



## **RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION WITH NON-STATE ACTORS ON GAP ACCELERATORS**

*Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH) wishes to comment primarily on Accelerator 4 (Determinants of health).*

The draft discussion paper (20 December 2018) correctly identifies gender as a social determinant of health. It also contains several important references to women's health which are fully supported by GAMH.

However, we believe that it is important for the future discussion on gender and health also to contain an explicit reference to men's health. This is because:

- Gender, properly understood, refers to all gender identities, not only women.
- A rights-based approach to health requires attention to be paid to the needs of all citizens.
- Men's health outcomes are in many key respects poorer than women's (eg. in terms of life expectancy, premature mortality, cancer morbidity and mortality, suicide).
- Men's health practices (eg. diet, tobacco, alcohol, use of health services) pose more of a risk to health than women's.
- Men are more likely to die from a non-communicable disease (WHO data shows that the probability of a man aged 30 dying from a NCD before 70 is 1.44 times higher than for a woman aged 30).
- Investing in improvements in men's health would be cost-effective.
- Better men's health would be beneficial to the health of women and children (eg. by reducing the transmission of sexually transmitted infections, improving family incomes, easing the burden of caring, and lowering the risk of violence).

It should also be noted that most global health organisations have overlooked men's health. This is beginning to change, however. WHO's European Region has adopted a comprehensive men's health strategy. Three countries – Australia, Brazil and Ireland – now have national men's health policies. The UNAIDS report, *Blind Spot*, highlights the need for a new approach to working with men on HIV/AIDS and could serve as a blueprint for addressing other major diseases.

We would also like to see men's health organisations more actively involved in global health initiatives, including GAP.