIQ activist elected as the chair → 1 regional network reported the inclusion of Disability constituency in the leadership → 1 regional network has youth activist as their administrator/coordinator → Ongoing representation of key constituency groups in the Global Board: 4 women's rights at-large organisations (ATHENA Network, Breakthrough, SVRI, WILPF), and 1 LGBTQI designated seat (Q-Initiative Kenya, through the SOGIESC Learning Circle)
<p>New country and regional networks development supported based on the interests of local civil society organisations and individuals.</p>	<p>% increase of new membership, and new country & regional networks established at country and regional levels by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 new country presence in South Korea, with a women's rights organisation → 15% new members in Europe network
<p>MenEngage Global Board strengthened to be an effective and efficient global leadership body to advance the mission and vision of the Alliance.</p>	<p># of meetings (online and in person) of the Board of the Alliance organised by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 5 online meetings <i>Detailed notes of meeting kept for historical record and documenting learning</i>

<p>MenEngage leadership, at country, regional and global levels, have strengthened capabilities for horizontal leadership, agenda-setting and organising models that support decolonization and address power dynamics/hierarchies within the Alliance.</p>	<p># of capacity strengthening meetings, workshops and sessions organised on networks coordination and management with and for country and regional networks by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Decolonization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 7 virtual sessions ◆ 380 participants ◆ approximately 1800 registrants (including repeated) received follow-up communication ◆ 1000+ video-views in 3 languages (English, Spanish, French) → Inner Work for Social Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2 Strategy sessions organised ◆ 20 participants attended ◆ 2 virtual Learning Sessions organised ◆ approximately 500 participants registered ◆ 150 participants attended → 3 capacity strengthening workshops (Africa) → 12 capacity strengthening and knowledge building sessions (Caribbean and South Asia) → 5 online webinar on key political priority areas (Europe) → 2 sessions on Advising and Information services (Iberia)
<p>Reporting and redressal mechanisms to handle and address cases of violations of MenEngage Code of Conduct, Sexual Harassment policy and Accountability standards and guidelines are in place and operational.</p>	<p>1 MenEngage reporting and redressal mechanism in place and operational at global level by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Established in 2021 → Established 1 community of practices with Accountability Focal persons (Accountability team) from all 7 regions
	<p># of reports/cases successfully handled at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 2 cases being handled in Latin America → 3 cases successfully handled in Africa

	# of country and regional networks setting up reporting and handling mechanisms at country and regional levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 6 regional network have accountability focal persons identified → 2 regional networks have mechanism in place to handle cases
MenEngage Global Alliance resource mobilisation and fundraising strategy developed and successfully implemented.	1 resource mobilisation and fundraising strategy developed (in English, Spanish and French languages) by 2024	Ongoing resource mobilisation being implemented
	# of donor mapping documentation in place and available for use for members and partners of the Alliance by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 10 conversations with partners from the donor community organised (potential funders) → 1 donors consultation organised
	# of members and partners using the strategy in their fundraising initiatives and efforts at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 2 regional networks successfully raising resources for the work → 1 country network in Lebanon successfully mobilising resources
	# of fundraising and grant applications developed, with support from the Global Secretariat, and submitted by 2024	→ 3 grant applications developed and submitted by regional networks in Africa, Europe and Caribbean regions
MenEngage Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action plan developed and implemented.	1 MenEngage Environmental Sustainability and Climate Sensitive Plan in place and operational by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Working Group on Climate and Environmental Justice active - with 8 members → 10+ collective actions undertaken (see <i>Priority Issues section on climate justice</i>)

1.2 Membership engagement

OUTCOME 1.2 - *Expanded and improved membership engagement in MenEngage communities of practice.*

Spaces and opportunities for MenEngage Alliance members to engage continued to be strengthened and expanded in 2023. At the global level, 30 online spaces were convened with approximately 1500 participants. This means that, apart from the annual vacation and leave periods across the world, an online space with members was convened at least once a week. This is in addition to the plethora of events organised and led by region and country networks of the Alliance. ([See: Reports from the regions](#))

Together, these global and regional initiatives continue to provide members with spaces for learning, sharing, community building, and growth. All of which continues to be strongly informed by a shared political agenda, while also creating space for members to shape the agenda across a range of themes and issues. From these spaces we are able to gather practical insights on the work of our members and identify challenges members face in their work across the Alliance. For example, in multiple spaces we have heard about the rise of backlash against gender equality and noted that many members feel unclear about how to navigate and respond to this. (*See also section 3.3: Backlash against gender justice*)

Ongoing implementation of the membership engagement strategy

A [Membership Engagement Strategy](#) was developed in 2022, providing the Alliance and the regional networks with a coordinated roadmap for meaningful engagement of members at all levels of the network. In 2023 specific elements of the strategy were implemented including the development of a comprehensive induction process; increased spaces for members to share their work; and learning from each other.

- **Further developed the membership application process and engaged an online platform (GlueUp)** to consolidate the membership database and provide increased opportunities for members to engage on specific topics. This tool will be fully integrated and implemented in 2024.
- **Developed a comprehensive member onboarding process:** In recent years we have encountered challenging situations and moments among our members, country and regional networks, concerning the conceptual clarity, democratic governance and horizontal operating modalities of network organising. One key learning from these

experiences at national, regional, and global levels is that our members may not have had a consistent induction on membership, core principles, code of conduct, and their rights and responsibilities. In solidarity-based networks and organising, it is essential that all members at all levels have a shared understanding of the Alliance's mission and vision. To address this we developed an onboarding tool to be adapted and used by the Regional Networks as it is relevant to them. The tool would serve as a guide for new members, leaders, and networks at national, regional, and global levels, ensuring a consistent and thorough onboarding process. Additionally, we anticipate that this tool can help reorient members who are or will be in leadership positions, further strengthening our collective efforts.

Strengthening the Community of Practice through online media

We strategically use and strengthen our social media presence to position the Alliance publicly on issues of transforming patriarchal masculinities and against male supremacy, and highlight men's and boys' roles and responsibilities in promoting women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, gender equality and social justice. Informed by MenEngage Alliance's Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy, we created new and existing opportunities for the field to connect virtually, exchange knowledge, and mobilise for collective activism.

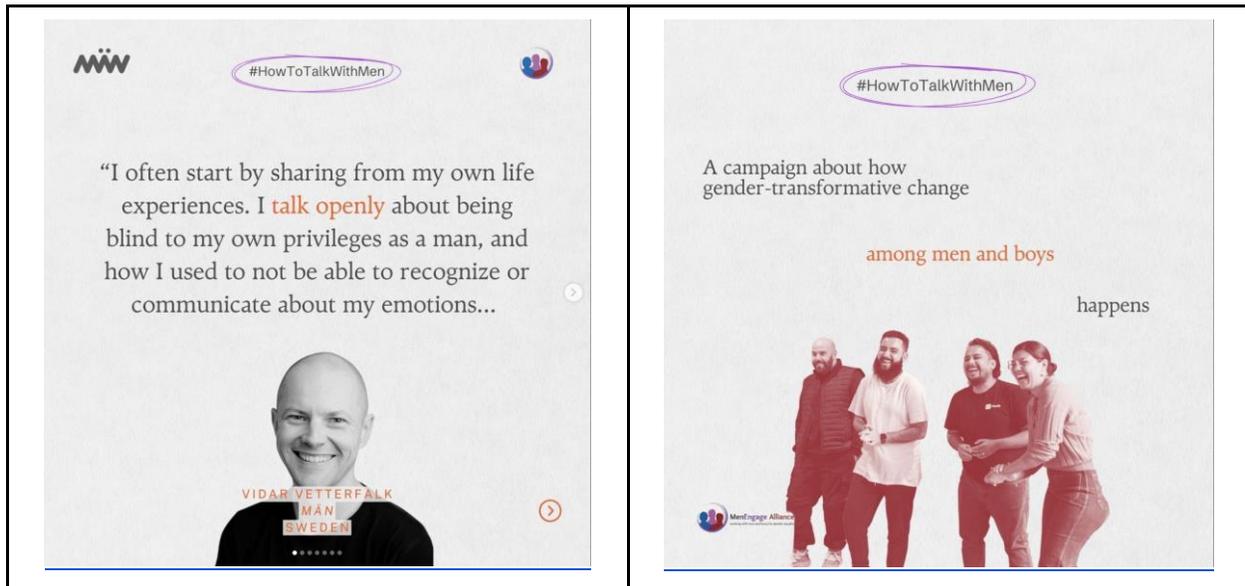
- **Mobilised members and partners for digital campaign on *#HowToTalkWithMen about women's rights, LGBTQI rights and gender justice***

The [#HowToTalkWithMen campaign](#) was developed in response to a need identified by the Global Board to strengthen our collective work on “calling men and boys in” to the work of gender justice - particularly amid the global rise of anti-gender and anti-feminist backlash. #HowToTalkWithMen is a campaign aimed to pool collective knowledge and experiences, and to invite people to share their stories of using the right tools and approaches leading to authentic reflection, introspection, positive change, and commitment to gender justice among men and boys, and sustain such transformative processes. #HowToTalkWithMen is a campaign that aims to share the insights and stories of how this happens. Through the campaign we collectively explored avenues for opening up powerful conversations and processes with men and boys towards dismantling harmful narratives, challenging patriarchal masculinities, and fostering transformative dialogues on critical issues like women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, feminism and social justice. We gathered over 40 diverse testimonies, 20 informative resources, and engaging social media posts across platforms like [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X \(former Twitter\)](#), or on our [website](#).

- The campaign ran in the week prior to 16 Days of Activism against GBV; a period in which International Men's Day also falls.
- We received testimonials from 40 members and partners sharing insights on how to open up powerful conversations and spaces for men and boys to commit to gender justice.

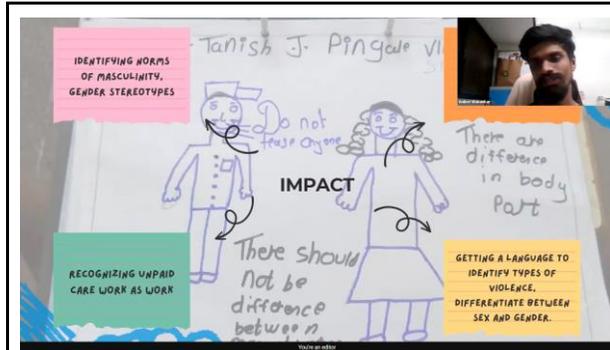
- Networks such as CariMAN, MenEngage Iberia, a NAMEN member currently based in Ivory Coast, and others were inspired to contextualise the campaign for their region (although not all of them had capacity to do so).
- The campaign was developed together with the Knowledge Management and Communications Working Group, an ad hoc group of the board deliberating our response to International Men's Day, and the Accountability Team.
- The campaign primarily took place on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Mailchimp.
- Because of the relatively large number of responses, the campaign continued into January 2024 in order to ensure all testimonials could be posted. Anecdotal feedback about the campaign was positive, providing a strong basis to do a similar campaign in 2024, aiming for even more member and network involvement.



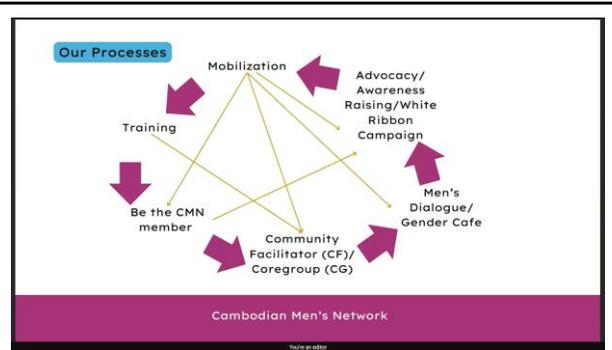


- **Used the MenEngage Global communications infrastructure to facilitate exchange of knowledge:**
 - **Kept members and partners informed via 102 mailouts in 3 languages to the global mailing list of 6,933 subscribers.** Email continued to be a powerful communications channel for engaging members, partners and supporters with our emails opened 95,677 times and links within emails clicked 10,970 times. The newsletter continued to be a platform to elevate and engage with members, such as via the 'Meet a Members' feature, showcasing the expertise and diversity of members to each other, and beyond the Alliance.
 - **Published 27 news updates, 9 resources, and 16 member profile pages on the MenEngage global [website](#).** The global website, updated in 2022, continued to be a central pillar for member engagement (as well as for broader stakeholder engagement) in 2023. It received 46,7k unique visitors, with 120k page views. Content on the website was cross-promoted on the MenEngage Global social media channels: ([X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), WhatsApp, and [YouTube](#)). These communications activities have improved visibility of initiatives across MenEngage Alliance, amplified opportunities to engage, and elevated our agenda among members—and externally.
 - **Published 54 videos on the MenEngage Global [YouTube channel](#).** The YouTube channel serves as an ongoing archive of the many webinars and online dialogues that we organise at a global level. The channel includes playlists according to themes such as GBV, backlash, climate, militarism and so on. In

total, videos on the channel received 11.8K views in 2023, with 678.7 hours of watch time. The channel gained 133 new subscribers, bringing the total number up to 947 subscribers.



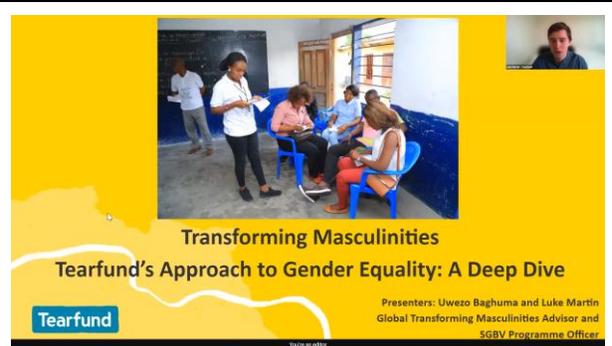
[Redefining Masculinities Engaging adolescents, youth and educators](#)



[Transforming men's attitudes to end gender-based violence - Lessons from Cambodia](#)



[Colonisation and decolonization, exploring theory & practice](#)



[Working with faith leaders and the community](#)

- Elevated our voice via Social Media:** Increasingly people's opinions are influenced by what they see and hear online. It can hardly be underestimated how important a strong online political voice on engaging men towards women's rights, gender equality, social and climate justice is. The below summary details the reach and engagement across our social media platforms. This overview includes images that rank as the highest engagement posts and ones that we consider relevant to show the diversity of our work.
 - MenEngage Instagram Account:** In total we posted 43 posts and 77 stories on Instagram. Engagement with the channel through likes and clicks was 1249 in 2023, with 173 reshares. The channel gained 421 new followers, bringing the total number up to 1,830 followers.

B= #HowToTalkWithMen

“Talking about gender equality with my male friends often leaves me feeling down...”

JOHN DAVIS
VOLUNTEER FOR BEYOND EQUALITY
UNITED KINGDOM

menengage Addressing #gender equality might be difficult sometimes, especially when we are afraid of others' reaction

John Davis is a volunteer for @beyond_equality, an organization based in London that aims to engage men and boys in rethinking of what "being a man" means for them and others. They work to redefine #masculinities, foster #GenderEquality and prevent #GBV

John shares his experience for #HowToTalkWithMen, a campaign that highlighting how people all around the world are calling men and boys in to the work for gender equality, women's rights, and #LGBTQI rights

How do you talk with men and boys about gender equality? Share your experiences with #HowToTalkWithMen

beyond_equality We love this! 🍌

Liked by andi_rabaj and 76 others

January 8

what does it mean to be

ACCOU-NTABLE

in gender justice work with men and boys?

COLAB
LEARNING COLLABORATIVE
MINDSPACE ALLIANCE

MenEngage Alliance

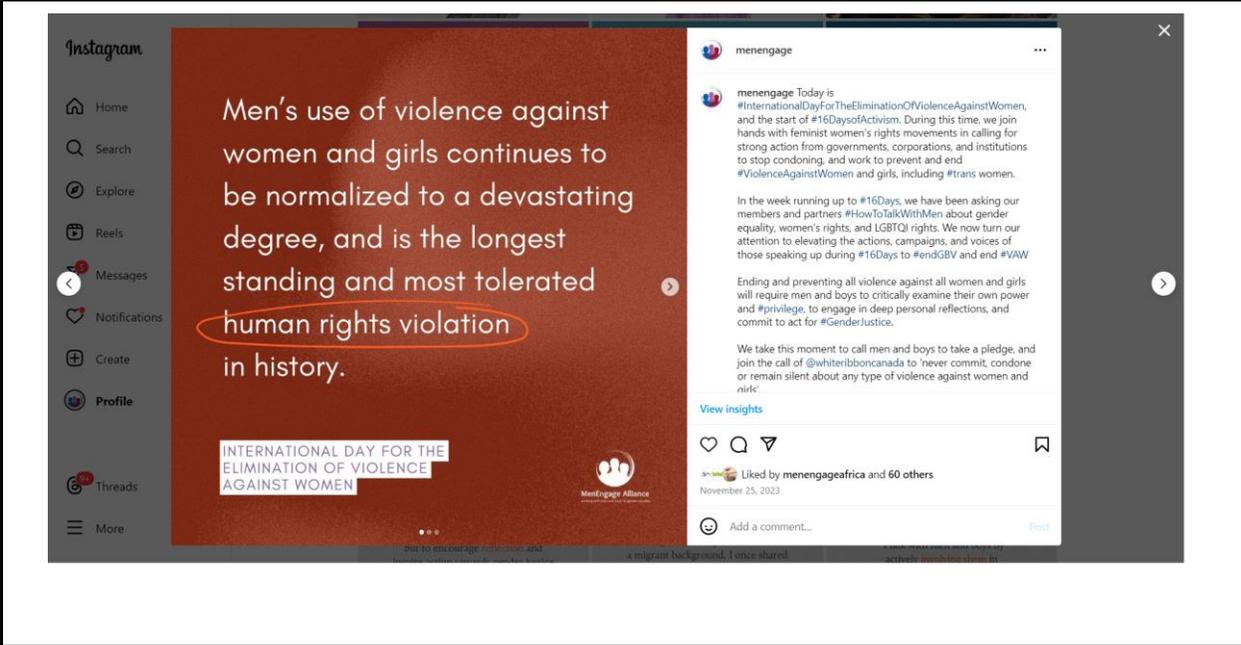
menengage While there are a number of ways to think about this question, COFEM's Tipsheet 6: Men as Allies and Activists offers some direction with the suggestion that 'accountability means that people with privilege [...] must be led by those who experience oppression'.

In other words, if your goal is to support gender equality, you are accountable to the people most harmed by gender inequalities—that is, women and girls. Likewise, if your goal is supporting racial justice, you need to be accountable to those most harmed by racism. Or, if you are working for #LGBTQI rights, you are accountable to those most impacted by homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, and so on. In reality, people's identities are more complex than this, because systems of oppression such as sexism, heterosexism, ableism, classism and ageism intersect. People can experience multiple forms of oppression at the same time, and our #accountability needs to reflect this complex reality.

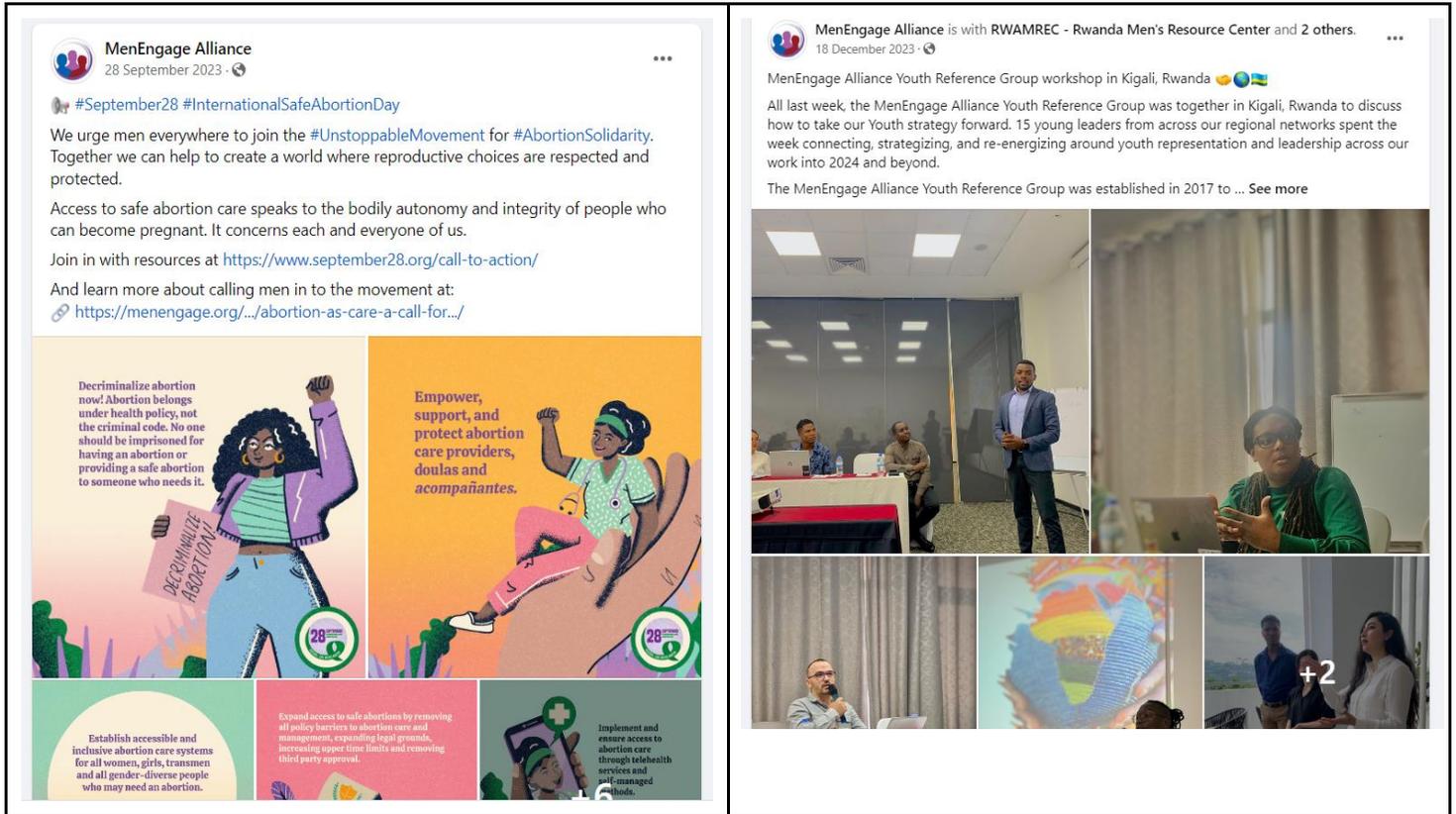
What are your thoughts about accountability in the work with men and boys for #GenderJustice?

Liked by whiteribboncanada and 27 others

October 27, 2023



- **MenEngage Facebook Account:** In total, the number of posts was 141. Engagement with the channel through likes and clicks was 1300 in 2023, and there were 235 reshares. The channel gained 301 new followers, bringing the total number up to 9,257 followers.



- o **MenEngage X (former Twitter) Account:** In total, posts on the channel received 505 clicks, 1999 likes and 950 retweets in the year 2023. The page gained 175 new followers, bringing the total number up to 9,967 followers.

 <p>MenEngage Alliance @MenEngage Today is World Day of Social Justice! 🗑️</p> <p>MenEngage Alliance joins the international community in observing World Day of Social Justice and joins in solidarity with all efforts to raise a voice against social injustices everywhere.</p> <p>#WDSJ2023 #WorldDayofSocialJustice pic.twitter.com/gPLcsJY5g8</p>	<p>Impressions 2,074</p> <p>Total engagements 64</p> <hr/> <p>Likes 34</p> <p>Retweets 12</p> <p>Detail expands 7</p> <p>Profile clicks 5</p> <p>Media engagements 4</p> <p>Replies 1</p> <p>Hashtag clicks 1</p>
 <p>MenEngage Alliance @MenEngage How do you talk with men & boys about... #WomensRights #GenderJustice #LGBTQrights #Feminism #Masculinity #SRHR #GenderBasedViolence #GBV #Allyship...?</p> <p>Share insights & experiences with the community using the #HowToTalkWithMen hashtag. Find out more at https://bit.ly/HowToTalkWithMen ... pic.twitter.com/jbz6OAHvsj</p>	<p>Impressions 1,861</p> <p>Total engagements 97</p> <hr/> <p>Likes 29</p> <p>Detail expands 17</p> <p>Retweets 13</p> <p>Link clicks 13</p> <p>Profile clicks 8</p> <p>Media engagements 7</p> <p>Hashtag clicks 6</p> <p>Follows 3</p> <p>Replies 1</p>

- **MenEngage LinkedIn Account:** In total, posts on the channel received 1686 unique visitors, 1550 engagements, 159 shares and 2007 clicks in 2023. The page gained 1233 new followers, bringing the total number up to 2784 followers.

<p>MenEngage Alliance 2,792 follower 3m · 🌐</p> <p>We are pleased to launch today #HowToTalkWithMen - a joint MenEngage Alliance campaign to explore how, with the right words, questions, stories, and approaches, we can spark gender-transformative change among men and boys.</p> <p>And we are inviting you to share your own stories of talking with men and boys about #GenderEquality, #WomensRights, #LGBTQI rights, #masculinities, #feminism, #allyship, ending gender-based violence and more.</p> <p>Up until 24th November, we will be sharing stories from members involved in sowing the seeds of gender transformative change. We will be hearing real-life experiences on what has worked to start and sustain commitment to gender justice among men and boys.</p> <p># Join in with the hashtag #HowToTalkWithMen</p> <p>Vedi traduzione</p> 	<p>Organic impressions: 1,787 Impressions Hide results ^</p> <p>Post performance ⓘ Targeted to: All followers</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1,787 Impressions</td> <td>153 Engagements</td> <td>8.56% Engagement rate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>64 Clicks</td> <td>3.58% Click-through rate</td> <td>75 Reactions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Comment</td> <td>13 Reposts</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Show all results</p>	1,787 Impressions	153 Engagements	8.56% Engagement rate	64 Clicks	3.58% Click-through rate	75 Reactions	1 Comment	13 Reposts	
1,787 Impressions	153 Engagements	8.56% Engagement rate								
64 Clicks	3.58% Click-through rate	75 Reactions								
1 Comment	13 Reposts									
<p>MenEngage Alliance 2,792 follower 3m · 🌐</p> <p>We are heartbroken by the violence, devastation, and loss of life in Gaza and Israel. We express our solidarity with those affected—directly or indirectly—by the conflict. We unite our voices with all who are calling on humanity to break the perpetual grip of war and violence around the world.</p> <p>We stand with the voices of feminists—including in Palestine and Israel—in calling for an immediate ceasefire, for the return of hostages by Hamas, for urgent humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, and for long term reparations towards sustainable peace and an end to intergenerational cycles of violence.</p> <p>We must work together to create a more just and equitable world for all, where everyone can live free from trauma and violence.</p> <p>Read the full statement at www.menengage.org</p> <p>Vedi traduzione</p> 	<p>Organic impressions: 1,074 Impressions Hide results ^</p> <p>Post performance ⓘ Targeted to: All followers</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1,074 Impressions</td> <td>122 Engagements</td> <td>11.36% Engagement rate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 Clicks</td> <td>6.05% Click-through rate</td> <td>46 Reactions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Comments</td> <td>9 Reposts</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Show all results</p>	1,074 Impressions	122 Engagements	11.36% Engagement rate	65 Clicks	6.05% Click-through rate	46 Reactions	2 Comments	9 Reposts	
1,074 Impressions	122 Engagements	11.36% Engagement rate								
65 Clicks	6.05% Click-through rate	46 Reactions								
2 Comments	9 Reposts									

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
Country and regional networks have increased capabilities and resources to coordinate and facilitate meaningful engagement with MenEngage membership at country, regional and global levels.	# country and regional networks have established coordination and secretarial mechanisms at country and regional levels by 2024	→ All 6 regional networks have established and have well-functioning regional secretariats in place
Comprehensive MenEngage membership strategy developed and implemented, including induction to roles, responsibilities and processes for collaborations, to support the empowerment of members to participate meaningfully in the Alliance and add value to their own work and that of the Alliance at a global level	1 MenEngage Membership Strategy in place, in English, Spanish and French languages, and operational by 2024	→ Membership engagement strategy developed and elements are being implemented at the global and regional levels.
Comprehensive MenEngage membership strategy developed and implemented, including induction to roles, responsibilities and processes for collaborations, to support the empowerment of members to participate meaningfully in the Alliance and add value to their own work and that of the Alliance at a global level	# of country and regional networks contextualising the strategy by 2024	→ At least 3 regions have implemented elements of the strategy in their engagement with members. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ MenEngage Europe adopted elements of the comprehensive induction process ◆ NAMEN hosted meet-ups on various topics
A comprehensive youth leadership and engagement strategy is developed and implemented to support meaningful involvement of young people across all pillars and priorities of the Alliance	1 MenEngage Youth Leadership and Engagement Strategy in place and operational to support meaningful involvement of youth at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 Youth Reference Group (YRG) meeting, with 18 participants → 1 updated work plan for 2024-2025 → 15 members of the youth reference group are in place to support the implementation → 1 regional Youth Committee in place in South Asia → 1 national youth forum in India

MenEngage Alliance knowledge management & communications (KM&C) strategy implemented and contextualised together with the country and regional networks to facilitate strengthened engagement of the members and partners of the Alliance.	# of country and regional networks receiving support to strengthen the communications and knowledge management at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 media toolkit developed collectively by regional network in Africa → 2 regional networks reporting effective use of communication platforms (Europe and Caribbean)
	# of communications and knowledge management working groups, interconnected, established at country and regional levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 5 regional networks are part of the Knowledge Management and Communications Working Group - a space for support, exchange, capacity strengthening, and strategizing → The group met 10 times in 2023
MenEngage Alliance knowledge products on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in priority issues related to women's rights and gender justice developed and disseminated in multiple languages (at least EN, ES and FR) at country, regional and global levels.	# of publications, news-items, stories highlighting MenEngage Alliance members' work by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 9 items published on the global website and/or newsletter sharing members' work (5 Meet-a-Member + 4 other stories)
	# of requests and downloads of documents and materials produced by MenEngage Alliance members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Resource pages of the global website were viewed 5900 times in 2023. → The global website has - so far - been used to publish MenEngage resources. Plans are in place to expand the number of member and partner resources
Webinars, virtual dialogues and workshops organised together with the members and partners at national, regional and global levels.	# of virtual events and dialogues organised at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 47 virtual events and dialogues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 16 across regional ◆ 31 across global levels <i>These events include peer-learning sessions, CSW Parallel Events, webinars etc.</i>
	# and diversity of participants in online dialogues and communities of the Alliance at country, regional and international levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 3186 people attended the 47 virtual sessions organised <i>These sessions were diverse as they reflected the engagement of MenEngage membership from across the globe</i>

A redesigned MenEngage Alliance website, with news updates, a resource database and virtual spaces for members to interact is maintained and operated.	# of members and partners accessing the updates and resources in the website of the Alliance by 2024	→ News updates (Stories) and resources were viewed 8600 times on the global website in 2023
Active participation of members in the MenEngage online communities on mutual priorities and interests across the countries and regions, facilitating virtual connections for peer-to-peer exchange and learning.	# of active virtual community platforms created and operational with leadership of members by 2024	→ An online community platform was researched and selected in 2023, to put into active use in 2024
	# of members and partners actively participating and contributing in the online community platforms by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 12 regional representatives actively supporting in bi-monthly cross-regional sessions → 5 members joined the ad hoc committee to organise members' assembly
	# of dialogue threads created by members and partners in the online platforms by 2024	

1.3 Cross-regional and cross-country collaborations

OUTCOME 1.3 - Increased cross-regional and cross-country collaborations among MenEngage Alliance members.

Coming together across regions continues to be a priority for members, particularly as many have noted that challenges - while context specific to some extent - are shared and there is much to be learned from each other. In particular, we worked closely with leaders from across the MenEngage regional networks to identify challenges in implementing the accountability framework at various levels of the Alliance. This led to the Accountability Workshop in Istanbul and the Global Accountability Learning Project. (See also section [3.2: Accountability](#))

Organised 3 Cross-regional online dialogues

The cross-regional sessions were an important space for exchanging about challenges experienced among the leadership and secretariats of the regional networks. Regions took the lead to identify the topics to be discussed during these online dialogues, and worked together to plan and lead the sessions. Organised with representatives from each of the regions, the topics covered included:

- Accountable fundraising - led by South Asia and Europe
- Engaging fathers as a strategy for promoting gender equality - led by North America and the Caribbean
- Power dynamics across the Alliance - led by Africa and Latin America

Regional Symposia and colloquia

- CariMAN collaborated with the [University of Calgary for the Transforming Masculinities Symposium](#), a two-day global gathering. The Symposium brought together transdisciplinary organisational and community leaders, Elders, educators, researchers, knowledge-keepers, and students working in violence prevention, gender justice, well-being, and peacebuilding. Presentations, knowledge exchange and experiential learning focused on local to global realities of gender-based violence and promote prevention efforts through awareness, strategies, and collaboration. The Symposium hosted guest presenters from Afghanistan, the Caribbean, Mexico and Pakistan.
- **Knowledge Fair: Empowering Voices, Ending Gender-Based Violence** (UNDP/UN Women/UNFPA and UNICEF) - [The Knowledge Fair](#), organised by United Nations Development Programme, within the framework of the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Programme, served as a cultural and technical space for sharing experiences on lessons learned and best practices (what works and what does not work) to stop gender-based violence and Family Violence in the region, fostering cooperation amongst countries and promoting integration in the Caribbean. This initiative stems from the strategic actions led by UNDP in the framework of the Spotlight Initiative with the support of its partners and implementing agencies (UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF). The Spotlight Initiative is a multi-year program generously funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations aimed at addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, and harmful practices globally.
- **MenEngage Africa** network successfully organised its [3rd regional symposium](#) in August 2023 under the theme: "Accountability and Transformation through Gender-Equitable Evidence-Based Programming". Jointly organised by MenEngage Africa, Sonke Gender Justice and Rwanda Men's Resource Centre-RWAMREC, the hybrid event brought together about 200 participants off and online. Delegates included MenEngage

Africa members and partners, academics, activists, government officials, donors, and representatives from the United Nations agencies, for a mutual learning and joint agenda setting on gender transformative approaches to engage boys and men. The culmination and collective discussions resulted in developing the [3rd MenEngage Africa Symposium declaration](#). The declaration was inspired by the learnings and vibrant debates among the participants representing 26 different countries

- Within the premise of the 3rd regional symposium, **MenEngage Africa Youth network** hosted the Youth pre-symposium bringing together youth leaders in all their diversities from across the countries in the region. This resulted in the release of the [youth declaration](#), as the result of an extensive consultation process that began with a 2-day MenEngage Africa Youth Annual General meeting, attended by young people from over 17 countries within the MenEngage Africa network.
- **MenEngage Africa Sexual Rights Health and Rights (SRHR) Learning and Exchange Symposium** took place from 21-23 October in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was an important event that focused on the theme of "*SRHR for All: Building a Better Future for Africa's Youth.*" The symposium brought together a diverse range of stakeholders committed to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in Africa. Throughout the 3-day event, attendees engaged in meaningful discussions and workshops, sharing their experiences and expertise on the various topics related to SRHR. Participants explored different approaches to addressing the challenges facing young people in Africa, such as the lack of access to comprehensive sexuality education, safe abortion services, and youth-friendly health services. They also discussed the importance of engaging with traditional and religious leaders to promote gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Symposium closed with young people feeling energised to continue advocating for SRHR access in their local communities. The symposium concluded with the presentation of an [outcome document](#) and a commitment.
- MenEngage Europe co-organised the **National Forum in Albania on "Boys and Men who inspire - Transforming patriarchal masculinities"**, where the MEE Secretariat held a presentation of the network and its activities for different local actors and met with gender equality organisations. This event gathered actors working with men and boys in different parts of Albania and Kosovo and included deep discussions and presentations on what work is being done and how it could be strengthened.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
<p>MenEngage Cross-Regional Networks approaches established and operational to facilitate information and knowledge sharing among members on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality and human rights of all women, girls and people of diverse gender identities.</p>	<p>1 Regional Networks Working Group in place and operational to lead the cross-regional networks strengthening by 2024</p>	<p>→ 1 Regional Networks Working Group in place</p>
	<p># of joint collaborative efforts and initiatives among the members and partners of the Alliance at country, regional and international levels by 2024</p>	<p>→ 3 cross-regional sessions organised</p>
<p>Existing and new issue-based working groups and committees of the Alliance coordinated and strengthened, including participation of members in these groups, at country, regional and global levels.</p>	<p># of thematic working groups work plans developed and implemented at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<p>→ 6 thematic global working groups in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GBV - SRHR - SOGIESC learning circle - Climate & Environmental Justice - Youth Reference Group - Inner Work for Social Change <p>→ 2 strategic working groups in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy - Communications & Knowledge management
	<p># of consultations and knowledge products produced on the priority issues and topics by the Alliance members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	
<p>Collective framing, positions and differences on issues are communicated in accessible ways that foster collective</p>	<p># of joint thematic and political briefs produced and disseminated by the Alliance, including on various issues</p>	<p>→ 1 Policy Brief on Climate Justice , by the working group</p>

<p>engagement with and learning around key topics and joint agenda setting on key issues and priorities at country, regional and global levels.</p>	<p>and strategies based working groups, by 2024</p>	
<p>Cross-country, cross-regional and international campaigns and joint initiatives among members initiated and supported.</p>	<p># of cross-country and cross-regional activities and initiatives, including cross-sharing and learning exchanges between and among members, partners and allies taking place at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 regional SRHR learning and exchange symposium in Africa → 1 knowledge fair organised by CarIMAN on ending GBV
	<p># and diversity of participants of these cross-regional activities and initiatives organised by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 110 participants from young people of all their diversities, religious and traditional leaders, LGBTQI+ persons, and allies at the Africa SRHR symposium
<p>Symposiums, colloquiums and conferences organised together with the members and partners at national, regional and global levels.</p>	<p># of symposiums, colloquiums and events organised by the MenEngage Alliance members and networks at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 regional symposium in Africa region → 1 regional youth symposium in Africa region → 1 national forum in Albania, Europe → 1 cross-regional symposium on Transforming Masculinities Symposium in Caribbean and North America regions
	<p># and diversity of attendants and organisers of joint conferences at country, regional and national levels by 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 200 participants from 26 countries in Africa regional symposium
	<p># of political declarations developed and followed up to sharpen the politics of the work of the members and partners of the Alliance at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	

1.4 Engagement and influence of members in MenEngage Global decision-making

OUTCOME 1.4 - *Improved engagement and influence of members in MenEngage Global planning and decision making.*

Enabling and building good relationships based on trust, cooperation, and the spirit of solidarity has proven essential for MenEngage Alliance to move forward and contribute to change. During the last years of strategizing, we have been focusing on improving meaningful engagement of members, which in turn will influence the decision-making processes, agenda-setting and programming of the Alliance at the global level. MenEngage Global will increase transparency in decision making, and membership engagement in the planning and monitoring of its activities.

- **Organised a Town Hall event for members:**

Members of MenEngage Alliance from across the world joined the online Town Hall event on 16 February to learn about and share inputs on the global plans for MenEngage Alliance in 2023. It was an opportunity to share inputs, thoughts, questions, and ideas for how the MenEngage Alliance community can jointly work towards our shared mission and vision in 2023 and beyond. Questions discussed included how we can connect more between national, regional, and global activities of MenEngage Alliance; and how members can be involved in the working groups, advocacy and campaigns of the Alliance. The Town Hall was also a key moment in the process of membership reaffirmation and Alliance-wide commitment to our MenEngage Accountability Framework. *(See also section 3.2 Accountability).*

- **Organised the 3rd MenEngage Alliance Global Members' Assembly:**

The [3rd MenEngage Alliance members' global assembly](#) took place online from 27-29 June over the course of three days. The Assembly is a space for the members of the Alliance to come together as a global community to have meaningful engagement with each other and to have their say on the strategic direction and agenda-setting of MenEngage Alliance. It was the second Assembly to take place annually since 2022. The online event consisted of plenaries, panel discussions, and break-out sessions for members to meet each other and connect. The Assembly included reaffirmation of shared commitments, strategizing on the future of MenEngage Alliance, and engagements in collective reflection and growth on the themes of intersectional

feminist analysis and decolonization. There was live interpretation in Spanish, French, and English as well as an additional 17 languages through an auto-translation tool. 265 members from across the world gathered together over the three days of the Assembly. We are working to make the assembly more of a space to hear from members. It is an ongoing learning process and we strive to include more avenues for members to input in future assemblies.

'Patriarchy, the resilient force that never takes a time out, must be overcome.'
Sue-Ann Barratt, PhD.

In [her opening address to the 2023 MenEngage Global Members Assembly](#), Sue-Ann Barratt illustrates the stubbornness of patriarchy and conservative backlash. She provides a rallying call to MenEngage Alliance members to harness knowledge as power in dismantling inequalities.

Sue-Ann Barratt is Lecturer and Head at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, The University of the West Indies, Augustine Campus. She is a member of the global MenEngage Climate & Environmental Justice Working Group.

- **Theory of Change and Strategic Plan made more communicable/digestible - launch of the *MenEngage Handbook*:**

Following the intention to make our guiding documents more accessible to members and partners, we started the development of a communication campaign strategy. In 2023 we launched the [MenEngage Handbook](#): a highly visual guide that includes summaries of the Alliance's vision, mission, Accountability Framework (core principles, code of conduct and accountability standards), theory of change, and our collective roadmap.

- **Our global plans and reports made publicly accessible:**

In efforts to advance transparency and information sharing with members and partners, the [2023 annual plan has been summarised in an appealing format](#) and made publicly available on the MenEngage Alliance website and in a listserv announcement. Our [strategic and annual plans](#) and the [annual reports, including financials, along with the evaluation reports](#) since 2014 are also publicly accessible on our website. We will continue this practice and strengthen it further to improve members' access to the global plans.

- All six Regional Networks continued to have a representative on the Global Board:** The regional representatives to the Global Board are nominated, elected or selected by the Regional Steering Committees, following the democratic processes they have in place. The Global Secretariat supported the Regions in leadership (s)election and transition processes, including by supporting vetting processes and inducting the new representative/s. *(For activities of the MenEngage Global Board, see section 1.1)*

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
MenEngage members are regularly informed about the activities and decisions of MenEngage Global	# of communications and engagement actions sharing relevant information about activities and processes of the MenEngage Global with the members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2024	→ 2 global membership engagement spaces organised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TownHall (80 participants) ◆ Members Assembly (265 participants over three days) 104 mail-outs sent in 3 languages sent to the global mailing list
	% increase of responses and engagement from the membership on the joint activities and decision making processes by 2024	
MenEngage Global plans, reports and budgets are easily accessible for members and partners; and all publications are available in multiple languages (EN, ES, FR)	# of members and partners accessing and utilising the global strategic and annual plans and budgets at country, regional and global levels by 2024	193 page views of the Strategic Plan webpage in 2023 584 total page views for the strategic plan in 2023
MenEngage Alliance Theory of Change and Strategic plan are well disseminated among the membership for further contextualization and implementation at country, regional and global levels.	# of meetings and workshops organised on the Alliance's Theory of Change and Strategic Plan by 2024	<i>See TownHall and Assembly</i>
	# of members and partners participating in the meetings and workshops on the ToC and Strategic Plan by 2024	<i>See TownHall and Assembly</i>

	# of country and regional networks contextualising the Strategic Plan and ToC by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 accessible Handbook launched combining SP, ToC and Accountability Framework → 6 Regional networks have developed their plans informed and aligned with the SP and ToC → 1 sub-regional network: Iberia
Periodic Members Assembly meetings & Global Board elections organised together with the country and regional network members, including facilitating leadership of members in this process.	# of assembly and leadership meetings organised at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 Global Members Assembly meeting organised → 5 Global Board meetings → 1 regional Africa symposium
	# of members participating in the assembly and leadership meetings organised by MenEngage Global by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 265 participants in global Members Assembly → 80 participants in TownHall
MenEngage members have avenues to influence strategic direction and decision making of the MenEngage Global Board, including via Regional Networks' representation on the Board; and members can listen-in to Board meetings [except for discussions that are in-camera].	# of members and partners participation, knowledge and involvement in global decision making processes and leadership by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 6 regional network representatives on the Global Board → <i>(see also: Assembly & TownHall)</i>

2. Accountable Policy Advocacy and Political Voice

RESULT AREA 2

Laws, policies and political discourse on gender equality and human rights of all women and girls and people of diverse gender and sexual identities include analyses and approaches to transform patriarchal masculinities and the roles of men and boys.

In 2023 a number of key advocacy activities came to fruition in support of accountable policy advocacy and raising our political voice. With well-established global advocacy mechanisms in place, and maturing regional level advocacy strategizing and organising, we continued to raise our capacity and voice in accountable allyship with feminist women's and LGBTQI rights, and climate justice movements. This included doing so on core issues including militarised masculinities amidst rising tension in Palestine, Israel, and the Ukraine; rollbacks on SRHR; rising gender-based violence (GBV) amidst COVID and post-COVID realities; climate change; and violations in LGBTIQ rights - including as Uganda faced the passing of anti-LGBTIQ legislation. We raised our voices through collective activism, which included issuing statements and listserv mobilising opinion pieces; and organising ourselves to meaningfully participate in key advocacy spaces and mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, Special Procedures, CEDAW Committee, UNGA, CSW, COP28, Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, and Generation Equality Forum.

Notably, our long-term advocacy efforts within the human rights mechanisms at the Human Rights Council saw impactful results, including through a cooperative effort with the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls on the development of a position paper highlighting opportunities and challenges in advancing an intersectional feminist and accountable agenda on men's engagement in gender justice; and preparations for the upcoming Special Briefing with the CEDAW Committee, following up on a prior Expert Workshop held with the Treaty Body, to support committee members' understanding of what effective and gender just- intersectional feminist policy-making inclusive of men and boys looks like.

Following years of ongoing advocacy within the Human Rights Council, CSW, UNGA, and other international normative frameworks, a win in 2023 was the maturation of the framing of the agenda on men and masculinities to move beyond merely engaging men and boys as allies

and agents of change to include the need for dismantling “patriarchal masculinity, sexism and misogyny”. This was the first time that this framing is reflected in the normative framework at international level. While the Alliance continues to advocate for the framing of multiple forms and expression of “masculinities”, the inclusion of this new language was considered a welcome advancement within the HRC53 - Resolution on Ending and preventing forced marriage. It is a base of agreed upon language upon which the alliance can continue to build.

We, through the Global Secretariat, continued to actively engage in movement building and accountable advocacy alongside the Women’s Rights Caucus for CSW advocacy; feminist collectives organising around the Human Rights Council, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures in Geneva; United Nations Foundation convened Generation Equality Forum (GEF) The Nest network-of-networks; the Women and Gender Constituency for climate justice advocacy at COP28 and beyond; and re-established in-person partnership and relationship building with the Women’s Major Group for engagement at the United Nations SDG Summit - having prioritised other policy spaces to attend in person in prior years. MenEngage Alliance also joined the Alliance for Feminist Movements.

In 2023, the Global Secretariat embarked on a dedicated effort to re-establish in-person relationships with policy-makers, Governments, UN agencies and feminist movements in Geneva and New York, after COVID19 travel limitations had reduced the capacity to maintain dedicated in-person contact. In turn, this supported our aim to influence policy makers on the agenda of men and masculinities. One significant milestone in our advocacy efforts was to organise a high level consultation with allied Governments to share policy recommendations to effective feminist policy-making inclusive of work with men and boys); co-organized with SIDA. Furthermore, the global secretariat began to explore entry points to meaningfully contribute to Feminist Foreign Policy discussions and feminist mobilisation.

With well-established policy advocacy mechanisms in place at the global level, several MenEngage regional networks are also strengthening their capacities and systems for joint advocacy, and holding decision-makers to account.

CSW67 joint accountable advocacy

MenEngage mobilised members from across the Alliance towards joint advocacy at the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. This year’s priority theme “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” was an important moment to **call out the interconnections between online facilitated violence against women, girls and**

gender non-conforming people, the mansphere and current norms of masculinities. (See Priority Issues section on Digital and technological change, online facilitated violence & masculinities)

Our members were able to come together at CSW67 to build relationships across countries and continents and shape our shared agenda and strategies. This year, members strategized on our engagements to **influence a gender transformative agenda on men and masculinities in accountable ways** at CSW67. Members also reflected on challenges within the space, including rising anti-rights backlash.

Highlights include:

- Coordination of 50 members attending CSW in-person and many more online
- 25 members convened in MenEngage Alliance Caucus meetings
- 171 signatories to MenEngage Alliance Sign-on statement for CSW
- 13 members engaged in language policy advocacy
- 22 Governments reached with technical inputs
- 2 parallel events organised
- 3 MenEngage Alliance Caucus meetings organised
- 3 collective advocacy learning sessions organised

More than 50 MenEngage members travelled to New York for the session, with many more participating online. This was primarily facilitated through three MenEngage Caucus meetings, including an Opening Caucus, a Youth Caucus and a Midpoint Caucus. Our Caucus meetings at CSW are an opportunity for those members who are engaged in the space to have a dedicated moment to connect as part of the MenEngage Alliance community.

In addition to the many events organised by members and partners, MenEngage Alliance coordinated the organisation of two parallel events:

- **Can 'men and masculinities' approaches support feminist systems change?**
This session explored what makes a program with men and boys gender transformative, with speakers from COFEM West Africa, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion Rwanda, RWAMREC, Salama-Lebanon and Raising Voices Uganda. We delved into the critical question of why a shift in gendered power-relations is so difficult to achieve. And took a look at what we can learn from interventions around the world.
- **Uprooting patriarchal masculinities from the digital spheres for gender justice:** This session unpacked promising practices, challenges and opportunities from participants from around the world in gender transformative work with men

and boys to initiatives addressing feminist systems change in the digital sphere. The speakers of this sessions included representatives from our members and partners, Global Fund for Women (Mexico), The Story Kitchen (Nepal); Breakthrough (India); Defensoras Digitales ([#LeyOlimpia](#)) (Mexico), and Association for Progressive Communications (APC) (India).

Collective policy advocacy:

- **Statements:** We developed a collective civil society sign-on [statement on the issue of masculinities and digital technology](#), submitted by MenEngage Global Alliance and co-signed by 171 members. We also delivered a [collective oral statement](#) at Youth Interactive Official CSW Panel Discussion. These were efforts to move towards more movement-building activism approaches and to galvanise the support of members and partners around this important political agenda.
- **Agreed Conclusions:** MenEngage Alliance members and partners sought to add value to the Women’s Rights Caucus advocacy by providing 4 rounds of technical inputs on the men and masculinities language within the Agreed Conclusions. These efforts aimed to provide nuanced political language on the need to transform patriarchal masculinities and work with men and boys for gender and social justice—online, offline and in-between. More than 50 members took part in preparing technical inputs and in advocating to governments. This included direct lobbying efforts with delegations of Rwanda, Botswana, Zambia, Germany, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Morocco, Mexico, Bangladesh. These efforts took place across four rounds of negotiations, from the first draft (known as the ‘Zero Draft’) up to the final adopted document (the Agreed Conclusions). 13 Governments lobbied with 4 rounds of inputs on the Agreed Conclusions.

Strengthened capacity for joint accountable advocacy:

- **CSW67 Collective Learning Sessions organised:** MenEngage Alliance organised a series of conversations with members and partners in the lead up to CSW67. These included *CSW Beginners Orientation* and a session on *Collective Learnings for Building Political Momentum at CSW67 and Beyond*, focused on innovation and technological change in the digital age for achieving gender equality. The later session included a deep dive into backlash at the United Nations as well as elevating LGBTIQ, youth and disabilities rights agendas within a collective learning space for MenEngage members and partners. We co-organised the session with our members and partners Ipas, IDS, Baha’is International, National AIDS Council LGBTIQ Demands, and Parents of

Disabled children Association of Malawi (PODCAM). We also hosted a *CSW67 Debrief Collective learning* session to socialise the outcomes and analysis around the session.

- **Supported the convening of members** through the creation of a mapping survey for CSW participants (both virtual and in person), the establishment of an information sharing email chain; the organising of the caucus meetings, and facilitating the participation of several MenEngage Advocacy Working Group regional representatives from North America and Latin America. As well a youth/LGBTIQ participant were invited to join with support from the Global Secretariat.

Targeted efforts to strengthen youth leadership and engagement:

- **MenEngage Alliance Youth Caucus** was anchored by Festus Kisa (in person) and Ange Marie Yvette (online), who are both members of the Youth Reference Group of MenEngage Alliance. The discussions included sharing about the Youth Reference Group and its mandate, sharing about the MenEngage Alliance Youth Strategy and the 2022-2023 annual work plan. The youth members of MenEngage Alliance in attendance mapped some key strategies for engaging in CSW68.
- **Youth Forum:** A cohort of young activists and leaders from MenEngage Alliance joined hundreds of youth voices at the CSW67 and through virtual participation. Although spaces were carved out for youth at CSW67, MenEngage Alliance shares and elevated [concerns that it was not a safe space – particularly for LGBTQI youth](#). CSW67 saw the first ever official [Interactive Youth Dialogue](#), bringing together Member States, UN Agencies and Civil Society youth leaders to influence the agenda at CSW. The CSW67 Youth Forum, co-organised by UN Women with input from young leaders, brought together youth leaders-in all their diversities-as a space to share the [Global Youth Recommendations](#) with policy makers.

2.1 Advocacy capacity and mechanisms

OUTCOME 2.1 - *Strengthened capabilities and mechanisms for joint accountable advocacy among MenEngage members.*

Throughout 2023 we continued to strengthen our Alliance-wide advocacy mechanisms:

- **Working through the MenEngage Global Advocacy Working Group:** Through 13 regular meetings and ad hoc strategy calls, the working group advanced the implementation of the interconnected advocacy strategy, including planning, agenda-setting and collective strategizing towards global, regional and national advocacy. This included ongoing monthly strategic advocacy sessions convening 3 at-large members, 1 youth focal point and 9 regional advocacy focal points. This resulted in building collective skills in analysing policies at national, regional and global levels for nuanced and intersectional feminist political frameworks on work to transform patriarchal masculinities and engage men and boys. Notably, the working group added two new youth representatives selected by nomination of the Alliance's Youth Reference Group. As well, an ad hoc co-working group was established alongside the SOGIESC Learning Circle to carry out urgent meetings to address the crisis in Uganda due to the passing of the anti-LGBTIQ legislation. This ad hoc working group met for 4 consecutive meetings to develop joint strategies.
- **Strengthened effectiveness of the regional Advocacy Working Groups:** The regional advocacy capacity and strategizing has continued to deepen over the course of 2023. By way of regional advocacy focused sub-grants, the regional networks have benefited from direct support -both financial and technical- from the Global Secretariat, to continue to establish processes for collective analysis of current political contexts, values clarification on intersectional feminist work to engage men and boys, strategies and advocacy aims.
- **Regional advocacy grants:** As part of the Alliance's efforts to continue to mature our capacity for interconnected advocacy from national to regional to global in order to advance the feminist, LGBTIQ, youth and climate justice political asks, we continued to support our regional networks via UNF supported sub-grants. While the 2021-22 subgrants supported the regions in establishing regional advocacy working groups to continue the process of collective and contextualised regional advocacy strategies, the

2023 sub-grants focused on **strengthening movement-building** alongside feminist LGBTIQ, climate, youth and other social justice movements, especially in the Global South regions.

- **Three regional networks in the Global South - including Latin America, the Caribbean and South Asia** have begun carrying out extensive mapping exercises of pivotal gender-, climate- and other social justice movements in their respective regions, with the aim of understanding these movements' key political agendas, tactics, strategies and movement goals, as well as the backlash they are currently facing. These collaborative mapping exercises aim to facilitate opportunities for joint political work, allyship and solidarity actions of each regional network through movement-building approaches alongside other civil society in their contexts. This effort will continue to be implemented in 2024 and we expect this work to open up meaningful opportunities for our regional networks and members to articulate in sustainable ways with broader cross-movements strategies, supporting the building of robust cross-movement relations and momentum at regional level to advance the goal of joint interconnected advocacy through movement-building approaches.
- **MenEngage Africa** continued its implementation of the 2022 sub-grant to improve women's participation in leadership and decision making within the regional governance structure, producing a comprehensive report: [MenEngage Scan: Transformational Leadership within MenEngage Africa's Governance Structure](#), which identifies opportunities and gaps in improving feminist, LGBTIQ and youth leadership within the MenEngage Africa regional network. In 2024, the network will hold a workshop led by feminist partners, and will include the entire regional leadership via the MenEngage Africa Steering Committee, to explore the results of the report and to discuss strategies for improving feminist, youth and LGBTIQ leadership within the network, as well as supporting these leaderships in the broader movements of partners in the region.
- **MenEngage Europe (MEE)** utilised the UNF supported 2022 subgrant to organise an in person two-day advocacy meeting in Stockholm to formalise the establishment of a coordinated regional advocacy working group. Following several convenings of the working group, the 2023 sub-grant has been focused towards finalising the MenEngage Europe joint accountable advocacy strategy, through a process that will include the entire leadership structure of the regional network, as well as the advocacy working group. An in-person meeting is being planned in February of 2024 in Stockholm with representatives from the MEE SC, the advocacy working group, the regional Co-Coordinator and MEE

Secretariat to create a dedicated space for the development of the strategy. An online consultation and presentation open for all MEE members will be held in April, to discuss the outline, outcomes and focus of the new advocacy MEE strategy and the foundation for the regional accountable advocacy strategy.

- **The North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN) Policy Advocacy Committee and the MenEngage Latin America advocacy working group** continued to convene advocates from the respective region, to address a wide array of emergent issues within each context, as well as continue conversations on regional advocacy priorities and strategies.
- **Developed a joint policy document:** [10 Recommendations for Governments from lessons learned on effective, transformative work with men and boys for sustainable gender equality](#), a cutting-edge articulation of the Alliance's learnings and suggestions to Government partners from its work across the world over the past 15 years of organising. This document is currently being reviewed, finalised and designed and will be the basis for collective advocacy in 2024 with Governments and policy makers from national, regional and global levels.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
MenEngage members', including youth leaders from across the regions, understanding and capacities on accountable and evidence-based advocacy for collective efforts strengthened and mobilised around policy change at country and regional levels.	# of capacity strengthening activities and people reachout at national, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 2 Parallel Events (CSW67) 250 participants → 3 Caucus Meetings (CSW67) 100 participants → 3 CSW67 CoLab Sessions 225 participants
Youth activists are supported to develop their capacities on accountable advocacy and are engaged in the advocacy activities of the Alliance at all levels.	# of youth activists taking leadership roles on advocacy activities and mobilisation at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 31 5 YRG members 25 members MenEngage Youth Caucus 1 member Oral Youth Statement
Regional and national advocacy strategies are developed and implemented with the regional	# of regional and country advocacy strategies developed by the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 4 1 MenEngage Europe (in progress)

advocacy working groups and networks.	members and partners at country and regional levels by 2024	1 MenEngage South Asia (in progress) 1 MenEngage Latin America (in progress) 1 North American ME ((in progress)
Regional-network advocacy working groups (R-AWGs) are facilitated and connected across regions for mutual learning and strategizing, as envisioned in the Alliance's interconnected advocacy strategy.	# of advocacy working groups in place and joint activities organised at country and regional levels by 2024	→ 6 Regional AWGs in place - with varying levels of activity: 1 MenEngage Africa 1 MenEngage Europe 1 MenEngage South Asia 1 MenEngage Latin America 1 CARIMAN 1 NAMEN
Policy assessment and monitoring tools [Score-Cards] to determine promising practices & challenges in policy design, development and implementation are contextualised, made available and implemented by members at country and regional levels.	# and quality of policy assessment and monitoring tools developed and implemented at country, regional and global levels by 2024	→ CSW statement Policy Brief - Climate Ambition Summit → Climate-SDG Global Consultation
Contextualization, translation and application of relevant international and regional normative frameworks such as HRC 35/10, is strengthened at country and regional levels through a concerted communications strategy.	# of country and regional networks reporting applications of the international and regional normative frameworks in their advocacy efforts at national and regional levels by 2024	→ 2 regional networks - Africa and South Asia
MenEngage members have access to international normative frameworks language mapping analysis and knowledge products (CEDAW, Beijing, ICPD, HRC Resolutions, Agenda 2030, UNSCR 1325) through a concerted communications strategy.	# of normative frameworks developed, translated into Spanish, French and English languages, and disseminated at national, regional and global levels by 2024	→ 1192 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEDAW Packet – A collection of policy recommendations: 144 views • OHCHR Review: 180 views • Human Rights Council Resolution on engaging men and boys: 166 views

- [Language Mapping \(CSW66\)](#): 40 views
- [Policy Score cards](#): 595 views
- Language mapping normative frameworks (CSW, HRC, ICPD, CEDAW, UNGA)
- [Compiling language in global and regional normative framework](#): 67 views

2.2 Joint advocacy actions

OUTCOME 2.2 - *Increased joint accountable advocacy actions among MenEngage members and strategic partners at country, regional and global levels.*

As a central component of the Alliances' advocacy strategy, members seek to strengthen partnerships with policy makers towards the implementation of a progressive and political framework to transform masculinities and engage men and boys, especially among Member States, UN Agencies and other GEF policy-makers. In 2023, the MenEngage Global Secretariat carried out a dedicated effort to re-establish in-person relationships with policy-makers, Governments, UN agencies and feminist movements in Geneva and New York, after COVID19 travel limitations had reduced the capacity to maintain in-person contact.

- **In partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) we co-organised the online [Orientation consultation: Gender transformative approaches with men and boys: What does this mean for government partners?](#)** - inviting government partners and GEF commitment makers committed to supporting women's rights, LGBTQIA rights, gender- and social justice- to a strategic orientation consultation to exchange perspectives, lessons learned, challenges and promising practices on gender transformative approaches involving men and boys. The session was co-created in consultation with 10 MenEngage members from Cote d'Ivoire, Nicaragua, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Lebanon who delivered [dynamic presentation](#) centering the Alliance's collective political recommendations for Governments advancing work on men and masculinities.

Government representatives were invited from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Iceland, Germany, South Africa and Sierra Leone; as well as representatives from the Nordic Council of Ministers, European Union,. As part of the ongoing collective strategizing with MenEngage members, it was assessed that due to the impact of Global North donor countries, many of who's Generation Equality Forum commitments included implementation in Global South countries, that these governments represented a critical constituency which must be engaged from the onset. The Africa region commitment makers and gender equality country leaders were also included to facilitate a Global North - Global South dialogue. Due to limitations in timezone and scheduling a consultation with Governments within working hours, the Global Secretariat decided to limit the consultation to two regions, with the potential to carry out additional Government consultations in 2024, as well as a consultation with donors and philanthropic organisations.

The orientation consultation opened the doors for continued partnership and technical support to Government partners in implementing robust and political approaches to work on men and masculinities, as well as keeping the lines of communication open for more sustainable ongoing relationship building and support on all their efforts inclusive of work with men and boys.

Alliance participation in policy-making fora*:

*In addition to the below overview, we mobilised members to participate in and influence CSW67 (*see case study at the start of this chapter*); COP28 and the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact (*see Priority Issues section on Climate Justice*); and the C20 summit in preparation of the G20 meeting ([see Priority Issues section on Unpaid care, the new economy and masculinities](#)).

- **SDG Summit & UNGA High Level Week:** As the mid-point moment in the implementation of Agenda 2030, this special session of the High Level Political Forum served as a key moment to impact advocacy regarding the worrisome reality that implementation of most SDGs is lagging behind target, with many beginning to backslide, MenEngage Alliance supported members in coordinating joint participation within the space including representative members from MenEngage Africa and NAMEN. A survey was sent to coordinate participating members at the session (including by sharing rapid response statements, advocacy opportunities and social media messaging over a dedicated listserv and whatsapp group) and carried out collective agenda setting through the Global Advocacy Working Group and coordinated by the Global Secretariat. The Global Secretariat and 12 members were present at the Summit.
- **Global People's Assembly & Declaration:** Happening on the margins of the SDG Summit, the Global People's Assembly served as a critical space for civil society

movement-building and agenda setting. This was particularly notable due to the massive limitations imposed on civil society in entering the official sessions taking place during the UNGA High Level Week. As part of the effort to influence the intergovernmental agenda, the Global People's Assembly produced a People's Declaration, laying out the collective intersectional feminist political agenda to accelerate the advancement of the SDGs. MenEngage members provided inputs to the draft of the declaration and participated in its amplification and dissemination.

- **Generation Equality Forum Mid-point moment:** MenEngage Alliance participated in the mid-term reporting process for GEF - sharing progress and gaps in the implementation of our internal and external commitments. This process marks the second year of the reporting process for Commitment-makers leading up to the GEF mid-point moment in September 2023. Continuing the Alliances' close monitoring and participation within the GEF Initiative (as a GEF Commit-maker), the Global Secretariat was invited to participate as commitment-maker within the mid-point review process taking place as part of the SDG Summit 2023. The Global Secretariat participated and supported the travel of MenEngage member and GBV Action Coalition CSO leader, Breakthrough, to attend the session.
- **Geneva Human Rights Mechanisms:** We advanced relationship building and partnership strengthening meetings within the Geneva Human Rights Mechanisms, including with Generation Equality Forum Commitment Makers: Human Rights Officer and the focal point for climate change and the environment at the Office of the United Nations High, OHCHR Gender Unit Chief, OHCHR Care and Protection Unit; Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, CEDAW coordination focal point; Women's Human Rights Section of the Government of the Netherlands.
- **53rd Session of the Human Rights Council:** MenEngage Alliance participated in joint advocacy on the yearly Violence Against Women and Girls Resolution led by the Government of Canada, as well as the Ending Forced, Child, and Early Marriage Resolution. Three rounds of collective technical inputs, including on men and masculinities, were shared alongside the advocacy coalition lead by Center for Reproductive Rights which includes feminist, LGBTIQ and youth partners: SRI, WWHR, Plan International; AWID, Rutgers, CHOICE, MIFTAH, Amnesty International, CRR, CHOICE, ILGA. 11 Governments were lobbied with these language recommendations. We also joined WILPF in providing 1 round of technical inputs on the Small Arms Trade Resolution.

- **Mobilising around Feminist Foreign Policy:** MenEngage Alliance began to include elements of advocacy on Feminist Foreign Policy. There are 16 participating Governments to date - including France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, Americas, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Mexico, Mongolia, Liberia and Libya - who have joined this important coalition of allied member states to the feminist systems change agendas.
 - The MenEngage Global Secretariat Co-Directors participated in this years' FFP conference and were selected as ambassadors to speak on working with men and boys to conference attendees.
 - More work will continue in 2024 to expand the Alliance's advocacy and analysis on FFP from men and masculinities lens, in collaboration with the Feminist Foreign Policy Collaborative and other relevant partners.
- **Resolution 2480 (2023) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:** MenEngage Europe member participant in the Global Advocacy Working Group, provided technical inputs to the Resolution 2480 (2023) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on "[The role and responsibility of boys and men in stopping gender-based violence against women and girls](#)", adopted by the Assembly on 25 January 2023 in laying out a progressive framework including calling on men, including men in positions of political, economic or social power, to be part of the response and participate in changing mindsets, behaviours and social norms in order to prevent and combat gender-based violence. It also calls for "Article 8.2. Adopt strategies or national action plans to prevent and combat gender-based violence and provide for measures with a dedicated budget that promote responsibility and the role of men and boys", opening up opportunities for collective regional advocacy. The resolution compels all 27 member states of the European Union to enact and implement this normative framework.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
The MenEngage joint agenda, the Ubuntu/Kigali Declaration and Call to Action, is shared, and informs the advocacy work of the membership	# of individuals and organisations reached with the declaration and related mobilisation by 2024	<i>We share portions of it in a lot of our advocacy and communications messaging - such as references in policy briefs (see across this report)</i>

<p>MenEngage Global Advocacy strategy in place and implemented with the global Advocacy Working Group (AWG).</p>	<p>1 MenEngage interconnected Advocacy Strategy in developed and used by the members by 2024</p>	<p>5: 1 Interconnected strategy 4 regions developing regional advocacy strategies to feed into interconnected strategy (NAMEN, MEASA, MenEngage Latin America, MenEngage Europe)</p>
<p>Policies, laws and statements by policymakers on gender equality, women's rights and social justice are monitored, analysed and synthesised, by MenEngage Alliance and members and partners at global, regional and country levels</p>	<p># of policy makers showing commitments to implement/adapt the international and regional normative frameworks at national and regional levels by 2024</p>	<p>52: 1 World Bank Strategy 6 WGDWAG 1 SR Right to Development 1 SR Climate & HR 22 CSW technical inputs 15 HRC technical inputs 8 MEA/SIDA consultation</p>
<p>MenEngage members' participation in policy-making fora at the global, regional and national levels facilitated, including CPD, CSW, High Level Political Forum (HLPF), regional intergovernmental processes, and, joint feminist groups and network mobilisation.</p>	<p># of policy forums where MenEngage members and partners participate and contribute, together with feminist movements, by 2024</p>	<p>13: 1 ACHPR77 1 Global People's Assembly 1 GEF mid-point moment 1 CSW 1 COP28 1 G20 1 World Bank 1 Feminist Foreign Policy Conf. 1 HRC53 1 SDG Summit/UNGA 1 Summit Global Financial Pact 1 Climate Ambition Summit 1 Council of Europe</p>
<p>Strengthened partnerships and joint policy advocacy actions with women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights and social justice civil society advocates and movements.</p>	<p># of joint policy actions undertaken with women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights and social justice advocates and movements by 2024</p>	<p>11: 2 CSW parallel events 2 CSW CoLab session 3 HRC resolution advocacy 1 CSW Agreed Conclusions adv 1 Global People's Assembly 1 WMG - SDG summit 1 FFP conference</p>

MenEngage Alliance policy analysis, advocacy briefs and statements developed and broadly disseminated in multiple languages (EN, ES, FR) at global, regional and country levels, based on evidence emerging from the field and the work of our members and partners (See Result area 3 for more information)	# of publications and documents developed & disseminated at national, regional and global levels by 2024	5: 1 Climate Ambition summit brief 1 Consultation Climate-SDGs 1 CSW Statement 1 CSW Sign-on 1 Latin America digital VAWG rep
Policy and law-makers are supported by MenEngage Alliance and members in their policy development around SRHR, women's rights and gender justice at global, regional and country levels	# of direct policy development support, proposals and recommendations provided by MenEngage Alliance and members to policy, law and decision-makers at national, regional and global levels by 2024	14: 10 SIDA/MEA consultation 1 World Bank 1 G20/C20 1 Climate Ambition Summit 1 Climate SDG Consultation
Global, regional and national decision and policy makers are held to account for upholding human rights and international commitments with collective policy advocacy, together with women's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights and social justice networks and movements.	# of submissions and technical advocacy inputs made to relevant decision and policy makers and authorities by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2024	15 Technical Inputs Made: - Agreed Conclusions of CSW67 (4 rounds) - 53rd Session of the Human Rights Councils; Resolution on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (3 rounds); Resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage (2 rounds); Resolution on Small Arms Trade (2 rounds) - World Bank Strategy (2 rounds of inputs via a consultation and follow-up review) - Global Online Consultation for the development of the First Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies - 2023: Joint technical Submission by the Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group, in the lead up to the UNSG Climate Ambition Summit: (1 submission made) - Resolution 2480 Council of Europe

2.3 Visible public stances and positions

OUTCOME 2.3 - *MenEngage Alliance takes a vocal and visible stance to challenge patriarchal masculinities and advocate for gender equality and social justice.*

We are committed to taking vocal and visible stances to challenge patriarchal masculinities and advocate for gender, social and climate justice. We do so in solidarity with LGBTQI, indigenous, and intersectional feminist movements. In 2023 this included articulating our own public statements in response to some of the alarming developments of the year, such as the war in Gaza, lack of action by the global community on climate change, increasing anti-rights backlash and devastating set-backs to the protection for reproductive rights and the human rights abuses against LGBTQI individuals worldwide, including in Uganda. We continued to explore and develop our collective approaches around various platforms and influence – including in digital and online spaces such as social media. Such initiatives continue to be done in partnership with relevant regional networks and global working groups, helping to prioritise a collective and -where possible- bottom-up approach to our public positioning and accountable advocacy.

- **MenEngage statements and rapid responses:** MenEngage Alliance developed policy advocacy statements on urgent topics, particularly focusing on the challenging situations and regressive steps by Governments and Agencies. These statements and key messages were broadly disseminated via our mailing list of 7,000+ subscribers, plus via social media and through the global website, thereby reaching our members and partners across the world. Statements we released together with our members and regional networks:
 - [Statement on the Israel-Gaza conflict](#)
 - [International day for the Elimination of All Violence Against Women and Girls statement](#)
 - For MenEngage statements and rapid responses towards CSW67, [see section 2.1 above for more information.](#)
 - For MenEngage statements and rapid responses in relation to climate change, ending violence against women, etc - [see the Priority Issues sections above.](#)

- **Sign-ons and solidarity actions:** For an overview of the feminist social movements statements we signed-on to as MenEngage Alliance, please *see section 4.2 on solidarity actions*.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
Strengthened consultative capacity mechanisms across MenEngage Alliance to collectively analyse and articulate responses to human rights violations in a timely manner.	# of working groups and urgent actions groups in place who take collective actions across the Alliance in timely manner by 2024	5: - 2 Climate Justice (Wealthists 1%; Uganda oil pipeline) - 2 AWG CSW Sign-on Statement - 1 AWG SOGI Learning Circle - Uganda anti-LGBT Law
MenEngage Alliance issue-based policy advocacy statements and campaign messages developed and broadly disseminated at global, regional and country levels.	# of policy advocacy statements and public stances produced and disseminated by MenEngage Alliance and members and partners by 2024	6: Developed by MenEngage Alliance GS including in collaboration with WGs: - Gaza Statement - Climate Justice - Uganda Oil Pipeline - Uganda anti-LGBT law - CSW Sign-on Statement - Int Day Elimination of VAWG
Application of the Alliance's Knowledge management and communications strategy to strengthen advocacy, enhance accountability, visibility and public positioning on the priority issues.	# of policy makers, activists and networks reached with MenEngage Alliance accountable advocacy and campaigning at country, regional and global levels by 2024	42,000 activists 7000 listserv x 6 statements 193 Governments at UN CSW Statement 10 Policy-makers CSW Sign on (UN Women ED, UN Secretary General, CSW Bureau)
Strengthened public positions of MenEngage Global Alliance and our key partners on gender equality and women's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights and social justice issues, including via op-eds, blog posts and articles.	% increase in (social) media sharing and engagement on the advocacy statements and materials produced by the Alliance members and partners by 2024	171 signatures by members and partners on CSW Sign-on Statement

3. Effective and Strengthened Programming

RESULT AREA 3

MenEngage Alliance members and partners work as a community of practice for effective programming that transforms patriarchal masculinities and engages diverse constituencies of men and boys in promoting gender and social justice.

While there is emerging evidence indicating positive effects of gender transformative work with men and boys, a strong evidence base is still lacking. There are many programs and projects among our members at grassroots levels, which are still not well documented and disseminated. We assessed the urgent need to initiate processes to harvest practice-based knowledge and evidence on transforming patriarchal masculinities to prevent violence against women and girls, to support the decolonization of knowledge and leadership, as well as challenge the existing knowledge hierarchy within the field. In 2023 we initiated several initiatives with the aim to collect, package and disseminate this knowledge in diverse and creative ways - including the launch of MenEngage member-led peer learning sessions on engaging men in VAWG prevention, supported by a collaborative project with UN Women to consolidate the emerging evidence.

The year 2023 was an important year, following the finalisation of the Accountability framework for the Alliance, on strengthening understandings and applications of the Framework among members and networks. We were able to bring together the regional focal persons on Accountability, regional coordinators and youth leaders for a strategy meeting that resulted in establishing the Alliance's Accountability Team. The Accountability team agreed and developed the Global Accountability Learning Project (GALP) for the Alliance, which aims to amplify the progress made thus far and address the enduring challenges related to accountability.

The need for collective actions on gender justice by progressive voices and civil society actors has never been greater. The continued upsurge of conservatism and authoritarian regimes has brought to the fore the urgency to strengthen the global call for systems change, including the radical transformation of masculinities and the role of violence and oppression in leadership. We can not be a community of practice for effective programming that transforms patriarchal masculinities and engages diverse constituencies of men and boys in promoting gender and social justice - if we do not understand and address the backlash. Several of our members from all the regions had brought forward the urgency for the Alliance to collectively come

together to develop its own coherent strategy on addressing backlash. Following this call we in 2023 initiated a learning initiative that included consultations with the regional network members as well as the Global Board.

3.1 Access to knowledge and evidence

OUTCOME 3.1 - Increased access to knowledge and uptake of evidence-based approaches to transforming masculinities and working with diverse constituencies of men and boys among MenEngage Alliance members and partners.

We believe that continued learning is necessary to increase the quality of programming, and hence for the last few years we have been prioritising efforts to share knowledge and tools for strengthening gender transformative programming with men and boys. There has been an increased call on the importance of combining existing knowledge with emerging evidence on promising practices in transforming discriminatory norms, intergenerational and human development research, programs and advocacy efforts on men and masculinities work. For this our approach has been to focus on harvesting members' practice-based knowledge and building 'evidence' from the work our members do in the field. We believe this process will contribute to further support the decolonization of knowledge and leadership, as per the guiding commitments of the Alliance, thereby contributing to work in addressing the existing hierarchy of knowledge that currently exists. In addition, we believe our learning platforms will serve as knowledge hubs that signpost members to knowledge about masculinities work found on other specialised sites.

- **Launched Member-Led Peer Learning Sessions as part of the MenEngage Alliance Learning Collaborative:** Member-led sessions are opportunities for members to share about their work with other members, peers, partners and allies. These sessions are intended as peer learning spaces where members share what worked and what didn't work well in the work they are doing around men and masculinities for gender equality. We invite experiences using gender transformative approaches to masculinities and engaging men and boys to bring about change in gender relations. In 2023, the focus was on [prevention of gender based violence and violence against women](#). In 2024 we will open it up to more issues related to the work. For this we employed consultative approaches to identify promising practices in GBV and VAWG prevention among our membership, convene experts in webinars and facilitated conversations, bring together experts from the feminist VAWG and GBV

prevention field for cross-fertilization of ideas and critical input, and document the process.

- **Member-led [peer learning sessions on ending and preventing GBV](#):** Building on to the Learning Collaborative initiated in 2022, we initiated the member-led peer-learning initiative in partnership with UN Women. This learning initiative aims to fill the current gaps in documented practices and methods as well as evidence of what works to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) by working with men and boys and transforming masculinities. We understand that practitioners, researchers and advocates working to prevent VAWG by addressing masculinities will greatly benefit from a solid and organised knowledge base about promising gender transformative approaches. Furthermore, by harvesting practice-based knowledge and evidence on transforming patriarchal masculinities to prevent violence against women and girls, we will more effectively facilitate the use of tested approaches and stimulate new creative thinking about violence prevention. With this peer-to-peer learning project we collect practice-based knowledge and evidence, facilitate flow of information and strengthen knowledge development of practitioners on gender transformative approaches on working with men and boys in preventing VAWG/GBV. To date 8 sessions have been held. The recordings are available on our [YouTube Channel](#).
- **MenEngage Alliance’s approach to network building was featured as a promising practice on networked approaches** in a new report [‘Building Peace, the Feminist Foreign Policy Way: Good Practices’](#) launched in August 2023 by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI, Germany). The study highlights promising practices for promoting feminist foreign policy. A range of examples from civil society have been highlighted in the report, intended to inform the funding strategies of governments and donors who have adopted a feminist foreign policy – in particular in the area of peacebuilding. The report takes practical examples of different social justice actors ‘in which at least some principles of an inclusive feminist foreign policy have been put into action.’ The work of MenEngage Alliance was included as an example of good practice alongside other social justice initiatives, networks, and funds. Several members of MenEngage Alliance were interviewed for the report, sharing experiences of being members and the ways we operate, as well as their own peacebuilding efforts.
- **Online dialogues with experts on varying issues, including from a critical men and masculinities lens:** In 2023 we organised over 50 online and in-person dialogues on topics including:
 - redefining masculinities;
 - engaging men and boys in ending VAWG;
 - fatherhood programs;
 - accountable male allyship;

- decolonization;
- inner work for social change;
- working with faith-based leaders;
- men supporting feminist systems change;
- uprooting patriarchal masculinities in the digital sphere;
- unpacking masculinities in media;
- male allyship in the right to safe and legal abortion;
- Capacity strengthening on engaging in CSW

On our MenEngage [YouTube channel](#) we published 54 new videos in English, Spanish and French.

- **Publication of MenEngage knowledge products:** Our Accountability Framework was given greater visibility and easier accessibility for members and partners in 2023 with several new publications:
 - Stand-alone publications of our [Core Principles](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Accountability Standards](#)
 - Our [Accountability Framework](#) which brings together the above documents into one publication
 - A “must-have” [Handbook of What We See, What We Believe, and our Strategic Approaches](#), which guides members and partners through the key points of the global Strategic Plan and Theory of Change of MenEngage Alliance.
 - For publications related to our ADVOCACY work and on various THEMATIC issues, see the relevant sections elsewhere in this report.

- **Our regional networks and members continue developing various tools and documents focusing on strengthening the quality of programming at national and regional levels:**
 - CariMAN via their regional programs developed a regional model Caribbean Model for Behavioral and Cultural Change aimed at increasing awareness among policy and decision-makers involved in Family Violence and VAWG prevention. ([See regional report section for more information](#))
 - MenEngage Africa developed a regional SRHR strategy and media toolkit, to support our members in the region to further strengthen their programming as well as using media as a tool for social change. ([See regional report section for more information](#))

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
Promising practices and lessons learned from MenEngage members work on implementing gender transformative work to engage men and boys in gender equality programming are identified, analysed, and shared with members and partners.	# and quality of promising practices and evidences documented and disseminated via various platforms of the Alliance at country, regional and global levels by 2024	48 promising practices shared: - 40 on #HowToTalkWithMen - 8 on engaging men in ending GBV (though peer-learning sessions, see also below)
Virtual knowledge hub in place with resources from practice-based and academic knowledge, gathering evidence and making knowledge accessible to inform members' transformative work with men and boys, in multiple languages (EN, FR, ES).	# of quality resources available and evidences accessed from the work of the members and partners of the Alliance at country, regional and global levels made available in multiple languages in the knowledge hub by 2024	8 different types of quality resources were produced and made available by our regional networks in Africa, Caribbean and South Asia
Peer-to-peer learning spaces in place, where members from national and regional networks exchange knowledge, lessons learned and promising practices in order to elevate the quality of their work in communities.	# of peer-to-peer learning and capacity strengthening spaces in place and operational with the members and partners on various issues and thematic priorities at country, regional and global levels by 2024	1 Peer-learning initiative launched in partnership with UN Women 8 sessions organised (on engaging men in ending GBV - see also above)
Thematic working groups and communities of practice in place, including via virtual platforms, and better standardised mechanisms developed for forming and organising thematic working groups.	# of thematic and issues based working groups in place and operational, with relevant plans, for the members and partners at regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 6 thematic global working groups in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GBV - SRHR - SOGIESC learning circle - Climate & Environmental Justice - Youth Reference Group - Inner Work for Social Change → 2 strategic working groups in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy - Communications & Knowledge management

<p>Partnerships with relevant institutions and individuals developed to support strengthening the theory and evidence base of work to transform masculinities and engage men and boys in gender equality.</p>	<p># of partnerships and plans developed with relevant institutions and networks on various programmes, initiatives and campaigns of the members and partners of the Alliance at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<p>2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Collaboration with UN Women on engaging men & boys in GBV prevention (see also above) → Collaboration with WHO and Queen’s University of Belfast on SRHR & masculinities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ sent out 309 direct email invitations ◆ conducted 11 focus groups in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish ◆ participation of 143 stakeholders in the online survey phase
<p>M&E framework for MenEngage Alliance in place, that enables learning on how MenEngage contributes to improved programming on the ground and includes collectively agreed core indicators of change.</p>	<p>1 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidelines developed and in place for use, in multiple languages, for the Alliance members by 2024</p>	<p>1 M&E framework in place, in English: the annual reporting framework</p> <p>Evaluation process for 2021-2024 started with launch of ToR in December</p>
	<p># of members and partners accessing and utilising the MEaL guidelines to strengthen their programmes and initiatives at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	<p>Framework used by MenEngage Global and the Regional Networks to monitoring and align our collective work</p>

3.2 Accountability

OUTCOME 3.2 - Strengthened understanding and application of MenEngage Accountability Standards, Core Principles and Code of Conduct among members and partners

Strengthening accountable practices continues to be one of the core areas of work for MenEngage Alliance. It is a lens through which we ongoingly assess all of our efforts, and we strive to walk-the-talk in all the concrete actions we undertake.

Building on the momentum following the updated [MenEngage Accountability Framework](#) (2022), we continued advancing accountable standards and practices in men and masculinities work. We centre our consciousness and intentionality on the feminist concerns that have emerged, as a result of the challenges brought to the fore by growing attention for the work on engaging men and boys in gender equality, including around the distribution of financing and resources. In 2023 we developed a more comprehensive and sustained approach for the Alliance to ensure awareness and understanding of the accountability framework and support its application at all levels of the Alliance.

Collaboration was considered essential for enhancing capacities and knowledge within the Alliance as well as envisioned gaining valuable insights from other regions and countries, thereby enriching expertise and skills. For this we have now **established an Accountability team**, composed of representatives from all the regional networks from all regions that will collectively lead the accountability initiative thereby reinstating our collective commitments towards strengthening accountable practices at all levels of the Alliance.

In 2023 we implemented several concrete activities to strengthen capacities:

- **MenEngage global in-person workshop on accountability:** Leaders of MenEngage Alliance from the Regional Networks convened in Istanbul for a workshop that reinforced our collective commitment to initiate an interconnected global accountability initiative. We designed and facilitated this in-person workshop, engaging 17 regional accountability focal points and network regional leaders. In addition to deepening their understanding of accountability and gaining access to new tools for implementation, participants engaged in meaningful dialogue regarding accountability in their work. They discussed critical issues, including practical challenges and lessons learned. The group reached a consensus to develop and implement a Global Accountability Learning

Project (GALP) aimed at fostering synergies to advance our work in accountable ways over the next two years. See the full workshop report [here](#).

- **MenEngage global secretariat co-facilitated accountability sessions with leaders from across the Alliance**, including the Youth Reference Group, CariMAN, participants in the 2023 MenEngage Africa Symposium, and leaders from NAMEN. These sessions facilitated the sharing of different tools and educational materials on accountability. Approximately 350 MenEngage members and leaders participated in these sessions, providing an opportunity for participants to become acquainted with the updated MenEngage Accountability Framework, along with the tools that facilitate its implementation.
- **Launch of the MenEngage Global Accountability Learning Project (GALP):** The major outcome of the global workshop on accountability in Istanbul was the inception and launch of GALP, aimed at fostering synergies among national, regional, and global MenEngage networks, ultimately supporting the implementation of our accountability commitments and standards. Developing an updated MenEngage Accountability Toolbox will be a key focus of this action learning project. Participants emphasised that collaborating on a global accountability project is crucial to advance the MenEngage mission of transforming unequal power relations and patriarchal systems. It was seen as a means to practise accountability and align with shared values, fostering stronger connections and creating a unified voice within the Alliance. The project, GALP, would pave the way to link efforts, contribute to the larger movement, and bring about change collectively. Several regional networks have already taken this up at their regional network level and are planning capacity strengthening activities for the coming years.
- **Supporting regional networks to respond to complaints for violations of the MenEngage Code of Conduct** was another intensive work of the year. We recognized that these situations deserved serious attention and aimed at restorative justice paths as the way forward to repair the harm caused and mend our relationships with one another. A total of six challenging situations of leadership were dealt with, coming from MenEngage Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Lessons learned from these cases have been documented, and will be finalised in 2024.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
MenEngage Global Accountability Standards, Core Principles and Code of Conduct, are updated through consultations with members and partners and disseminated among the Alliance members and partners	# of members directly reached with each of the updated MenEngage Accountability Standards, Core Principles and Code of Conducts in place (English, Spanish and French languages) by 2024	→ 300 members from MenEngage Global and from the 6 regional networks
	# of consultations organised by MenEngage Global together with country and regional networks by 2024	→ Consultations were concluded in 2023
	# of members and partners participating in the consultations at country, regional and global levels by 2024	→ idem
Contextualised regional and/or national MenEngage accountability standards developed and implemented by members and partners at country and regional levels.	# of country and regional networks and members developing implementing and contextualise accountability standards and principles at country and regional levels by 2024	→ This output is a work in progress which has been integrated as part of the Global Accountability Learning Project (GALP)
Members' capacities strengthened to understand and implement the global and/or contextualised accountability standards	# of capacity strengthening activities and processes implemented by the members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2024	→ 7 accountability workshops and sessions co-facilitated at global and regional level
	# of members and partners participating in the capacity strengthening activities and processes at country, regional and global levels by 2024	→ 250 members from regional networks participated in workshops and webinars on accountability
Insights and lessons learned on the implementation and effectiveness of the Accountability Standards by	# of documentations and evidences produced showcasing the lesson learnt from the implementation and effectiveness of the applications of the	→ One lessons learned document that reflects and analyses difficulties, mistakes and successes in

members and partners at all levels gathered and documented	accountability standards and principles at country, regional and global levels by 2024	handling accountability issues and complaints
Sexual Harassment policy implemented by Global MenEngage Alliance and consulted as a guide by MenEngage regional and national networks.	# of country and regional networks involved in adaptation & application of SH policy at country and regional levels by 2024	→ This output is a work in progress
	# of members and partners reporting use of the policy at country, regional and global levels by 2024	→ Pending information from regional networks

3.3 Backlash against gender justice

OUTCOME 3.3 - *Strengthened collective actions by MenEngage members and partners to challenge backlash against gender justice and human rights - including by anti-feminist men and men's groups.*

We continue to see an intensification of anti-gender rhetoric, a regression in women's reproductive rights, fundamental rights of LGBTIQ individuals and a shrinking of civil society space, all underpinned by a rise in authoritarian populism and fundamentalist movements both online and offline. Even more challenging realisation since the past few years is to realise that the anti-rights groups and ultraconservative voices, through a competitive mimicry of feminist nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), seek to obstruct negotiations in United Nations and global policy spaces. There has been an increased realisation of the urgency for us and our members globally to strengthen our own understanding and knowledge base as the first step towards developing our collective strategy on what we would do to take on a meaningful role in addressing the anti-rights and backlash agenda at all levels. One realisation following the consultations with our regional network members as well as key feminist partners has been that while resistance to feminism and gender equality has always existed, patriarchal backlash is a new form of opposition to gender rights that has become more dynamic over the past few years.

In 2023 we initiated a learning initiative on countering the backlash, with the intention to develop an Alliance-wide strategy in 2024:

- **Learning initiative on Countering Backlash initiated with MenEngage members:**

We launched a member consultation to map the impact of anti-gender forces on MenEngage Alliance regional and country networks, and to identify possible strategic actions to disrupt the patriarchal backlash. In 2023 we started to engage an independent consultant to facilitate a series of global conversations with our members about patriarchal backlash and masculinities, and to identify strategic action steps. The consultation revealed both regional similarities and differences, and a shared sense that urgent strategies are needed to reduce the impact of anti-gender narratives that appeal to men's and boy's frustration and anger. MenEngage Alliance members recognize the need to amplify our own messages about the role of men and boys in protecting and promoting gender equality and justice, as well as women's and girls' human rights. The recordings and notes from these consultations will inform a report and proposed strategic direction for the Alliance in 2024.
- **The first global conversation on Backlash** brought together 22 members from seven regions (Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, MENA, South Asia, Southeast Asia). Participants represented their region as well as thematic working groups they belong to such as SOGIESC, Advocacy and Climate Change.
- **Facilitated conversations with the regions on Backlash:** The MenEngage global secretariat and consultant met with a group of 11 representatives of MenEngage Europe region; and with 9 members of MenEngage Latin America region. These guided conversations followed a predefined agenda around ways to better understand how patriarchal backlash manifests in each locality: what messages they use, who they partner with or are funded by, and what are the targets of their attacks.
- **The agendas for these conversation included the following guiding questions:**
 - How are anti-gender forces using ideas and ideals of masculinity to mobilise men's support for their anti-gender campaigns?
 - To the extent that anti-gender forces are gaining ground in your region, why do you think this is?
 - How can member organisations work differently/better with men and boys to counter anti-gender forces and mobilise men and boys for gender justice?
 - What would you as the regional network like to do to better support member organisations in their work with men and boys on backlash? What support do you want and need from the Global Secretariat to do this?

- How should the Alliance (nationally, regionally and globally) be supporting and allying with broader gender justice movements in their policy advocacy and public campaigns to counter backlash?
- **Common trends and concerns shared by participants so far include:**
 - Authoritarian populist ‘strong men’ figures leading narratives and performances focusing on the threat posed by feminist policies and initiatives (Argentina, Malta, Hungary)
 - Changes in existing foreign and domestic feminist policies.
 - Social media groups amplifying misogynistic messages and urging men to ‘reclaim their power’
 - Robust funding streams backing up ultra conservative groups
 - Escalation of violence and acceptance of narratives associating men and boys with aggression and use of force against women, girls, gender diverse individuals and men of colour.
- We continue to engage with various partners through the program **“countering backlash”** coordinated by the **Institute for Development Studies (IDS)**. Building on to the research and reports produced by the program we are complementing this with the consultations with our members, the practitioners in the field with first hand experiences of how backlash impacts the work and lives of activists across the globe. We will continue this partnership in 2024, to develop and implement collective strategies and concrete plans for the progressive groups on what can be done to push back against the backlash we experience at various fronts.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
Learning initiative organised and strategy developed on how to better understand and respond to backlash from a feminist-informed men and masculinities perspective	# and quality of dialogue spaces organised to analyse and strategize when and how to counter anti-feminist narratives, at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 Alliance-wide learning initiative launched → 4 consultations with regional members → 40 members participated
	1 strategy on responding and countering backlash and conservative mobilizations developed (in English, French and Spanish) and disseminated by 2024	→ To be developed in 2024

Feminist critical analysis of men's rights and/or anti-feminist movements and related discourses is synthesised and disseminated.	# of feminist analysis and responses on men's rights/anti-feminist movements developed and disseminated by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 10 news articles and publications from feminist partners disseminated across social media → Building of a men & masculinities specific resources library on Backlash initiated - to be launched in 2024
	# of members and partners reached out with the responses at country, regional and global levels by 2024	
Lessons from how members and partners are confronting men's rights and conservative, anti-feminist messaging and mobilisation are gathered and communicated.	# of articles and reports with lessons learned on confronting backlash produced and disseminated by 2024	In process through learning initiative - to be shared in 2024

4. Strengthened Movement-Building Approaches

RESULT AREA 4

MenEngage Alliance contributes to and acts in solidarity with gender and social justice movements.

Throughout 2023 we continued to treat every action and occasion as an opportunity to demonstrate how our priorities intersect with stronger collaboration with gender justice and feminist social change movements and allies. In our regional learning sessions, our joint advocacy, at the annual members' assembly and working group meetings, at capacity strengthening sessions and through our newsletter and communications: we worked with members on the linkage between accountability and our commitment to gender justice. We worked with members to become more relevant to the gender justice movement, and raise our credibility as a community of practice that 'walks the talk'.

As in previous years, we continued to engage in activities to strengthen links between movements. This includes attending and participating in convenings such as the WomenDeliver conference, IDS consortium on Backlash, Generation Equality Forum regional fora, Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy conference in the Netherlands, and What works to Prevent GBV/VAWG consultation at Wilton Park in the UK.

It also includes our online events and campaigns where we have included voices from allied movements as speakers as a matter of course. Activities have focussed on reinforcing the importance of solidarity and movement-building approaches, with this agenda being emphasised in communications materials through the year.

Key to these efforts is our emphasis on understanding accountability and solidarity as deeply connected and as part of our political agenda. This has included our governance and our work with partners, and our firm position on the role of men and boys and transformed masculinities in the gender equity and justice agenda.

4.1 Intersectional gender and social justice movements

OUTCOME 4.1 - Strengthened understanding of and commitment to collaborative work with intersectional gender justice and social justice movements among MenEngage Alliance members

With the updated Accountability Framework and the membership reaffirmation process, this year led us in the direction to strengthening the understanding the critical concerns and supporting work with men and boys that is gender-transformative, based on feminist and human rights principles, aims to challenge power and privilege, and ultimately to end patriarchy. All this was done via various efforts as has been elaborated in the sections of the report above, including the CoLab, accountable advocacy, and strengthening accountable practices efforts. We continued creating spaces for ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders, as a valuable contribution to increase mutual understanding, to build trust among movements, and identify commonalities that can build bridges. Building on to the Ubuntu Declaration and Call for Action, we continued with our efforts of in-depth exploratory and capacity building process on feminist systems change, with global, regional, and cross-regional processes. This has supported us to have a better understanding of the “feminist political agendas” and the Alliance’s unique contribution from men and masculinities lens. We strengthened our governance practice, at national, regional and global levels, as part of our solidarity with the

feminist systems change agenda and youth engagement goals. We addressed the challenges and opportunities presented by looking critically at power dynamics and seeking to decolonise our work.

- Membership Reaffirmation Process:** We continued to invest quality time on the membership reaffirmation to the Alliance’s updated Accountability Framework ([Code of Conduct](#), [Core Principles](#) and [Accountability Standards](#)). The membership reaffirmation process that began in 2022 following the launch of the updated Accountability Framework of the Alliance. All members were requested to sign the updated versions of these documents as a way to reaffirm our collective and renewed commitments. To date five regional networks have taken concrete steps to mobilise members in their respective regions. MenEngage Europe has completed the membership reaffirmation process at the end of 2023.
- Theory of Change and Strategic Plan made more communicable/digestible - launch of the *MenEngage Handbook*:**
 To strengthen members’ knowledge and understanding of what MenEngage Alliance stands for in today’s complex world, in 2023 we launched the [MenEngage Handbook](#): a highly visual guide that includes summaries of the Alliance’s vision, mission, Accountability Framework (core principles, code of conduct and accountability standards), theory of change, and our collective roadmap.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
Strengthened movement building orientation among MenEngage members, including capabilities on building meaningful relationships and accountable partnerships with diverse feminist and social justice activists, organisations, networks and movements at country, regional and global levels.	# capacity strengthening activities conducted on movement building orientation at country, regional and global levels by 2024	<i>See report elsewhere on:</i> - Handbook launch - Town Hall - Members Assembly - Capacity strengthening on joint accountable advocacy - Strengthening accountable practices activities - Technical support provided to and exchanged with Regional Networks leadership
	% of members and partners successfully completing the orientation sessions at country, regional and global levels by 2024	

<p>Strengthened knowledge and understanding of the MenEngage Theory of Change, including solidarity with feminist and social justice networks and movements, among members at country, regional and global levels.</p>	<p># of orientation and dialogues sessions organised on the ToC of the Alliance by 2024</p>	<p><i>See report and activities under 1.4</i></p>
	<p>% of members and partners participating in the orientation dialogues on the ToC at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	
	<p># of times the global ToC and tools accessed and downloaded from the website of the Alliance by 2024</p>	
	<p># feminist discourse analysis showcasing strengthened discourses among MenEngage members and partners by 2024</p>	
<p>Tools and resources on movement building approaches on intersectional gender and social justice movements developed and disseminated, together with relevant organisations and movements by 2024</p>	<p># of tools, resources and curricula developed, in multiple languages, and disseminated by 2024</p>	<p><i>See elsewhere in the report, in particular the Handbook launch</i></p>
	<p># of capacity strengthening workshops (virtual or, in-person) organised at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	
	<p># of members and partners utilising the tools and resources in strengthening movement building approaches at country, regional and global levels by 2024</p>	

4.2 Partnerships and solidarity actions

OUTCOME 4.2 - Strengthened partnerships and solidarity actions with Feminist, Youth, Racial, Indigenous, Economic and Climate Justice organisations, networks and movements by MenEngage Alliance and members.

We continue to engage in ongoing partnership and solidarity actions with feminist coalitions at global and regional levels. As this is a cross-cutting priority throughout our work, most of these concrete examples are described in other sections of this report - including under the THEMATIC areas, ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS, and EVIDENCE building.

Movement-coalitions that MenEngage Alliance is a member of:

- We joined the [Alliance for Feminist Movements](#)
- We took active part in the [Women's Rights Caucus](#) & [Women's Major Group](#) at the United Nations; and made links between our members to their regional structures, processes and mobilizations
- We are a co-organizing partner in organising the SVRI Forum 2024, and Joni van de Sand, one of our Global Co-Directors, [contributed to the launch event this year](#)
- We contributed to [Sexual Rights Initiative \(SRI\)](#)-led advocacy collective for Human Rights Council-based cross-movement advocacy
- We are part of the [GEF Action Coalition Core Group](#), a feminist civil society group, including at the regional levels: Asia Feminist GEF CSO Alliance; and Arab Feminist network
- Notably this year, the Alliance made strides to build partnership with climate movements, including the [Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice](#) ("Action Nexus"), and the [Women and Gender Constituency](#)
- Joined the Engaging Men in Feminist Peace group with WILPF and PAX
- Part of the consortium on Backlash convened by the [Institute of Development Studies \(IDS\)](#) including feminist organisations
- Continue to support the organising of the second *Reframe: A Pan Asian Summit*

Participation in WomenDeliver Conference:

WomenDeliver 2023 conference on "Spaces, Solidarity and Solutions" took place in Kigali, Rwanda as well as virtually from 17-20 July 2023. The conference brought together over 6000 actors to organise, collaborate and mobilise towards gender equality.

- **Awareness raising about MenEngage's values and principles:** We took the opportunity of the conference to hand-out copies of MenEngage's ToC, Accountability Framework, Ubuntu Declaration and a flyer with links to key publications - in French, English and Spanish. These materials helped to share information about who we are as an Alliance, our membership and how people can join and also our values and foundation in feminist approaches.
- **With the Rwanda MenEngage Network Youth Steering Committee we hosted an interactive session "Gender Equality Now: Role of Young People to Transform Masculinities".** The dialogue brought together over 35 diverse intergenerational voices and highlighted the power of localised experiences and initiatives that young people are leading to transform masculinities and promote gender equality and the role of mentorship from youth supporters. The session was live tweeted and below are some of the highlights:

What is the role of young people to transform masculinities?

An intergenerational dialogue

WEDNESDAY 19th July 2023 (DURATION: 2 HOURS) 3:30pm-5:30pm CAT UN Foundation Nest Hub Norrsken House Kigali Town Hall (KN 78 St, Kigali, Rwanda)

Bridging the gap between activists across generations:
In what ways can we collaborate better, learn from each other, and create space for shared leadership?

Denyse Mugabekazi
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Grown to Help (GTH)

Yogesh Vaishnav
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Vikalp Sansthan

Clementine Nyirurukundo
PROGRAMS & PARTNESHIPS MANAGER
Paper Crown Rwanda

Daren Paul Katigbak
PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST AND PROGRAM CONSULTANT

Sohanur Rahman
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
YouthNet for Climate Justice Bangladesh

Moderated by **Ange Marie Yvette**
MENENGAGE AFRICA YOUTH CHAIRPERSON

With closing remarks by **Bafana Khumalo**
CO-CHAIR
MenEngage Alliance
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sonke Gender Justice

With a spoken word performance by **Patience Iribagiza**
POET

MenEngage Alliance working with men and boys for gender equality

MenEngage Rwanda working with men and boys for gender equality



- **Women Deliver Regional Convening- Asia:** MenEngage Alliance's Global Co-Chair Samitha Sugathimala joined a panel at the WomenDeliver regional convening about Women's and Girls' Rights. The Regional Convening fostered dialogue, collaboration, and change by providing platforms for action, creativity, knowledge sharing, policy influence, resource mobilisation, and movement building.

UNESCO Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination 2023

Building on the relationship we were invited by UNESCO to the third edition of the [UNESCO Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination](#) in Brazil, 9 Nov- 1 Dec 2023, along with our board members. Humberto Carolo from White Ribbon Canada joined the forum in person, and Jude Thaddues Njikem from MenEngage Africa and Laxman Belbase, Co-Director joined virtually to present at the **Panel 17: Transforming MEN'talities: Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality**. Furthermore, Humberto also conducted a Barbershop workshop at the Forum. The Forum had government officials, policy-makers, practitioners, and representatives from NGOs, civil society and racialized communities, as well as artists, to share their knowledge and competencies in designing and implementing anti-racism strategies.

Adding MenEngage Alliance support behind calls for sign-ons from movements: We supported and amplified the following statements, sign-ons and advocacy letters developed by feminist, LGBTIQ, climate, youth and other social justice movements:

Partner/s	Issue	Description
Kickoutbigpollutors.org, Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice - DCJ; Climate Action Network - CAN; Women and Gender Constituency; Trade Union NGOs (TUNGO)	COP28 Presidency	Letter to António Guterres , United Nations Secretary-General; Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Parties to the UNFCCC - raising grave concern over Sultan Al Jaber, the chief executive of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), will be overseeing the upcoming round of global climate negotiations as president of COP28, hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) – New Ways Association	LGBTIQ Rights	171 Women’s and LGBTI+ Organisations Call Opposition Parties to Say No to the Amendment to the Constitution of Turkey: This amendment is discriminatory and expressly against the principles of equality and secularism. The amendment of two articles of the Constitution were proposed, article 24 titled “freedom of religion and conscience” and article 41 titled “protection of the family and the rights of the child”.
Women's Rights Caucus	Access to CSW	Letter to H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women regarding access of CSOs to CSW: Request for support for advocates facing financial and visa-related obstacles for travelling to New York, recognizing the invaluable opportunity that comes with attending CSW in-person, particularly for intersectional feminist activists, women human rights defenders and organisations from the global South that often encounter issues when requesting Visas for entry to the United States of America (US). In numerous countries, advocates and activists are confronted with processing times of up to two years by US Consulates.
Women's Rights Caucus	Access to CSW	USUN Permanent Representative Letter on visas approval: Letter to H.E. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations to support with Visa approvals for CSW participating feminist activists

NGO-CSW Advocacy and Research Group for CSW67	Digital VAWG	<p>Key Recommendations for the CSW67 Zero Draft: Recommendations for inclusion in the CSW67 Zero Draft on behalf of girls and women in all their diversity, including underrepresented, rural, grassroots/ community-roots and indigenous women and girls, widows, women on the move, women with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ people. As a result of consulting with over 700 individuals of our global, grassroots community including members of the global NGO CSWs to understand their lived experiences, these critical concerns for “the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age” were identified.</p>
ActionAid as part of the Climate Nexus	World Bank Leadership	<p>Sign on letter on World Bank president Banga Nomination: Letter of rejection of the US nomination of Ajay Banga, former Mastercard chief, to be World Bank president. Banga’s corporate background reflects the kind of inequality-driving, climate-destroying hyper-capitalism that is everything the World Bank should be standing against if it wants to genuinely aim for ending global poverty.</p>
Fos Feminista	IAHRC - Abortion Rights	<p>Endorse Resolution in Support of Beatriz & Access to Abortion & Assembly of Support at the OAS: Support the right to safe and legal abortion in the Americas, via a case being heard Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Prior to introducing the Resolution in Support of Beatriz and Access to Abortion, we invite your organisation to endorse this critical bill. The resolution expresses support for the case of Beatriz and condemns the absolute criminalization of abortion in El Salvador and anywhere in the world.</p>
ILGA, SRI, CREA, AWID, CRR	SOGIESC Rights	<p>HRC 52 Joint Statement in defence of self-determination: Support for a cross-regional joint statement to be presented by States defending Legal Gender Recognition based on Self-ID as an established human rights standard. A joint statement was developed to get broad support from feminist, queer and general human rights organisations. Self-determination is a corollary of the right to bodily autonomy, a right that has been long and hard fought for by feminist human rights defenders, lawyers, physicians and experts across the globe. It was presented at the 52nd</p>

		Human Rights Council Session General Debate – Item 8 Joint Statement
EARTHWORKS: Protecting Communities and the Environment	Climate Justice	Sign-on statement shared by feminist partners demanding the Biden Administration take ambitious climate action ahead of the UNSG Climate Ambition Summit on ending fossil fuel infrastructure, including by: Rejecting federal permits for new fossil fuel projects and revoke illegally granted permits for fossil fuel projects; Phase out fossil fuel production on federal public lands and waters; Limit gas and all fossil fuel exports to the full extent allowed by law; and Declare a climate emergency to reinstate the crude oil ban, accelerate the shift off fossil fuels, boost renewables, and advance justice.
COTFONE and partners	Good governance & Democracy	Sign-on: Embassies in Uganda react to Closure of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Uganda country office: Letter requesting support in contacting national embassies to engage the Ugandan Government to halt the planned closure of the OHCHR in the country and to enable the Office to continue undertaking its key roles. This will enable Uganda to advance human rights, meet international commitments, and ensure a fair and democratic economic development to the country. This would also help resist any attempt to dilute the State obligations or the OHCHR in Uganda mandate during the negotiations, and help support the consensus towards its full renewal.
AIDS United, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Reproductive Rights, Council for Global Equality, Ipas, PFFA, SIECUS, URGE: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity	SRHR	Blueprint Vision Statement: Blueprint Vision Statement is meant to lay out topline values and what it means for policymakers to support SRHR], in post-Roe era and a precursor of the full policy agenda that will be released in the fall of 2023.. The Blueprint Vision statement was presented a sign-on opportunity for supporting NGOS.
AWID	VAWG	Sign on: There is no Place for Anti-trans Agendas in the UN - raising concerns on anti-trans positioning by the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls

<p>ActionAid USA</p>	<p>Climate Justice</p>	<p><u>Sign-on: Urgent sign-on request for a letter to the Supervisory Body of the Bonn Conference for Article 6.4 urging the Supervisory on excluding removals from carbon market mechanisms.</u> The IPCC in fact specifically connected removals to “hard to abate” sectors, which would be a limited role, and has emphasised the importance of immediately phasing out fossil fuels to put us on a path to keeping temperature rise to below 1.5°C. There are still major technical and scientific uncertainties around removing large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere, not to mention the danger the currently proposed technologies pose to communities. Both of these concerns are reflected in the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).</p>
<p>IPAS, Equipop, Le Planning Familial, Médicos del Mundo</p>	<p>Anti-rights/anti-gender</p>	<p>Urgent/ CALL TO ACTION-Hungary opens Women deliver conference: Feminist colleagues have drafted a letter and wish to share it with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (Chair of Women Deliver Board - interesting!) and Maliha Khan (CEO). This year, Katalin Novák, President of Hungary, opened the sixth Women Deliver conference. She is president of a country that systematically blocks any progress for the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people in multilateral spaces. She is also an emblematic figure of the anti-rights movement. This is shocking. We want to express our outrage and ask for explanations in a letter addressed to Women Deliver.</p>
<p>NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security</p>	<p>Feminist Peace</p>	<p>2023 Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in advance of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security: Call for support, the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation and leadership of the women of Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Western Sahara, Yemen and all other crises on the Security Council’s agenda, in accordance with the standards set by the WPS agenda, in ending conflict and building peace in their countries.</p>

CIVICUS	Climate Justice	COP28: make participation inclusive for all including for UAE activists: Civil Society call to UAE: At COP28, prioritise rights of most affected by climate crisis, allow dissent, and release illegally imprisoned activists.
Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition and 120 organisations	Climate Justice	Letter to COP28 Participating Governments re UAE human rights and climate concerns: Raising grave human rights concerns regarding the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), host of the 2023 COP28 climate negotiations. We support the concerns expressed by climate justice movements that allowing COP28 to be held by the rulers of a repressive petrostate, and overseen by an oil executive, is reckless, represents a blatant conflict of interest, and threatens the legitimacy of the whole process.
Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI), the Center for Reproductive Rights, the Association for Women’s Rights in Development, CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Ipas, the International Service for Human Rights, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, MSI Reproductive Choices and the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education	SRHR	Sign-on: HRC54 joint civil society statement on abortion: The focus of this year’s statement is to highlight the impact of de-prioritising and defunding public health systems and universal healthcare on SRHR and the need to uphold the right to safe and legal abortion. This initiative builds on our previous joint statements on abortion to the Council these past 5 years, including last year’s statement signed by over 425 organisations and individuals.

<p>AWID, FOS Feminista, IPPF, Amnesty International, Women’s Major Group, IPAS, Human Rights Watch, Center for Reproduction Rights, Outright International</p>	<p>UDHR</p>	<p>Joint Statement from Civil Society on the 75th Anniversary of the UDHR: It has been 75 years of building human rights norms, 75 years of fighting to advance the principles embodied by the Declaration: universality, interdependence, indivisibility, equality, freedom, and dignity. Over the past 75 years, States have built on the rights enshrined in the UDHR and have increased their political and legal commitments under international human rights law, including through the ratification of treaties. Over the past 75 years, scholars, treaty bodies and Special Procedures mandates holders have continuously clarified and deepened these protections for all people in support of sustainable development and peace.</p>
<p>IWRAW</p>	<p>Gender Justice in UN System</p>	<p>Appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment - time for the Council to appoint a woman from the Global South: The Human Rights Council has never appointed a woman to the environmental mandate, with all five mandate holders to date being men. In addition, both former and current Special Rapporteurs on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment are experts from North America. In this regard, both the current and previous Special Rapporteurs on human rights and the environment have shared with Member States their hope for a well-qualified woman from the Global South to be appointed as their successor.</p>

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 20223
Partnerships and solidarity with key leaders and constituencies in the women's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights and social justice fields established, including interconnectivity of the partnership across country, regional and global levels.	# of MoU/Agreements entered with feminists and social justice networks and movements by MenEngage members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2024	Joined 10 diverse intersectional feminist alliances and groups joined globally
	# of accountability check dialogues organised with key leaders of women's rights and social justice movements organised at country, regional and global levels by 2024	
Collaborative actions with key women's rights and social justice organisations and networks are facilitated at country, regional and global levels.	# of collaborative and solidarity actions jointly undertaken together with feminist and social justice movements at country, regional and global levels by 2024	Supported 20 statements, sign ons and advocacy letters developed by feminist, LGBTIQ, climate, youth and other social justice movements
	# of resources shared for joint initiatives/activities with feminists and social justice movements at country, regional and global levels by 2024	
Promising examples and lessons learnt from partnerships and collaborative actions at country, regional and global levels documented and disseminated among members and partners.	# of reports and learning materials on promising examples and lessons learnt produced and disseminated at country, regional and global levels by 2024	See testimony from SVRI in this report

4.3 SOGIESC inclusive organising

OUTCOME 4.3 - Strengthened diverse SOGIESC inclusive organising, approaches and politics, together with relevant organisations, networks and movements by MenEngage Alliance and members.

See the priority issues section on [LGBTQI rights & SOGIESC inclusivity](#) further above in this report.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2023
Partnerships with LGBTQIA+ and diverse SOGIESC rights organisations strengthened at all levels (see Outcome 4.2).	# of MoU/Agreements entered with LGBTQIA+ rights networks and movements by MenEngage members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2024	1 cross-regional ad hoc solidarity action group formed bringing together 18 members and partners from Uganda, Kenya, DRC, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
	# of accountability check dialogues organised with key leaders of LGBTQIA+ rights movements organised at country, regional and global levels by 2024	3 virtual meetings with affected activists
Representation of LGBTQIA+ voices in MenEngage Alliance leadership and decision making increased (see also our commitment under Outcome 1.1).	% increase on the representation of LGBTQIA+ activists and leaders at the leadership and decision making levels of the Alliance at country, regional and global levels by 2024	1 LGBTQIA constituency representative on the MenEngage Global Board
Safer space/s for LGBTQIA+ identified people in MenEngage Alliance to connect and discuss experiences with each other and	# of consultations and capacity strengthening activities organised on the issues of LGBTQIA+ rights at country, regional and global levels by 2024	1 global SOGIESC learning circle 1 ad hoc group to respond to the situation in Uganda

inform MenEngage's work organised and appreciated by participants. (Example: caucus spaces)	# of members and partners participating in the consultations and activities at country, regional and global levels by 2024	
Learning initiative on LGBTQIA+ and diverse SOGIESC issues and their links with gender, patriarchy, masculinities, and the roles of men and boys developed and implemented with MenEngage members and partners.	# of learning initiatives organised together with LGBTQIA+ rights at country, regional and global levels by 2024	
	# of members and partners participating in the initiatives at country, regional and global levels by 2024	
	% of MenEngage leaders have strengthened understanding on LGBTQIA+ rights at country, regional and global levels by 2024	
MenEngage Regional networks have contextualised knowledge products, plans and activities for being [more] gender diverse and inclusive	# of country and regional networks and members contextualising the knowledge products and activities on gender diversity and inclusion by 2024	Affirmative actions taken by MenEngage Africa
	# feminist discourse analysis conducted among members; qualitative description of discourse among MenEngage members	
Language in MenEngage Global materials is more inclusive of diverse SOGIESC; and MenEngage Regional and Country networks have contextualised conversations and language.	# of discourse analysis on the visibility on pan-inclusive queer awareness in the discourse and analysis of the work of the Alliance members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2024	Ongoing area for attention

Reports from the Regional Networks

MenEngage Africa

Key reflections and results at the regional level

The year 4 implementation of the MEA strategy was a significant mark in the efforts of MEA to build a strong and vibrant movement in Africa. The implementation of this strategy during the period under review involved a multi-dimensional approach, including policy reforms, capacity building, resource mobilisation, and strategic partnerships with governments, international organisations, and the private sector. This strategy seeks to contribute to the objective of Sweden's Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, to create pre-conditions for better living conditions for people living in poverty and under oppression.

The year 4 implementation witnessed substantial progress towards the realisation of the MEA strategy and thematic areas through projects that enhance access to SRHR, prevention of GBV and harmful practices, the promotion of positive parenting and human rights in general, supported mainly through Sida, with additional support from other funders, such as Austria Development Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands and Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, among others. The implementation of the strategy also prioritised strengthening capacity through comprehensive organisational capacity development informed by pre-award assessments, with the objective of creating strong sustainable CSOs that can drive the gender justice agenda. Additionally, the pursuit of a strong, accountable, and vibrant MEA movement through the strengthening of regional and country-level governance structures and the promotion of inter-country cooperation and learning enhanced the network's strength in the sphere of male engagement and masculinities transformation for gender equality.

Political Change

Year 4 initiated the conclusion phase of the MEA Strategy and implementation incorporated close out activities such as documenting case studies and best practices, organising the annual general meetings (elective in 2023), as well as organising the MenEngage symposium at the end of each country level strategic plan and provides an opportunity for MEA and partners to share and learn from each other, especially around masculinities transformation, whilst contributing to the body of knowledge and evidence.

During this period, there were changes in the political climate for several MEA countries that will impact human rights and gender justice. Burundi and Kenya had elections during this period, and for Burundi, there is potential for a more CSO-friendly political environment, when compared to the former late president Nkurunziza's position on CSOs within the political context.

During the implementing period, MEA members actively and meaningfully participated in global and regional policy spaces. Young persons from the MEA youth network participated as panel speakers in 2 side events which were co-hosted by MEA and Sonke at CSW 2023. MEA in partnership with MenEngage Global, hosted 3 learning sessions, prior to CSW, specifically focusing on orientating partners on CSW spaces and how to deal with opposition in these spaces in preparation for their attendance and participation. MEA has been consistent in providing opportunities for capacity strengthening to ensure that members have the space, opportunity, as well as the skills, knowledge, and confidence to engage in the CSW space.

MenEngage Malawi was integral to the team that co-hosted the Africa pre-CSW consultations and contributed significant inputs into the Lilongwe Declaration. Malawi and Uganda also contributed inputs into the relevant sections of the ICPD Shadow report launched at the Women Deliver Conference 2023. The ICPD shadow report is a significant tool for advocacy on SRHR, ending harmful practices including FGM and Forced/Child marriages, meaningful engagement of young people, and SGBV issues. MEA contributed to the outcome documents for CSW 67 Agreed Conclusions and the HLPF Ministerial Declaration to be adopted by Member States at the UN Summit of the future.

Strengthened capacities to coordinate, implement, enhance, and scale up the work

During the reporting period, the regional secretariat, through a co-creation collaborative process with the global MenEngage Alliance, developed the regional SRHR Strategy, launched early in 2023. Developments at a global and regional level, many of which obstruct the gains made around sexual reproductive health and rights, highlighted the importance for MEA to clearly articulate our stance on key SRHR issues including a clear advocacy strategy around this work. The MenEngage Africa SRHR Strategic Plan 2023-2027 envisions a world where women, girls, men, boys, and people with diverse SOGIESC realise their rights to optimal sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing in Africa.

Through targeted workshops and capacity strengthening sessions at country level, members have acquired the necessary expertise to drive meaningful change in SRHR-related areas. These initiatives have equipped participants with a deep understanding of ending harmful traditional practices and gender norms; promoting comprehensive sexuality education; family planning and reproductive rights. In this period, the emphasis placed on sharing best practices has fostered a culture of collaboration, enabling organisations to replicate successful SRHR interventions.

Through tailored workshops and skill-building initiatives, members have acquired specialised knowledge in designing and implementing initiatives that challenge harmful gender norms and promote SRHR. These workshops empowered participants to effectively engage men and boys in advancing gender transformative SRHR agendas. The project emphasised the importance of

sharing best practices which fostered a culture of collaboration, allowing organisations to learn from each other's experiences and adopt successful strategies. The implementation of capacity assessments further contributed to the continual improvement of member organisations' practices. As a result, MEA's commitment to enhancing capacity has positioned its members and partners as leaders driving positive change and progress in the field of gender transformative SRHR. The implementation of the MEA strategy highlighted the need to strengthen the capacity of faith and traditional leaders in the region to be change champions, assisting them in understanding their role in reversing the social pressures that facilitate the continuation of toxic masculinity and harmful practices. MenEngage Africa established the interfaith network as a structure that allows the network to work closely with different interfaith structures in the alliance to support all programmes and campaigns.

Democratic governance structures and leadership capabilities

During the period under review, MEA has increased organisational stability and sustainability with improved governance structure leading to greater organisational impact and legitimacy. With this, MEA has been able to access new partnerships and coalitions, actively participate in influencing change in social norms, increase member engagement and improve resource mobilisation at national and regional levels.

During Year 4 of the MEA Strategy implementation, the MEA steering committee continued engaging on relevant governance issues and supported the country leadership in ensuring compliance with the regional and global expectations. With 2023 being an elective year, country level Annual General Meetings were organised in all MEA countries to elect new country steering committee members for both country and youth structures, leading into regional elective AGMs for the youth and regional networks. All newly elected Chairpersons from the country networks attended the AGM held in Kigali, Rwanda in May 2023. The AGM served as an opportunity to induct the chairpersons in their role as country chairs and provide relevant key information for their tenure. Steering committee representatives from the country networks in Rwanda, Eswatini, Namibia, Burundi, Togo, Liberia and Cameroon were elected representatives after the AGM, followed by steering committee induction sessions in which the new committee was able to elect their leaders. A gender non-conforming person was elected to lead MEA For the first time in MenEngage History, deputised by a woman. This is a major milestone for MEA and a cause for celebration considering the recent trending anti-gender movement.

Resource mobilisation and fundraising

The development and implementation of the MEA resource mobilisation strategy is a crucial aspect of contributing to the sustainability and effectiveness of the MEA network. Sonke continued to mobilise resources at a regional level in contribution to the growth and sustainability of the MEA network with appreciation of the required support from external funding sources to support programmes and operations both at regional and country levels. A

critical challenge within the funding landscape is the limited availability of unrestricted funding for organisational core coverage as many donors focus on restricted institutional programme funding.

Media as a tool for social change

The MenEngage Africa network has been actively involved in various campaigns and activities, using media as a tool for social change and to amplify MEA's voice to promote gender equality and human rights in the region. Capacity strengthening of country partners on media and communications resulted in the production of inspirational and compelling videos, which documented the impact of the programmes implemented to empower young people to become agents of change in their communities. MEA used media to raise awareness and advocate for issues such as sexual and reproductive health rights, anti-homosexuality laws, and gender-based violence on national and international platforms, which resulted in amplified voices of MenEngage networks. Using media, MEA identified the need to collaborate with more journalists and media outlets to maximise efforts for sensitisation to the importance of gender-sensitive reporting that does not propagate violence. During this period, several articles calling for action on MEA thematic areas, including on FGM, SGBV, and fatherhood were published.

The Power to Youth Program activities included the design of a media toolkit to strengthen the capacities of Youth-Led Organisations in effectively engaging with different forms of media. The toolkit takes the users through media strategies such as developing media advocacy plans and improving communication and messaging regarding issues that affect young people.

Newsletters

Uganda developed a biannual newsletter with detailed activities implemented under the Power to Youth programme since January 2023. The newsletter was also shared via MailChimp and to the Power to Youth coordination lab communications team to reach a bigger audience. Sonke contributed to the review, alignment, publication, and popularisation of the Newsletter.

Social Media

At the country level, countries like Uganda used social media such as twitter to advocate for gender equality. Sonke ensured the popularisation of the program activities from both Uganda and Malawi via the Sonke social media platforms which drove traffic to the Power to Youth social media handles in these countries. Activities included Safeguarding /Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment training, a Gender Transformative Approaches linking and learning event, Digital media Training in Uganda, Day of the African Child Twitter space, SMART advocacy training, and the Power to Youth connector week among others.

Development of any regional advocacy strategies or advocacy working groups

There have been significant political, legislative, and policy changes in some countries (e.g. Uganda). The passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) in 2023, a new law that punishes

what it calls “aggravated homosexuality” with the death penalty, criminalises the transmission of HIV/AIDS through gay sex, and prescribes a 20-year sentence for “promoting” homosexuality. This is one of the most severe laws in the African region to be prescribed relating to same-sex relations and it has significantly impacted important issues such as access to health care including SRHR, and care-seeking for HIV and or STI as the law punishes anyone who tolerates gender non-conforming persons. The law is discriminatory, violates the right to freedom of expression and bodily integrity, and an increase in reports of police intimidation, harassment, and violence perpetrated against LGBTQI+ persons and allies since it was passed. MEA members have rallied in solidarity and in support of the LGBTQI+ Uganda community, also published statements calling for the removal of this draconian law and participated in protests and presented petitions to the Ugandan embassies in some African countries also calling for the same. MEA members are also making efforts to support the establishment of safe houses for activists fleeing Uganda and have started strategizing around resource mobilisation to support these efforts.

Contrary to Uganda, a significant victory occurred in Namibia in May 2023, led by civil society including MenEngage’s Outright Namibia. Namibia’s Supreme Court passed a progressive ruling that the government must recognise the unions of same-sex couples concluded in foreign countries where it was legal to do so. This is a step in the right direction, however same-sex marriage remains illegal in Namibia itself and sexual relations between men is still considered a criminal offence, even though the law is seldom enforced in this respect.

The outbreak and existence of conflict in some countries including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Burundi, Mali and Nigeria also impact on access to certain communities in which MEA members are located, and consequently their ability to implement activities. Added to this is the growing levels of poverty/inequality, the impact of Covid 19 and the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war on food security. These complex interactions of social, cultural, political, and economic factors generally tend to negatively impact the development of societies. MEA’s partnership with WILPF is one of the interventions that directly seeks to improve our understanding on how to work more effectively with men and boys to transform harmful dynamics that perpetuate, rationalise and justify violence and get to a situation where women and girls are better protected in these fragile spaces.

MEA’s impactful efforts in influencing policies and advocating for gender transformative SRHR have achieved remarkable progress. Through the development of an advocacy tool, member organisations have been provided with the resources necessary to guide their work on SRHR advocacy. Collaborative partnerships with governmental bodies and regional organisations have fostered a collective front advocating for policies that holistically address SRHR concerns. Through the Male Involvement in HIV Testing, Treatment and Prevention framework, MenEngage Africa has contributed to setting the agenda for the integration of Male

Engagement Strategies in HIV testing, treatment and prevention with country networks currently supported to continue the work.

MEA participated in numerous global policy processes during the period under review, including the International Aids Conference in Montreal, Sexual Violence Research Institute-SVRI conference in Cancun, and Commission on the Status of Women-CSW in New York. The theme for the CSW67 was “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,” and the review theme was “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

Strengthening accountability standards and accountable practices

During the implementation period, several case studies were produced based on evidence provided by MEA members at country level. A decentralised approach in movement building- a case study on the decentralised management of the MenEngage Network in Malawi-, showcased how decentralising structures and operations leads to unique advantages and challenges faced in the rolling out and coordination of their programmes. The benefit of decentralised operations is that every local MenEngage chapter has a trained rapid-response team, consisting of community members, police officers and municipal officials, with the main function is rapid response to cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and escalating to the relevant authorities as needed. The main challenge is the inconsistent community level screening of organisations and individuals who join the alliance: the possibility for men with misogynistic and uninformed mindsets to join the alliance and push their harmful agendas from within the ranks of the progressive formations, poses a risk with the potential of compromising the good work done by MenEngage Malawi.

Following the development and approval of the MenEngage Accountability Standards by members, the framework was eventually adopted comprising of three key documents including, the new Core Principles, Code of Conduct and Accountability Standards, which have been shared widely to the membership and is already used as training tools in some MEA countries. The next step was to request members in Africa to reaffirm their commitment to the new Core Principles, Code of Conduct, and Accountability Framework have been updated.

The principles were shared with all country networks requiring members to read and sign as a means of reaffirmation, this is an ongoing process as some countries have more than 40 members, but the objective is to have these signed by all members.

Challenges and lessons learned

Changing political contexts in some of the MEA countries pose a serious threat toward our mobilisation and advocacy work in the region. The MEA delegation from 22 countries visiting Tanzania for Gender Transformative training in October 2022 was deported under suspicious

circumstances. We suspect that this was linked to our human rights and LGBTIQ+ work, however because no explanation or official communication was provided in relation to the deportation, we are still unclear about the reasons. This resulted in a large cost loss of the purchased travel tickets and accommodation booked, which was not refundable. Similar challenges were faced in Ethiopia in May 2023, where a delegation attending the MEA AGM was denied visa approval, still under unclear circumstances.

We continue to observe regressive policies from policy makers passing oppressive laws, as the case of the Uganda Anti Homosexuality Act, a bill that threatens the lives of not only LGBTIQ+ persons but advocates as well. This new law in Uganda will have a ripple effect on other countries in Africa, as noted from sources in Kenya, Malawi, Ghana. These developments strengthen our resolve to advocate for rights of all people in their diversities.

Conclusion

With the successful achievement in implementing the outcomes set out in the MEA Strategy, MEA and its partners have made significant strides towards their vision of fostering gender equality and justice by engaging men and boys in the context of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, GBV Prevention, Positive parenting, Peace and Security and Human Rights. The multifaceted approach, encompassing research, policy influence, capacity-building, and collaboration, has created a lasting impact that extends beyond the implementation period.

In conclusion, the year 4 implementation of the MEA Africa strategy reflected MEA's commitment to address the unique challenges faced by activists in African countries in their quest for human rights and gender justice. Through a multi-dimensional approach, implementation of the MEA strategy during the period under review, aimed to foster movement building, advocate for policy change, and improve gender transformative programming across the region.

While significant progress was achieved during the review period, the increased backlash and regression of gender progressive policies was also quite evident. For MEA, this further strengthens our resolve and continued commitment to ensuring the long-term success and impact of our work in contributing to gender equality and human rights.

Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN)

Key regional achievements and results

- Caribbean Model for Behavioural Change: Collaborated with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (UWI) and Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations (CANPA) on crafting the Caribbean Model for Behavioral and Cultural Change, a project supported by UNFPA through the Spotlight Initiative (2021 – Dec 2023).
- WE-Talk Jamaica Project: Executed the contract for the We-Talk Jamaica Project and commenced implementation of associated activities (currently in progress)
- CariMAN's Capacity Building, UN Women Small Grants Project: Successfully concluded the UN Small Grants project aimed at enhancing governance and capacity within the CariMAN Network (May – December 2023).
- Transforming Masculinities Symposium: Engaged in the Transforming Masculinities Symposium "Transforming Masculinities: International Symposium for Well-Being and Violence Prevention," hosted by the University of Calgary, culminating the "Stories of Personal Transformation" Project conducted in partnership with CariMAN (October 2023).
- CariMAN's Needs Assessment of Local Chapters: Conducted a comprehensive Needs Assessment spanning all local chapters, combining virtual and in-person interactions with selected country chapters (July – November 2023).
- CariMAN's Website: Ongoing efforts to enhance the functionality and appeal of the CariMAN Network website, including work on redesigning the logo for improved representation and identity and creating individual Country Chapters Accounts, among others

Key country level achievements and results

Chapters Registrations:

Local chapter in Jamaica was registered in May 2023, followed by the establishment of the Board and Advisory Committee for the local chapter in Jamaica in November 2023. The local chapter in Antigua and Barbuda has initiated its registration process.

The chapters in Guyana and St Vincent have been successful in reviving the country chapters following the COVID pandemic. Furthermore this year one new country chapter was established in November 2023.

Strengthened MenEngage Alliance Networks & Leadership

#1. No elections were held in 2023.

-Appointment of Shalinee Bahadur (age 26) as the Administrator for the CariMAN Regional Secretariat (January 2023)

-A call by the Chair of CariMAN, Mr. Phillip Carlisle, for Board Members to recommit their dedication to serve as Board members or to nominate/identify another member from their local chapter who has the time and capacity to serve and carry out the roles and responsibilities as stated in the Board member TORs for 2024 (November 2023)

Leadership capacity

Capacity Strengthening Meetings – 7

of facilitated discussions on power dynamics – 5

The Caribbean Male Action Network with the support of the UN Women Multi-Country Office, under the Spotlight Initiative, convened a capacity building exercise with its Board of Directors and Local Chapter Coordinators on feminist leadership and good governance. This exercise took place on 4th, 7th, 11th, 13th and 14th of December from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm via zoom and two in person Values Clarification sessions in Jamaica in the month of October 2023. The following is an outline of the five sessions via zoom:

Session 1: Who is CariMAN and Values Clarification

Session 2: Presentation of CariMAN's Policy Manual

Session 3: Feminist Leadership and Best Practices

Session 4: Accountability and Leadership

Session 5: Strategic Planning

Sexual Harassment Policy and Accountability Standards

- 1 CariMAN network session on Accountability held
- Development and Presentation of a policy manual to all local chapters which includes Sexual Harassment Policy and Accountability Standards (which all local chapters are required to sign on to)

Fundraising and resource mobilisation

Caribbean Model for Behavioural Change -Phase 2 (TT 270,000.00)

CariMAN, as the co-implementing partner for the Phase 2 of the project has agreed to oversee the day to day project management operations such as but not limited to:

- 1) Preparing contracts, recruiting and issuing payments to consultants (Project Coordinator, Gender and Communication Experts, and Research Assistants).
- 2) Contribute to financial and technical reporting to the donor.
- 3) Provide technical support and review reports produced by consultants.
- 4) Attend meetings with project Implementing partners and donors as needed.

Project Summary

This intervention is a research and evaluation based exercise which measures practitioner capacity for meaningful interpretation and application of the Caribbean Model of Behavioural and Cultural Change (CMBCC) to confront, mitigate, prevent or eliminate gender based violence (GBV), family violence (FV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG). It elaborates one activity of a second phase of the design of this model, which constitutes the mapping of a conceptual framework of understanding and problem solving. This second phase represents a phase of co-construction necessary for such a framework to be rooted in Caribbean lived experiences featured by predictable and unpredictable psychological, social, political and cultural nuances that find relevance in the merging of historical and contemporary ways of knowing.

UN Women Small Grants (USD 29,859.24)

1. To improve the governance ability of Country Chapter Coordinators of CariMAN using feminist leadership best practices.
2. To strengthen CariMAN's operations by improving its policies.
3. To increase the financial management capacity of the Dominica country-level network.

Through the UN Women Small Grants funding, the following organisational capacity will be targeted for strengthening:

1. Good governance
2. Strategic leadership
3. Financial Oversight
4. Risk Management
5. Succession Planning
6. Financial Management

Global Affairs Canada and Oxfam Canada (CAD 1,195,028.23) :

1. To conduct the We-TALK for the reduction of gender-based violence in Jamaica (2022-2027)

The ultimate outcome of WE-Talk is to contribute to the reduction of Gender-based violence (GBV) in Jamaica against women, girls, boys and other disadvantaged groups.

The project is a unique, behaviour-change project that will address the issue of GBV, one of the most pervasive violations of human rights that limits freedom, participation in equal decision-making, access, and control over resources for many Jamaican women and other marginalised groups.

MenEngage Global Secretariat

Small grants to support strengthening regional accountability, advocacy, organising, strategizing, and movement-building.

Membership engagement capacities

Membership engagement strategy is being developed as part of the capacity building process currently undertaken by the CariMAN Network. Discussions around increasing and sustaining membership are ongoing. Additionally, the CariMAN website is being designed with the intention of having a user-friendly approach to becoming a member of the Network and relevant local chapters.

Membership fees for the enhancement of the financial sustainability of the Network is also being discussed and will be included on the website for members to renew their membership status via a membership fee.

Youth Engagement and Leadership

- Youth representative, Shalinee Bahadur, fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the Administrator of the Regional Secretariat.
- MenEngage Youth Reference Group - There are two CariMAN representatives that belong to the MenEngage Youth Reference Group:
 - a. Tivia Collins (Guyana)
 - b. Shalinee Bahadur (Trinidad and Tobago)

Tivia Collins attended and represented the CariMAN Network at the in-person YRG induction meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in December 2023.

Knowledge products and Documentations

- Policy Manual (internal CariMAN document)
- Caribbean Model of Behavioural and Cultural Change Communication Projects (available upon request from UNFPA)
- Stakeholder Mapping of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago: Masculinities and Criminal Violence – Bridging the Gap between Research and Policy and Practice (available upon request)
- Literature Review - Masculinities and Criminal Violence – Bridging the Gap between Research and Policy and Practice (available upon request)
- IDB/Promundo/CariMAN Man Box Caribbean Report (forthcoming)

Partnerships

- Knowledge Fair: Empowering Voices, Ending Gender-Based Violence (UNDP/UN Women/UNFPA and UNICEF) - The Knowledge Fair, organised by United Nations Development Programme, within the framework of the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Programme, serves as a cultural and technical space for sharing experiences on lessons learned and best practices (what works and what does not work) to stop gender-based violence and Family Violence in the region, fostering cooperation amongst countries and promoting integration in the Caribbean. This initiative stems

from the strategic actions led by UNDP in the framework of the Spotlight Initiative with the support of its partners and implementing agencies (UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF). The Spotlight Initiative is a multi-year program generously funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations aimed at addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, and harmful practices globally.

- Collaboration with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (UWI) and Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations (CANPA) on crafting the Caribbean Model for Behavioral and Cultural Change, a project supported by UNFPA through the Spotlight Initiative (2021 – Dec 2023).

Expected outputs under this activity include: Immediate Outputs: i) Increased awareness among policy and decision-makers involved in FV and VAWG prevention on the evidence-based pathways of change possible through the Model to prevent violence against women and girls and interrupt the intergenerational cycle of family violence.

Medium Term Outputs: i) Policy and decision makers involved in FV and VAWG prevention are informed and empowered to advocate for and develop legislation and policies on ending FV and VAWG. ii) Increased awareness among stakeholders in relevant non-state institutions of the importance of the Model for creating effective programmes that promote positive masculinities and girls' empowerment. iii) Enhanced Capacity of FV and VAWG service providers to provide quality services at the country level that is both lifecycle sensitive and gender transformative. iv) Institutions of socialisation (schools, youth groups, families, faith-based organisations and cultural influencers etc.) equipped to implement gender-transformative programmes based on the Model.

- Collaboration with Global Affairs Canada, Oxfam Canada and WMW Jamaica for the WE-Talk Jamaica Project. (Ongoing)
- Collaboration with UN Women for CariMAN's Capacity Building under the UN Women Small Grants Project: Successfully concluded the UN Small Grants project aimed at enhancing governance and capacity within the CariMAN Network (May – December 2023).
- Collaboration with the University of Calgary for the Transforming Masculinities Symposium, a two-day global gathering. The Symposium brought together transdisciplinary organisational and community leaders, Elders, educators, researchers, knowledge-keepers, and students working in violence prevention, gender justice, well-being, and peacebuilding. Presentations, knowledge exchange and experiential learning

focused on local to global realities of gender-based violence and promote prevention efforts through awareness, strategies, and collaboration. The Symposium hosted guest presenters from Afghanistan, the Caribbean, Mexico and Pakistan.

Accountability Standards and capacity

Total Capacity strengthening sessions held – 5

Number of participants at 5 sessions - 46

MenEngage Europe Network

Key regional achievements and results

2023 has been an eventful, complex, successful but also difficult year for MenEngage Europe and its members. The network has continued to grow, in number of members as well as in outreach, level of activity, geographical scope and connection between members.

Due to the continuation of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the year has however still put Europe in a historically difficult political and financial situation. The short- and long-term consequences of the war in Ukraine impacts the members of MenEngage Europe in different ways, and although many can continue with their operations as before, the atmosphere in Europe, the priorities and the attitude for the future has changed.

In addition, Europe also experienced yet another war during 2023, between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the soil of Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh in September. Consequently, many innocent children, women and men had to leave their homes and the overall situation resulted in political shifts and worried feelings in the whole Eastern Europe.

In summary, 2023 has been marked with these extreme security challenges, together with continuous degradation of the financial sustainability in the region, political backlash and security set-backs in many parts of the continent. For the members in MenEngage Europe, this has meant an increased need to join forces, find support and solidarity with other members and increased will to interact with like minded to get support in rebuilding motivation, hope and strength to continue with their work.

The results of 2023 for MenEngage Europe can be summarised with that the network successfully has implemented the system of regional network contributions, which contributes to the financial sustainability of the network as well as the sense of ownership for members in the network. In addition, MenEngage Europe succeeded in finalising the re-affirmation process, which means that all members have actively signed off to the updated accountability framework of MenEngage. Moreover, the network has established a strategy working group to kick-start the development of a new strategy, which is expected to be finalised during 2024 in consultation with the members. The network has also succeeded in welcoming 17 new members to the community and has organised a series of introductory meetings for new and curious members. On top of that, the network has been represented at a number of different external activities organised by for instance the Council of Europe, OSCE and a national forum in Albania, just to name a few. In doing so, the network has reached new actors, increased its voice in different forums and contributed with perspectives on how to reach and develop methods to better work with men and boys and create a society with less violence, in Europe and beyond.

Key country level achievements and results

MenEngage Europe does not operate with country networks but has a sub-regional network in Iberia, established in 2019 for members in Spain and Portugal. After MenEngage Iberia (MEI) organised a members' meeting in Seville in October 2021, they have had an active membership engagement and contributed to many of the MenEngage Europe's activities and meetings. The MEI network has grown in 2023, with 4 new organisations and 1 individual, making the network consist of a total of 18 organisational members and 3 individual members.

MenEngage Iberia has maintained monthly meetings (except for July and August). 7 organisations of MEI have created a consortium and secured funding from the Ministry of Equality for a one-year project called "Masculinidades Corresponsables" starting in June 2023. The organisations involved in this project have been working very closely and strengthened their ties with each other, and organised a meeting in Barcelona in June 2023.

One of the MEE activities that MEI took part in organising during 2023 was an introductory meeting for new members in Spain and Portugal.

In August 2023, MEI issued a statement as a response to Mr. Rubiales, the Spanish football president's unworthy behaviour towards the female players in connection to their victory of the 2023 World Cup. Overall, the MEI network has during this year managed to increase political attention on men and masculinity in Iberia and established strong partnerships with local actors.

Under the initiative of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Madrid, a round table was organised by one of the MEI members (Masculinidades Beta) on November 29 in the framework of UN Women's campaign 16 Days of Activism. Different members of the ME Iberia network participated, and Global Co-Director Joni van de Sand kindly accepted the invitation to travel from Barcelona. The round table gave MEI the opportunity to reach out to a public quite elusive to their work and establish new contacts. More information [here](#).

Strengthened democratic governance structures and leadership capabilities

The governance structure of MenEngage Europe remains the same as previous years. The network has a democratically elected Steering Committee consisting of 11 members. 9 of these are organisational members and 2 are individual members.

The Steering Committee has one meeting per month for the whole group (with the exception of the months in the middle of the summer).

The election of a new Steering Committee took place during the biennial MenEngage Europe Members' Meeting in Berlin in the beginning of November (6-8th of Nov) 2022. At this election, 8 SC members were re-elected, 3 were added as new members and 3 left their seats in the SC.

The two Co-Coordinators and Global Board Representative of the Steering Committee are elected on 2-years mandate, which takes place on the year in-between the biennial Members' Meetings. The election of Co-Coordinators and Global Board Representative thus took place at the end of 2023 and resulted in all these three roles being re-elected for another two-year term. A difference with this new term compared to previous mandates is that these roles will not be given any remuneration for their work, since the budget of MenEngage Europe is too limited for that in 2024.

Moreover, MenEngage Europe has a vetting committee which is responsible for analysing and accepting or declining membership applications to the network. This group consists of three members from the MenEngage Europe Steering Committee which has been working actively with handling membership applications during 2023.

The sub-regional network MenEngage Iberia has a similar Steering Committee structure but with 3 co-coordinators and 2 people in supporting roles. In 2023, MEI Steering Committee held monthly SC meetings (except in July, August and December). No changes occurred in the structure, except that one co-coordinator has been on maternity leave since October, she has not been replaced. The next MEI Assembly will be held in early 2024.

Regional work plan implementation

For MenEngage Europe, 2023 has been a year when the network has been able to offer its members a broad diversity of different activities through the successful implementation of its annual workplan and being attentive to new ideas from members.

One of the key achievements during 2023 has been a digital Members' Meeting in the beginning of the year where important decisions on the financial sustainability of the network and the introduction of members' contribution were decided.

During 2023, the network has also succeeded in continuing to work with the anti-racism working group and their initiative to roll out a chain of events connected to anti-racism, decolonization and inner work for social change. The activities within this field have been built on a series of trainings initiated during 2022. The activities have been open for all members of the network to participate in through different digital workshops and trainings with the aim to reflect on how to apply anti-racism and decolonialism in their daily life and work.

On top of this, the network has organised monthly "check-ins" open to all members to ventilate and reflect together, a number of webinars on different topics, two introduction meetings for new members, and a number of additional activities and meetings to facilitate for members to participate in and benefit from their membership in the network.

Network leadership capacity strengthening

During 2023, MenEngage Europe has continued with its focus on strengthening the regional network's process in regard to anti-racism and decolonization, initiated in 2022. This has primarily been done through a series of capacity development trainings open for all members to participate in. The focus of these training has been on power, privilege and rank and have provided the participants with tools and perspectives on how post-colonial structures and prejudices impact power dynamics and how to approach decolonization in their work and activities.

MenEngage Europe is part of a global cohort of networks focused on working against sexualized abuse of children. This cohort is coordinated by Ignite Philanthropy (through which MenEngage Europe has had financial and capacity strengthening support from Oak Foundation for the past three years) and has offered the MenEngage Europe Secretariat the opportunity to participate in peer-learning sessions and capacity building efforts together with other networks within this cohort.

Moreover, during 2023 the MEE Steering Committee has dedicated time and focus on establishing a positive and well-grounded group dynamic. This has included parts of SC meetings being dedicated to allowing for each SC member to share their individual strengths and weaknesses when it comes to group work and how they best can contribute to the SCs joint work. This has resulted in an internal learning journey on how to structure the management, division of tasks and cooperation between the SC members.

Implementation of Sexual Harassment Policy and Accountability Standards

The MenEngage Europe's focal points for sexual harassment have not received any reports of sexual harassment within the network during 2023. Within the vetting committee of MenEngage Europe, the Accountability Standards are used when analysing membership applications. In 2023, all 17 membership applications were assessed based on the accountability framework of the network. In cases when the vetting committee has questions, additional meetings with the applicants have been organised to get an understanding of their views and alignment with the Accountability standards of MenEngage.

MEE mobilised itself on resources mobilisation

In 2023, numerous efforts were made by the fundraising working group, Steering Committee and Secretariat to identify and apply for additional funds and secure the financial sustainability of the network.

In February, a digital members' meeting was held where the membership decided to implement "regional network contributions". This means that each member, based on their annual turnover, is asked to pay a symbolic sum to MenEngage Europe. In 2023, the total sum of these regional network contributions reached a level of approximately 4000 EUR.

The MenEngage Europe Secretariat was an active part of planning and moderation of the discussion at one of the cross regional sessions during 2023, which focused on accountable fundraising.

During spring 2023, MenEngage Europe submitted a project proposal to the Swedish Postcode Association designed to enable the network to support its members in working with combating the political backlash in Europe. However, this application was unfortunately declined.

The Secretariat and the fundraising working group also dedicated energy to trying to find a possibility to apply for EU's CERV calls. Since MenEngage Europe is not a legally registered entity, the network is unable to be the lead applicant for these project proposals and is therefore dependent on being part of a consortium. However, after multiple attempts the network was unable to identify any organisation that was planning to apply for these CERV calls.

The fundraising working group of MenEngage Europe has also organised meetings with different actors to raise awareness of the network and explore potential financing possibilities. One of these actors was Bristol Meyer's Squibb which showed interest in the network but unfortunately did not have the financial possibility to support our work. A second actor was Community Foundation Ireland (CFI). The nature of CFI seems to be that they prioritise funding actors based on Ireland so MEE is dependent on finding a systematic collaboration with an Irish based member organisation, something which is in process but depends on a number of factors outside of MEE's control.

MenEngage Europe also successfully applied for an advocacy grant of 6000 USD from MenEngage Global Secretariat, which will be used to organise a physical workshop and develop the foundation of a regional advocacy strategy in 2024. This grant will be reported on separately and is mainly part of 2024's activities even if the grant was applied for in 2023.

Since the financial support from MenEngage Europe's main donor, Oak Foundation (through Ignite Philanthropy) is ending 2023, the network opened up a conversation to have a non-cost extension for unused funds. This was approved by Ignite Philanthropy and the remaining budget for MenEngage Europe is allowed to be used until November 2024. Although this is really helpful, the sum of this non-cost extension is very limited and covers only a small part of the operational costs. In addition, MenEngage Europe was granted a capacity development grant of 20.000 EUR from Ignite Philanthropy to support the network's ambitions to strengthen its focus on advocacy, fundraising and sustainability of the network during 2024.

Ignite Philanthropy has during 2023 been in the process of renewing its strategy for 2024-2029. As a part of the design process, Ignite has invited actors that have an ongoing or past

collaboration with Ignite to different “Town Hall” sessions where they have been given the possibility to provide input to different stages of the strategy. The MenEngage Europe Secretariat has been invited to two rounds of these sessions, one in the early stage of the strategy work and later a smaller, and more intimate session, when the strategy had been further developed. In each session, MenEngage Europe representatives have lifted input and reflections on how to better integrate and consider preventative measures of violence and work with masculinity norms throughout the strategy. Although this has not led to any additional funding, it is seen as a fundraising activity as it has been contributing to the overall funding scheme and priorities of one of MenEngage Europe’s most important donors.

In terms of MEE’s sub-regional network MenEngage Iberia, they have succeeded, after a 2-years conversation process with the Spanish Ministry of Equality, to secure 350,000 EUR to implement the project “Masculinidades Corresponsables”. This one-year project started on the 1st of June 2024 and includes 4 main lines of activities; training, awareness raising, advisory and information service for professionals or institutions and capacity building. For the dissemination of the activities, MEI has created the profile [@MenEngageIberia](#) in Youtube and [Linkedin](#). A website has also been created for the project: <https://corresponsabl.es/>

Key achievements on meaningful membership engagement in the regional network

To increase the level of engagement among members in the network, the MenEngage Europe Secretariat has initiated and developed a newsletter which has been sent out four times a year with information and details on what members can expect in terms of activities and what processes that are ongoing within the network. MenEngage Europe has also increased the use of the Whatsapp group which members are connected to, to facilitate communication and the sense of interconnectedness among the membership.

In addition, the monthly online check-ins contribute to keeping members engaged and connected to the network as they provide a possibility for participants to, without agenda or expectations, speak freely to other members of the network, share ideas and reflect on the challenges or possibilities in their local contexts.

During 2023, the MenEngage Europe Secretariat has also organised digital meetings called “What’s up in MenEngage Europe” where members have had the possibility to meet Steering Committee members, discuss the roles and mandates within the network and clear out any potential question marks in a permissive and inclusive environment.

In 2023, the network also organised two introduction meetings (one in English and one in Spanish) for new and curious members who wanted to learn more about the plans, structure, activities and ways to be engaged in the network. These meetings have included representatives from the MEE Secretariat, the CoCos and the Steering Committee who have shared information about the network, how it works with accountability and ways that

members can get engaged. In the case of the introduction meeting in Spanish, representatives from MenEngage Iberia were also part of the meeting.

The MenEngage Europe Secretariat has also had one-on-one meetings with different actors that have expressed an interest in becoming members of the network. These meetings have provided organisations with a good understanding of what MenEngage is and what they can expect from being members. These meetings have, in almost all cases, resulted in the organisations having applied for membership in the alliance.

Strengthening Youth Engagement and Leadership

MenEngage Europe has two representatives in the MenEngage Global's Youth Reference Group. These two representatives participated actively in the Youth Reference Group's meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in December 2023. These representatives will be invited to report back to the MEE Steering Committee in the beginning of 2024 in order to ensure smooth inclusion of these perspectives in the MEE's priorities and pipeline.

Communications mechanism continues to be strengthened for MEE

In 2023, the Secretariat continued to send out the MEE newsletter, initiated in 2022, to the regional membership. The newsletters are produced and sent out through the MEE email groups on a quarterly basis and have been highly appreciated among members. The newsletters usually include updates about activities organised on the regional and global level of the network, opportunities to get engaged and information on open calls or other funding possibilities.

The Facebook group of MenEngage Europe members has mainly been used to highlight different activities or to introduce new members. One of the channels that is used most regularly within MenEngage Europe is the Whatsapp group where members share different ideas, articles, pictures of activities etc with each other. During 2023, MenEngage Europe decided to deactivate its Instagram account based on the assessment that the Secretariat does not have sufficient human resources to prioritise this at the moment.

The MEE public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MenEngageEurope>

The MEE Facebook group for members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2681457708535776> In addition, representatives from MenEngage Europe have been part of the MenEngage Global Communication and Knowledge management group and provided input to the global newsletters and the visual profile of the Alliance, among other things.

MenEngage Iberia communicates through a google group and a shared folder in Drive. Separated groups and folders have been created for the project "Masculinidades Corresponsables". A Webpage for MenEngage Iberia is planned and under construction.

MenEngage Iberia's social media channels:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/menengageiberia>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MenEngageIberia/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/menengage-iberia/>

Knowledge products and Documentations

During 2023, MenEngage Europe has produced a statement where the network condemns the use of military means and violence between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh. Statement can be found [here](#).

The sub-regional network MenEngage Iberia also issued a statement on the behaviour of the Spanish football president towards the female players in relation to their victory in the 2023 World Cup. Statement can be found [here](#).

The network also contributed to the MenEngage Global's campaign on #HowToTalkWithMen.

Webinars or online dialogues organised

MenEngage Europe has conducted five webinars during 2023. The focus of these webinars has been: 1) "Working with young men and gender equality", 2) "Old Men's Masculinities", 3) "Men and gender (in)equalities in workplaces", 4) "How to include gender diversity in the work with men and boys" 5) "Inner work for social change within MenEngage Europe".

The overarching result of these activities have been that the members have been given regular opportunities to learn new perspectives and methods, develop their understanding of what and how other members in the network operate and to get inspired by stories shared by other members. Each webinar has had around 10-20 members participating.

MenEngage Europe has also organised two online sessions called "What's up in MenEngage Europe?" where the Secretariat and members have shared information on different processes and activities that are ongoing within the network. These sessions have also provided members with a space to share input, raise questions and voice ideas on what they wish to learn more about and what focus areas and activities they think would be useful to develop. These sessions were held once in February and once in September to kick-start each semester with clear and fresh information, ideas and updates.

These online sessions have resulted in the members of MenEngage Europe, to a higher degree, being up to date on activities and processes that are ongoing in both MenEngage Europe and MenEngage Global. It has also resulted in members having a space to pitch ideas and requests more frequently and can get in contact with and identify synergies with other members in the network.

In June 2023, MenEngage Iberia organised an online presentation of the new project “Masculinidades Corresponsables”, co-organised with the Spanish Ministry of Equality. The recording of this event has so far reached almost 400 views and can be found [here](#).

MEI also organised 2 online webinars on the Advisory and information service. The session in [November](#) had 82 online participants and 128 views and the webinar in [December](#) had 39 online participants and 98 views of the recording.

Issue based working groups and committees in place

MenEngage Europe has five working groups – for fundraising, backlash, advocacy, anti-racism and a vetting committee. In 2023, the Steering Committee of MenEngage Europe also established a Strategy working group to kick-start the work with developing a new MEE strategy for 2024-2028.

The fundraising working group has met ad-hoc during the year as different fundraising initiatives have required their input or ideas. The group has been very valuable in exploring possible openings for new funding, formulated different approaches and looked into different scenarios to improve the financial sustainability of the network.

The advocacy working group was formed in connection with the advocacy meeting in Stockholm in March 2022. The main achievement of this group has been to agree on and formulate advocacy principles for the network so that future advocacy campaigns and activities will be based on thought-through principles and ensure accountability. This was initiated in 2022 and has become useful for the advocacy work in 2023.

The anti-racism working group has met on a regular basis throughout the year. The main achievement of this group is the implementation of a series of training on anti-racism including sessions on power, privilege and rank. As part of this process, the working group has identified and established a relationship with an external consultant who has been able to conduct training for the Steering Committee and for the wider membership. These trainings have taken place both in a digital and a physical format and have been appreciated by many of the members.

In 2022, backlash was assessed as one of the topics that the network would like to focus more on and learn more about. In 2023, a working group focused on Backlash was formed and has met a number of times to evolve the work on the topic.

Finally, MenEngage Europe also has a vetting committee which is responsible for analysing and accepting or declining membership applications to the network. This group consists of three

members who also have seats in the Steering Committee. The vetting committee has accepted 17 membership applications during 2023.

It is also worth mentioning that MenEngage Europe has a number of members actively contributing to the MenEngage Global's working groups, such as the global Environment and Climate working group, the global Advocacy group, SRHR group and the Youth Reference Group.

Cross-country and regional activities and initiatives took place

The sub-regional network of MenEngage Europe, MenEngage Iberia (MEI) has during the reporting period conducted a number of cross-country activities for their members in Spain and Portugal. They have focused much of their work on how to strengthen their regional efforts, increase outreach and establish financial sustainability.

Moreover, members within the network have organised different field visits to the offices of other members, e.g MÄN in Stockholm, in order to learn more about the methods and activities implemented and developed in other local context and get inspiration from each other. This has not been MEE funded activities but an outcome of how the network has connected its members and increased their possibilities to strengthen and learn from each other.

In addition, some MEE members have invited other members to their communication activities. For instance, a UK based podcast hosted by one of the members in the network has invited several MEE members to participate in episodes on men and masculinities. This way, the discussions on men and masculinities have reached a broad audience and a wider international perspective has been lifted. This is also outside of the scope of MEEs financed activities but could be seen as a result of connections made through the network.

The involvement in the MenEngage Europe network has led to strengthening the connections between members from the same local context and deepened their understanding of how they can increase their local partnership, learn from each other's methods and experiences.

The MenEngage Europe Secretariat is part of a network cohort which connects coordinators from different networks internationally. The network cohort is organised by the MenEngage Europe's main donor Ignite Philanthropy. One of the activities within this network cohort during 2023 was a panel on anti-racism, in which the MenEngage Europe Secretariat had a role in presenting and describing the lessons learned and methods used for the anti-racism process within MenEngage Europe during the past years. Sharing this experience helped coordinators of similar networks to learn and reflect how they can adopt, design and implement similar processes within their respective networks.

Regional Symposia, Colloquium and conference

In 2023, MenEngage Europe organised a digital members' meeting in February with 25 members represented as well as the Steering Committee and the Secretariat. The purpose of this event was to make a democratic decision among the membership on the financial sustainability of the network and whether or not regional network contributions should be introduced.

In addition to that, MenEngage Europe co-organised the National Forum in Albania on "Boys and Men who inspire - Transforming patriarchal masculinities", where the MEE Secretariat held a presentation of the network and its activities for different local actors and met with gender equality organisations. This event gathered actors working with men and boys in different parts of Albania and Kosovo and included deep discussions and presentations on what work is being done and how it could be strengthened.

Capacity strengthening initiatives on advocacy initiated

Although none of the five webinars organised during 2023 have had advocacy as the main focus, they have sometimes touched upon advocacy aspects of the work with men and masculinity norms. The topics of the webinars in which advocacy aspects have been an integrated part are: 1) "Working with young men and gender equality", 2) "Old Men's Masculinities", 3) "Men and gender (in)equalities in workplaces", 4) "How to include gender diversity in the work with men and boys" 5) "Inner work for social change within MenEngage Europe".

Strengthening of regional advocacy agenda and working group

As a result of the "Advocacy meeting" in Stockholm in March 2022, MenEngage Europe established an advocacy working group. The group has developed a document with advocacy principles for MenEngage Europe and contributed to different global advocacy campaigns. In 2023, the working group met online but mainly communicated through email correspondence. Members of this group are both organisational and individual members, where some are part of the Steering Committee and some are not. They represent a geographical diversity, ranging from Eastern to Western Europe, with members from Poland, the Netherlands, Ireland and UK.

MEE members participated in a number of policy making fora at various levels

In March 2023, MenEngage Europe was invited with a representative to provide input to an ongoing process within the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe. The aim of this process was to develop guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies as well as policies to combat gender-based violence. The representative of MenEngage Europe, Anna Lindqvist, made several important points at the meeting, for instance the importance to follow through on the accountability perspectives on work with men and boys and highlighted the importance to focus on some strategic measures such as parental leave, sexuality education, violence prevention among other things.

On the 25-26th of May, the MenEngage Europe Secretariat participated in the Swedish EU Presidency Conference in Vilnius, "Gender Equality and Violence Against Women". This two-day event highlighted the challenges faced and methodologies used in the Eastern Partnership (EaP), with representatives from Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Armenia present as well as representatives from organisations in EU member states that have collaborations or partnerships with the EaP region. MenEngage Europe was one of the few actors that worked directly on men and masculinity norms and could bring new perspectives to the discussions and workshops.

MenEngage Europe has been represented on the OSCE forum in Warsaw, Poland on "Women and Men: working together for equal rights" on the 5-6 December. At this event, the MEE representative, Nikki van der Gaag, highlighted masculinity and care perspectives and spoke as a keynote speaker.

In the end of 2023, MenEngage Europe had an active role as co-organiser at the National Forum "Boys and Men who inspire - Transforming patriarchal masculinities", in Tirana, Albania. The MEE Secretariat held a presentation of the network and its activities for different local actors and met with a gender equality organisation.

Policy development support, proposals and recommendations provided

In 2023, the MenEngage Europe members, such as Nikki van der Gaag (in the role of author/editor on behalf of Equimundo) Fundacion CEPAIM, Status M, Men's Development Network, MÄN and ACEV contributed to different parts of the "State of the World's Fathers Report". For instance, national studies were conducted in Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Turkey to feed into the report. More information about the study in Spain, conducted by Fundacion CEPAIM can be found [here](#).

Policy development support, proposals and recommendations provided

In February, Members of the MEE Steering Committee and Secretariat had a digital meeting with Mrs. Frances Fitzgerald, Member of the European Parliament on Ireland. Mrs. Fitzgerald is a member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. The conversation served to introduce the work of MenEngage Europe to Mrs. Fitzgerald and her team and hear her ideas on useful contacts within Ireland that potentially could be relevant for the MEE's fundraising.

MenEngage Europe Secretariat and representatives from the SC also met with the Cabinet Member in charge of Gender Equality, Ms Lesia Radelicki, when she visited Stockholm for an EU meeting in February. This meeting allowed for the MenEngage Europe representatives to introduce the network, share challenges and possibilities within our field of work and receive ideas and contacts that could be further explored within the EU and Council of Europe.

Policy advocacy statements and campaign messages produced and disseminated

On the 3rd of October, MenEngage Europe issued a statement where the network condemned the use of military means and violence between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh. Lots of consideration was put into tonality and into formulating a statement that clearly condemned all forms of violence and violent acts, while expressing support and solidarity with everyone in the region affected by the war and its consequences. The statement was published on MenEngage Europe's website and can be found [here](#).

In August 24, MenEngage Iberia published a statement concerning "Rubiales stolen kiss" in Spanish, Portuguese and English condemning the actions of the Spanish President of the Football Federation during the celebration of World Cup's victory, and his lack of accountability. This statement can be read [here](#). It had 2.560 views on Twitter.

Workshops on the new accountability standards, Code of Conduct and Core principles organised

During the autumn 2023, MenEngage Europe organised two "introduction meetings" for new and curious members (one was held in English and one in Spanish language). The aim of these meetings was to provide an updated picture of what the network does, how it is structured and what is planned for 2024. One important part of these meetings was a presentation on the MEA Accountability Framework (including the accountability standards, code of conduct and core principles).

The framework and the vetting processes of the network have also been further elaborated on and clarified to members, especially in connection with the re-affirmation process. The vetting committee of MEE has further organised meetings with members that have applied for membership and where further elaboration on the accountability framework has been assessed as necessary to ensure that the members understand, agree and live up to this framework.

In addition, MEE has organised a training series focused on how the network can be aware of racism and be actively anti-racist. The training series was initiated in 2022 and continued in 2023 with online sessions open for members together with the consultant Nontokoza Sadibe.

In 2023, there were two sessions organised for the network members. On the 23rd of January, MEE offered an online workshop with Nontokoza Sedibe focused on "Power, privilege and rank". This session had around 40 members participating. And on September 19, MEE arranged an online training on "Accountable practices", also coordinated by Nontokoza Sedibe. At this event, around 15 members participated.

MenEngage Europe also had two SC members represented at the global Accountability meeting in Istanbul, which contributed to a deepened knowledge of the global accountability processes, lessons learned, struggles and difficulties in connection to accountability.

Dialogue spaces organised to analyse and strategize on backlash

In 2022, backlash was assessed as one of the topics that the network would like to focus more on and learn more about. In 2023, a working group focused on Backlash was formed and has met a number of times to evolve the work on the topic.

The MenEngage Europe Secretariat has been in regular contact with the Global Secretariat on the topic of backlash. The MenEngage Europe Steering Committee has also had one of their Steering Committee meetings dedicated to discussing the different shapes and forms of backlash in Europe, what needs and strategies we have picked up from discussions with our members and spoke about what role the network can play in a European continent where political backlash becomes more and more prominent.

At the cross-regional session focused on backlash, MenEngage Europe had a high number of representatives present to share their experiences, learn from others and exchange knowledge.

MenEngage Europe members have also been contributing to a consultation by an external consultant from MenEngage Global on what forms backlash has taken in Europe and how our regional members cope with the new challenges that this leads to.

Throughout the monthly community check-ins that MenEngage Europe has organised, backlash has been a frequently discussed topic by the members who attend this online open space.

Understanding of and commitment to collaborative work with intersectional gender and social justice movements

During 2023, the Secretariat of MenEngage Europe has been part of the Ignite network cohort to get to know and exchange experiences with other networks focused on gender equality and social justice across the globe. The involvement in this network cohort has provided possibilities to participate in peer learning sessions, thematic discussions and different kinds of capacity building activities aimed to empower and support movements and networks within this field. Although this network cohort has been specifically directed to the coordinators of networks, the results of this engagement is believed to have trickle down effects on the members of the network and benefit them indirectly.

Initiated processes and relationship building around partnerships with feminists and social justice networks and movements

One partnership that was initiated already in 2021 but materialised in 2022 and 2023 is the collaboration with the external consultant Nontokoza Sadibe who held training and workshops for MenEngage Europe members on anti-racism and decolonization.

During the year, MenEngage has also reached out to a number of social justice, women's rights networks and anti-racist actors to discuss possibilities for collaboration and joint proposals for grants. Even if this has not yet been realised in concrete applications or plans, it has strengthened relations and opened doors for future conversations on possible partnerships.

As an example, the MenEngage Europe Secretariat and members of the Steering Committee have met with Laura Kaun, the policy and campaigns director at European Women's Lobby (EWL) to discuss synergies, possibilities to cooperate and supporting each other's advocacy work.

Another network that MenEngage Europe has maintained and deepened its relationship with during 2023 is the European Network Against Racism (ENAR).

SOGIESC inclusive organising and approaches

At the MenEngage Global's advocacy meeting focused on SOGIESC, MenEngage Europe participated with both CoCos, Secretariat staff and members to share reflections and ideas and learn from the other participants. The knowledge gained at this session has afterwards been used when reaching out to actors working actively to support SOGIESC rights, such as Civil Rights Defenders (CRD) and the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (RFSL). In this way, the message from MenEngage members in for instance Uganda, who shared their story at the advocacy meeting, was channelled through MenEngage Europe to reach an even broader audience of like minded and potential partners and allies.

Respect for SOGIESC is a natural part of all our work and is an important focus for many of the member organisations. MenEngage Europe also has a Steering Committee which includes representatives from the LGBTQI community.

MenEngage Americana Latina

Overall reflections on the year and results

A meeting of the focal points committee was held in Mexico City in May, where the coordinator, Hernando Muñoz, gave an account of his work. And where we had the opportunity to have, under the guidance of Human Partner, a process of restorative justice, accountability and healing from the denunciation of one of the coordinators by a group of members of the Network of Uruguay.

A very difficult process that has taken a great deal of time, resources, and emotional wear and tear, but that has undoubtedly allowed us to learn a great deal.

Meetings of the LAM Focal Points Committee were held on a frequent basis. It is noteworthy that several of these meetings were held in the framework and to work on the issue of the Uruguay Network complaint. Difficult meetings, which kept the purpose of thinking about the importance of listening and taking the necessary restorative actions.

The arrival of colleague Pamela Saavedra as the region's coordinator as of June.

Two documents are available as a result of the call for research on: Systematisation of the work on masculinities in Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, and another on the systematisation of the UBUNTU 2020 Symposium held in the region. These were worked on by groups of researchers from Argentina and Colombia who participated in the call for research carried out at the end of the year 2022. They are documents. We hope to publish them so that they can be disseminated and used as useful tools for working with men in the region.

For the first time we have the participation of 2 young people in the Menengage global youth group. One from the Mexican network and the other from the Colombian network.

Key highlights from the country networks in Latin America

The project was successfully completed in Guatemala and Colombia, at the request of UNFPA and UNDP, with Afro-descendant and indigenous men. One of the outstanding results was the delivery of a manual for working with men who are part of these populations.

Brazil, held an event in partnership with the national government and other entities, on Paternities, which was attended and participated in by co-coordinators Pamela Saavedra and Hernando Muñoz.

The networks of Bolivia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, carried out projects in their respective countries on different topics, training, seminars, meetings, supported with part of the funds received from the Government Secretariat for work in the Region.

Participation of the co-coordinators in the workshop on the evaluation of accountability standards and protocols for handling complaints. This aspect was highlighted and requested by the region's coordination as necessary in order to deal with cases that arise in an expeditious and wise manner.

Developments in regional network's governance structure

The Masculinities Network of the Dominican Republic, although they insisted on convening meetings on the part of the coordination to make a support plan for the Network to remain in the committee, this was not achieved due to lack of response from the representative. They withdrew due to non-attendance at the meetings.

Pamela Saavedra was elected co-coordinator of the region at the meeting of the Focal Points Committee in Mexico.

There are changes in the representation of Uruguay's focal point.

Two young people from the Region are members of the Menengage global youth committee.

Implementation of regional work plan: key achievements and results

- Generate a space to work on the concept of accountability, based on the lessons learned in the process of working on the denunciations made by the Uruguay network in the region and other networks in different regions, where denunciations were made. A renewed space for reflection and training.
- To properly close the process of complaints made in the region.
- Require written adherence by Local Networks, members of MELA to the MenEngage Alliance Core Principles, Code of Conduct and Accountability Standards.
- Promote the work in commissions of members of the regional network proposed by ME Global.

Invite more networks from other countries such as: Panama, Venezuela, Cuba.

Sexual Harassment Policy and Accountability Standards

A commission was formed at the Mexico meeting of focal points to work on protocols for dealing with complaints, understanding the regional context.

A lot of time and energy was invested throughout the year 2023 to address the complaints filed. One achievement was the meeting with external consultants -human partner- to work on the complaint made by members of the Uruguay network.

Resources mobilisation

Six networks in the region were supported with funds to develop projects. It is important to say that each of these networks invested economic funds, from other support, and from their own networks, for the realisation of each project.

Regional symposium or colloquium

The Brazilian network will hold a congress on fatherhood in Recife in August 2023.

In Colombia an international symposium will be held: "Dialogues between feminisms and masculinities: extending bridges, approaches and frontiers" in November 2023. In this symposium participated the co-director of ME global Laxman Belbase and supported by MELA, through the National Roundtable of Masculinities for Gender Equality.

The Bolivian and Peruvian networks organised a training seminar on masculinities in Peru in December 2023.

The Chile Network held: Cycle of masculinities in Chile, in December 2023 and early 2024.

Regional Advocacy strategy and structures

There is an advocacy committee made up of several network members from the region, coordinated by Marcia Hernandez, AWG focal point for the region.

Partnerships and collaborations

A call was launched for: comprehensive mapping and strengthening of collaboration between feminist, LGBTIQ+, youth, climate, indigenous and social justice movements in Latin America to foster a regional network that effectively addresses interconnected challenges through intersectionality. Which is part of the purpose of working alliances, which will be reported in the 2024 report.

North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN)

Key regional achievements and results

In 2023, NAMEN sought to increase its member support via a myriad of outreach initiatives while elevating its presence throughout the United States and Canada, promoting its expertise and commitment to addressing gender equality. In these efforts, NAMEN was able to reach hundreds of participants actively participating in its member meet up sessions, while engaging numerous organisations and advocates through ongoing events and training spanning the spectrum of ideologies associated with the feminist movement. In addition, NAMEN continued to provide support on the international level as a valued participant in Global advocacy efforts as well as noted national & international feminist initiatives, lending its voice, expertise and commitment to those ends.

In short, NAMEN established itself as a viable regional leader, utilising cutting edge initiatives along with consistent presence in furtherance of its mission within the dual nations.

Key country level achievements and results

As a direct goal set forth by the NAMEN Board of Directors in 2022, an innovative outreach and inclusion strategy was implemented targeting Canada, with the specific goal of increasing NAMEN's presence / influence across the nation. In this effort, basic community organising principles were applied, utilising the information gathered on viable grass roots organisations located throughout Canada currently providing services in the gender justice field while coordinating an innovative outreach / inclusion strategy targeting the indigenous community with specific focus on addressing femicide and its devastating effects. In addition, NAMEN actively participated in several male engagement initiatives conducted within the Toronto community, supporting the primarily black Caribbean male outreach program with counsel, supportive service provision and promotional support. In these efforts along with continued support of Canadian based board members working in the GBV prevention field whose active participation in NAMEN leadership led to key funding connections culminating in financial backing.

In short, NAMEN's Canadian Outreach Plan was a complete success, supporting its regional partners while establishing its message within the communities which it serves.

Democratic governance structures and leadership capabilities

Throughout 2023 and as a directive set by the board of directors, NAMEN administration continued its work in coordinating multiple steering committee meetings each focused on a specific area of organisational need and growth. The 2023 schedule is as follows:

Policy committee - (5) meetings, March/May/June/Sept/Nov

Membership committee - (6) meetings, March/May/June/July/Aug/Sept/Nov

Finance committee - (10) meetings, Jan/Feb/Mar/April/May/Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov

General Board Meetings - (5) meetings, Feb/April/June/Oct/Dec

Regional work plan implementation

Having completed the NAMEN general work plan in 2022 after conducting the strategic planning series, the implementation of specific objectives was initiated including continued facilitation of member outreach initiatives, increased presence in media ports, targeted outreach to the Canadian community and robust financial planning for sustainable programming. See work plan presentation for details

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10QlAnLTEjYbUgA3Xyxa5xb--VDbC0IM4aXpVI8SKNKU/edit>

Regional member meet ups / training sessions: (3) sessions facilitated with excess of +400 participants spanning United States and Canada

(2) Funding proposals drafted and submitted on behalf of Merge for Equality seeking \$30,000

Leadership capacity

NAMEN held (5) general board meetings reducing its previous monthly schedule to bi-monthly while coordinating executive board meetings when required. In addition the selected committees and or leadership capacity meetings met on a regular basis including:

Policy- (5) meetings

Finance - (10) meetings

Membership - (6)

Administrative - (20)

Board Chair / IED - (11)

General Membership (3)

Sexual Harassment Policy and Accountability Standards

NAMEN has thoroughly reviewed its current sexual harassment & code of conduct principles policies and will be presenting the minor revisions for board approval at the April 17th, 2024 general board meeting. In addition, accountability training is scheduled for the board in June 2024.

Resource mobilisation

(2) fundraising proposals were crafted and submitted for consideration totaling approximately \$30,000. (1) proposal approved for \$5000 from Davidson Foundation supporting the Merge for Equality program while an additional \$10,000 was secured from an additional donor for support.

In addition, NAMEN continues to receive membership fees of approximately \$2000 along with administrative fees from Merge for Equality in the amount of approximately \$6000 both of which applied to its 2023 general operating budget. Generous donations were also received via sponsorship of member events in the amount of \$1000.

Membership engagement capacities

(3) Member meetups were conducted focusing on the following topics:

Code of Conduct

Addressing Femicide in the Canadian Indigenous Community

Creating a synergy between the Feminist and Responsible Fatherhood Movements

Approximately 500+ participants in combined registration of the aforementioned member engagement activities with approximately 200 in attendance. In addition (3) requests for continued support / guidance with focus on NAMEN providing technical assistance in the further development of engagement strategies targeting men and boys.

Youth Engagement and Leadership

NAMEN has not engaged in regional youth leadership efforts however is supportive via Merge for Equality in youth sponsored initiatives based in Western Massachusetts led by a longstanding board member James Arana. In this NAMEN provides information and resources specifically designed for youth organisations in the field of gender justice and leadership development.

Communications

In this effort, NAMEN continued its mechanisms of communication with its members and general public via the following sources:

Website

(3) Newsletters

Ongoing Social Media presence; Facebook

Each communications port has seen a measurable increase in viewership along with positive feedback from members regarding the value of information provided and consistency in promotion.

www.namen.menengage.org

North American MenEngage Network {Facebook}

NAMEN on the Move {Newsletter}

Issue based working groups and committees

NAMEN continued to actively participate in key working groups as well as stand supportive of cross regional efforts, co-conducting a global secretariat training event in collaboration with CariMan further highlighting the synergy created between the global feminist and responsible fatherhood movement. In this the ideal that the ever growing responsible fatherhood movement is a viable outreach mechanism for promoting the gender justice message already successful in the dual nations to date.

NAMEN provided continued leadership and advocacy in the following groups attending all sessions / events / trainings in 2023:

*Global Advocacy Group

*Climate Justice Working Group

*Global Communications Working Group

Regional campaigns and joint cross-country initiatives

NAMEN in collaboration with CariMan co-facilitated (1) cross regional event highlighting the responsible fatherhood movement and its basic premise in supporting equality in care giving. This session was well attended and received with additional information and support requested from global secretariat affiliates with particular focus on engagement strategies in developing outreach strategies targeting men and boys.

Approximately 60+ in attendance from around the Global Secretariat

Regional Advocacy strategy and structures

NAMEN actively participated in the regional advocacy strategy led by 'Blue Print' focusing on reproductive justice across the United States. In this effort, NAMEN supported the drafting of the position paper along with attended numerous regional meetings with direction provided within the Policy committee.

(4) regional group meetings attended.

Advocacy partnerships

(2) joint advocacy actions signed off on by NAMEN in support of Global Secretariat initiatives speaking to social injustices.

Advocacy statements and public stances

(2) policy advocacy statements disseminated amongst the NAMEN membership directly reaching approximately 170+ members and 35 organisations.

Partnerships

(1) new partnership, Native Women's Association of Canada. In this effort, NAMEN along with its longstanding partner in Canada 'White Ribbon' has both provided a platform for the NWAC leadership in addressing the issue of femicide while developing an ongoing dialogue for future advocacy with specific focus on assessing the Canadian governments actions in response to the MMIWG2S genocide. Moving forward the joint collaboration will continue in creating impactful spaces to engage the larger Canadian community.

Accountability Standards and capacity

(1) session facilitated with members in the area of Code of Conduct with approximately (60+) registrants and (20+) participants

MenEngage South Asia (MEASA)

Overall reflections on the year

The regional network held the its regional members assembly on the 30th of January 23' with the main focus on "what it means to be a member.' The assembly reinforced its commitment to strengthening the Alliance and promoting knowledge sharing, capacity development, and collaboration among the organisations both at the regional and national levels. The assembly served as a space to reaffirm working collectively and individually towards addressing the structural barriers of gender equality with its value addition to "transforming masculinities and engaging boys and men in gender equality and women's rights".

MEASA continued its regional youth peer learning series, which resulted in the development of [an educational video for regional youth-led advocacy](#).

A significant evolution in the region was to identify a new regional secretariat, following the process of moving the regional secretariat across the countries in the region, in July 2023. This was done after the end of the extended tenure of the regional secretariat with FISD Sri Lanka. The handover of the regional coordination of MEASA and the capacity assessment of the new secretariat is in progress, including the vetting process of the representative of the regional network to the Global Board.

MEASA initiated a regional consultancy to map the social justice, and women's rights movements in South Asia and to identify key strategic directions to strengthen the movement building of MEASA in the region. This work will be completed in 2024 April.

Some key highlights from the country networks in South Asia

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, the country network identified its new secretariat through a formal process of capacity assessment of organisations who applied through an Expression of Interest. MenEngage Alliance Sri Lanka (MEASL) partnered with the national forum against GBV in Sri Lanka to engage in a White Ribbon campaign for the 16 days of activism. MEASL continuously engaged in the development of the Nation Plan of Action on addressing S/GBV 2023-27. MEASL provided its technical input and support to the draft Gender Policy in Sri Lanka.

Pakistan

In Pakistan, the country network continued with its commitments on capacity strengthening on various areas of its priority. 18 executive staff members of the 16 member organisations of MenEngage Alliance Pakistan (MEAP) participated in capacity building on SRHR and feminist approach.

One important development of MEAP network has been its increase in membership, with 18 new organisations (7 women-led and 11 men-led), one youth led, one trans-person led and an organisation working on people living with disabilities (PWD).

MEAP formed 10 youth groups, with each having 15 members, at district and partner levels. Furthermore MEAP organised an award giving ceremony to identify champions from adolescent groups for their contribution to child and women's rights.

The national secretariat MRDO was finally able to receive NOC from the Government of Pakistan, which has enabled for the secretariat to be able to receive funds and grants from international partners. The national secretariat participates actively in national-level movements, press conferences, walks and rallies against human rights violations. The national secretariat coordinator was selected for the IPARTNER fellowship program of India. 3 steering committee members from the Pakistan network continue to participate actively in the regional-level steering committee and its meetings.

Nepal

Significant strides have been made in its strategic planning, with the final draft of the MenEngage Alliance Nepal (MEA Nepal) strategy, which is now ready for implementation. This strategic framework will guide the Alliance's efforts in advancing gender equality and engaging men and boys as allies in the fight against gender-based discrimination and violence. MEA Nepal is actively working towards adopting the Accountability Framework, approved by the Global Alliance, underscoring its commitment to aligning its practices with global best practices in gender advocacy and engagement.

Saathi, as the secretariat of Men Engage Alliance Nepal, has undertaken significant efforts in drafting a framework aimed at engaging perpetrators of gender-based violence and holding them accountable for their actions. Collaboration between Saathi and the All-Nepal Football Association (ANFA), which culminated in an agreement to leverage the platform of national men's football to raise mass awareness against gender-based violence. This partnership demonstrates the potential of sports as a powerful tool for social change and advocacy. Saathi, in its commitment to promoting transformative fatherhood, organised a thought-provoking discussion emphasising the role of fathers in nurturing and supporting their children.

At the national level, progress has been made by the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens finalising a MenEngagement Strategy, although its adoption is still pending. This signals a growing recognition of the importance of engaging men in gender equality initiatives at the policy level. The reformation of the National Level Men's Network reflects a renewed commitment to collaboration and collective action among stakeholders working on men's issues in Nepal.

MEA Nepal members actively participated in various advocacy events and campaigns, including the Men's March on 8th March 2023, the 3rd Feminism and Men Conference, and Pride Month celebrations in June. These events have provided opportunities for dialogue, reflection, and action on gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights in Nepal. MEA Nepal members have been actively involved in the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, contributing to efforts to raise awareness and mobilise action to end violence against women and girls. The establishment of the WeMEN Club Junior in 10 different schools represents a proactive effort to engage young boys in discussions on masculinity and gender equality.

India

2023 has been an important milestone for the network in India, following the dormancy of the network for the last few years, where the members collectively agreed to rename the network from "Forum to Engage Men" to "**MenEngage India**" with the tagline of "*working with men and boys for gender equality*". The members unanimously created a new acting steering committee and leadership for MenEngage India, with National Convener Yogesh Vaishnav, Vikalp Sansthan, Udaipur, Rajasthan, and co-conveners Parichiti Sanstha-Kolkata and Azad Foundation-New Delhi. The network also identified the National Accountability Focal Point for the network with Mohd. Moosa Azmi Asian Bridge India, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Vikalp Sansthan will also serve as the new secretariat for MenEngage India network.

The network has put in place a membership application form for further increasing the membership of the network in India. The network also created its own network protocol in Hindi and English. The network conducted its SWOT analysis which will further inform the network's strategic plan and work plan.

MenEngage India network continued its active representation and participation in the Regional Steering Committee of MEASA, as well as contributed in the implementation of the regional work plan, including knowledge product creation.

MenEngage India ran a campaign on Unpaid Care Work in collaboration with Azad Foundation. Furthermore MenEngage India has initiated establishment of the network's Youth Forum, for which it hosted 3 rounds of discussion with youth leaders and activists from across the country, including creating a whatsapp group for youth forum. MenEngage India has committed to mainstreaming 'Youth Engagement and Leadership' agenda for the network.

Strengthening democratic governance structures and leadership capabilities

During 2023, MEASA held 3 steering committee meetings, where they discussed the strategic direction and follow up on the implementation of the regional network. The networks in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh held their AGMs and new SC members were selected in the process. All country networks in South Asia collectively worked, per the regional strategy, took concrete steps to include youth and women's rights activists in the national and regional steering

committees. Furthermore, the network in Bangladesh selected their new national secretariat, the Center of Men and Masculinities Studies (CMMS), which will also take over the regional secretariat after the completion of capacity assessment. The network in India also selected a new national secretariat under which they decided to rename the alliance as “MenEngage India.”

Sri Lanka

The network in Sri Lanka selected a new national secretariat through a capacity assessment process. The network held 2 meetings with the new secretariat to transfer the data and the knowledge. The network got 4 new members.

Pakistan

The network in Pakistan organised 12 meetings of the Steering committee and 2 general body meetings. The network steering committee approved and offered members to 20 new organisations, that included seven women-led, eleven men-led, one trans-led, one youth-led and one person with disabilities led.

Nepal

In 2023, the MenEngage Alliance Nepal (MEA Nepal) underwent significant changes in its governance structure with the selection of Saathi, a women-led feminist organisation, as the secretariat. Under Saathi's leadership, MEA Nepal adopted a governance model with two-year terms, ensuring continuity and stability in its operations. The network comprises seven executive member organisations, each bringing unique expertise and perspectives to the table. Among these executive members, three are elected to serve on the steering committee, which plays a pivotal role in guiding the strategic direction and decision-making processes of the alliance.

In terms of representation, MEA Nepal has made concerted efforts to increase the participation of feminist women's rights activists, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and young people in leadership roles. Moreover, MEA Nepal's membership has expanded to include over 40 organisations working across various sectors, including disability rights, LGBTQIA+ advocacy, women's empowerment, and child protection.

MEA Nepal has convened regular steering committee meetings to facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and decision-making among its members.

Key achievements and results in the Implementation of regional work plan

As part of the accountability strengthening in South Asia, MEASA appointed a regional accountability focal point and 5 country-level accountability focal points. As part of the 2023 regional action plan MEASA organised a steering committee meeting and an accountability

workshop in Sri Lanka with the physical attendance of the steering committee members and the accountability focal points.

Leadership capabilities and capacity strengthening

In Pakistan, the national secretariat conducted 2 days of capacity-building training on the national level for its member organisations on gender transformation, SRHR and meaningful youth participation. 18 participants attended from member organisations including 2 youth leaders from a youth initiative.

In Nepal, Saathi, in collaboration with the All-Nepal Football Association (ANFA), initiated an agreement to mobilise National Men footballers for mass awareness against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Additionally, Saathi organised a workshop on Transformative Fatherhood, emphasising the critical role of fathers in nurturing and caring for children. This workshop provided MEA Nepal members with valuable insights into promoting inclusive and equitable forms of masculinity, thereby strengthening their leadership capacity in challenging traditional gender norms. Saathi has been actively involved in drafting a framework for engaging perpetrators and holding them accountable for violence prevention. MEA Nepal facilitated a workshop to review the progress of the alliance, providing members with an opportunity to assess achievements, identify challenges, and strategize for future actions. MEA Nepal organised a discussion on intersectionality for alliance members, exploring the interconnected nature of social identities and power dynamics.

Capacity strengthening on sexual harassment policy implementation

In Pakistan, the network adopted the Sexual Harassment Policy and Accountability Standards of the Global Alliance. The network established its sexual harassment committee as well as governance committee have been established housed at the national secretariat of the network.

In Nepal, Saathi as MEA Nepal secretariat facilitated a discussion session on Engaging men and boys in responding to sexual and gender-based violence during the National Women Shelter Conference. Saathi has been actively involved in drafting the code of conduct for individual and organisational members of MEA Nepal. This code of conduct includes provisions for sexual harassment policy and accountability standards, underscoring the alliance's commitment to fostering a safe and respectful environment for all members. MEA Nepal has been constantly discussing drafting a sexual harassment policy its implementation, and follow-up mechanisms. MEA Nepal is also working to contextualize sexual harassment and accountability policies/standards of the Global Alliance, ensuring that these frameworks are aligned with local contexts and realities.

Resources mobilisation and fundraising

In Nepal, the secretariat implemented multiple resource mobilisation strategies and activities to secure funding for MEA-related initiatives. These efforts included leveraging existing partnerships, exploring new funding opportunities, and engaging in fundraising activities to support the alliance's programs and projects. The secretariat played a crucial role in mobilising resources by utilising its existing networks and partnerships. This strategic approach enabled Saathi to secure support for MEA Nepal activities, thereby ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the alliance's efforts in promoting gender equality and engaging men and boys in Nepal. Furthermore, Saathi successfully raised initial funds to organise the National Conference on Engaging Men and Boys. This conference focused on strategies for involving men and boys in preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

Membership engagement

In Pakistan the network has established a membership committee that will be responsible for handling membership applications and engagement related efforts on behalf of the national network.

In Nepal, the national secretariat implemented effective coordination and secretarial mechanisms to facilitate regular engagement with MEA Nepal members. This includes organising quarterly meetings where members convene to discuss pertinent issues, share updates, and collectively strategize on advancing gender equality and addressing gender-based violence. These meetings serve as valuable platforms for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and strengthening relationships among members. Saathi has developed a range of membership engagement strategies aimed at maximising the involvement of MEA Nepal members in the alliance's activities. These strategies may include outreach campaigns, networking opportunities, and capacity-building initiatives. Saathi mobilises MEA Nepal members to participate in various commitment rallies and movement events focused on promoting gender equality and combating gender-based violence.

Youth leadership and engagement in the regional network

At the regional level, 4 new members joined the MEASA regional youth committee. The regions committee also identified their two representatives to the Global Youth Reference Group of the Global Alliance, following a transparent selection process. Building on to the regional learning initiatives on youth-led advocacy session series, MEASA developed an [animated video on youth leadership and advocacy](#).

In Pakistan, 18 youth groups were formed at district and partner levels with each having 18 members. Through the one-day capacity building training across 16 districts the network outreached 80 youths.

Communications and knowledge management by the regional network

MEASA developed a Communications and knowledge management strategy in 2022 and the SC members were given orientation to the strategy. The [regional network's website](#) has been revamped and updated.

Participation in policy making fora by the members in country and regional levels

In Sri Lanka, the network members provided technical inputs in the drafting of the National Plan of Action to address SGBV, particularly in the area of engagement of men and boys. Furthermore, the network secretariat and members provided technical inputs in the draft Gender Policy, through the Forum against GBV.

Strengthening partnerships with feminist organisations and networks

MenEngage Alliance South Asia have continued strengthening partnership with various feminist organisations, including Breakthrough, ARROW and Swayam, in the region on the Reframe –Pan Asia summit and Asia network for prevention of GBV.

Capacity strengthening workshops held on the accountability framework

The regional network with support from the Global Secretariat organised an orientation session for all the steering committee members on the Alliance's Accountability Framework in January 2023. Following this the regional session the network established a regional accountability working group. Furthermore, India network via the secretariat and regional accountability focal person organise a workshop on 23 and 24 Dec 2023 for its members. In this workshop, members had a rigorous discussion on the Accountability Framework i.e. accountability standards, code of conduct and core principles. They will organise the followup workshop in 2024.

MenEngage Lebanon

Key regional achievements and results

Considering the challenges encountered in 2023, the MenEngage Network faced operational limitations that prevented it from functioning at its optimum capacity. These challenges primarily emerged from the prevalent safety and security concerns pervasive within the country. The complex socio-political landscape significantly limited the network's ability to carry out its activities effectively. Furthermore, the network wrestled with a notable backlash associated with issues related to Gender and Feminism. This additional layer of dispute added further complexity to our operational environment, necessitating careful navigation of sensitivities and perspectives. Despite these challenges, the Men Engage Network remains committed to its complete objectives and is actively exploring adaptive strategies to navigate the evolving landscape.

What the Men Engage Network was able to achieve in 2023 are:

Efforts were directed towards fostering youth engagement through a dedicated reference group, ensuring the inclusion of younger voices in the network's decision-making processes. Furthermore, a collaborative session was organised, focusing on the impactful theme of engaging men through positive fatherhood, thereby contributing to a constructive narrative surrounding masculinity. Additionally, a workshop on accountability held in Istanbul served as a platform for in-depth discussions, enabling the network to refine its approach and reinforce its commitment to responsible and effective advocacy. Through these concerted efforts, the Men Engage Network continues to navigate challenges and strengthen its mission to promote positive gender dynamics.

Key country level achievements and results

The Men Engage Lebanon Network has achieved significant milestones at the country level, focusing on strategic planning and governance. Key accomplishments include the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive plan for 2024, emphasising a coordinated approach. The network has also initiated preparations for a new call of participation, fostering inclusivity in its initiatives. To strengthen governance, the code of conduct and Bylaws document were revised and updated. Transparent communication will be prioritised through coordination and meetings within the steering committee, ensuring alignment on upcoming work and activities. Additionally, collaborative efforts with a consultant will be led to the successful update of the network's strategy for 2024.

Democratic governance structures and leadership capabilities

After a prolonged interruption emanated from the challenges faced by Lebanon, the Men Engage Lebanon Network has recently resumed its efforts. One significant initiative involves renewed coordination with members of the steering committee, aiming to re-establish vital connections and insights. To expand the network's reach and engagement, a national-level call

of membership will be relaunched on an online platform, inviting all NGOs to join and contribute to the collective efforts. The selection process for new members adheres to specified criteria, ensuring diverse and qualified representation. To mark the network's revival, a special relaunch event will be organised, providing a platform for networking and sharing vision. Furthermore, a pivotal step in this process will involve the democratic selection of a new steering committee through a voting process, fostering a collective and inclusive governance structure for the Men Engage Lebanon Network.

Regional work plan implementation

In the implementation plan for the Men Engage Network, several key activities were outlined. First and foremost, we will launch a call for participation, inviting all interested parties to join the network and contribute to its mission. Following this, we plan to organise meetings with the steering committee, fostering collaboration and ensuring alignment of goals. To enhance the organisational structure, a consultant will be contracted to revise the network governance documents developed in 2021. Additionally, the steering committee is planning to conduct a comprehensive capacity assessment for members, identifying strengths and areas for growth. The implementation plan also includes the launch of a special event to introduce and celebrate the Men Engage Network, creating a platform for networking and collaboration. Finally, planning and implementing various activities related to the Men Engage network members are planned, ensuring a dynamic and impactful presence in our pursuit of gender equality through all members' activities.

Leadership capacity

Although no substantial activities have taken place in 2023. Following the selection of new members during Q1 of this year, we would work to reactivate the network and organise a new election for a new steering committee, our immediate focus will be on conducting a comprehensive capacity assessment to analyse strengths and weaknesses and assets the organisation environment capacity involving all members. With the insights gained from the assessment, CSOs and NGOs within the network will begin implementing various social initiatives, panels, events, and advocacy campaigns. This structured approach aims to enhance the network's collective capacity, fostering a dynamic and impactful presence in a shared pursuit of positive social change and advocacy.

Sexual Harassment Policy and Accountability Standards

No PSEA/AAP capacity strengthening activities took place in 2023. The MenEngage Network's PSEA and Accountability focal point is currently revising the code of conduct and governance documents to ensure PSEA and AAP is mainstreamed across. In 2024, current and new network members will be receiving a refresher session on the policies and framework in place. A revised reporting mechanism will be introduced to all members making sure it aligns with global standards and best practices.

Resource mobilisation

ABAAD on behalf of the network, submitted several proposals to include suggested activities for the men engage network. Among those, ABAAD signed a grant with UNFPA that included the development of a men engagement strategy for Lebanon and advocacy work engaging men and boys. However, due to shifting priorities in the area, especially after the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and the region, UNFPA and ABAAD jointly decided to put on hold implementation in 2023 and revisit it in 2024. Discussions will resume in Q2 2024 for funding availability and planning. Nevertheless, ABAAD has allocated some funding in two projects to ensure that activities planned for 2024 are carried throughout

Membership engagement capacities

The network has been inactive due to several contextual challenges in Lebanon for the past 2 years. However, planning and engagement strategies are being developed to ensure the network is active starting 2024.

Youth Engagement and Leadership

Abaad, on behalf of the Lebanon network, has taken part in the Youth Reference Group (YRG), which is a platform giving young people the mindset and skills needed to be part of decision-making processes. The YRG has been working together to shape the Alliance's strategic directions, share experiences on youth leadership and engagement, represent the Alliance at key international advocacy spaces and implement other activities to strengthen the Alliance's focus on meaningful young leadership and engagement. Thus, Lebanon Network has nominated a youth member from Abaad to represent the Lebanon network and contribute to the youth agenda setting in the alliance, facilitate collaborations, serve in the decision-making processes of the board and contribute to the engagement of the regional networks. That stated, the YRG have conducted their first activity since the Lebanon network has joined and met in Rwanda Kigali to set the agenda deciding as a youth-lead group upon consensus, the roadmap moving forward. The importance of the Lebanon Network participation through its youth representative was to engage Lebanon's work so far on the front of engaging men for gender equality and the fight for women's rights. Also, to discuss gender sensitivity from a Lebanese perspective and discuss what worked in our work so far and what did not. Such discussions have created a chance for other networks to suggest action items moving forward and aspects to consider in our future agenda.

The result of such engagement was not only to have exported the Lebanese network input but also, to have brought the discussion and results of the reference group back to the network, in the sake of taking into consideration while moving forward in the Lebanon Network future activities.

Communications

While specific developments in the internal and external communications of the country network are not being implemented, there is a proactive focus on enhancing communication channels. Plans include the establishment of a country communications working group to update internal information flow and foster collaboration.

Webinars and online dialogues

Abaad: Resource Center for Gender Equality, as part of MenEngage Lebanon, has hosted a MenEngage Global Alliance Co-lab initiative. The session addressed the topic of “Fatherhood programs for engaging men to become allies for gender equality: Specific cultural and contextual considerations in times of economic crisis and civil unrest”. The content of the session was steered by both the experience of gender experts who worked on these programs as well as objective data derived from the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of these programs. To add, the major points of discussion and analysis of fatherhood programs were in the context of the crisis. The attendees were given the floor to share their own thoughts, experiences, and/or research from similar or culturally different global contexts.

Accountability Standards and capacity

MenEngage Lebanon network is part of the Accountability team that was established during the Istanbul Accountability Workshop. The team is currently working on the Global Accountability Learning Project. All tools and initiatives developed will be implemented within the network. In 2024, new members of the MenEngage network will receive a clear induction process on the Accountability Framework. Additional capacity strengthening training will be conducted on Accountability and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.

A word of thanks

MenEngage Alliance is thankful for the generous support of our strategic partners, donors, and members - including the following through the global level in 2023:

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- FORD Foundation
- UN Foundation
- UN Women
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Global Affairs Canada - via Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

We also would like to express our sincere gratitude to our feminist partners who we worked closely with during the year.

We are grateful to all the members of MenEngage Alliance without whom all this work would not have been possible. We are thankful for their contributions in all forms including voluntary, financial and technical assistance since the foundation of the Alliance as well in 2023.

Glossary

This glossary provides brief descriptions of how MenEngage Alliance understands and applies the concepts that are at the core of our Vision and Mission and understanding of qualitative work on men and masculinities within women's rights, SRHR and gender justice for all. In alphabetical order:

Enabling spaces for dialogue and joint action

MenEngage Alliance engages in strengthening partnerships, networks and alliances. We work 'GLOCAL': where ideas from the local to the global are jointly identified, shared, negotiated, changed, and disseminated.

Engaging men and boys

We seek to work with men and boys to encourage their active involvement in ending gender inequalities, advancing women's rights and transforming masculinities as allies with women, girls and people of diverse gender identities. Recognizing that some men and boys question the harmful notions of manhood and the privileges that society grants them, we provide them with ways to take transformative action. We work with men in power in all spheres of society to promote progressive policies and institutional practices in favour of women's rights and gender justice.

Feminist approach

We acknowledge that we build on the heritage of feminist women's rights organisations and movements and ground our work firmly in feminist principles. We seek to strengthen our work by embracing a women's rights perspective and feminist analysis, including placing inequalities in privilege and power that result from patriarchy at the heart of our work with men and boys. We commit to listening to and being accountable to women's rights voices; and to institutionalising democratic and inclusive decision-making processes within the Alliance.

Intersectional feminisms

We recognize that the work to transform patriarchal masculinities and engage boys and men for gender equality and justice needs to recognize that the complex interconnections of various powerful, and often oppressive institutions, ideologies and systems, impact people differently depending on their sex, gender, race, sexuality, age and ability identities, among other circumstances. We seek to understand these interconnections, and their interplay in the direct and disproportionate impact on the lives of people often marginalised and excluded. Critical to this task is listening to, centering and elevating the voices, analysis and demands from those on the margins of the margins, for their imperative contributions towards dismantling the ruling power structures in light of their positionalities.

Gender transformative approaches

Policies, processes and strategies that seek to critically reflect on and transform social norms and institutional practices that create and reinforce gender inequalities. Gender transformative approaches do not view the engagement of men and boys as an end in itself, rather as a means to transform social norms and gender power relations at their roots. Gender transformative approaches are part of a 'gender integration continuum' that classifies interventions as gender exploitative, gender neutral, gender sensitive or gender transformative. MenEngage seeks to support the increased uptake of gender transformative approaches with men and boys through the work of the Alliance.

Intersectionality

We acknowledge that oppressive institutions (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, classism, etc.) are interconnected and cannot be examined separately from one another. This interplay of multiple identities can increase vulnerability and inequalities in privilege and power, and further entrench inequalities and injustice. We seek to contribute to an intersectional understanding of men and boys' roles and responsibilities and enhance an intersectional perspective in the work of the Alliance and its members.

Partnerships

We seek to foster concrete and equal associations and collaborations with various actors and agencies in the field of social justice, including: women's rights; gender and social justice; climate justice; child rights; youth empowerment and rights; sexual and reproductive health rights; civil and political rights; indigenous population rights; and human rights.

Decolonisation

Social justice struggles across the world confront the legacies of colonialism, including current realities of neo-colonial economic relations between the Global North and Global South, including the aid industry itself. These mutually reinforcing systems of exclusion based on male supremacy, white supremacy and eurocentric hegemony and neo-liberal global corporate power that colonial practices and knowledge have perpetuated, as well as the neocolonial structures which sustain these systems, have important implications for gender transformative work with men and boys. We recognize that we operate within a global architecture of social justice, human rights, aid and development, which is rooted in colonial histories and structured on power dynamics between the "Global North" over "Global South". We recognize the urgency to work towards decolonizing our practices and the ways we organise and advocate. It is the only path to reinventing ourselves with care and in solidarity with those who have been impacted the most by practices of systemic denial of their rights, invisibility of their needs, and exclusion from essential resources and support networks.

SOGIESC

Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics

Transform and end patriarchy

We seek to engage men and boys, along with women, girls and people of diverse gender identities, to redress structural power imbalances and inequalities, male domination and their manifestations upheld by systemic male supremacy ideologies, and to reform such dualistic and sexist gender orders.

Transform patriarchal masculinities

We firmly uphold that the essence of this work is to destabilise stereotypical male gender roles and hegemonic expressions of manhood. And to support manifestations of non-violent, equitable and inclusive notion of manhood, by changing social norms and institutions that shape boys' and men's behaviour. This work must embrace intersectional feminist perspective and analysis, placing inequalities in privilege and power that result from patriarchy at the heart of our work with men and boys. This work must be informed by and accountable to feminist women's rights voices. We must extend beyond holding individual men to account for their patriarchal behaviour, to include holding to account institutions across all sectors, national governments and the international community and global corporate interests for their respective roles and responsibilities in transforming patriarchal masculinities.

Working as allies with women's rights organisations

We are committed to working as allies, and to fostering healthy relationships, with women and women's rights organisations, movements and networks. Our aim is to achieve equity and equality for women and girls, and justice for all, as a political act to strengthen the collective struggle for human rights and social, economic and environmental justice.

Feminist Systems Change

We seek to continue to respond to calls by feminist movements to work to eradicate patriarchal structures of power. This understanding of the patriarchal systems that must change is the global challenge we face today and that informs our gender transformative work with men and boys, at institutional and ideological levels including concrete changes in individual men's attitudes and behaviours. Male-focused gender transformative work seeks to make visible with men and boys how their own interests are at stake in the systems change agenda being advanced by feminists across the world. Part of this agenda identifies the need to build power-with through movement building approaches.

We will continue to support the voices of feminist leaders and movements that urge us to stand up for social justice, for new inclusive economies of care, for equal rights and co-creation and decision making about humanity's future, the planet's resources and the full sharing of existing knowledge, structures and technological and scientific advances, with dignity and acknowledgement of our multiple roots and ancestry. We seek to continue an in-depth exploratory and capacity building process on systems change and identify our unique contribution from a men and masculinities lens.

The following terminology is used to refer to specific entities within MenEngage Alliance:

MenEngage Alliance, or the Alliance, refers to the collective of entities that constitute the international network: MenEngage Global Alliance, Global Secretariat, Regional and country Networks, members, and partners. The term is distinct from MenEngage Global Alliance which supports this network to achieve its full potential.

MenEngage Global Alliance refers to the non-profit organisation which serves as the implementing entity of the Alliance's global strategy and annual plans, responsible for anchoring the work of the Alliance and supporting its members' activities. MenEngage Global Alliance is registered in Washington DC, USA as a 501(c)3, non-profit organisation.

MenEngage Global Board, or the Board, refers to the Board of Directors that is responsible for the governance of the Alliance at the global level, including oversight of programs and finances, and for carrying out fundraising for the organisation. The Board consists of representatives from the Alliance's regional networks and international at-large member organisations and partners.

MenEngage Global Secretariat, or the Global Secretariat (GS), refers to the executive body of the MenEngage Global Alliance. It is composed of a staff-team who are responsible for the implementation of the MenEngage Global Alliance's strategic priorities, carrying out fundraising for the organisation (supported by the Board), and managing the budget.