



# 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

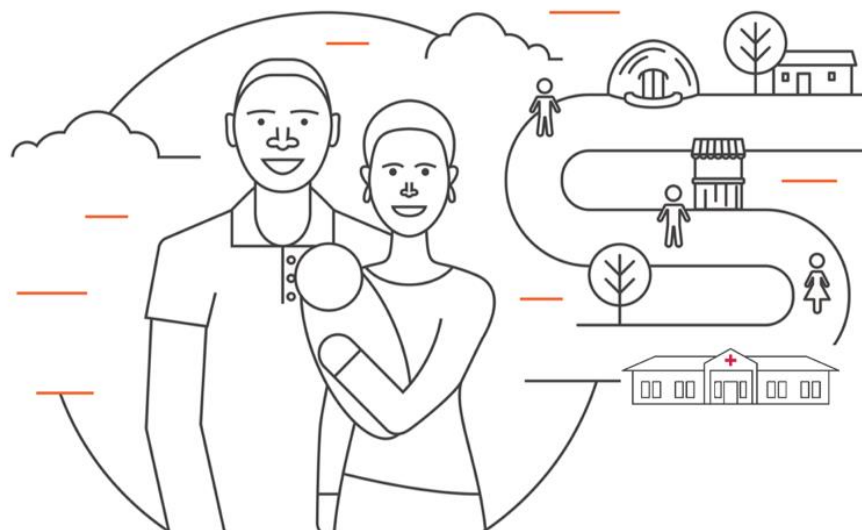


- Gender-transformative couples' intervention for expectant and current parents of young children
- Fatherhood as entry-point to engage men in:
  - maternal, newborn, child health
  - violence prevention
  - caregiving
- 15-17 weekly sessions (8 for couples) of critical reflection, activities, discussion 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



MATERNAL  
HEALTH



ENGAGED  
CAREGIVING



VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION



GENDER  
EQUALITY



SUPPORTIVE  
HOMES



# 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 of women at antenatal care
- Higher rates of men accompanying women to ANC visits
- Greater partner support from men during pregnancy<sup>&</sup>

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



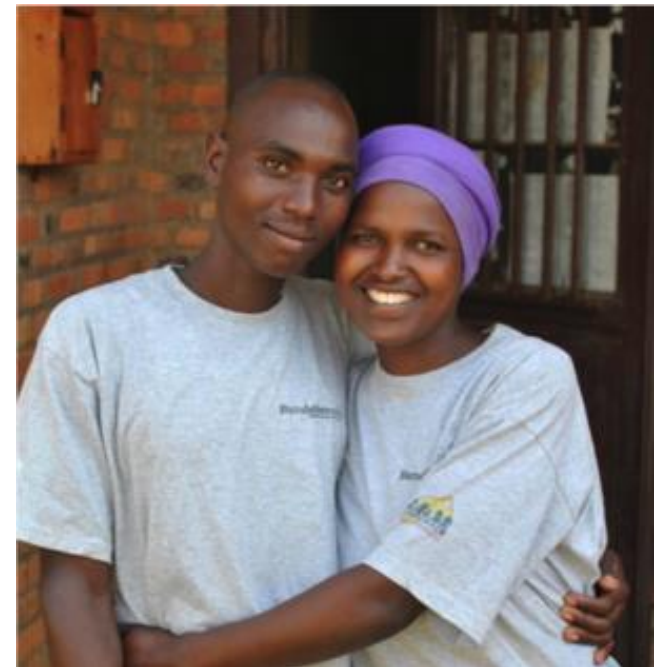


# Reductions in violence against women and children

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](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0192756);

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

