



Asia Pacific Joint Initiative on Working with Men and Boys for Gender-based Violence Prevention

**South Asian Consultation Meeting
29th January 2007, Katmandu, Nepal**

Background:

The **Asia Pacific Joint Initiative on Working with Men and Boys for Gender-based Violence Prevention** is an effort to coordinate the UN family, NGOs and other partners to help end gender-based violence against women, children and men in Asia Pacific. This initiative will complement the many ongoing and necessary violence prevention efforts in the region through an explicit focus on working with men and boys.

The first consultation meeting for this initiative was held in Colombo in December 2006 whereby there was a consensus between the participants present from UN agencies and international NGOs to:

1. narrow the initiative to working with men and boys for prevention
2. focus the regional initiative around three key components:
 - a. public awareness and education
 - b. networking and capacity building
 - c. research and advocacy
3. organize two sub-regional working groups to continue the formulation of the initiative:
 - a. South Asia- the first meeting took place on 29th January 2007 in Nepal
 - b. East, South-East Asia and the Pacific- to be held later in 2007

The UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo and Save the Children, Sweden co-organized a one day South Asia consultation meeting to discuss the way forward for the joint initiative. The meeting was held back-to-back with the **MenEngage Alliance** four day South Asian networking and capacity building workshop. The MenEngage event brought together over 50 development agencies and professionals from around South Asia to explore common approaches to engaging men and boys in gender equality .

The meeting provided participant organisations^{**} with an opportunity to highlight the roles that men and boys can play in violence prevention, the challenges that may arise and also common strategies to move forward on this agenda. This meeting was the first of two sub-regional meetings (the second one to be held in Bangkok later this year for the East, South-East Asia and the Pacific sub-region) that will be organized in 2007 as part of the planning and

* The MenEngage Concept Note is attached as Appendix One

** Participants list is attached as Appendix Two

piloting phase of the joint initiative. Subsequently, there will be a full programme for 2008-2012, which is being developed in cooperation with initiative partners.

Objectives of the January 29th meeting:

- To develop a common understanding on the joint regional initiative
- To explore avenues for partnerships and collaborative work
- To further refine the joint regional initiative for 2007

Introduction to the proceedings:

Introductory and welcome remarks were made by UNDP, Regional Centre in Colombo and Save the Children, Sweden regional office in Katmandu. There were presentations on the joint initiative for violence prevention and the work of global partners including the MenEngage Alliance and the White Ribbon Campaign. Substantive discussions followed these presentations in both small groups and plenary .

For the afternoon, participants were organized into discussion groups focused on the three components of the joint regional initiative (outlined below). Following are the recommendations from South Asia for activities under the three components of the joint initiative:

I. Public Awareness and education:

- Develop a regional 'branding'- a common logo and slogan with messaging related to men's roles and responsibilities in ending violence
- Explore the use of celebrities as spokespersons (including UN goodwill ambassadors) and private sector partnerships (both with cautions)
- Develop evaluation/impact assessments as part of the campaign
- Develop an action oriented website to support the public awareness campaign

II. Networking and Capacity Building:

- Continue collaboration with the MenEngage Alliance in Asia Pacific to support capacity building and networking in the region
- Focus on strengthening capacity of researchers in the region

III. Research and Advocacy:

- Undertake a mapping/compilation/literature review of the existing work and resources
- Undertake a multi-country and long term research project on the "Social and Economic Costs of Masculinities" to create a larger evidence base for advocacy
- Formulate policy recommendations based on costing and meta evaluations of working with men and boys with violence prevention

Partnership Strategy:

There are many possible partners for this initiative who have not been a part of consultations so far. These include governments, regional forums like SAARC and ASEAN, academia and research institutions, other UN and bi-lateral agencies, the private corporate sector, and the media. Overall, this initiative must continue to be shaped by inputs from the women's movements, and more local women's organizations will be engaged. A partnership building strategy is currently being formulated to engage this wide array of partners for working together on violence prevention.

Country Level Activities for 2007:

Several country level activities and networks were planned over the course of the week. The MenEngage workshop report that captures these country level plans for South Asia will be

Final Agenda is attached as Appendix Three

released shortly. The UNDP regional programme will continue to offer support to country networking and event planning efforts for 2007.

Next steps:

Discussions held over the entire week led to agreements on next steps for the Initiative:

- UNDP (Asia Pacific Regional Gender team), UNIFEM (South Asia Regional Office) and UNFPA (South Asia Regional Office) are setting up a task force to develop a joint UN programme document for the 2008-2012 programme cycle. Other agencies and the other sub-regions will also be invited to join this process.
- A regional coordinator position has been created to support the formulation of the joint initiative in 2007 and to support the MenEngage Alliance in South Asia. This post will be co-managed by UNDP and Save the Children Sweden under a current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- The second sub regional working group meeting for East, South-East Asia and the Pacific is being planned for the second quarter of 2007 by the UNDP regional gender team in partnership with Save the Children Sweden, UNIFEM, ECPAT, the MenEngage Alliance, the White Ribbon Campaign and others.
- UNDP's regional gender programme based in Colombo, the Asia Pacific Gender Mainstreaming Programme (APGMP) will continue to serve as secretariat for the initiative in 2007 and for the formulation of the 2008-2012 joint UN programme.

I. Appendix One: MenEngage Concept note

MenEngage South Asia Regional Consultation Meeting

Organized by MenEngage

30th January – 2nd February 07, Kathmandu, Nepal

Background

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development helped set in motion a growing global awareness of the need to engage men and boys in promoting gender equality. Since then, the health field has become increasingly aware of how gender norms—societal messages that dictate what is appropriate or expected behaviour for males and females—fuel an array of health and social problems. All too often gender roles and expectations condone men engaging in high risk sexual behaviour, grant men the power to dictate the terms of sex, and make it extremely difficult for women and girls to have control over their sexual and reproductive health. Gender inequity in relationships and rigid views about masculinities can also lead to sexual coercion and physical and psychological violence against women and children and between men, as well as men's limited participation as caregivers and fathers. In terms of fatal violence, whether in domestic settings, in conflict areas or otherwise, it is overwhelmingly men who are the perpetrators of such violence.

As new programs engaging men and boys have been implemented, a body of effective evidence-based programming has emerged. These programs have confirmed that men and boys are willing to participate in discussions related to gender equality, and rethinking masculinities, and that targeted, well-designed interventions can be effective in changing traditional and rigid attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate gender inequalities. The success and importance of these program initiatives has led to a growing interest in adapting this work in settings throughout the world.

What is MenEngage?

MenEngage A Global Alliance to Engage Men and Boys in Gender Equality and Ending Violence. The Alliance is involved in an array of research, interventions, and policy initiatives seeking to engage men and boys in effective ways to reduce gender inequalities and promote health and the well-being of women, men and girls and boys and for promoting caring fatherhood. The alliance includes several major international organizations, as well as local and national groups with extensive experience in engaging men and boys in gender equality and reducing violence. The organizing members of MenEngage include EngenderHealth, Instituto Promundo, Save the Children Sweden, Sahayog, the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

What does MenEngage do?

The goal of MenEngage is to increase the number of men and boys reached by interventions that promote and engage them in gender equality and violence prevention. To achieve this, MenEngage will implement three complementary strategies:

- 1) Advocacy and policy;
- 2) A learning and leadership network; and
- 3) Resource sharing in the form of a global online web-based portal.

What is the purpose of this 4-day meeting

MenEngage is currently building a global network of organizations dedicated to addressing gender inequality and violence prevention with men and boys. A series of regional consultation meetings are currently assessing the needs and capacities of MenEngage members. The consultation meetings are designed to allow the network to best serve its members.

Objectives

The objectives of the 4-day meeting are to:

- Bring together organizations and experts working on male engagement
- Orient participants to different approaches and promising interventions to engage boys and men in RH/HIV and GBV prevention and for promoting caring fatherhood
- Introduce participants to promising tools used to engage boys and men
- Facilitate an exchange between regional actors
- Develop future strategies for male engagement programming in the region
- Feed into the global strategy for Men Engage

The first day of the workshop will introduce participants to a framework for engaging boys and men, and promising approaches to working with boys and men. The second day will focus on skills-building around different approaches to working with boys and men. Days 3 and 4 will focus on networking to carry male engagement programming forward in the region.

Expected Participants

- Approximately 50 development organisation representatives (NGOs, Academia, INGOs and UN agencies) with past experience and interest in working Men and Boys in Gender Equality and Ending Violence
- A country balance will be maintained with some extra seats to India given the size

II. Appendix Two: Participants List – 29 January Consultation Meeting

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1	Luna, Shaila Parveen	Save the Children, Bangladesh	luna@SCSD-BD.ORG
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III. Appendix Three: Final Agenda for the South Asia Working Group Meeting

Monday, 29 January 2007	
0900 – 0930	<u>Session I: Opening</u>
	<p>Welcome and Objectives of the Meeting Meeting Chairs: James Lang, UNDP Radhika Behuria, UNDP Saghir Bukhari, Save the Children, Sweden</p> <p>Introductions of participants</p>
0930-1000	<u>Session II: Initiative Overview</u>
	<p>Overview of the joint regional initiative Brief description of the Asia Pacific joint initiative Summary of first consultation meeting (Colombo, Dec 06)</p> <p>Feedback and Clarifications</p>
1000-1045	<u>Session III: Global Partners for the Regional Campaign</u>
	<p>1) The White Ribbon Campaign 2) The MenEngage Alliance</p>
1045-1130	<p>Plenary Discussions on Global Partners Feedback and Clarifications</p>
1130 – 1145	<u>Coffee/tea Break</u>
1145-1300	<u>Session IV: Group Work and Brainstorming</u>
	<p>Violence prevention with men and boys- Brainstorming for regional activities on the three components: 1) public awareness and education 2) networking and capacity building 3) research and advocacy</p> <p>Who else should join this initiative?</p>
1300 – 1400	<u>Lunch</u>
1400-1500	<u>Session V: Presentations of Group Recommendations</u>
	<p>Group presentations Plenary and discussions</p>
1500 – 1515	<u>Coffee/tea Break</u>
1515-1615	<p>Operational modalities for the joint initiative and roles of task forces Discussing next steps and way forward</p>
1615- 1630	<u>Closing remarks</u>