



Annual report

2020

Implementing the MenEngage Alliance Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Submitted to:



Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Stockholm, Sweden

Contents

Introduction	3
How this report is organized	5
Report from the Global Secretariat	6
The Ubuntu Symposium	7
A collective, bottom-up approach to organizing	8
Going virtual	9
Communicating the symposium	9
Opening event	16
Ongoing program	17
Inner work for social change	17
Impact of the Ubuntu Symposium	17
Network Building and Capacity Strengthening	19
Strength assessments and work plans	20
Capacity strengthening and advocacy activities	22
Regional Networks Working Group	22
Symposiums, colloquiums and seminars	23
Advocacy	27
Advocacy strategy	28
Activist responses	30
Partnerships	31
Policy makers reached	33
Advocacy statements	34
Policy and law-makers supported	34
Policy monitoring	38
Knowledge Management and Communications	43
Knowledge management and communication strategy	44
Knowledge products and case stories	45
Newsletters and mass mail-outs	46
Accountability and Partnerships	54
Accountability activities and collaborative actions	55
Governance model	57
Strategic Plan and Theory of Change	58
Governance structures	60
Resource Mobilization	61

Thematic Working Groups	66
Youth leadership and engagement	66
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	67
Men, Caregiving and Unpaid Care work	78
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	79
Masculinities, Militarism, and Women, Peace and Security	80
Reports from the Regional Networks	82
MenEngage Africa	82
CariMAN	86
MenEngage Europe	89
MenEngage Latin America	91
North American MenEngage Network	94
MenEngage South Asia	95
MenEngage Lebanon	98
Glossary or concepts and definitions	99
A word of thanks	102

Introduction

2020 was a year of extraordinary challenges, as well as what turned out to be unique opportunities for MenEngage Alliance and members. The COVID-19 pandemic on one hand presented severe difficulties for local grassroots work and required us to rethink our global annual plan. Yet on the other hand the pandemic provided unprecedented opportunities for online connection and community building.

The COVID situation resulted in lockdowns and other public health measures around the world from March 2020 onwards. These resulted in many MenEngage member organizations being unable to carry out their plans for the year and having to shift to develop new plans, as well as adjust to remote working. These brought many challenges, not least in relation to internet connectivity in many contexts around the world. Many member organizations also faced funding challenges or had to refocus their efforts towards responding to the urgency of the public health situation and the increase in gender-based violence.

In the first weeks of the pandemic, the Alliance focused on providing supportive spaces to our members and regional networks to assess the situation and its impact in their own contexts. We witnessed governments around the world respond in a typically patriarchal fashion, ignoring the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized, and use the pandemic to politicize longstanding fractures in the support of SRHR for all, access to abortion services and other critical services such as those carried out by women's shelters.

The world also saw the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 among communities of color and the poor and marginalized, and the killing of George Floyd by police officers in the United States further illustrated the inhumane and unjust social order in which we live. The pandemic exposed a system founded upon injustice, and maintained by the systematic use of exclusion, threats and violence. Police brutality and other forms of state-sanctioned violence against people of color, immigrants, afro-descendents and indigenous people, is a global mechanism supported by an economic system designed to exclude and control identities, roles, freedom and privileges.

The upsurge in protests and demands for justice around the world are evidence of a growing global call for systems change, including a radical transformation of masculinities and the role of violence and oppression in leadership.

The MenEngage Global Secretariat launched a [new webpage](#) which compiles resources on addressing the surge in male violence against women, girls and children; as well as about other feminist analyses of the systemic issues that the pandemic has laid bare. Many of our members began to develop online campaigns targeted at men, including on the prevention of domestic violence and sharing household and care responsibilities, which we also compiled together with other actions being taken by members and partners of MenEngage Alliance during lockdowns and related restrictions (see section: [Knowledge Management and Communications](#)).

The Alliance joined a global coalition of feminist organizations to develop a [toolkit](#) on practical steps to respond to and prevent domestic violence during the COVID-19, including working with men as allies (see section: [Network Building and Capacity Strengthening](#)). A four-part webinar series highlighted the impact of the pandemic on women, young people and LGBTQIA communities, and made links between patriarchal masculinities and the ways the pandemic is being handled by political leaders worldwide (see section: [Network-building and Capacity Strengthening](#)). Through our advocacy work throughout the year, the Alliance lent support to various initiatives by feminist and women's rights organizations advocating for a gender-just response to COVID-19 and joined global calls to 'build back better' after the pandemic (see section: [Advocacy](#)).

The Alliance held a number of Board level discussions in the early weeks and months of the pandemic about how best to respond to the challenges caused by the pandemic and reorganize our plans for 2020. Fortunately, the Global Secretariat had already largely adapted to online and remote working and was able to shift many activities to online modalities. While many planned face-to-face gatherings had to be cancelled, the GS was able to move the majority of its planned activities online, including participating in online advocacy spaces, holding virtual accountability workshops, and initiating a virtual evaluation and strategic planning process.

The most significant impact of the pandemic for the Alliance was on the organization of the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium, planned to take place in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2020. The GS and Symposium International Steering Committee (ISC) monitored the situation closely for several months before finally agreeing that a large face-to-face gathering was not feasible. It was decided that, instead of a once-off event, the newly rebranded 'Ubuntu Symposium' would consist of a hybrid opening event in November with local participation in Kigali and online participation around the world, followed by an ongoing weekly program of virtual sessions and culminating in a closing event in June 2021. While connectivity proved a challenge in many contexts, this format ultimately allowed for increased and more diverse participation in the Symposium.

The ongoing nature of the Symposium has allowed for increased engagement of members and country and regional networks, and increased opportunities for partnership building with women's rights and social justice actors. The Symposium has facilitated many important reflections and deep discussions on the challenges faced by interrelated social justice movements. It has resulted in a wealth of knowledge that will be invaluable to the Alliance in the years ahead. Most importantly, the Ubuntu Symposium has provided a crucial sense of an international community in a time of profound global crisis (See: [Ubuntu Symposium](#)).

The MenEngage regional networks found new and innovative ways of connecting with each other through virtual means and supporting their members throughout the year. Despite COVID-19 related restrictions, the regional networks were able to continue to mobilize their members and carry out activities including social media campaigning, webinars and virtual dialogues, joint policy advocacy, online membership meetings, research and desk reviews of key issues related to transforming masculinities, and the continued implementation of the SRHR for All initiative.

The Ubuntu Symposium and its organizing process reenergized and strengthened many of the regional networks, attracting new members and partnerships and deepening the political agenda at the regional level. While a difficult year in many ways, many of the regional networks have reported being able to connect with each other more than ever before in 2020 and have been able to achieve remarkable results (see: [Reports from the Regional Networks](#)).

How this report is organized

This Annual Report is divided into three main sections. First, you will find the [Report from the Global Secretariat](#). It describes the trends, activities, and anticipated impacts of each strategic pillar of MenEngage Alliance taking place at cross-regional and global levels. Within the section, text in grey boxes shows the desired goals, outputs and outcomes as articulated in the [2017-2020 Strategic Plan](#).

Secondly, the [Thematic Working Groups](#) section reports on seven themes that are considered priorities (or emerging priorities) for the Alliance at a cross-regional and/or global level.

Finally, each of the regional networks report on their activities, regional trends, and 2020 priority areas in the [Reports from the Regional Networks](#) section.

Report from the Global Secretariat

This report starts with a report on the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium, the Ubuntu Symposium - the core event around which the majority of our work at the global level revolved in 2020, and which cut across all strategies and thematic areas.

This section of the report then details activities conducted at global level with support from the Global Secretariat and Global Board organized around the five results areas set out the Alliance's [2017-2020 Strategic Plan](#):

- Network building and capacity strengthening
- Advocacy
- Knowledge management and communications
- Accountability and partnerships
- Institutional Development and Governance model

These results areas – or strategic pillars – form the framework for advancing the mission of the Alliance 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.

More broadly, this report can be seen as documenting how MenEngage Global Alliance used its resources in 2020 to contribute towards the strategic goals of:

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.

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.

See the [glossary](#) section for the value-clarification of the understanding of key terms and theoretical/political concepts that form the basis of the work of MenEngage Alliance.

The Ubuntu Symposium

The Ubuntu Symposium mobilized and engaged members, partners, and other stakeholders across the world. 2,877 people from 159 countries had registered by the time the Opening Event took place, from 10-12 November. The Opening Event, which combined virtual and in-person participation, laid the groundwork for the start of more than 7 months of critical discussions and renewed commitments to action on transforming masculinities for gender justice - both within MenEngage Alliance and others working with 'men and masculinities' approaches.

Originally intended to be an in-person event in Kigali, Rwanda, the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium - or the Ubuntu Symposium as it came to be known- is an ongoing process that was launched with an opening event from 10-12 November 2020 and continues with an ongoing weekly program until June 2021.

The Symposium is co-organized with [Rwanda Men's Resource Centre](#) (RWAMREC), Rwanda MenEngage Network (RWAMNET) and [MenEngage Africa](#), with support from the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion/Government of Rwanda, Scottish Government, Sida, Embassy of Sweden Kigali, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, AmplifyChange, Prevention+ program, Care International, Oxfam International, UNFPA, UN Women, and members of MenEngage Global Alliance. Despite not being able to host a large in person event in Kigali, the symposium remains anchored in Rwanda and Africa. The Symposium has been a significant opportunity to highlight and strengthen men and masculinities work in the local context - in particular in Rwanda and the African continent, advancing a progressive political climate around key issues related to women's and LGBTQI rights and social justice.

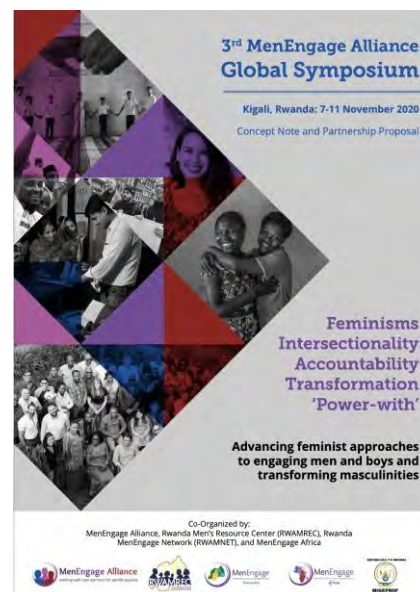
At the symposium planning meeting in Kigali in February 2020, the theme “**Ubuntu: I am because you are**” was collectively agreed upon. The theme was inspired by African culture and is a Nguni Bantu term from Southern Africa, speaking to the universal connection between every person and a shared sense of compassion, responsibility, and humanity for all. See a short video on the relevance of the term [here](#).

The Ubuntu Symposium, building on the outcomes of the previous two symposia, seeks to elevate the impact and accountability of work to transform masculinities and work with men and boys for women's rights, LGBTQI rights, and gender justice for all within a collective human rights-based agenda.

The objectives include :

1. Make 'transforming patriarchal masculinities and work with men and boys in gender equality' **more effective and impactful** for gender justice through collective sharing, questioning, learning, and knowledge-strengthening.
2. Strengthen a **global community** that acts responsibly, purposefully, inclusively, and in solidarity with our partners, friends, and each other – across social justice movements.
3. Inspire, develop, and renew a common **political agenda and strategy** to meet the urgency of today's existing and emerging challenges.

Five overarching themes were selected through a collective process: transformation, intersectionality, accountability, feminisms, and power-with. Within this framework, some thematic areas which the symposium seeks to address are: ending gender-based violence; militarisms and conflict; sexual and reproductive health and rights; unpaid care and equitable parenting; SOGIESC rights; climate justice; economic justice; social justice - including racial, ethnic, age, disability justice; and countering patriarchal backlash. For more information on the overall agenda and themes, please refer to the symposium [concept note](#).



3rd Global Symposium Concept Note

A collective, bottom-up approach to organizing

As a network rooted in feminist principles and approaches of shared power and horizontal organizing, MenEngage Alliance seeks alternatives to top-down, prescriptive models of organizing. The symposium is therefore organized through contextualized regional processes that support the mobilization of members and partners from the civil society organizations and networks, and partners from feminist and social justice movements, academia, UN agencies and governments. (See: [Network Building and Strengthening](#)) This organizing process enabled the meaningful participation of over 130 members, allies and strategic partners in the collective organization process of the Ubuntu Symposium. Participation was organized through the following committees:

- International steering committee
- Advisory committee
- Daily organizing committee
- Local organizing committee
- Program committee
- Youth committee
- Communications committee
- MenEngage Assembly committee
- Ubuntu Declaration and Call for Action Working Group

These committees were a diverse and inclusive group of members from the regional networks of the Alliance, in addition to Regional Coordinators, Board Members, feminist partners, the Global Secretariat

staff and local host organizations. This process resulted in joint ownership of the symposium among the members and partners, creating organic regional mobilization and organizing, which in turn generated energy to strengthen the Alliance's movement building approach. All six regional networks initiated conversations and mobilized members at the regional and country levels, and cross-regional sessions have allowed the regional networks to showcase their work and learn from each other, strengthening the sense of a 'glocal' social change network.

Going virtual

In addition to the physical restrictions on gatherings, the COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the need to move away from business as usual and to think of innovative ways to convene that allow for increased inclusivity and diversity and a significant reduction in environmental impact. Members of the organizing committees considered various options before deciding to move forward with an innovative hybrid event that includes local hubs and virtual worldwide interaction.

The co-organizers collectively opted for a *virtual* kick-off event, with an in-person hub in Kigali, Rwanda. The opening event is being followed by an ongoing program of events and mobilization worldwide throughout 2020-2021. This is mostly virtual, as well as in-person locally at the national and regional levels, as circumstances allow. The symposium is hosted on a virtual platform that allows participants to access all sessions and previous session recordings, and to participate in discussions on relevant issues.

The Symposium will culminate in a virtual closing event in June 2021 and the launch of the Ubuntu Declaration and Call to Action, a visionary and collectively developed political agenda for the Alliance for the years to come.

Communicating the symposium

Communications were central in the work to mobilise the members and partners of MenEngage Alliance across regions and contexts for the symposium. To guide this process, a communications committee was formed in February, aiming for representation from all regional MenEngage networks. Building on participatory member and board-level workshops in 2018 and 2019, communications planning stepped up in 2020, starting with communications workshops at the Rwanda planning meeting in February 2020. The communications committee had its initial convening at the Rwanda meeting and went on to meet 8 times through the year as the whole committee, with further meetings as part of working groups (sub-committees).

Communications strategy

A [Communications Strategy and Action Plan](#) was developed, with guidance, inputs and reviews by a strategy working group of the Communications Committee. The document details the objectives, approach, audiences, communications channels, communications values, and key messages. It also set out an action plan for the route forward.

Creating a visual identity

A branding Working Group was formed, including representatives from RWAMREC, the local symposium hosts, as well as members from the Europe and South Asia MenEngage networks. The group carried out a thorough process of researching and selecting a brand development specialist to work on this aspect of the event. This included the development of a [brand briefing document](#) building on insights from communications workshops at the MenEngage Beirut Strategy meeting in 2019, and the Rwanda meeting in February 2020.



Some of the graphics developed during the process of refining the final visual identity for the event

The brand working group - through consultations with the whole communications committee, the advisory group, the Global Secretariat - worked with the design partner to iterate and refine the visual identity, taking account and balancing a variety of factors. On behalf of the Communications Committee, the branding Working Group presented the visual identity to the International Steering Committee which was then approved for use publicly.

MenEngage UBUNTU SYMPOSIUM



I AM BECAUSE *You are*

The final logo for the MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium

Mobilizing for the symposium communications and brand information for members

A webpage was developed in [French](#), [Spanish](#), and [English](#) to share among co-organisers, partners, and members the key tools and information for them to be able to further share about the symposium.



Tag
@MenEngage et
autres

MenEngage Alliance est composée de réseaux régionaux, de réseaux nationaux et de centaines de membres à travers le monde. Taguez-les pour lancer des conversations en ligne, et vous pouvez également baliser les comptes mondiaux de MenEngage Alliance :

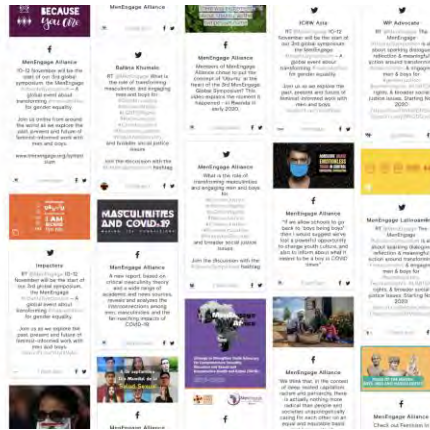
Twitter: @MenEngage

Facebook: @MenEngage

Cliquez ici pour trouver les comptes de réseaux sociaux affiliés à MenEngage Alliance dans le monde entier.



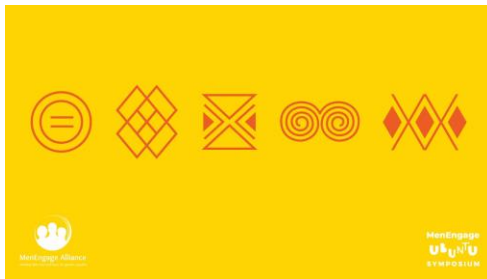
Tweetez ou publiez sur Facebook quelque chose dont vous souhaitez discuter dans le cadre du Symposium MenEngage Ubuntu.



Excerpts from the French version of the webpage for mobilizing around the symposium

Graphics

A library of graphics was developed to support the promotion of the symposium across various channels (web, email, social media, zoom).



WE BUILD ON A PRECIOUS HERITAGE.

We owe our awareness of gender injustices, our efforts to promote equality, and the occurrence of this Symposium itself to the pioneering courage and vision of feminist and women's rights movements.

MenEngage Delhi Declaration and Call to Action, 2014

OPENING EVENT 10-12 NOVEMBER

MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium

Interpretation available in French, Spanish, and English.

Live captions in 18 languages.



Website and registration platform

An [event website](#) was developed and launched in 3 languages, providing the central hub of information to prospective participants. A systematic registration process was developed to allow participants to make an optional contribution to the event's costs, choose language preferences and share written questions, and access the sessions as well as the event app, among other things. The website went live on 23 October 2020.

Symposium App



An app was developed for registered attendees, accessible via an iOS or Android download, or via a web browser. Features included: program; speaker biographies; event information; multilingual options (French and Spanish); event videos; activity feed; push messages.

The app was downloaded 684 times, with between 400 and 450 people receiving push notifications several times per week with notifications of the next events.

Email communications to registered participants

27 mailouts were sent to the 2,877 registered participants from October to December (81 emails including translated versions). In total 77,120 individual emails were sent with an average open rate of 35% (compared to industry standard levels of around 28%).

Videos created

With the symposium predominantly taking place online, video was a central tool for keeping people informed and engaged about the symposium and its agenda. Video is the first and most immediate way the rich discussions of the symposium are being documented and made available to wider audiences.

Promotional videos

A working group of the Communications Committee was formed and tasked with creating a promotional video for the event. Through a research and selection process, the Working Group selected a video editing partner to produce the video, including conducting interviews in Kigali, Rwanda. These interviews were supplemented with interview recordings with members from 2019.

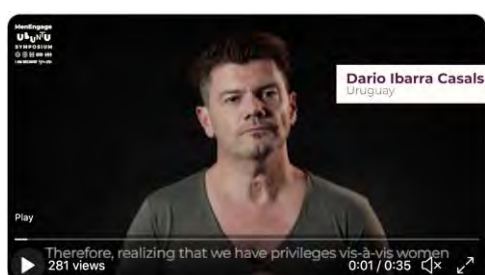


These interviews were edited into a [promotional video](#), plus a series of interview clips that were posted on social media.



<https://twitter.com/MenEngage/status/1323278770879537153>

<https://twitter.com/MenEngage/status/1324321501244350464>



<https://twitter.com/MenEngage/status/1325771441258852352>

<https://twitter.com/MenEngage/status/1325821005877678080>



<https://twitter.com/MenEngage/status/1322963448901324803>

What Ubuntu Means to You

Members and partners of MenEngage were invited to record a video responding to the questions of 'what does Ubuntu mean to you and your work for gender justice'. The campaign resulted in over 100 responses from the members and partners of the Alliance around the world, in multiple languages of their preference. These responses were edited into one main video used during the opening of the event, plus a series of 8 further videos to ensure as many responses as possible were included. These videos were shown during intermissions between sessions throughout the symposium Opening Event, and further shared on the [MenEngage YouTube channel](#).

Explainer videos

Two videos were produced to help explain aspects of the event. The first was to provide further context around the naming of the event 'Ubuntu'. The second was to help explain the change in format, from a traditional in-person format over several days, to a longer-term mobilization.

#UbuntuSymposium on social media

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp were key social platforms to share, mobilize, and engage around the symposium. Symposium-related messages were amplified on these channels in different formats, including text, graphics, and video. The hashtag #UbuntuSymposium was used in all MenEngage posts relating to the symposium, and its use was encouraged among participants and co-organisers.

[Facebook Page](#) - helped disseminate and elevate information around the symposium and its aims/agenda.

Ubuntu Facebook Groups - Groups were created on Facebook in [English](#) (700 group members) and [Spanish](#) (1,000 members). These groups are spaces for providing information on the agenda, latest highlights videos, as well as posting and engagement among group members.

WhatsApp Alerts groups - A WhatsApp group was formed to keep the co-organisers informed of - and engaged in - the latest updates and information relating to the organising of the symposium. As the launch of the symposium approached, this group was expanded to allow all registered participants to join. By the end of 2020, there were 300 people (split across two groups because of group size limits), receiving around 3 messages per week.

Twitter - The #UbuntuSymposium hashtag was used approximately 500 times in 2020. [MenEngage](#) posted more than 100 tweets relating to the symposium through the year, and in particular from October onwards. The platform was a critical space to invite partners and stakeholders to register for the event, and to share key event information to Twitter followers, including groups to whom the Alliance is accountable to.

Instagram - The [MenEngage Instagram account](#) had been dormant since being set up for the 2nd Global Symposium in 2014. With the Ubuntu Symposium providing a wealth of visual content to draw upon, it was decided to re-initiate using this platform and - considering its popularity and differences from Twitter and Facebook - to build its long term use into the social media strategy of MenEngage.

Opening event

The Symposium opening event was held from 10-12 November 2020. Around 80 people gathered in Rwanda to officially launch the symposium, with around 1500 people joining from around the world on Zoom, and many more joining through local in-person hubs in other regions. Over the course of three days, a full program included plenary discussions, networking sessions, inner work workshops, regional roundtables and musical performances.

Over 40 speakers from 8 regions participated in the opening plenary discussions around the overall frameworks of the Symposium, including critical feminist analysis of the work with men and boys, accountability issues, youth leadership and movement building, intersectional feminist movements, and men and masculinities, and advocacy agenda. These sessions brought together prominent leaders from diverse social justice movements to take stock of the world and how efforts to transform patriarchal masculinities can contribute to addressing today's most pressing challenges.

The diverse participation at the symposium highlights the interest of activists, academia and individuals in sharing insights on effectively challenging and dismantling oppressive patriarchal norms and constructions of masculinity. The opening event allowed the Alliance to assess how this work has evolved in the past few years and identify new goals, frontiers and strategies. It served as a forum to begin to collectively rearticulate a political agenda that seeks to transform unjust and deeply embedded power structures.

Ongoing program

The ongoing symposium program runs until June 2021, with sessions held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Tuesdays are plenary sessions and Wednesday are either sessions organized by the regional networks or cross-regional exchange sessions. Thursdays are concept-led sessions where members and partners have the opportunity to host their sessions on the [Ubuntu Symposium platform](#). In total, the organizers' received over 330 proposals to host sessions at the symposium. Of these, 158 were accepted resulting in a total of 108 concept led sessions to be held from Nov 17, 2020 to mid-June, 2021. Between the opening event and the end of December there were 4 regional sessions, 2 cross-regional, 16 concept driven and 4 plenary sessions reaching around 400 participants from around the world. Additionally, a total of 2877 registered participants.

Inner work for social change

Under the guidance of Mallika Dutt, an external consultant and leader in inner work efforts to support social change leaders, we organized a series of workshops and conversations as part of the Symposium among MenEngage leaders about the meaning of inner work for our individual lives and for the social change we aspire to create together. As a result of these sessions, the notion that we need to attend to our personal healing and growth as leaders was legitimized within the Alliance, and resources to support this effort were made available, such as a curated resource list of programs and organizations offering teaching on practices of inner work for social change.

Impact of the Ubuntu Symposium

By the end of 2020, the symposium was only a month into what will be an eight-month journey for the Alliance. However, the profound impact of the symposium and the collective mobilization process throughout the year has already begun to become evident.

The symposium sessions have seen countless important discussions on key issues for the Alliance, in which numerous promising practices, lessons learned and research findings in gender transformative work to transform masculinities and engage men and boys have been shared. In 2021, the Alliance will focus on synthesizing and distilling this vast quantity of knowledge generated and disseminating it widely in different formats that can serve as valuable resources for members and partners implementing this work in the coming years.

The symposium has also exemplified the shift in discourse among the field towards a more politicized, 'systems change' approach, with discussions so far challenging us to move beyond individual and community level interventions and realise the potential of this work to dismantle unjust and patriarchal systems of power. Discussions have also highlighted the importance of connecting this work not only with broader movements for women's rights and gender justice, but with other global social justice movements including those for racial justice, economic justice and climate justice. These conversations will be fundamental in the development of the Ubuntu Declaration and Call to Action, which will chart the way forward for gender-transformative and accountable work with men and boys in the years ahead.

The symposium has also been an important means of strengthening existing partnerships and building collaborations with new gender and social justice actors. The diverse participation from feminist movements and other social justice movements is a result of the trust-building and accountability work the Alliance has engaged in over the past few years.

The mobilization process throughout 2020 has also served as a unifying and energizing experience for the Alliance, creating a true sense of a global community. Despite not being able to come together in person, the symposium has engaged members at all levels and allowed for increased and more diverse participation. For the many of the regional networks, the symposium has re-energized their members and country networks, increasing visibility and attracting new members and partnerships.

We look forward to building on this momentum created by the symposium and seeing its continued impact as it progresses into 2021.

Network Building and Capacity Strengthening

RESULT AREA 1

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.

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.

The year 2020 was the final year of the implementation of the Alliance's Strategic Plan 2017-20, and the main focus was on consolidating achievements and lessons learnt over the past four years.

The improvement in governance at a regional level can largely be attributed to the network-building support that has been provided to regional networks by the Global Alliance: regional network respondents indicated that they acknowledge and appreciate the support provided"

Evaluation Report 2020

As highlighted by the 2020 evaluation, the regional networks have matured and developed stronger governance and operating systems over the current strategic. We have also seen an increased level of democratization in terms of decision making, transparency and opportunities for new leadership. This was evident during the bottom-up mobilization towards the Global Symposium, in which all six regional networks initiated activities and mobilized members in their respective regions. This further strengthened the interconnectivity, capacity and visibility of MenEngage Alliance members' and partners, inspiring and informing qualitative uptake of gender transformative work on men and masculinities. We believe that the Alliance has become a much more vibrant social change network as envisioned by the Theory of Change, and has shown leadership in adding value in accountable ways to strengthen intersectional feminist and human rights-based approaches with men and boys in gender equality, violence prevention, SRHR, SOGIESC issues, the feminist peace agenda, unpaid care work, youth leadership and other issues.

As the result of the efforts and support from the leadership at the regional level and Global Secretariat, there has been remarkable consolidation of the network as a strong and inclusive Community of Practice which facilitates exchange, mutual learning and joint actions among members, through regional and country networks and thematic priorities. The implementation of the strategic plan in a bottom up approach and close collaboration with the regional networks resulted in a clear shared understanding of the strategic plan and of the theory of change at all levels of the network. This maturation and consolidation of efforts to strengthen regional networks was evidenced during the Ubuntu Symposium mobilization process, and the leadership shown by all regional networks throughout the process marked another milestone in the network-building efforts of the Alliance.

Strength assessments and work plans

OUTPUT 1.1 – Strength assessments and work plans developed by MenEngage regional networks .

Following the strength assessment and strategic plan development in 2017, the regional networks continued to be the key focus of the Alliance's work in 2020. In 2020 we saw increasing mobilization in the areas of, advocacy (see: [Advocacy](#)), communications (see: [Knowledge Management and Communications](#)), Youth Leadership and Engagement and other thematic priorities (see: [Thematic Working Groups](#)). This created opportunities for the Global Secretariat team members to have direct working relationships across the various priority issues while keeping networks strengthening and movement building at the center.

We continued working closely and under the leadership of the regional networks in the development and implementation of their strategic plans (a process that was initiated in 2017), including sub-granting support in 2020. During the year, we were able to generate additional resources to support the organizing of the Global Secretariat which was found valuable to all the regions and supported the regional leadership to grow the work of the national networks and assist members to access resources.

While doing so, we had to adapt to the new environment we found ourselves in and new priorities that the COVID pandemic brought. The crisis clearly exposed the fault lines in a system that is heavily invested in armament, surveillance and incarceration, while neglecting healthcare and social wellbeing for all its citizens. When the world needed investment and action on essential care work, many leaders chose authoritarian responses that play into narratives of fear and division. COVID-19, and the response by world leaders, has shed a bright light on the pillars that sustain today's fundamentally unjust societies. The neoliberal economic model, militaristic social control and political domination, as well as mechanisms of systemic exclusion - primarily based on race and gender - protect structured abuses of power and perverse priorities that privilege a small minority (largely male and white), in a system known as patriarchy. Patriarchal masculinities are central to this structure, and show up in organized ways through white supremacy narratives, macho political behavior, and fortification of militarized systems.

The shocking gender-based violence statistics reported in media coverage and reports from advocacy organizations urged government agencies and policy makers to address the needs of survivors and find alternatives to their situation of sharing a roof with the abuser. While attention was rightly placed on the immediate needs of survivors, it is also important to remember that men are the main perpetrators of this violence and that the scale and acceptance of this problem is part of a larger system which must be confronted. Many social justice organizations, including MenEngage Alliance members and partners, responded to this situation through innovative campaigns promoting caring, non-violent masculinities, including through social media, developing new tools and resources and encouraging bystander intervention.

MenEngage Alliance joined hands in MADRE's campaign "[Domestic Violence in the COVID-19 Crisis: Grassroots Solutions and Global Solidarity](#)" that aimed to uplift the voices and expertise of community-based partners to the forefront of the global effort to address increasing levels of domestic violence resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The coalition with Media Matters for Women, OutRight Action International, Women Enabled, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), MenEngage Alliance and MADRE developed a toolkit of best practices tailored to the reality of physical distancing, social isolation, and lockdowns, including guidance on using social media in domestic violence prevention campaigns. The toolkit also provides practical tips for Global South organizations working in conflict areas as well as in rural and urban settings. You can find a copy of the toolkit here in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Swahili](#) (DRC), [Arabic](#), and [Kurdish](#).

Capacity strengthening and advocacy activities

OUTPUT 1.2 – Joint capacity strengthening and advocacy activities organized by MenEngage Alliance at country and regional levels.

MenEngage Global Alliance successfully supported the 6 regional networks, during the period of the strategic plan and in 2020, in carrying out various capacity strengthening activities in the areas of strengthening accountable practices (see also: [Accountability and Partnerships](#)), advocacy and network strengthening. This resulted in strengthening the Community of Practice model as a social change network and created spaces for and with members and partners for exchange, learning, joint strategizing and agenda-setting on gender transformative work with men and boys. During the year 2020 we developed and piloted an online curriculum, following the travel restrictions due to COVID, on “Power, Patriarchy and Feminism” following the workshop that was conducted in 2019 with partner CREA (see: [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)).

In addition, the country and regional network also organized various capacity strengthening activities (see: [Reports from the Regional Networks](#)) on the key priority issues of the Alliance. The Symposium has created numerous opportunities for members and partners to come together in joint sessions to present promising examples and strengthen the knowledge base on feminist-informed, human rights based and gender transformative work with men and boys for gender equality. The participation and engagement of the members and partners broadly is also facilitated via the organization of sessions by the regional networks on various priority issues including SRHR, GBV, unpaid care work, feminist peace, backlash and fundamentalisms, youth leadership and engagement. Through the joint project with WILPF “Confronting Militarized Masculinities”, we jointly organized the project inception meeting that spread across 7 weeks and initiated the implementation of the joint project (see: [Masculinities, Militarism, and Women, Peace and Security](#)).

Regional Networks Working Group

OUTPUT 1.3 – The MenEngage Regional Networks Working Group and virtual platforms are activated and functional.

In addition to working with individual regions to prepare for the symposium and implementation of their annual plans, 2020 was also geared towards cross-regional sharing and exchange. This facilitated the cross-fertilization of ideas on network strengthening, and the organization of cross-regional exchange sessions during the Ubuntu Symposium. Over the course of the year, the regional networks organized 5 sessions on various issues related to network strengthening, preparations for the Ubuntu Symposium and cross-regional thematic sessions.

The membership database of the Alliance was updated together with the regional networks, and this information was used during the evaluation and strategic planning process to gather their inputs and guidance in both these processes. The information will also be used in updating the members' database on the Alliance website.

During the Ubuntu Symposium process we created online spaces for community building and discussion. Some of the major learning generated was the importance of reflecting on an ongoing basis on patriarchal models of leadership and making a conscious effort to dismantle these in the organizing model of the network. Moving forward, the Alliance will continue working with the regional networks and cross-regionally to create spaces within the network to address any concerns related to sexual harassment and other forms of abuse of power, should these emerge.

Symposiums, colloquiums and seminars

OUTPUT 1.3 – Symposia, colloquia and seminars organized with MenEngage members and partners at global, regional and country levels.

In addition to the central effort of organizing the Ubuntu Symposium, the Alliance continued to support the regional and country networks in convening various spaces at different levels on the priority issues of the Alliance. These symposia and colloquia contributed in enhancing the visibility and interaction of MenEngage Alliance with UN agencies, donors and other partners and strengthening knowledge and understanding of gender transformative work with men and boys in gender equality.

The year 2020 began with a number of online webinars being held prior to the Ubuntu Symposium with a total of more than 880 attendees. These online sessions provided platforms for both panel-style and interactive workshop-style online events, helping raise capacity, foster discussion, and share understanding among members and partners. Key topics explored with a 'men and masculinities' lens included COVID-19, SRHR, youth, militarism, and climate/environmental justice. All these sessions were organized with our members and partners across the regions, and created space to amplify the expertise, work and leadership of our members from across the regions.

1. [Climate change and masculinities \(see details and recording here\)](#) (115 attendees), on 1 April, together with MÄN Sweden, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden and Institute of Gender and Development Studies/University of West Indies. This workshop advanced understanding and action on the relation between masculinities and the climate crisis.
2. [Practical approaches to engaging men and boys in preventing the ‘shadow pandemic’ of violence against women and girls \(VAWG\) Patriarchy, masculinities, and COVID-19](#) (300 attendees), on 7 May, together with Instituto WEM-Costa Rica, ABAAD-Lebanon, FIRD-Sri Lanka, White Ribbon Canada and MADRE. This workshop examined the reality of men’s increased violence during COVID-19, and how organizations are finding innovative ways to mobilize and respond in different contexts around the world.
3. [COVID-19, Masculinities and Gender-based violence](#) (200 attendees), on 19 May, together with MADRE, Sonke Gender Justice, and Maison de la Culture des Diversités Humaines. This workshop explored the links between masculinities and various forms of gender-based violence that have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, including domestic violence against women and girls, or on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and other forms of marginalization.
4. 28 May campaign webinar with WGNRR & SRHR for all changemakers (22 attendees), on 22 May. This webinar shared information about the campaign for women’s reproductive health and rights, and about the role of a recurrent annual campaign in keeping SRHR in the public agenda. This webinar highlighted the role of all advocates in social justice and spoke about the partnership with MenEngage African changemakers.
5. [Engaging men and boys in violence prevention and responses: Promising practices during the pandemic](#) (75 participants), Prevention+ Webinar carried out on 28 May, together with Prevention+ consortium consisting of Rutgers Netherlands, Promundo, Sonke Gender Justice and implementing partners.
6. [Young masculinities and COVID-19](#) (75 attendees), on 10 June, together with Q-Initiative Kenya, CariMAN, ACT for Society Center, ABAAD-Lebanon, and Voices of Humans-Sri Lanka. This online dialogue, the third in the series ‘Patriarchy, masculinities and COVID-19’, focused on the impact of COVID-19 on young people, in particular on how gender norms around masculinity are shifting or being reinforced during this time.
7. [Militarism, masculinities, patriarchy, and COVID-19](#) (170 attendees), on 14 July, together with WILPF, Sonke Gender Justice and NAMEN. The webinar explored the interlinkages between racial injustice, COVID-19, militarism, and masculinities.

As well as supporting the community of practice of MenEngage Alliance and broader stakeholders, these webinars helped increase capacities among the Global Secretariat to run online events. One result of this is a new MenEngage webinar handbook for internal organising.

In addition, following the mobilization around the Ubuntu Symposium our [regional networks in North America](#) and Latin America, and the country [network in Madagascar](#) organized regional and national symposia respectively (please see the regional report sections for more details).

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2020
Output 1.1) Strength assessments and work plans developed by MenEngage regional networks	# of MenEngage regional networks undertaking capacity and strength assessment and work-plan development in 2019	6 regions (all existing regional networks)
	1 Network Building toolkit developed in 2019	n/a
	% increase in MenEngage membership at country, regional and global levels. Target: 5%	28% (increased from 700 - 900)
Output 1.2) 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 Baseline: 0 → Target: 6	Over 20
	# of members participating in capacity strengthening initiatives by 2020 Baseline: 0 → Target: 350	15 CariMAN 130 South Asia 25 WILPF project 40 Europe
	# of thematic working groups work plans developed and implemented by 2020.	4 - SRHR, MenCare, Militarism and Masculinities, SOGIESC
	# of campaigns developed, adapted and implemented at global, regional and country levels by 2020.	5 (South Asia, and Under SRHR4All project)
	# of people outreached by MenEngage campaigns by 2020	2230 - SRHR campaigns in SriLanka 600,000 Campaign in Bangladesh
Output 1.3) 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
	# of calls, visits and activities organized in support of the regional networks by 2020	4
	1 MenEngage Alliance online membership community in place and used by 2020	2
	# of webinars and e-dialogues organized by 2020	111 webinars across the regions

	# of users and attendants of virtual platforms by 2020	Over 880
Output 1.4) 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 global 1 regional (North America) 1 national (Madagascar)
	# of contextualized Platforms for Action developed by 2020	6 regional plans for the mobilization for the symposium
	# attendants and diversity in constituency and location by 2020	Over 3500

Advocacy

RESULT AREA 2

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.

Outcome 2a: 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 2a 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

Outcome 2b: 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.

MenEngage Alliance's advocacy has become increasingly organized and political. As the Alliance approached the end of its strategic period, 2020 was a critical year in strengthening the implementation of interconnected advocacy efforts from national to regional to global levels, demonstrating the Alliance's increasing capacity to carry out advocacy as a collective. Over the last few years, the Alliance has focused on establishing partnerships, structures and processes necessary to engage in joint policy advocacy at various levels. MenEngage Alliance has worked to deliberately foster meaningful allyship with feminist advocates, policy and decision-makers and UN agencies in international policy spaces from New York to Geneva. Central in all these efforts is MenEngage Alliance's political agenda of advancing gender-transformative, feminist-informed, human rights based, intersectional and accountable approaches to engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities. In recent years, the Alliance has observed that language on men and masculinities in global policy frameworks has gradually demonstrated increasing levels of nuance and complexity, moving towards a feminist political framework for transforming masculinities. An emerging insight has been to shift focus from engaging with a handful of MenEngage activists in policy advocacy, towards movement building to improve the Alliance's ability to work together to influence policy; and to work as accountable allies to feminist, women's rights, LGBTQIA+, SRHR and other social justice movements.

With access, expertise and influence in key international policy spaces, the MenEngage Global Secretariat focused its efforts in 2020 on supporting movement building, mobilizing and working collectively with advocates from all MenEngage regional networks. The Global Secretariat continued to advance an accountability lens in the design, development and implementation of advocacy actions, collaborating with women's rights organizations on all capacity strengthening efforts, engagements in policy spaces, and in any other advocacy activities. In doing so, the Alliance has developed meaningful advocacy partnerships, and better integrated its advocacy objectives of accountable work on men and masculinities into broader agendas for women's rights and gender justice

Advocacy strategy

OUTPUT 2.1 – Interconnected global-regional-country level advocacy strategy developed and implemented with MenEngage regional and country networks and at-large member organizations.

Advocacy Working Group: Joint Interconnect National to Regional to Global Advocacy

The global Advocacy Working Group (AWG) has been consolidated as a centralized mechanism through which the Alliance has been able to anchor its strategic planning and agenda setting from national to regional to global level. Comprising representatives from 6 regions, as well as at-large members with a strong international advocacy presence and expertise, this group has successfully fostered complex

partnerships across various levels of policy intervention and thematic expertise. The group has created a space for the negotiation of joint working methods which have yielded an inspiring year of coordinated multi-level advocacy actions and outcomes.

The Alliance's Global Advocacy Working Group continued to be convened over the course of 2020 to advance the implementation of the joint interconnected advocacy strategy. This included ongoing monthly strategic advocacy sessions convening at-large members and regional focal points. With the identification of the need to be a more representative space, the AWG embarked on a year-long nomination and selection process which led to the inclusion of two additional expert members representative of LGBTQIA+ rights, as well as two youth leaders, bringing the group to 16 diverse advocacy experts.

Over the course of 2020, in addition to regular strategy convenings, the AWG self-organized through various ad-hoc working groups to address timely issues, most centrally, the spread of COVID-19. In parallel to regular advocacy strategy calls, the Covid-19 Advocacy Strategy Ad-Hoc Working Group met over three months to address central strategic questions on how best to advance advocacy during worldwide lockdowns and the closure UN policy spaces, as well as to identify pathways for meaningful advocacy amidst escalating global reports of surging gender-based violence. This emergent process resulted in the submission to the [Special Rapporteur's Report on the rise of domestic violence during COVID-19](#).

Advocacy Capacity Strengthening: Feminist Systems Change

Noting the critical need for MenEngage Alliance to focus its advocacy towards systemic transformation in line with the clear demands from feminist movements globally for systems change, and understanding the essential role of the AWG in these efforts, the Global Secretariat coordinated a two-part workshop series 'Responding to the call for feminist system change: politicizing our men and masculinities agenda'. The sessions, led by expert feminist advocate Sanam Amin centered an exploration of the feminist systems change agenda and how MenEngage Alliance can contribute to the calls of feminist and LGBTQIA+ groups to further politicize work with men and boys for gender equality. The sessions explored the need for a more nuanced analysis of the complex interconnected global systemic issues we face and the role of patriarchal masculinities in these, moving beyond the individual, community and policy level, which this work has historically focused on.

In preparation for the workshops, the AWG mapped all relevant recent feminist systems change agendas, including the [Women's Major Group HLPF Position Paper](#) - outlining key feminist advocacy asks towards a feminist systems change agenda across all SDGs, the Mexico City Beijing +25 feminist agenda: Women Radically transform a world in crisis, and the [Feminist Alternative CSW64 Political Declaration](#), among others. This effort supported the AWG in beginning to more deeply understand the central advocacy demands of feminist and social justice movements for systemic transformation, addressing knowledge gaps and supporting those working with men and boys to meaningfully contribute to these efforts.

During the workshops, the AWG carried out an exploratory process on feminist systems change frameworks and advocating for systemic change; exploration of accountable contributions and meaningful solidarity of the ‘men and masculinities’ field with feminist systems change agendas, including further politicizing this work through intersectional feminist approaches and analysis; unpacking diversity at regional level and flushing out the unique contextual interrelationship and contributions from various regions towards global systemic issues and agendas.

Regional advocacy capacity building and advocacy strategy development

The Global Secretariat provided ongoing support to the regional networks in their advocacy capacity building and the development of regional advocacy strategies in 2020, which enabled them to deepen their engagement in both regional and national policy processes. The Global Secretariat provided strategic guidance and support to the North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN) Policy Advocacy Committee to develop a joint regional advocacy strategy, developed alongside 8 NAMEN members over 2 workshop sessions. The Global Secretariat also supported NAMEN in providing technical inputs to various national policy frameworks including the USAID Gender Strategy, Violence Against Women Act and Title IX. The Global Secretariat held regular calls with the advocacy focal point for Latin America to discuss regional advocacy strategies. Lastly, the Global Secretariat joined the newly formed MenEngage Africa Advocacy Working Group, in order to support the strategic thinking and advocacy prioritizing carried out by the regional group.

Activist responses

OUTPUT 2.2 – 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 has actively sought opportunities to show solidarity with global calls to action by feminist, women’s rights, SOGIESC, climate, and social justice activists and movements, and continued to be a supportive actor towards the advancement of human rights and environmental frameworks. The 900 MenEngage Alliance members globally were kept informed of urgent calls to action, activist statements, request for inputs for United Nations processes and advocacy stances. This helped the Alliance offer a unified voice of support while engaging in emergent political realities.

MenEngage Alliance continued to support feminist, women’s rights, SRHR, LGBTQIA+ and other key social justice movement statements and activists responses, in order to stand in solidarity with, and

meaningfully support and amplify, the demand for human rights, equality and peace. Examples of such statements include:

- Open letter calling on all Member States to adopt a feminist policy to address the COVID-19 outbreak: Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR) Steering Committee
- [Tweetathon to spotlight Feminist Economic Realities](#): AWID
- [CSW64 Civil Society Feminist Political Declaration Sign-on](#) in light of the postponement of CSW64 and a weak official political declaration by governments: Women's Rights Caucus
- [Women Deliver CSW Political Declaration](#): Women Deliver
- [AWID People's Declaration on Beijing+25](#): AWID
- [COVID-19 Highlights the Failure of Neoliberal Capitalism: We Need Feminist Global Solidarity](#): Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
- LBTI Caucus Statement in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Link [here](#): LBTI Caucus
- [Statement on human Rights at the Intersection of Gender and Disability During the COVID-19 pandemic](#): Women Enabled International
- #SeeUsSupportUs: Needs of Trans Communities during COVID-19 Pandemic: Asia Pacific Transgender Network

Partnerships

OUTPUT 2.3 – 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.

MenEngage Alliance has continued to advance the development of partnerships with critical actors from civil society and UN Agencies, creating an increasing sense of political articulation with feminist and social justice movements. Through direct efforts to engage in these spaces from a movement building framework which centralizes accountability to women's rights and SOGIESC voices and actors, MenEngage Alliance has been able to forge opportunities for meaningful allyship with key actors, and its commitment to stand in solidarity with the broader field has increasingly been acknowledged.

Partnerships with UN Agencies

Global Symposium UN partnerships

The Ubuntu Symposium offered an opportunity for the Alliance to continue to foster critical partnerships with a wide variety of UN Agencies. (See also: [Ubuntu Symposium](#))

UN Spotlight Initiative

MenEngage Alliance was invited to serve as a member of the Global Advisory Group the EU/UN Joint program the Spotlight Initiative. Several of the Alliance's members have also been invited to serve on the regional and national advisory groups for Spotlight Initiative supported programs. Through our continuous engagement with the UN Spotlight Initiative, MenEngage Alliance has been advocating for human-centered and feminist approaches in the program's implementation.

SRHR partnerships

In 2020, MenEngage Alliance continued to work closely with and strengthen partnership with feminists leaders and organizations working to protect sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people as part of our SRHR for All initiative. MenEngage youth changemakers in Africa worked with the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights to identify and create new and compelling messages in support of women's right to contraception, bodily autonomy and safe abortion care (See [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)).

In the Caribbean, MenEngage members worked with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of West Indies, to expand understanding about gender equality and feminism, and to protect SRHR.

Partnerships with feminist and women's rights organizations

As an Alliance of organizations working to engage men and boys and transform masculinities in gender justice, we have been standing in solidarity with, and working in allyship alongside feminist, women's rights, SRHR and LGBTQIA+ partners in global advocacy and movement building efforts during COVID-19.

MenEngage Alliance continued to practice accountable advocacy, which seeks to add value to feminist efforts, by articulating with broader feminist processes and providing expertise through a 'men and masculinities lens', when relevant and appropriate, while supporting, amplifying and standing behind feminist asks and processes at other times. The Global Secretariat participated in feminist organizing spaces, including the Feminist COVID-19 Response Group, made up of the Women's Rights Caucus, Women's Major Group and other feminist, women's rights and LGBTQIA+ partners. The Alliance participated in the drafting of the [Feminist Collective Response to COVID-19 Principles](#), which lays out key principles for how governments should respond to the crisis in feminist ways. This document included guidelines on accountable, gender-transformative and feminist informed approaches to engaging men and boys in the prevention and response to VAWG during COVID-19. The Alliance joined the drafting group for the Feminist COVID-19 Advocacy Toolkit: a mapping of feminist response efforts to COVID-19, noting examples from around the world.

The Alliance also co-organized the Global 16 Days Campaign's twitter chat #LetsTalkFemicide together with the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability ([CFOJA](#)), [MenEngage Alliance](#), [OCNF](#) (National Citizen Observatory on Femicide, Mexico) & UNFPA. The Global Campaign dedicated

December 6 to femicide awareness – in honor and remembrance of women who have been killed by a partner or a family member.

Policy makers reached

OUTPUT 2.4 – Global, regional and national decision and policy makers are reached with collective MenEngage Alliance policy advocacy.

Coordinating a wider variety of actors in joint advocacy and lobbying, the Alliance has been able to reach an increasing number of policymakers in policy spaces from national to regional to global.

- Members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Girls (*See also Treaty Bodies*)
- United Nations General Assembly (*See also UNGA75*)
- Commission on the Status of Women (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Human Rights Council (*See also Human Rights Council Session 43 & 44*)
- Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls , its causes and consequences - Special Produces (*See also Special Procedures*)
- Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls - Special Procedures (*See also Special Procedures*)
- European Union (*See also Technical Inputs*)
- Rwanda (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Botswana (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Norway (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- South Africa (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Canada (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Sweden (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Netherlands (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Lebanon (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Colombia (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)
- Nepal (*See also 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women*)

Advocacy statements

OUTPUT 2.5 – MenEngage Alliance issue-based policy advocacy statements developed and broadly disseminated at global, regional and country levels

[MenEngage Alliance statement in response to killing of George Floyd](#)

28 May: 'Take action for women's health #28thMay #SRHRisEssential'

Policy and law-makers supported

OUTPUT 2.6 – 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

64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

MenEngage Alliance strategically dedicated a substantial amount of time and effort into planning and preparing for the 64th Session of CSW this year. This was primarily in light of its historic significance as both a critical year of reflection and stocktaking in commemoration of the 25th year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as a key stepping stone to building feminist momentum towards the Generation Equality Forums, and subsequently, the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium. Seeing this as an opportunity to further articulate with, and bring value to, the feminist movements' global mobilization towards women's rights and gender justice this year, the Alliance worked on preparing to bring the largest number of members and partners to date, into a joint advocacy agenda to accountably advance a progressive and political 'men and masculinities' lens throughout these ongoing processes and spaces.

The Global Secretariat coordinated the MenEngage Alliance CSW delegation, including over 90 members, and supported over 40 members in obtaining ECOSOC passes for the session. Two virtual preparatory webinars were organized including: a) Virtual Orientation on CSW for beginners; b) CSW Global Advocacy Virtual Strategy Meeting. In addition, the Global Secretariat worked towards the organization of two key critical dialogues to have been held at CSW including: a) Accountability dialogue with feminist partners (ATHENA Network, SVRI, The Equality Institute, COFEM, and Raising Voices) for a joint discussion on strengthening understanding on accountable practices within the field of men and masculinities, including

standing in solidarity around feminist funding models: b) Where are we at on the call to engage men and boys since Beijing? A macro analysis on progress and gaps in the work to engage men and boys for gender justice over the last 25 years, as well as ways forward in advancing a political feminist agenda for this work, centered on accountable practices.

In preparation for the session, the Global Secretariat carried out a language mapping of all regional [outcome documents for all Beijing+25 regional events](#), developing a policy brief to lay out the commitments made in these sessions, to mark the jurisprudence towards the sessions' political declaration. Alongside the AWG, the Alliance also developed a [Joint MenEngage Alliance Political Agenda](#) for Beijing+25 commemoration, which included key messages for a nuanced and political feminist agenda on men and masculinities. The Alliance also developed a MenEngage Alliance joint Oral Statement for CSW64 alongside the AWG and collaborated towards the development of joint WGNRR joint oral statement for CSW64 together with the SRHR for all initiative. Lastly, the Global Secretariat supported a Latin American and Caribbean delegation in participating in the final regional preparatory meeting prior to CSW, the Beijing+25 Latin America and the Caribbean regional meeting, which included three members from Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico.

In preparation for the session, MenEngage Alliance coordinated three rounds of technical inputs to the CSW political declaration, disseminating key technical inputs to lobby at national level to members in Rwanda, Botswana, Norway, South Africa, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Lebanon, Colombia and Nepal.

Noting the apolitical nature of the zero-draft of the CSW political declaration – the agreed conclusion document on the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the BPfA, MenEngage Alliance joined the Women's Rights Caucus in drafting the [CSW64 Civil Society Feminist Political Declaration](#), which laid out a political feminist framework for systemic change, including nuanced political language on men and masculinities. The Alliance supported in the dissemination across listservs to all members and partners

In light of the spread of COVID-19 and the subsequent cancellation of the session days before it was scheduled to commence, the Alliance focused on disseminating rapidly changing information and advocacy updates around the postponement of CSW and disseminating this broadly to all MenEngage Alliance members and partners, including sharing sign-ons and rapid response statements from feminist groups, seeking to hold the UN system accountable for anchoring a future session to the official UN schedule, so the moment of civil society mobilization and State accountability would not be lost..

High Level Political Forum 2020

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) took place from 7 - 16 July 2020, including three-days of ministerial meetings. The HLPF annual meeting is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Alliance monitored the outcomes of the session and shared critical recaps with Alliance members and partners. Notably, as part of the 3 day ministerial segment, the alliance participated in the critical Beijing+25 multi-stakeholder meeting 'Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women

and girls', carried out on 21 July 2020, providing an opportunity for accountable advocacy. As part of the preparations for the UN General Assembly, it was mandated to organize and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, to ensure the active participation of multiple stakeholders in the process leading up to the UNGA resolution in commemoration of Beijing+25. MenEngage Alliance coordinated with feminist groups on advocacy preparations for the session, in particular as two Alliance members were selected to speak (Humberto Carolo, MenEngage Alliance Co-Chair and Director of White Ribbon Canada and Anthony Keedi of ABAAD). The Global Secretariat fed key feminist advocacy inputs to MenEngage members to deliver during their interventions in the high-level meeting, ensuring feminists' asks were centered.

UN General Assembly 75

MenEngage Alliance provided 4 rounds of technical inputs towards the UNGA Omnibus Resolution together with feminist advocates, including language centred on GBV and SRHR. Similarly, the Alliance provided technical inputs to the Human Rights Council Resolution 'Accountability for women and girls in humanitarian settings' (put forward by Canada, Fiji, Georgia, Uruguay and Sweden), including on regressive framing pushing back on the inclusion of a gendered power analysis.

MenEngage Alliance joined a critical effort by feminist civil society signing onto a Women's Major Group letter written on behalf of a group of 17 civil society organizations regarding the proposed UN General Assembly omnibus resolution on the COVID-19 pandemic, raising concerns over the exclusion of SRHR in this important resolution of the session.

Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies

MenEngage Alliance made a submission to the UN Special Rapporteur's report on the rise of domestic violence during COVID-19, which included the organizing an alliance-wide advocacy strategy call open to all members, a survey sent to the membership to map inputs on violence during COVID-19 across national contexts and the mapping of inputs from regional networks. With this joint submission, we were able to highlight our feminist political agenda on the elimination of violence against women, girls and LGBTQIA+ individuals - through a men and masculinities lens, as well as to amplify the voices and experiences of 30 members and partners highlighting their work to prevent and respond to the rise in domestic violence during COVID-19.

MenEngage Alliance also provided a joint submission towards a report by the Working Group on Discrimination against women and girls, included highlighting the work of over 20 members, towards the official document, ['Women's and Girls' Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Situations of Crisis'](#) which will be presented to the 47th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2021.

CEDAW Committee

CEDAW Technical Inputs: Alternative Report regarding LOIs and State Responses – Pakistan. Submitted by Shirakat – Partnership for Development, Secretariat MenEngage Alliance Pakistan (15 NGO members) and National Forum for Women living with Disabilities, the Global Secretariat supporting in the drafting of the [CEDAW Shadow Report development](#).

43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council (June 15 – June 23)

MenEngage Alliance monitored HRC43, sharing key information with members and partners. In light of the global spread of COVID-19, the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council, originally scheduled to begin in March was postponed and held from June 15 – June 23. Critical to the session, the Alliance monitored the urgent debate and resolution on systemic racism and police brutality. The Human Rights Council held an urgent debate on June 17 and 18, in light of the murder of George Floyd in the United States at the hands of police. The session was proposed by Burkina Faso on behalf of the Group of African States and centered a discussion at the Human Rights Council on the current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality and violence against peaceful protesters. A coalition of over 600 civil society organizations joined family members of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile and Michael Brown, alongside the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to [CSO Coalition Letter](#) the HRC to establish an Independent Commission of Inquiry into systemic racism and police brutality in the US. The Alliance disseminated this statement to members and partners in addition to a [feminist advocacy Statement](#) by Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL): UN Human Rights Council Resolution on racial discrimination and police brutality

44th session of the UN Human Rights Council (June 30 – July 20)

The 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council commenced through virtual means, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MenEngage Alliance joined feminist advocacy collective Sexual rights Initiative (SRI), as feminist civil society collectives expressed grave concern with the proposed modalities of the session, including the lack of effective communication on timeframes and processes of the session, as well as the disproportionate impact on CSOs from the Global South. MenEngage Alliance joined a joint statement to be presented at the session, led by SRI, calling attention to these critical issues.

The Alliance provided technical inputs to the Resolution A/HRC/44/L.21 ‘Elimination of discrimination against women and girls (Mexico)’. The Global Secretariat disseminated key organizing and content information regarding the session with members and partners worldwide, democratizing advocacy information to interested members.

Policy monitoring

OUTPUT 2.7 – 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.

Policy Advocacy Case Studies, Scorecards and methodological framework

MenEngage Alliance finalized efforts to carry out a comprehensive review of 10 national policies inclusive of frameworks to transform masculinities and work with men and boys across all regions. The review assesses the extent to which the development, implementation and monitoring of such policies and guidelines are done through feminist-informed, human rights based, gender transformative, accountable and intersectional approaches. This effort, initiated in 2019, concluded with the production of 10 case studies, 8 policy score cards and a methodological framework which can be adapted by all members to national, regional and global policy analysis, in order to continue applying a critical and nuanced review of the impact of efforts to engage men and boys on women, girls and LGBTQIA+ individuals. This policy analysis provides a rich contribution to the field of men and masculinities, putting forward the most comprehensive understanding to date of the adherence of national policies to the rigorous standards which the alliance advocates for in order to ensure gender justice. As an increased number of governments take up strategies or policies to work with men and boys in gender equality, through the production of case studies and policy scorecards, the Alliance will be better equipped to advocate for and monitor how these efforts are carried out by governments worldwide. In addition, this will enable the Alliance to better support UN monitoring mechanisms such as Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the CEDAW Committee Annual Review through these informed inputs.

Technical Inputs

MenEngage Alliance provided inputs towards UN Women’s new strategic planning process and the [EU Gender Action Plan \(2021-2025\)](#) (GAP III).

Advocacy Knowledge Products

MenEngage Alliance finalized a comprehensive effort to map regional/global language across normative frameworks, both binding and non-binding, inclusive of language on working with men and boys and transforming masculinities. These included:

1. [Language from the Beijing Platform for Action and UN CSW agreed conclusions \(1995-2019\) on the roles of men and boys in achieving gender equality](#), MenEngage Alliance (2020)

2. [Mapping of language from UN Human Rights Council resolutions \(2008-2020\) on gender transformative approaches and the engagement of men and boys in achieving gender equality](#), MenEngage Alliance (2020)
3. [Mapping of language from the CEDAW Convention and General Recommendations \(1979-2018\) on gender transformative approaches and the engagement of men and boys in achieving gender equality](#), MenEngage Alliance (2020)
4. [Mapping of language from the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action \(1994\) & 21st Special Session United Nations General Assembly on Population and Development \(1999\) on gender transformative approaches and the engagement of men and boys in achieving gender equality](#), MenEngage Alliance (2020)
5. [Language Mapping from United Nations Security Council Resolutions \(2019\), centering Women Peace and Security Agenda Resolutions \(2000-2015\) on engaging men & boys and transforming masculinities in peacekeeping & peacebuilding](#), MenEngage Alliance (2020)
6. [Language Mapping of Beijing+25 Regional Review Conference Outcome Documents \(2019-2020\) & the Political Declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference \(2020\) on engaging men and boy and transforming masculinities in achieving gender equality](#), MenEngage Alliance (2020)

Table 2: Output indicators for increased joint policy advocacy actions

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2020
Output 2.1) 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	20 8 AWG calls 5 COVID-19 Response calls 3 Ad Hoc Ubuntu Symposium Adv 4 Ad Hoc Feminist Systems Change
	1 interconnected MenEngage Advocacy Strategy developed and used	1
	# of advocacy capacity strengthening events organized with MenEngage Alliance members and partners by 2020	8 2 Feminist Systems Change 2 UN Women Report 2 CSW Prep Strategy Calls 2 NAMEN Advocacy Strategy

	# of participants in advocacy capacity strengthening events organized by MenEngage Alliance global, regional and country networks by 2020	155 25 Feminist Systems Change 10 UN Women Report 100 CSW Prep Strategy Calls 20 NAMEN Advocacy Strategy
	1 MenEngage Global Advocacy calendar created and maintained with updated opportunities and activities	1
Output 2.2) 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 Global
	# of action alerts and responses supported by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020	8
	# of human rights and gender justice solidarity statements issued and circulated by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020	2
Output 2.3) 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	3 partnership contracts (CREA, WGNRR, WILPF)
	# of collaborative actions between MenEngage Alliance and members and UN agencies in 2020	25 (approx.)
	# of collaborative actions between MenEngage Alliance and members and other women's rights and gender justice actors by 2020	25 (approx.)

Output 2.4) 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	136 22 AWG 10 NAMEN PAC 1 CEDAW Submission Pakistan 30 Report SRVAW 20 WGDAGW 10 CSW 3 Beijing+25 LAC Meeting 40 Policy Score Cards
	# joint events and panels organized in strategic policy advocacy settings by 2020	
	# of policy and decision makers reached by MenEngage Alliance and members during 2020	195 23 CEDAW Committee 12 CSW Technical Inputs 27 EU GAP Strategy 10 Policy Score Cards 1 SRVAW 5 WGDAGW 47 HRC Technical Inputs 50 Global Symposium 20 COVID 19 Webinars
	# of submissions and technical advocacy inputs made to relevant decision and policy making institutes by MenEngage Alliance and members in 2020	9 3 CSW Technical Inputs 2 HRC Technical Inputs 1 CEDAW Committee Review 1 SRVAW 1 WGDAGW 1 EU Gap Strategy

Table 3: Policies outcome indicators

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report 2020
Output 2.5) 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 2020	9: 3 CSW Technical Inputs 2 HRC Technical Inputs 1 CEDAW Committee Review 1 SRVAW 1 WGDAGW 1 EU Gap Strategy
	# of people reached with MenEngage Alliance advocacy materials in 2020	
	% increase in (social)media sharing of MenEngage Alliance advocacy statements and materials by 2020	27.8% (from 3130 to 4000 contacts) in our mailing list
Output 2.6) 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	10: 3 CSW Technical Inputs 2 HRC Technical Inputs 1 CEDAW Committee Review 1 SRVAW 1 WGDAGW 1 EU Gap Strategy 1 UN Women Strategic Plan
Output 2.7) 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	# of policy monitoring tools developed and used by MenEngage members and partners	12: 10 Policy Score Cards 1 Methodological Framework 1 Beijing+25 RegLanguage Mapping
	# of policy analysis and monitoring reports by MenEngage Alliance global, regional and country networks 2020	12: 10 Policy Score Cards 1 Methodological Framework 1 Beijing+25 Reg Language Mapping
	# of shares of MenEngage Alliance's policy analysis and monitoring reports by 2020	200 combined pageviews for policy advocacy reports and briefs

Knowledge Management and Communications

RESULT AREA 3

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.

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

Communications efforts saw a marked increase throughout the year, linked to two key events. First, there was a critical need to respond to COVID-19. And second, the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium called for significant mobilization and engagement efforts within the network and beyond.

See also: *Ubuntu Symposium, Communicating the symposium*

Knowledge management and communication strategy

OUTPUT 3.1 – MenEngage Alliance knowledge management & communications (KMC) strategy developed and implemented with regional and country networks and at-large member organizations.

The Knowledge Management and Communications strategy developed in 2018/19 served as a guiding document for communications through 2020. Several strategic developments of 2019 were built upon in 2020, including using a more political and affirmative voice in communications, and using the platforms of MenEngage Alliance to elevate the voices of women-led and feminist organisations, as well as members and partners. A significant portion of communications capacity was devoted to facilitating the symposium (see: [Communicating the symposium](#))

New global website

The design of a new global MenEngage Alliance website (www.menengage.org) was completed and signed-off early in the year. With the designs complete, the work then began to develop the website, which was carried out in stages through the year. Because of fast-changing priorities and uncertainties related to COVID-19, the launch of the website was delayed through the first half of the year. During the second half of the year, the key priority was the Ubuntu Symposium, for which a separate event-specific website and event app were developed (See also: *Communicating the symposium*).

With the Ubuntu Symposium website launching successfully in October 2020, and the running for the event through the remainder of the year, the launch of the main MenEngage global website was re-prioritised for early 2021.

Knowledge products and case stories

OUTPUT 3.2 – 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.

OUTPUT 3.3 – 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.

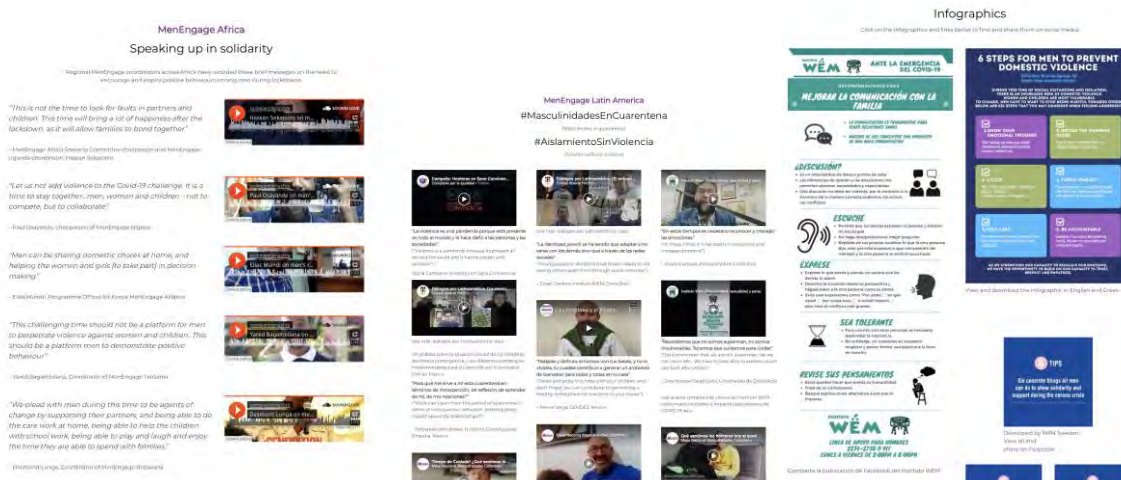
Communications response to COVID-19

In March most of the world’s population was under some form of lockdown or restriction on everyday life. The global secretariat quickly began compiling and curating resources related to what became known as ‘the shadow pandemic’ of GBV as well as other relevant feminist analyses of the systemic issues that the pandemic laid bare.

A [new webpage](#) was updated regularly during the early stages of the pandemic, providing a hub of resources for those concerned with how they can respond to the worrying trends of inequality and violence associated with measures to combat the spread of the disease.

This was supplemented by [a webpage dedicated to campaigns and actions](#) being taken by members and partners of MenEngage Alliance during lockdowns and related restrictions.

Four webinars were organised alongside these new webpages, with a total of 745 attendees (see also: *Symposiums, colloquiums and seminars*). These activities created new spaces for dialogue among members, partners, as well as individuals connecting with MenEngage Alliance for the first time.



The webpage, 'Digital activism for equitable, compassionate, and non-violent ways of being men during COVID-19' shared campaigns, online actions, and digital resources for work to transform masculinities through lockdowns

Newsletters and mass mail-outs

23 mail-outs were sent (48 including translated versions) were sent to 5,847 subscribers, helping elevate important issues throughout the year, including: allyship around International Women's Day; solidarity with the Black Lives Matters and racial justice movements around the world; and amplification of feminist messages for safe abortion on 28 May.

Emails were opened and viewed 14,818 times in total, with 6,105 clicks on links to more information or resources.

Newsletters and other mass mail-outs issued in 2020

5th February— [New Co-leadership Joint Message February 2020 \(SPANISH\)](#)

12th February— [SAVE THE DATE: 3rd Global Symposium, 9-12 November 2020, Kigali, Rwanda \(Spanish, French\)](#)

6th March — [International Women's Day 2020: Allyship to Action](#)

31st March — [Latest resources, opportunities and news \(Spanish\)](#)

1st April — [Online workshop reminder: Masculinities and Climate Change](#)

1st April — [Climate webinar feedback \(Let us know what you thought of the workshop\)](#)

18th May — [Covid-19 webinar \(Patriarchy, masculinities and Covid-19\) \(Spanish, French\)](#)

20th May — [Covid-19 webinar follow-up \(webinar recording and resources\)](#)

28th May — [Take action for women's health #28thMay #SRHRisEssential](#)

2nd June — [George Floyd Statement \(George Floyd's killing is part of systemic racism that continues to violate and oppress people of color everyday – this has to change NOW\) \(Spanish\)](#)

19th June — [Ubuntu Symposium Announcement \(Be Part of the MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium\) \(Spanish, French\)](#)

15th July — [Ubuntu Call for Submissions \(One month left to submit your idea for the MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium!\) \(Spanish, French\)](#)

20th July — [Annual Report 2019 \(A year of introspection, collective growth and movement building: 2019 Annual Report\) \(Spanish, French\)](#)

30th September — [Symposium: 6 weeks to go! \(Spanish, French\)](#)

13th October — [Symposium: 4 weeks to go! \(Spanish, French\)](#)

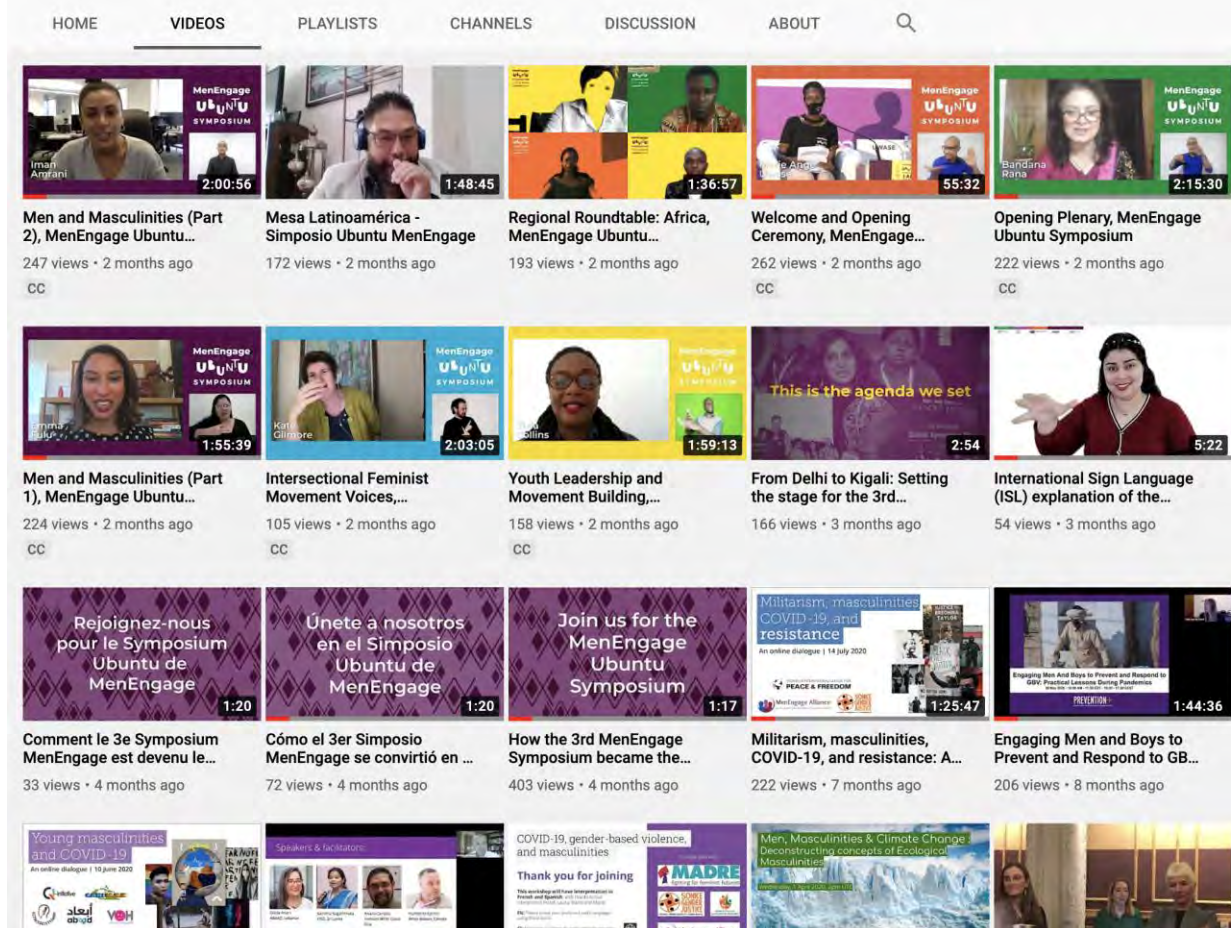
A further 27 emails were sent to the 2,877 registered participants of the Ubuntu Symposium (81 emails including translated versions)

YouTube

2020 saw the increased use of the [MenEngage Alliance YouTube](#) channel as a platform to share video knowledge products and event recordings, making them available for a much larger audience. This laid the groundwork for using this channel as a significant platform for knowledge sharing, based on the rich video content coming out of the symposium.

There were 4,985 views, with a total watch-time of 456 hours on the channel. With 21 new video uploads through the year, subscriber numbers went from fewer than 40 to more than 200 (with a notable increase around the symposium).

The platform was also used to host [a series of videos from a collaborative learning institute by CREA and MenEngage Alliance](#) to the members and partners. These videos capture key concepts of power, patriarchy and feminism and were the base of a 2020 online course piloted with CariMAN's leadership. (See also: [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#))



Videos on the MenEngage Alliance YouTube Channel uploaded in 2020

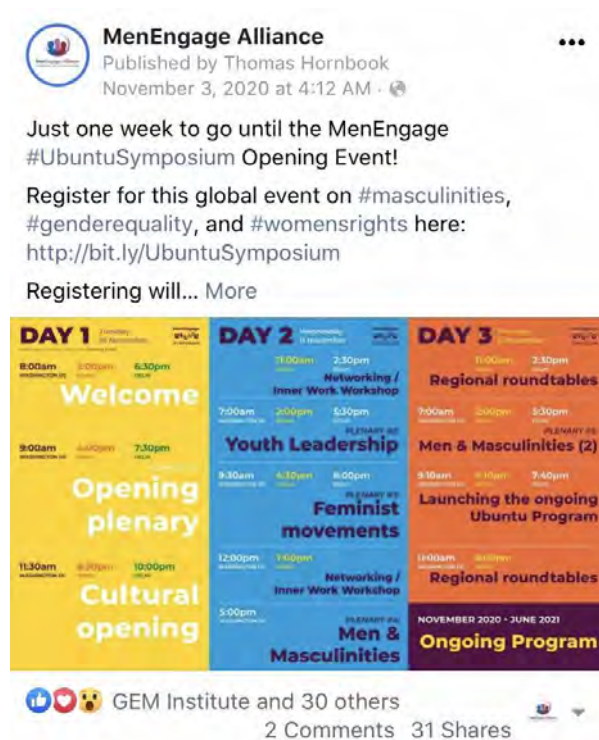
Facebook

The audience for the [MenEngage Global Facebook Page](#) grew from 6,650 to 7,271. 238 posts were shown to people 233,519 times - far beyond the Facebook users who directly 'Like' the MenEngage Page, thanks to the platform's focus on users sharing content. Facebook therefore remained an important channel to engage with broad audiences on topics related to transforming masculinities, to amplify and show solidarity with feminist voices, and to highlight MenEngage and its political agendas.

Posts with the highest reach and engagement:



Live Streamed event and its video recording post



Ubuntu Symposium Program post

Twitter

408 Tweets helped keep members, partners, MenEngage regional and country networks, and other stakeholders informed and engaged through the year. Follower numbers grew by 993 people to more than 8,000 people. The platform helped maintain and develop relationships with other actors in the gender justice field, such as a partnership for a joint 'Twitter storm' event in collaboration with several feminist partners (See also: *Advocacy*). It also served as a space for promoting and elevating the Ubuntu Symposium (see also: *Communicating the symposium*)

The following insights relate to the Global MenEngage Twitter page only (@Menengage), and do not include regional or country-level twitter profiles:

- 408 tweets
- 1,916 retweets
- 505,757 total impressions (number of times MenEngage Alliance tweets appeared in other people's screens)
- MenEngage Alliance was mentioned by other Twitter users 3,203 times
- 993 new followers (Total: 8139 followers)

Tweets with highest impressions in 2020:

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 7,636 impressions

If work with boys and men is not informed by feminist-human rights and gender transformative approaches, then there is a risk that such programs may reproduce and reaffirm male privileges & take up disproportional space [#Beijing25](#) [#FeministsWantSystemChange](#)
pic.twitter.com/Vu5qexRj9H



TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 9,677 impressions

"Hyper-violent masculinities not only negatively influence the country, but further reinforce power-over rather than power with," Anthony Keedi speaking on the MenEngage [#UbuntuSymposium](#) Men and Masculinities plenary

3 21 22



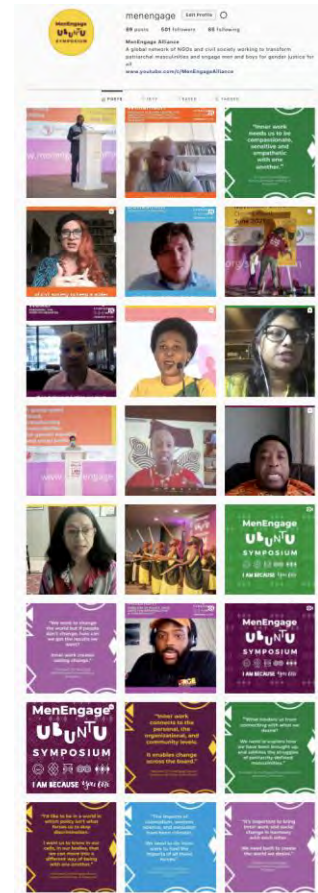
MenEngage Alliance Twitter follower numbers through 2020, with a notable increase from the start of the symposium onwards.

Instagram

MenEngage Alliance reactivated its Instagram account for the Ubuntu Symposium and envisions having it remain active beyond the symposium, offering a key platform for visual content. In addition to symposium photos and videos, instagram posts also included graphics of reflections on Inner Work from various Ubuntu Symposium participants who participated in Inner Work workshops (See also: [Ubuntu Symposium](https://www.ubuntu.com/UbuntuSymposium))

The following insights relate to the Global MenEngage Instagram page only (www.instagram.com/menengage), and do not include regional or country-level Instagram profiles:

- 13 posts published
- 521 unique accounts saw MenEngage Alliance posts or stories at least once (Total Instagram reach)
- Growing from 100 to 332 followers between November and December 2020



Instagram posts with the highest reach:



Outputs	Output Indicators	Report in 2020
Output 3.1) 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	17 members were active in the Communications Committee for the Ubuntu Symposium, subdivided into 5 Working Groups. During this time, the KM&C Working Group did not convene (although several members are part of both groups)
	1 global comprehensive MenEngage Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy developed and utilized by 2020	A Communications Strategy and Action Plan was developed for the Ubuntu Symposium, building on and the KM&C strategy developed in previous years.
	# of regional and country networks utilizing contextualized versions of the MenEngage KM&C strategies by 2020	At least three regional networks have regional communications working groups.

	# of mentions and articles in newspapers and blogs at country, regional and global levels by 2020	Monitoring mechanisms for this have not been developed.
	# of social media (Facebook, Twitter) posts and shares at regional and global levels by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 408 tweets • 238 Facebook Page Posts. Further posts were done in the Ubuntu Symposium Facebook Group • 13 Instagram Posts • 150 WhatsApp Alerts messages
Output 3.2) 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	# of publications (discussion papers, synthesis reports) developed and shared at global, regional and country levels by 2020	Ubuntu Symposium Concept Note developed and designed in three languages 2 new web pages created as COVID-19 response resource and campaign hubs
	# of global e-newsletters and magazines published and disseminated by 2020	50 mas mail-outs (129, including translated versions) sent. This can be broken down as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23 updates and newsletters (48 including translated versions) sent to 5,847 global mailing list subscribers - 27 mail-outs to the 2,877 registered Ubuntu Symposium participants (81, including translated versions)
	# of uses and shares of knowledge products at global, regional and country levels by 2020	More than 5,000 views/downloads of resources from www.menengage.org
Output 3.3) 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	880 attendees of a 4-part webinar workshop series sharing promising practices in 'men and masculinities' approaches in response to COVID-19
	# of quality stories of change developed at country, regional and global levels and disseminated by 2020	This project was challenging to commit to in 2020 because of focussing on responding to COVID-19, as well as the emphasis of creating spaces for sharing and collaborative exchange via the symposium.

Accountability and Partnerships

RESULT AREA 4

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.

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

In 2020 we witnessed more awareness among MenEngage Alliance members and partners of the centrality of accountability as a principle for the Alliance, as reflected in public debates and statements. Some representatives from women's rights organizations operating at global level expressed more willingness to partner with the Alliance due to this commitment to accountability. MenEngage Regional leaders reported progress in knowledge and uptake of the accountability standards within their regions and the Alliance deepened partnerships with women's rights and gender justice CSOs at global level for joint advocacy initiatives (see: [Advocacy](#)).

Accountability has become a cross-cutting issue for MenEngage Alliance in all that we do. Our work on strengthening accountable practices is therefore also addressed throughout this report.

Accountability activities and collaborative actions

OUTPUT 4.1 – Joint accountability activities organized by MenEngage Alliance members and partners at global, regional and country levels.

2020 saw the continuation of the Accountability Initiative, established in 2019 between MenEngage Alliance, The Equality Institute and ATHENA Network. As part of this initiative, community conversations on accountability with young feminists were planned and individual interviews with key feminist leaders working at global level were conducted about solutions to the inherent risks when engaging men and boys in gender work. The initiative also resulted in the development of draft updated MenEngage Core Principles, Code of Conduct and Accountability Standards, informed by past accountability dialogue events, accountability workshops, an online survey on accountability and interviews with key informants.

Most of the MenEngage regional networks have customized or adopted the MenEngage Accountability Standards to some extent over the last 4 years, and in 2020 the regional networks provided input to the updating of the standards. The GS coordinated and co-facilitated online workshops on accountability with MenEngage Europe and MenEngage Africa in 2020. These workshops allowed members to review lessons learned and tools to promote accountable practices and created a space for critical feedback and a commitment to greater levels of accountability.

OUTPUT 4.2 – 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.

As part of the Ubuntu Symposium process, new collaborations with women's rights organizations were established and strategic partnerships with leading SRHR coalitions and with other women's rights organizations were further developed and strengthened (see: [Advocacy](#))

Table 5: Accountability output indicators

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report in 2020
Output 4.1) 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	2 regional workshops
	# of times the online MenEngage Global Alliance Accountability education platforms are accessed by 2020	641
	# of MenEngage country and regional networks adapting the MenEngage Alliance Accountability Standards by 2020	Since we are in the process to update the standards, no formal adaptation was made but regional networks provided feedback for the new version
	# of promising practices on accountability and partnerships among MenEngage Alliance members and partners documented and disseminated internationally by 2020	The 6 regional networks shared in workshops or meetings examples of accountable practices
Output 4.2) 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	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultations about accountability for engaging men and boy with young feminists in Africa in collaboration with ATHENA Network.
	# 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	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 webinar series organized as part of the ubuntu symposium
	# 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	(None that we are aware of)
	# of global women's rights and gender justice alliances that MenEngage Global Alliance is an active member of by 2020	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's Rights Caucus - Women's Major Group

Governance model

Result Area 5

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

For 2020 we had set the following objectives to strengthen the governance of MenEngage Alliance:

- **Strengthen the Alliance's democratization and diversify the leadership.**
- **Break-down hierarchies within the Alliance and move towards increased horizontal structures of leadership, agenda-setting and movement building models.**

We made significant progress, most of all through the collective Symposium organizing process. We advanced the conceptualization/understanding of leadership in the Alliance as something that is not just held by a few, but by many. Members stepped-up and actively participated in the activities and processes, facilitated by MenEngage Global and regional networks, with the objective to strengthen members' sense of ownership. The Symposium organizing model offered committees in which more than 130 members and partners from around the world collaborate in shaping the overall program, brand and format of the Symposium-both at the international and regional levels. The program primarily consists of sessions that have been shaped by members and partners, creating a platform for many voices to be heard.

With this we believe, as was found during the evaluation, the Alliance has strengthened its identity as an active, membership-led, and democratic network and organizing model that acts in solidarity with its members and partners, especially towards feminist women's rights and social justice movements. This was further attested to by the unqualified audit report carried out by Ernst and Young following the successful organizational assessment commissioned by Sida in 2020. It was well received by Sida as an assessment of MenEngage Global's organizational maturity, as well as the quality of our reporting and Symposium organizing process.

Strategic Plan and Theory of Change

OUTPUT 5.1 – MenEngage Alliance Strategic plan and Theory of Change developed, implemented and monitored at global, regional and country levels.

2020 marked the last year of the implementation of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. It was a significant year in the governance of the Alliance, as we took stock of progress made, lessons learnt over the period of time, and developed a new strategic plan for the Alliance, for the coming years. The new strategic plan is a culmination of lessons learned, maturation and growth of the Alliance as a social change network, and builds on the multi-stakeholder network that we have been able to build and strengthen during the past strategic period.

2020 milestones included:

Our 2020 annual plan and budget were developed and used as monitoring tools throughout the year. As the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded, it became evident that this was going to be far from a usual year. In March we **updated the annual plan and budget to reflect the necessary changes in response to the pandemic**, including significant plan adjustments and budget reallocations away from travel and in-person meetings, towards virtual meeting platforms and tools. In particular we were able to quickly respond to move the Global Symposium from an in-person event to a virtual ongoing participatory process. This showed organizational maturity and high commitment from Alliance membership to work together creatively towards a common project and objective.

We conducted an **external progress evaluation of the 2017-2020 strategic plan**. Through partnership with Singizi Africa consultants, a Southern-based firm with diverse feminist consultants with a variety of backgrounds and language skills, we were able to generate broad engagement of the membership as well as various partners. Methods of inclusion included surveys, focus group discussions with the regional networks, Board and GS team; and feminist discourse analysis. Throughout the process, the involvement and leadership of the regional networks and the leadership was ensured thereby centering the process

around the roots of the Alliance. During the evaluation process, we conducted region specific focus group discussions with the leadership and the survey to invite broader members to join and contribute.

We developed a **new 2021-2024 Strategic Plan**. Informed by findings of the evaluation, and a participatory strategic planning process with the MenEngage Global Board, Regional Networks and the GS team. The regional network's inputs and involvement was a key part in the process of developing the new strategic plan, where the regional priorities and vision informed the next step for the Alliance. The new plan also includes an **updated articulation of our Theory of Change**. The evaluation and strategic planning processes were conducted entirely virtually due to Covid-19, which had some limitations, but nonetheless we were able to have inclusive processes thanks to the active participation of members and leadership.

The evaluation also laid the foundations for a **new Planning Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PME&L) framework**, with indicators for monitoring progress and impact that are focused more on the work of the membership, in addition to that of the global entity. The evaluation laid the foundations for this framework, which were in turn further developed as the results frame of the new strategic plan.

In 2021 we will further share the evaluation findings, new strategic plan, and updated PME&L framework with the membership. We will take what we have learned, and conduct annual membership surveys to continue involving the membership in shaping the actions of the Alliance.

We worked closely with the regional and country networks, as relevant, with regular calls to support the development and implementation of the regional work plans (for more information on this please look at the Result Area 1). Through the technical support to the regions during the year and working under their leadership on their areas of interest, we continued to play instrumental role in strengthening the regional networks' institutional development and organizing, especially for regional networks in North America, Europe, Caribbean, South Asia, and Latin America region and Lebanon as the country network. Due to the COVID situation and the priority for the symposium, the in-person meetings couldn't happen but we were able to make best use of the technology to extend utmost support to the region on the regular basis. This support to the regions also included financial support and monitoring, and supporting for additional resources mobilization for the full-fledge implementation of the regional works plans. Further close working relationships and mobilization mostly revolved in the Ubuntu Symposium Organizing, for which please see the session on Ubuntu Symposium above.

Governance structures

OUTPUT 5.2 – MenEngage Global Alliance governance structures in place, participatory and functional at global, regional and country levels.

We convened an unprecedented number of **MenEngage Alliance international leadership meetings** to facilitate exchange and engage the membership in democratic decision making on the direction of the Alliance's work. The MenEngage **Global Board**, which includes representation of the membership and key constituencies in the gender justice movement, demonstrated its commitment and leadership of the Alliance. We met not only for periodic quarterly calls, but several more times through the year as we responded to Covid-19; organized the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the Symposium; and organized focus group sessions for the evaluation and new strategic plan development. A highlight was the face-to-face board meeting in February in Rwanda, organized in cooperation with RWAMREC, RWAMNET and MenEngage Africa networks, just before the pandemic ended all travel.

We made progress in the **democratization of our global governance model**, though not as much as we would have liked. We started the **Members' Assembly** organizing process, to be held virtually in 2021. The Global Board Governance committee is developing a process for **new Board members elections**, further democratizing towards the Alliance's first ever membership elections of new Board members. We reached consensus on the key principles that guide our governance: accountability, inclusivity and diversity. We conducted a mapping of models by like-minded and similarly structured networks, focusing on feminist-informed work of organizing "power-with". Next steps in 2021 will include launching the call for new Board members, and convening the members assembly.

We advanced on the **operationalization of the Sexual Harassment Policy**. Working with an external consultant who is a feminist human rights lawyer, we interviewed leaders from the MenEngage Board to learn from their experiences and knowledge on dealing with sexual harassment in their organizations. A new working group was created which provides feedback and guidance as the consultant crafted the Sexual Harassment Policy Protocol as a way to operationalize the policy. In addition, an action plan was also developed for a gradual implementation of the different components of the policy.

We made progress with the **Safety and Security protocol**, an initiative that was sparked in response to members facing threats to their well-being and political backlash because of their gender- and social justice work. We conducted a consultancy to better understand the Alliance's role in supporting members who are carrying out human rights defence work which has become increasingly dangerous. However differences in understanding emerged around the concepts of organizational security versus human security. A need was identified to come to a collective, feminist and holistic understanding of what security

means to the Alliance. The involvement of members revealed interest in continuing this conversation. However MenEngage Alliance is not primarily a human rights defenders organization and cannot devote substantial time or resources to this, but needs to find a way to **keep feminist discourse and solidarity central in all of our gender and social justice mobilization work.**

The **Global Secretariat** continues to serve as a coordinating and stimulating mechanism within the Alliance. Implementing feminist-informed, social-justice based policies and practices within the team is a conscious investment within the Global Governance pillar of our work, as we believe we need to model the changes we want to see in the world. In 2020 we created a space of ongoing support to GS team members for our decentralized working model. For example, due to Covid-19 our decentralized office spaces closed and we worked together to make the best use of online platforms, and have a culture of ongoing monitoring and reflection so that we respond to team members' personal needs. We also organized **internal sessions on 'structural racism, discrimination, violence, and anti-blackness'**. These sessions provided a space for learning and reflection on the meaning and relevance of these issues for our work as colleagues and the work of the Alliance, and supported the start of an Anti-Racism Plan for the GS and beyond in 2021.

In 2021 we took steps to model shared leadership by adopting a **Co-Directors model for the Global Secretariat**: Laxman Belbase joined Joni van de Sand in that role. At MenEngage Alliance, guided by a feminist approach to leadership, we believe that we are all leaders in our own areas of expertise and roles. Through the years we have been intentional about reflecting this in our own organizing and the way we work and function at the Global Secretariat. We believe that the Co-directors model takes steps towards demonstrating our power-with approach. Together the Co-Directors are representative of some of the diversity within the Alliance. The Co-Directors have been able to work together in a smooth, streamlined manner, offering a unified voice and leadership. It has allowed the GS team to better align workflows with their respective supervisor. The Co-Directors model is in line with the Alliance's strategic vision of diverse and shared leadership, and we hope it inspires network members to adopt similar models.

Resource Mobilization

OUTPUT 5.3 – MenEngage Global Alliance resource mobilization and fundraising strategy developed and successfully implemented.

Our main fundraising and resource mobilization objective for 2021 was through the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium, as the center of joint activities in 2020, and our main platform to strengthen sustainability within the Alliance and regional networks. See overview below.

We continued to advocate for **increased funding streams for women's rights and gender justice work** and stand together with women-led women's rights groups on this issue. We were able to broker partnerships between women's rights organizations and Sida, which resulted in some tangible new fundings streams for these WROs. We also worked in partnership with WROs in the implementation of our programs, which are described elsewhere.

Global-level resource mobilization in 2020:

- Continued core-support for 2021-2024 from our long standing partners at Sida; as well as a no-cost extension for Symposium activities through 2021. This grant includes funds for MenEngage Regional Networks.
- Project-grant with WILPF on Militarized Masculinities, supported by the government of Canada.
- Project-grant for the Symposium with UNFPA-ESARO, our first UN grant as MenEngage Global Alliance, which means we are now in their grantees system. We obtained this grant through UNFPA-HQ.
- Project-grant for implementation of global advocacy in 2020-21 with UN Foundation as part of their NEST initiative. This grant includes funds for MenEngage Regional Networks.

Regional-level resource mobilization

- Sonke Gender Justice submitted numerous successful funding proposals for projects which will closely involve the MenEngage Africa network, including two proposals to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a grant of approximately \$5,800,000 USD and a proposal to UNFPA global for approximately \$440,000 USD. At the country level, MEA country networks submitted a combined total of 9 additional proposals, 4 of which have been funded to date.
- CariMAN signed a technical agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank which will fund the implementation of Promundo's Program H in Trinidad and Tobago, the development of virtual reality tools and capacity strengthening of civil society organizations that work with men and boys.
- NAMEN managed to raise approximately \$31,000 USD from individual donors in 2020.
- MenEngage Europe secured a three-year grant of €360,000 from Ignite, starting January 2020, building on to the work the regional network did with OAK Foundation in 2019. This support from Ignite, via the consortium funds from OAK foundation, will support the institutional strengthening of the regional network in Europe, as well as the implementation of their strategic plan.

Outputs	Output Indicators	Report in 2020
Output 5.1) MenEngage Alliance Strategic plan and Theory of Change developed, implemented and monitored at global, regional and country levels	# of strategic planning activities with MenEngage global, regional and country networks and at-large members organized by 2020	1 Global strategic planning process, with 3 virtual workshops of Board and GS team
	1 Strategic Plan and 1 ToC developed and implemented by MenEngage Alliance and members by 2020	1 new strategic plan for 2021-24 developed 1 updated articulation of our ToC included
	1 MenEngage Alliance Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) strategy developed and implemented by MenEngage global, regional and country networks by 2020	1 PM&E frame developed for the Global Evaluation 2017-2020
	# of annual plans and reports developed and disseminated by MenEngage global, regional and country networks by 2020	14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Global annual report for 2019 developed and widely shared; • 6 regional plans • 1 annual plan 2020 developed; and 1 updated plan after the outbreak of Covid-19 - 7 regional reports
	# of external evaluations undertaken and disseminated by MenEngage global, regional and country networks by 2020	1 Global external evaluation conducted for 2017-2020, including 6 Regional Networks assessments

Output 5.2) MenEngage Global Alliance governance structures in place, participatory and functional at global, regional and country levels	# of joint initiatives by the Global Secretariat organized with regional and country networks, members and partners by 2020	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Global Symposium Preparation in Rwanda - 2 Accountability workshops
	# of Board meetings, calls and joint activities, including exchange visits, organized with regional networks, at-large members and the Global Secretariat by 2020	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 virtual board calls - 1 face-to-face board meeting in Rwanda
	# of contextualized global, regional and country network Membership Strategies developed and implemented by 2020	1 MenEngage membership strategy drafted and implemented through Symposium organizing process
	1 Up-to-date Global membership database maintained by 2020	1 global database maintained
Output 5.3) MenEngage Global Alliance resource mobilization and fundraising strategy developed and successfully implemented	% of MenEngage Global Alliance operating budget secured by 2020	100% of Global operational budget secured in 2020 100% of Global Symposium funds raised
	# of regional and country networks supported for fundraising and resource mobilization efforts by 2020	4 Africa, Europe, Caribbean and South Asia regions
	# of grants, donations and philanthropy support received by the Alliance by 2020	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Core-grant from Sida • 1 AmplifyChange grant for SRHR for All

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Rutgers grants: Prevention+ Global and fiscal agent for GBV Prevention in Pakistan • 1 WILPF-project on Militarised Masculinities • 1 UNFPA grant for the Global Symposium • 1 UN-Foundation grant for Nest advocacy community membership
	# of concept notes, ToRs and proposals developed and submitted by 2020	2 South Asia

Thematic Working Groups

Youth leadership and engagement

The MenEngage Youth reference group continued to meet regularly throughout 2020, and to anchor all youth-focused activities of the Alliance. The youth reference group led a webinar in April on '[Young masculinities and COVID-19](#)' in which young activists reflected on the impact of the pandemic on young people and shared how they are adapting their strategies for working with young people on masculinities and gender issues.

The [Ubuntu Symposium](#) also provided an excellent opportunity for the mobilization of young people. A youth committee was established which worked throughout the year to ensure meaningful youth leadership and participation at the symposium. The youth committee led the plenary session on youth leadership and movement building at the opening event, organized youth networking sessions and planned for the development of a symposium youth statement.

At the regional level, all regional networks took steps to strengthen youth leadership and engagement - from the development of youth networks, engagement of young changemakers to the development of youth-led campaigns (See [Reports from the Regional Networks](#)).

The result of these efforts to strengthen youth leadership and engagement over the previous several years has been an increased recognition of the importance of engaging young people in the work of the Alliance and the need to do this in a more strategic and consistent way.

In 2020, with the support of a consultant and participation of the regional networks, the youth reference group collectively developed a set of principles and values for youth engagement and a comprehensive youth leadership and engagement strategy for the next four years. The strategy outlines goals and strategies for building and engaging young leaders and strengthening this focus within all pillars of the Alliance's work and at all levels, from national to global. Participation in the strategy process and collective ownership of the strategy is evidence of this increased commitment to youth leadership at all levels, and has created a strong foundation for the joint implementation of the strategy in the coming strategic period.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

SRHR for All

MenEngage Alliance's SRHR for All initiative, along with other key strategies, sits at the center of the Alliance's commitment to intersectional and accountable practices and partnerships. In 2020, the Alliance members and partners continued to strengthen their capacities to engage in meaningful collaboration with feminist organizations to transform masculinities and engage men and boys in the field of SRHR from a women's rights and gender justice lens. At the global and regional levels, the Alliance worked with women's rights and gender justice CSOs, NGOs and UN agencies to strengthen collective agreement on ways to take action to address priorities related to SRHR.

2020 and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic limited MenEngage Alliance in-person networking, and required adjustment to online engagement with members, partners and supporters. The global secretariat team communicated frequently with regional and global allies, and monitored the global SRHR feminist movement and other social justice efforts to stay informed.

The SRHR initiative sought to translate the activities planned for 2020 into a series of online dialogues, mobilization and capacity strengthening activities. Even with limitations in Internet access and Wi-Fi connectivity in different regions, as well as country specific conditions (curfews, blackout periods), regular online/remote events were organized, and helped expand awareness about the impact of COVID on people's ability to care for their own sexual and reproductive health. With the documented rampant rise in domestic violence, men's VAWG and overall GBV during pandemic lockdowns, curfews and other restrictive measures, MenEngage members engaged in reflection and local and regional efforts to raise attention to the problem. While GBV was not the primary focus of the SRHR initiative, there was agreement that attention to what was happening in homes all over the world was needed. Both at the global and regional levels, the Alliance understood that transforming masculinities within the scope of SRHR would require revisiting GBV and carework from a new angle. This was not a departure from the SRHR initiative, but rather an opportunity to understand how male violence and issues of control over women and girls' bodies, sexuality and reproduction are linked to GBV, homophobia and transphobia, and to gender inequality.

The pandemic also facilitated a reflection about the connection between male dominance and control over daily life, including institutional violence (militarized forms of enforcing health regulations). The stark separation between public and private life, devaluation of care work and care economy, as articulated by feminist partners, resulted in the colossal failure of the healthcare systems response to COVID-19, revealing how unprepared and these basic systems were to provide the care needed when COVID-19

became a pandemic. By engaging in conversations about systems of power and control, and the role of masculinities, the Alliance continued to observe the pervasive disregard for health, wellbeing and care embedded in the provision of healthcare, which was in sharp contrast to over investments in warfare, surveillance, and mechanisms of segregation and exclusion.

2020 SRHR Activities and outcomes

- The **SRHR Working Group** met in Kigali to review activities to date, and to consider priorities for the symposium. The Kigali meeting reaffirmed SRHR as a major theme of the symposium and one that is deeply linked to other major themes such as youth and accountability.
- Full recognition and inclusion of **LGBTQI health, rights and wellbeing** paved the way to focused initiatives by the SOGIESC Learning Circle, including a discussion paper to raise awareness about and launch conversations around masculinities, power and patriarchal structures that impact the LGBTQI community.
- **Twenty-four young advocates and changemakers from 19 countries** continued (since May 2019) to work closely with MenEngage networks and coordinators at local and regional levels.
- With support from SRHR-specific sub-grants, **initiatives by regional networks** continued to unfold. Some activities implemented in 2020 include: policy mapping, region-wide assessments of the state of the field, social-media campaigns, regional and sub-regional meetings with local experts from feminist movements. The GS provided support to three regional networks (Caribbean, Latin America and South Asia), and to three independent partners.

Highlights from Regional Activities and implementation of Sub-Grants

South Asia

Advocacy, networking and capacity strengthening on masculinities, and engaging men and boys to end child, early and forced marriages (CEFM) in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India and Nepal.

Bangladesh:

- Youth Mobilization and Capacity building: 127 youth (including 10 transgender and 8 indigenous youth) mobilized from 34 districts.
- Conducted 18 online training sessions on SRHR, child marriage, caring masculinity and advocacy strategies in the context of COVID-19
- Training of Trainers (ToT) to 3 changemakers and 13 Master Facilitators in how to conduct training for youth on CEFM and SRHR.
- Desk review: Policies, laws, national action plan and research documents on child marriage and sexual and reproductive health were reviewed and recommendations made .
- Local level Advocacy: Online dialogues with youth (111 online dialogues) at the district level, reaching 2430 men and boys as direct participants.
- Press Conference: Shared youth recommendations based on findings of local level dialogues and policy review with 30 media agencies.

- Virtual Dialogues with 6 Parliamentarians 6 government policy makers of 5 Ministerial cabinet officers to present youth concerns and demands. Parliamentarians expressed their solidarity with young leaders demands on SRHR and ECFM and promised to raise these issues at the policy-making level



*Changemaker Sohan Rahman in dialogue
With policy makers*

- Social Media Campaign with 6 messages and illustrations on fathers, young men and caring masculinities, reaching 50 thousand people.



*Campaign promoting father and
son communication*



*...and fathers and boys caring roles
in the family*



Training with youth on masculinities, SRHR and ending CEFM in Bangladesh

Sri Lanka:

- Conducted a desk review and situation analysis of the legal context, which was translated into local languages (Sinhala and Tamil) and shared with parliamentarians, ministerial offices, and NGOs.
- Meetings with local feminist groups working on CEFM and with Muslim Women's Groups
- Capacity Building Training Sessions with youth and partnership with 'Equite' Sri Lanka on SRHR topics
- District trainings on engaging men and boys to service providers, interest parties, civil society Organization members, FISD youth group members
- Working with International Youth Alliance for Family Planning for virtual sessions
- Social media-based campaigns
- Building up a youth network with more than 200 volunteer youth changemakers



Changemakers in Sri Lanka worked with MenEngage regional secretariat and partners to launch a comprehensive campaign to end CEFM



Including social media video animation series

Pakistan:

- Four-day training by Shirakat-Partnership for Development on how to integrate learnings from transformative work on masculinities to advocacy efforts in SRHR and CEFM.
- Social media campaigning and the production of locally contextualized campaign materials
- Online dialogues on recommendations to end CEFM with civil society, youth, academia and government
- Engagement of broader networks of youth changemakers in each country

Nepal:

- Training on 'dignified menstruation' provided to 21 teachers in which the role of teachers' in eliminating traditional myths and taboos related to menstruation was discussed.
- Advocated for updated and new infrastructures (running water, bathroom and sanitation facilities) to ease the difficulties faced by menstruating girls while at school.
- Webinar on SRHR issues including four youth speakers sharing their personal experiences.
- District and national level consultation about inclusion of child marriage in SRHR education issues
- Integrated SRHR in life skills training provided to adolescent girls and boys by CWIN in all 77 districts

Caribbean

- Changemakers and focal points worked with the GS on the adaptation of the [Power, Patriarchy and Masculinities from a Feminist Lens](#) course developed by CREA and MenEngage Alliance collaboratively ([Module 1](#), [Module 2](#), [Module 3](#)) The course included three modules and was piloted in July 2020 with CariMAN leadership.
- Changemakers conducted a mapping and review exercise of the SRHR situation in five countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago. This study was developed using two priority areas:
 - Access to services mainly contraception and HIV services, including prevention, treatment, care and support; and
 - Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Using a qualitative desk review methodology, complemented with interviews with key stakeholders and network members of CariMAN, the study used a socio-ecological model to organize data and an intersectional analysis that looked at multiple levels of both access and barriers. The study presents recommendations for future work on engaging men and boys for SRHR in the region. In 2021, the study will be expanded to 5 additional counties thus providing a better representation of the state of the quality and accessibility of SRHR services and education in the region.

Latin America

- In 2020 the regional changemakers organized five online consultations with youth from the region reaching 77 participants in 10 countries.



- Changemakers, regional coordinators and representatives from the MenEngage Advocacy Working Group and SOGI Learning Circle organized an in-person meeting in Colombia to share results from the survey and assessment carried out by the changemakers, and to exchange knowledge about existing evidence to support the planning of an effective social media [campaign](#) on SRHR and masculinities in the region.
- The group invited local experts to contribute to strengthening the advocacy capacity of changemakers, which has broadened the conversation about masculinities and SRHR in the region to include discussions about gender identity, LGBTIQ rights and sexual health.
- Change makers from the region [created a Facebook page](#) which is home to the region's youth network and a platform for MenEngage SRHR changemakers. They have held monthly virtual meetings to keep themselves connected, and they have used *Facebook Live* to learn from each other's participation in regional and international events.



Africa

The regional changemakers in Africa focused on raising awareness on SRHR and specifically working on social and cultural norms that perpetuate violence against girls and women, hindering their ability to enjoy their health and rights, particularly SRHR. They focused on policies and laws on SRHR and how community organizations and community leaders, specifically, religious and traditional leaders who are the custodians of social and cultural norms, are able to influence change in those policies. The changemakers engaged volunteers and advocates in reflections about how to dismantle negative social and cultural norms that perpetuate violence against women and girls in communities, working on existing East and Southern Africa (ESA) commitments to SRHR, and more specifically CSE.

In Botswana, MenEngage local network member and changemaker Ontlametse Raleru led several efforts to link the impact of VAWG to SRHR, including:

- CSE in Ghanzi
- Community drama play aired on national radio
- Partnership with UNFPA to integrate VAW prevention into SRHR services
- Involvement of men in HIV prevention
- Condemning sexual harassment and violence and abuse against women and girls [on public radio](#).

In **Zambia**, Young Women in Action carried out regular community level sessions, these included:

- Social norms and GBV, with men and boys as well as parents focusing on building SRHR knowledge and fostering progressive gender norms.
- Parent-child communication around SRHR issues and general, including prevention on HIV, unwanted pregnancy and sexual violence.
- Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) with boys and girls
- GBV and alcohol and drug use with boys



The goal was to share information, resources about local health providers and counseling services, and focusing on changing assumption about gender stereotypes in SRHR and the role of masculinity in violence against women and girls.



Zambia Changemakers were also active by calling-in radio programs to spark dialogue among the general public about gender issues and SRHR, and promoting service access to young people.



Partnership with WGNRR

As part of a partnership between MenEngage Alliance and the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), changemakers in the African continent worked with WGNRR-Africa regional staff on effective approaches to reaching out to men and boys. This collaboration included a two-session capacity building exercise led by WGNRR. WGNRR engaged Amon Mulyowa, a regional expert consultant based in Uganda, to lead a webinar on social and behavior change communications (SBCC) methodology to campaign messaging and social norms change. Using the SBCC approach, the workshop delved into sensitive topics such as abortion and particularly how to engage men in talking about abortion.

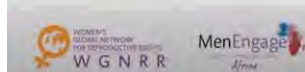
Our Theory of Change



Amon Mulyowa (Amon) – Team Lead



A Social and Behavior Change Communication Consultant in the areas of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for Organizations such as Reach A hand Uganda (as Lead Trainer for the Peer Educator's Academy (for 8 eight years now), Maries Stopes Uganda, Reproductive Health Uganda, Program For Accessible Health, Communication and Education – PACE, The World Vision, The Straight Talk Foundation Uganda, UNFPA and the Uganda Aids Commission on the Young Empowered and Healthy- (YEAH) Initiative - YEAH.



Partnership Rationale

- **Hamful social norms related to masculinity and patriarchy system consolidate barriers toward SRHR and Gender equality for all**
- **SRHR is central to gender Equality** provides opps to understand the overlaps and reshape masculinities to achieve gender equality
- **Partnership is power toward Gender equality:** Collaboration enables sharing of skills, information, resources and; collective support and mutual support



Lessons learned

- Most of the duty bearers/ policy makers/ people who sign policies are men and we this we need to engage them
- Srhr is a community issue. The stigma around it affects us all this engaging all stakeholders Is important to ensure access to srhr
- Language is an important aspect of social behavioral change communication work and advocacy
- Not all solutions fit the different target audience.



Evidence and Knowledge Base

The MenEngage GS SRHR Coordinator worked with researchers of WHO's Reproductive Health and Research department, and colleagues in the US and Lebanon to develop a collaborative opinion piece for the *BMJGlobal Health* as part of the Beijing 25 commemorations. The article, titled '[*How can gender transformative programmes with men advance women's health and empowerment?*](#)' was published in July 2020.

Gender-based violence prevention

The Prevention+ program¹

MenEngage Alliance's work through the Prevention+ program focuses on coordinating multi-level accountable advocacy towards a progressive feminist intersectional political agenda inclusive of transforming patriarchal masculinities and engaging men and boys in gender equality. Despite 2020's challenges, MenEngage Alliance and members continued to mobilize to advance this work. In doing so, we continued to create opportunities for the partners of the Prevention+ to be part of these broader joint advocacy efforts, thereby elevating the local work of the partners and programs, into broader movement building.

2020 activities and outcomes

Below section summarizes activities with Prevention+ partners and other activities focused on GBV prevention. See also the Advocacy section above that provides further context and strategy in which these activities took place.

Partnering and joint action through the Prevention+ Advocacy Working Group:

MenEngage Alliance participated ongoingly in the Prevention+ Advocacy Working Group, joining virtual calls, supporting with reporting and various joint activities of the technical working group, including planning and preparations alongside the Extended Advocacy Working Group for joint submissions towards the Ubuntu MenEngage Alliance Global Symposium. As part of the AWG, MenEngage supports annual planning and reporting and various joint activities of the technical working group, including participation in Prevention+ International Advocacy ETR, including follow-up reviews of the final report.

COVID-19 Mobilization: Combating the rise of Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls

- MenEngage Alliance organized various global virtual discussions and webinars on GBV/VAWG in the time of COVID-19 with its members and partners, including Prevention+ partners in order to discuss various key issues in relation to the rise of GBV/VAWG/IPV during global lockdowns and the role and responsibilities of men and boys and those working with men and boys during this time.
- In addition, the Alliance developed dedicated webpages in its website which highlight critical resources and analysis on engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities in the time of COVID-19, as well as a digital activism page, which puts forth the various efforts of MenEngage members across the world, to take action against GBV/VAWG/IPV and VAC during the pandemic.

¹ Prevention+ is a five-year multi-country programme aiming to address the social, economic, religious, and cultural contexts that shape attitudes and behaviour that lead to violence. See: rutgers.international/programmes/prevention

64th Session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women:

- Despite its subsequent cancellation due to COVID-19, MenEngage Alliance prepared to coordinate its annual CSW delegation, consisting of over 90 members including Prevention+ partners, bringing everyone into collective discussion and coordination. MenEngage Alliance had, as a co-organizer of the Prevention+ CSW side event, secured a venue, built an agenda and prepared to facilitate the session and discuss accountability in the work to engage men and boys.
- As part of feminist/SOGIESC movements' organizing and mobilization, MenEngage Alliance participated in the Eradication of Violence, Prejudice and Stigma CSW Working Group, joining calls and disseminating notes and resources with members and partners.
- MenEngage provided three rounds of technical inputs to CSW political declaration, disseminating among members and partners including Prevention+, to lobby at national level amongst others in Rwanda, Botswana, Norway, South Africa, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Lebanon, Colombia and Nepal.
- Following the cancellation of CSW, the Alliance monitored and shared rapidly changing information and advocacy processes around the postponement of CSW and disseminating this broadly to all MenEngage Alliance members and partners, including Prevention+, including sharing sign-ons and rapid response statements.

Human Rights Council and Other Critical Policy Spaces:

- MenEngage Alliance advocated at the Virtual CSO Townhall meeting with the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. MenEngage Alliance coordinated with Prevention+ partner ABAAD and MenEngage Alliance Co-Chair, Humberto Carolo of White Ribbon, in preparation for their participation as official civil society speakers in the townhall session.
- MenEngage Alliance contributed towards the coordination of the additional Prevention+ Joint Submission towards the request for the submissions to Special Rapporteur, which comprehensively highlighted the contributions of all Prevention+ partner organizations at country level.
- MenEngage Alliance also made a Joint Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences' report on the Rise of Domestic Violence During COVID-19. With this joint submission, we were able to amplify the voices and experiences of 30 members and partners including efforts by Prevention+ as a program, and consortium and partner organizations, ABAAD, RWAMREC, Sonke Gender Justice, Rutgers and Promundo.
- MenEngage Alliance held a Generation Equality Strategic Planning session, coordinating with the Alliances' advocacy working group, alongside MenEngage Alliance members and Prevention+ partner ABAAD, in addition to other members selected as GEF Action Coalition leaders, towards building a cohesive strategy to advance men and masculinities across the global convenings.
- Lastly, sharing with all MenEngage Alliance members and partners, including Prevention+, the Alliance disseminated key sign-ons and rapid response statements arising in lieu of feminist COVID-19 mobilizations.

Ubuntu Global Symposium - Global movement-building and advancing an intersectional feminist political framework to engage men and boys:

- The Prevention+ partnership members were deeply involved in Ubuntu Symposium organizing, and the program provided financial support for the symposium. The organization of this Forum had important implications for the Prevention+ Program as it entered its final year and found spaces in which to share the impact of the program over the last five years and works towards finding pathways for sustainability post-funding cycle through a great articulation with the actors working on GBV prevention worldwide.

Men, Caregiving and Unpaid Care work

MenEngage Alliance continued to remain an active steering committee member of the global MenCare Campaign in 2020, continuing to bring in the learnings from across the regions on the work on fatherhood and unpaid care work. MenCare Campaign continues to provide a unique platform for MenEngage Alliance members to contribute to strengthening work on men and caregiving. Given the organizing model of MenCare and MenEngage Alliance, there has been confusion among the members of the Alliance on who is who and what is what. In 2020 MenEngage Alliance and MenCare co-coordinators developed a clarification document that was shared with the members of the Alliance as well as MenCare Campaign:

The distinctions between MenEngage and MenCare

- MenEngage has a broader scope: transforming masculinities and working with men and boys to challenge patriarchal structures in the areas of gender-based violence prevention, advancing SRHR for all, redistributing unpaid care-work, promoting egalitarian fatherhood, transforming masculinities in peace and security and in the response to climate change.
- MenCare has a more focused scope: men equally sharing unpaid caregiving and domestic work, non-violent fatherhood practices, and men committed to women's social and economic empowerment.
- At global and regional level, each entity has its own governance structure, decision making process, regional and global websites, educational resources and campaign materials.
- MenCare is not a registered organization, but a platform and campaign, and cannot implement programs. MenEngage at Global level has been incorporated as an organization to serve the wider MenEngage Alliance and networks.

Potential implications for MenEngage members at the regional and national levels

- It is up to each MenEngage Alliance member to decide their involvement with the MenCare Campaign, although we are for partnership between our members and partners, collective action and collaboration to create synergies needed for social change. We support those who are active members and leaders in both entities (as well as those who are not).
- We believe that at the national and regional level it is possible to creatively integrate or connect with the international work of both MenEngage and MenCare.

- When sharing activities and results it is important to be mindful of the commonalities and distinctions between the two entities so that proper visibility and credit is given to each.
- If there are MenEngage Alliance members or networks doing work on fatherhood but who are not part of MenCare, they can do their work in this area separate from MenCare or request becoming a MenCare partner.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The Alliance recognizes the importance of addressing sexuality and gender as markers of identity and discrimination. MenEngage Alliance continues to challenge homophobia and transphobia, and to advocate for the human rights of all people, including the sexual rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people (LGBTIQ).

Even with changes in membership and other COVID-19 related disruptions, the Alliance's SOGIESC Learning Circle continued to meet periodically to assess progress toward a more inclusive and visible representation of LGBTIQ rights into the Alliance's agenda, advocacy and outward facing leadership.

In 2020, Learning Circle and NAMEN member Carlos Idibouo conducted a review of gender and masculinities within and in relation to MenEngage Alliance. With the goal of continuing to build on efforts initiated in 2019, including a global event on SRHR and sexual identity and rights in Ethiopia, and a board and regional leadership meeting in Lebanon both in 2019, the Learning Circle determined that a [discussion paper](#) would provide substantive historical and policy information to level the understanding among the Alliance's leadership of SOGIESC and of the global and regional progress made by and challenges facing LGBTIQ advocates. The paper includes a review of policy papers, global events, and agreements reached in the recognition of LGBTIQ rights as human rights. The discussion paper also sought to bring to the discussion the lived experience of LGBTIQ activists from the perspective of the movement's struggles with the pervasive gender binary and systems of oppression and exclusion. A series of interviews with key informants shaped the paper bringing voices from the field to the Alliance's leadership.

This project culminated in a session at the Ubuntu Symposium on December 17 in which SOGIESC Learning Circle members facilitated a conversation about the challenges that exist in identifying and addressing the sexual and gender binary within the social justice movements, including MenEngage Alliance. Next steps include expanding the paper to incorporate additional regional voices from the field.

Masculinities, Militarism, and Women, Peace and Security

In 2020, MenEngage Alliance and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (a member of the Global Board) collaborated on the project "Confronting Militarized Masculinities", funded by the Government of Canada. The initiative will have a global reach with four focus countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, DRC, and Cameroon) as well as an additional 6 countries to be determined. The project aims to advance feminist peace by challenging gendered root causes of violence. This collaboration aims to contribute to improve knowledge on gender, masculinities, militarism and peace, and strengthen partnerships between women and men working for peace, leading to decreased militarism and enduring peace.

Specifically, under this partnership WILPF and MenEngage, together with WILPF country chapters and MenEngage Country Networks, aim to contribute to outcomes in relation to alliance building, analysis and advocacy, by bringing together and strengthening capacities of WILPF and MenEngage Alliance members and partners.

Project inception meetings

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the originally planned in-person project inception meeting was successfully organized as seven two and a half hour virtual meetings held between mid-August and the end of October. The inception meetings allowed participants involved in the project implementation to get to know each other's work, and clarified roles and expectations across WILPF and MenEngage Alliance. This helped in building a sense of connection and shared purpose, as well as providing opportunities to share, review and offer feedback on each other's project proposals.

These seven inception meetings were well attended, usually by 20-25 participants from WILPF sections and MenEngage network members from each of the four focus countries, as well as WILPF and MenEngage Global Secretariat staff and MenEngage regional coordinators from Africa, South Asia and Latin America. The ongoing nature of the inception meetings also ensured regular contact between WILPF sections and MenEngage country networks which in turn facilitated partnership development in each of the focus countries.

Solidarity Dialogues

As part of the inception meeting series, MenEngage Global Secretariat presented its accountability framework and toolkit to the project partners as a potential basis for the planned solidarity dialogues and for the partnership more broadly. Following this there were similar planning meetings and dialogues organized in all the four focused countries.

Africa Virtual Regional Conference

On 14 November, WILPF African sections met virtually in a virtual regional conference, using a combination of pre-recorded meetings, limited local gatherings of members (where this was possible), and ongoing WhatsApp exchange. The meeting included a session on militarised masculinities, to gauge how the topic was understood and received among the African sections beyond the two focus countries (DRC and Cameroon) already involved in the project. The exchange showed an interest and a need for a more in-depth regional session which will take place together with the MenEngage Africa regional secretariat.

Reports from the Regional Networks

MenEngage Africa

The pandemic had a severe impact on the implementation of planned activities for MenEngage Africa (MEA) and slowed the network's momentum somewhat as many of the network's activities such as community based training were delayed or were put on hold. The network realised, however, that it could not stop and wait for the situation to return to normal, and where possible, members adapted to virtual meetings. However, internet infrastructure in Africa posed a challenge for participation. In some countries where internet connection is a challenge, MEA members set up discussion groups on messenger to facilitate exchange and provided online training through document sharing and personal reflection. Where possible, members participated in virtual activities e.g. panel discussions on SGBV during Covid-19, radio, and newspaper interviews. Network members also focused on working with the media to communicate with target audience or programme beneficiaries. MEA members intensified their online activities on social media which has resulted in the network in partnering with various organizations in the region in organizing live Twitter chats. This has resulted in the network seeing a huge increase in followers on its social media platforms. Training of members during the lockdown period helped to build the capacity of network members on advocacy and engaging stakeholders.

Regional Participation in the Ubuntu Symposium

Co-hosting the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium was one of the highlights of the year for MenEngage Africa. MenEngage Africa was engaged in the planning process for the Ubuntu Symposium throughout the year, and mobilized its members at the country level to engage in the event. In addition to the country hub in Rwanda during the opening event, members in several other countries in the region gathered together to participate where COVID rules allowed or hosted local level symposia. MenEngage Africa held a number of regional roundtables during the opening event and ongoing program, including on intersectionality and engaging men and boys work.

Participation in the global symposium had a profound impact on the regional network, allowing members to gain knowledge on the core themes of the symposium, generate ideas, connect with like-minded activists and feel part of a global community. Participation in the Ubuntu symposium also brought more interest in networking by member organizations and more understanding about gender transformative work by engaging men and boys. The Symposium has been a key platform for the members to enhance their knowledge and reflect on their work to ensure that the work is more effective, impactful and accountable to women's rights movements. Participation in the symposium has highlighted the need for partnerships among African countries and cross-regionally in order to consolidate knowledge on approaches, methods and intervention strategies.

Capacity Strengthening

MEA member organizations benefited from numerous capacity development opportunities during the reporting period. A capacity strengthening workshop for participants from 15 countries was held in January 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda, focusing on strategies around community mobilization, M&E, communications, human resources, and financial management. The AGM also provided a one-day capacity building on key thematic areas of MEA's work. Besides the face-to-face capacity building opportunities, Sonke Gender Justice provided remote support across the thematic areas and implementation strategies. In total, MEA conducted 40 capacity building sessions in the year 2020 and Sonke provided 8 technical assistance workshops to MEA country networks. These efforts have contributed to increased capacity among MEA member organizations and enabled them to develop and deliver strong evidence based programmes addressing gender equality and human rights.

MenEngage Africa also hosted or participated in a wide range of webinars throughout 2020, including on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth leadership and engaging faith leaders.

Advocacy

Even during a trying year, MEA and its members continued to engage in advocacy work in regional and national platforms and to be recognized by governments, UN agencies and other CSOs as key sources of information on work with men and boys. MEA created an advocacy working group in 2020 which has held meetings to discuss the development of a regional advocacy strategy and advocacy activities responding to emerging human rights challenges such as the state response to the END SARS march in Nigeria. This has resulted in defined advocacy thematic areas for MEA which will be incorporated in the regional advocacy strategy. MEA provided support to Concern partners on advocacy initiatives around laws and policies in Malawi and Bangladesh as part of ongoing collaboration with Concern.

Partnerships and collaborative actions

MenEngage Africa continued to build and strengthen partnerships with other gender justice actors in 2020. The network collaborated with UNFPA for the International Day on Zero Tolerance on FGM, raising awareness on FGM and promising practices on engaging men and boys to address FGM. The network collaborated with WILPF on a project to confront militarized masculinities, giving insights into work with men and boys to promote peace and security.

WILPF and MEA are currently implementing a project on confronting militarized masculinities in DRC and Cameroon, as part of the WILPF-MenEngage Alliance joint international project. MEA contributed to an Online Continental Dialogue on 20 years of African Women's Participation in Women Peace and Security: Civil Society Perspectives which gave perspectives on how to take the Women Peace and Security Agenda forward. MEA also participated and contributed to the African Union (AU) Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Pre- Summit CSO Consultative meeting where the theme focused on 'Silencing the guns' and

made contributions on how men and boys could be engaging in addressing violence on the continent. These were incorporated in the outcome document taken to the AU.

Communications and knowledge management

MenEngage Africa conducted two research studies in 2020. One resulted in a [policy brief](#) on the Impact of the Global Gag Rule and COVID-19 on SRHR Services in Africa and the other is a [study](#) on the emerging effects of COVID-19 pandemic on gender-based violence in Africa.

Several tools were also produced during this period which includes a [toolkit for Engaging Men and Boys to Advocate for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation](#) and the [MenCare in Africa Media Kit](#) ,a Toolkit for MenEngage Africa organisations working with media.

MenEngage Africa produced four newsletters which were sent to a database of over 6,000 recipients and released 9 media statements during the year. The network also produced one [infographic](#) on an equity-based approach to dealing with Covid-19.

There has been an increase in the social media presence for MEA since the onset of COVID 19 where we have seen all 22 MEA countries opening and utilizing their social MEA accounts. In the previous years, a handful of MEA countries had and utilized their social media accounts.

Accountability

22 country coordinators attended a virtual accountability training that was held in October 2020, coordinated by MEA and ME Global. The training resulted in the capacitation of country network coordinators on the MenEngage accountability standards and how to apply the standards at personal, organizational and network level. . The training provided an opportunity for the network to reflect on the importance of engaging women's rights organizations and strategies to improve collaborations, and the information and knowledge acquired from this training was then cascaded to other network members.

Institutional strengthening

The network conducted its annual general meeting in February 2020 in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting was attended by 27 delegates from 17 organizations within the MEA network and included Steering Committee member Athena Network as a strategic partner providing guidance on accountability to feminist principles. The 2020 AGM was also unique in the sense that it was attended by more female participants than previous meetings. This was a deliberate outcome out of the 2019 AGM where it was observed that fewer women were participating in decision making processes for MEA, a network that works towards improving the lives of women and girls. An additional member was also added to the regional steering committee representing the disability sector.

The capacity of young people to influence the impact of MEA's work across the region has significantly improved through the participation of young people in regional and national governance structures. Sonke and the MEA steering committee have continued to support the growth of the MEA Youth Alliance, ensuring there is a youth governance structure in place at a regional level, and youth representation in both country and regional governance structures. In 2020, the network published a [Standard Operating Procedure](#) that informs youth participation in the network. The outcome of this deliberate support of youth leadership is an increase in the number of youth-led and youth-serving member organizations at country level, amplifying their voices to influence programming on issues that directly affect them.

In this reporting period, a governance subcommittee was also formed which consists of MEA country chairpersons. This has led to improved governance structures at a country level. As a result of focus on organizational growth and improving governance structures in MEA, the network recorded growth in MEA membership at country level, from 350 organizations to 505 organizations.

Resource Mobilization

For organisations to be able to implement gender justice work in the communities, they need to be able to attract and mobilise resources that support the implementation and continuity of the work beyond projects. At a regional level, Sonke, through its resource mobilization portfolio, has provided extensive support to the network by identifying and sharing funding opportunities, and in the coordination and submission of proposals on behalf of and for MEA, and in its role as the MEA Secretariat. A proposal development workshop was organised in Uganda bringing together representatives from the 4 regions of MEA over a period of 4 days, with the purpose of co-creating a proposal to be submitted to the Robert Carr Fund. While the proposal was ultimately not successful, the process itself was: the overall feedback from the participants was that the workshop was extremely helpful, as it was the first time they had participated in such a workshop and gained practical skills for developing funding proposals.

Beyond this workshop, Sonke submitted numerous successful funding proposals for projects which will closely involve the MEA network. At a country level, MEA country networks submitted a combined total of 9 additional proposals, 4 of which have been funded to date.

Country level highlights

Below is a snapshot of some of the activities by MenEngage Africa country networks in 2020:

- In collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF and the Kenya Anti-FGM Board, **MenEngageKenya** conducted training on male action teams to end FGM and sensitized 70 religious and traditional leaders on ending FGM and child marriages.
- **MenEngage Namibia** distributed supplies to survivors of FGM and child marriage in response to COVID-19 measures and used social media to reach over 10,000 people during its COVID-19 and 16 Days of Activism campaigns.
- **MenEngage Nigeria** collaborated with other CSOs to join She Decides to spark movement on International Day of Safe Abortion.

- The British High Commission supported some of the organizations within **MenEngage Botswana** in small scale projects on the elimination of GBV.
- **MenEngage Madagascar** entered a partnership with UNFPA and the Ministry of Population, Social Promotion, and the Advancement of Women. This partnership consisted in raising awareness of the law against gender-based violence in the southern regions of the big island.
- **MenEngage Liberia** was placed on the national secretariat of the national GBV platform that is coordinated by the Gender Ministry of Liberia. The network collaborated with UNICEF, Concern Worldwide, FCI and IRC to develop the annual work plan for the National GBV Taskforce of Liberia.
- **MenEngage Tanzania** was able to actively use different media channels, including television, radio, newspapers, podcasts and online media platforms to raise awareness on GBV, reaching over 500,000 people.
- 2020 saw **MenEngage Togo** conduct a national research project on masculinity, femininity and gender relations which brought results and recommendations for actions on the field.
- **MEA Eswatini** conducted a study on the drivers of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the country which resulted in vital data for violence prevention programming.
- [Members of MenEngage Uganda](#) ensured that young people and other community members in Kampala could access antiretroviral medication despite restrictions on movement at the height of the COVID lockdown.
- **Rwanda MenEngage Network** hosted the opening event of the Ubuntu Symposium in November bringing together network members and feminist partners in the country.

CariMAN

CariMAN's 2020 work plan included regional travel for capacity building activities and national stakeholder meetings. While travel was restricted, the activities were still facilitated via Zoom. The increase in online engagements (panel discussions, webinars, training etc) and the increase in GBV across the region due to the pandemic resulted in CariMAN being requested to present and participate in several local and regional events. This has had the result of increasing CariMAN's visibility and credibility in the region on work for gender equality.

2020 also provided CariMAN the opportunity to focus on internal work, strengthening its regional governance model and working more closely with local chapters to build momentum at the country level.

Regional participation in the Ubuntu Symposium

The Ubuntu Symposium has contributed to building the capacity of CariMAN as a network as it provided several opportunities to organize internally, mobilize across the region, and plan and execute events. From inception, the network established a Symposium working group with members who were serving on the

different global committees. In 2020, CariMAN were able to organize 2 regional roundtables and collaborated on 2 cross-regional roundtables as part of the symposium.

The impact of regional participation in the Symposium has been increased visibility and credibility across the region. Additionally, the symposium has connected CariMAN with several international organizations and key stakeholders. The side events allowed the network the opportunity to become familiar with various members and partners within the Alliance, connect with like minded organizations and to learn from the experiences of organizations outside the Caribbean.

Network building and capacity strengthening

CariMAN country chapters carried out a range of online activities throughout the year. For example, in Jamaica the network implemented a successful [social media campaign](#) during 16 Days of Activism against GBV. CariMAN Grenada hosted a webinar in July on the Black Lives Matter Movement which 120 people attended. In collaboration with CSO partners, CariMAN Antigua and Barbuda hosted a Barbershop initiative in November for young men. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in collaboration with local CSOs, CariMAN hosted a virtual forum in November on “The Silent Crisis: Masculinities and Men’s Mental Health”. And in Dominica, CariMAN hosted Men’s Week via several online events including radio interviews promoting non-violence and gender equality.

Together with the Global Secretariat and the University of the West Indies, CariMAN coordinated and participated in the ‘Power, Patriarchy and Masculinities’ online training course. 14 members attended the course over 3 sessions. CariMAN also provided support to local grassroots organization FireCircle to implement a one-week training on Online Gender-Based Violence in which 30 people participated.

Partnerships and collaborative actions

Under the Spotlight Initiative, UNFPA selected CariMAN to work alongside the University of the West Indies to develop a conceptual model to prevent VAWG across the region. This is expected to be developed in 2021. CariMAN entered in a Cooperative Technical Agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of a 3-year project working with adolescent males in Trinidad and Tobago, including the development of virtual reality tools to support gender transformation, and capacity strengthening of civil society organizations that work with men and boys. CariMAN Dominica also worked with the Ministry of Social Services on the UNFPA Engender Project to end violence against women and girls.

CariMAN members also participated in a range of joint actions with civil society partners at a national and regional level including a roundtable discussion hosted by the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) on “Multi-actor-partnership on Climate and Disaster Risk Finance in the context of the InsuResilience Global Partnership”, an OECD Expert Group Meeting on masculinities to explore how the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) could incorporate a masculinities lens into its conceptual framework, and a panel discussion hosted by Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) on “Working with Boys and Men for Gender Equality”. CariMAN members provided technical and financial

support to local grassroots women's organizations on the implementation of a domestic violence campaign in Tobago and participated on a multi-sector advisory committee on parenting hosted by UNICEF and Parenting Partners (Jamaica).

Advocacy

CariMAN Trinidad and Tobago, as a member of the "Alliance for State Action to End GBV", recommended amendments to local domestic violence legislation, adding language on the duty of police officers in preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

CariMAN published two press releases, one on the occasion of Fathers' Day encouraging men to be responsible and equal parents, and another condemning violence against children. The network also signed on to the 2020 Women, Peace and Security Civil Society Open Letter, an advocacy letter urging all Member States to Ratify ILO C190 and an Open Call for Strong and Inclusive Civil Society Engagement at UN Virtual Meetings. CariMAN Signed WOMANTRA's Joint Statement calling for responsible behaviour and speech from politicians preceding general elections in Trinidad and Tobago.

Communications

CariMAN relaunched its [website](#) and social media platforms in 2020 (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn) and sent out two issues of its newsletter. The network also produced the [short film "All I Know"](#) which spotlighted how different ideas of masculinities can create conflict within a family. The film was previewed at the Ubuntu Symposium.

Institutional Strengthening

The regional network took several steps to strengthen its institutional structure and mechanisms. It created a membership process with an online membership application form and updated membership database, revised its by-laws, appointed coordinators in 6 chapters and signed on to the [Caribbean Code of Conduct and Ethics](#). Conversations were initiated on the expansion of the network to Barbados and Belize with meetings with key national stakeholders from these countries.

MenEngage Europe

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 and the continued spread of the disease throughout the year has had devastating economic, social and political impacts on regions, countries, societies across the globe, including the European region.

Within the MenEngage Europe (MEE) network, all members were fundamentally affected, as organisations and as individuals. During the year, however, MEE had the opportunity to come together as a network and to share experiences and challenges with each other. Even if online, the network has been able to organise meetings and carry out trainings for its membership, to establish a long-awaited MEE Secretariat, to attract new members and to pursue the process towards improved coordination and interconnectivity. In that sense, 2020 turned out to be a year of community building and growth for the network, despite everything. The network offered a series of 'Open-Space' events where members could check-in and find support for their situation as COVID lockdowns developed and were extended. Throughout the year, online activity provided a welcome opportunity to be in touch, and supported engagement across the network.

Regional participation in the Ubuntu Symposium

MEE members played an active role in the symposium organizing process, including in the communications and branding committees. In November and December MEE hosted a regional roundtable and participated in a cross-regional session, organized a session on webcamming and pornography before and after Covid-19 and co-organized conversations on Climate Crisis, Men and Climate Justice and the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the work with boys and men.

Capacity strengthening

MenEngage Europe decided to offer a platform for members to share their expertise and best practices and facilitate important conversations by organizing thematic webinars. During 2020, MEE hosted webinars together with DareGender in Denmark on gendered extremism, with MÄN in Sweden on men, masculinities and the environmental and climate crisis and with the MenEngage Iberia network on gender equality policies in Europe.

In addition to continued work on accountable practices and advocacy training, inclusion and diversity, anti-racism and decolonisation and the misogynist and nationalist backlash in Europe have been identified as prioritized focuses for capacity building that will be offered to all members in 2021.

Apart from activities organized and funded directly by MEE, there have also been initiatives taken by individual member organisations for other members of the network. One such example is a two-step study visit programme on Systematic Violence Prevention organized by MÄN with financial support from the

European Union. Invitation to apply was shared with all MEE members, and a first-step visit to Stockholm in 2019 with 17 participants from 15 MEE member organisations was followed by a second step in June 2020. This time, participants from four countries were selected to take part in a follow-up training (turned digital due to Corona) together with strategic partners and stakeholders from their respective countries. Almost 40 participants were involved in this training, which also contributed to national-level networking and collaboration between civil society actors, representatives from authorities and governments and other stakeholders in the selected countries.

Sandy Ruxton and Stephen Burrell, both individual members of the MEE network, carried out a survey with members of MenEngage Europe to find out how work with men and boys on gender equality issues has been impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. The report was published by Durham University in partnership with the MEE network, making it a first-ever research report for MenEngage Europe. The findings have contributed to increased knowledge and raised awareness among both MenEngage members and external stakeholders on the consequences of the pandemic for organisations and actors in this field of work. The report was launched at an Ubuntu Symposium webinar, with MEE members on the panel sharing their experiences, reflections and recommendations.

Network building

There are 2 active sub-regional networks - Belgium and Iberia - in MEE, and the network is working to clarify and develop its understanding of the relationships within and between these and the regional network. MEE members from Spain and Portugal have increased their contact and collaboration and at the turn of the year 2019/20, the subregional MenEngage Iberia network was formally launched. The Iberian network has been very active during the year, and has developed house rules and a plan of action, including a major regional meeting in Seville in 2021. In other parts of the region, there is an interest in national or subregional exchange and collaboration. It will be a priority for the MEE Steering Committee for the coming years to see how such initiatives can be further supported, and how rights, obligations and relations between the regional and subregional/national levels can be defined.

Advocacy

MenEngage Europe's longstanding collaboration with the European Institute for Gender Equality, EIGE, continued during 2020. For several years, EIGE has invited European Women's Lobby, The Social Platform and MEE to Vilnius for annual consultations and joint strategic discussions. This year, a meeting in Tallinn was planned between MEE and EIGE in connection to the 5th International Conference on Men and Equal Opportunities (ICMEO), hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs in partnership with EIGE and the Nordic Council of Ministers. As the conference turned digital, the meeting was cancelled, but many MEE members contributed to the ICMEO conference as speakers or expert panelists. MEE reached out to European Women's Lobby with an invitation to contribute with their experiences and perspective on the backlash towards women's rights in Europe at the MEE Members' Meeting early 2021. During the year, contact has also been established with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) with interesting prospects for future collaboration.

Accountability

The network's original work plan for 2020 included two major activities to be carried out during the year: the Members' Meeting in Berlin and a training on Accountability in Dublin, organized with logistic support from Irish member organisation Men's Development Network. When circumstances changed and it was no longer possible to meet in person, the Accountability Training was turned into a two-step digital event, with a first introductory webinar in the spring followed by a two half-day workshop in August. Even if it was not possible to meet, this proved to be a really good arrangement – with opportunities to reflect and work between the different workshops. It also opened up for more participants than would have been possible should the meeting have been in-person. In total, 66 participants were able to join the training on accountable practices in the work with boys and men, something which is very much at the core and heart of the MenEngage Global Alliance.

Institutional Strengthening

MenEngage Europe hired two additional staff to its secretariat in 2020, bringing it to a total of three staff members. Having this secretariat in place is an important step in the development of the regional network and it has played a key role in driving forward the activities of the network and pursuing new opportunities.

MenEngage Latin America

2020 was a year of both challenges and opportunity for MenEngage Latin America. The network took some time to reorganize and adapt to the pandemic, but managed to have a very constructive year of virtual dialogue and mobilization.

Over the course of the year, the regional network held over 100 webinars and virtual discussions among members, in addition to a regional Latin American Ubuntu Symposium. The time at home afforded to members by the pandemic as well as new technologies allowed the network to engage in a permanent dialogue to reflect on relevant themes and methodologies, in many ways bringing the network closer together than ever. The regional network played a coordinating role in organizing these various webinar series, which brought together members from the north to the south of the continent as well as partners from feminist and other social justice movements.

Regional Ubuntu Symposium

MenEngage Latin America held a 38 day parallel Ubuntu Symposium from 19 November to 18 December 2020, coordinated through a media center in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Symposium sought to bridge the gap between academia, activism and art on the topic of masculinities, and consisted of keynote speeches, workshops, thematic roundtables and artistic performances. These sessions resulted in the production of fresh and contemporary knowledge and the exchange of various methodologies. The organization process and the sessions themselves involved the participation of all country networks, including new members from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Sign language interpretation was also provided during all sessions to expand reach to the deaf community.

The symposium gave the network a new way to explore the topic of masculinities through art, and the involvement of artists brought new audiences to these debates and generated greater public interest. The regional event also was a valuable way for the network to build and strengthen partnerships with feminist, youth, LGBTQI and indigenous movements in the region. The theme of Ubuntu resonated greatly with people in the region as it has many parallels with the principle of ‘el buen vivir’, which stems from indigenous communities in the region.

Country network activities

The region’s country networks and member organizations had to constantly rethink their plans for the year and managed to creatively adapt to the new circumstances. The Colombian network was the first to launch an online campaign directed at men on dealing with emotions and conflict resolution during lockdown. This effort was followed by similar campaigns in nearly all country networks in the region centering on men’s mental health and preventing gender-based violence, and calling on men to take on more unpaid care work. Some countries were also able to attract funding for their campaigns.

Many members shifted their men’s groups to virtual, and in many cases such as in Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay these groups grew and were able to support men in their mental health and relationships through a very challenging time. In some countries, attendance in such groups tripled as men from different parts of the country were able to come together and some groups were even held bringing men from different countries in the region together. In Chile and Argentina, the country networks were able to articulate through virtual means with the growing social movement for safe and legal abortion known as the ‘marea verde’ (green tide).

Advocacy

MenEngage Latin America published several advocacy statements in 2020, including a response to the pandemic, a response to the attack on feminist colleague Sara Fernandez, and a Symposium declaration. The network in Uruguay continued to work with the municipality of Montevideo to ensure its continued support of SRHR and masculinities initiatives despite the election of a conservative national government. The Costa Rican network provided ongoing support to the national government in the implementation

and monitoring of its national policy on masculinities and formed part of a commission to ensure the policy's continuation. In Mexico, the network continued to promote the agenda 'Suma por la Igualdad' a systematized policy agenda for gender equality by academia and activists in the country, and managed to gain the support of several national level policymakers. The regional network linked its advocacy work to the global Generation Equality process and participated in this process together with the global Alliance. In 2021, the network will develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy and agenda for the region based on the outcomes of the many virtual discussions held in 2020.

Network-building and institutional strengthening

Three new country networks were formed in 2020 in the region, in Ecuador, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic. Discussions also began with a view to forming a country network in Bolivia.

Although the regional steering committee was unable to meet in person, it was able to meet virtually more regularly than in previous years. The network also participated in all aspects of the global network including the symposium organization, the advocacy working group, the SRHR for All project and the youth reference group. The network was able to function with only the support of the GS sub grant but the addition of new networks highlighted the need to secure additional funding in 2021.

Communications and online campaigning

MenEngage Latin America was highly active on social media throughout the year, livestreaming its virtual discussions and regional symposium on various social media platforms including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and attracting a significant increase in followers on all platforms. The network's Facebook account now has over 3,500 followers, and its new [YouTube channel](#) has 119 videos uploaded in 2020 and 132 new followers.

The regional network also launched a [new website](#) in 2020 which hosts a rich and valuable library video resources created this year by its members as well as an educational platform to be developed further in 2021. The website has received an average of 2,000 monthly views since its launch.

The SRHR project continued in the region in 2020 with the online mobilization and consultation of young people from across the region and launch of the online campaign 'Yo soy más que un molde' (see: [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)).

North American MenEngage Network

NAMEN as a whole was largely unaffected by the global pandemic as the network already operates mostly online. However, MERGE for Equality, now a program of NAMEN, was enormously impacted. Offering an in-person training for early childhood educators, MERGE's entire spring 2020 program, March through June was cancelled, eliminating income for trainers and the educational opportunity for teachers. In response, the network took the year to redesign the program, which was submitted for certification in December (and approved in January). The network has started to schedule online training programs for Spring 2021.

NAMEN held a North American Regional Symposium, NAMEN Symposium 2020. Built as a companion to the Global Ubuntu Symposium, this was held in two online sessions, November 30th and December 2nd. The themes of the regional symposium were intersectionality and decolonization. As a mark of success, the network had 169 registrants and 88 attendees. This also led to 25 new members joining NAMEN. Recordings are posted on NAMEN's [website](#). In addition, NAMEN recruited three program partners from our region to develop programs for the Spring 2021 component of the Ubuntu Symposium process.

In addition to the regional symposium, NAMEN also held 2 webinars and 5 member meet-ups. The network also researched and developed a state of the field report on masculinities work in the region, which was presented in 2 online sessions.

Advocacy

NAMEN's Policy Advocacy Committee continued to organize in 2020. The committee endorsed various policy oriented statements in the region including a letter for PAID Leave Act (2020), an opposition letter to the US Commission on Unalienable Rights, a Title IX Amicus Brief and 'towards a US Feminist Foreign Policy'. Together with the GS, NAMEN also co-authored a statement in response to the killing of George Floyd, in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Communications

NAMEN continued to share regular newsletters with its members, producing 21 over the course of the year. NAMEN remained active on social media, with 78 Facebook posts on relevant topics to its account that now has over 600 followers.

Institutional Strengthening

NAMEN completed its registration as a non-profit organization in the US. The network recruited 8 new Board members and held 10 Board meetings, including a Board retreat and training session. The network also retained part-time administrative staff and recruited three consultants to support in the development

of programming. The network was able to raise approximately \$31,000 dollars from individual donors in 2020. NAMEN also gained 54 new members in 2020, for a total of 145.

MenEngage South Asia

Although some planned activities were delayed, MenEngage South Asia was able to continue to implement its work plan through virtual platforms in 2020. A regional level online research project on gender-based violence was initiated and will be completed in early 2021. The network continued its implementation of the SRHR for All project in all countries, with the development of social media campaigns, online advocacy and youth mobilization. In Pakistan, the national network initiated a research project on the impact of COVID-19 on gender-based violence in the country. The country networks in the region also took the opportunity to focus on strengthening their governance structures in 2020.

Regional Participation in the Ubuntu Symposium

MenEngage South Asia mobilized its members throughout 2020 in the Ubuntu Symposium process, including by creating a regional Facebook group to disseminate information and build momentum. During the opening event, MenEngage Pakistan hosted a local hub with the participation of 30 people from 18 member organizations over the three days. The regional network hosted two regional roundtables at the Ubuntu Symposium in 2020, focusing on issues in which the network has generated positive results in the region and reflecting on the progress of the network. Although the session times posed a challenge for regional participation throughout the symposium, it has created momentum in the region, helping country networks to build relationships with youth and women's rights organizations and increase the visibility of their networks at country and regional levels.

Youth leadership and engagement

An important result of the regional and country networks work in 2020 was the strengthening of youth engagement and partnerships with youth organizations and movements. This was supported by the symposium mobilization process as well as the changemakers' work in the SRHR project. As part of the SRHR project, the 6 regional changemakers mobilized additional youth changemakers in their respective countries, making specific efforts to mobilize a diverse group of young activists including trans and LGBTQI+ youth and youth with disabilities. These youth changemakers worked throughout the year to develop online dialogues, webinars and social media campaigns.

Advocacy

Under the SRHR for All project, regional changemakers carried out three country level desk reviews on early and forced marriages and generated policy recommendations which will serve as the basis of a regional policy brief to be developed in 2021. The recommendations emphasize the need to take special

action to stop child marriage and to encourage fathers to promote the sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescents of all genders. The policy recommendations were used to create public awareness on these issues and to lobby parliamentarians and policy makers. In Sri Lanka, the campaign contributed to the policy decision to increase the legal marriage age to 18 for all. In Bangladesh, 127 young people conducted 111 online advocacy dialogues in which 2430 men and boys took part, among them students, teachers, fathers, members of parliament, elected local representatives, journalists and religious leaders. The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs committed to incorporate the youth recommendations in their planning and continue working with youth on these issues. The network also developed a partnership with National Girl Child Advocacy Forum to jointly develop these dialogues. In Pakistan, the network held six webinars on [GBV prevention and child early and forced marriages](#) with over 500 persons participated including UN, donor, civil society and representatives from the Government.

MenEngage Sri Lanka implemented the [#EqualPartners campaign](#) with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and UNDP, which contributed to addressing the knowledge gap and public dialogue on the importance of engaging men and boys. The campaign developed 15 television talk shows and [10 animated videos](#) in all three local languages and a campaign launch with the involvement of key government and UN officials. Broad media coverage and the engagement of the principal national government media station in this discussion was very successful and helped to build media accountability for gender equality.

MenEngage Sri Lanka also supported the review process of the [National Plan of Action on addressing SGBV \(2016-2020\)](#) which will eventually support the action plan for the coming period. The country network is also a member of the national steering committee to address sexual harassment in public transport, domestic violence act implementation at the National Committee of Women.

MenEngage Bangladesh held a virtual [policy advocacy dialogue on the prevention of violence against women and children](#) during the Covid-19 pandemic and participation of men in care work. 220 members of parliament, women leaders and development partners took part in the dialogue. The country network has also been engaged actively with the ongoing anti-rape feminist movement in the country and developed a joint statement in 2020 together with the largest national women's rights organization. To celebrate 16 days of activism, the network initiated a campaign program with national level FM Radio and 10 Community Radio stations on men's role in the prevention violence against women and girls. These campaigns reached about 600,000 people. There were 34 speakers in this program, including government officials, lawyers, police representatives, teachers, journalists, fathers, human rights activists and youth leaders.

Communications

MenEngage Sri Lanka ran a Facebook campaign [#MenofQuality](#) for the engagement of men to share household responsibilities during COVID-19 lockdowns. As part of the SRHR for all young changemakers program the country network ran a Facebook campaign and two webinars on ending early and forced marriages and two webinars.

MenEngage Bangladesh developed campaign materials on the role of fathers in promoting sexual reproductive health rights for all and ending child marriage, which were shared with 35,000 people on Facebook. The country network also developed a story book on good practices, two policy briefs, one progress report, one learning brief and 15 illustrations.

MenEngage Pakistan collaborated with the feminist alliance – Ending Violence against Women and Girls to produce four television programmes on GBV prevention with a viewership of over two million people and over 28,000 engagements on social media. Four parliamentary secretaries participated in the shows. The country network also collaborated with South Asian Child Rights Movement and Pakistan Alliance for Early Child Care and Development to develop two television programmes on the prevention of child early and forced marriages. MenEngage Pakistan also created and shared 24 animations on GBV prevention and published 4 policy briefs that were translated into Urdu.

Institutional Strengthening

MenEngage South Asia took several steps to strengthen governance structures at the regional and country level in 2020. The regional secretariat rotated to Sri Lanka in 2020. Membership databases for the regional network and all country networks were updated, organizational assessments for all country networks were carried out and financial capabilities of all country secretariats were assessed. Strategic guidelines for country networks were promoted by MenEngage Sri Lanka which are being adapted in other country networks. Conversations continued with organizations in Afghanistan and the Maldives about the potential creation of new country networks and capacity building sessions on accountability and networking were held with organizations in the Maldives.

MenEngage Lebanon

2020 was a year of unprecedented and interconnected challenges for MenEngage Lebanon. In addition to the Covid pandemic, the country was already experiencing financial crisis which was severely affecting network member's ability to carry out their work, and in August the Beirut explosion compounded these challenges as many organizations shifted their focus to emergency relief.

Member organizations therefore had to prioritize serving those most affected by these crises, including the most marginalized groups in society. For example many shifted focus and funding towards addressing the sharp increase in domestic violence caused by the pandemic. In addition, the country experienced a 'brain drain', with many people leaving the country due to these crises, which led to a high turnover in network members.

While MenEngage Lebanon had taken key steps in 2019 towards the formalization of the network and expanded its secretariat beyond Abaad, this progress was halted in 2020. The network continued to share information online throughout the year but faced challenges in meeting virtually due to poor internet infrastructure in Lebanon and building the network was deprioritized by members.

One of the highlights of 2020 was the network's partnership with Search for Common Ground. The network was able to carry out a training of trainers with youth activists who are now giving remote and on the ground training on masculinities. Building on this work, the network decided to create a youth section of the network, which will have its own autonomy as well as being connected with the greater network.

Members from Abaad participated in the Ubuntu Symposium organization process and in several sessions, but country network members were unable to participate as much as they would have liked. In 2021 the network hopes to use its funds to translate key session recordings into Arabic and focus on sharing the knowledge emerging from the symposium within the region.

In 2021, the network hopes to restart activities and conversations on its development but will need to take stock of members' needs and priorities in order to decide how to proceed.

Glossary or concepts and definitions

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SOGIESC

Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics

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.

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.

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: 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.

A word of thanks

MenEngage Alliance is thankful for the generous support of our strategic partners, donors, and members - including the following through the global level in 2020:

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

AmplifyChange

Rutgers (The Netherlands)

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UNFPA-ESARO

UN Foundation

Global Affairs Canada - via Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)