MenEngage recognizes that the Post-2015 Agenda must embrace a human rights-based approach, as championed by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and believes that meaningful citizen participation should be built into every stage of the Post-2015 process, from developing the agenda, to the implementation, all the way through the monitoring and evaluation.

MenEngage stands with UN Women and women’s rights NGOs in advocating for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights must be a cross-cutting issue in all other future development goals. To achieve gender equality it is essential to work with men and boys given that women’s and men’s lives are intertwined. Men have not only a responsibility to contribute to transforming oppressive gender systems, they will benefit from it as well.

Within the stand-alone gender equality and women’s empowerment goal, MenEngage strongly recommends to include the following three critical targets, accompanied by suggested indicators of work with men and boys:

1. Engage men and boys in preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV)
2. Commit men and boys to equal share in caregiving and household work
3. Engage men as supportive partners, clients and positive agents of change in sexual & reproductive health & rights and maternal, newborn & child health

These commitments build on the MenEngage Call to Action for the Post-2015 Agenda and on the MenCare+ oral statement delivered at the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58).

1. **SUGGESTED TARGET:**

   **ENGAGE MEN AND BOYS IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)**

   Evidence shows that men perpetuate the majority of GBV. This is not because of an innate drive to do so; on the contrary. Rigid gender norms socialize men to respond to conflicts with violence, to abuse alcohol and drugs, and to dominate their partners. Studies reveal that the strongest factor associated with men’s use of violence against women and girls is having witnessed their own fathers using violence. It is essential to work with men and boys to transform social norms perpetuating GBV, including understanding and addressing root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls, sexual minorities and non-gender conforming people, and promoting alternative role models for boys.

   MenEngage strongly recommends including a focus on engaging men and boys as strategic partners, allies and as potential victims, within a target on preventing and eliminating GBV, to effectively enable structural change, awareness and behaviour change.

   **SUGGESTED INDICATORS:**
   - Rate of men who condemn rape supportive attitudes
   - Rate of men who know about existing GBV laws
   - Rate of men who support existing GBV laws
   - Rate of men seeking help to change violent behaviour
   - Number of national, regional, and global policies that defines gender-based violence using gender neutral language
   - Number of national, regional, and global policies that clearly seek to engage men and boys for gender equality
2. SUGGESTED TARGET:
COMMIT MEN AND BOYS TO EQUAL SHARE IN CAREGIVING AND HOUSEHOLD WORK

Involved fatherhood, and more generally, men’s contribution to caregiving and unpaid domestic work, provides a tangible opportunity to improve gender equality. Women and girls carry out a disproportionate share of care-related activities worldwide, including domestic work and childcare, thus limiting their potential to earn income, and perpetuating income and social inequalities between men and women.

Encouraging men’s participation in care work contributes to the perception of caregiving as a shared responsibility. When fathers are involved with their children at an early stage, preferably from conception, there is a higher likelihood that they will remain connected to their children throughout their lives. Men can then contribute to care work and household finances over the lifetime of the child, instead of leaving these responsibilities to the mother or other female caregiver alone.

MenEngage strongly recommends a target that encourages men’s greater contribution to caregiving, and equal, non-transferable, paid parental leave and other forms of state support for the care of children.

SUGGESTED INDICATORS:
- Number of children with paternal registration at birth
- Number of weekly hours men spend providing care for children and others
- Number of countries with paternity and maternity leave
- Number of men compliant with state regulations related to child support
- Number of children under five with access to quality state-supported childcare

3. SUGGESTED TARGET:
ENGAGE MEN AS SUPPORTIVE PARTNERS, CLIENTS AND POSITIVE AGENTS OF CHANGE IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) AND MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (MNCH)

Throughout the world, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is largely considered the sole responsibility of women while many men continue to neglect the SRHR needs and responsibilities of themselves, their partners, and their families. Evidence shows that men’s lower utilization of SRH services, like HIV testing and treatment, is a result of both rigid gender norms as well as structural barriers such as clinics that are ill-prepared to address male-specific health issues.

This means that not only are women and girls left to bear much of the burden of their own and their families’ SRHR, but men’s lack of involvement in SRH also places expensive and unnecessary burdens on health systems. Interventions with men and boys on SRH have been shown to effectively increase men’s utilization of services, as well as support and respect for their partner’s SRHR, which in turn improves the health of women, children and men themselves.

MenEngage therefore strongly recommends a target that encourages positive male involvement in SRHR, as clients, supportive partners, and positive agents of change in their communities speaking up on behalf of women’s sexual and reproductive health and their sexual and reproductive rights. This includes family planning and pregnancy prevention, the prevention and treatment of STIs, the roll-out of new HIV prevention technologies, as well as prenatal and antenatal maternal health, including preventing parent-to-child transmission of HIV. This target should be included within either the goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment or the proposed health goal.

SUGGESTED INDICATORS:
- Number of men who visited health clinics in the past 12 months
- Number of men who sought testing for HIV
- Number of men who seek STI testing as a preventive sexual health service, and number of men who test negative for STIs
- Number of men who seek and support access to HIV treatment and prevention services
- Number of men who access and support vasectomy as an option of family planning for men who no longer want additional children
- Number of men who support their partners’ contraceptive use
- Number of men who view contraceptive use as a joint responsibility
- Number of men who accompany their partners to a prenatal visit
- % of contraceptive use that are male methods

1 Available at: www.menengage.org
2 Available at: http://www.rutgerswpf.org/sites/default/files/web_MenCare+__CSW%20statement.pdf
3 As agreed by Member States at CSW58, 10-21 March 2014, see para 42 A(e), p. 10 in the Agreed Conclusions.
4 As supported by ICDD, see ‘Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD Beyond 2014’ (unedited version, updated March 2014), p. 45. This Framework also cites a study showing that African CSOs view ‘gender norms and male engagement’ as the one top priority issue for public policy for the next 5 to 10 years, see p. 41
5 CSW58 Agreed Conclusions, para. 42 A (d), p. 10 and A(gg), p. 15. This is also supported by ICDD, see the 2014 Framework above, p. 31