ENGAGING MEN IN PREVENTION OF GBV
Manual on Male Engagement on Preventing GBV and Promoting Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

September 2022
Physical, sexual and/or emotional violence by husbands/partners

Total Ever-partnered Women (N=2,847)
Non violence group
N=1,945

Physical 2.2% (N=71)
Physical & Emotional 5.9% (N=188)
Physical, Emotional & Sexual 3.4% (N=96)
Physical & Sexual 0.1% (N=2)
Sexual 1.8% (N=58)
Emotional 15.0% (N=434)
Physical, Sexual and/or Emotional Violence: 30.3% (N=904)
➢ Engaging male village elders and authorities as allies to challenge rigid gender roles that perpetuate GBV and promote respectful relationships.

➢ Help men in communities at the village level recognise how their masculinity is a product of patriarchal social norms and how it impacts men and women differently.
Lao Women’s Union (LWU) and UNFPA developed a ‘Male Engagement Manual’, on engaging men in villages to champion the prevention of GBV, develop respectful relationships and promote sexual and reproductive health.

It covers:

- Key Concepts
- Gender Based Violence
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Community Engagement
- Training of ‘Master Trainers’ in 3 villages in Savannakhet province (Donxang, Pakka and Thaxano), reaching 150 men and women over 6 half-day sessions.

- The Master Trainers comprised of village Authorities, village elders and village health volunteers, selected by LWU village focal points.

- Finalisation of the Manual content, training methodologies, and streamlined for future scaling.
Lessons learned from pilot

- Target senior village authorities as master trainers to enable buy-in
- Strengthen inclusion with strong participation of women
- Develop participant handbook to ensure continuity of understanding concepts
Progress on roll out

- TOT to the “Master Trainers” of 3 additional villages in Savannakhet province to roll out the Male Engagement Manual in their villages over the next 3 months.

- From the TOT, there was an overall 36% increase in knowledge from participants/Master Trainers from pre/post test, and on the topic of GBV most of the participants demonstrated a significant increase of understanding of GBV after the training (48% increase in knowledge).

“Embodying positive masculinity means my family is happy, feels respected and we make decisions together. It also means I am a good role model to my son.”

- Mr Khamphane Singthavong
Master trainer from Xaybouy District, Savannakhet.
As a result of the Male Engagement Training in Thaxano Village, I see a huge difference in our community. There is no more violence in the family, and household chores are now evenly distributed between men and women, boys and girls.

- Mr Phisadarn Somchit
Master trainer from Thusano Village, Kaysone District, Savannakhet.
There is a new school opening in Thabangthong district, I will coordinate with the school to incorporate these lessons into the curriculum to reach adolescent boys, and also to provide counseling. I hope that the children in school will also share the lessons with children who are out of school. Because we have a lot of ethnic groups in our district, I will have a translator as well.

- Mrs Vannmany
  Master trainer from Thabangthong District, Savannakhet.
“Even as an educated person, some of these laws and regulations relating to women and girls are new to me. I went through all the laws and I will share this information in my village to let women and young girls know that these laws exist to protect them.”

- Mr Champanakhon
Master trainer from Kaysone District,
Savannakhet.
Impact

Short-term impact:
- increase in knowledge and understanding of men around GBV, respectful relationships and SRH.
- In villages where the Manual was implemented successfully, participants were able to clearly identify how they were going to integrate their learnings into everyday life.

These shifting attitudes and behaviors, woven into everyday community life, will be a platform for long-term impact by challenging harmful social and gender norms that perpetuate gender inequalities and GBV.