



*Please send us your updates about the sexual, reproductive or maternal health and rights programming in your country! If you would like to share anything with this listserv community, please send your content to [mrodriguez@care.org](mailto:mrodriguez@care.org). We will compile your content and include it in the next bi-monthly update.*

## SRMH Global Updates

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### **CARE becomes an endorsing organization for High Impact Practices for Family Planning**

CARE has recently become an endorsing organization for the USAID-funded High Impact Practices group. [High Impact Practices](#) (HIPs) are effective service delivery or systems interventions that when scaled up and institutionalized, will maximize investments in a comprehensive family planning strategy. Identified by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), made up of international experts in family planning research, programming, and implementation, HIPs help family planning programs focus their resources and efforts to ensure they have the broadest reach and greatest impact. CARE will now be engaged in reviews of new HIPs or past HIPs that need to be updated. CARE will also be adding SRMH project information to the [HIP map](#).

### **SRMH reviews BCS+ Update for the World Health Organization**

Dr. Kamlesh Giri, Senior Advisor, was invited to review and help update the BCS+ (Balanced Counseling Strategy Plus) counseling materials (developed by Population Council), as part of the recent release of the World Health Organization (WHO) publication on the Medical Eligibility Criteria (fifth edition) for Family Planning services. BCS+ counseling approach is a new approach to family planning counseling that encourages active client engagement in the contraceptive method selection process and emphasizes the role of highly effective contraceptive methods first before talking about less effective methods. In addition, Leigh Stefanik, GBV Program Advisor, from the Gender and Empowerment Team, reviewed and provided input to the “Women’s Support and Safety” card, which will be integrated with the BCS+ counseling cards as a tool for addressing this critical issue, especially in humanitarian and crisis settings. Through its Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion Care (SAFPAC) initiative, CARE has been implementing the BCS+ counseling approach in five country programs in Asia and Africa and has experience and learning to bring to the review and revision. You can find the current version of the BCS toolkit [here](#).

### **CARE co-writes blog with WHO highlighting CARE’s work in Chad for FP2020 Rights Series**

Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) is a global partnership that supports the rights of women and girls to decide, freely and for themselves, whether, when, and how many children they want to have. The SRMH team co-wrote a blog that focused on the barriers women face in accessing family planning services. The [blog](#) highlights the Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion



Care (SAFPAC) initiative in Chad where decentralized service delivery enabled women to obtain the contraceptive method of their choice. This blog is the third in a series of articles from FP2020 partners illustrating how human rights principles shape their reproductive health programs.

### **CARE UK, ODI and GSK to host event highlighting CARE-GSK partnership**

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI), CARE International UK and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) are hosting an event in September to highlight learnings from the CARE-GSK corporate partnership in Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Nepal). The focus of this partnership has been on improving maternal and child health outcomes through building capacity of health workers, mobilizing the community and developing sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors. Approaches used have been highly innovative and effective in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in the region. The event will also discuss the role of the private sector in meeting the international development goals as we enter the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) era. Both Laurie Lee, CEO of CIUK and Jahangir Hossain, Health Director of CARE Bangladesh, will present CARE's work.

### **SRMH & Rights Global Progress Report—now with links available**

A report highlighting the progress achieved throughout the first year of work to advance the CARE global SRMH outcome has been released. The report outlines the launch and evolution of the SRMH global work thus far, highlighting examples of successful new partnerships, generation of evidence and learning, and collaboration across several CARE offices. The report, which includes live links to other documentation, can be found [here](#).

### **Brown bag on CARE Benin/Togo led by Program Director Bonaventure Nzavugambonyimana**

On 3 August, the Food, Nutrition and Security team's Nutrition at the Center Project hosted CARE Benin/Togo Program Director Bonaventure Nzavugambonyimana to lead a brown bag presentation on CARE Benin/Togo's strategic priorities and programming in women and girls empowerment, food nutrition security and climate change and reproductive, maternal and child health. A few reproductive and maternal health projects were highlighted. If you missed this brownbag, you can listen to the recording [here](#) and view the slides (attached to this email message).

### **CARE South Sudan Report on humanitarian response receives accolades from USAID**

"Critical Diagnosis: The Case for Placing South Sudan's Healthcare System at the Heart of Humanitarian Response" is an advocacy paper written by CARE International- South Sudan that outlines CARE's belief that real impact in South Sudan can be achieved through investments in health interventions at the local level, with the alignment of humanitarian actors and support alongside local health workers. As a result of this report, the USAID mission in South Sudan



commended CARE's effective health advocacy and shared a few of the realizations USAID had come to as a result of this paper. The paper is attached to this email.

**New SRMH-related briefs and documents: Below please find links to recent CARE briefs and reports from various CARE SRMH programs across the globe**

- [CARE Cambodia VSLA-Health Human Interest Story briefs](#)
- [Sexual, Reproductive Health-Humanitarian brief](#)

**CARE International UK co-organizes IAWG Global Evaluation Launch**

CARE International UK co-organized an event on 5 August 2015 to launch Inter-agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises' (IAWG) new evaluation documenting progress and remaining gaps in ensuring sexual, reproductive and maternal health in humanitarian settings. The Global Evaluation is a series of seven complementary studies, published in a special supplement of *Conflict and Health* and identifies gaps in existing reproductive health services and highlights opportunities for the direction of future programs, advocacy and funding. All articles in the supplement are available for [free download](#). The [IAWG website](#) also has more information on the event and Global Evaluation. Highlights from the event and Global Evaluation are also attached to this email, including an editorial from the Lancet.

**CARE participates as expert panelist for consultation on World Humanitarian Summit**

CARE International's expert in gender-in-emergencies, Jasveen Ahluwalia, participated in an online consultation on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Humanitarian Crises on 6 August 2015. The purpose of the online consultation was to take stock of what has been done to date, to highlight good practices, and to help clarify the recommendations that should be submitted to the World Humanitarian Summit. A recording of the online consultation can be found [here](#).

**CORE Group Member Newsletter highlights CARE Malawi and CARE Peru SRMH work**

CORE Group has recently launched a quarterly newsletter where CORE Group member resources, events and other announcements are published. The [Summer Newsletter](#) highlighted CARE Malawi's Community Score Card films and Hesperian Health Guides "Health Actions for Women" book which features stories from CARE Peru's maternal health programming. If you are interested in receiving updates from CORE Group, please visit the website and submit this [form](#).

**CARE's Community Score Card video infographic to be shown for Food Aid Managers Course**

Mara Russell of the Food, Nutrition Security (FNS) team will lead a session of the Food Aid Managers' Course (FAMC) on Governance and Social Accountability. During this session, Mara will highlight CARE's Community Score Card and its use in Food for Peace and FNS programs and show the [CSC video infographic](#), which was developed in partnership by CARE Malawi and the UNC School of Journalism.



### **CARE attends Implementing Best Practices (IBP) conference in Addis**

Feven Tassew and Yvonne Uwimana of the SRMH team participated in June's IBP meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In the meeting, specific experiences of projects and country initiatives were shared and key thematic areas were highlighted by the IBP partners including: documenting effective practices, promoting scale-up, a panel on the new WHO eligibility criteria for contraceptive use, and M-health. Three platforms of communities of practice were also introduced during the meeting: the knowledge gateway (<https://knowledge-gateway.org/>), springboard (<http://healthcomspringboard.org/>) and global health knowledge collaborative (<https://knowledge-gateway.org/ghkc>). Updates from CARE were presented on the last day in the 'updates from partners' session, along with other 7 partner organizations.

### **CARE USA SRMH collaborating with CARE USA Education Team on PCTFI Cohort 3**

Carolyn Grant from the SRMH team participated in CARE USA Education team's Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative (PCTFI) Cohort 3 Reflection and Design Workshop to refine the learning agenda and design of the Cohort 3 initiative, which will be implemented in Cambodia, India, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The Cohort 3 initiative is a 5 year program that will test a multi-sectoral approach to adolescent empowerment, through the integration of approaches from education, economic empowerment, gender and norm change, ICT, governance and sexual and reproductive health. In November, the Cohort 3 team, which includes the Education team and representatives from the Gender, Agriculture and Market Systems, and Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health teams will convene with representatives from the seven Cohort 3 country offices to finalize the design, launch the program and facilitate joint learning and coordination moving forward.

### **CARE's Best Practices for Engaging Government Officials**

CARE's Senior Director for United States Government (USG) Strategic Engagement, Laura Henderson, has developed guidelines for meeting with high-level or mid-level government officials. The document outlines best practices on how to make the most of these meetings by determining objectives and arranging materials in advance. The tips in this document may help you build stronger, more strategic relationships. The document is attached to this email. For any queries contact Laura Henderson ([lhenderson@care.org](mailto:lhenderson@care.org))

## **Other Updates: Resources, Tools and Events** *(Apologies for cross-posting)*

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### **Global Conferences Update**

**International Conference on Family Planning:** Several CARE staff will be attending the conference which will be held 9-12 November in Indonesia. Several presentations and posters



submitted by CARE staff have been accepted. A final list of the CARE presentations and posters will be circulated before the conference. As CARE will have an exhibit booth at the conference and would also like to host a staff reception, please let Mariela Rodriguez ([mrodriguez@care.org](mailto:mrodriguez@care.org)), know if you will be attending.

**Global Maternal, Newborn Health Conference:** CARE will be participating in the conference which will be held 18-21 October in Mexico City. Although registration for the conference has closed, opportunities to engage online will be available through webcasts and live coverage on social media. Sign up for the [GMNC mailing list](#) to receive updates on how to participate in the conference remotely.

**Women Deliver Registration now open:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Women Deliver conference will be held 16-19 May 2016 in Copenhagen. [Registration](#) is now open for attendees. Please visit <http://wd2016.org> for more information.

## **Resources**

### **5th Edition of WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use Released**

The World Health Organization has released the 5th edition of the Medical eligibility criteria (MEC) for contraceptive use. The 5th edition contains over 575 recommendations regarding 14 topics. A [summary document](#) is available online which provides an introduction to the guideline, a description of the methods used to develop the recommendations for this fifth edition, and a summary of changes (from the fourth edition to the fifth edition of the MEC).

### **OHCHR New Information Series on SRHR Launched**

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has launched a new information series on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The series includes topics such as Abortion, Adolescents, HIV and AIDS, Violence against Women, LGBTI people, among others. For each topic, it provides the latest data, the human rights standards and the international agreements. The series is available [online](#) in English. French and Spanish translations are expected in the coming months.

### **USAID Evidence Brief: Recommendations for Augmentation of Labour**

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP), along with the World Health Organization, has published an evidence brief: [Recommendations for Augmentation of Labour](#). This evidence brief provides highlights and key messages from the [World Health Organization's 2014 Global Recommendations on the Augmentation of Labor](#). The brief summarizes guidelines for effective interventions for safe augmentation to accelerate their dissemination and use. Additionally, policy and programme actions to incorporate the new guidelines are outlined



alongside the recommendations. This brief is intended for policy-makers, programme managers, educators and providers who care for pregnant women.

### **New WHO publication on health worker roles in providing safe abortion care and post abortion**

The World Health Organization has recently (July 2015) published guidelines which provide a range of options for expanding health worker roles in the provision of safe abortion care, the management of complications of abortion (also known as post-abortion care in some settings and provided as part of emergency obstetric care) and for post- abortion contraception provision. The guidelines are available [here](#).

## **People**

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### **Shanavian Smith, Program Officer, CARE USA**

Shanavian Smith joins CARE USA's SRMH team from Habitat for Humanity International. She has a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Spelman College, and previously interned at The Carter Center. Shanavian's main job responsibilities will be grants management, knowledge management and team program support.

### **Anne Lattera, Mary Jane Leader Evaluation Fellow**

Anne Laterra joins CARE from the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention where she worked with the Division for Adolescent and School Health Research and Evaluation Branch. Her work there supported the Division's efforts to improve student access to quality sexual health education, sexual health services and safe and supportive school environments. Prior to her time with CDC she worked with the PSI Women's Health Project, a global program that focuses on increasing availability of long acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) and post abortion care in fifteen countries. Anne graduated from the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in 2014 with a Master of Public Health from the Global Health Department. Her work there focused on reproductive and maternal health including a thesis project on infant and young child feeding practices in Haiti. She is excited to join CARE as a Mary Jane Leader Evaluation Fellow and hopes to contribute to the SMRH team's efforts to evaluate CARE's work and share and disseminate findings.