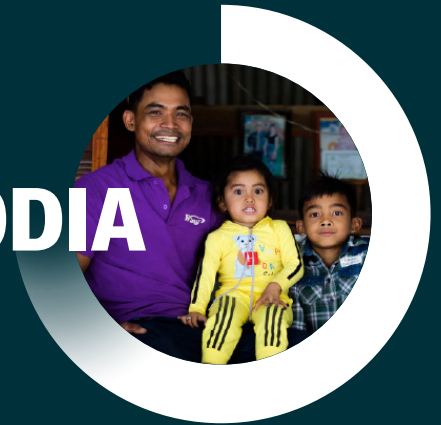


TRANSFORMATIVE MASCULINITY IN CAMBODIA

For a world where gender justice are not just
a possibility, but a reality.



What is Transformative Masculinity?

Masculinities refers to the particular patterns of attitudes and behavior that are associated with ideals about how boys and men should behave and their position within gender relations. Women and men across the world are looking to shift from a masculinity that relies on dominance and abuse to traditional masculinities of mutual respect and understanding. Transformative masculinities are essential for the wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities.



Why is it important?

- Dominant forms of masculinity are often associated with gender-based violence, oppression of women and girls and dangerous sexual and reproductive practices.
- Faith-based groups around the world are contributing to tackling endemic gender-based violence and toxic masculinity. Action by men and boys is crucial to achieve gender justice.
- Men continue to hold a greater percentage of positions of leadership. As such, men are in a crucial position to address gender justice and bring forward respectful masculinities to workplaces and communities.
- For men, negative stereotypes of masculinity can result in harmful emotional impact. Beyond the self, this can perpetuate generational cycles of violence and harm on families and communities.

Website: www.diakonia.se/en/Where-we-work/Asia/Cambodia

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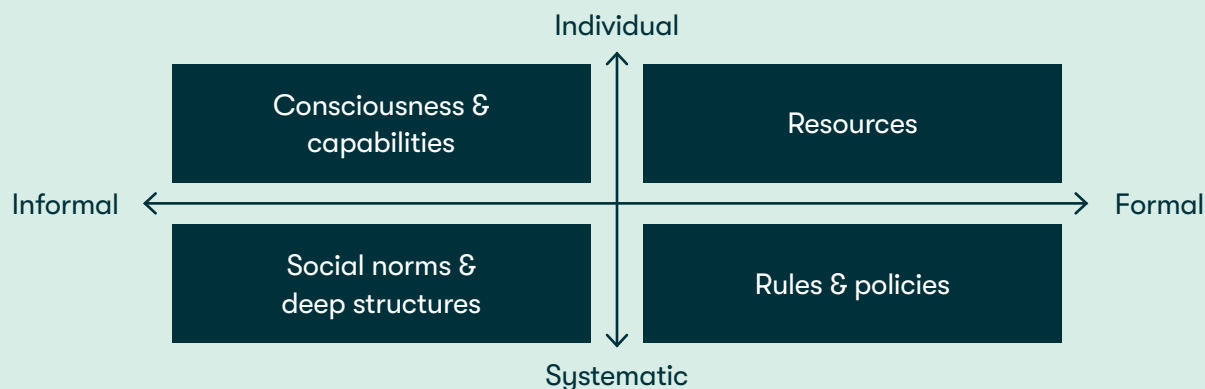
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Diakonia is a member of

actalliance

Our programme is supporting different types of change



We are promoting transformative masculinities as a tool to make patriarchal structures visible and engage men in the fight for gender justice.

What are we doing?

Promoting transformative masculinities as a tool to make patriarchal structures visible and engage men in the fight for gender justice.

Conducting training and reflection sessions with men and boys on the concepts of patriarchy and transformative masculinities. To act for gender equality/justice we see the need for more men and boys to form alliances with women's rights organisations and join grassroots movements that reject violence and discrimination of women, girls and LGBTI persons.

In the following pages are some stories of those who attended.



KEYFACTS

Cambodia has made some progress in closing the gender gap in recent years. Despite this progress, many challenges remain.



1/5 women age 15-49 reported they had experienced physical violence at least once since they were 15, and 9 % experienced physical violence within the last 12 months.

Over 30% of Cambodian women reported they had experienced physical, sexual, emotional or economic intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

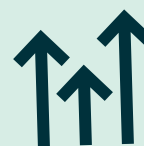
30%

92%
43%

Transgender women are often rejected by their families and communities, 92% reported verbal abuse, 43% reported physical violence.



The gender gap in enrolment at the primary and lower secondary levels of education has been eliminated.



Maternal and child health indicators have improved significantly, including tremendous reductions in maternal and infant mortality.

SOKHA, THE FAMILY MAN

“I have almost changed all my bad behaviour after joining with GADC’s project including controlling my anger. Now I do household chores. I am very happy now and I do not commit violence in the family in all forms”.

Sokha noted that he didn’t care about the hard work his wife did. For example, he let his wife take care of their children when they got sick, he did not do household chores either as he believed it went against a man’s privilege.

“I used to make mistakes with my wife, but I didn’t know”.

Sokha shouted at his wife and used to hit his children when they didn’t listen to his advice. He did not allow his wife to seek a job outside the house and asked her to stay home and take care of children as he believed it was a housewife’s task.

“Supporting women, to me was not clear when hearing this idea, I thought, what does it mean?”

He gradually learned about ways to support women when he joined the Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC) project.

”I saw the value of my task and fully supported the project.”

“I was not so interested to join the GADC Cambodia project but after receiving many training courses such as role core man group, leadership (linked to supporting women as leaders), etc. I saw the value of my task and fully supported the project.”

Sokha now organizes village discussions, most participants are women and are trying to focus more on the participation of men. The project has just started, and men are still reluctant to join, it will take time to educate them. Sokha

also intervenes in cases of Domestic Violence happening in his village and calls local authorities to help when he knows the cases are serious and beyond his ability.

“I like community work and I can help other people. I hope all men in my village can do household chores like me because it can help reduce burdens from their wives. When couples share responsibility, violence can be reduced. I want to include young boys between 12-14 years old to get trained on domestic and other relevant topics, so they understand the consequence. They can reflect on what is wrong and what is right when they get older or get married.”

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“Before I got trained from GADC, I was so aggressive, not humble either. I always challenged my parents even though I was wrong. Now I can control my anger and I know that I should behave before my parents and siblings.”



Sokha and his family, Photo: Chris Cusick



SAVATH, A ROLE MODEL

Savath started volunteering with our partner GADC in 2016 and took part in additional training on Transformative Masculinity (TM) recently which aims to address masculinity that relies on dominance and abuse and move towards masculinities of mutual respect and understanding.

Savath said: “I like doing household chores and I expect that my passion in household chores has promoted me as a role model because most Cambodian men do not touch this task. Household chores are for everyone, not only for daughters. From the early morning to the evening, we cannot count how many tasks in a day a woman has done. I know exactly how hard the household chores are. So, other men should understand and share this responsibility. I want to be a role model in my village, then I can help others to change. It means opening up, controlling my anger, and promoting women for their courage.”

Domestic violence (DV) still exists in his village. It is difficult to get rid of DV totally but has reduced gradually thanks to individuals like Savath. To eliminate DV, it requires effort and time. Youths can be educated, and they can change their behaviour quickly. Savath noted how difficult it was to talk about patriarchal structures with older men in his village.

Savath also said: “I am more confident than before, and it was my first time to hold a microphone to share my personal experience on TM to other men who joined the workshop on TM that was co-facilitated by GADC and Diakonia. I have gained knowledge and I have been supported mentally from GADC even when I have made mistakes. They encourage me and I am happy and feel warm to work with GADC. I have been trained on Gender Equality, Commune Budgeting, Wedding Law, and more.”

SARITH, VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE

"I thought I had enough capacity to educate other people without knowing any weakness. In fact, I did not understand about equality between women and men and what transformative masculinity was. I realized all my weaknesses after joining with GADC."

Sarith is from Cambodia and works for our partner GADC Cambodia.

"GADC (Gender and Development for Cambodia) was interested in me as I worked hard to help society and I used to help other women in my village. For example, I helped a lady from her husband when he committed domestic violence (DV). The village chief assigned me to deal with issues of DV for my village, but I did not receive any salary. Having seen my activism in social work, GADC approached me and recruited me as a focal point person for a project working to promote gender equality. In 2015 I became the

key person for GADC's project to invite men in the village to get educated on gender equality and women's rights."

Sarith used to face many challenges in educating men. When he gained more competence, it was possible to work with them, and explore new ways to provide support.

"I have joined many activities initiated by GADC and Diakonia. I got more opportunities to analyse the roots causes of patriarchal structures and have applied the acquired knowledge into my life. When I applied the knowledge at home, my family became happier. When I saw others look down or discriminate against LGBTI individuals, I felt pity, now I am working with LGBTI individuals and encourage other men to be involved too. For the community, I want to mainstream Transformative Masculinity to local authorities as I have already done with other ordinary villagers."

For a world without violence, oppression, and poverty.
A world where gender justice and peace are not just
a possibility, but a reality. Where we together take
responsibility for each other and for the earth. A future
where patriarchal structures are a memory.
Where ALL people are free.

**Together we have the power, the power
to change the world.**