Bandebereho
a gender-transformative couples intervention to promote men’s equitable, non-violent engagement in MNCH and violence prevention

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Bandebereho Intervention

- Gender-transformative couples’ intervention for expectant and current parents of young children

- Fatherhood as entry-point to engage men in:
  - maternal, newborn, child health
  - violence prevention
  - caregiving

- 15-17 weekly sessions (8 for couples) of critical reflection, activities, discussion to transform gender attitudes and build relationship skills

- Pilot: 1700+ couples (2013-15)

- Scale-up: 15,000 parents (2019-22)
Evidence of Impact

A randomized controlled trial (RCT) conducted with 1,199 families (575 intervention; 624 control) demonstrates the intervention’s impact on multiple gender and health-related outcomes influencing parenting practices and child well-being.

Data collected at baseline – 9 months – 21 months – 76 months
Improved maternal health seeking & support

At 21-months post-baseline (16 months after the intervention ended), compared to a control group, participating couples reported:

- Greater antenatal attendance of women at antenatal care
- Higher rates of men accompanying women to ANC visits
- Greater partner support from men during pregnancy

Forthcoming analysis finds that these outcomes have been sustained six years later.

(all statistically significant differences)

21 month data source: Doyle K et al. *PLOS One* 2018; 13(4): e0192756;
76 month data: forthcoming paper

& outcome not included in 76 month follow-up
Reductions in violence against women and children

At 21-months post-baseline, compared to a control group, participating couples reported:

• **Lower rates intimate partner violence** – including physical, emotional, sexual and economic IPV

• **Less use of physical punishment of children** by both mothers and fathers

• **Less use of harsh discipline of children** by mothers and fathers

These changes have been sustained over time, nearly six years later (@ 76 month follow-up).

(all statistically significant differences)

21 month data source: Doyle K et al. *PLOS One* 2018; 13(4): e0192756;
76 month data: forthcoming paper
Fostering early childhood development

At 21-months post-baseline, compared to a control group, participating couples reported:

- Fathers greater participation and time spent on daily child care
- Mothers and fathers greater participation and time spent in early learning and responsive care activities

At 76-months post-baseline – these findings are sustained – and new outcomes measured:

- Parents report better child social and behavioural outcomes (using SDQ)
- Lower rates of depression for mothers and fathers

These changes – reduced violence, safer homes, and improved provision of nurturing care by parents – directly impact children’s ability to thrive and develop.
Collaboration with: RBC/MCCH, MIGEPROF & MUSANZE DISTRICT

- Project and curriculum developed with support from MOH/RBC/MCCH and MIGEPROF
- MOH/RBC/MCCH, District leaders involved in the training and monitoring and follow up
- Strong links made between health facilities, health care providers and community
- Close collaboration in monitoring of CHWs involved in Bandebereho activities for ownership