

SRMH Team Updates

SRH in Emergencies learning workshop in October 2014

We are very pleased to announce an upcoming workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies facilitated by CARE USA'S Sexual, Reproductive, and Maternal Health team taking place in Atlanta, Georgia, USA on 13-17 October, 2014. This learning workshop will focus on increasing knowledge and skills among field-based staff to develop and implement SRMH services throughout the emergency preparedness and response cycle. Participants will learn how to address the varying reproductive health needs for women and girls during each phase of an emergency (prevention, preparation, response, and recovery) and how to apply key activities addressing those needs and to mitigate its consequences.

To read the full event announcement, please click here:

<http://familyplanning.care2share.wikispaces.net/SRH-E+Global+Workshop+2014>

For any questions about the event and application, please contact **Carolyn Baer** at cbaer@care.org.

Launching the Regional Training Center for Reproductive Health in Eastern DR Congo

To overcome many barriers to building the capacity of health care providers in eastern DR Congo, the Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post-abortion Care Initiative (SAFPAC) forged ahead with the idea of creating a training center in Goma in close collaboration with the CARE DRC team. This effort was supported by other agencies working in the field, especially Merlin, Save the Children, IRC and UNFPA, and it was fully endorsed by the Provincial Health Coordinator of the National Reproductive Health Program in North Kivu Province.

Now fully functioning, the training center is a symbol of government's commitment and pride - the government donated the land where the center was built - and the product of close collaboration between the State and international partners. Equipped with two training rooms, one clinical practice room, a library and other facilities, the center has trained its first batch of Clinical Trainers and is now ready to offer competency-based-training to healthcare providers in the region, the country and eventually to neighboring countries. The center was inaugurated in Goma on May 16, 2014 and officially handed over to government health authorities by the Provincial Minister of the Interior (who represents the Provincial Governor) in the presence of all partners in health.

CARE's adaption of Social Analysis and Action (SAA) approach

In May, CARE USA collaborated with program staff and partners in Honduras to adapt the [Social Analysis and Action \(SAA\) approach](#) for work with youth. Partners included the CARE Patsy Collins team (RENACER), representatives from the Ministry of Health adolescent section, Ministry of Education adolescent health section, and a local partner NGO who is working with the project on youth leadership development. This forum encouraged identification of common successful approaches with youth, and participants worked together to adapt and incorporate the SAA methodology into a comprehensive community level youth reproductive health strategy.

In June, CARE USA supported additional SAA adaptation and capacity building in Asia. This included working with a co-facilitator from CARE India to adapt SAA for work with health care providers in Bangladesh: training NGO partners to train providers in their health services, using SAA to increase the acceptability and quality of health services. Collaborating with a co-facilitator from CARE Australia, the health team in E. Timor was trained to adapt and implement SAA in their rural maternal health project in an area challenged by both capacity and gender based violence issues. Finally, program staff in CARE Australia were oriented in SAA and discussed ways to support integration of SAA into their programming. As progress is being made in developing global for implementing SAA, the SAA wiki is being finalized and options for ongoing exchange of experience are being developed.

CARE staff publication in *Culture, Health and Sexuality*

CARE staff members, Berissa Abdela and Marcie Rubardt, along with colleagues from Emory University, have recently published, “‘People insult her as a sexy woman’: sexuality, stigma and vulnerability among widowed and divorced women in Oromiya, Ethiopia.” This article focuses on research done on widowed and divorced women in Ethiopia, who are often stigmatized or marginalized.

From abstract: In an effort to understand the experiences and challenges faced by such women, we conducted and analyzed four focus-group discussions, seven in-depth interviews and four interactive activities with 32 widowed and divorced women and with 25 other community members in Oromiya, Ethiopia. Findings indicate that women experienced high levels of community stigma in relation to their sexuality. Participants’ fear of community stigma, and the actions they took to avert it, further served to marginalize them within their community and had negative impact on their economic, social and health support systems and, ultimately, on their overall well-being. Future interventions need to acknowledge sexual stigma as a driving force in the many challenges these women face. Further programmatic work is needed to reduce stigma related to widowed and divorced women’s sexuality and to decrease their vulnerability to rape.

Online version of article: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13691058.2014.921838>

SRMH team welcomes new Knowledge Manager

Mariela Rodriguez joins CARE USA as Senior Program Officer for Knowledge Management and Global Coordination for the SRMH team. Mariela was recently a Research Associate at the Futures Group in DC, working on family planning, human rights, health policy and gender. Prior to working at the Futures Group, she conducted research on maternal health policy networks for the Global Health Advocacy and Policy Project at American University, while completing her Master's degree. Mariela has also worked at the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), CARE and the Carter Center. Born in Puerto Rico, but having grown up in Atlanta, she is excited to be moving back home and joining CARE. She will be working from DC until she moves to Atlanta in late August.

Other Updates

Studies in Family Planning, June 2014

The June 2014 issue of Population Council's Studies in Family Planning has a special focus on unmet need for family planning. Articles include studies on reasons for non-use of family planning, health service integration, and lack of access around the world.

All articles available in full text and PDF here:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sifp.2014.45.issue-2/issuetoc>

Canada's Leadership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Improving the health of mothers, newborns and children and reducing the number of preventable deaths are top priorities for Canada. At the Saving Every Woman, Every Child Summit held in Toronto from May 28 to 30, 2014, Prime Minister Harper announced Canada's commitment of **\$3.5 billion** to improve the health of mothers and children for the period of 2015–2020, supporting global efforts to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborn and children younger than age five.

On the margins of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly in the Fall of 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper co-hosted a high-level meeting on women's and children's health, identifying maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) as Canada's "flagship development priority." Through the MNCH initiative, funding follows **three integrated paths**, focuses on **ten countries** and involves multilateral, global and Canadian **partners**.

To read more, please click here:

<http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/priorities-priorites/mnch-smne/index.aspx?lang=eng>

USAID Event, "Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths" June 25' 2014 Washington, DC

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Governments of Ethiopia and India, along with UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners came together for an all-day meeting in Washington, DC to recall the commitments made two years ago at the *Child Survival: Call to Action* forum in 2012, where countries around the world signed a pledge to end preventable death. CARE SRMH staff were present at the event to hear several announcements made by USAID, including the creation of an MCH coordinator position for USAID by the end of 2015. USAID also announced that **\$2.9 billion in funding will be realigned** to focus on high impact activities in 24 countries. Also announced at the event was a new \$500 million global project, Maternal and Child Survival Program (successor of MCHIP), led by JHPIEGO and partners. An action plan was launched at the event to showcase how the 24 USAID priority countries will accelerate progress toward the achievement of MDG 4 and 5.

The full report can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/acting-call-ending-preventable-child-and-maternal-deaths-report>

USAID flagship, Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) close out event June 26, 2014 Washington, DC

After six years of working in 50 countries to improve the health of women and children, USAID's MCHIP has come to a close. At "Critical Concepts for Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths: Lessons Learned from USAID's MCHIP," an all-day event held in Washington, DC on June 26, MCHIP shared lessons learned and key themes from their experience in maternal and child health globally. Quality, community and scale up were key themes of focus and various projects, countries and approaches were highlighted. Announced at the USAID "Acting on the Call" event on June 25th and reiterated at the MCHIP event on the 26th, USAID has funded **JHPIEGO to lead a new \$500 million project, Maternal and Child Survival Program**. This new program will continue MCHIP's successful work in maternal and child health and will stand as USAID's new maternal and child health flagship program. CARE SRMH staff was present at the event to listen to various country representatives, health ministers and MCHIP project advisors present on their experiences, successes and recommendations for future programming.

Several documents, tools and reports were shared at the MCHIP event and can be found online here: <http://www.mchip.net/mchipevent>

AIDS 2014 conference: 20-25 July, Melbourne

The International AIDS Conference is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, as well as policy makers, persons living with HIV and other individuals committed to ending the pandemic. It is a chance to assess where we are, evaluate recent scientific developments and lessons learnt, and collectively chart a course forward. About 8,000 delegates have registered already. The conference organizers expect a further 5,000. (www.aids2014.org.au)

Planning to participate in the AIDS Conference? Please let us know! **Contact Alexandra Lamb at Alexandra.Lamb@care.org.au**. CARE Australia's Parliamentary Advocacy Coordinator, Alex Lamb is working on 2-3 events around this conference.

1. [*Parliamentary Group on Population and Development*](#).
2. [*International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consortium*](#)
3. [*Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the Parliamentary Friendship Group on HIV/AIDS, TB and BBV*](#)

Launching the Youth Champions Initiative with the Packard Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Public Health Institute (PHI) have partnered to launch the [**Youth Champions Initiative**](#) - a new initiative to advance innovation and quality in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights globally.

The YCI will invest in visionary young champions who will lead the sexual and reproductive health and rights movement for the next generation.

The Youth Champions Initiative will select 18 visionary young leaders (ages 18-29) from **India, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and the US** to attend YCI's innovative Incubator workshop, which will be held from December 4-12, 2014 in Los Altos, California, USA. The Incubator will integrate capacity building in sexual and reproductive health and rights, leadership, innovation, advocacy and project development. YCI will competitively award grants (in the range of \$8,000 - \$12,000) to participating Youth Champions and their organizations to launch innovative sexual and reproductive health and rights projects they develop during the Incubator.

The deadline to submit applications is July 25, 2014. Please share this information with young leaders who fulfill the attached selection criteria and also disseminate this information to other organizations that may have potential candidates. Click here to download the [YCI factsheet](#), [selection criteria](#), and [application](#) to share with prospective candidates. If you have any queries, please email YCI Coordinator Claudia Romeu (clromeu@phi.org, with copy to jramos@ihp.org).