

## *Empowering Resilience: Building Gender-Sensitive Capacities in the Resilience for Peace Program, Côte d'Ivoire*



### **Client**

- Equal Access International (EAI)

### **Services provided**

- Capacity-building

### **Duration**

- 6 months

### **Country**

- Ivory Coast

### **Thematic Area**

- Capacity Building,  
Social Cohesion



## *Enhancing Gender Sensitivity: A Key to Building Resilience*



In Côte d'Ivoire, especially at the northern border with Burkina Faso, in a region called Bouna, rising cross-border crime and violent extremist groups have worsened security, amplifying gender-related issues,

Women and girls face significant challenges, with 36.7% of women aged 15 to 49 experiencing female genital mutilation and 58% of girls under 15 married in some areas. These inequalities, including a literacy rate of only 36.3% for women compared to 53.3% for men, restrict women's autonomy and economic opportunities.

To address these issues, the Resilience for Peace (R4P) program, funded by USAID and implemented by Equal Access International (EAI), is incorporating a gender-sensitive approach to engage community leaders to promote positive masculinity and reduce gender-based violence. By empowering women and fostering gender equality, the program aims to strengthen community resilience and contribute to lasting peace in these vulnerable regions.

## *Why positive masculinity is important?*



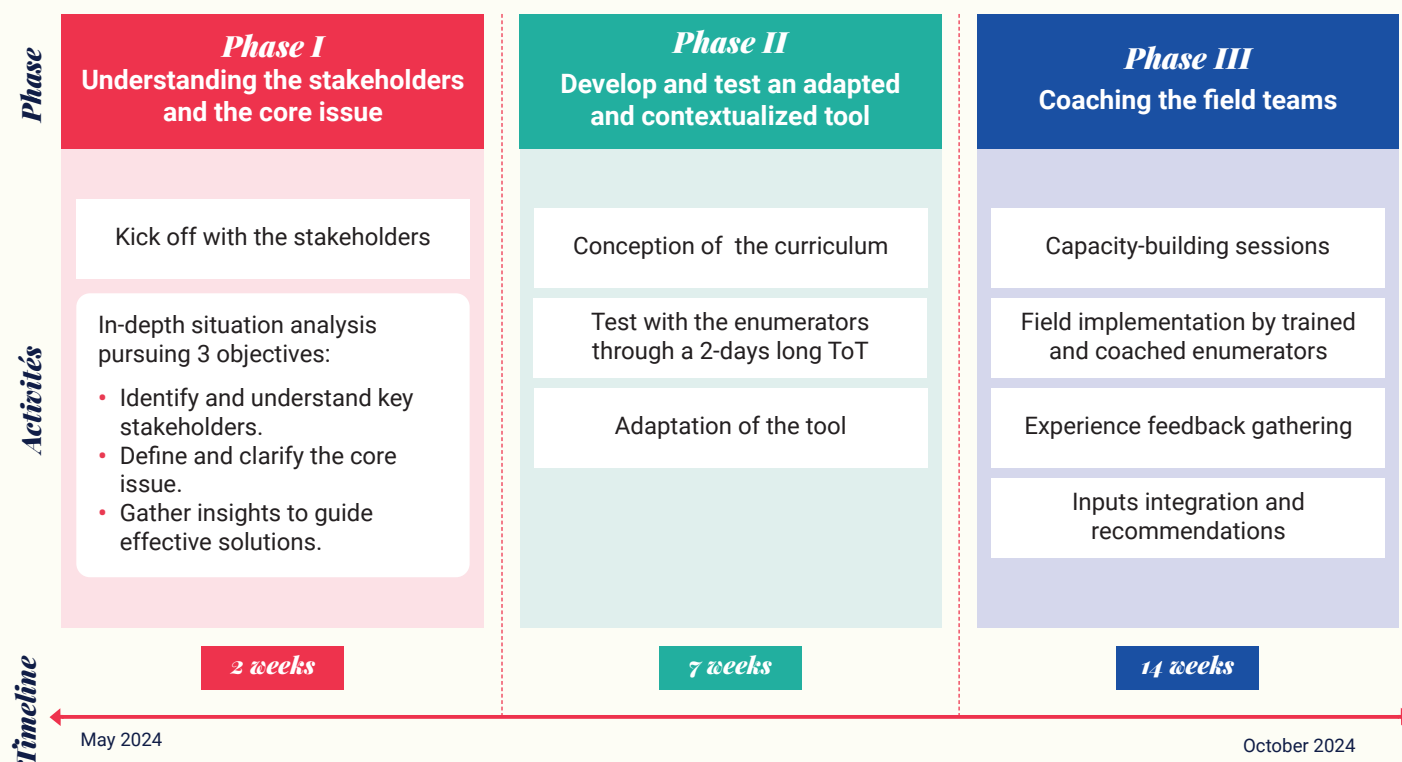
Gender equality isn't a women's problem—it's a challenge that requires everyone's participation. Building a fair and just society depends on engaging men and boys as allies and changemakers, not just as bystanders.

Positive masculinity, which develops men's self-awareness, plays a crucial role in advancing gender equality. Being aware of one's own emotions and behaviors enables more effective communication, supports constructive conflict resolution, and facilitates stronger relationship building among individuals. It also fosters empathy and understanding towards other people's perspectives.

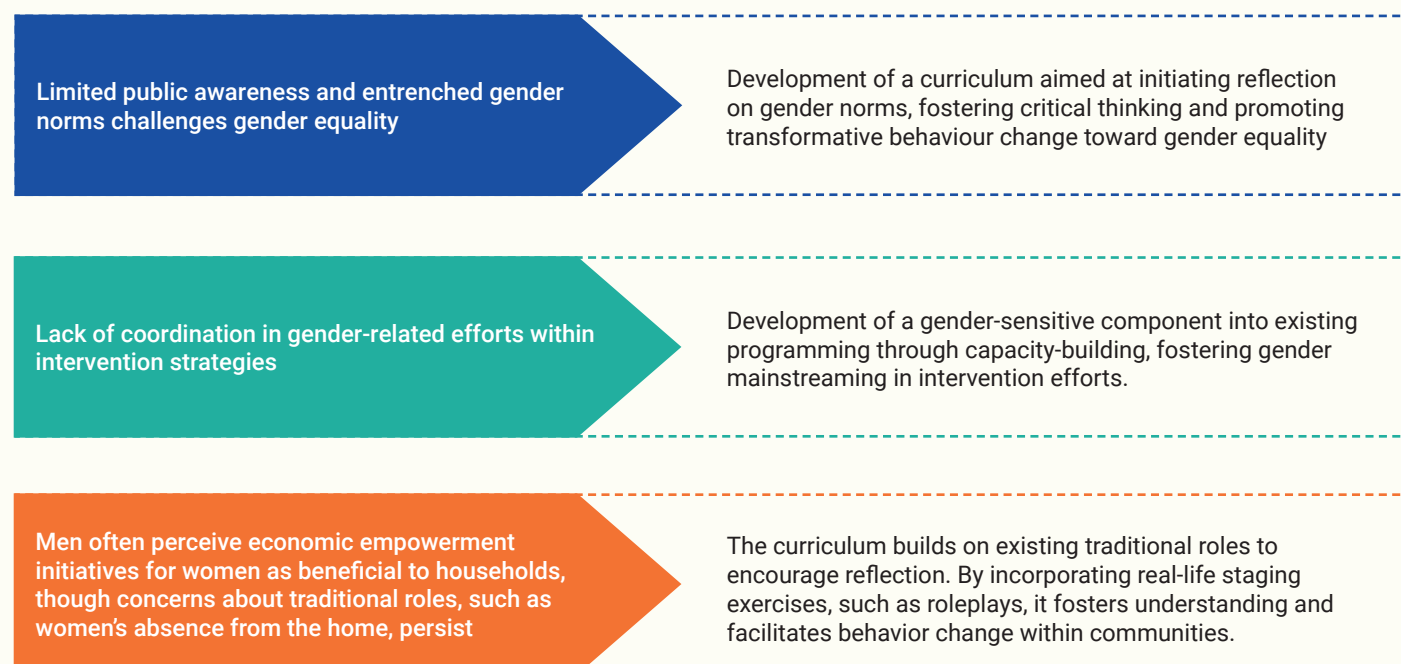
By encouraging men to question gender norms, we can help them understand the heavy burden that society puts on them too. This can develop into an interest in promoting and embracing positive masculinity themselves, resulting in social norms shift and increased gender mainstreaming.

Bringing men to the table introduces long-lasting changes within communities, empowering them to contribute to gender equality and fostering collective accountability.

## *A collaborative effort between R4P's implementers and MAGENTA*



## *How we responded to Ivorian gender dynamics*



## *A step further toward achieving positive masculinity in Bouna: strengthening local capacity*



A robust curriculum centred on building capacity for positive masculinity



10 trained enumerators, including 3 qualified to lead the training independently



A comprehensive report based on field testing, with specific recommendations for advancing the training

## *How can we take this further and ensure long-lasting impact?*



### ***Maintain Momentum***

- Challenges during the first coaching session revealed limited preparation between training and follow-up.
- Regular coaching sessions are essential to sustain skill gains and progress.
- Requires ongoing engagement from headquarters to uphold the momentum initiated by the training.



### ***Expand gender-mainstreaming in the R4P Program***

- Build capacity for additional program staff to integrate gender-mainstreaming effectively across all components of the R4P program.



Communities have skills, knowledge, and motivation to address gender-related issues



*A few photos of the project activities evaluated*



The group just completed the training and received their certificate of participation in the positive masculinity workshop

Pair exercise on Day 5



Facilitation of the "Emotion Management" activity by two participants on Day 4

