

**A GUIDE FOR OPERATIONALIZING
MALE PARTICIPATION AND OTHER
GENDER ISSUES
IN COMMUNITY-BASED
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
PROGRAMS**



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JOICFP

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Preface

Prior to the age of modern contraceptive devices, men were the focus of family planning (FP) initiatives. However, with the introduction of modern contraceptive methods for women, such as the oral contraceptive pill, IUD, injectable, etc., men's role in FP has become less significant. Thus, the focus of FP and reproductive health (RH) shifted to women as its target clientele, making men's involvement peripheral or leaving men out of programs all together.

It was soon realized that little progress was being made with RH/FP programs and that neglecting men and their sexual and reproductive health (SRH) causes adverse consequences, not only for men, but also for women and children. Men, who are the decision makers in many countries in Africa, even playing a dominant role in couples' fertility decisions, family size and other significant issues related to SRH, were no longer active participants in SRH/FP programs. Therefore, strategies must be devised to again promote male participation in SRH programs. Men's support has a strong impact on not only contraceptive use, but also the health and happiness of men, women, and children.

This guide was produced in response to the Africa Sub-Regional Workshop held in Ndola, Zambia, in 1999, the theme of which was *“Male Participation in Community-based RH Program.”* It is based upon the deliberations and the reports presented during the workshop. Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations from nine Anglophone African countries participated in the workshop, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Swaziland, Tanzania, the Gambia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR), the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Zambia Office under the Africa Regional Project “Strengthening Sustainable Community-based RH Services in Sub-Saharan Africa (RAF/97/P02)” executed by the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), and funded by UNFPA.

The guide will make an attempt to give a new dimension to male participation with gender considerations. It may go beyond the traditional approach to advocate change in conceptualization and new ways of addressing male participation. That is, making community-based SRH programs beneficial and attractive to men themselves can be done not only through SRH services but also other activities, such as income generation activities (IGAs), sports, and skill development training.

The guide is intended for diversified groups of people and institutions that are involved in implementing community-based SRH programs. Providers are concerned about new approaches for how to involve men more effectively, meet their needs and encourage them to care about their SRH using gender sensitive approaches. The intended users include: program planners, managers, and implementers in the area of community-based SRH programs in Sub-Saharan Africa as primary users; and policy makers and donors as secondary users.

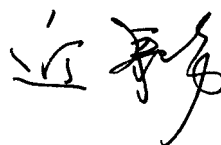
The guide consists of two chapters. Chapter one discusses the key concepts and issues related to male participation in SRH and the importance of gender analysis. It also presents indicators for gender analysis and a checklist to determine whether or not programs are gender sensitive. Chapter two presents strategies for male participation in SRH programs by responding to questions that the intended users may commonly have. Each section is independent, and poses a question, issues to be considered, case examples that could be adapted for future male involvement, and keys to the

solutions. Users can start reading at any topic according to their interests. The glossary attached highlights key gender terminology.

We hope this guide will help users develop strategies for operationalizing male participation and other gender issues in community-based SRH programs. We also request any suggestions you may have for future editions of this guide.



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Abbreviations

AHEAD	:Adventures in Health, Education and Agricultural Development, Inc.
CAFS	:Centre of African Family Studies
CBD	:Community-based distributor
FGM	:Female genital mutilation
FP	:Family planning
FPAK	:Family Planning Association of Kenya
GFFA	:The Gambian Family Planning Association
HIV/AIDS	:Human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICPD	:International conference on population and development
IEC	:Information, education and communication
IGA	:Income-generating activity
IPPF	:International Planned Parenthood Federation
IPPFAR	:International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region
IUD	:Intrauterine device
JOICFP	:Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning
PoA	:Program of Action
PPAG	:Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
PPAZ	:Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia
RH	:Reproductive health
SRH	:Sexual and reproductive health
STD	:Sexually transmitted disease
STI	:Sexually transmitted infection
TBA	:Traditional birth attendant
UMATI	:Family Planning Association of Tanzania
UNFPA	:United Nations Population Fund