PREVENTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN DADAAB REFUGEE CAMP
Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP)

Gender Based Violence (GBV) continues to be a challenge that is faced by women and girls and occasionally by men and boys. In Dadaab, over 1,000 cases of various forms of violations are committed annually and in over 97% of the cases, women are the most affected. Majority of the cases are often committed in a domestic setting, by intimate partners or male relatives of the survivor. Consequently, the bulk of prevention and response programs that are conducted focus on provision of safe shelter, legal assistance and other forms of support for survivors. Survivor support programmes have proven useful in addressing the immediate needs of victims, however they do not effectively eradicate the root causes of GBV particularly negative sociocultural norms, practices and attitudes that shape the communities' perception towards GBV and perpetrators.

In acknowledging the pivotal role of these social factors and in a bid to enhance the quality of prevention and response interventions, DRC has for the past 2 years, adopted the Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) approach. EMAP is a community based prevention intervention developed by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) that focuses on identifying and challenging deeply held beliefs by men that perpetuate violence. The aim of EMAP is to support men transform individual behavior guided by women’s voices.

Participants from the EMAP sessions have shared positive feedback on its impact on their attitudes towards women and GBV. Men who’ve participated in the 2016 sessions indicated that it has been an eye-opening experience for each of them, particularly hearing from the voices of the women and the challenges they face in their daily interactions with them. Informed by this knowledge, they develop individual plans on how they will consciously work on meeting the needs of women in their community.

“It is important to talk to the women and find out what would be helpful to them, rather than making assumptions. If we don’t ask women how we can help them to prevent violence, we may end up reinforcing the behaviors such as being controlling, making decisions for others and dominating. Instead we can ask women in our families and communities how we can support them in building a safer world.” Male participant

EMAP Facilitators’ training
Community introductions
Male group sessions - 16 weeks
Female group sessions - 8 weeks
Assessment

Women group dialogue session

Men Group dialogue session