Gender influences women’s and men’s health in fundamental ways, and some harmful traditional ideas about gender can place both women’s and men’s health at risk and can exacerbate social, economic, and political inequalities. For example, gender norms that define men as dominant and invulnerable can discourage them from seeking health services due to traditional notions of masculinity, where asking for help from a nurse or doctor is viewed as a sign of weakness. Likewise, norms characterizing women as submissive can undermine their ability to negotiate condom use with male partners. Other consequences associated with the complex interplay of harmful gender norms include depression, gender-based violence (GBV), early marriage, unintended pregnancy, and increased risk of HIV.

EngenderHealth engages men and boys to support women’s health, seek out health services, and speak out against GBV and HIV. We integrate gender throughout our programming, from beginning to end. Unlike most programs, EngenderHealth directly addresses gender as a key determinant of health by leading gender-transformative programs. Our approach challenges harmful gender norms and promotes gender equality as part of our overall approach to improving health.

While family planning programming has traditionally focused on women, EngenderHealth believes that men and boys play an especially critical role in promoting gender equality and positive sexual and reproductive health outcomes. For example, an evaluation of one of our programs in Ethiopia showed that a Men As Partners® (MAP) intervention led to a significant decrease in reported perpetration of physical or sexual violence by MAP participants in the previous six months, from 36% at baseline to 16–18% at endline.

Men As Partners (MAP)®
Since 1996, EngenderHealth has pioneered efforts to engage men and boys to promote gender equality and sexual and reproductive health. Beginning in South Africa, our award-winning Men As Partners® (MAP) approach has spanned more than 30 countries to date. MAP® interventions include confronting harmful gender stereotypes, training providers to offer male-friendly services, leading innovative public education campaigns, and building advocacy networks.
EngenderHealth also engages in broader advocacy efforts, including our role as a founding member of MenEngage, a global alliance committed to research, interventions, and policy efforts aimed at engaging men and boys in gender equality.

While most gender-transformative programming (including MAP®) has focused on one sex or the other, EngenderHealth has increasingly sought to design gender-synchronized programs. These programs purposefully promote gender equality among both men/boys and women/girls, with the understanding that both sexes need to be engaged in redefining gender norms within their communities. To date, we have implemented and evaluated successful gender-synchronized programs in Angola, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and the United States.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (SELECTED)**

**BRAVI**: We are working to prevent and respond to GBV in Burundi by engaging men and boys; training health care sites to better provide GBV services; and supporting improved national coordination of GBV response and prevention efforts, among other activities.

**Gender Matters**: In Austin, Texas, we implemented an award-winning teenage pregnancy prevention project among girls and boys ages 14 to 16. The project sought to delay age at first sexual intercourse and increase use of contraception. The project adopted an innovative approach to improve participants’ understanding of gender norms and their influence on behaviors.

**SAUTI**: We are a partner in SAUTI, an HIV project in Tanzania, supporting the adaptation of gender-transformative strategies toward reducing vulnerabilities for men who have sex with men, female sex workers, and adolescent girls.

The CHAMPION Project: In Tanzania, EngenderHealth and its partners increased men's involvement in HIV prevention by reducing high-risk sexual behaviors, promoting fidelity, reducing the number of men's sexual partners, eliminating GBV, and increasing the use of sexual and reproductive health services. Nearly 60,000 individuals participated in MAP® and CoupleConnect gender-transformative workshops.

The RESPOND Project/Guinea: EngenderHealth worked to strengthen local capacity to address GBV. EngenderHealth developed tools for preventing and responding to GBV, as well as GBV training curricula for providers of sexual and reproductive health services.

MenEngage: EngenderHealth is a founding member of this global alliance comprising hundreds of nongovernmental organizations across the world. MenEngage is committed to undertaking advocacy, sharing resources, and changing perceptions regarding the engagement of men and boys to promote gender equality.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Prevention Research: EngenderHealth has developed gender-transformative IPV prevention curricula for men, women, and couples as part of two randomized controlled trials, in Tanzania (with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and in Ethiopia (with J-PAL). Both studies are ongoing; results will be available in late 2016 or in 2017.

EngenderHealth is a leading global women's health organization committed to ensuring that every pregnancy is planned and every mother has the best chance at survival. In nearly 20 countries around the world, we train health care professionals and partner with governments and communities to make high-quality family planning and sexual and reproductive health services available—today and for generations to come.