

Male Engagement Compendium

Companion Guide



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Introduction

Involving men and boys in family planning (FP) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) benefits them personally and positively impacts their partners, families, and communities. Research indicates that participation in FP/SRH programs by men and boys can lead to fewer unintended pregnancies, better maternal health, a reduction in sexually transmitted infections like HIV, and progress toward gender equality. The Male Engagement Compendium is a resource for program implementers, researchers, policymakers, and government officials to advance their knowledge through accessing tools and resources that will improve the engagement of men and boys, reinforcing key components from the [Know, Care, Do Theory of Change](#).

Methodology

To develop the Male Engagement Compendium, Breakthrough ACTION crowdsourced an initial list of over 80 resources using key listservs, reviewing partners' websites, and contacting practitioners and donors in the male engagement field. A team of subject-matter experts reviewed the submitted resources based on the following selection criteria: year of publication (after 2009), language availability (English, French, or Spanish), accessibility online, and engages men and boys as either clients, partners, or agents of change to Know, Care, and Do in FP/SRH. A few resources in the compendium are foundational to the male engagement field and bypass the 2010–present publication criteria. Additionally, the team of experts chose to include some resources that go beyond the FP/SRH scope because they emphasize the value of inter-connectedness and highlight different approaches programs can use and adapt to male engagement in FP/SRH, such as life skills. After this review, the team selected 47 resources for the compendium.

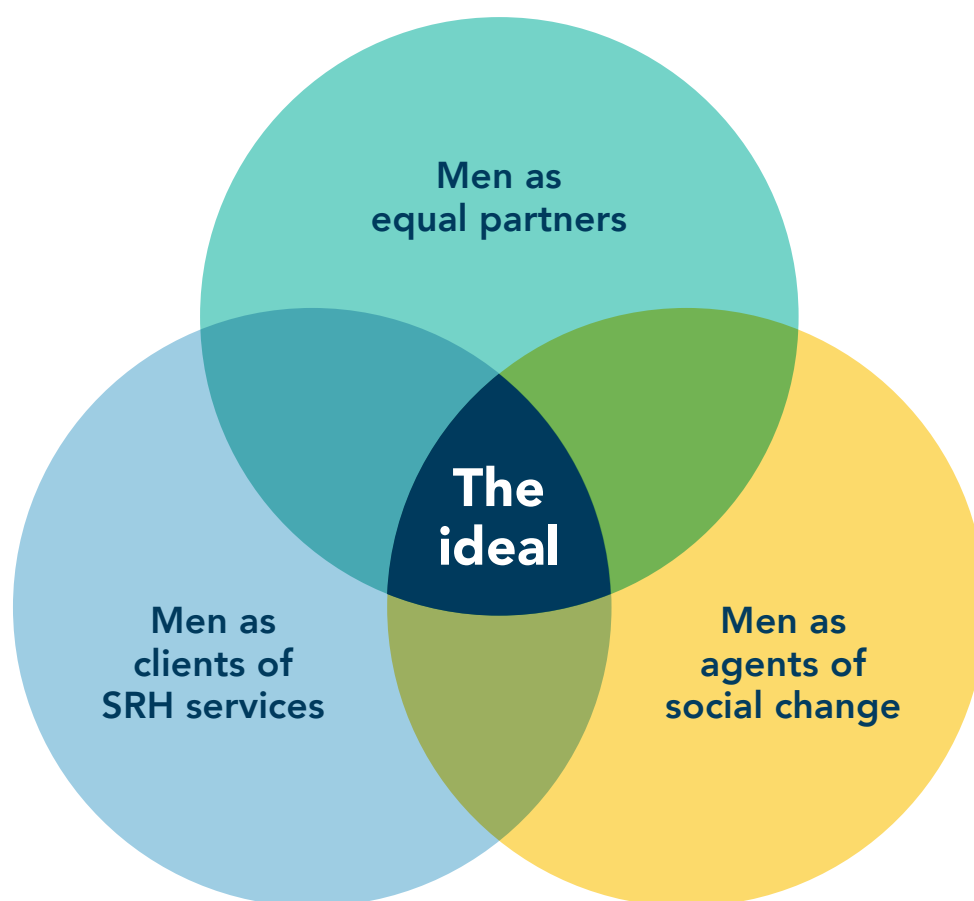
Organization of the Compendium

The organization of the Male Engagement Compendium includes a filter function and showcases a brief description of the tool or resource, the resource type, the social behavior change (SBC) approach(es), the region/country implementation occurred (though not all locations may be included), the technical area, and the types of engagement.

The types of engagement reflect two key concepts for the Know, Care, Do Theory of Change framework: (1) the role in engagement and (2) the component of engagement. For the role of engagement, practitioners should consider how to engage men and boys fully and meaningfully in FP/SRH in the roles of partners, clients/users, and agents of change.

- As **partners** in their relationships regarding FP/SRH issues and in challenging and addressing gender inequality and inequitable gender norms and roles.
- As **clients or users** of FP/SRH services with unique priorities, needs, and preferences that should be met by programs.
- As **agents of change** who actively aim to improve outcomes for themselves, their partners, their families, and their communities.

Figure 1



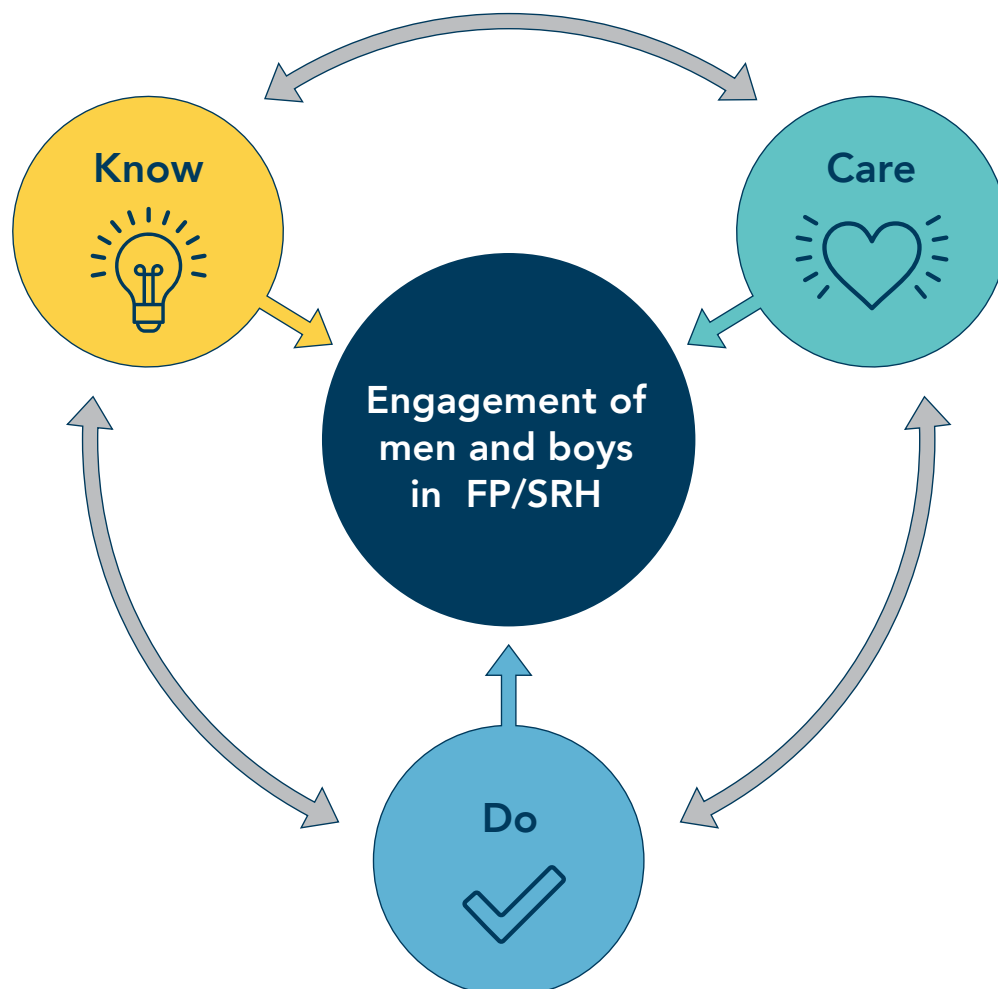
Source: Pascoe et al., 2012. License: Creative Commons Attribution–ShareAlike 3.0 IGO.

The ideal program will engage men and boys in all three roles, with each mutually reinforcing the other, as illustrated in Figure 1. To engage men and boys in these roles, activities should support them in developing the necessary knowledge, attitudes, and abilities to navigate gender roles, expectations, and power dynamics in their particular contexts. Thus, programming should support men and boys to:

- **Know** about FP/SRH by having factual knowledge about FP/SRH services and methods and harmful gender norms and expectations.
- **Care** about FP/SRH by assuming responsibility for their personal health and reproduction and accountability for supporting their partners' reproductive priorities and needs.
- **Do** supportive actions for FP/SRH by taking concrete steps to communicate and help achieve reproductive intentions and goals from themselves and in support of their partners.

Figure 2 shows the dynamic between these three interrelated and interdependent components of Know, Care, Do for engaging men and boys in FP/SRH.

Figure 2. Engaging men and boys in family planning: A conceptual model.



Users can navigate the compendium by adjusting the filter function based on the following criteria: language, region/country of testing/implementation, primary audience, and technical area(s). After filtering for specific search criteria, the user can scroll through an overview of the filtered resources by viewing each tool's brief description, resource type, SBC approach(es), and understanding the role and components of engagement from the Know, Care, Do Theory of Change.

Relevant resources

For additional male engagement resources, check out these resource libraries:

- [Male Engagement Task Force Resource Library](#)
- [MenStar Coalition](#) (specifically for HIV-related programs)

More information

For more information about the Male Engagement Compendium's development and maintenance, please contact [Breakthrough ACTION](#).

References

Pascoe, L., Herstad, M., Shand, T., & van den Heever, L. (2012). Building male involvement in SRHR: A basic model for male involvement in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Sonke Gender Justice Network; UNESCO Health and Education Resource Centre. <https://healtheducationresources.unesco.org/library/documents/building-male-involvement-srhr-basic-model-male-involvement-sexual-and>

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