



Please send us your updates on 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. We will compile your content and include it in the next bi-monthly update.

SRMH Global Updates

SAA Global Learning Event in Benin April 4-8

Over 50 participants from 20 CARE offices gathered in Cotonou, Benin from April 4-8 to share experiences and learning from implementing [CARE's Social Analysis and Action](#), an approach which seeks to address the social, economic and cultural factors that influence health behaviors and service utilization. During the week, participants shared experiences, lessons and challenges



around SAA's implementation and discussed issues around sexuality and human rights. The participants also visited two CARE projects that draw on SAA, [Tekponon Kikuagou](#) (a family planning project); and [Nutrition at the Center](#) (a maternal and child nutrition project). The participants also had an opportunity to share some highlights from the work they are doing in their respective countries. A few country highlights are below:

India and Vietnam: CARE India and CARE Vietnam shared their unique journey with SAA as the first countries to implement the Inner Spaces Outer Faces Initiative (ISOFI), which was the basis for learning and development of the SAA approach. Participants heard specifically about CARE Vietnam's Ethnic Minority Women's Project where SAA tools were used in the project's gender analysis. As a result of CARE Vietnam's history with using SAA in programming, CARE staff are champions of the approach who are passionate about gender transformation and believe in SAA's ability to facilitate transformative change. The country office continues to use SAA and proactively integrate the approach into new project designs.

Ethiopia: CARE Ethiopia discussed their use of SAA across sectors, and shared experiences focused around community engagement for transforming social norms, including which 'influential' community groups to target and how to engage them through the process of self-reflection. This also includes the influential group's own transformation process before using them as change agents within other project activities.

Myanmar: High maternal mortality and poor health indicators led CARE Myanmar to implement "Strengthening Approaches for Improved Maternal, Neonatal and Reproductive Health" funded by GlaxoSmithKline. The project has emphasized community awareness (education, counseling), capacity



building of auxiliary midwives and mobilization of mothers' groups; and establishing or strengthening referral systems. As a result of CARE's work, auxiliary midwives have had a positive impact on accessibility of sexual, reproductive health services; birth attendance by skilled providers and facility-based deliveries have increased as a result of awareness raising activities and lastly, referral systems have been strengthened and access to quality SRH care and services has increased.

Benin: The host country of the SAA global learning event afforded participants the opportunity to visit CARE Benin projects. Several CARE Benin staff participated in the learning event, where we learned from their experience in using SAA, including use of SAA in a new project, VIVO, aimed at integrating family planning and immunization, funded by Pfizer. CARE Benin will be using the SAA approach with the communities, to surface and address socio-cultural barriers that impede access to family planning and immunization. The Benin team is using SAA tools and approaches for situational analyses and activities such as 'vote with your feet,' 'crossing the rope,' and '4 corners.'

A full report from the SAA Global Learning Event will be coming soon. Look out for the report in the next SRMH global update in June!

Co-leadership on the SRMH Global Outcome: CARE USA & CARE India Solutions for Sustainable Development (CISSD)

Christine Galavotti and Thomas Reynolds of CARE USA met with representatives from CIUK, the Bill Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and CARE staff from both the Delhi and Bihar, India offices while on a recent visit to India. Together with CISSD, they developed a shared understanding of how to operationalize co-Leading the Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health and Rights (SRMHR) Global Outcome area on behalf of CI, agreed to a joint work plan (which includes creating an Impact Growth Strategy) and developed a shared understanding of Bihar's priorities and opportunities for global engagement and learning under the BMGF funded Technical Support Unit (TSU). CISSD is interested in health sector innovation, including use of technology and focusing on understanding, and overcoming, exclusion. CISSD will take a leadership role in the region, sharing and learning from others. For more information, please contact Christine Galavotti (cgalavotti@care.org).

CI Program Team Meeting Next Steps: Resilience

The CI Program Team, comprised of the leads for each of the CARE2020 Program Outcome Areas and Approaches, met in Bonn in April to report on progress toward the CARE2020 Program Outcome areas. While increasing resilience is one of the key elements of CARE's approach as articulated in the CARE2020 Program Strategy, there has been little consensus on what, as CARE, we mean when we talk about 'resilience.' A meeting was held on this topic, in London, with CARE staff from Netherlands, UK, USA, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, DRC, Jordan, Vietnam, Niger, and PECCN (CARE climate change colleagues). The group agreed that critical to resilience is forward thinking risk analysis and capacity building for 'anticipating, absorbing and adapting' to shocks and stressors (e.g. conflict, violence, natural disasters, economic, political). As next steps, this group will craft a framework and guidance note on



resilience to be shared more broadly within CARE. The SRMH global outcome area will identify a focal point for resilience to work further in this area.

CARE Chad's Dr. Olga Kajangu meets with parliamentarians in Europe

Following their Study Tour with parliamentarians to Chad early February, CARE Germany-Luxembourg, in collaboration with CARE International, organized parliamentary info sessions in Berlin, Luxembourg and



Brussels. From March 14 to 17, Dr. Olga Kajangu, Health Project Manager at CARE International in Chad, met with these parliamentarians and attended meetings on sexual, reproductive health. Dr. Kajangu provided briefings on the Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post abortion care (SAFPAC) initiative at the Ministry of Foreign and European affairs in Luxembourg as well as the European Commission in Brussels.

CARE Adolescent Capacity Statement

After many months of working towards a CARE wide adolescent capacity statement, the Adolescent Working Group (AWG) has finalized a package of materials that capture the essence of some of CARE's most compelling and current development work targeting this very vital impact group. These documents speaks to how CARE's global girls' and youth empowerment efforts are contributing to the CI Program Strategy 2020, thereby making our work with girls (and youth) more explicit. The Adolescent Capacity Statement package –consists of a glossy PDF for external use & two internal appendices of key messages & overview of CARE's alignment with the global agenda for adolescents. It has been developed in consultation with the Program, Partnerships and Learning and Advocacy division teams at CARE USA and provides a wonderful view of CARE's global effort from different sectors. The Adolescent Capacity statement can be accessed on [CARE's website](#).

SAFPAC meets with the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and USAID's Global Health Bureau

Kamlesh Giri of CARE's Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion Care team joined Laura Henderson, Senior Director for United States Government Strategic Engagement and Ben Weingrod, Senior Policy Advocate, on Feb. 10th for a meeting with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and USAID's Global Health Bureau. Together, they shared CARE's Sexual, Reproductive Health in Emergencies (SRH-E) work and sought to build relationships with the four public health advisors at OFDA and interested SRH-E staff in USAID's Global Health Bureau. If you would like more information, please reach out to Kamlesh Giri (kgiri@care.org).



New Family Planning Infographic

CARE USA's Policy and Advocacy Department developed a SRMH infographic to raise awareness on the importance of investing in family planning. This infographic is also intended to support the advocacy efforts to promote the Reach Every Mother and Child Act, United States legislation that would help end preventable maternal and child deaths within a generation by promoting evidence-based approaches including access to family planning services and education. Feel free to use this infographic!



SRMH 2016 Progress Report: We want to hear from you!

The SRMH team at CARE USA will be leading the development of a progress report highlighting accomplishments in global sexual, reproductive and maternal health in CARE over the past year. We are looking for your stories, your project highlights and your pictures! Help us share the great work you are doing. **The report will be finalized July 2016.** Please reach out to Mariela Rodriguez (mrodriguez@care.org) with any information you would like to share.

SRMH Global Advocacy Updates

Workshop Report: Raising Voices, Realizing Rights: Kigali, Rwanda

CARE USA and CARE International Secretariat convened a global workshop on advocacy for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Kigali, Rwanda, in December 2015. The workshop brought together 26 CARE colleagues from 15 countries to share experiences and learning from advocacy at the grassroots, national, and global levels. We identified opportunities to strengthen linkages between CARE's advocacy initiatives across the organization and proposed strategic directions for CARE's SRHR global advocacy in the coming years. Please see our final report and "Country Snapshots" **attached to this email** for detailed information and contacts from around the world. Please contact Christina Wegs (cweggs@care.org) to learn more.



CARE's engagement with the Accountability Work Stream of the UN Global Strategy

Christina Wegs, lead for SRMH & Rights Global Advocacy, was invited by the World Health Organization to join a small expert meeting February 18-19 in Montreux, Switzerland to develop the monitoring framework and core indicators for the UN Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescent's Health 2016-2030. As a member of the Accountability Working Group for the Global Strategy, Christina has helped shape the accountability principles and guidance for the Global Strategy over the last year, advocating to ensure that citizen-driven, participatory accountability mechanisms are an integral part of the monitoring framework for the Global Strategy. Please contact Christina Wegs for more information (cweggs@care.org).

CARE at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Several CARE staff attended the sixtieth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW60) in March. The theme of the 60th session was women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. CARE was represented by colleagues from Burundi, Egypt, Zimbabwe, France, Jordan, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, UK, USA and the CI Secretariat. CARE used this high-level forum on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality as an opportunity to: deliver on wider advocacy objectives as part of CARE International's Outcomes Areas, in particular Gender in Emergencies, Women's Economic Empowerment, Gender Based Violence and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights; share CARE's experience, evidence and experts through public events and targeted meetings; strategically engage with women's groups, decision makers and partners to advance CARE's advocacy objectives; and strengthen internal learning and mapping of CARE's global advocacy reach from local to global. For more information on CARE at CSW60, contact Aisha Rahamatali (rahamatali@careinternational.org)

Reach Act

CARE USA continues to support the Reach Every Mother and Child Act in the U.S. Congress as a way to support more comprehensive, and outcome driven maternal and child health programming by USAID and the State Department. The legislation is also a way to socialize the issue of family planning with more conservative Members of Congress in an effort to rebuild bipartisan support for international family planning and reproductive health programs. The bill has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, recently receiving its 100th cosponsor in the House of Representatives and 15th cosponsor in the Senate. The Reach Act will be a major ask at this year's National CARE Conference, where hundreds of grassroots advocates will discuss the importance of the Reach Act and family planning/reproductive health with their representatives in Congress.



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

Global Conferences

Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG) Annual Meeting

The IAWG annual meeting took place 9-11 March 2016 in Dakar, Senegal. This meeting brought together organizations dedicated to improving the reproductive health outcomes of those affected by conflict or natural disasters. Colleagues from CARE's Global SAF-PAC (Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion Care) team (CARE USA, DRC and Chad) participated in the conference. CARE gave 3 presentations, including a joint presentation with a colleague from the Djibouti Ministry of Health entitled, *From Pilot to Nationwide Scale Up: Lessons Learned in Increasing Access to FP and PAC in Djibouti*. The SAF-PAC team also joined the IAWG Annual Meeting Pre-Workshop: Safe Abortion Care Champions, which included discussions about the legal landscape for safe abortion care and best practices for advancing access to safe abortion care in crisis-affected settings. During the workshop, Raoza Vololona (DRC) and Olga Kajangu (Chad) and Christina Wegs (USA) led a discussion about CARE's experiences and lessons learned with catalyzing dialogue and joint advocacy to prevent unsafe abortion in Chad and DRC- powerful stories that many colleagues considered the highlight of the workshop. To learn more, please contact Heidi Schroffel (hschroffel@care.org).

Women Deliver Conference: The 4th Women Deliver conference will be held 16-19 May 2016 in Copenhagen. This year's conference will focus on how to implement the SDGs so they matter most for girls and women, with a specific focus on health – in particular maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights – and on gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment. CARE staff from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Canada and the US will be in attendance and participating in events and panels. CARE's work with frontline health workers in Bangladesh will be featured in an event on 15 May "Stories from Women on the Frontline: Health Workers Returning Value." CARE's social accountability work will also be featured at the conference at a concurrent session "Leveraging Human Rights Accountability to Realize Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals," and during the Art and Cinema Corner, where one of the [Raising the Score](#) films, (Community Score Card© in Malawi) will be viewed.

Are you planning to attend Women Deliver? Please reach out to SRMH Program Officer, Shanavian Smith (Shanavian.smith@care.org) if you are planning to attend this conference. Please visit <http://wd2016.org> for more information.

CORE Group Spring Meeting: 16-20 May 2016; Registration Now Open

<http://www.coregroup.org/spring-2016-global-health-practitioner-conference#Accomodations>

Global Symposium on Health Systems Research: 14-18 November 2016

<http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2016/>



Resources

Call for Applications: 2016 Sexuality Leadership Development Fellowship (Deadline May 27)

The Africa Regional Sexuality Resource Centre (ARSRC) announces the twelfth edition of its annual Sexuality Leadership Development Fellowship (SLDF) Programme. The two-week course is scheduled to take place in Lagos, Nigeria from July 10th -23th, 2016. The SLDF addresses historical and contemporary issues and emerging best practice in policy and programming for sexual wellbeing. For more information and application procedures, visit <http://www.arsrc.org/training/sldf/index.html>

Application Deadline: May 27, 2016

National Sexual Rights Law and Policy Database

The Sexual Rights Initiative created the National Sexual Rights Law and Policy Database to document and compare the status of law and policy related to sexual rights issues in different countries around the world. Ultimately, the Database will contribute to strengthening the respect for, and the protection and fulfillment of, sexual rights at the national, regional and international levels. Access the database here: <http://sexualrightsdatabase.org/>

New Materials to help Providers counsel young women on benefits of LARCs

The Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (HC3) announces the release of social and behavior change communication (SBCC) materials designed for providers to increase access to long-acting reversible contraceptive methods (LARCs).

Barriers preventing increased access to LARCs among youth are often related to the level of knowledge health care providers have regarding LARCs. To address this knowledge gap and help providers counsel young women including adolescents and young people that have not yet had children, HC3 produced the following materials available for download:

- A [video](#) aimed for providers who may counsel young women about modern contraceptive methods,
- A [video discussion guide](#) to help program managers or health facility senior staff facilitate deeper dives into the video's key messages,
- A take-home brochure (in two versions: [one with photos](#), [one with stills from the video](#)) that provides information on LARCs for dissemination in clinic or non-clinic settings,
- A [series of posters](#) encouraging youth to find out more information on LARCs, and consider them as an appropriate method for them.

Gender and Resilience: From Theory into Practice

One year into the implementation of the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) program, a working paper has been released that reflects on progress in linking gender equality and resilience within development projects and builds on three case studies of BRACED projects in Myanmar, Burkina Faso and Uganda. Find the report here:

<http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/10224.pdf>