

CASE STUDY

Participatory Learning Action with 13-19 Year Old Boys to Inform the Western Balkan Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative (CARE and ICRW)

The Western Balkan Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative carried out a qualitative assessment over a nine day period to explore dimensions of masculinity and violence with adolescents in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Zagreb, Croatia; Belgrade, Serbia; and Podgorica, Montenegro.

The key questions they used to frame the assessment were:

- What are the current social constructs, attitudes and experiences of young men, especially with regard to hegemonic masculinity?
- How do social institutions such as media, school, religion, family and peers influence social constructs of masculinity?
- What is the range of young men’s attitudes and behaviors toward women and their relationships with women?
- How are social constructs of masculinity related to men’s violent use of power?
- For men who don’t use violence, what are the influencing factors and consequences?

The tools used to facilitate discussions included:

Table 1: *Participatory Tools Used in 5-day PLA*

Participatory Tool	Purpose
24-hour cycle for male and female youth; Mapping of local youth social space (Venn diagram)	To explore with male youth what it is to be a young man, and then to understand the role of <u>social spaces</u> in shaping male youth attitudes and behavior around masculinity.
3-D Image of Masculinity	To understand what attitudes and behavior are expected of men and women in their society as perceived by the participants.
Focus Group Discussion	To explore with male youth what it is to be a young man, and then to understand the role of <u>social institutions</u> in shaping male youth attitudes and behavior around masculinity.
Power Map Diagram	To gain an understanding of how power is constructed and exercised; how participants feel and react when they “have” it and when they don’t.
Agree-Disagree Continuum (or “Voting with Your Feet”)	To explore young men’s attitudes towards gender equity and violence using statement developed on the the Gender Equitable Male (GEM) scale developed by Promondo and the Horizons Project. ¹⁵
Listing & categorization of forms of violence; Focus group discussion	To identify the range of forms of violence affecting young men and young women.
Causal flow analysis	To obtain participant perceptions of causes and consequences of different forms of violence.
Mountains & Valleys (bidirectional timelines); In-depth Interviews	To explore key markers of young men’s transition from boyhood to manhood; and to elicit specific experiences of gender-based violence.
Listing; Cartooning; Force Field Analysis; Action Plan	To summarize learning and insights into gender, masculinity and gender-based violence to engage participants in creating a future vision for youth culture.

For a detailed account of how the participatory tools were used, results and impacts, see the full case study: CARE and ICRW. 2007. [Western Balkan Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative - Exploring Dimensions of Masculinity and Violence](#).