

Engaging men and boys in food and nutrition security

Theresa Hwang & Maureen Miruka SPRING, TOPS and USAID webinar, May 2014





#### Overview

- Rationale and Understanding Engaging Men/Boys for Gender Equality
- 2. Conceptual framework and Programming Examples
- 3. Reflections and Considerations





# Rationale: Why engage men and boys?

#### 1. Commitment to gender equality

- women's empowerment remains as a critical aspect of gender equality
- work with men and boys as equal partners with women and girls to change social structures and power imbalances

#### 2. Poverty affects everyone in gendered ways

need to better understand complexities of men and boys experiences

#### 3. Can improve outcomes when men and boys are engaged

- Support to women and girls
- Mitigate negative reactions from solely focusing on women and girls



# Food Security & Nutrition: Why engage men and boys?

#### In a situational analysis, we often see:



- Care givers
- Subsistence agriculture
- Responsible for household nutrition and food security



- Provider for family
- Cash crops
- Household decision-maker
- Authority over asset management

YET, we often design "gender" interventions that only target women





# Examples of limited results when men and boys aren't engaged...

- Limitations in women's nutrient-rich food production because men control land, women don't control assets or have authority to purchase inputs, extension services don't consider women 'farmers'
- Nutritious foods not reaching women status within the household and intrahousehold food allocations
- Limited adoption of EBF and IYCF practices because women lack of time (unequal caregiving roles), or support from household members (men don't receive information about EBF and IYCF)
- Goals to increases women's incomes may fall short because of limits in mobility, lack of time, market discrimination; unequal wages

#### **Unintended consequences:**

- Backlash & GBV
- Girls pick up household duties, pulled out of school











# **Engaging Men and Boys**Framework and Programming Examples



# Engaging I nder Equal

"synchronization" all efforts contributing to gender equality

"conscientization" personal awareness and critical reflection

dialogues across critical / personal relationships

**Mobilization & advocacy** across levels





# **Synchronization**

- Engaging men and boys activities work in alignment with empowering women and girls
- Intentionally reaching out to both sexes to promote mutual understanding
- Flexible gender roles
- Equalization in balance of power and pursuit of gender justice

learn more about synchronization

#### Example, Rwanda, <u>Journeys of Transformation</u>

Building on women's village savings and loans groups, looking at men as allies in women's economic empowerment. Men examine personal attitudes, beliefs and practices on household decision-making, division of household labor, and women's economic empowerment.

"synchronization" all efforts contributing to gender equality





### Conscientization

- 1. Gender socialization affects all individuals
- 2. Provide safe space for critical reflection
- 3. Done with staff, and also in the community



"conscientization" personal awareness and critical reflection





# Conscientization example: Mali participatory performance tracker

ā1				Division of labor			Communication		Decision-making (joint)			Role modeling		
Name	ID	Gender (M/F)	Shared household tasks with my spouse	Asked my spouse for support with a task	Asked girl and boy children to share hh tasks	active listening with spouse	Spoke up confidently on a matter of importance to me	Included my spouse in a decision I usually take alone	Discussed the income and financial situation of the household	Decided the major household issues together with my spouse	Publicly demonstrated a non-typical behavior	Encourage my spouse/colleague in social transformation	Total	山
ху	1	. M											0	1
xy	2	2.M											0	100
xx	3	F											CG	re



# Dialogue across key relationships

- Actively promoting fairness in roles, relationships & responsibilities
  - Between couples
  - Among male peers

dialogues across critical / personal relationships

#### **Example: Ethiopia, GRAD**

Dialogues on gender roles, decision-making, nutrition,

#### Example: Burundi Abatangamuco project

 Men sharing their personal stories of change with peers- role modeling





# Mobilization and advocacy across levels

- Work with male champions to go beyond awareness & dialogue to collective action
- Celebrate positive deviant role models for gender equality
- Network groups of male champions from local to national levels to advocate for gender equality

Example: Bangladesh, wage labor mobilization Male day laborers rallied alongside female day laborers to fight wage discrimination against women, resulting in a total of 7077 women receiving a cumulative annual income of \$994,886

Mobilization & advocacy across levels





Example in an agriculture, food security, and nutrition program

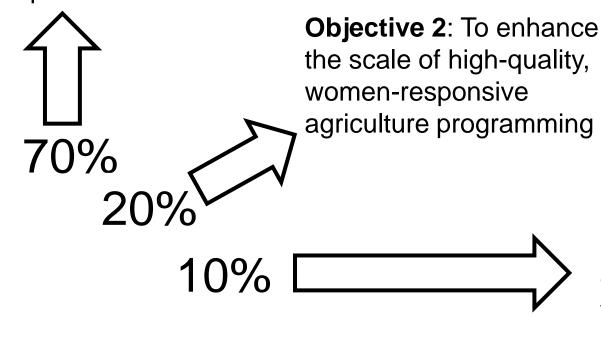




## **Pathways Objectives and Program Countries**

Objective 1: To increase the productive engagement of 50,000 poor women in sustainable agriculture, and contribute to their empowerment

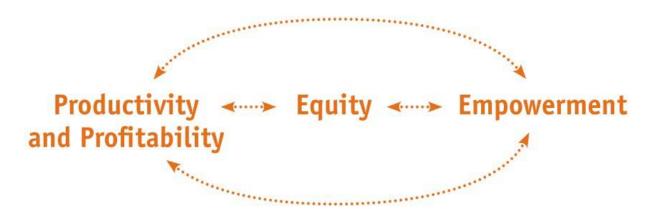




Objective 3: To contribute to the global discourse that surrounds women and agriculture

#### More Secure and Resilient Livelihoods

Food and Nutrition Security, Coping and Adapting Ability



#### 1 Capacity

CHAN

Knowledge, skills and relationships

Self-confidence and conviction of power

#### 2 Access

Access to productive resources, assets and markets appropriate and reliable services and input

## 3 Productivity

Improved yields and income through the adoption of sustainable agriculture and value addition

# Household Influence

GE.

CHANC

Contribution to and influence over income and decision-making

#### **Enabling Environment**

More positive and enabling attitudes, behaviors, social norms, policies and institutions

CHANGE LEVER

`[



## Pathways Approaches to Engaging Men and Boys

- Conscientization: Staff personal awareness-GED, Community Based Trainers and leaders
- Gender Dialogues & Relationship-Building
  - 5 themes integrated in FFBS: Gender discrimination in agriculture, Workload-sharing, Decision-making control, Communication and listening skills & Power
  - Market committees with women representation
- Mobilization and Advocacy
  - Land access-Community Leaders
  - Wage equality-Landlords
  - Male champions-spouses & community
  - Role modeling



**Gender and Nutrition role play-Malawi** 



## Some Achievements

# - Gender dialogues and relationship building

#### **Decision-making:**

- Household and agricultural production
- Cash-flow & Joint-budgeting

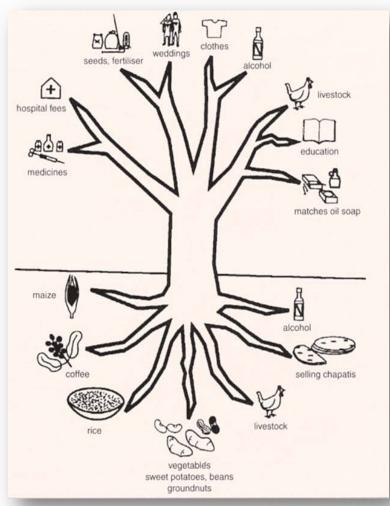
#### Workload-sharing:

- Work with men to normalize involvement in caregiving and workload sharing
- Continuous dialogues
- Tracking this in the PPT

#### **Relationship building:**

- Established direct relationships with male actors in the market
- Women taking leadership in 209 marketing committees-
- Numeracy and market skills- Record keeping & Cost-benefit analysis

#### The Cash Flow Tree





# Some Achievements -Mobilization and Advocacy

#### Land access, land rights & wage labor

- 3,760 hectares of land made accessible for
   4,954 producers from dialogues with
   traditional chiefs and authorities (male)
   -Focus on Land Africa (Ghana and Mali)
- Men co-lobby for 42% increase in women's daily wages (Bangladesh)

#### Male champions and role modeling

- Traditional & religious leaders
- Male champions & change agents at household and community levels
  - -Anecdotal evidence

"Straight after the training in the village, I committed to personally help her with carrying water for the household using a barrel, buckets, and my cart. I am currently the only man in my village who is doing this job, but I have no shame about doing this...I feel very proud of the support I'm giving my family." -- Ousmane Goulaka, Mali



# Reflections and considerations





#### Reflections and considerations

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Measuring changes gender and women's empowerment is an ongoing challenge
- Do not assume there will be backlash or resistance among men and boys
- Role modeling through male change agents and champions are particularly effective in catalyzing broader social change
- Role of community leaders as thought leaders and gatekeepers comes to the fore
- Many of the interventions rely on skilled facilitation of sensitive issues
- staff are not always equipped to deal with GBV issues (when there is backlash)-as a key implementation challenge.





# Thank you!



#### **Special thanks to contributors:**

Diana Wu, Emily Hillenbrand, Collen Smith, Feven Tessaw, Aynie Habtamu, Jean Nimubona, Abu Sufian, Sidonie Uwimpuhwe

