



Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) Research Brief

North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

Background

Violence against women is a pervasive problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where approximately 27% of women report experiencing sexual violence at some point in their lives, and 57% of women report experiencing emotional, physical, or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner at some point in their lives. To address this issue, the IRC has developed and implemented the Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP)¹ initiative which aims to engage men as agents of change in their communities to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) in North and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It specifically seeks to reduce all forms of violence that are perpetrated by men against women in humanitarian contexts through weekly discussion sessions with committed single sex groups of women and men that address harmful entrenched gender norms, discuss the types, causes and consequences of VAWG, explore understandings of masculinity, discuss healthy relationships and healthy communication strategies for men with their partners, and create positive male role models.

EMAP will be evaluated by the World Bank's Gender Innovation Lab, in partnership with the IRC

Objectives and Research Questions

We aim to measure the impact of the EMAP intervention on past year prevalence of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, as well as gender equity in the home and gender-equitable norms.

1. Examine whether there is a difference in women's self-reported experience of past year physical and sexual violence perpetrated by their male partner who receive the EMAP intervention versus those which do not;
2. Examine whether there is a difference in men's gender attitudes and behaviors, men's conflict and hostility management skills, and power sharing and couple communication skills, among men who receive the EMAP intervention versus those who do not;
3. Explore processes by which the intervention might produce change over time and how different aspects of context and sub-groups may affect scalability of the intervention;
4. Explore the diffusion of lessons between EMAP participants and close male family and friends.

Study Design

The study will be a two-armed, pair-matched, cluster randomized controlled trial. Clusters are communities receiving Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE) programming from the IRC in North and South Kivu, DRC. Thirty communities will be matched on socio-demographic characteristics and randomly selected to be an experimental community or control community. The 15 experimental communities will receive the EMAP intervention.

The intervention is a weekly discussion group series for up to 50 men per community, divided into two groups of 25 men. It follows a systematic approach over 16 weeks targeting harmful attitudes, behaviors, and gender norms to reduce violence against women. An eight-week discussion series with women's dialogue groups in the experimental communities precedes the men's dialogue groups and then continues

¹ EMAP is based on the IRC Men in Partnership program which was evaluated in Côte d'Ivoire. Find more information here: <http://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Mens-Engagement-Research-Brief-Jan-2014-Final.pdf>

on a monthly basis during the men's groups, so that women's voices will inform the content of the men's group sessions and continue to guide programming. The 15 control communities of men will receive an alternative non-gender related intervention during the 16 weekly sessions.

Data Collection

A mixed methods data collection approach will be used. Quantitative baseline and endline surveys will be given to all participating men (maximum n=1500) and their female partners (maximum n=1500). At endline, close friends and family members from the men's social networks will be interviewed with short surveys to assess diffusion of information (maximum n=2,250). Qualitative methods will include individual interviews and focus group discussions with male participants and their partners, program facilitators, and community leaders. Research activities will be complemented by robust process monitoring and a cost-effectiveness evaluation of the EMAP intervention will also be conducted.

Primary outcomes of the study include intimate partner violence and gender attitudes and behaviors

For More Information

Please contact the IRC DRC Women's Protection and Empowerment Program

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