



International  
Planned  
Parenthood  
Federation

WESTERN HEMISPHERE REGION, INC.

# Reaching Men to Improve S&RH

Increasing the commitment of  
men to S&RH for all

# Background

- LA Men Involvement Conference '98
- Mexico Male Involvement Conference '99
- Mexican Civil Organizations working with Men 2000

# Implementing Organizations

- MEXFAM ( Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar)
- CORIAC (Colectivo de Hombres por Relaciones Igualitarias)
- One year project: April 00-Apr 01
- Budget US\$49,000 ( \$36,000 IPPF/WHR with funds from Gates Foundation, \$13,000 MEXFAM)

# Location of Project

- **The project took place in five cities of Mexico: Distrito Federal, Hermosillo, Jalapa, Morelia, and Oaxaca.**
- **Sites were selected because of expressed interest and presence of knowledgeable individuals**

# Project Outline

The project was designed to promote an interdisciplinary discussion of needs, problems and ways to promote male involvement in sexual and reproductive health.

Project Structure: monthly seminars. Each meeting lasting an average three hours with set syllabus, speakers, and materials on masculinity and related theory.

# Purpose

- **Promote discussion of male involvement experiences and difficulties in SRH**
- **Analysis of local need**
- **Create strategy proposal for male involvement in SRH**

# Project Objectives

- 1. Promote exchange of research and male involvement experiences in the field of sexual and reproductive health**
- 2. Promote collaboration and operational strategies for working with men and give technical Assistance to the state groups**
- 3. Interdisciplinary training in gender and sexual and reproductive health from a male involvement perspective**
- 4. Develop actions**

# Participants

City	Average/group
Hermosillo	17
Mexico City	17
Jalapa	13
Morelia	35
Oaxaca	15

Group population represents NGOs, government agencies, professionals (social sciences, medicine) academics and students of social sciences.

.

Institutions involved included: Secretary of Health, Secretary of Education and Culture, Univ. of Sonora, Salud y Genero, Center of Youth Integration, Institute of Public Health, Mexfam, DIF, AVE, CONASIDA.

# Project outline

- **There were 56 sessions in total in the five cities. The educational level of the participants was high, usually college graduate or higher degree.**
- **Coordinators of each project reported to Central Committee which provided technical assistance and monitored content, development and advised course of action.**

# Project Approach

- Each group was assigned reading materials, guest lectures from experts in the field. Additional activities include bulletins and films with focus on gender. One film series was particularly helpful in promoting group dynamic, analysis and expression of different points of view.
- Themes discussed included: masculinity vs. power; construction of gender; globalization; construction of masculinity; gender based violence; research objectivity; male involvement in S&RH
- Project coordinators moderated discussion and applied theory to every day experiences

# Evaluation

- Initial questionnaire to determine participants levels of knowledge and expectations
- Process evaluation based on reports on meetings on standard format
- Interviews with participants at end of project

# Obstacles

- Some participants were uncomfortable with subject matter. Not all coordinators were skilled at resolving confrontation
- Tardiness or time constraints, (family, work, etc) original syllabus was difficult to follow, not all participants read for workshop.
- Project term was short, some groups were not able to assess how to unite multi-sectorial forces for action/project in male involvement in SRH.
- Heterogeneity of group

# Results

- **Creation of network of individuals from many different sectors and organizations**
- **Creation of arena for new information, analysis and reflection on visions of masculinity, gender and impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health.**
- **Participants expressed satisfaction with knowledge gained and, more importantly, felt incorporated new attitudes and perspectives.**

# Results

- **Allowed participants to confront theory with experience**
- **Allowed people of different professions and institutions to create dialogue, exchange opinions, and enrich their approach to career specialization and research by understanding impact of variables such as gender and masculinity and incorporate them in future male involvement projects and studies.**
- **Some groups developed activities that continued beyond end of project.**

# Lessons learned

- Participants indicated the need for further opportunity to learn or develop practical ways to translate theory into practice.
- Need for resources and incentives for formulation and implementation of specific projects.
- Either involvement of decision making levels or institutional support for projects developed in the group seems to be important. Ideas developed by participants did not always receive institutional support from their institutions to be carried out into practice.

# Lessons learned

- Commitment and leadership abilities of the local leader were critical;
- Local conditions and organizational idiosyncrasies affect shape of programs to integrate men into SRH with a gender perspective;
- Recognized resources which provide theoretical and methodological support are extremely important for institutionalizing programs;
- Buy-in from key stakeholders such as the participants themselves and beneficiaries has to be obtained from the beginning of the project.
- Experiential workshops were among the activities quoted by participants as most important in understanding many of the issues and changing attitudes.