

# Male Engagement Tool: Q&A Factsheet

What is the rationale behind the development of the Male Engagement Tool? And what is its significance for global health and development organizations?

Following a survey and follow-up interviews with numerous NGOs and academics the need for a harmonized tool documenting male engagement in women's and children's health was identified as a priority. This is not a new priority, but one that is inadequately understood and in need of a user friendly, harmonized tool that will allow for 1) improved documentation of male engagement behaviors, 2) impact evaluation of intervention programs, 3) comparison with other interventions, and 4) eventual validation of engagement behaviors in terms of their impact on health and well being outcomes of mothers and children.

How does the tool work and what exactly does it measure?

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Why is male engagement in women's and children's health important? And how does male engagement affect health?

It is generally agreed that male engagement has the potential to significantly improve health and quality of life outcomes within a family or community. This is particularly the case in societies where gender-based inequities in decision-making constrain women from accessing health services for themselves and their children. Engagement requires that men play an active role in protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of their partners and children, with activities such as promoting breastfeeding and encouraging access to health care services for antenatal care.

How can the tool be used in global health field research? And when would it be most useful?

The tool can assist with answering several research questions:

1. To what extent are men engaged in supportive behaviors?
2. Are male engagement intervention programs working in terms of behavior change?
3. What behaviors can be positively associated with improved health and well-being outcomes in women (mothers) and children?

How was the tool developed? What kind of research and testing informed its development?

The tool was developed based upon the following steps:

**Step 1:** A landscape literature review in PubMed and Google Scholar to identify peer reviewed articles addressing the measurement of male engagement was carried out.

**Step 2:** Specific indicators of male engagement were extracted from the articles and grouped initially grouped under 4 domains that had uniformly been identified by the authors of these articles.

**Step 3:** Each indicator was assessed for feasibility, acceptability, redundancy and content validity by the research team; eventually reducing the list to 22 indicators in the 3 mentioned domains.

**Step 4:** The tool was then shared with monitoring and evaluation experts who are members of the Canadian Partnership for Women's and Children's Health- Health Metrics Team. They were also asked to review the indicators for feasibility, acceptability, clarity, and content validity. Appropriate revisions were made and the final tool completed.

How do you expect this tool to influence programs that aim to improve male engagement and improve health outcomes more generally?

Multiple programs promote male engagement as a strategy to improve health outcomes among women and children. This tool documents a set of male behaviours indicators from the perspectives of male and female partners. This harmonized set of indicators allows for comparisons among programs as well as performance within individual projects.



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