



# Transforming Masculinities.

Promoting gender equality and positive masculinities.

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# What's the TM approach?

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- ❖ A series of interventions to work with Christian/and other faith leaders, communities to promote positive masculinities and gender equality as strategy to end SGBV and promote FP in Kinshasa.
- ❖ Changing harmful norms around gender, masculinities influenced, shaped and promoted by faith practice.
- ❖ A continuous engagement process with men and women, boys and girls to address knowledge, attitudes and practices on themes such as gender, masculinities, SGBV and FP.
- ❖ Bringing this work on ending SGBV and FP within the parameters/context of their respective faiths and cultures.

# Who are we reaching?

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- ❖ The TM interventions are targeted at both men and women, young newly married couples/first time parents (18-24) and both boys and girls (15-24).
- ❖ “Gender Champions” are trained facilitators who lead this work at the community level.
- ❖ Pastors, Elders, Bishops and their spouses at national, regional and local level. Also other faith leaders.
- ❖ The participants for these programs from the 28 communities/congregations selected based on availability of PSI/ASF franchise clinics.



# Power and Status.

Participants in a community in Rethy, DRC during a session discussing “Power and Status”.

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# What's the process?

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- ❖ Transforming Leaderships: *engaging faith leaders on gender, masculinities, SGBV and FP using scriptural reflections and other tools to promote gender equality and positive masculinities.*
- ❖ Gender Champions: *training of facilitators at the community level to “lead” transformative dialogues on gender, masculinities, SGBV and FP.*
- ❖ Community Dialogues: *facilitated dialogues at the community level to create safe spaces for personal and relational reflections, unlearning and learning to inspire personal transformation.*

# Addressing theology

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- ❖ Key scriptures referred, quoted by participants, leaders that are preached, reinforced through marriage counseling/ceremonies and day-day activities are below:
  - ❖ **Creation:** *“God made Eve out of Adam, therefore she should be submissive, and she was made Adam’s helper.”*
  - ❖ **Roles:** *“God gave specific roles to Adam and Eve in the old testament, and likewise in the new testament God appoints man as the head of the house.”*
  - ❖ **Relationships:** *“Bible is clear that a woman should submit to her husband, like the Church submits to Jesus.”*
  - ❖ **Sexual relations:** *“Bible says a woman’s body doesn’t belong to her, but to her husband.”*



# Contextualizing SGBV.

Group activity to contextualize SGBV (Rethy, DRC).

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# Key aspects of TM

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- ❖ Scripture-based reflections/dialogues on SGBV with a module on FP. Focusing on both spaces for personal transformation and changing harmful norms.
- ❖ The sessions are framed around the key scriptures that influence norms and practices.
- ❖ Group learning and a safe space for dialogues, for both men and women.
- ❖ Brings the discussions on gender, masculinities, SGBV and FP within the context of their faith and culture.
- ❖ Promotes accountable practices at all levels (participants, facilitators, Church leadership and related staff).
- ❖ Mentoring and coaching of “gender champions”.
- ❖ Aims to address underlying beliefs, norms from a scriptural perspective as opposed to prescribe lifestyle.



# Resolving conflict.

Group activity on resolving conflict/use of power in day to day life.

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# What's our hope?

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- ❖ Inspiring and facilitating personal transformation, changing harmful norms around gender, masculinities and SGBV.
- ❖ Building local capacities to lead this work in their homes, churches and communities.
- ❖ A movement of gender champions (both men and women) living out and modeling values of gender equality and positive masculinities in their day-to-day lives.
- ❖ Faith champions (faith leaders and their wives) leading this work from the frontline, living as role models for their communities, the couples in their congregations and young people.
- ❖ Seeing both men and women live a life of dignity, free of violence and of equality.

# Thank you!

