Engaging men to improve reproductive health: experience in Bauchi State, Nigeria

Presented by

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## **Online**

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In our work with partners in Bauchi State, Nigeria, the state government prioritized maternal and child health. Engagement of men in reproductive health emerged as a key theme: why it matters, how to support it, and the impact of doing so. Local data highlighted associations with maternal health outcomes of factors under men's control. Our trial of universal home visits shared this local evidence with both pregnant women and their spouses. The visits improved maternal and child health outcomes, with convincing changes in men's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours. In some cases, the process was gender transformative. Our work in Bauchi is longstanding. CIET (Community Information for Empowerment and Transparency) began working with partners in Nigeria 15 years ago, continuing in Bauchi with CIET-PRAM (Participatory Research at McGill) 7 years ago. Many of the lessons from Bauchi about genuine - not token - engagement of men are relevant to populations in Canada.

