



MenEngage Alliance
working with men and boys for gender equality



2017 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the full report, please see <http://bit.ly/MenEngage2017>.

2017 was a turbulent year for women's rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender justice.

Shifts in the world were mixed, from backlash to signs of progress. By several measures there is cause to be optimistic as the era of 'Leave No One Behind' has begun. At the same time, 2017 saw serious challenges and regressive trends that are profoundly worrying. Political momentum is building, with potential transformative implications for women's rights and empowerment.

The year had a potentially game-changing start, through the **worldwide mobilization of feminist movements against sexism, misogyny, patriarchy and impunity, when Women's Marches brought together millions of people**

in over 50 countries, including many MenEngage Alliance members. While the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule by the US Administration was a significant backlash against women's rights and SRHR. However, there were some positive developments, such as the launch of the #SheDecides initiative by the governments of The Netherlands and Sweden, which provided a global boost to women's right to abortion and bodily autonomy as part of SRHR for all, which MenEngage Alliance supported.

Towards the end of 2017, **the global movement surrounding #MeToo - through which women and girls, transpeople and some men and boys around the world bravely shared their experiences of sexual harassment and abuse - resulted in a surge in interest and concern about the persistence of gender inequalities.** It led to a potential end to institutionalized cultures of impunity, and perpetrators have been removed from their workplaces and in some instances legally prosecuted. The year 2017 also saw remarkable progress and commitment within the UN system.

MenEngage Alliance members participate in an expert advisory meeting at the Human Rights Council





*MenEngage Regional Networks Working Group meeting during the 2017 Global Board meeting
(2017 © MenEngage Global Alliance)*

Although the calls from feminist movements for the first female UN-Secretary General were not realized, in September UN Secretary General António Guterres launched his new strategy and for the first time in history the UN System was able to achieve full gender parity in its top leadership.

In the midst of these trends, we also observed steadily increasing interest in the harmful socialization of men and boys and engaging men and boys towards being part of the solution. **#MeToo put the roles and responsibilities of men and boys as both perpetrators and allies in ending harassment and abuse more firmly in the public eye.** The movement sparked debate within the field of work on men and masculinities, prompting MenEngage Alliance to release a [statement](#) and convene an [online dialogue](#) to crowd-source potential ways forward to engage with boys and men in addressing the structural barriers and root causes of sexual harassment and abuse.

We furthermore observe **increased interest and uptake among policy-makers and practitioners in the international human rights and development sector on women's rights, SRHR and gender equality.** In national, regional and international policy-making spaces, we observed increasing governmental support, including the adoption of a Human Rights Council Resolution on "[Engaging boys and men in the prevention of violence against all women and girls](#)". This milestone resolution includes some progress in language and commitments on gender transformative violence prevention work, which was a consolidated joint advocacy effort in which MenEngage Alliance made significant contributions.

The increased interest in engaging men and boys in women's rights struggles is leading to more governments and organizations developing targeted policies and programs on men and boys. MenEngage Alliance welcomes

this trend, as we believe that in order to mobilize men and boys towards women's rights and gender justice for all at a large scale, the uptake of gender transformative work with men and boys needs to be taken into public policies and institutions. However, we realize that there is significant risk involved when the ethics and practice of engaging men and boys are not feminist-informed, human rights based and gender transformative. It is pivotal that work with men and boys is accountable to women and girls at every level, and includes a gendered-power analysis. Furthermore, existing gender-transformative global commitments to engaging men and boys have not yet fully translated to national and local level policies, which generally continue to limit the understanding of 'gender' as solely the roles and responsibilities of women and girls. The majority of policies and programs still lack nuanced analysis of the multiple roles of men and boys in gender-informed power inequalities and the roles they can play in transforming them, and hence miss valuable opportunities to transform the very patriarchal system that is at the root of gender injustices.

With all these trends, 2017 was a critical year for MenEngage Alliance to shift gears and strengthen our political agenda, as directed by our mission which puts patriarchal masculinities, including male privilege and some men's power-over others, at the centre of our problem analysis.

The Alliance laid strong foundations this year to make the plan's ambitions a reality, and began to make positive contributions to advance its goal by 2020:

To increase support, uptake and implementation of feminist-informed gender transformative approaches to engaging men and boys in key women's rights, SRHR and gender equality issues among our members, partners and allies in the gender justice and human rights fields.

The Alliance promoted this politicized agenda in our internal capacity strengthening and support to the MenEngage Alliance membership, as an international network of activists, experts, practitioners, researchers, CSOs and NGOs, made up of women's rights, SRHR, gender justice, youth and child rights, LGBTIQ+ rights and engaging men and boys-focused organizations, working towards achieving women's rights, SRHR and gender justice for all. We strived to work through participatory, democratic and bottom-up processes by strengthening our regional networks. The current strategic plan places a strong emphasis on strengthening the roots of the network, the regional and country networks, while tying the work of the network as a whole into advocacy at the global level.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONS

The Caribbean

- CariMAN implemented awareness raising community workshops across the region on a range of topics with over 1250 participants.
- CariMAN Bahamas began a partnership with the national ministry for social services and UN Women for their 'reclaiming our boys' program which focuses on the sensitization of men and boys as champions for change.
- CariMAN Dominica continued with the implementation of a training programme to work with young men in institutional care.

Latin America

- MenEngage América Latina co-organized the 6th Colloquium on Men and Masculinities in Recife, Brazil
- MenEngage Latin America country networks also engaged in a range of activities as part of the MenCare Campaign, including educational campaigns, public awareness initiatives, trainings, webinars, conferences and launches of the report "State of the World's Fathers: Latin America and the Caribbean",
- The country networks in Nicaragua and Costa Rica also held workshops on accountability, together with women's rights and other social justice organizations.

North America

- NAMEN organized four virtual Community of Practice events, each on a different topic, including the new US administration and accountability
- NAMEN strengthened its partnership with the Women of Colour Network, which works to end violence against women by centralizing the voices and leadership of women of colour and their communities.



Europe

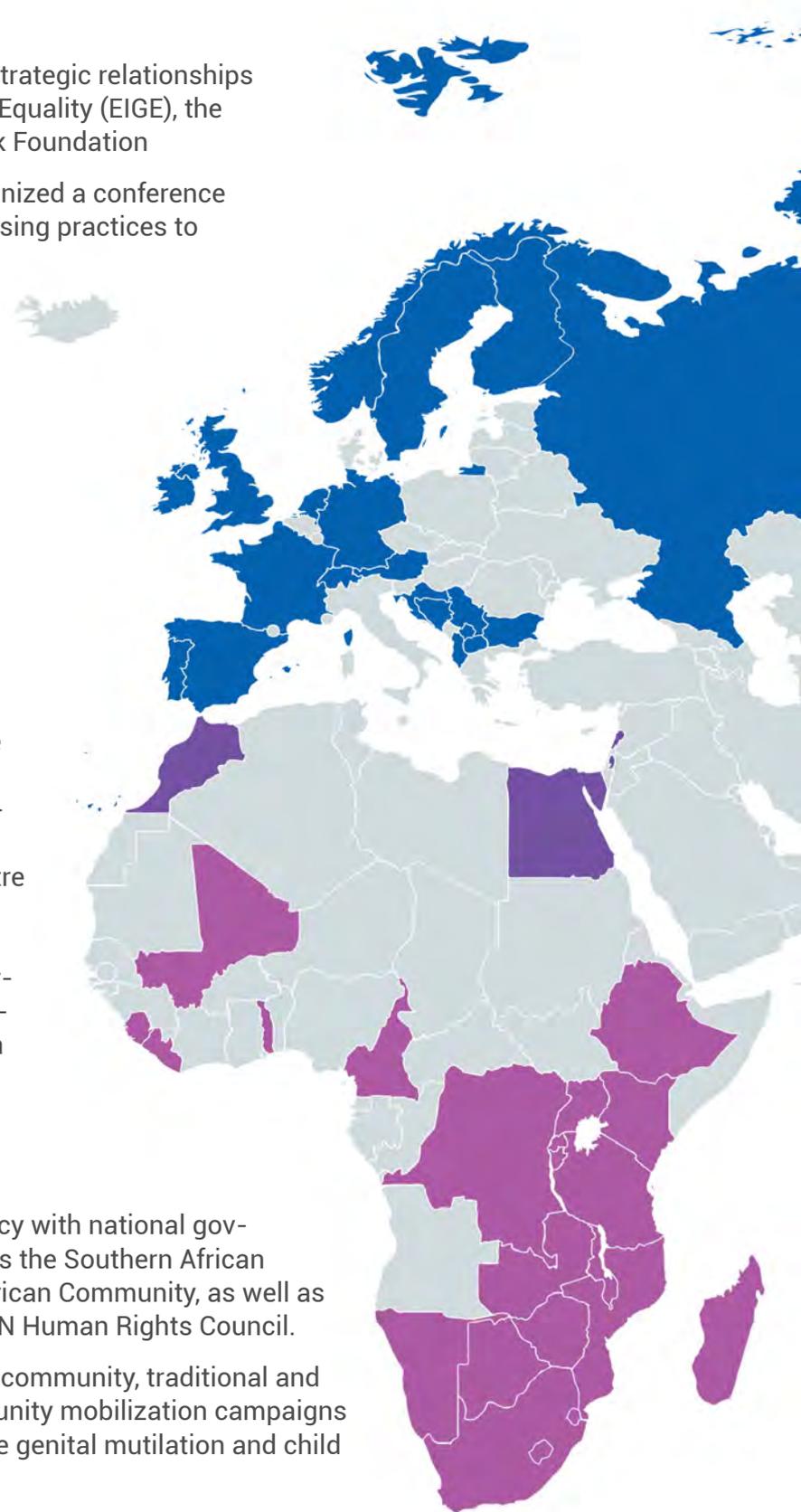
- MenEngage Europe strengthened its strategic relationships with the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE), the European Women's Lobby and the Oak Foundation
- The sub-regional Nordic network organized a conference 'Making the Invisible Visible' on promising practices to engage men and boys in Europe and globally
- Three MenEngage Europe members, Swedish NGO MÄN (Men for Gender Equality), Emancipator (Netherlands) and The Good Lad Initiative (UK) collaborated on a joint project, IMAGINE (Inspiring Male Action on Gender Equality in Europe).

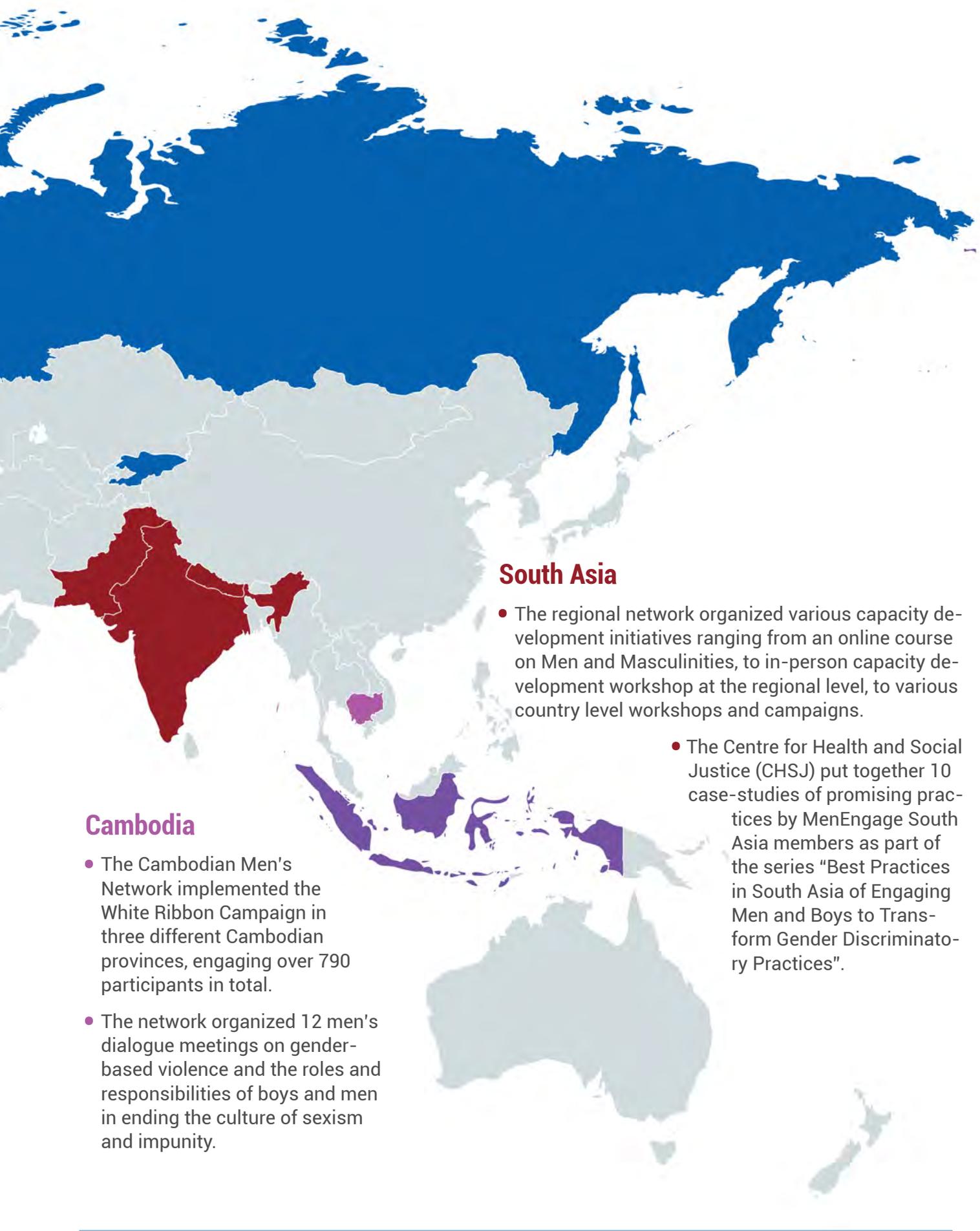
Middle East and North Africa

- Nearly 250 activists, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers came together in Beirut, Lebanon in May to take part in the conference "Masculinities in the Arab World", organized by Promundo-US, ABAAD-Resource Centre for Gender Equality, UN Women Arab Regional Office and other supporting partners. The event launched the International Men and Gender Equality Survey in Middle East and Northern Africa (IMAGES MENA).

Africa

- MenEngage Africa engaged in advocacy with national governments, sub-regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community and East African Community, as well as global spaces such as CSW and the UN Human Rights Council.
- 12 African country networks engaged community, traditional and faith leaders, involving them in community mobilization campaigns against gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage.
- MenEngage Africa welcomed three new country networks, in Cameroon, Togo and Lesotho





Cambodia

- The Cambodian Men's Network implemented the White Ribbon Campaign in three different Cambodian provinces, engaging over 790 participants in total.
- The network organized 12 men's dialogue meetings on gender-based violence and the roles and responsibilities of boys and men in ending the culture of sexism and impunity.

South Asia

- The regional network organized various capacity development initiatives ranging from an online course on Men and Masculinities, to in-person capacity development workshop at the regional level, to various country level workshops and campaigns.
- The Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ) put together 10 case-studies of promising practices by MenEngage South Asia members as part of the series "Best Practices in South Asia of Engaging Men and Boys to Transform Gender Discriminatory Practices".

MENENGAGE AFRICA

MenEngage Africa made progress through their advocacy work and has engaged with national governments, regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community, as well as global spaces such as CSW and the UN Human Rights Council. This resulted in governments increasingly engaging with members and country networks in the region in terms of either amending legislation or proposing new national policies and guidelines, in particular around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), ending child marriage (ECM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The network increased its focus on engaging religious and traditional leaders, and in 2017, 12 African country networks held workshops directly reaching out to 398 community, traditional and faith leaders across the region and involving them in community mobilization campaigns against GBV, FGM and ECM.

The network held its annual capacity development workshop in Tanzania, which resulted in increased commitment and capacity among member organizations to implement, document and advocate for effective, evidence-based and scaled-up interventions to engage boys and men in achieving gender equality. MenEngage Africa also hosted and co-organized the ['5-days of Violence Prevention'](#) conference which brought a broad



range of stakeholders together in Johannesburg, South Africa to discuss promising practices and accountability in the field of engaging men and boys. In 2017, MenEngage Africa elected a new Steering Committee and welcomed three new country networks, in Cameroon, Togo and Lesotho. The network also made significant progress with regards to re-establishing its Youth Advisory Committee, developing a youth strategy for 2017-2020 and adopting and contextualizing a youth MoU.

Above: Panelists during the event 'Five Days of Violence Prevention' in South Africa (2017, MenEngage Global alliance)

MENENGAGE EUROPE

MenEngage Europe strengthened its relationship with the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) and participated in a civil society consultation with EIGE and the European Women's Lobby. The sub-regional Nordic network organized a conference '[Making the Invisible Visible](#)' on promising practices to engage men and boys in Europe and globally.

Three MenEngage Europe members, Swedish NGO MÄN (Men for Gender Equality), Emancipator (Netherlands) and The Good Lad Initiative (UK) collaborated on a joint project, IMAGINE (Inspiring Male Action on Gender Equality in Europe). This two-year project aims to tackle sexual harassment and sexual violence in the EU by engaging men and boys in the movement for gender equality.

MenEngage Europe built a strategic relationship during 2017 with the OAK Foundation,

including through an in-person meeting in Belgrade during the MenCare Global meeting where they discussed the possibility of partnership and financial support. The network submitted an application for a grant which would enable the network to have a secretariat and hold a membership meeting in 2018. In addition, after discussions during the Global Board meeting in Ottawa, three MenEngage regional networks from North America, Europe and Caribbean submitted a joint funding proposal. Although the proposal was not successful it sparked an interesting discussion on the potential for working cross regionally and collaborating to address the issues of privilege and power and the responsibilities that come with this.

In 2017, MenEngage Europe took steps towards the formalization of the network towards a well-functioning and transparent entity. The Steering Committee had a number of deep and important discussions on issues such as membership, voting rights, and the division of responsibilities and developed a 'House Rules' document to govern the functioning of the network.

A MenEngage Europe Steering Committee meeting in Vilnius (2017 © MenEngage Europe)



A CariMAN Steering Committee meeting in Trinidad and Tobago (2017 © CariMAN)



CARIBBEAN MALE ACTION NETWORK (CariMAN)

CariMAN and its members continued to implement awareness raising community workshops on a range of topics. The network held 42 workshops in 2017, with over 1250 participants. CariMAN Bahamas began a partnership with the national ministry for social services and secured funding from UN Women for their 'reclaiming our boys' program. This program began in early 2017 and will run for at least a year. It focuses on the sensitization of men as champions for change and will run training programs to empower men with the skills to mentor high school age boys effectively during this critical period of their development. CariMAN Dominica continued with the implementation of a training programme funded by the Caribbean Development Bank, to work with young men in institutional care

on building hard and soft skills. Members of the network continued to be part of the Caribbean Gender Advocates Program, a two-year advocacy training program with the UN Women Multi Country Office.

Responding to challenges faced by the network in previous years regarding its executive membership dwindling, CariMAN recruited 9 young men to join the network in 2017. Some of the new members are from countries in the region that had not previously been engaged with CariMAN, and they have brought new energy and experience to the network. Since the meeting, new members from Antigua and St. Vincents have begun active work to establish local chapters. They will be formally elected as Steering Committee members in 2018. CariMAN held an in-person regional meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2017, during which the network carried out a rigorous strength and needs assessment and developed an ambitious workplan for the coming three years.

MENENGAGE AMÉRICA LATINA

In 2017, MenEngage América Latina co-organized the 6th Colloquium on Men and Masculinities in Recife, Brazil which gathered over 400 academics and practitioners working on masculinities and engaging men and boys. The regional network also held a meeting to coincide with the colloquium in which 39 members attended and identified ways forward for the network. The Peruvian country network, Red Peruana de Masculinidades, also organized a national colloquium on men and fatherhood "Coloquio Nacional Sobre Masculinidades" in October. Several MenEngage members provided inputs on the report ["State of the World's Fathers: Latin America and the Caribbean"](#), which presents research about men's engagement in issues related to fatherhood. The report was launched in presented and launched together with country networks in Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru. MenEngage América Latina country networks also engaged in a range of activities as part of the MenCare Campaign, including educational campaigns, public awareness initiatives, trainings, webinars and conferences. The country networks in Nicaragua and Costa Rica also held workshops on

accountability, together with women's rights and other social justice organizations.

MenEngage América Latina continued strengthening its communications mechanisms, internally and externally, and posted regularly on its websites, social media pages and email listservs. As a result of this, the regional network has developed a close relationship with the country networks in the region, and the regional co-coordinators have been able to provide support in network strengthening, campaigns and programs as well as institutional development in the region. As a result, it was decided that the co-coordinatorship be shifted to two new members who can spearhead this role for the coming strategic period. In this sense, 2017 was a year of transition for MenEngage América Latina, where the Steering Committee invested huge energy and time in jointly thinking through this process. In September, MenEngage América Latina put out a call for consultants to carry out an evaluation of the regional network. A consultant was hired and will finalize the evaluation in early 2018.

*MenEngage Latin America members during the 6th Colloquium on Masculinities in Recife, Brazil
(2017 © MenEngage América Latina)*

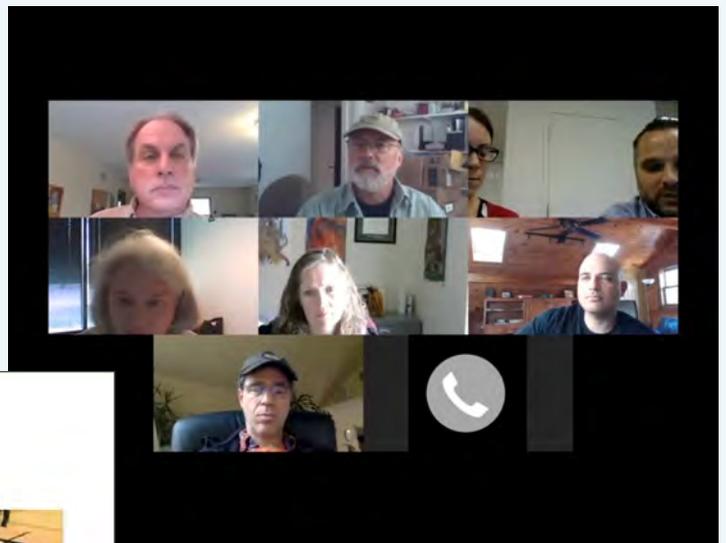


NORTH AMERICAN MENENGAGE NETWORK

In 2017, the network organized four virtual Community of Practice events, each on a different topic with member or guest speakers invited. The topics of the events were: "Holding our Ground, What to expect in the new US Administration?", "Local work, first edition: showcasing two NAMEN Member projects", "Planning our Community of Practice: what works for you?", "Understanding NAMEN's Accountability to Women of Color". With this activity, NAMEN was able to directly reach around 50 people in the US and Canada. CoP events have been able to create a space for NAMEN members and others to share and learn from each other about promising examples, strategies and lessons learnt around transforming masculinities and engaging boys and men in gender justice. The network continued to have accountability as a core focus area in 2017 and engaged in various

activities to promote accountable practices among its members. NAMEN strengthened its partnership with the Women of Color Network, which works to end violence against women by centralizing the voices and leadership of women of colour and their communities.

The network initiated the process of conducting a facilitated strategic assessment of what NAMEN has accomplished since 2012 and of the lessons learned to date, in order to help the network to identify and set priorities for the next three years. NAMEN retained a consultant to serve as grant writing coordinator to strengthen the network's fundraising efforts. Four proposals were developed and submitted to prospective donors. In 2017, NAMEN made its website more user-friendly and mobile-responsive. In addition, NAMEN launched a Facebook page and five [e-newsletters](#).



Student MVP Mentors: Practice-Partner-Prevent



NAMEN held several webinars, including this session on male violence prevention. (© North American MenEngage Network)



Participants at the MenEngage South Asia strategic Planning meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal
(2017 © MenEngage Alliance South Asia)

MENENGAGE ALLIANCE SOUTH ASIA

2017 was another vibrant year for MenEngage Alliance South Asia. The regional network organized various capacity development initiatives ranging from an [online course](#) on 'Understanding Men and Masculinities', to an in-person capacity development workshop at the regional level, to various country level workshops and campaigns. All these enabled the network to train and strengthen capacities of over 100 individual and activities from various NGOs and organizations in the region. The Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ) put together five case-studies of promising practices by MenEngage South Asia members as part of the series ["Best](#)

[Practices in South Asia of Engaging Men and Boys to Transform Gender Discriminatory Practices"](#). Forum to Engage Men, the country network in India, engaged in advocacy to criminalize marital rape.

The network carried out a strength and needs assessment in collaboration with the Global Secretariat and developed a comprehensive workplan for the coming years, identifying key priority issues (Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Caregiving and Fatherhood, Non-violence, Peace and Security, SOGI Rights, Youth Leadership, and Women's Inheritance Rights) as well as key strategies (network development and partnerships, including strengthening accountability, campaigns and mobilization, capacity strengthening, research and evidence building, advocacy, and knowledge management and communications).

MENENGAGE LEBANON

MenEngage Lebanon is an emerging network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), under the leadership of ABAAD – a Lebanese NGO. The Global Secretariat has been closely working with ABAAD to develop and strengthen the network, including exploring possible resource mobilization to support network development activities.

There has not been much progress in terms of resource generation, but these efforts have led to relationship building among other regional and national organizations in the region. Together with ABAAD and other organizations, the MenEngage Global Secretariat is working to mobilize organizations in the region with a view to forming a regional network in the MENA region.

Nearly 250 activists, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers came together in Beirut, Lebanon in May to take part in the conference “Masculinities in the Arab World”, organized by Promundo-US, ABAAD-Resource Centre for Gender Equality, UN Women Arab Regional Office and other supporting partners. The event featured the launch of results from the [International Men and Gender Equality Survey](#) in North America and Northern Africa (IMAGES MENA) - the first study of its kind to explore men's and women's attitudes and practices towards gender equality in the region, as well as the effects of conflict and displacement on masculinities in the region. The conference represents a crucial first step for research, advocacy and programming to engage men and boys and transforming masculinities in the MENA regional context. The conference showed that



Left: Panellists at the conference 'Masculinities in the Arab World' in Beirut, Lebanon (2017 © ABAAD)

there is considerable energy and enthusiasm in the region to strengthen and advance gender transformative work with men and boys. MenEngage Alliance, together with ABAAD, Promundo and UN Women, developed an [action-oriented report](#) compiling the insights from conference participants and recommendations for ways forward.

CAMBODIA MEN'S NETWORK

The Cambodian Men's Network (CMN), affiliated with MenEngage Alliance and coordinated by Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), provided capacity building for its 50 members, including local authorities, policemen, NGO staff and men's network members in target areas. Topics covered included skills for facilitating men's dialogue on gender based violence, and equipping people with crucial knowledge on laws and policies preventing violence against women. The network carried out at least 15 collaborative actions among members and CSOs/NGOs in the field of women's right and gender justice. The network also implemented the White Ribbon Campaign in three different Cambodian provinces, engaging over 790 participants in total. In addition, Cambodia Men's Network and men's groups at sub-national levels, organized 12 men's dialogue meetings on gender-based violence and the roles and responsibilities of boys and men in ending the culture of sexism and impunity. CMN developed a funding proposal to support the men's dialogue which was submitted to the Australian Embassy to Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MENENGAGE GLOBAL

THEMATIC ISSUES

Gender Based Violence/Violence Against Women activities are described under #MeToo above. The Alliance developed a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) strategy that aims to challenge the social norms, stigma, discrimination, attitudes and laws that undermine the fulfilment of SRHR for all, through the increased uptake of gender transformative approaches to engage men and boys. The Alliance's approach to SRHR for all acknowledges women's current realities, their vulnerabilities and their leadership to claim services and rights, as well as an understanding of the implicit power and control that men and boys have over girls' and women's reproductive options through harmful social norms. We also continued to be actively engaged as a partner in the Global MenCare Campaign on unpaid care and fatherhood, and as a technical partner in Prevention+, a multi-country programme to engage men and boys in gender-based violence prevention. In addition, the Alliance strengthened its organizing around a number of emerging issues this year. 'Learning circles' were formed on 'Militarism and Masculinities' and 'Sexual Orientation and

Gender identity (SOGI)' to collectively generate better understanding of these issues and how the Alliance can add value with a men and masculinities perspective.

CORE-STRATEGIES

As part of the new Strategic Plan, in 2017 the Alliance organized its work around five areas in which we strive to make key contributions. While doing so, we are conscious of the risk of NGO-ization, in particular in the context of shrinking civil society spaces, the ongoing struggle for resources and funding in particular for women's rights organizations and other marginalized groups, and the challenges embedded in communicating the value-additions of network-building as different from program and project implementation.

1. Network Building and Capacity Strengthening
2. Joint Advocacy
3. Knowledge Management and Communications
4. Accountability and Partnerships
5. Institutional Structure and Coordination



Participants at the Global Board meeting in Ottawa, Canada (2017 © MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat)

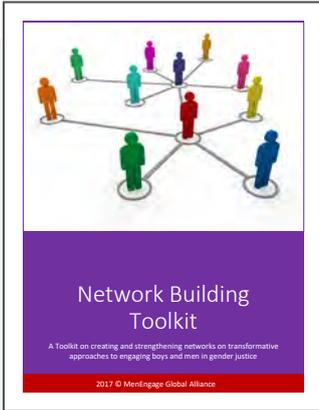
RESULT AREA 1

Network building and capacity strengthening

In order to build stronger regional and country networks and increase competencies among members and partners on gender transformative approaches, four of MenEngage Alliance's regional networks were supported with technical inputs and financial resources to undertake a stock-taking exercise in the form of strength and needs assessments. Through these exercises with the regional networks, MenEngage Global Alliance took the opportunity to share about the global strategic plan as well as conduct value clarification exercises with regards to the mission statement. The Global Secretariat also developed a '[Network-Building Toolkit](#)' to support regional and country level networks to develop well-functioning and democratic networks. MenEngage Alliance co-organized or supported a range of regional conferences and symposia, including the '[Five Days of Violence Prevention Conference](#)', the 'Masculinities in the Arab World Conference', the '[Sixth Latin American Colloquium on Masculinities](#)', the '[MAN2017 conference](#)' and the MenEngage Nordic conference '[Making the Invisible visible](#)'.

Reflecting on the year 2017, after conducting the strength assessment and work plan development exercises with the regional networks, MenEngage Alliance realises

the importance of creating more spaces for members and partners that enable exchange and mutual learning, where the community of practice can spend quality time strengthening understanding and capacities on complex issues. Another realization is that the Alliance and members need to invest in conducting value clarifications at all levels of the Alliance about the nature of its work, as a key player on men and masculinities in the broader field of women's rights and gender justice (see also Result area 4 on Accountability). In addition, there was a realization among regional networks that there is a wealth of knowledge and expertise among the membership that needs to be harnessed further, well documented, collated and disseminated. By doing so the Alliance can strengthen connectivity among members and facilitate joint actions, in order to build capable and interconnected global, regional and country networks. Through the creation of such spaces, MenEngage Alliance aspires to contribute to improved quality and quantity of work through increasingly gender *transformative* approaches with men and boys, and to the building of partnerships which will enable joint programming and advocacy.



1
network-building
toolkit
developed

4
regional strength
assessments
completed, involving
72 regional
members

600
participants took
part in capacity
strengthening
activities at
regional level

6
regional and national
symposiums
organized

- MenEngage Alliance co-organized or supported a range of regional conferences and symposia:**
- 'Five days of Violence Prevention'**
2-6 October, Johannesburg, South Africa
 - 'Masculinities in the Arab World Conference'**
2-4 May, Beirut, Lebanon
 - Sixth Latin American Colloquium on Masculinities**
2-5 April, Recife, Brazil
 - MAN2017 conference**
5-7 June, Belgrade, Serbia
 - MenEngage Nordic conference 'Making the Invisible visible'**
16 February, Oslo, Norway

5
sub-grants to
support regional
networks

RESULT AREA 2

Joint advocacy

MenEngage Alliance increased its focus on international policy advocacy this year, and made a more consolidated effort in international advocacy, leading to considerable advancements in this area. Throughout the year the Alliance contributed to key policy making and civil society organizing events with men and masculinities perspectives, and supported women's rights and SRHR partners, positioning the Alliance as an ally to these movements. MenEngage Alliance facilitated members' participation in global advocacy spaces, produced and shared issue-based policy briefs and reports from key events, produced advocacy statements around core-issues and supported members' and partners' advocacy initiatives.

Key advocacy moments this year included the 61st session of the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#), the High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and the first time MenEngage Alliance engaged with the [UN Human Rights Council \(HRC\)](#). These efforts resulted in the inclusion of human-rights based, feminist-informed - addressing privilege and power-inequalities - and gender transformative language on transforming patriarchal masculinities and the engagement of men and boys in key inter-governmental agreements, including a milestone [Human Rights Council Resolution](#) on engaging men and boys in the prevention of violence against women.



A key lesson learned is that a consolidated, long-term advocacy strategy and capacity strengthening among members is required to ensure change is meaningful and sustained. Building a longer-term strategy for MenEngage Alliance - that is value-based and contributes to the ongoing leadership of women's rights, SRHR, LGBTQIA+ and feminist movements - is increasingly relevant as we observe increased interest in and uptake of work on engaging men and boys. In our advocacy this trend has meant deciding not to go for apparent easy gains on policies around men's engagement, when we assess that MenEngage Alliance may not have enough influence over the quality of the end-product. To address these concerns as ongoing opportunities emerged, more consolidated agenda-setting and strategies were developed around specific policy-making settings, such as at CSW, HLPF and HRC.

Above: MenEngage Alliance members at the Human Rights Council in Geneva (2017 © MenEngage Global Alliance)

300

policy and
decision makers
reached

115,000

people reached with
MenEngage Alliance
advocacy materials

28

collaborative actions
organized by MenEngage
Alliance members with
women's rights and gender
justice actors

700

people took part in
5 advocacy
strengthening
events

7

technical policy inputs
submitted to relevant
decision and policy
making institutes

RESULT AREA 3

Knowledge management and communications

In 2017, MenEngage Alliance continued maintaining our Global website, social media platforms, and listservs to amplify the voices of members and circulate relevant information and resources on gender transformative approaches, men and masculinities and priority issues related to women's rights, SRHR and gender justice. MenEngage Alliance also mobilized on gender-justice issues via social media, including twitter chats. Through communications channels we continued to facilitate exchange of knowledge across the Alliance and with the broader field and encouraged members to share information and resources on SRHR, women's rights and gender justice. The Alliance published a range of knowledge products including thematic policy briefs (on engaging men and boys in the [SDGs](#) and [ending VAWG](#)) and reports from advocacy events and conferences.

MenEngage Alliance Publications 2017

[MenEngage Alliance Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#)

[MenEngage Alliance Progress Evaluation Report 2012-2016](#)

[MenEngage Alliance Network Building Toolkit](#)

[MenEngage Accountability Toolkit Second Edition](#)

[MenEngage Accountability Toolkit Second Addition \(Spanish\)](#)

[MenEngage Alliance Accountability Standards and Guidelines \(Russian\)](#)

[MenEngage Alliance Accountability Toolkit \(Russian\)](#)

[Policy Brief Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: Engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against all women and girls](#)

[Engaging men and boys in social norms transformation as a means to achieving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs](#)

[Discourses and reflections from the conference 'Masculinities in the Arab World: Trajectories to Peace and Gender Equality'](#)

[Case Study on Joint Advocacy: MenEngage Alliance at the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council](#)

[CSW61 Summary report](#)

[Summary Report Virtual Roundtable Dialogue: Roles and responsibilities of men and boys in response to #MeToo](#)



800,000+

people reached through MenEngage Alliance Facebook posts

17%

increase in global Facebook followers

11

publications developed and shared worldwide



23%

increase in global Twitter followers

18

stories of change developed and shared

1,700+

mentions on Twitter

RESULT AREA 4

Accountability and partnerships

One of the key roles for MenEngage Alliance identified in the new Strategic Plan is to promote and increase understanding of accountable practices and collaborative work in the engaging men and boys field. In 2017, the Alliance made a concerted effort in all activities and strategies to promote work with men and boys that is gender-transformative, based on feminist and human rights principles, and aims to challenge male privilege and unequal power relations, and ultimately to end patriarchy. The Alliance promoted and disseminated the [MenEngage Alliance Accountability Standards and Guidelines](#) and [Training Toolkit](#), organized dialogues on accountability among key stakeholders at a range of advocacy and civil society forums throughout the year, and organized capacity building sessions on accountability as part of the Prevention+ partnership. In addition, MenEngage Alliance representatives continued to build relationships with key women's rights organizations and networks and to ensure accountability to the agendas of these groups in our advocacy work.

A key lesson learned from 2017 is that MenEngage Alliance needs to step-up efforts to build better relationships with critical feminist and human rights activists, and that more needs to be done to communicate the Alliance's

values, principles and practices, towards the broader women's rights, SRHR and gender justice fields. With the increasing interest and uptake of engaging men and boys in policies and programming, we foresee that MenEngage Alliance's role will increasingly be one of a critical voice ensuring that this work is being done in line with principles and practices that actually contribute to the ultimate goal: to advance all women's and girls' empowerment, autonomy and rights. Related to this is a key emerging insight that, while we receive feedback that the Alliance's articulation of its political agenda and principles, as well as its accountability guidelines and toolkit, are on the right track, there is growing concern around the work in practice. During the regional assessments, accountability issues were identified as key to strengthening the national and regional networks, and the importance of putting these standards and guidelines in practice through contextualization and establishing relevant mechanisms. Capacity strengthening with MenEngage members on accountable practices, so that the Alliance leads by example and inspires others, will therefore be an increased area of focus in the coming years.

Panelists at the State of the Field Dialogue in Ottawa, Canada (2017 © MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat)



Sample Training Activity:

EXPERIENCES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Ask the group to think of a time when they acted accountable in their work with men and boys. Ask the following questions to probe these experiences:

- » What did you do?
- » How did you do it? With whom?
- » Why did you decide to take action, or what was the motivation behind taking the action?
- » What were the reactions of others around you?
- » What happened finally?

9

training activities
to strengthen
accountability

6

promising practices
on accountability
and partnerships
documented and
disseminated

1

Accountability
Training Toolkit
updated

The second edition of the MenEngage Accountability training toolkit is available in English and Spanish.



RESULT AREA 5

Institutional structure and coordination

MenEngage Global Alliance has been a fully independent entity since January 2017, with the purpose to support its members work and strengthen the networks. This year the Global Board, consisting of representatives from the networks, together with the Global Secretariat team, continued to strengthen its structure, mechanisms and procedures in support of an active, membership-led, democratic, sustainable and accountable learning network that acts in solidarity with its members and partners. This has significantly contributed to the results presented in this summary of MenEngage Alliance's work in 2017.

5

regional networks raised additional funds for network building

7

strategic planning activities completed across global, regional and country networks



Recruited new Global Secretariat staff to support the Alliance's work

*Participants at a state of the field meeting in Ottawa, Canada at the office of the Global Affairs Canada
(© MenEngage Global Alliance)*



CALENDAR

JANUARY

- Worldwide mobilization around the Women's March
- MenEngage Europe meeting and EIGE civil society consultation in Vilnius, Lithuania
- 'The role of masculinities in conflict prevention' presentations at the World Bank in Washington DC, USA

MARCH

- CSW Youth Forum at the United Nations in New York, USA
- 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in New York, USA

MAY

- 'Masculinities in the Arab World' conference in Beirut, Lebanon
- Online Course on "Understanding Masculinities: Engaging boys and men in Gender Justice", New Delhi, India
- MenEngage Alliance South Asia Steering Committee Meeting in Bengaluru, India

FEBRUARY

- Nordic MenEngage Conference "Making Invisible Visible" in Oslo, Norway
- Online consultation on "Youth and Gender Equality" in preparation for the 2nd Youth CSW Forum
- Sida and MenEngage Global Alliance strategy meeting and affirmation of continued partnership in Washington D.C., USA
- NAMEN Web Conference - Community of Practice, Boston, USA

APRIL

- 6th International Colloquium on Men and Masculinities in Recife, Brazil
- Prevention+ Advocacy/Accountability/Gender transformative approaches training in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- WILPF event on shrinking spaces at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland
- MenEngage Africa National Project Coordinators' Meeting, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- NAMEN Web Conference - Community of Practice, Boston, USA

JUNE

- Human Rights Council 35th session in Geneva, Switzerland
- MenCare Global Meeting in Belgrade, Serbia
- MAN2017 Conference in Belgrade, Serbia
- NAMEN Web Conference - Community of Practice in Boston, USA

AUGUST

- MenEngage Global Secretariat team meeting and Theory of change meeting in Washington D.C, USA
- NAMEN Web Conference - Community of Practice in Boston, USA

OCTOBER

- 5 Days of Violence Prevention conference in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Prevention+ Annual Partners Meeting on violence prevention in Jakarta, Indonesia
- Coloquio Nacional Sobre Masculinidades in Lima, Peru

DECEMBER

- MenEngage Alliance Virtual Roundtable Discussion 'Roles and responsibilities of men and boys in response to #Metoo'

JULY

- High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development at the United Nations in New York, USA
- MenEngage Africa Annual General Meeting in Maputo, Mozambique

SEPTEMBER

- MenEngage Alliance Global Board meeting in Ottawa, Canada
- State of the field dialogue with Global Affairs Canada and Status of Women Canada in Ottawa, Canada

NOVEMBER

- MenEngage South Asia Steering Committee planning meeting and strength assessment in Kathmandu, Nepal
- Geneva Peace Week event 'Building Youth Leadership to Prevent Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the Outbreak of Conflicts' in Geneva, Switzerland
- MenEngage Europe Steering Committee meeting and strength assessment in Barcelona, Spain
- Men in Movement Conference in Barcelona, Spain
- CariMAN Steering Committee meeting and strength assessment in Trinidad and Tobago

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.

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 masculinities: We seek to destabilize stereotypical male gender roles and hegemonic expressions of manhood, and support manifestations of non-violent, equitable and inclusive notions of manhood, by changing social norms that shape boys' and men's behavior.

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 favor of women's rights and gender justice.

Gender transformative approaches (GTA): 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.

Feminist approach: We acknowledge that we build on the heritage of feminist women's rights organizations 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 institutionalizing democratic and inclusive decision-making processes within the Alliance.

Working as allies with women's rights organizations: We are committed to working as allies, and to fostering healthy relationships, with women and women's rights organizations, movements and networks 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.

Enabling spaces for dialogue and joint action: MenEngage Alliance, being informed by a feminist approach, engage in strengthening partnerships, networks and alliances as a political act to change and a tool for empowerment within movement building. We work 'glocal': where ideas from the local to the global are jointly identified, shared, negotiated, changed, and disseminated.

Partnerships: We seek to foster concrete and equal associations and collaborations with various actors and agencies in the field of 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, human rights, among others.

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: the 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 organization which serves as the implementing entity of the program, 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 organization.

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 organization. The Board consists of representatives from the Alliance's regional networks and international at-large member organizations.

MenEngage Global Secretariat, or *Global Secretariat (GS)*, refers to the executive body of the MenEngage Global Alliance. It is composed of fulltime staffs, responsible for the implementation of the MenEngage Global Alliance's strategic priorities, carrying out fundraising for the organization (supported by the Board), and managing the budget.

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