



**MenEngage Alliance**

working with men and boys for gender equality

**MenEngage Global Alliance**  
**2018 ANNUAL REPORT TO SIDA**  
**MenEngage Alliance Strategic Plan 2017-2020**

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## Glossary

This glossary provides brief descriptions of how MenEngage Alliance understands and applies the concepts that are at the core of our Vision and Mission and understanding of qualitative work on men and masculinities within women's rights, SRHR and gender justice for all:

### **TRANSFORM AND END PATRIARCHY**

We seek to engage men and boys, along with women, girls and people of diverse gender identities, to redress structural power imbalances and inequalities, male domination and their manifestations upheld by systemic male supremacy ideologies, and to reform such dualistic and sexist gender orders.

### **TRANSFORM MASCULINITIES**

We seek to destabilize stereotypical male gender roles and hegemonic expressions of manhood, and support manifestations of non-violent, equitable and inclusive notions of manhood, by changing social norms that shape boys' and men's behavior.

### **ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS**

We seek to work with men and boys to encourage their active involvement in ending gender inequalities, advancing women's rights and transforming masculinities as allies with women, girls and people of diverse gender identities. Recognizing that some men and boys question the harmful notions of manhood and the privileges that society grants them, we provide them with ways to take transformative action. We work with men in power in all spheres of society to promote progressive policies and institutional practices in favor of women's rights and gender justice.

### **GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES**

Policies, processes and strategies that seek to critically reflect on and transform social norms and institutional practices that create and reinforce gender inequalities. Gender transformative approaches do not view the engagement of men and boys as an end in itself, rather as a means to transform social norms and gender power relations at their roots. Gender transformative approaches are part of a 'gender integration continuum' that classifies interventions as gender exploitative,

gender neutral, gender sensitive or gender transformative. MenEngage seeks to support the increased uptake of gender transformative approaches with men and boys through the work of the Alliance.

### **INTERSECTIONALITY**

We acknowledge that oppressive institutions (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, classism, etc.) are interconnected and cannot be examined separately from one another. This interplay of multiple identities can increase vulnerability and inequalities in privilege and power, and further entrench inequalities and injustice. We seek to contribute to an intersectional understanding of men and boys' roles and responsibilities and enhance an intersectional perspective in the work of the Alliance and its members.

### **FEMINIST APPROACH**

We acknowledge that we build on the heritage of feminist women's rights organizations and movements and ground our work firmly in feminist principles. We seek to strengthen our work by embracing a women's rights perspective and feminist analysis, including placing inequalities in privilege and power that result from patriarchy at the heart of our work with men and boys. We commit to listening to and being accountable to women's rights voices; and to institutionalizing democratic and inclusive decision-making processes within the Alliance.

### **WORKING AS ALLIES WITH WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS**

We are committed to working as allies, and to fostering healthy relationships, with women and women's rights organizations, movements and networks. Our aim is to achieve equity and equality for women and girls, and justice for all, as a political act to strengthen the collective

struggle for human rights and social, economic and environmental justice.

#### **ENABLING SPACES FOR DIALOGUE AND JOINT ACTION**

MenEngage Alliance engages in strengthening partnerships, networks and alliances. We work 'GLOCAL': where ideas from the local to the global are jointly identified, shared, negotiated, changed, and disseminated.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS**

We seek to foster concrete and equal associations and collaborations with various actors and agencies in the field of social justice, including: women's rights; gender and social justice; climate justice; child rights; youth empowerment and rights; sexual and reproductive health rights; civil and political rights; indigenous population rights; and human rights.

The following terminology is used to refer to specific entities within MenEngage Alliance:

**MenEngage Alliance**, or *the Alliance*, refers to the collective of entities that constitute the international network: the MenEngage Global Alliance, Global Secretariat, Regional and country Networks, members, and partners. The term is distinct from *MenEngage Global Alliance* which supports this network to achieve its full potential.

**MenEngage Global Alliance** refers to the non-profit organization which serves as the implementing entity of the Alliance's global strategy and annual plans, responsible for anchoring the work of the Alliance and supporting its members' activities. MenEngage Global Alliance is registered in Washington DC, USA as a 501(c)3, non-profit, organization.

**MenEngage Global Board**, or the *Board*, refers to the Board of Directors that is responsible for the governance of the Alliance at the global level, including oversight of programs and finances, and for carrying out fundraising for the organization. The Board consists of representatives from the Alliance's regional networks and international at-large member organizations.

**MenEngage Global Secretariat**, or *Global Secretariat (GS)*, refers to the executive body of the MenEngage Global Alliance. It is composed of full-time staff who are responsible for the implementation of the MenEngage Global Alliance's strategic priorities, carrying out fundraising for the organization (supported by the Board), and managing the budget.

## 2018 at a glance

### January

- Annual team plan finalization

### February

- MenEngage Europe meeting and EIGE civil society consultation in Vilnius, Lithuania

### March

- CSW63, New York, USA
- CSW Youth Dialogue, New York, USA
- CEDAW Committee briefing, Geneva, Switzerland

### April

- MenEngage Africa Symposium, Maputo, Mozambique
- Youth Forum at MenEngage Africa Symposium, Maputo, Mozambique
- NAMEN strategic planning meeting, Boston, USA

### May

- The Stockholm Forum on Gender, Stockholm, Sweden
- Webinar 'Exploring Interlinkages: Women Peace & Security, Militarism & Masculinities'
- Launched new, regular e-newsletter aimed at keeping members and partners informed about work across the Alliance, and updates from the Board and GS
- Accountability Session at Dutch Ministry FLOW Conference

### June

- 38th session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland
- IMAGINE conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Gender360 Summit: Positive Girl and Boy Development, Washington DC, 11-12 June
- MenCare Policy Change Webinar, 12 June
- NAMEN Community of Practice Series on #MeToo
- International Conference on Engaging Men and Boys, Basel, Switzerland
- European Development Days, Brussels, Belgium

### July

- Meeting with UN Women's New Deputy Executive Director, New York, USA

### August

- MenEngage Alliance Global Board and strategy meeting, Santiago, Chile

### October

- Prevention+ mid-term review, Uganda
- MenEngage Alliance Uganda/Prevention+ advocacy and accountability capacity building
- MenEngage Europe membership meeting, Vienna, Austria
- MenEngage Lebanon meeting and launch of network, Beirut, Lebanon
- Global Symposium planning meeting in Lebanon

- UN Women MENA regional learning exchange meeting, Amman, Jordan

#### **November**

- MenEngage Africa MATI training course, Pretoria, South Africa
- Accountability Workshop for MenEngage Africa Leadership, Pretoria, South Africa
- MenEngage Latin America strategic planning meeting, Santiago, Chile
- MenEngage Global Campaign to promote accountability, during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

#### **December**

- Team Annual Planning and strategizing meeting, Washington DC, USA
- USIP event on Militarization and Masculinities, Washington DC, USA
- MenEngage South Asia strategic planning meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal
- MenEngage Global Symposium Planning meeting with ABAAD

## Introduction

2018 was a year of opposing trends - both progress and resistance - for women's human rights globally. The year witnessed unprecedented and widespread grassroots feminist mobilization and movement building around the world, particularly among young people who are raising their voices to protect their rights. The momentum provided by the #MeToo movement remained strong throughout the year and spread to diverse contexts around the world. The movement resulted in men in power positions being held accountable for their actions, shattered long-standing walls of silence around sexual misconduct, and illuminated a culture of complicity running through all levels of society. This has led to continued public debate around these key issues, and to many men and boys questioning their behavior and privileges. For the 'engaging men and boys' field, this has provided an invaluable opportunity to shift the focus away from the behaviors of individual men and towards a critical reflection on the structural systems, cultural factors, and individual attitudes that lead to those behaviors and allow sexual harassment to happen and go unchecked in the first place.

2018 saw some remarkable political milestones internationally in the advancement on women's empowerment and human rights of all women and girls. Two leaders [Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege were awarded Noble Peace Prize](#) for their work to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict, thus validated the work of many women's rights organizations in supporting the survivors of sexual violence and advocating for political change for decades. In Ireland, the voters struck down a draconian ban on abortion during a referendum on eighth amendment and president signed the abortion referendum bill. In South Asia, the Supreme Court in India unanimously struck down a colonial-era ban on gay sex, which didn't just use a universal standard of human rights to decriminalize homosexuality but also acknowledged the responsibility of the state to help end the stigma attached to being LGBT. In Africa, Ethiopia made a promising turn around with the gender-balanced cabinet under the leadership of the new prime minister, who made public commitment to ensure 50 percent of his cabinet with female ministers. In Europe, Iceland led the way by enforcing its historical obligatory "[Equal Pay Certification](#)", thus becoming the first country in the world to legally prohibiting discriminatory practices based on gender and requiring that women and men working for the same employer shall be paid equal wages and enjoy equal terms of employment for the same jobs or jobs of equal value.

On the other hand, 2018 saw growing resistance from conservative forces and religious forces seeking to undermine progress on women's rights worldwide. Countries across the world regions are seeing the rise of right-wing, regressive governments and autocratic, 'strong-man' leaders who are anti-women's rights and dispute the concepts of gender and feminism. Efforts to chip away hard-fought gains in SRHR from all of us, and particularly from women and girls, continued to succeed throughout the world and restrictions and violence on civil society actors and human rights defenders increased.

Against this background, MenEngage Alliance began the full implementation of our strategic plan 2017-2020 in 2018, making considerable progress towards our desired objectives. We strengthened efforts to politicize our agenda, and throughout our core strategies promoted works on 'transforming masculinities and engaging boys and men in gender equality' that is gender transformative, human rights based, informed by feminist principles and accountable to all women, girls and other marginalized groups. We organized our work around five areas where we aim to make a significant contribution as a network, through our community of practice approach:

**1. Network-building and Capacity Strengthening:** An emerging insight from the last period is that MenEngage Alliance forms a platform for members and partners at all levels - country, regional, cross-regional and global - to come together and exchange, discuss, reflect and inspire each other. Our

added value is in creating spaces that facilitate deepened understanding on the work around ‘transforming masculinities and engaging boys and men in gender equality’ and connections, and new or improved ways of working, that each participating activist and organization can take with them. In 2018, the Global Secretariat (GS) supported in the implementation of our regional networks’ strategies and work plans and created opportunities to work together cross-regionally. This year also saw the emergence of several new country and sub-regional networks. MenEngage Alliance facilitated the capacity building of members and partners on gender transformative work with men and boys through the organization and participation in a range of regional and civil society fora such as the MenEngage Africa [MenEngage Africa Symposium](#), [Gender360 Summit](#), [the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality](#) and the [5th International Conference on Family Planning](#). Preparations also began for the 3<sup>rd</sup> MenEngage Global Symposium to be held in 2020.

MenEngage Alliance also advanced a number of thematic working groups and projects in 2018. We continued to serve as a collaborating partner for the [Prevention+ project](#) on gender-based violence, as well as the [MenCare-A Global Fatherhood Campaign](#). The two learning circles, on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, and on Peace, Security and Militarism, continued to convene and strengthen understanding among members and partners on these emerging focus areas for the Alliance. A key development this year was launching a two-year project on sexual and reproductive health and rights, ‘MenEngage for SRHR’. This project aims to challenging stigma, discrimination, attitudes and laws that limit the ability of all people to enjoy their SRHR, and focuses on strengthening the interconnectivity, capacities and engagement of MenEngage Alliance members’ and partners around SRHR.

**2. Joint Advocacy:** In 2018, the collective voice of MenEngage Alliance in global policy advocacy has become increasingly political, visible, organized and influential. MenEngage Alliance further consolidated its efforts in strategic, interconnected advocacy strategy to promote women’s human rights globally through the promotion of gender transformative work with men and boys. Connecting high-level political advocacy work with regional priorities and ensuring ownership of issues and action at local level, was identified as a key need for the maturation of the Alliance’s interconnected advocacy work. Members from across the Alliance bridged this gap in 2018 through the formation of an Advocacy Working Group. The group links local and regional advocacy efforts towards a unified, multi-level and cross-regional joint advocacy structure, with the potential of intervening at various levels. A specific focus this year has been on strengthening the capacities of our members to carry out advocacy in international policy spaces in an effective and accountable way.

The Alliance participated in a number of key international policy spaces, amplifying the work and voices of our members and advocating for key feminist asks. The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva has become a key focus for the Alliance, as we continued to build momentum in this space around [Resolution 35/10](#) and the subsequent report produced by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Alliance also organized, together with its members, a meeting with the CEDAW committee on engaging men and boys to achieve their mandates and advanced a partnership with the committee to be further developed in coming years. We provided strategic inputs and support to policymakers on range of national and international policies related to the engagement of men and boys for gender equality and built relationships with key allied governments in this agenda, especially to Sweden, Canada and Netherlands. Other partnerships with UN agencies were strengthened, such as with UN women and UNDP, and we continued to build relationships with feminist civil society allies.

**3. Communications and Knowledge Management:** With a new Communication Coordinator onboard, the Alliance was able to advance considerably with its communications plans in 2018. Key projects were realized including a new regular global newsletter, redesign and development of key marketing and information materials such as the MenEngage Alliance brochure, a dedicated campaign to

promote accountability around the network, initiation of a Global Communications Working Group, and laying the foundations for a comprehensive redevelopment of the website and online community-building tools. The Alliance also advanced in developing a number of videos and case studies showcasing our members work. In order to ensure these efforts met the communications needs of our members, the Alliance undertook a members' survey, interviews and focus groups of members, plus a review of strategic documents, as part of a digital needs assessment which served as the basis for its communications activities.

**4. Accountability and Partnerships:** This year the Global Secretariat promoted or co-organized a series of events that placed front and center the importance of accountability issues in the work on 'transforming masculinities and engaging boys and men in gender equality' and identified the required course of action in order to "practice what we preach". Some of these events were framed as capacity building initiatives and others as critical dialogues. We put the focus on the Alliance itself, by organizing a critical dialogue during 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) that created a safe space to openly discuss the concerns that feminist women's rights groups have towards both the Alliance as well as the 'men and masculinities' field. We also held various capacity building sessions on 'strengthening accountable practices' with our members and partners, including the Global Board, Prevention+ partners, MenEngage Uganda, MenEngage Europe and MenEngage Africa. The Alliance initiated listening rounds with various women's rights activists/leaders and networks on the concerns they have around the work on 'engaging boys and men' as well as the Alliance. With the insights and lessons, we developed a campaign on accountability issues during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, sharing key messages and resources on accountability. A key learning from these activities in 2018 is the realization of the need to update our code of conduct, core principles, Accountability Standards and Guidelines as well as our Accountability Training toolkit through a participatory process in line with the most up-to-date discourse and understanding in the field.

**5. Institutional Strengthening:** The Alliance finalized its Theory of Change in 2018, outlining the transformation the Alliance is working towards in the world, how different elements of the network (as a social justice network) contribute to this change and some underlying assumptions about the way the Alliance works. We initiated the development of a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in order to effectively measure our impact. A key lesson learned in 2018, following a number of high-profile cases of sexual misconduct that came to light against international non-governmental organizations as well as UN agencies was the acknowledgment that sexual misconduct and harassment happens within our circles and that many Alliance members may not be well prepared or lack appropriate tools to be able to prevent and respond to it in an effective, ethical and accountable manner. A process was initiated to develop a comprehensive sexual harassment and misconduct policy, with aims to prevent harm, promote healthy practices, end any potential systems of impunity within the Alliance, foster zero tolerance for sexual misconduct and harassment, and ensure accountable practices to survivors and people affected by sexual misconduct.

## Report from the Global Secretariat

This section of the report will provide a detailed description of how MenEngage Global Alliance used its resources in 2018, to contribute to its **Goal by 2020** *“increased support, uptake and implementation of feminist-informed gender transformative approaches on men’s and boys’ roles, attitudes and responsibilities - related to SRHR including HIV/AIDS, GBV, and gender equality - among key stakeholders in the gender justice and human rights field”*.

The **Impact** the Alliance aspires to by 2020 is *“to contribute to improved access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), reduced vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, reduced gender-based violence and discrimination, just redistribution of unpaid care, and a stronger women, peace and security agenda, by strengthening efforts aiming to change discriminatory norms related to men’s and boy’s attitudes, responsibilities and roles, at country, regional and global levels”*.<sup>1</sup>

To contribute to these changes, our **Mission statement** guides our work at all levels:

**MenEngage Global Alliance works to transform unequal power relations and patriarchal systems by:**

- = **Transforming masculinities;**
- = **Working with men and boys through intersectional feminist approaches;**
- = **Building inclusive Alliances from local to regional to global levels; and**
- = **Fostering joint actions in partnership with women’s rights, gender- and other social justice movements.**

See the glossary section for the value clarification of how we understand these and other theoretical and political concepts that we place central in our work on men and masculinities towards women’s rights, SRHR and gender justice for all.

Through our five result areas, MenEngage Alliance believes we contribute meaningfully to these changes. Throughout this report, we reflect on the progress made towards each result area and outcome and elaborate in detail on the outputs and activities in those five result areas.

### **Result Area 1: Networks Building and Capacity Strengthening**

*The MenEngage Community of Practice is capable, inclusive, connected, mobilized and amplifies local, country and regional work on engaging men and boys in gender transformative approaches, thereby contributing to SRHR for all, women’s rights and gender justice, GBV prevention, redistribution of unpaid care, peace and security.*

In 2018, MenEngage Alliance dedicated its time and resources to foster its vision towards the Alliance being an active and inclusive Community of Practice of civil society activists and organizations, that is capable, inclusive, connected, mobilized and amplifies local, country and regional work on engaging men and boys through gender transformative approaches. Building on the insights from the previous years, MenEngage Alliance continued to facilitate platforms for members and partners at all levels - country, regional, cross-regional and global - to come together and exchange, discuss, reflect and inspire each other on the critical areas of work in the area or focus on ‘men and masculinities’. Through its current 6 regional and 44 country networks and priority issues, the Alliance continued

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<sup>1</sup> MenEngage Global Alliance Strategic Plan 2017-20

strengthening capacities of its members and partners, through facilitating virtual and in-person exchange, organizing mutual learning opportunities, and inspiring joint actions, at country, regional and international levels.

With the kick off of the implementation of the plan of our regional networks, we have come to realize the importance of the importance of interconnecting various experiences, learning and challenges around the work of ‘engaging boys and men in gender equality and transforming masculinities’ across various contexts. We have come to understand the importance of ensuring that the dedicated focus of MenEngage Global Alliance to dedicate its support to the regional and country networks in spending quality time in strengthening their collective capacity and in creating spaces that facilitate deepened understanding and connections, and new or improved ways of working, that each participating activist and organization can take with them.

### Outcome 1: Capacity strengthening

*MenEngage Alliance members have strengthened capacities to coordinate and implement collective efforts among themselves and with the broader field for women’s rights and gender justice to transform masculinities and engage men and boys on issues related to SRHR incl. HIV/AIDS, GBV, and gender equality*

Outcome indicators:

- % increase in regional networks having quality strategies & work-plans in place and implemented in the countries and regions where MenEngage Alliance is present by 2020.
- % increase in and quality of individual and collective programs and actions on engaging boys and men among members and partners in the countries and regions where MenEngage Alliance is present by 2020.
- % increase in new networks and members by 2020.
- # and quality of dialogue spaces organized to review and strategize on the work around “men and masculinities” with women’s rights and gender justice actors at country, regional and global level by 2020.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Report 2018</b>
<b>Output 1.1)</b> Strength assessments and work plans developed by MenEngage regional networks	# of MenEngage regional networks undertaking capacity and strength assessment and work-plan development in 2017	4 regional networks’ strategic planning meetings with participation of 88 members 1 country network’s strength assessment and work plan development with participation of 32 members 2 regional strength assessments completed (Latin America and North America) 5 subgrants managed 5 strategic and work plans developed
	1 Network Building toolkit developed in 2017	n/a
	% increase in MenEngage membership at country, regional and global levels. <i>Target: 5%</i>	3 new country networks (2 Africa, 1 Lebanon) 1 sub-regional network in Europe 2 new members in Australia

<b>Output 1.2)</b> Joint capacity strengthening and advocacy activities organized by MenEngage regional and country networks	# of meetings, workshops, trainings organized per year among the global, regional and country MenEngage networks by 2020 <i>Baseline: 0 → Target: 6</i>	
	# of members participating in capacity strengthening initiatives by 2020 <i>Baseline: 0 → Target: 350</i>	
	# of thematic working groups work plans developed and implemented by 2020	3 plans (SRHR/SOGI/Militarism)
	# of campaigns developed, adapted and implemented at global, regional and country levels by 2020	3: 1 accountability campaign during 16-days 1 child marriage in Africa 1 EkSaath in India
	# of people outreached by MenEngage campaigns by 2020	
<b>Output 1.3)</b> The MenEngage Regional Networks Working Group and virtual platforms are activated and functional	1 Regional Networks Working Group in place and functioning by 2020	1 RNWG in place
	# of calls, visits and activities organized in support of the regional networks by 2020	6 visits [2 Africa, 1 Europe, 1 Latin America, 1 Lebanon, 1 South Asia] 16 calls [4 calls with South Asia, 3 Lebanon, 2 Latin America, 2 Africa, 3 Caribbean, 1 Europe, 1 North America]
	1 MenEngage Alliance online membership community in place and used by 2020	
	# of webinars and e-dialogues organized by 2020	4 webinars - 2 Militarism - 1 SOGI - 1 MenCare
	# of users and attendants of virtual platforms by 2020	55
<b>Output 1.4)</b> Symposia, colloquia and seminars organized with MenEngage members and partners at global, regional and country levels	# of global, regional and national colloquiums or symposiums organized by the MenEngage Alliance members and networks by 2020	1 symposium in Africa 1 MATI course in Africa
	# of contextualized Platforms for Action developed by 2020	1 MenEngage Africa Symposium
	# attendants and diversity in constituency and location by 2020	300 [Africa symposium] +

## Output 1.1 Strength assessments and work plans

### *Strength assessments and work plans developed by MenEngage regional networks*

Building on the process started in 2017, all six regional networks<sup>2</sup> developed and finalized their strategic and annual plans for the implementation of collective efforts on gender transformative approaches to engaging boys and men in gender equality. In 2018, the GS supported in the implementation of regional strategies and work plans and created opportunities to work together cross-regionally, in order to strengthen gender transformative work with men and boys around sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's rights and gender equality, unpaid care work and HIV/Aids. In addition, the Global Secretariat worked closely with ABAAD to conduct a strength assessment and work plan for the newly relaunched network in Lebanon. This has now set the stage to initiate network-building processes in several other countries in the MENA region.

This progress with the regional networks has provided us the opportunity to better understand approaches to contextualizing the Alliance's collective vision, mission, guiding principles, priority issues and core strategies at the regional as well as country level. The strength assessment approach has inspired the regional networks to use the approach to strengthen country and/or sub-regional networks, especially in Africa, Latin America and South Asia. MenEngage Africa has included the strength assessment approach in their next strategic plan, creating spaces to further strengthen the country networks in the African continent. In Latin America, the regional network was able to support its country networks to conduct some collective activities, through the sub-grants they received from the MenEngage Global Secretariat.

#### Sub grants management

In 2018, the Global Secretariat provided sub-grants to five regional networks for the implementation of their regional strategic and work plans. Due to some challenges with Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN), the Caribbean region was not able to receive a sub-grant. Jointly the CariMAN leadership and Global Secretariat agreed to have Grenada Conservation Fund - the chair of CariMAN - take on the interim secretariat role and facilitate accessing the subgrant to implement CariMAN's 3-year work-plan that was developed in 2017. The Global Secretariat will sign an agreement with Grenada Conservation Fund in early 2019 and work with CariMAN leadership on strengthening their institutional set up.

#### New and emerging networks

In 2018, MenEngage Alliance experienced the expansion of new country and sub-regional networks in its existing regions as well as in two additional new regions. An exciting development has been the official launch of the country network in Lebanon during a meeting in Beirut in October 2018, under the coordination of ABAAD, becoming the first country network in the MENA region (*see more in the MENA regional section*). In addition, initiated by partners in Australia, in 2018 MenEngage Alliance expanded its presence in Australia with 2 new members. The Global Secretariat will closely work with them to explore further possibilities of networks development, including by providing support with the organization of consultations with various stakeholders and the network development process.

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<sup>2</sup> MenEngage Alliance has 6 regional networks in Africa, Caribbean, Europe, Latin American, North America and South Asia. Each regions have decentralised structures in place, including country networks in 4 out of 6 regional networks.

Sparked by conversations at the MenEngage Europe membership meeting in Vienna, Austria the members of European network from Spain and Portugal decided to initiate the process of creating a sub-regional network “*MenEngage Iberia*” (see more in the *MenEngage Europe regional section*). In addition, the two regional networks in Africa and South Asia experienced expansion with 3 (2 and 1 respectively) new country networks and 1 possible new network in South Asia. With this expansion the African network has now expanded its presence to 23 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and the South Asian network to 6 South Asian countries. The Global Secretariat will continue working with the regional networks to strengthen these developments at the country and regional levels.

#### Network Building Toolkit

The MenEngage [Network Building Toolkit](#) has been in use among the regional networks and colleagues as a resource for these developments, including as a key document in the induction package for MenEngage Africa and as a guiding tool for the building of new networks in South Asia and Australia.

## **Output 1.2 Capacity strengthening and advocacy activities**

*Joint capacity strengthening and advocacy activities organized by MenEngage Alliance at country and regional levels.*

#### MenEngage Global Alliance Strategy Meeting

The MenEngage Strategy Meeting “*Working Together to Make Difference: MenEngage in Practice*” served as an important step to strengthen collective understanding among the Alliance’s leadership on the value addition that the Alliance brings to the women’s rights and gender equality field, through its interconnected strategy which emphasizes feminist informed, human rights-based and gender transformative approaches to engaging men and boys in gender equality. During the period of 28-30 August, 31 representatives of the Board of MenEngage Global Alliance, regional networks and the Global Secretariat from 20 countries and 7 regions came together in Santiago, Chile for the first ever extended MenEngage Alliance Global strategy meeting. Over the course of three days, participants shared their experiences from diverse contexts, discussed the state of the ‘men and masculinities’ field, and strategized on how the Alliance can collectively work to advance its mission to dismantle patriarchy by transforming masculinities through intersectional feminist approaches and in partnership with women’s rights and social justice movements.

Participants discussed key issues that regional and country networks struggle with and shared ideas on how to resolve them. The meeting contributed in further clarifying and strategies on politicizing the Alliance’s agenda and strengthen its advocacy capacity and engagement at all levels of the network. A number of challenging or ‘sticky issues’ views were discussed, such as the space for addressing men’s vulnerabilities within the Alliance and how to react to current trends such as the #MeToo movement and increasing conservative backlash. The meeting was wrapped up with a strategy session on mobilizing the network towards the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium in 2020 and resulted in further clarifying the steps towards preparing for the symposium.

#### Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality, Stockholm, Sweden

20 MenEngage Alliance members from across the world attended the [Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality](#) in April which tackled critical issues and sought common solutions to advance women’s and girl’s human rights. MenEngage Alliance, MÄN and partners, invited by Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sida, organized a session “[Working with men and boys for gender justice: How do we generate change?](#)”, that resulted in a critical conversation and debate on how work on engaging men and boys can be transformative and avoid the risk of reinforcing gender injustice. This interactive

session opened with a diverse spectrum of contributions from MenEngage Alliance members from India, Russia, Chile and Sweden.

In addition, Promundo US and Sonke Gender Justice-MenCare Campaign co-coordinators and MenEngage Alliance board members- organized a session “[Achieving Equality in Unpaid Care: How to Engage Men as Equitable, Non-violent Caregivers](#)”. MenCare partners from across Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America presented about their programs and campaigns, and carved out strategic ways forward to engaging men as equitable and non-violent caregivers, as a key strategy to advance gender equality and justice.

#### “Outside the Box”: A Capacity Development Manual for MENA region

ABAAD, the coordinator of MenEngage Lebanon, and with technical support from MenEngage Global Alliance and Promundo, developed a capacity development manual “[Outside the Box](#)” for UN Women Arab Regional Office’s program “[Engaging Men and Women for Gender Equality](#)”. ABAAD provided technical support in most of the capacity development workshops and mentoring support to UN Women’s local partner CBOs on men and masculinities issues. The manual, the first ever contextualized and culturally validated tool in the MENA region on men and masculinities, consolidates the experiences and skills that ABAAD accumulated throughout the regional trainings into a tool that provides the required information for skilled trainers to conduct/facilitate trainings on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in gender equality.

#### Technical support to Fatherhood 2.0 project

Following on from the technical support to Promundo US and South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM) in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 2017, Global Secretariat staff continued with distant technical support in 2018 to the “Fatherhood 2.0” project that aimed to [engage Bhutanese, Burmese, and Nepalese refugee and immigrant fathers in the United States](#). Fatherhood 2.0 was implemented in 2018, and became successful intervention to address harmful norms, societal expectations, and transforming patriarchal masculinities, in order to contribute to the prevention of intimate partner violence within the focused population.

#### Capacity Strengthening on Workplace, Gender Parity and Role of UN Leaders

Sonke Gender Justice and the Global Secretariat, in partnership with UN Women, jointly facilitated a capacity strengthening session at the annual leadership meeting of [United Nations Department of Safety and Security](#) (UNDSS), comprising of around 95 leaders of the agency, out of which 85% were male, including Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security Mr. Peter Drennan and Nóirín O’Sullivan respectively. The session created a space for open conversations on issues of [gender equality](#), roles and responsibilities of male leadership in transforming the internal culture of UN agencies and more specifically in relation to the UNSG’s agency wide initiative on gender parity. The session created a safe space for in-depth self-reflections on personal attitudes and biases, organizational work culture and their roles in transforming unhealthy practices. The session resulted in some heated conversations around sexual harassment and workplace culture among the participants.

This partnership with UN Women has led to other conversations on possible collaborations between UN Women and MenEngage Alliance to initiate similar sensitization sessions for the UN Interagency gender focal persons on issues of transforming masculinities and engaging men in gender equality. MenEngage Alliance and UN Women will have follow-up meetings in early 2019 to further discuss this capacity development and strengthening partnership, including on the agenda of [gender parity in the United Nations](#) at country, regional and international levels.

## Thematic Working Groups

Global Secretariat, MenEngage Alliance continued its collective efforts with its thematic working group to strengthen understanding, knowledge and community of practice approach within the Alliance.

### Gender-based Violence (Prevention+ program)

MenEngage Alliance continued playing lead role in advancing advocacy efforts and promoting accountable practices -at all levels, during 2018, within the Prevention+ program - a five-year program implemented across five countries (Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Rwanda and Uganda), which works to address the root causes of gender-based violence through the engagement of men and boys across the socio-ecological model.

In 2018, MenEngage Alliance served as the Chair of the program's Advocacy Working Group (AWG), successfully mobilizing the Prevention+ country and consortium partners to come together at 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), to continue building momentum around key processes started by the adoption of [HRC Resolution 35/10](#). Notably, the collective organized a side event to promote the Resolution and the corresponding Report developed by OHCHR, highlighting promising practices, examples and lessons learnt on engaging men and boys in violence prevention and response, co-sponsored by the Government of Canada, the OHCHR, and the Ministry of Health/Government of Uganda. MenEngage Alliance alongside the AWG organized a week-long capacity strengthening activity for over 24 advocates from 6 regions, on international advocacy processes and mechanisms at Human Rights Council space in Geneva, Switzerland.

MenEngage Alliance contributed centrally in advancing accountability issues within the Prevention+ program, its consortium and country partners. At the 62nd session of CSW, the Alliance facilitated the first ever 'Accountability Dialogue' among consortium members and women's rights organizations for the program. This conversation sought to bridge a gap between criticisms by feminist movements towards the increased attention on the 'engaging men and boys' focused GBV prevention sector with an introduction to the methodologies and frameworks of Prevention+ and with an invitation for continued partnership building and collaboration. The meeting sought to establish a consultative mechanism for the program, made up of the women's rights organizations in attendance, as a strategic body to provide critical feedback during the duration of the program. MenEngage Alliance will continue leading this focus within the program in 2019.

MenEngage Alliance participated in representation of the Prevention+ consortium at the third annual Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) Conference for the FLOW fund grantees, carried out in April in the Hague, the Netherlands. During this conference, participants discussed promising practices across various programs supported by the FLOW grant. Per the Dutch Ministries' request, MenEngage Alliance carried out a capacity building session to all FLOW partners on Accountability. This conversation contributed in strengthening understanding among the FLOW partners on the Alliance's central focus, agenda and mechanisms for ensuring women's and girl's rights and empowerment in all activities focused on a men and masculinities lens.

At the Annual Partners Meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda in September, MenEngage Alliance held a capacity strengthening session on accountable practices for all country and consortium partners.

### Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) - Platform for Action

The **SRHR Platform for Action** aims at fulfilling our commitment to challenging stigma, discrimination, attitudes and laws that limit the ability of all people enjoying sexual and reproductive health and have

their sexual and reproductive rights protected. Following a successful proposal submitted to Amplify Change in 2017, MenEngage Alliance received a [strategic grant to implement its initiative 'MenEngage for SRHR'](#). Rutgers Netherlands serves as the fiscal agent for the Alliance, on this project.

The program is guided by and complements the Alliance's strategic plan 2017-20, with a focus on strengthening interconnectivity, capacities and engagement of MenEngage Alliance members' and partners around SRHR, as a strong and inclusive Community of Practice, by facilitating exchange, mutual learning, agenda setting and joint advocacy actions. The program will work to strengthen links with and capacities of the regional and country networks, including Global South, on engaging boys and men in community mobilization, campaigning and policy advocacy for the achievement of SRHR for all. The program focuses on women's right to choose and access to safe and legal abortion; comprehensive sexuality education; ending homophobia and transphobia; equality in contraceptive responsibility; and increasing men's access to and use of HIV and other SRH services. Throughout the project the Alliance will work in collaboration with regional networks and partners, including women's rights and SRHR activists, LGBTIQ+ activists/networks and CSOs through various strategies including joint advocacy, evidence building, knowledge sharing and capacity building. A core element of the project will be to build both thematic and advocacy capacity of change makers across the Alliance, to engage in international and local campaigns and influence public debate around SRHR with a 'men and masculinities' lens.

In anticipation of project approval, in the last quarter of the year the Alliance hired a SRHR Project Coordinator, following a competitive process of recruitment, to manage and lead the implementation of the project and liaise with regional networks and members. Upon having the project coordinator onboard, the GS began the preparatory activities to start the project.

## **Men, Caregiving and Unpaid Care work**

### MenCare - A Global Fatherhood Campaign

During 2018, MenEngage Alliance represented through the Global Secretariat remained actively involved in the Steering Committee of [MenCare Campaign](#). MenEngage Global Alliance contributed in planning and preparing activities for the next issue of the "[State of the World's Fathers](#)" report to be launched in 2020 at the Women Deliver conference in Canada. The Global Secretariat also moderated one of the MenCare Webinar "Innovations in Policy Advocacy to Advance Men's Caregiving" on 12 June 2018. *(see Regional Networks Working Group section for more details)*

## **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)**

The SOGI Learning Circle continued to provide a more structured space for conversation between expert practitioners and academics on the emerging issues related to the intersections of men and masculinities and LGBTIQ+/SOGI issues. The SOGI Learning Circle convened three times in 2018. From the initial Board Level founding group made of up 4 organizations, the SOGI Learning Circle expanded to include 12 individual and organizational members of the Alliance - brought on in order to build a more robust community of practice, crowdsourcing expertise from the Alliance across various geographical contexts and thematic issues around this agenda. This process was carried out over the course of several months by the Global Secretariat, and with support from the regional networks. The learning circle collectively decided on two joint initiatives: the development of a set of case studies on promising examples on engaging men and boys in SOGI/LGBTIQ+ rights, and the development of a joint knowledge product on this topic - both to be carried out in 2019.

## Peace, Security and Militarism

The Peace, Security and Militarism learning circle, chaired by our Board member and expert Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), convened three times in 2018. During these discussions, it was highlighted that more exploration on topics and promising practices from research, programming and advocacy related to the cross section of militarism and masculinities is required. As such, this partnership led to the organization of 2 virtual webinars in 2018. The first: [Exploring Interlinkages: Women Peace & Security, Militarism & Masculinities](#), brought in as panelist both feminist peace activists from WILPF as well as MenEngage Alliance members working to engage men and boys in conflict and post-conflict settings, for a roundtable dialogue on the current state of field of work towards the realization of the Women Peace & Security Agenda. Over 40 individuals from WILPF and MenEngage Alliance participated in what was a thought provoking and constructive dialogue. To follow up on the webinar, the Alliance and WILPF initiated the development of a joint knowledge product: Guidance Note on promising practices to engage men and boys in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, which will be launched in 2019.

Following the success from the first webinar, WILPF and MenEngage Alliance organized a second webinar, that brought together a diverse panel of international experts for a high-level consultation on *"Engaging men and boys and addressing masculinities towards the promotion of feminist peace and women's human security: Insights on key tensions and policy opportunities from theory and practice"*. This virtual consultation facilitated the sharing and critical reflection based on current feminist academic perspectives on engaging men and boys in gender, peace and security/feminist peace. In particular, it strove to identify key tensions in taking a political approach that addresses gendered power dynamics to issues of engaging men around the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The outcomes of this consultation will serve as a preparatory mapping of current issues and ways forward in the field, to be highlighted in the Militarism and Masculinities Learning Circle as well as in the 18th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, held at UN Headquarters in New York in October 2018. MenEngage Alliance joined global feminist peace activists at the UN Security Council meeting in October to strategize on how the lead up to the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325, which will take place in 2020, can be used to catalyze holistic implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

### US CSWG and USIP Forum on "Advancing WPS agenda: understanding masculinities"

MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat, together with its members ABAAD and Promundo US, were invited by the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security ([U.S. CSWG](#)) and United States Institutes of Peace (USIP) to present at the *"Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Understanding Masculinities forum"*. The event brought together international and national civil society practitioners, scholars and policy shapers to explore how applying a masculinities' lens to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda could advance overall gender equality efforts. Over the course of the two days, the forum generated constructive dialogue and understanding of interconnections between masculinities and WPS agenda, as well as identified gaps, challenges and contributions of masculinities programming and policy. A total of 64 U.S. CSWG members and colleagues participated in the invitational workshop and 104 attendees attended the public event ["Ending Sexual Violence: From Policy to Practice"](#).

## Sex-work/Prostitution

Within MenEngage Alliance, similar to the broader field of women's rights and feminist movements, there are varying positions on prostitution/sex work among members. Among MenEngage Alliance members this has been a topic of debate for a number of years. The Global Board decided to form an ad-hoc working group on "Sex Work/Prostitution" in 2017, that was mandated to further explore the

issue. Several rounds of dialogues were organized among the working group, anchored by the Global Secretariat, which led to a realization of the diversity and complexity of this topic and that there are diverse views among the members. This realization led the group to conduct an exercise whereby the similarities and differences of opinions on this topic were explored. The group acknowledged that these conversations did not result in a consensus, and that while this was a difficult process, it was also a testament to the integrity and values of the Alliance. The group subsequently decided to develop a paper outlining the process of the working group and the diversity of the Alliance members on this issue. Development of this paper started in 2018, including the recruitment of an external consultant, and will be completed in 2019.

### **Communications and Knowledge Management Working Group**

The Alliance, during the Board meeting in Chile, decided to form a **Communications and Knowledge Management Working Group**, comprising of board members and representatives of the regional networks who have an interest and expertise in communications (*See below in Result Area 3 for more information*).

### **Output 1.3: Regional Networks Working Group**

*The MenEngage Regional Networks Working Group and virtual platforms are activated and functional.*

In 2018, the Global Secretariat continued to work with the regional networks to complete their strategic and work plans and kick start the implementation the regional collective works plans. While the Regional Networks Working Group was not able to realize much of its plans for cross-regional exchange and learning during this year, which was due to the focus and prioritization at the regional networks to finalize their own plans. There are several cross-regional learning opportunities planned for 2019 on issues of capacity development, advocacy and accountability.

#### **Cross-regional sharing and exchange session at the Board meeting**

Representatives from the Alliance's 6 regional networks, as well as the emerging network in Lebanon, presented their regional frameworks and strategic thinking on men and masculinities work. While each regional network is at a different stage of development and has different structures and focus areas, all regions have undergone processes of strengthening how they are organized and work together. All the 6 regional network and 1 new network in MENA region went through the collective strength and needs assessments, and have developed strategic planning and collective vision for the coming years. At this session they shared recent achievements, challenges they are facing and ways forward in addressing these challenges. Some of the challenges that they shared were:

- Building a common understanding of men and masculinities work and how it can contribute to or harm women's rights and gender equality. This challenge is further exacerbated by the huge diversity in perspectives among members and limited opportunities to come together to have in-depth discussions on the purpose of the work or network.
- Communicating effectively and two-way information sharing from the regional network to the members, and from the members to the regional network. Often regional Steering Committees are active but find it challenging to provide a steady information stream to the membership, as well as to facilitate information sharing about activities among members, which can be a time-consuming effort.
- Rising nationalisms and fundamentalisms in several regions, which result in shrinking spaces for women's rights organizations and civil society more broadly to work on gender-related issues.
- Practical matters that can make it difficult to keep the work going, including reliance on people volunteering their time to the network and lack of paid secretariats; and limited funding and resources available for regional level and network-strengthening work.

### NAMEN's webinar series "Men Supporting #MeToo: Taking Action to the Next Level"

MenEngage Alliance, under the leadership of North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN), supported in planning and organizing a webinar series "[Men supporting #MeToo: Taking actions to the next level](#)". Around 35 individuals and members from Australia, Sweden, USA and Canada joined the series. The webinar series explored current community-based efforts to rise to this challenge and some of the lessons learned from these efforts, supporting the participants to gain a better [understanding of new concepts and concrete examples](#). This series was built on what NAMEN members have already been doing to address the issues brought up by #MeToo and explore ways to strengthen this work together. *Please see the North American MenEngage Network section for more details.*

### CSW62 Youth Dialogue Online Consultation

MenEngage Alliance mobilized its members to engage in a global e-consultation on social media in advance of the CSW Youth Dialogue on the empowerment of rural young women and girls. These conversations contributed to the final Youth Dialogue [Policy Recommendations](#) (*see output 2.3 for more information*).

## **Output 1.4: Symposia, colloquia and seminars**

*Symposia, colloquia and seminars organized with MenEngage members and partners at global, regional and country levels.*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Symposium

In 2018 the Alliance initiated preparations for the next MenEngage Global Symposium, following an open expression of interest process and Global Board decided that the event will be held in 2020 in Lebanon, in partnership with local host ABAAD and the MenEngage Lebanon Network. Discussions were held during the Global Board meeting in Santiago, Chile on how to make both the event and the mobilization process meaningful for country and regional networks, and build on the success of the previous symposia to further advance the Alliance's agenda and position as an ally with the broader women's rights agenda. During the period of November-December, the Global Secretariat and ABAAD teams held two rounds of planning meeting in Beirut and Washington, D.C to further strategize and define next steps. The symposium will be an opportunity for network-building in the hosting country/region and strengthening our feminist-informed, human-rights based, gender-transformative agenda.

### 2nd MenEngage Africa Symposium and Youth Forum

The second regional MenEngage Africa [symposium](#) took place in Maputo, Mozambique from 23-26 April. Organized by HOPEM, MenEngage Africa, the Global Secretariat- MenEngage Alliance in partnership with the Faculty of Arts and Social Science of Eduardo Mondlane University, Forum Mulher, and other partners, the meeting brought together over [500 academics, activists, government and UN representatives](#) for energizing discussions on ways forward for gender equality and social justice in the continent. Key topics included [GBV, parenting, FGM, child marriage](#). In addition, 50 youth leaders attended the African Youth Forum ahead of the symposium to share knowledge and create intergenerational dialogue on gender equality and social justice issues in the region. The symposium resulted in a collective "Maputo Declaration and Call to Action". *Please see below MenEngage Africa report section for more details.*

### Gender360 Summit

MenEngage Alliance was an organizing partner for the [Gender360 Summit](#), that took place in Washington D.C in June 2018 which brought together approximately 400 people from more than 25

countries. The summit explored the intersections of education, health, economic empowerment and gender-based violence among girls, boys, and youth with diverse gender identities. The Global Secretariat together with 6 representatives from its members Advocates for Youth, Care International Balkans, Q-Initiative Kenya and Promundo US participated and contributed by speaking at the opening session and facilitating a session on men and masculinities during the summit. The summit resulted in a set of key outcomes and recommendations "[A Gendered Approach to Positive Girl and Boy Development](#)".

#### Roundtable on "Masculinities and Politics: Approaches to Securing Men's Commitment to Gender Equitable Policies and Political Institutions"

MenEngage Global Alliance was invited to a round table on "[masculinities and politics: approaches to securing men's commitment to gender equitable polices and political institutions](#)" during the period of 25-26 January 2018, co-organized by National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Promundo US. The round table contributed in creating space to discuss about the contribution to the achievement of sustainable and resilient democratic governance by achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in politics and policy processes. The round table engaged participants in sharing and discussions on the relationship between the dynamics of political power and masculinities and moving from tactical to transformational alliances with men and boys on gender equality and women's empowerment. Over 34 participants representing various sectors engaged in an open dialogue across sectors of practitioners and academics about current research and practice on how current gender norms impact public policy processes, political institutions and structures, and on transforming the engagement of men—and particularly those in political leadership—into the action needed to promote and sustain inclusive, resilient democratic governance.

#### International Conference on Engaging Men and Boys: Men Move

MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat, and 8 members<sup>3</sup> were invited to speak at the [International Conference on Engaging Men & Boys "Men Move! Policy debates and good practice on engaging boys and men in gender and development"](#) that took place in Basel, Switzerland in June. The conference was jointly organized by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and IAMANEH Switzerland. MenEngage Alliance was represented by its Co-Chair Abhijit Das, who gave a keynote speech and members from across the regions hosted workshops which aimed to strengthen participants' understanding and capacities on issues such engaging men and boys in SRHR and unpaid care, scaling up gender transformative work, intersectionality and social change, youth mobilization and accountability. The conference resulted in creating opportunities to strengthen understanding and interconnections between theoretical as well as practice-oriented topics and ranged from policy level discussions to direct experiences in the field. The full report could be found [here](#).

#### MenCare Webinar "Innovations in Policy Advocacy to Advance Men's Caregiving"

MenEngage Alliance moderated one of the [MenCare Webinars](#) "Innovations in Policy Advocacy to Advance Men's Caregiving" on 12 June 2018 - in advance of Father's Day in many countries. The webinar shared advocacy-related case studies and lessons learned, featuring representatives from Rutgers (Netherlands), AÇEV (Turkey), and Sonke Gender Justice (South Africa). The webinar created a space to have constructive conversations among the MenCare partners and the Alliance members around the world and how they have used evidence, data, and creativity in their advocacy efforts to influence changes in legislation, policies, and protocols in support of the global redistribution of care work. The webinar can be accessed here <https://youtu.be/jaeCYAqyMOK>

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<sup>3</sup> ABAAD, Alliance Fraternelle Aide pour le Développement-Togo, Care International, Center for Health and Social Justice, Conexus, Promundo US, SafAids Zimbabwe, and Swiss institute for men and gender matters (SIMG),

### 5th International Conference on Family Planning

MenEngage Alliance and its members contributed to creating space for discussions on gender and social norms transformation approaches to SRHR and family planning at the [5th International Conference on Family Planning](#) (ICFP), that took place in November in Kigali, Rwanda. This 5th edition of this conference served as a strategic inflection point for the family planning and reproductive health community worldwide.

12 representatives of 10 MenEngage Alliance members and Global Secretariat staff members participated in the conference and contributed from a 'men and masculinities' lens to the discourse in various panels and sessions. MenEngage Africa and MenEngage Rwanda organized a side event on 'engaging boys and men in HIV prevention', where representatives of MenEngage Africa country networks and the Youth Committee shared their experiences and lessons learnt from diverse programs and campaigns.

MenEngage Global Alliance, together with Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), IPPF and Rutgers, hosted a pre-formed panel discussion on "*Gender transformative approaches to engage boys and men in challenging norms, attitudes and laws that undermine the fulfilment of reproductive rights, gender empowerment and family planning*". At a conference primarily focused on service provision, the panel contributed to creating an interactive space to discuss about gender and social norms transformation approaches to SRHR and family planning. The panel was attended by around 80 people from across the regions, including donor and government agencies, and was able to engage them on how engagement of individual boys and men can link to efforts to transform attitudes, norms, institutions and policies, and how the engagement of men and boys can contribute to strengthening global movement building to advance SRHR for all.

### Women's Advancement Deeply Webinar

MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat and Promundo were invited to join the panel for a webinar on 'Engaging Men in Women's Advancement', hosted by the online women's rights news platform, [Women's Advancement Deeply](#). Part of the platform's 'Deeply talks' series, the webinar explored, together with personal journeys of the speakers in this work, in the form of webinar strategies and approaches to increase the presence of men in conversations about gender equality, and how to encourage men to change their behavior. A recording of the full episode and a summary of the discussion is available [here](#).

### European Development Days

MenEngage Alliance was invited to the 13th edition of the European Development Days (EDD), Europe's leading forum on international cooperation and development. Abhijit Das, co-chair of the Alliance, spoke on the opening panel. EDD 2018 brought the European Union's commitment to [gender equality and women's empowerment](#) together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. EDD 2018 brought together over 8000 people over two days, with a focus on prioritizing gender equality throughout the development sector. The theme allowed for some unique interventions and campaigns and [offered a rich and vibrant program](#).

### 7th Colloquium on Masculinities

MenEngage Latin America regional network is collaborating with Costa Rican universities, the Costa Rican Institute of Masculinity, Instituto-WEM, the Men's Network for Gender Equity of the public sector and MenEngage Costa Rica to host the 7th International Colloquium on Men and Masculinities studies in Costa Rica in July 2019. The organizers will also host the Latin American Masculinities Forum for Adolescents and Youth in connection with the event. In 2018 the Global Secretariat supported preparing and planning for the colloquium. More information about the conference as well as abstract

submission can be found here <http://setimocoloquiomasculinidadescr.com/>. The organizers are expecting that around 800 activists, academia and development works will attend this colloquium.

## **Result Area 2 – Advocacy**

*An enabling policy environment for gender transformative approaches with men and boys to advance women's rights and gender justice, SRHR for all, GBV prevention, redistribution of unpaid care, peace and security.*

In 2018, the collective voice of MenEngage Alliance in global policy advocacy has become increasingly political, visible, organized and influential.

MenEngage Alliance members proactively engaged in key UN spaces to help ensure discussions and policies around engaging men and boys are framed based on feminist-informed, human rights based, gender-transformative frameworks. The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva has become a key focus for the Alliance, as we continued to build momentum in this space around Resolution 35/10 and the subsequent report produced by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Aiming to build on those successes, MenEngage Alliance returned to the HRC in 2018 to carry out a comprehensive advocacy training with 24 Alliance members and partners – convened in Geneva to develop capacity around the mechanisms seated in Geneva, including Special Procedures, the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the UPR and HRC processes.

Additionally, amidst other policy spaces and with the increased attention among policy makers for a men and masculinities lens, an opportunity for the alliance to put into practice its commitment to accountable advocacy arose. First and foremost, the Alliance aims to be a true ally to women's rights, LGBTQI+ rights, youth rights, and other social justice movements. This meant that any influence in policy spaces was used to advocate for inclusion of key feminist asks in resolutions, language or frameworks on engaging men and boys. From the outset, advocacy efforts must ensure the Alliance is never the primary voice but plays a supporting role to these movements. Lastly, connecting high-level political advocacy work with regional priorities, and ensuring ownership of issues and action at local level, was identified as a key need for the maturation of the Alliance's interconnected advocacy work. Members from across the Alliance bridged this gap in 2018 through the formation of an Advocacy Working Group. The group links local and regional advocacy efforts towards a unified, multi-level and cross-regional joint advocacy structure, with the potential of intervening at various levels. This collaborative effort aims to make political advocacy work more effective, as well as more accountable to women's rights and feminist movements.

### **Outcome 2.a: Increased joint policy advocacy actions**

*MenEngage members and strategic partners have increased joint policy advocacy actions, thereby contributing to increased policy and decision makers' awareness on gender transformative approaches with men and boys on issues related to SRHR including HIV/AIDS, GBV, women's rights and gender equality.*

Outcome 2.a indicators:

- # and quality of joint advocacy agendas formulated and shared broadly in a timely manner at national, regional and global advocacy spaces on GBV, SRHR including HIV/AIDS, unpaid care, peace and security by 2020
- # and quality of joint advocacy activities undertaken at national, regional and global advocacy spaces on GBV, SRHR including HIV/AIDS, unpaid care, peace and security by 2020
- # and quality of supportive statements by policymakers demonstrating their awareness on gender transformative approaches to engage men and boys on GBV, unpaid care, SRHR including HIV/AIDS and gender equality by 2020

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Report 2018</b>
<b>Output 2.1)</b> Interconnected Global-Regional-Country advocacy strategy developed and implemented with MenEngage regional and country networks and at-large member organizations	# of joint MenEngage Alliance advocacy working group meetings by 2020	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 virtual convenings</li> <li>● 6 meetings of regional focal points in Geneva</li> <li>● 4 meetings in person at In-Person Board Meeting</li> <li>● 1 prep meeting prior to board meeting - Board meeting strategy</li> </ul>
	1 interconnected MenEngage Advocacy Strategy developed and used	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 draft interconnected strategy developed by GS</li> </ul>
	# of advocacy capacity strengthening events organized with MenEngage Alliance members and partners by 2020	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 Geneva prep virtual capacity building sessions - linking to permanent mission, finding and deciphering CEDAW reports, OHCHR website and coming to understand your government position from national to global (Prevention+, MEA English, MEA Spanish - Latin American Colleagues)</li> <li>● 7 Geneva Capacity Building (CEDAW, Special Procedures, HRC, Language Advocacy, lobbying delegations, HRC Resolution 35/10 and ongoing activism around it, connecting global to regional/national advocacy)</li> <li>● Uganda Advocacy Capacity Building</li> <li>● Board meeting advocacy capacity building</li> </ul>

	# of participants in advocacy capacity strengthening events organized by MenEngage Alliance global, regional and country networks by 2020	137 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Geneva prep virtual capacity building sessions - 18</li> <li>• 7 Geneva Capacity Building -24</li> <li>• Uganda Advocacy Capacity Building - 50</li> <li>• Board meeting advocacy capacity building - 35</li> </ul>
	1 MenEngage Global Advocacy calendar created and maintained with updated opportunities and activities	1 Advocacy Calendar (Geneva mechanisms and processes, UN HQ and civil society)
<b>Output 2.2)</b> Timely activist responses on women’s rights, SRHR, gender and social justice violations developed and broadly disseminated, including focus on transforming gender norms and the roles and responsibilities of men and boys	# of global and regional rapid responses issued by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020	2
	# of action alerts and responses supported by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020	5
	# of human rights and gender justice solidarity statements issued and circulated by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020	2
<b>Output 2.3)</b> Concrete partnerships among MenEngage Alliance members and partners with global SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice CSOs, NGOs and UN agencies developed and implemented.	# of MoUs with strategic partners signed by MenEngage Global Alliance by 2020	10 virtual and in-person meetings held with UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP towards the signing of strategic MoU partnerships in 2018 - Note, decision to re-evaluate advancing with UN MoU
	# of collaborative actions between MenEngage Alliance and members and UN agencies in 2018	6 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work Plan development with UN for strategic joint action in 2018</li> <li>2. Sweden Gender Forum</li> <li>3. CSW Official Side Event - UN Reform and ways forward</li> <li>4. UNDP - 1325 Commemoration Side Event in NYC HQ</li> <li>5. Informational Meeting with UNDP on Men &amp; Masculinities (CSW62)</li> <li>6. CSW Youth Dialogue - Co-organizers</li> </ol>
	# of collaborative actions between MenEngage Alliance and members and other women’s rights and gender justice actors by 2020	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WomenForWomen International Side Event CSW</li> <li>• Global Accountability Dialogue CSW</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Muslims for Progressive Values Side Event CSW</li> <li>● HRC Prevention+/MenEngage Alliance Side Event</li> <li>● ICPD Side Event</li> <li>● Swedish Gender Forum</li> <li>● UNSCR 1325 Anniversary</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2.4)</b> Global, regional and national decision and policy makers are reached with collective MenEngage Alliance policy advocacy	# of MenEngage country and regional advocacy champions supported in collective policy advocacy efforts at country, regional and global levels by 2020	50 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8 at Geneva HRC joint policy advocacy (regional focal points)</li> <li>● 42 delegation at CSW62 - supported through GS coordination of processes, information sharing, inclusion in joint language advocacy process</li> </ul>
	# joint events and panels organized in strategic policy advocacy settings by 2020	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WomenForWomen International Side Event CSW</li> <li>● Global Accountability Dialogue CSW</li> <li>● Muslims for Progressive Values Side Event CSW</li> <li>● HRC Prevention+/MenEngage Alliance Side Event</li> <li>● ICPD Side Event</li> <li>● Swedish Gender Forum</li> <li>● UNSCR 1325 Anniversary</li> </ul>
	# of policy and decision makers reached by MenEngage Alliance and members during 201	145 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 28 - EU Block CSW zero draft inputs (Prevention+)</li> <li>● 28 - EU Block HRC Canadian Resolution on VAW (Prevention+)</li> <li>● HRC Resolution - Canada, Sweden</li> <li>● CSW - WRC technical inputs towards lobby of 22 countries</li> <li>● VAW Resolution at UNGA - 28 EU Block, Canada, South Africa</li> <li>● HRC38 Prevention+ Side Event - 17 Delegations: Montenegro, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Solomon Islands, Pakistan, Rwanda, Denmark, Indonesia, Botswana, Belgium, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Australia, Sweden, Canada, Uganda + OHCHR</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HRC Capacity Building 20 participants reached out to their government delegations across 12 countries</li> </ul>
	# of submissions and technical advocacy inputs made to relevant decision and policy making institutes by MenEngage Alliance and members in 2018	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HRC38 - VAW and ICT Canada Resolution technical inputs, shared with Canada, Iceland and Sweden</li> <li>● HRC38 Brief: Engaging men and boys in elimination of VAWG (promising practices from the field)</li> <li>● Canada Engaging Men and Boys Strategy</li> <li>● General Recommendations/Technical Inputs to Consultative Civil Society Process: Updating Voices at Risk: Canada's Guidelines on Supporting Human Rights Defenders</li> <li>● Inputs towards OECD Guidance Note – Engaging with Masculinities in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings</li> <li>● Iceland - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● Netherlands - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● European Union - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● NGO CSW - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● Women's Rights Caucus - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions - 25 member states during WRC lobby process</li> <li>● Development of Engaging Men and Boys Factsheet for Women's Rights Caucus Lobbying during CSW - reaching 25 member states</li> </ul>

### Output 2.1: Advocacy strategy

*Interconnected global-regional-country level advocacy strategy developed and implemented with MenEngage regional and country networks and at-large member organizations.*

### MenEngage Advocacy strategy

During the course of 2018, MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat carried out the process of developing the first draft of the MenEngage Advocacy Strategy, that outlines the interconnected approach to our country-regional-international advocacy efforts. The draft strategy consolidates the collective agreements made by the regional networks through their updated strategic and works plans, many having prioritized advocacy within their collective actions plans over the next few years. Through the work of the Global Advocacy Working Group, and the discussion carried out across 14 different in-person and virtual meetings, including a Board Strategy Meeting during the year's board meeting, the advocacy strategy was further defined, notably through the consensus of the need to advance with regional advocacy while simultaneously identifying the need to raise regional advocacy capacity in order carry out strategic advocacy within those spaces. This activity has been planned for 2019, with a specific focus on raising capacity by reaching out and partnering with women's rights and feminist advocates engaging in various policy spaces. This will ensure that the Alliance is carrying out accountable and politicized feminist advocacy at the regional level once capacities have been raised and meaningful partnerships and strategies developed.

Additionally, an in-depth and integrated mapping of national, regional and international policy spaces was carried out to identify the most strategic places for the MenEngage Alliance to engage in joint advocacy in in order to amplify its impact. This mapping was summarized within the draft strategy. This living document will be reviewed and validated by the advocacy working group in 2019 and will be further polished through the learning acquired from feminist/women's rights advocacy partners and the development of the MenEngage Alliance SRHR Platform for Action "MenEngage for SRHR" that started in December 2018.

### Advocacy working group

Following up on the decision by the Board in 2017 to advance with the formation of the Global Advocacy Working Group, the Global Secretariat worked to facilitate the selection of experts at both board and regional level. During 2018, various at-large members joined the group, in order to provide strategic expertise across various thematic areas/international policy spaces. In addition, the decision to advance with the selection of a Regional Focal Point from each region was agreed upon – a strategic advocate who can link regional efforts, to both global and national processes. The Global Secretariat helped facilitate the process of identifying focal points from all regions (Africa, Caribbean, Europe, North America, and South Asia), with the exception of MENA and South East Asia. At-large members who joined the AWG for their thematic and strategic expertise include: WILPF, Advocates for Youth, Promundo US, Breakthrough, and Sonke Gender Justice)

The Global Advocacy Working Group convened for the first time in May 2018, continuing to meet in 14 occasions in 2018 to raise collective capacity, strategize on the process and focus of the group and to work towards the development of the systems required to carry out interconnected advocacy at various levels as a Global Alliance. These included 8 virtual convenings, a week-long capacity and strategy session in Geneva during the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council and an in-person global advocacy strategy session in which the AWG, the Global Board and representatives from each region brainstormed, strategized, mapped and defined ways forward for the development of the interconnected advocacy strategy. This capacity and partnership building session, within the Geneva Space, identified as the most critical global policy mechanisms currently available to carry out advocacy for the women's rights/human rights agenda, created an opportunity to raise the joint collective advocacy capacity of the Alliance, first training at global level, followed by 2019's plans to link these learnings to regional level advocacy process.

During the virtual conversations over the course of the year, the AWG also began its collective monitoring of policy spaces. As the strategy is further solidified, the Alliance will not be engaging in all policy spaces, but rather, will select and intervene in those which will yield the highest impact. As such, the AWG decided to monitor from a distance any critical spaces that it will not be able to join in person, in order maintain a more comprehensive understanding of global policy trends. This will be further consolidated by the launch of the MenEngage Alliance Policy Advocacy Listserv, which was identified as a need and priority by the AWG. Strategic discussions were carried out in 2018, including the drafting of the ToR for AWG members to reach out and invite advocates, activists and HRDs from their regions to join - building a specialized safe space for the dissemination of information, opportunities and advocacy related updates.

#### Advocacy Capacity Building

24 members and partners of MenEngage Alliance and the Prevention+ consortium came together during the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva to strengthen interconnected advocacy efforts. HRC38 presented a rare opportunity for learning, collaboration and exchange in these advocacy efforts, as the OHCHR Report commissioned under the mandate of HRC Resolution 35/10 was being presented during this session and the Alliance took the opportunity to mobilize in order to continue amplifying and centralizing this agenda within the HRC space. During the week-long capacity building and strategy session, several sessions were held to develop approaches for ensuring accountability advocacy practices while advancing a 'men and masculinities' lens for the realization of a feminist political advocacy agenda. Several technical capacity building sessions were carried out with feminist expert organizations WILPF and SRI, who shared valuable insights on the Human Rights Council in Geneva, including CEDAW Committee, the Universal Periodic Review, and other HRC mechanisms including Special Procedures. Lastly, participants were capacitated to identify, reach out and meet with the delegates from their respective countries and to foster strategic partnerships in this regard.

#### Uganda Advocacy Capacity Building

Following the Partner's Meeting, MenEngage Alliance, with the support of MenEngage Uganda and Reproductive Health Uganda organized a one-day capacity building session focused on advancing advocacy and accountability skills and understanding among all participants. The session was successful in strengthening partnerships with women's rights and feminist organizations in country and network-building among MenEngage Alliance and Prevention+.

Workshop participants carried out a collective reflection on the meaning of accountability and discussed concerns around accountability in the engaging men field, including both historic and current concerns expressed by women's rights and feminist organizations on the subject. Additionally, a dedicated session on accountable advocacy was carried out. The workshop ended with a panel made up of national feminist leaders and leaders from the network, having a dialogue about the local challenges faced by those working on engaging men and boys and ways to partner and remain accountable to local women's rights organizations. The workshop raised awareness about these important issues and provided the opportunity for closer communication between MenEngage members in the country and feminist leaders who are not part of the network.

## **Output 2.2: Activist responses**

*Timely activist responses to human rights violations developed and broadly disseminated, with a focus on transforming gender norms and the roles and responsibilities of men and boys.*

#### MenEngage Alliance statements

## **Rapid Response Statements issued by MenEngage Alliance and members**

### Statement on the allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment

MenEngage Alliance and North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN) issued a [joint response](#) to allegations of harassment, misconduct and bullying by two men, Michael Kimmel, the then Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and Ravi Karkara, the then Senior Advisor at UN Women, who are considered longstanding leaders in the field of engaging men and boys in gender equality. The statement contributed in clarifying and reinforcing the Alliance's framework and position on issues of sexual harassment and breach of its code of conduct, supporting the spirit of #MeToo movement.

### Statement on US decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council

North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN) and Promundo US issued a [joint statement](#) in response to the decision by United States to withdraw from the Human Rights Council during the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council. The statement called on the US Administration to reverse its decision, returning to the Human Rights Council and to the global conversation about expanding human rights. The statement also called on the government of the United States to recommit prioritizing the advancement of women's rights and gender equality in its domestic and foreign policy.

## **Statements supported/signed onto by MenEngage Alliance**

Title IX Respond to the Department of Education's Attempt to Weaken Protections Against Sexual Assault: NAMEN Policy Advocacy Committee from the National Women's Law Centre to a [sign-on letter](#) asking Betsy DeVos and Ken Marcus to extend the 60-day comment period by at least another 60 days.

### Global Consensus on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement

The signatories of this Statement, experts and leaders in international development, including 35+ youth and other organizations, including MenEngage Alliance, affirmed through this [statement](#) that young people have a fundamental right to actively and meaningfully engage in all matters that affect their lives.

### Justice not "special attention": Feminist Visions for the Binding Treaty Statement by AWID

MenEngage Alliance signed onto the collectives' [call to action and petition](#) on the 4th round of UN negotiations towards an international instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

### Women's Rights Caucus Revised Guiding Principles and Values

During CSW62, MenEngage Alliance joined hands with the Women's Rights Caucus in reaffirming their solidarity and commitment to the revision of the collective's Caucus Guiding Principles and Values, by signing on to this declaration.

## **Human rights and gender justice solidarity statements**

### Emergency response protocol

In 2018 MenEngage Alliance decided to develop an emergency response protocol, which would outline how to respond when members and partners are in danger because of the work they do. This was prompted by recent situations of members in Nicaragua and the DRC, and the need that was acknowledged for the Alliance to be more proactive in such situations and have a more structured response. MenEngage Alliance mapped resources and consulted with other organizations that have

security protocols in place, as well as with specialized organizations and is seeking to develop a protocol that would work on all levels, from how to organize immediate direct support to members to global advocacy in order to trigger an international response. A Board level working group was formed to oversee the development of the protocol, and the process was started to hire an external consultant to complete the assignment in 2019.

#### Nicaragua Statement

MenEngage Alliance, together with MenEngage Latin America, issued a statement in July condemning the brutal repression unleashed by the state against its civilian population. The statement called on the international community to accelerate efforts to put an end to the violence and called our members to action on this issue.

### **Output 2.3: Partnerships**

*Concrete partnerships among MenEngage Alliance members and partners with global SRHR, women's rights and gender justice CSOs, NGOs and UN agencies developed and implemented.*

#### **UN Agencies**

##### Work Plan development with UN Women for strategic joint action in 2018

Through various virtual meetings, UN Women and MenEngage Alliance developed a joint work plan defining 8 key activities to be carried out jointly over the course of 2018, in order to foster a collaborative relationship from global to national level. These activities included joint engagements in international conferences, collaboration on a joint knowledge product and participation of MenEngage Alliance members at national/regional level in various civil society strategy and preparatory sessions led by UN Women.

##### CSW Official Side Event - UN Reform and Ways Forward

MenEngage Alliance member Dean Peacock, of Sonke Gender Justice was invited to join a High-Level Official Side-Event lead by keynote speaker UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, on the current state of UN System Reform, including transforming the UN culture to be more inclusive of women's leadership at all levels across all agencies, as well as to strategize on ways forward for various reform projects and proposals.

##### UNDP - 1325 Commemoration Side Event in NYC HQ

MenEngage Alliance joined global feminist peace activists including Alliance member Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) at the UN Security Council meeting in October to strategize on how the lead up to the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325, which will take place in 2020, can be used to catalyze holistic implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. This event was co-hosted by UNDP.

##### Informational Meeting with UNDP on Men and Masculinities (CSW62)

During the session, MenEngage Alliance met with UNDP in order to further strategic discussions on joint areas of collaboration including various overlaps in organizational plans on masculinities, peace and security, AIDS/HIV and violence against women and girls. Discussions regarding the advancement of joint actions in key policy spaces/sessions was discussed including joint mobilization around the commemoration of WPS Agenda Resolution 1325.

## Civil Society

### WomenForWomen International Side Event CSW

Women for Women International in collaboration with MenEngage Alliance and Promundo carried out a side-Event at CSW titled: **Men and Boys' Engagement for the Empowerment of Rural Women** - a conversation on the role of men and boys in the empowerment of women and girls from rural areas, particularly with a focus on traditional faith-based leaders and their leadership and influence on the lives of women and girls within these geographical contexts. The event was very widely attended with over 60 participants, including representatives from the Canadian Permanent Mission and UN Women.

### 1325 Commemoration Side Event in NYC HQ

MenEngage Alliance joined global feminist peace activists including Alliance member Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) at the UN Security Council meeting in October to strategize on how the lead up to the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325, which will take place in 2020, can be used to catalyze the holistic implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

### Muslims for Progressive Values Side Event CSW

Alongside Muslims for Progressive Values, MenEngage Alliance co-organized a [side event](#): #ImamsForShe: Engaging Imams for Sustainable Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. The event presented programming that engages religious leaders and faith communities for gender equality and women's empowerment, with the main message of the event centering on impactful civil society partnerships, cross-sectoral advocacy strategies, and normalizing progressive, inclusive, and rights-affirming faith-based approaches to contemporary and emerging human rights issues and sustainable development.

## **Amplifying the voices/participation of MenEngage Alliance Members in International Advocacy Fora**

During CSW62, the Global Secretariat led the coordination of MenEngage Delegation of 42 participants from all the regions, providing technical support for obtaining UN passes, drafted and disseminated a guidance note and capacity raising material on how to engage with CSW, providing 8 information emails to MenEngage Alliance Delegation sharing key updates on the session, including the Secretary General's Report, updates from the Women's Rights Caucus, sharing key events, etc. Additionally, MenEngage Alliance organized 2 caucus meetings to facilitate network-building and sharing and led the coordination of a technical language working group of 35 participants providing collective inputs towards the outcome document of the year's session. Lastly, the Alliance facilitated the participation of members on various panels throughout the session, including members from Pakistan, Mexico, USA, and South Africa. These opportunities for convening and collective participation and engagement in international policy spaces continues to raise the overall profile of the Alliance as a collective of civil society activists, experts, researchers and practitioners with a wide range of expertise across the women's rights and feminist agenda.

During the 38th Session of Human Rights Council 5 Regional Focal Persons of the Advocacy Working Group in addition to 3 representatives from Latin America, a region which had still to select a focal point, were invited to participate in several sessions of the Human Rights Council and engaged in the co-led MenEngage Alliance/Prevention+ Side-Event. In total, with the inclusion of Prevention+

partners, the Global Secretariat facilitated the participation of 24 participants from 6 regions and 12 countries in this international forum.

### CSW Youth Dialogue

As a continuation of the previous two years' successful CSW Youth Fora, a Youth Dialogue was held this year which brought together over 200 youth activists and leaders to discuss the issues faced by young women and girls from rural contexts. The Alliance was on the organizing task force, together with UN Women, the office of the UNSG's Youth Envoy, WAGGGS, Plan International, AWID, Act Alliance, World YWCA, FRIDA, The We Effect, The Working Group on Girls. Youth representatives from the Alliance from Nicaragua, Sri Lanka and Uganda participated in the dialogue. Throughout the online consultation process, the event itself, and the [outcome document](#) the Alliance brought in a men and masculinities lens and a focus on social norms transformation to the conversation on the empowerment of rural women and girls. As part of the event, MenEngage Alliance, NextGenMen, Voices of Humans and Puntos de Encuentro co-organized a skills-building session on "*Working with boys and young men for the prevention of violence against women and girls in rural areas*". The interactive session focused on arts-based tools to engage young men and boys in challenging stereotypes and transforming masculinities.

## **Output 2.4: Policy makers reached**

*Global, regional and national decision and policy makers are reached with collective MenEngage Alliance policy advocacy*

### CSW62

The Alliance was represented at this year's CSW by a delegation of over 42 members from Africa, Caribbean, Europe, South Asia, Latin America and North America, as well as the Global Secretariat team. MenEngage Alliance members and the Global Secretariat actively participated in advocacy throughout CSW to ensure the adoption of progressive outcomes in the session's agreed conclusions. Two MenEngage Alliance caucus meetings were held for members to strategize, discuss the negotiations and share insights as the session advanced. The Global Secretariat-MenEngage Alliance closely collaborated and advocated alongside the Women's Rights Caucus, the primary advocacy collective of women's and SOGI rights organizations at CSW, in order to advance progressive outcomes in the Agreed Conclusions, promoting agreements across the full women's rights agenda. As part of the Alliance's participation in the Women's Rights Caucus, we drafted a fact-sheet that informed conversations with Member States on feminist informed, gender transformative, human rights-based language to engage men and boys and transform patriarchal masculinities for the achievement of the rights and empowerment of all women and girls.

Alliance members and partners also organized an array of insightful side events during CSW, including Care International, Muslims for Progressive Values, Plan International, Sonke Gender Justice, Promundo, ICRW, ManUp campaign, ACEV, Women for Women International, UN Women and Athena Network. The Alliance also organized a critical accountability dialogue during CSW (*see section 4.1*).

As in previous years, the Alliance developed a comprehensive [report](#), giving members and partners who were unable to attend access to the event and providing our analysis of this year's agreed conclusions and policy environment.

### Human Rights Council, 38<sup>th</sup> session

MenEngage Alliance members and partners convened at the 38th session of UN Human Rights Council (HRC38) in Geneva, Switzerland in June. Advocacy efforts included a Prevention+ side event on

*“promising practices to engage men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls”*. The event focused on five inspiring cases from Indonesia, Pakistan, Rwanda, Lebanon and Uganda, showing a range of effective and promising strategies including research, programmatic interventions and advocacy works. More than 70 participants representing Permanent Missions to HRC, Civil Society Representatives/NGOs, Women’s Rights activists, UN Agencies and other stakeholders actively participated in the side event. Delegates from Montenegro, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Solomon Islands, Pakistan, Rwanda, Denmark, Indonesia, Botswana, Belgium, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Australia, Sweden joined the event.

A key advocacy point for MenEngage Alliance and Prevention+ participants was helping to keep a 2017 HRC Resolution 35/10 on engaging men and boys and subsequent report by the OHCHR high up on the UN agenda. MenEngage Alliance was one of the civil society bodies that provided a submission to the OHCHR report, and those Alliance members present at HRC38 continued to push for accountability in the language and practices pursued at the highest levels. As part of these joint advocacy efforts, MenEngage Alliance members took the opportunity to meet with their respective countries’ permanent missions to the HRC reaching 12 decision makers, as well as regional bodies such as stakeholders from the African Union.

#### Technical support and inputs on the HRC38 draft resolution on VAW

MenEngage Alliance provided technical inputs to the annual Canadian resolution on eliminating violence against women and girls, this year under the theme “Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts.” The Alliance produced a brief highlighting its technical contributions towards the session in addition to a compilation of the work of MenEngage Alliance members around digital and ICT and the elimination of violence. This brief was disseminated throughout the HRC Session.

#### CEDAW Committee Briefing

MenEngage Global Alliance organized a briefing with the CEDAW committee in March in Geneva on how engaging men and boys can contribute to the achievement of CEDAW’s mandate. It was the first time in the committee’s 38-year history that it held a targeted discussion on ‘men and masculinities’. The Alliance is exploring further ways to support CEDAW to play a role in holding governments to account so that the increased work on engaging men is done in ways that are complementary and contribute to women’s rights and gender equality work.

#### Collective Advocacy on the Nicaragua Crisis

During the 38th Session of Human Rights Council (HRC38), MenEngage Alliance partnered with [Red Internacional de Derechos Humanos](#) and the Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights in Geneva to co-organize a side event about the crisis in Nicaragua during the 38th session of the HRC, bringing one young woman leader from a social movement in Nicaragua. Oswaldo Montoya from MenEngage Global Alliance presented and debated what must be done to end the crisis and allow the country to find a path towards recovery and rebuilding at every level. The panel discussion at HRC38 shed light on the ongoing crisis and how persistent violence and human rights violations are causing the country’s institutions to dramatically deteriorate.

Advocating for actions to respond to the crisis in Nicaragua, we also participated in meetings with staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, with the representative of the Costa Rica mission, and joined a press conference.

## Outcome 2.b: Policies

*Policies and laws on SRHR, women's rights and gender justice increasingly include gender transformative analysis and approaches inclusive of men and masculinities, and are implemented at country, regional and global levels.*

Outcome 2b Indicators:

- # global, regional and national policies and laws integrating gender-transformative approaches to engaging boys and men on GBV, unpaid care, peace and security, SRHR and HIV/AIDS at national, regional and global levels where MenEngage is present by 2020
- Improved quality of the policy language on engaging men and boys from a gender-transformative perspective among laws and policies at country, regional and global levels by 2020

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2018
<b>Output 2.5)</b> MenEngage Alliance issue-based policy advocacy statements developed and broadly disseminated at global, regional and country levels	# of policy advocacy briefs produced and disseminated by MenEngage Global Alliance and members in 2018	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Briefing note on 'Engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities for the realization of CEDAW's Mandates'</li> </ul>
	# of people reached with MenEngage Alliance advocacy materials in 2018	1300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 250 Printed and Distributed</li> <li>● 1000 Viewed Online</li> <li>● 50 CEDAW Members and OHCHR Partners shared with</li> </ul>
	% increase in (social)media sharing of MenEngage Alliance advocacy statements and materials by 2020	
<b>Output 2.6)</b> Policy and law-makers are supported by MenEngage Alliance and members in their policy development around SRHR, women's rights and gender justice at global, regional and country levels	# of direct policy development support, proposals and recommendations provided by MenEngage Alliance and members to policy-, law- and decision-makers at national, regional and global levels by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 4 Rounds of Technical Inputs to Zero Draft of CSW</li> <li>● 3 rounds of technical inputs to VAW Resolution HRC38</li> <li>● 2 Rounds of technical inputs to UNGA Resolution on Sexual Harassment</li> <li>● HRC38 - VAW and ICT Canada Resolution technical inputs, shared with Canada, Iceland and Sweden</li> <li>● HRC38 Brief: Engaging men and boys in elimination of VAWG</li> </ul>

		<p>(promising practices from the field)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Canada Engaging Men and Boys Strategy</li> <li>● General Recommendations/Technical Inputs to Consultative Civil Society Process: Updating Voices at Risk: Canada's Guidelines on Supporting Human Rights Defenders</li> <li>● Inputs towards OECD Guidance Note – Engaging with Masculinities in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings</li> <li>● Iceland - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● Netherlands - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● European Union - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● NGO CSW - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions</li> <li>● Women’s Rights Caucus - Inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions - 25 member states during WRC lobby process</li> <li>● Development of Engaging Men and Boys Factsheet for Women’s Rights Caucus Lobbying during CSW - reaching 25 member states</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 2.7)</b> Policies, laws and statements by policy makers on SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice are monitored on gender transformative approaches inclusive of men and masculinities perspectives, by</p>	<p># of policy monitoring tools developed and used by MenEngage members and partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 national monitoring tool</li> <li>● 1 regional monitoring tool</li> <li>● 1 global monitoring tool</li> </ul>
	<p># of policy analysis and monitoring reports by MenEngage Alliance global, regional and country networks 2020</p>	

MenEngage Alliance and members and partners at global, regional and country levels	# of shares of MenEngage Alliance’s policy analysis and monitoring reports by 2020	
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## Output 2.5: Advocacy statements

*MenEngage Alliance issue-based policy advocacy statements developed and broadly disseminated at global, regional and country levels*

### CEDAW Briefing note

In advance of the Alliance’s briefing with the CEDAW committee in March, the GS prepared a briefing note on ‘[Engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities for the realization of CEDAW’s Mandates](#)’. The brief explores key insights into global efforts to engage men and boys to transform masculinities, as well as how these efforts have been carried out at the normative, global, regional and national levels in both programming and policy contexts. Additionally, it lays out opportunities and challenges in advancing this work and proposes ways for ensuring that these strategies remain effective and beneficial towards the achievement of gender equality. It also includes recommendations for further engagement with the CEDAW Committee, in order to ensure collaborative and ongoing dialogue and action towards the realization of our joint vision.

## Output 2.6: Policy and law-makers supported

*Policy and law-makers are supported by MenEngage Alliance and members in their policy development around SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice at global, regional and country levels*

MenEngage Alliance participated in 4 rounds of technical contributions towards the Agreed Conclusion of the Outcome Document of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, working on inputs compiled through a participatory process that engaged members from all regions. These inputs, worked to progress the language and framing on the men and masculinities lens within the international normative framework, by recommending the deletion of repetitive and unnecessary paragraphs on men and boys towards the inclusion of one consolidated progressive paragraph including language from HRC Resolution 35/10 which addresses the responsibility of men and boys for being made aware of and actively engaging in dismantling patriarchal norms and power dynamics. Furthermore, we worked to strengthen agreements on appropriate men’s roles in the paragraph on unpaid care. In addition, MenEngage Alliance’s technical inputs advocated for support against increasingly constricted civil society space, women human rights defenders, LGBTQIA+/SOGI Rights, and SRHR. Technical inputs on Zero-Draft CSW Agreed Conclusions were shared with the governments of Canada, Sweden, South Africa, Netherlands/European Union, and disseminated to NGO CSW and the Women’s Rights Caucus who used them as during their language advocacy for 25 member states during the WRC lobby process.

In addition, the Alliance provided 2 rounds of technical inputs to the government of Canada towards the Human Rights Council Resolution led by Canada on ICT facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls

### Canada’s National Strategy on Engaging Men and Boys

MenEngage Alliance, together with its co-chair White Ribbon Canada, provided key advocacy asks to Canada’s consultation process during the development of their draft National Strategy on Engaging

Men and Boys. White Ribbon Canada also participated in the national civil society consultations and provided a leading strategic voice in the drafting of the Strategy.

#### Updating Voices at Risk: Canada's Guidelines on Supporting Human Rights Defenders

Emphasizing the need to continue strengthening its support mechanisms and processes for human rights defenders worldwide, Canada opened a call to civil society for inputs towards the updating of its strategy to protect HRD's. MenEngage Alliance compiled and submitted inputs towards this process.

### **Output 2.7: Policy monitoring**

*Policies, laws and statements by policy makers on SRHR, women's rights and gender justice are monitored on gender transformative approaches inclusive of men and masculinities perspectives, by MenEngage Alliance and members and partners at global, regional and country levels*

The Alliance continued to advance the development of a comprehensive mapping of language relating to the engagement of men and boys in international policies and agreements (CSW, HRC, CEDAW, CPD, WPS related agreements). We aim to produce an advocacy tool for our members, explaining how to engage with these mechanisms and outlining relevant agreed language to their work. This tool will be finalized in 2019. Additionally, the alliance mapped most accessible national and regional policies on engaging men and boys -a preliminary mapping which will be expanded upon in 2019 in preparation for an expert workshop with the CEDAW committee.

### **Result Area 3 – Knowledge Management and Communications**

*Programs, campaigns, advocacy efforts and organizations in the gender equality and human rights field are informed and strengthened by the information and knowledge produced by MenEngage Alliance and members on gender transformative, intersectional feminist and rights-based approaches to men and masculinities in addressing SRHR including HIV/Aids, gender-based violence, women's rights and gender equality by 2020.*

A number of key communications and knowledge management activities were progressed in 2018. Following a period without a dedicated member of staff working on communications and knowledge management, a part-time Communications Coordinator was hired at the Global Secretariat in January. The Global Secretariat was able to advance projects including a new regular global newsletter, redesign and development of key marketing and information materials such as the MenEngage Alliance brochure, a dedicated campaign to promote accountability around the network, initiation of Global Communications Working Group, and laying foundations for a comprehensive redevelopment of the website and online community-building tools.

The Global Secretariat undertook a survey, interviews and focus groups of members, plus a review of strategic documents, as part of a digital needs assessment. Through this needs assessment, and by working with a digital consultant to advise on the process, the Global Secretariat selected a web partner from a range of options and a step-by-step selection process. The web agency began the process of website redevelopment in December, with a clear brief to provide digital development and design support to advance several key aims of the Alliance.

### **Outcome 3: Knowledge systematized, disseminated and used**

*Knowledge emerging from MenEngage Alliance members and partners on promising practices to transform masculinities and engage men and boys on issues related to SRHR incl. HIV/AIDS, GBV,*

women's rights and gender equality is systematized, disseminated and broadly used by the broader gender equality and human rights field.

Outcome 3 Indicators:

- Quality of publications by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020
- # of organizations, academic institutions, government agencies and programs utilizing evidence from MenEngage Alliance members, partners and allies by 2020
- # of publications, news-items, stories highlighting MenEngage Alliance members' work by 2020
- # of requests and downloads of the documents and materials produced by MenEngage Alliance members and partners at country, regional and global levels by 2020

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Report in 2018</b>
<b>Output 3.1)</b> MenEngage Alliance knowledge management & communications (KM&C) strategy developed and implemented with regional and country networks and at-large member organizations	# members participating in the MenEngage Alliance KM&C working group by 2020	11 members participating in a Global Communications and Knowledge Management Working Group, representing 4 regional networks, 1 country network, and 2 At-Large board members.  22 members from every regional network are in an additional group, the Web Reference Group, to provide inputs to the web development process.
	1 global comprehensive MenEngage Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy developed and utilized by 2020	Process initiated by the global Communications Working Group
	# of regional and country networks utilizing contextualized versions of the MenEngage KM&C strategies by 2020	To be developed
	# of mentions and articles in newspapers and blogs at country, regional and global levels by 2020	Monitoring mechanisms for this to be developed
	# of social media (Facebook, twitter) posts and shares at regional and global levels by 2020	Global: 797 re-tweets
<b>Output 3.2)</b> MenEngage Alliance knowledge products on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in priority issues related	# of publications (discussion papers, synthesis reports) developed and shared at global, regional and country levels by 2020	300

to SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice developed and disseminated at country, regional and global levels	# of global e-newsletters and magazines published and disseminated by 2020	9 e-newsletters of news, analysis and opinion were sent.
	# of uses and shares of knowledge products at global, regional and country levels by 2020	4,343 views of resources on the MenEngage Alliance website
<b>Output 3.3)</b> Case-stories about promising practices and lessons learned on gender transformative work with men and boys issues related to SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice identified, packaged and disseminated with MenEngage Alliance at country, regional and global levels	# of country and regional network members participating in meetings, workshops and trainings on collating and sharing promising practices by 2020	
	# of quality stories of change developed at country, regional and global levels and disseminated by 2020	Two stories of change currently in development

### Output 3.1: Knowledge management and communication strategy

*MenEngage Alliance knowledge management & communications (KM&C) strategy developed and implemented with regional and country networks and at-large member organizations*

#### Website redesign

A detailed needs assessment and knowledge gathering process throughout 2018 informed the identification and selection of a suitable web company. The project, primarily aimed at the redevelopment of a key digital resource - the website [www.menengage.org](http://www.menengage.org) - is grounded in a participatory process, informed by the strategic plan. Having set the foundations - and by December appointed a web company - the Alliance is in a strong position to reinvigorate its digital platforms in 2019, with benefits for communications, online networking and knowledge sharing.

- Web reference group participants: 22
- Respondents to communications survey: 68 (representing 40 countries)
- Members/staff interviewed or taken part in focus groups on website needs: 16

#### ‘MenEngage Reflect’ newsletter re-launch

In 2018, MenEngage Alliance re-launched a regular monthly newsletter ‘MenEngage Reflect’ to its existing mailing list with 3,800 subscribers, providing a global platform for members to share their achievements, challenges, and promising practices in feminist-informed, gender transformative, human rights-based work in this field. 9 issues were shared, including regular monthly issues as well as special event-based or thematic issues. The newsletters included featured opinion articles and interviews from our members, as well as news updates from across the regional networks and members, and international works of at-large members, new resources and messages from the Global Secretariat. In October 2018, the Spanish translation of the newsletter was launched.

### Social media mobilization

In 2018 MenEngage Alliance continued to use its social media presence to elevate the work of our members and partners, share updates from the Alliance and post relevant news and articles. The Alliance published more than 500 Facebook posts and 161 tweets, making a conscious effort to diversify sources and elevate news on women's rights, LGBTQI rights and men and masculinities from around the world. MenEngage Alliance tweets were retweeted 797 times, with more than 200,000 'impressions' (instances where a tweet appears in someone's Twitter feed). We also supported several campaigns by members and partners such as the youth dialogue twitter consultation.

As the result of these dedicated efforts, the analytic metrics attest to the success of MenEngage Alliance's outreach via social media and our website:

- MenEngage Alliance's Facebook page gained 648 followers in 2018 for a total of 5,852, an increase of 12%.
- MenEngage Alliance's Twitter account gained 1,050 followers in 2018, an increase of 20%, for a total of 6,300. In addition, the MenEngage twitter handle had 10,410 profile visits and 1,720 mentions during the year 2018.
- The MenEngage Alliance website also witnessed substantial traffic in 2018, with over 19,000 visits during the period.

### Communications and Knowledge Management Working Group

The board agreed in August to initiate a Communications Working Group mandated to steer and make recommendations relating to the Communications and Knowledge Management strategic pillar of the Alliance. During the following period, regional networks and at-large members held a process to appoint someone to be on the Communications Working Group. The process of initiating the group was finalized in December, with initial meetings arranged for the following period.

## **Output 3.2: Knowledge products**

*MenEngage Alliance knowledge products on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in priority issues related to SRHR, women's rights and gender justice developed and disseminated at country, regional and global levels*

As reported in other sections of this report, MenEngage Alliance produced and disseminated a range of knowledge products, ranging from event reports to advocacy briefs, which enhanced understanding among our members and partners on gender transformative feminist work with men and boys. To help broaden the sharing of knowledge across regions and cultures, we expanded our translation of knowledge products, making many of them available in Spanish and French.

Knowledge products produced this year include:

- [MenEngage Alliance Annual report 2017](#)
- [MenEngage at CSW62 report](#)
- [MenEngage on the Spot: An Accountability Dialogue on the work of the Alliance, past, present and future, after 10 years of existence](#)
- [Briefing note 'Engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities for the realization of CEDAW's Mandates'](#)
- [Updated Accountability toolkit \(Spanish version\)](#)
- [Updated Accountability Toolkit \(French version\)](#)

### ***Journal Article on "Engaging men as fathers and caregivers"***

MenEngage Global Alliance was invited by [International Journal of Care and Caring](#) to contribute an article on care and ethics. The Global Secretariat team developed an article "[Engaging men as fathers](#)

[and caregivers: an entry point to advancing women's empowerment and rights](#)", building on the learning from its membership as well as the MenCare Campaign, arguing the caregiving programs with men can be effective and serve as an entry point to engage men as allies for feminist agendas. It highlights the need to increase the uptake and scale-up of such initiatives, while ensuring quality, local contextualization and ownership, and full accountability to women and girls. Furthermore, such programs must be connected with efforts to advance women's economic empowerment and rights, challenge social norms around caregiving, transform institutions, and be combined with progressive national policies to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work. This article was the journal's [third most read article of 2018](#).

### Output 3.3 Case Stories

*Case-stories about promising practices and lessons learned on gender transformative work with men and boys' issues related to SRHR, women's rights and gender justice identified, packaged and disseminated with MenEngage Alliance at country, regional and global levels*

#### Case Study project

In 2018, the Alliance advanced with its case study project which aims to showcase promising examples of masculinities work being done by our members around the world. We have been working with our members to identify suitable projects and activist's personal stories of change and have initiated the development of a number of case studies, to be finalized in 2019. We also published several featured articles and interviews with our members in the monthly newsletter.

#### Video project

Taking advantage of the diverse representation from across the Alliance present in Santiago, Chile for the Global Board and Strategy meeting, the Alliance carried out and filmed interviews with our members about their work with the aim of creating a number of videos about the Alliance and our members' work. The videos, one on accountable practices and one on the Alliance's work more broadly, will be finalized in early 2019 and shared widely on social media.

#### Voice Male Magazine

In 2018, MenEngage Global Alliance continued its partnership with [Voice Male Magazine](#) in producing the magazine as well as collating and highlighting the work of our members globally. MenEngage Global Alliance continued contributing financial support to the magazine, together with [some articles by the Global Secretariat team](#) as well as collating articles from across its membership globally. The Alliance explored the possibility of taking on the magazine as a MenEngage Alliance institutional publication. However, it was decided at the Board meeting in Santiago, Chile to continue the partnership only on an issue by issue basis.

## **Result Area 4 – Accountability and Partnerships**

*Accountable practices and partnerships among MenEngage Alliance members and SRHR, women's rights and gender justice movements, based on solidarity, equality, justice and feminist principles.*

Accountability to women's rights and social justice movements is a fundamental principle for MenEngage Alliance members and partners. We owe our existence to the ground breaking work and leadership of women's rights movements and most of our efforts to engage men and boys grew out of the leadership of feminist women's rights organizations in advancing this agenda. However, with the increased attention and prioritization of "engaging men and boys" work among various and new organizations many of these initiatives seem to have lost the connection with feminist and women's

rights agendas. Many feminist and women’s rights leaders and organizations have expressed concerns regarding how the work with men and boys may be reproducing male privileges and patriarchal power dynamics within the field. In response to these contending issues, in 2018, MenEngage Alliance proactively engaged in constructive and open dialogues among its members and with the broader field of activists and practitioners in the gender equality and social justice fields. We’ve organized online events, forums, panel discussions, consultations and trainings about accountability and ways to support a culture of accountable practice among its members and partners.

#### Outcome 4: Strengthen capacity on accountability issues

*MenEngage Alliance members and partners have strengthened capacities to uphold quality standards and accountable practices in transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys, and work in partnerships and solidarity with the broader field of SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice.*

Outcome 4 Indicators:

- % of members and partners reporting increased understanding of key concepts such as power, privilege, patriarchy, feminism, masculinities by 2020
- % of members, networks and partners reporting having tools and procedures in place to deal with accountability issues at country, regional and global levels by 2020
- # of partnerships and collaborations with women’s rights and gender justice actors and organizations at country, regional and global level where MenEngage Alliance is present by 2020

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report in 2018
<b>Output 4.1)</b> Joint accountability activities organized by MenEngage Alliance members and partners at global, regional and country levels	# of capacity strengthening meetings, workshops, trainings on MenEngage Alliance Accountability Standards organized by 2020	4 - Board session - Prevention+ partners’ meeting - MenEngage Uganda - MenEngage Africa Leadership
	# of times the online MenEngage Global Alliance Accountability education platforms are accessed by 2020	
	# of MenEngage country and regional networks adapting the MenEngage Alliance Accountability Standards by 2020	
	# of promising practices on accountability and partnerships among MenEngage Alliance members and partners documented and disseminated internationally by 2020	

<b>Output 4.2)</b> Collaborative actions among MenEngage Alliance members and partners with leading CSOs/NGOs in the broader field of SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice on issues related to SRHR including HIV/AIDS, GBV, unpaid care, peace and security, LGBTQI rights, Youth rights, Child rights, etc. at national, regional and global levels.	# of collaborative actions including ‘men and masculinities perspective’ among MenEngage Alliance members and leading CSOs/NGOs in the broader field of women’s rights and gender justice by 2020	
	# of collaborative actions with key women's rights organizations and networks on emerging issues of shrinking democratic spaces and (women’s) human rights defender violations by 2020	
	# of public actions by MenEngage Alliance and members condemning individual and groups of men that are against feminism and women’s rights (“MRAs”) and/or promoting positive alternatives (leading by doing) by 2020	
	# of global women’s rights and gender justice alliances that MenEngage Global Alliance is an active member of by 2020	

### Output 4.1: Accountability activities

*Joint accountability activities organized by MenEngage Alliance members and partners at global, regional and country levels*

This year the Global Secretariat promoted or co-organized a series of events that placed front and center the challenges with accountability in our work and identified the required course of action in order to “practice what we preach”. Some of these events were framed as capacity building initiatives and others as critical dialogues. Along the way, we built bridges with critical feminist leaders who are not part of MenEngage and gained important insights to continue this work in 2019.

We put the focus on the Alliance itself, by organizing a critical dialogue during CSW that created a safe space to openly discuss the concerns that feminist women’s rights groups have towards both the Alliance as well as the ‘men and masculinities’ field. This resulted in greater understanding of the concerns as well as the important steps that the Alliance needs to take in the coming years. The Alliance also initiated listening rounds with various women’s rights activists and leaders on the concerns they have with the Alliance and engaging men and boys work. Our members also engaged in a constructive online conversation on issues of accountability following an email from a Board member, which resulted in generating ideas on how to deepen this work. We also held a Board level sensitization session, which resulted in the realization that our accountability standards, core principles and code of conduct need to be updated with the latest discourse and understanding in the field.

### Accountability dialogue “MenEngage on the Spot” at CSW62

During CSW62, to mark the Alliance existence for over 10 years, MenEngage Global Alliance invited over 60 feminists, women’s rights, SRHR, LGBTIQ+ rights, social and gender justice activists to an open dialogue about our work to dismantle patriarchy, transform masculinities and engage men and boys. At the gathering we turned the focus upon ourselves in a critical, solution-based dialogue on our accountability practices – past, present and future – with the broader gender justice field. This space provided an opportunity to discuss gaps, challenges and opportunities regarding how we can best contribute to advancing the objectives set by feminist women’s rights, gender Justice, human rights and social justice movements. The result was a valuable conversation in which participants shared openly the challenges and concerns they experience and observe in the ‘engaging men and boys’ field. Mary Ellsberg, founding Director of the [Global Women’s Institute](#) of George Washington University and member of [Coalition of Feminists for Social Change](#) (COFEM) reiterated that many feminists believe that engaging men and boys is extremely important, and want MenEngage Alliance to stand up and be allies in these difficult conversations. She shared an important message that engaging men and boys should not be done instead of working with women and girls, or without women and girls, although in many cases this is how it has happened. MenEngage Alliance members and partners shared that the event helped them gain better understanding of the concerns that feminist and women’s rights groups have about engaging men and boys work and its relation to accountability. The recommendations were shared in a [summary report](#) which was disseminated widely among our membership and on social media.

### Listening rounds with feminist leaders

Following the event at CSW, the Global Secretariat reached out to feminist women’s rights leaders for additional rounds of conversations with regards to the Alliance’s accountability initiative. In 2018, the Global Secretariat team held conversations with 4 feminist women’s rights leaders that helped to better shape and confirm the importance of updating MenEngage Alliance core principles, code of conduct and accountability standards, through such a way that can also help generate better understanding of these among the membership of the Alliance. These insights led to the development of plans to co-create the accountability standards, core principles and code of conduct together with the Alliance membership across the regions and feminist women’s rights leaders. The Global Secretariat developed a plan for this initiative with inputs from women’s rights leaders and board members of the Alliance, which will be implemented starting in 2019. We envision launching the updated standards and principles at the Alliance general assembly following the 3rd global symposium in 2020.

### Capacity building and strengthening on accountability issues

#### *Orientation session at MenEngage Alliance Strategy Meeting in Chile*

A session on the accountability standards and toolkit was facilitated during the Global Strategy Meeting held in Santiago Chile in August which brought together Board members and other MenEngage regional leaders. We discussed the meaning of accountability for us as a global network, the challenges and concerns held by feminist organizations regarding a lack of accountability and the importance of self-reflection to be aware of how power and privilege show up in our activism and networks. The participants provided critical feedback regarding the language used in the Alliance’s accountability materials and a strong consensus was built regarding the need to take these discussions forward within our networks.

#### *Prevention+ Meeting*

As part of the Prevention+ partners meeting in Uganda in September, the Global Secretariat facilitated a session on accountability for the country and consortium partners from Uganda, Indonesia, Rwanda,

Pakistan, Lebanon, United States, Netherlands and South Africa. The key objectives were to collectively reflect about the meaning of accountability issues as well as to discuss current concerns around accountability in the 'engaging boys and men' field, including both the historic and current concerns expressed by women's rights and feminist organizations on the subject. The session included role plays, plenary discussion and teamwork that drew key themes from MenEngage Accountability Toolkit. Participants drew a consensus on the need to continue to deepen accountable practices and, as a key recommendation, highlighted 'the program will work towards capacity strengthening at all levels on accountable practices, using the MenEngage Alliance Accountability Toolkit, in addition to working towards the development of institutional policies/mechanisms to deal with sexual harassment'. Taking the discussion further, during the closing collective evaluation of the partner's meeting, country partners expressed the desire to explore intersectional accountability which considers various layered and interconnected forms of identity, oppression and marginalization.

#### *Accountability Workshop for MenEngage Uganda members*

The Alliance also co-organized a one-day workshop with the MenEngage Uganda network for its members in the country. The workshop ended with a panel made up of national feminist leaders and leaders from the network, having a dialogue about the local challenges faced by those working on engaging men and boys and ways to partner and remain accountable to local women's rights organizations. The workshop raised awareness about these important issues and provided the opportunity for closer communication between MenEngage members in the country and feminist leaders who are not part of the network.

#### *Accountability Workshop for MenEngage Africa Leadership*

The Global Secretariat and MenEngage Africa organized a two-day workshop on accountability in November in Pretoria. This participatory training provoked critical discussions on what it means for activists and organizations working to engage men and boys for gender equality to ensure accountability to diverse women and girls and other social justice groups. During the workshop the participants reviewed each of the MenEngage accountability standards to both provide feedback for improving them and to propose ways they can put such standards into practice. The participants accessed new accountability tools for their work and committed to a tailored plan of key actions to take this work further in their countries.

#### Accountability Campaign during 16-days of activism

During the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence this year, the Alliance implemented a campaign on accountability. Aimed primarily at our members and others working in the field of engaging men and boys, the campaign intended to advance the issue of accountable practices and elevate existing MenEngage Alliance and partners' materials and knowledge products on accountability issues. Over the course of the 16 days, the Alliance shared key messages on accountability, photo quotes from 7 members around the world, and key resources from the Alliance and other feminist organizations on accountability using social media platforms, newsletter and listservs.

#### Updated Accountability Toolkit

The Updated Accountability Toolkit (2017) was published in [Spanish](#) and in [French](#) and disseminated widely at relevant regional events.

#### Accountability in Communications

The Alliance devoted considerable energy this year to promoting messages about accountability through its communications platforms, including a themed issue of the newsletter and several

featured articles on the subject, and the development of a video on what accountability means to our members and their work. *See Result area 3 for more information.*

## Output 4.2: Collaborative actions

*Collaborative actions among MenEngage Alliance members and partners with leading CSOs/NGOs in the broader field of SRHR, women’s rights and gender justice on issues related to SRHR including HIV/AIDS, GBV, unpaid care, peace and security, LGBTQI rights, Youth rights, Child rights, etc. at national, regional and global levels.*

*Add short para of the following activities (no need to have long but refer to the relevant sections):*

- *CSW Youth Dialogue (refer to the section above)*
- *HRC38 mobilization (refer to the section above)*
- *Webinar on Militarization and Masculinities, with WILPF (refer to the section above)*

### Preparation for the Women Deliver conference

MenEngage Alliance was invited by Women Deliver to join a consortium with UN Women, UNFPA and Together for Girls to help develop a concurrent session under the cluster “Gender-based Violence “It’s time to talk about power” for the [Women Deliver conference](#) -the world’s largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women- in June 2019. This concurrent session is a series of three sessions across the 3 days during the conference, where MenEngage Alliance played a leading role in preparing and planning for the session on “Fighting structural inequalities as drivers of GBV”.

## Result Area 5 – Governance model

*A strong, inclusive, democratic and sustainable MenEngage Global Alliance governance model.*

### Outcome 5: Institutional governance strengthened

*MenEngage Alliance is an active, membership-led, democratic, sustainable and accountable learning organization that acts in solidarity with its members and partners.*

Outcome 5 Indicators:

- % of members and partners reporting increased collective actions, participation and sense of ownership at country, regional and global levels by 2020
- Quality of planning, reporting, operation and governance of MenEngage Alliance at country, regional and global levels by 2020
- # of global, regional and country networks having raised at least 80% of their planned budget through independent fundraising activities by 2020
- # of inter-country and inter-regional coordinated activities on GBV, unpaid care, peace and security, SRHR and HIV/AIDS issues, including cross-sharing and learning exchanges between and among members, partners and allies taking place at country, regional and global levels by 2020

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Report in 2017</b>
<b>Output 5.1)</b> MenEngage Alliance Strategic plan and Theory of Change	# of strategic planning activities with MenEngage global, regional and country networks and at-	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 Global</li> <li>● 2 Africa</li> <li>● 1 South Asia</li> </ul>

developed, implemented and monitored at global, regional and country levels	large members organized by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Latin America</li> <li>• 1 Europe</li> </ul>
	1 Strategic Plan and 1 ToC developed and implemented by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020	1 ToC finalized
	1 MenEngage Alliance Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) strategy developed and implemented by MenEngage global, regional and country networks by 2020	
	# of annual plans and reports developed and disseminated by MenEngage global, regional and country networks by 2020	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 global plan</li> <li>• 6 regional plans</li> <li>• 1 global report</li> <li>• 6 reports</li> </ul>
	# of external evaluations undertaken and disseminated by MenEngage global, regional and country networks by 2020	1 regional in Africa
<b>Output 5.2)</b> MenEngage Global Alliance governance structures in place, participatory and functional at global, regional and country levels	# of joint initiatives by the Global Secretariat (GS) organized with regional and country networks, members and partners by 2020	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Africa symposium</li> <li>• 1 Africa youth symposium</li> <li>• 1 accountability workshop in Africa</li> </ul>
	# of Board meetings, calls and joint activities, including exchange visits, organized with regional networks, at-large members and the GS by 2020	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 virtual board calls</li> <li>• 1 face-to-face board meeting</li> </ul>
	# of contextualized global, regional and country network Membership Strategies developed and implemented by 2020	
	1 Up-to-date Global membership database maintained by 2020	
<b>Output 5.3)</b> MenEngage Global Alliance resource mobilization and fundraising strategy developed and	% of MenEngage Global Alliance operating budget secured by 2020	1.7 M USD secured for SRHR project, out of 4.4 M USD of the 4-year budget
	# of regional and country networks supported for fundraising and resource mobilization efforts by 2020	5 regional networks

successfully implemented	# of grants, donations and philanthropy support received by the Alliance by 2020	1
	# of concept notes, ToRs and proposals developed and submitted by 2020	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Africa</li> <li>• 1 Europe</li> </ul>

### Output 5.1: Strategic Plan and Theory of Change

*MenEngage Alliance Strategic plan and Theory of Change developed, implemented and monitored at global, regional and country levels*

#### Implementation of the Strategic Plan

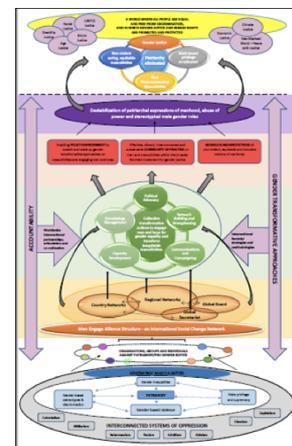
2018 saw the start of the full implementation of the Alliance’s strategic plan together with the regional networks, except one regional network in Caribbean (please see Result Area 1 for more details). Having worked with each regional network in 2017 to develop collective understanding of the international framing of the mission and vision of the Alliance, the Global Secretariat closely worked with the regional networks to further elaborate and contextualize their strategic and work plans. With the subgrants that they received, most of the regional networks started full implementation of the regional work plans (*see Networks Building and Strengthening section for more details*).

#### Supporting the regional networks on strategic and work plans and institutional strengthening

The Global Secretariat provided direct support to all six regional networks as well as emerging networks in Lebanon, Australia and other countries in South Asia. the GS team participated in the regional steering committee and strategic planning meetings in all the regions as well as in Lebanon.

#### Finalization of the Theory of Change

MenEngage Alliance worked with two consultants to support the development of a Theory of Change for the Alliance. In 2018, after thorough review by the MenEngage Board members and GS team, the Theory of Change was finalized. The ToC outlines the transformation the Alliance is working towards in the world, how different elements of the network contribute to this change and some underlying assumptions about the way the Alliance works. The ToC outlines that MenEngage Alliance strives to be part of the broader feminist and social justice movements and can, as such, be defined as an international social change network. Part of its strategic role includes engaging men and boys as a ‘constituency group’, assuring that their individual and collective processes of change contribute to dismantling patriarchy and transforming masculinities. The Toc outlines the six major components; the contextual analysis of patriarchy, MenEngage Alliance as a social change network, pathways to change, major anticipated changes, vision of success and impact.



#### Annual Plan and Report

Following the spirit of MenEngage Alliance’s strategic plan 2017-20 and the latest discourse and knowledge on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in gender equality, the Global Secretariat developed - with support from the Board - a detailed work plan for the year 2018, which was submitted to Sida for approval. The plan was taken further once the approval from Sida was received. These articulation of the vision, aspired changes, strategies and activities, as well as reflections on achievements -are of tremendous importance to MenEngage Alliance’s further

development as an active, membership-led, democratic, sustainable and accountable learning organization that acts in solidarity with its members and partners.

#### Monitoring Evaluation and Learning framework development

Following the finalization of Theory of Change, in 2018 the Global Secretariat initiated the process of developing a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for the Alliance together with the same consultants who developed the Theory of Change. The framework will help better articulate meaningful outcome-level indicators for MenEngage Alliance as a 'social change network', as well as information gathering strategies. Technical mechanisms for outreach measurements will be developed (in particular as part of the Knowledge Management and Communications strategy) and a set of guiding questions will be developed to support the Alliance at all levels. A concept note is in development and the GS will further work with the consultants to develop the monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for the Alliance in 2019.

### **Output 5.2: Governance structures**

*MenEngage Global Alliance governance structures in place, participatory and functional at global, regional and country levels*

#### Global Board meeting

The annual board meeting has become a key pillar in the MenEngage Alliance calendar, in which our board members, representing every region of the Alliance, develop strategies and plans for the years ahead in the work of feminist-informed, gender transformative work with men and boys. In 2018, the Board met in Santiago, Chile, in August for its [annual face-to-face meeting](#). The Board made several key governance decisions, including electing [Humberto Carolo, Executive Director, White Ribbon Canada](#), as co-chair of the Alliance. The Board discussed the new Child Safeguarding Policy and adopted two new policies, a Conflict of Interest Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Policy. The Board agreed to partner with ABAAD to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Symposium. Several working groups were formed, including a working group to develop an emergency preparedness and response protocol, a group to coordinate the updating of the Alliance's Core Principles and Code of Conduct.

#### Global Strategy meeting

Following the 2-day of the Board meeting in Santiago, the Alliance held its extended Global Strategy Meeting, which brought together 31 representatives from 20 countries and 7 regions, from the Global Board, regional networks and the Global Secretariat. Over the course of three days, participants shared their experiences from diverse contexts, discussed the state of the 'men and masculinities' field, and strategized on how the Alliance can collectively work to advance its mission to dismantle patriarchy by transforming masculinities through intersectional feminist approaches.

Participants discussed key issues that regional and country networks struggle with and shared ideas on how to resolve them. They strategized on how to politicize the Alliance's agenda and strengthen its advocacy capacity and engagement at all levels of the network. A number of challenging or 'sticky issues' views were discussed, including the increasing conservative backlash, the space for addressing men's vulnerabilities within the Alliance and how to react to current trends such as the #MeToo movement. The meeting was wrapped up with a strategy session on mobilizing the network towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> MenEngage Global Symposium in 2020. With such a diverse wealth of expertise, the week was a significant step in advancing some exciting aims in the field of engaging men and boys in gender justice and women's rights. The Global Secretariat produced the report and disseminated.

Pamela Saavedra Castro<sup>4</sup> wrote a blog post "[The personal-political turn of MenEngage Alliance](#)" on her experience of hosting and participating in the meeting. She writes *"Feminists in the 1960's famously popularized the phrase, 'the personal is political'. More than half a century later, it remains a staple of activist discourse, and one that continues to inspire those who work for gender equality and women's rights. For those of us working to engage men and boys in this work, it is a pivotal moment to ask ourselves how we can make the personal political. What stood out was the diversity of experiences shared from around the world, all with a common goal – achieving gender equality. The contributions of participants at the meeting gave me the feeling that we're in this together – and that we're getting stronger together. After all the discussions, agreements, presentations of members' work, and plans for the future, I am pleased with the political turn that the MenEngage Alliance is taking."*

### Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy

2018 saw several high-profile cases of sexual misconduct come to light against international non-governmental organizations as well as UN agencies, highlighting an ongoing culture of impunity for those who commit such misconduct. In response to these cases, and as the MeToo movement continued to build momentum, MenEngage Alliance acknowledged that sexual misconduct happens within our circles and that many Alliance members may not be well prepared or lack appropriate tools to be able to prevent and respond to it in an effective, ethical and accountable manner. The Alliance came to the realization that despite one of our core principles being 'zero tolerance against any form of sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation', it needs to strengthen internal policies and lay out proper standards, response and handling mechanisms to effectively prevent and respond to any cases should they occur.

A process was initiated to develop a comprehensive sexual harassment and misconduct policy, including the formation of a Board working group, and consultation of various women's rights groups specializing in this area. The working group drafted a policy which aims to prevent harm, promote healthy practices, end any potential systems of impunity within the Alliance, foster zero tolerance for sexual misconduct, and ensure accountable practices to survivors and people affected by sexual misconduct. While the policy only applies to those affiliated with MenEngage Global Alliance, it is intended to encourage and provide inspiration for our members to develop similar policies for their own organizations. The Board adopted a draft version of the policy and the policy will be finalized in early 2019.

## **Output 5.3: Resource Mobilization**

*MenEngage Global Alliance resource mobilization and fundraising strategy developed and successfully implemented*

### Amplify Change proposal

A proposal submitted by the Alliance to Amplify Change in 2017 was successful. MenEngage Global Alliance, as a newly instituted organization, had some challenges in accessing the money. After consulting with the Board, the Alliance decided to work with Rutgers Netherlands who agreed to be the fiscal agent for the project. With this arrangement, Rutgers entered into agreement with Amplify Change, on behalf of the Alliance and the project started on November 30. MenEngage Global Alliance

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<sup>4</sup> Pamela Saavedra Castro is a sociologist and researcher of men and masculinities, specializing in particular in young men and their gender socialization. Currently, she's studying for a master's degree in Gender Studies in Lima, Peru. She works at EME (Masculinities and Gender Equality), a Chilean NGO that researches masculinities, implements gender transformative programming with men and boys for gender equality and implements global campaigns such as the White Ribbon campaign and the MenCare campaign.

also hired a Project Coordinator, who is an expert in the area of SRHR and women's rights. This project will boost our work on our priority issue of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at all levels and support a pool of advocacy changemakers at country and regional levels.

#### Support to regional networks

Following its mandate, the Global Secretariat provided support to all five regional networks to generate additional resources required to facilitate the implementation of their regional strategic plans. The Global Secretariat:

- supported **MenEngage Europe** during the process of developing their resource mobilization strategy that included several rounds of discussions and clarifications to the consultants hired for this task as well as discussions at the SC meeting of MEE.
- supported Sonke Gender Justice, the secretariat of **MenEngage Africa**, as well as the MenEngage Africa leadership to develop its 4-year strategic plan. The global secretariat had meetings with Sida and Sida agreed to extend direct support to MenEngage Africa through Sonke Gender Justice. The GS also supported with resource mobilization for the 2nd MenEngage Africa symposium.
- supported co-coordinators of **MenEngage Latin America** to mobilize resources for the 7th Colloquium that they will be hosting in 2019 in Costa Rica, including organizing meetings with possible partners. The Global Secretariat will continue working with the regional leadership on this in 2019.
- supported the leadership of **MenEngage Alliance South Asia** to explore possible fundraising opportunities, including working with BRAC (secretariat of the network in Bangladesh) to facilitate meeting with an Amplify Change representative for the South Asia region during MenEngage Alliance South Asia's SC meeting in Kathmandu.

We believe that these efforts will be helpful in further strengthening the regional networks by mobilizing resources to cover the full implementation of their strategic plans and support in ensuring the networks are self-sustaining.

## Reports from the Regional Networks

### MenEngage Africa

MenEngage Africa is the largest regional network with more than 347 member organizations organized in 22 country networks. With the growth of the network it has now created sub-regional networks as an additional structure which form the regional steering committee, with two representatives from each sub-regional network from East, West, Central and Southern Africa. In 2018, MenEngage Africa set up a new country network in Nigeria. MenEngage Africa is the strongest region in terms of financial sustainability, as it has been funded by a SIDA regional grant as well as other grants that Sonke Gender Justice have been able to generate, thus enabling the regional network to conduct more collective activities across the region and to provide sub-grants to 10-12 country networks. MenEngage Africa's advocacy work has made the country networks and regional network established networks in the region in the 'men and masculinities' field. In addition, MenEngage Africa has had successes in advocacy efforts at regional bodies, such as SADC, ECOWAS, and the African Union. The African network has inspired a number of tools and initiatives that have been adopted at the global level, such as the network building toolkit, their regional training design for leaders and other key materials which have been a useful reference for other regional networks.

#### **Network building and strengthening**

During the year 2018, MenEngage Africa was able to further strengthen its governance structures at national and regional levels. Membership of MenEngage Africa grew from 299 members in 2017 to 347 member organizations in 2018. The number of country networks grew from 21 to 22, with the addition of a new network in Nigeria. The regional network has set up, following the changes they made within the governance structure of the network, some institutional arrangements that has resulted in efficient management of the regional network. MenEngage Africa, with support from the MenEngage Global Secretariat, conducted a joint induction session for new members Madagascar, Togo, and Liberia - which has set up a procedure for the regional network. This induction program included taking the new members through MenEngage Alliance Core Principles, Code of Conduct, Accountability and the steps on developing and strengthening country networks. This process will be further developed as a standard induction package for the regional network in 2019.

#### **Capacity Strengthening**

MenEngage Africa conducted numerous learning and capacity strengthening events on key MEA thematic and strategic areas including:

##### *Consultation on engaging men and boys in conflict prevention*

A [high-level meeting on engaging men and boys to advance peace and security](#) was held in Kigali, Rwanda in May, organized by Sonke Gender Justice, MenEngage Africa (MEA) and Rwanda MenEngage Network. The consultation created space for critical reflection on the effects of conflict on women and lessons learnt in this field. Participants discussed the operationalization of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 resolution in MenEngage Africa and the role of the network in the prevention of conflict and management of post-conflict. The event had a specific focus on the growing problem of GBV and its implication on women and explored initiatives to address this issue. The meeting discussed recommendations for the implementation of Resolution 1325 from a 'men and masculinities' lens and MenEngage Africa developed some concrete recommendations for their upcoming strategy, currently in development.

### *MEA youth capacity building*

MenEngage Africa held a [two-day capacity building workshop](#) in Entebbe, Uganda in September. The workshop brought together youth from 22 countries that have country networks affiliated with MenEngage Africa, including the MenEngage Africa Youth Steering Committee. The workshop covered key thematic areas for MenEngage Africa, including sexual and reproductive health and rights and the impact of the Global Gag Rule imposed by the current US administration. Other topics include gender norms transformation, accountability, strengthening partnerships with women's rights movements, and skills-building on advocacy and social media. The audio report by Sonke Gender Justice network can be [accessed here](#).

### *MenEngage Africa Training Initiative*

This year's MenEngage Africa Training Initiative (MATI) short course in "[Engaging and Challenging Men and Boys for Gender Equality in the #MeToo and #MenAreTrash Era](#)" took place in November. Hosted by MenEngage Africa, Sonke Gender Justice and the University of Pretoria, the training explored the foundations of a human-rights based approach and feminist framework to challenge gender inequality. MATI was attended by MenEngage participants from 22 African countries who then replicated the training in their home countries as a means of replicating the knowledge with their colleagues at country level. The participants significantly improved their knowledge in the areas of feminist approaches to gender and development, the links between masculinities and gender justice and promising practices engaging men and boys for gender equality within a feminist framework. The participants also acquired skills and made commitments to replicate the course for the members of the MenEngage Africa country networks.

### *Faith leaders' seminar*

In partnership with Sonke Gender Justice and UN Women, MenEngage Africa hosted a two-day seminar on [Faith for Gender Equality](#), in Johannesburg in November that brought together academics, NGO and CBO practitioners and faith leaders working in the field of gender equality from across the Africa region to reflect on promising practices on engaging religious leaders for gender justice in the continent. The seminar was successful to create space for discussions and plot the way forward on how faith leaders can help address harmful practices including female genital mutilation (FGM) and early and forced child marriage, and bridge the gap between marginalized communities, particularly the LGBTIQ community and religion, and address sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) issues in general. Faith leaders from all 22 MenEngage Africa countries attended the seminar. The seminar helped shed a light on the role religious leaders play in reinforcing patriarchal norms, and supported participants to develop actions plans on how to approach harmful social and cultural norms for the advancement of the rights of women and girls.

### *Consultation on access to SRHR services for key populations*

MenEngage Africa in collaboration with Kenya MenEngage Alliance and other partners hosted a [Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Consultation](#) Meeting, in Nairobi, Kenya in April. Key regional SRHR stakeholders including civil society, traditional and religious leaders, and MEA partners discussed how to improve SRHR access in Africa for youth and LGBTQ+ populations and the effects of the Global Gag Rule on SRHR services including access to abortion and HIV services. The insights from the consultation contributed to the development of a toolkit on providing non-discriminatory SRH services for LGBTQ+ populations.

### 2nd MenEngage Africa Symposium

Around [500 delegates from over 25 countries](#) from Africa, Latin America, North America, Asia, and Europe came together in April in Maputo, Mozambique, and simulated conversations, relationships and collaborations between academics, activists, experts, and practitioners from different disciplines.

Participants shared evidence, resources and practices related to [engaging men and boys for the promotion of gender equality](#) in the continent in order to strengthen the [regional political dialogue](#) on gender transformative approaches and accountability to women's rights and social justice activists, organizations and networks. The forum was organized by HOPEM, MenEngage Africa, the MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat in partnership with the Faculty of Arts and Social Science of Eduardo Mondlane University, Forum Mulher, and other partners, representing civil society activists, youth, academia, governments and UN representatives. The delegates reflected on and acknowledged the complex nature of this field, as well as the urgency of dismantling patriarchy and advancing gender justice in the continent. The symposium resulted in a collective "Maputo Declaration and Call to Action".

#### Youth Forum at 2nd MenEngage Africa Symposium

With the title "[The Africa We Want: Youth Leadership to Strengthen Activism and Partnership on Gender Equality and Social Justice](#)", MenEngage Africa, HOPEM, and Sonke Gender Justice, with support from the Global Secretariat, hosted a Youth Forum at the 2nd MenEngage Africa Symposium. The symposium brought together 50 youth leaders to share knowledge and create intergenerational dialogue on gender equality and social justice issues in the region. The forum provided a platform where representatives of youth organizations and networks, youth ministries and governments in the region contributed to the symposium's political discussions by elaborating a Youth Statement that fed into the "Maputo Declaration and Call to Action".

#### Resource Mobilization

MenEngage Africa has endeavored to diversify its fundraising with 8 proposals and concept notes submitted to UN Agencies, Bilateral agencies, regional and international funding agencies. Of the 8 submitted, 4 have so far been successful. MenEngage Africa received funding from Sida for the implementation of its strategic plan, and from Hivos for the network's work on youth leadership and engagement.

#### **Advocacy**

13 advocacy activities were reported at national level. For example, the Tanzania country network engaged with policy makers on laws for the prevention of FGM and child marriage. They conducted gender norms transformation sessions with parliamentarians to create awareness about the background of their decisions. The immediate outcome of engaging with policy makers is that MEA members are beginning to get invited to key policy events where they get the opportunity to input in policies. MenEngage Uganda was given the opportunity to attend the launch of the East African Community gender policy, where they highlighted the need to engage men and boys, a piece that was missing in the policy.

MEA issued an alert on the deteriorating state of human rights of sexual minorities in Tanzania. This was issued at the regional level to avoid putting members in Tanzania at risk. As an outcome of this, MEA approached African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHer) to develop a toolkit for advocacy around access to SRHR services for key populations, to guide MEA advocacy on this subject.

#### **Partnerships**

MEA country networks have been part of key women's rights advocacy platforms including part of the women's marches that took place in Uganda, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. MEA partnered with UN Women South Africa on the Faith leader's symposium.

### **Communications and Knowledge Management**

MenEngage Africa developed and distributed 4 newsletters to its 13, 292 subscribers in 2018. The network posted regularly on its social media platforms, highlighting key issues relating to gender and human rights in the region, and elevating its members work and the work of partners and women's rights organizations. Its Twitter profile gained 849 new followers in 2018 for a total of over 2300. Its Facebook profile now has a total of 1761 likes.

### **Accountability**

Two accountability workshops were conducted in the region, one in Kampala, Uganda in October attended by 43 participants and another in Pretoria attended by 33 participants.

During the accountability session in Kampala, Uganda, local feminists were invited to give their perspective on the work of MenEngage and shared criticisms of how the country network works in isolation with the feminist movement, sometimes seemingly competing for resources and spaces with the women's movement and failing to support women's causes. This interaction has greatly impacted how MenEngage Uganda works, and the network is now supporting and attending activities of women's rights organizations and are now actively speaking out on key issues raised by local feminist organizations.

MenEngage Africa and the MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat jointly organized and facilitated the workshop on Accountability Issues for the leaders of MenEngage Africa. The workshop resulted in participants to develop action plans on how they will be more accountable in their country networks. Some countries have already implemented their actions while others are planning to implement them in 2019.

### **Governance**

MenEngage Africa held its Annual General Meeting in April, which included representatives from 21 country networks. In addition, MenEngage Africa held 3 virtual meetings during the year. These meetings were focused on strengthening cooperation and support among the country networks and members in the implementation the MenEngage Africa Strategic Plan. MenEngage Africa organizes its Steering Committee meetings using a roving system, to enable members to host meetings and to use the opportunity to learn from one another and support each other's work.

### **CariMAN**

The Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN) is a regional not-for-profit organization affiliated with MenEngage and registered under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It functions as an umbrella organization for a network of male professionals in 10 English speaking Caribbean countries. CariMAN works towards increasing the number of men and men's organizations engaged in the promotion of social justice including bringing to an end all forms of violence including violence against women, children and men. CariMAN have established meaningful partnerships with UN agencies in the region to promote the role of men on ending violence against women.

CariMAN members in Trinidad and Tobago are partnering on several projects including the development of a video for new fathers with the Mamatoto birthing center, a project to train men and women to prevent gender-based violence and promote gender equality with the Institute for Gender Development Studies and CAISO.

CariMAN continues to provide consultative support to several projects in Trinidad and Tobago, including reviewing the possibility of implementing Promundo's Program H, the Barbershop Project that creates spaces where men and young men can openly discuss and understand attitudes, behaviors and gender stereotypes, and the Lunchtime Forum to facilitate discussions with men employed in multiple government ministries.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is consulting with the Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN) on several of its key gender initiatives engaging men and boys, including promoting positive fatherhood and preventing gender-based violence. CariMAN and its members are currently in consultation with a range of partners for other upcoming projects across the region.

## **MenEngage Europe**

MenEngage Europe (MEE) is the most widely-spread regional network of the Alliance, with 64 member organizations spread across 24 countries. MEE members are very active sharing their initiatives during global campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence and contributing in political discussions about gender at the regional level. In 2018, MenEngage Europe was able to organize two in-person Steering Committee meetings: in Vilnius in February at EIGE's CSO consultation meeting and in Vienna in October at the membership meeting of MenEngage Europe. These meetings helped to further structure and strengthen the network, with regard to membership procedures, producing and adopting a House Rules document, organizing a membership meeting, networking and sharing experiences between members, electing a new Steering Committee and collecting inputs for the network's strategic plan.

With support from MenEngage Global Alliance (MEGA) and a grant from the Oak Foundation, MenEngage Europe was able to hire someone to serve in a secretariat function, who works closely with the co-coordinators and Steering Committee to support the network in administrative and logistical tasks. The secretariat helped organize the membership meeting in Vienna in October and has supported greatly in stabilizing and strengthening the network. Another result of MEGA funding and the Oak Foundation grant is the temporary appointment of two consultants who worked on the network's institutional development and organizational strengthening and on the development of a Fundraising and Resource Mobilization Strategy. They will present their findings and recommendations in March 2019 and MenEngage Europe will use their findings for organizational development and funding to move forward in a sustainable way.

MenEngage Europe finds itself in an interesting place, with the membership meeting marking a key moment in the regional network's development from an informal platform for sharing and partnerships, towards a more formalized network ready to take action amidst the changing European political landscape.

### **Network-building**

MenEngage country/sub-regional networks were launched in Belgium and the Iberian Peninsula. There is also great interest in setting up a MenEngage network in Russia and MenEngage Europe member MÄN has been collaborating with partners in Russia on this process.

As elaborated in the 2017 annual report, some of the key challenges of MenEngage Europe were a lack of clarity about membership, lack of active members, lack of capacity to manage membership requests, and lack of funding as well as time and human resources to dedicate to the network. Working towards a more formalized coordinating function was identified as the main aspiration for the network

in the coming period. As part of its work plan for 2018 MenEngage Europe met most challenges elaborated on earlier and succeeded on hiring someone for the secretariat function in August and organizing a membership meeting in October in Vienna. The secretariat has supported the coordination of the network in a more formalized way, keeping track of tasks that need follow-up.

#### MEE Membership Meeting

MenEngage Europe held a membership meeting in Vienna in October 2018, bringing together 50 participants from existing and potential member organizations from 21 European Countries. At the meeting, members were energized to network and share each other's experiences and expertise, and to give input for the network's updated Strategic Plan. They adopted the House Rules document and elected a new Steering Committee for the next two years. These decisions were important in structuring the network in a democratic way. Two reports were produced from the membership meeting: a narrative report and a formal report with all formal decisions being made by members. MenEngage Global also developed a short video sharing participants' perspectives over the three days.

#### MenEngage Nordic meeting

A Nordic Network meeting was hosted in Stockholm by MenEngage Europe member, MÄN Sweden, in May 2018. Around 30 participants from Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden took part, aiming to build on and deepen existing contacts, to extend the network and to offer a platform for continued exchange between civil society practitioners and activists from the Nordic countries regarding men and gender equality.

### **Capacity Strengthening**

#### EIGE civil society Consultation

MenEngage Europe was invited to the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) civil society consultation meeting in February where the Network was able to exchange and strengthen its relationships with the European Women's Lobby and Social Platform. There were several networks and organizations present at the EIGE meeting, who discussed expectations for the work with men and masculinities and opportunities for collaboration, including how to maintain a strong feminist approach in this work.

#### IMAGINE Conference

In June, 3 MenEngage Europe members (Emancipator, MÄN and Good Lad Initiative) organized the IMAGINE conference in Amsterdam. IMAGINE is an international project organized between 2016 and 2018 which involved developing a toolkit for involving boys and men in the prevention of sexual intimidation and sexual violence against women. The toolkit and other results of the IMAGINE project were presented on at the international conference "Engaging boys and men in the age of #MeToo" in Amsterdam, with 200 participants from the Netherlands and Europe. In 2019, the IMAGINE project is being continued by Emancipator in the Netherlands, in training peer educators to give workshops to young people on issues of gender-based violence, harassment, gender stereotypes and inequality.

#### WWP and WAVE workshop

Work-With-Perpetrators Europe organized a workshop together with WAVE (Women against Violence Europe) that brought together women's support services and perpetrator programs to discuss their issues, differences and to work on a better way of collaborating. Participants developed joint messages and initiatives on the issues of awareness-raising, legal systems, standards, prevention work and funding.

## **Advocacy**

One of MEE's Steering Committee members (Katrien van der Heyden) is currently setting up a MenEngage Europe advocacy working group to gather with other MenEngage Europe members who are interested in advocacy work. One MenEngage Europe member is participating in the advocacy working group of MenEngage Global. There has been some exchange of experiences and knowledge in terms of advocacy successes, during the membership meeting and other conferences where MenEngage Europe members were present, for example the Cultural Care international conference in December in Florence.

## **Strengthening Governance**

In 2018 the Steering Committee came together in 8 Skype calls and 3 in-person meetings (in Vilnius at EIGE meeting, in Amsterdam at IMAGINE conference and in Vienna at membership meeting). The Co-Coordinator (Emancipator and MÄN) had weekly meetings. Following this, the membership meeting of the European network that took place in Vienna, Austria formalized its governance structure, elected the new SC through a democratic process and instituting its house rules that will now serve as the key governance document for the regional network in Europe. As preparation for the membership meeting, MEE went through the process of membership verification which helped clear uncertainty with regards the membership of MEE. With the new process it was formally verified that MEE has 68 members across 24 countries in Europe.

## Resource Mobilization

MenEngage Europe received \$40 000 from MEGA funding and €86 160 from the Oak Foundation, which enabled the network to hire a secretariat and two consultants and to organize a membership meeting, Steering Committee meetings and coordination work by Emancipator and MÄN as Co-Coordinator of the network. MenEngage Europe was further supported by EIGE to attend their meeting in Vilnius with 14 members and have a SC meeting. MEE also hired two consultants to work on a resource mobilization strategy for the network which will be finalized in 2019.

## **North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN)**

North American MenEngage Network is made up of 22 members across Canada and the US. It is an umbrella network of community-based organizations, not-for-profit, other non-governmental organizations, institutions, and individuals interested in working with men and boys to promote gender equality in North America. Since its inception NAMEN has actively advocated against sexism, social exclusion, homophobia, racism or any form of discriminatory practices. One key aspect for NAMEN has been accountability towards women's rights and social justice movements and they have successfully put in place a 'Community of Practice' whereby promising practices are exchanged through periodic webinars on engaging boys and men in addressing sexism, homophobia, racism and gender inequalities through accountable practices to changing discriminatory norms with respect to women's rights and gender justice.

## **Network-building and capacity strengthening**

### Work plan development

NAMEN utilized consultants to develop an initial list of possible directions for its work plan which led to a two-day face to face meeting in 30 April - 1 May 2018 in which an initial work plan was crafted. Following this, a sub-group was developed to craft a draft implementation plan which has been submitted to the full Steering Committee for consideration, discussion and finalizing. The Steering Committee then began meeting monthly in order to increase the network's efforts towards finalizing

the implementation plan. As a result of this process, the network is finalizing its budget and has plans to hire three staff in 2019.

### Capacity Strengthening

NAMEN held a community of practice webinar on “[Men supporting #MeToo: Taking actions to the next level](#)” in the spring of 2018. This was meant as a series of webinars to explore mobilizing men to respond to MeToo, and help develop capacity of participants to engage in efforts at the local level. NAMEN worked with its members and had 9 facilitators over this series which provided a theoretical base, examples of community-based efforts and activities, and some conceptual models. This series reached 12 - 15 participants, some of whom participated from Sweden and Australia. The webinar series explored current community-based efforts to rise to this challenge and some of the lessons learned from these efforts, supporting the participants to gain a better [understanding of new concepts and concrete examples](#). This series was built on what NAMEN members have already been doing to address the issues brought up by #MeToo and explore ways to strengthen this work together. This was an excellent learning opportunity for NAMEN in designing and implementing a Community of Practice series.

## **Advocacy**

### Advocacy strategy

NAMEN’s representative to the Global Board was nominated to represent NAMEN at the Global Advocacy Working Group of MenEngage Alliance. As per the plan of the Global Secretariat, NAMEN representative was invited to participate in the Human Rights Council (HRC) session in June in Geneva, Switzerland. This event, that had an objective to strengthen capacity of its Advocacy Working Group members around international advocacy, was successful in creating interest among all the working group members including the NAMEN representative and resulted in NAMEN creating its “Policy Advocacy Committee”. The goals of the NAMEN Policy Advocacy Committee include:

1. develop the capacity of NAMEN to engage in policy advocacy
2. provide a voice for men in the US and Canada on policy issues related to advancing women’s human rights
3. engage activists and practitioners in the US and Canada in global advocacy efforts advancing women’s human rights
4. develop tools, resources and efforts to develop the capacity of practitioners and organizations at the community level to effectively engage in policy advocacy at the local, state and national levels.

The NAMEN Policy Advocacy Committee has created a framework of engaging in advocacy to focus on:

- A. “reactive” advocacy -- reacting to policy proposals that undermine women’s human rights (such as the global gag rule or the proposed changes to “title IX” which undercuts efforts to respond to and prevent sexual harassment and assault on campuses in the US)
- B. “responsive” advocacy -- positioning NAMEN to be in active support of advocacy initiatives being led by sister organizations
- C. “proactive” advocacy -- advocacy efforts launched and led by NAMEN

### Activist responses

NAMEN signed onto 7 statements, letters or other advocacy positions in 2018. NAMEN wrote a letter to US senators urging them to vote ‘no’ to the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court

and to provide a message to boys and men in America that sexual harassment and misconduct will no longer be tolerated.

In collaboration with Promundo US, NAMEN issued a joint statement criticizing the Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council, in which they emphasize that the withdrawal lands the United States on the wrong side of history and justice.

NAMEN and MenEngage Global Alliance issued an Open Letter repudiating the 'gag rule' imposed on US health providers under Title X, and particularly on Planned Parenthood. This letter calls on the US government to ensure gender equality in access to health care that is federally funded, as well as voicing support for women's right to receive complete, accurate, science-based information from health providers.

### **Partnerships**

In 2018 NAMEN formalized a partnership with Break the Cycle -- a national US based organizations focusing on supporting youth leadership development to prevent dating violence and promote equitable relationships. This partnership focuses on developing concrete tools and resources to assist a) the development of male youth leadership (in an accountable way) to prevent gender-based violence and promote gender equality and b) the development of adult men who are positioned to ally with and support youth leaders in preventing gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. A part of this partnership includes exploring advocacy opportunities.

NAMEN formally joined the "Gender Based Violence Coalition" which is working to advance US efforts to prevent gender-based violence globally. NAMEN also formally joined the "Title IX response Team" which is working to oppose the proposed regulation changes that are widely seen to weaken the efforts and standards in the US for schools and campuses to respond to and prevent all forms of gender-based violence. NAMEN is in the process of developing relationships with other national advocacy organizations, with the intention of creating formal partnerships with some of these organizations in 2019.

### **Accountability**

NAMEN engaged in regular conversations during its Steering Committee meetings about its practice of being accountable, in particular, to women of color and women of color's leadership. NAMEN supported a representative to assist in the planning of this year's Women of Color Network biannual conference, including sending him to this event to serve in a role of support to the network and the conference. As a result of this experience, NAMEN is exploring ways to more actively engage men to support the leadership of women of color in US efforts to respond to and prevent gender-based violence.

### **Governance**

#### Steering Committee

NAMEN held 7 Steering Committee meetings and 6 Coordinating Committee meetings. The network had one face-to-face meeting which focused on the development of the 3-year work plan, that brought together 15 NAMEN SC members from North America region.

#### Resource Mobilization

Resource mobilization is an area of development for NAMEN. The network continues to operate primarily by individual donations, membership dues and the support of the Global Alliance. The

network strengthened this focus in 2018, and developed ambitious plans for fundraising in 2019, including the hiring of a contractual fund development person. In part, NAMEN has plans to utilize the upcoming Global Symposium to be held in 2020 to secure funding that will allow it to attend in force, but also to use the attendance of the Global Symposium in order to springboard additional efforts the last half of 2020 and beyond. NAMEN is currently drafting a concept note to be circulating in the spring of 2019 to potential funders.

## **MenEngage América Latina**

MenEngage América Latina is a vibrant regional network comprised of 125 members organized through 12 country networks. MenEngage América Latina is an alliance of organizations dedicated to working with masculinities and gender equality, through programs, projects, advocacy, campaigning and research across the region. MenEngage América Latina coordinates the White Ribbon Campaign and the MenCare Campaign in the region. They have co-sponsored regional level conferences, such as colloquiums on men and masculinities studies, in which they bring together leaders from the country networks and others critical stakeholders to advance engagement of men and boys for gender equality in the region. MenEngage Nicaragua, a country network of MenEngage Latin America Network, has been a leading country network in institutionalizing MenEngage Alliance Accountability Standards and Guidelines and has provided practical steps to other networks in the region take up this agenda.

## **Network-building and Capacity Strengthening**

### Evaluation

In 2018, MenEngage América Latina worked with a consultant to carry out an evaluation of the regional and country networks. The results recognize strengths in the networks leadership, and openness to listening to and partnering with women's rights and other social justice organizations on the part of the regional coordination. Weaknesses identified include a lack of agile mechanisms for coordination among the country and regional networks in order to define a regional level plan. More systemization of experiences of country networks is necessary.

Two case studies were also developed, on the country network REDMAS in Nicaragua and Cómplices por la Equidad in Mexico. The information was gathered through documents provided by the networks in coordination with the regional network and Skype interviews with the consultant team.

### Central American Regional Training Initiative

A six-month regional training initiative organized by Puntos de Encuentro, ECPAT Guatemala, Promundo US and MenEngage America Latina was completed in 2018. The initiative aimed to increase the capacity of local civil society organizations, strengthening their skills and knowledge related to best practices and proven tools to engage men and boys in gender equality, and to build a regional network of future leaders and gender justice advocates. This initiative brought together participants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

The Peruvian network, Red Peruana de Masculinidades, organized a training course on 'facilitating men's groups from a gender and masculinities perspective' from October to December 2018.

### Regional conferences and symposia

The regional conference "20 years of men and masculinities studies in Latin America: What have we done and where are we going?" took place in Santiago, Chile in November with the participation of

several MenEngage América Latina members. The conference had 200 participants, including 13 MenEngage members. Following the conference, an international workshop on research, interventions and public policies to engage men and boys was organized in collaboration with Fundación Crea Equidad, in which Alliance members from 7 countries in the region presented their work.

The Third Colombian National Meeting on Masculinities for Gender Equality took place in Bogotá in September, with the participation of the Colombian country network members. The event was titled 'Men for Peace, Co-Responsibility and Non-Violence: A vision from the perspective of non-traditional masculinities', and methodologies were developed for the creation of a national strategy for the cultural transformation of traditional masculinities.

### **Advocacy**

Douglas Mendoza, the co-coordinator of the regional network and Director Puntos de Encuentro, participated in three regional meetings with UNFPA and UN Women to promote strategies for working with men and boys to prevent gender-based violence. A forum was organized on evidence on working with boys and young men in the Canadian embassy in August.

A two-year research project on masculinities and violence, inspired by the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), was carried out in Nicaragua and El Salvador to promote forms of non-violent masculinities. The [study](#) addresses gender-related attitudes and behaviors of men and provides current and relevant information for designing community, multi-sectoral, communications, and advocacy interventions and campaigns. It provides insights for civil society organizations, academic communities, state institutions, and other sectors, with the aim of contributing to the prevention of violence in its multiple forms. The project was carried out by Alliance members Puntos de Encuentro, Bartolomé de las Casas Center, and Promundo US.

### Partnerships

As part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, 11 country networks organized marches, fora, exchanges and festivals to engage men in the prevention of violence and promote active fatherhood in alliance with diverse national and local feminist organizations.

### **Governance**

#### Strategic Planning meeting

13 members of the regional Steering Committee met in Santiago, Chile in November for a strategic planning meeting. The evaluation results were presented during the regional Steering Committee and the final report was submitted in December 2018. Based on the results the Steering committee developed the following priorities:

- Generate a strategic agenda, including the systematization of processes, monitoring and evaluation to ensure sustainability of the networks.
- Strengthen resource mobilization capacities
- Develop joint projects related to the strategic agenda.
- Develop diverse collaboration strategies with international organizations; not only aligning with the UN but also youth and feminist movements
- Develop sexual misconduct protocols based on the global level policy
- Create learning circles among the regional network and document promising practices

During this meeting the Steering Committee also discussed plans to strengthen the network for the coming two years and working groups were formed to follow up on these activities. It was also decided

to allocate a small amount of funding to strengthen the country networks. 9 proposals were presented, 8 of which received funds (1000 USD each, for network strengthening). Elections were also carried out, and two new regional co-coordinators were elected: Álvaro Campos from Costa Rica and José Alfredo Cruz from México.

## **MenEngage Alliance South Asia**

MenEngage Alliance South Asia is another dynamic regional network comprised of 210 members organized through five country networks, with a primary focus on strengthening the network and promoting knowledge sharing, capacity development, and collaboration among the organizations both at regional and national levels. The regional network, with the Indian network in a coordinating role, successfully hosted the 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium in November 2014, facilitating an ongoing wave of initiatives and connections among activists and organizations working with men and boys to promote gender justice in different areas. This region has had strong relationship historically with feminist and women's rights activists, organizations and networks in the region, working together for a common cause of women's rights and gender justice in South Asia.

### **Network Building and capacity strengthening**

#### Strategic plan development

A process for the development of a strategic plan for MenEngage South Asia had been initiated in previous year's Steering Committee meetings. In order to build stronger country networks and increase competencies among members and partners on gender transformative approaches, MenEngage South Asia supported country networks to devise the regional strategic plan. In December 2018, during a meeting in Dhulikhel, Nepal, the regional network finalized the strategic plan for 2019-2023. Objectives of the strategic plan were based on three thematic areas prioritized by the steering group members through voting. The prioritized themes were sexual and gender-based violence, youth leadership, and peace building and non-violence. On the basis of selected themes 3 regional strategic objectives were developed:

- 1- To ensure an inclusive, enabling policy environment to sustain and scale up efforts towards transformative gender equality through engaging men and boys.
- 2- To build an effective community of practices on men and masculinities working in solidarity with broader feminist movements.
- 3- To promote non-violent, equitable and inclusive notions and practices of manhood through a socio-ecological approach towards dismantling patriarchy.

#### Capacity Strengthening

MenEngage Alliance South Asia members have strengthened capacities to coordinate and implement collective efforts among themselves and with the broader field for women's rights and gender justice to transform masculinities and engage men and boys on issues related to gender-based violence, and for a peaceful and violence free society. With support from the Global Secretariat, a capacity building training was conducted with the regional Steering Committee. The GS provided an expert on conducting advocacy at the regional and international level who conducted two interactive sessions. Additionally, the Global Secretariat supported a distance discussion with two experts on accountability.

## Membership

MenEngage South Asia's membership grew from 200 organizations in 2017 to 213 in 2018. In order to build stronger country networks and to expand the regional alliance it was decided to include more South Asian countries such as the Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan, and several membership requests from several Maldivian organizations.

## **Advocacy**

MenEngage South Asia advanced in efforts in 2018 towards an enabling policy environment for gender transformative approaches with men and boys to advance women's rights and gender justice, GBV prevention, and peace and security. Members of the Steering Committee had a dialogue on advocacy and networking in a session facilitated by the Global Secretariat. The group discussed engagement in preparatory meetings of international networks and intergovernmental bodies dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowerment of women such as CSW and CEDAW to advocate for the network's objectives. It was decided to initiate contact with The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to advocate for the inclusion of human rights and protection against gender-based violence in their agenda. A working group for policy advocacy and networking was formed to advance these plans.

## **Knowledge Management and Communications**

In 2018 MenEngage South Asia decided to launch a website, to amplify the voices of its members and circulate relevant information and resources on gender transformative approaches, men and masculinities and priority issues related to, women's rights, gender-based violence and gender justice. A domain name was acquired, and the site will be launched in early 2019. The regional secretariat encourages members to share their information and resources on issues of men and masculinities to work against GBV and promote women's rights and gender justice, so that the site serves as a knowledge hub for the region. Content including knowledge products, thematic policy briefs and reports from advocacy events and conferences will be shared.

To address one of the most common forms of violence in the region it was decided to launch a regional campaign on harassment in the workplace. A 'campaigns and communications' working group was formed to initiate the process and communicate with other country networks. Some funds have been allocated to the campaign although the network will seek additional funds in 2019.

## **Accountability**

One of the key roles for MenEngage Alliance South Asia is to promote and increase understanding of accountability practices and collaborative work in 'engaging men and boys' field. The network made a concerted effort in all its activities and strategies to promote work with men and boys that is gender-transformative, based on feminist and human rights principles, aims to challenge male privilege and some men's power-over, and ultimately to end patriarchy. The network stepped up its efforts to build better relationships with critical feminist and human rights activists.

## **Governance**

### Theory of Change

The regional network developed a Theory of Change that aims to challenge the social norms, stigma, discrimination, attitudes and laws that undermine the fulfilment of human/women's rights. The framework outlines the network's vision to challenge patriarchy through the increased uptake of gender transformative approaches to engage men and boys.

### Resource Mobilization

The regional secretariat initiated contact with the IKEA foundation about its planned regional campaign on workplace harassment. The network developed plans to reach out to other donor agencies and formed a working group on resource mobilization to take forward these plans.

## **MenEngage Lebanon**

### MenEngage Lebanon Kick-off meeting

ABAAD organized a 2-day network-strengthening meeting in Lebanon from 11-12 October, together with the MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat, bringing together 25 individuals representing 22 organizations from across Lebanon from various sectors including Women's Rights, Child Rights and SRHR. The meeting resulted in discussing and finalized the criteria for its membership, core principles and code of conduct for the country network, governance structure of the network in Lebanon, and reviewed and suggested amendments to the current strategic plan document, that was developed in 2016. The participants agreed to officially start the country network in Lebanon, with ABAAD as an interim coordinator of the country network in Lebanon. The priority issues identified for the network are gender-based violence, violence against children, fatherhood and caregiving, and peace, non-violence and militarism. The network members developed an action plan to follow-up on concretely in the coming months and agreed to further build on the MenEngage Global Alliance's core principles and code of conduct and adapt them according to the Lebanese context. The meeting resulted successfully receiving buy-in from the different organizations, and their official adherence to the network.

The members also welcomed and agreed to host the 3rd Global Symposium in Lebanon and extend support to ABAAD and MenEngage Global Alliance in the organization process. The Global Secretariat and ABAAD will work closely in the coming years to bring the learning from this process to initiate similar processes in other countries in the region, aiming to eventually establish a regional network in the MENA region by the global symposium in 2020.

### Regional learning exchange meeting

UN Women Arab Regional Office organized a regional learning exchange meeting that took place in Amman Jordan in October 2018. Promundo US, ABAAD and Global Secretariat were also invited as technical partners of the regional program and provided technical and facilitation support throughout the meeting. The meeting explored opportunities to strengthen links in the region for sharing, learning and developing promising practices in work on men and masculinities. The three-day conference brought together community-based and national level organizations from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine, which are working in partnership with UN Women to engage men and boys in violence prevention, positive fatherhood, youth and faith-based leaders, with the aim of gaining greater gender equality in the MENA region.