



Please send us updates on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) 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 include it in the next bi-monthly update.

SRHR Global Updates

Family Planning 2020 Summit to be held July 2017

On July 11, 2017, DFID, UNFPA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will co-host an international summit in London to galvanize progress to 2020 and strengthen the foundations for universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning. This event will take stock on global family planning progress since the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning which established the FP2020 partnership and brought global stakeholders together to commit to empowering 120 million additional women and girls to use modern contraception by 2020. CARE members are currently coordinating CARE's engagement and advocacy for the upcoming summit. CARE USA, in collaboration with CARE member partners and country offices, is leading the development of a report that will highlight CARE's progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights since 2012. CARE UK and CARE USA have formed a task team to coordinate our engagement and advocacy at the Summit. Through the Interagency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG), CARE is also engaging with DFID and the Gates Foundation to ensure FP in humanitarian settings is prioritized at the summit.

We are currently seeking input and content to put into CARE's report for the Summit. **Do you have stories, photos or evidence from CARE's family planning programming? We would love to hear from you and input your content into the final report.** Please contact Mariela Rodriguez (Mariela.rodriguez@care.org) if you have content to share for the report or if you'd like to get involved. Please contact Christina Wegs (Christina.wegs@care.org) if you would like to learn more about our advocacy efforts around the Summit.

CARE DRC's ASRH initiative "Vijana Juu" selected as finalist for Cohort 2 of Scale X Design Accelerator

CARE DRC's adolescent, sexual and reproductive health initiative, Vijana Juu, was selected as one of 13 finalists to participate in CARE's 2nd Cohort of the Scale X Design Accelerator! In 2016, CARE launched a pilot project known as Vijana Juu (Up with Youth) in Goma, DRC to deliver family planning and other SRH services to adolescents who have grown up amidst crisis. This project builds on CARE's long-running family planning program in Nord Kivu (the Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion Care initiative- SAFPAC) and introduces new programmatic elements for engaging adolescents. These include youth-friendly spaces adjacent to health centers, a call-in information service, peer leaders and counselors and mobile ASRH clinics for adolescents living in a large IDP camp on the edge of Goma. CARE aims to scale-up these interventions throughout the SAFPAC operational area, which currently covers 5 health zones in Nord Kivu.



CARE at the Institutionalizing Community Health Conference

In late March, over 300 participants from more than 25 countries met to discuss community health and empowerment at the Institutionalizing Community Health Conference in Johannesburg. CARE was among the participants and co-sponsored and presented at the conference held in Johannesburg. The conference was hosted by USAID and UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The conference focused on:

- Sharing state-of-the-art lessons and experience;
- Enabling country stakeholders to share progress and identify solutions to persistent challenges;
- Informing national policies and plans through evidence, success, and adaptive learning; and
- Engaging communities as dynamic resources and agents within national and local systems.



CARE's work with the Community Score Card© in Malawi and work on reproductive, maternal and child health in Bihar, India were presented at the conference. Presentations from the conference will be uploaded to the conference website soon. For details on the agenda and presentations given, please visit the [conference website](#). Please reach out to Mariela Rodriguez (Mariela.rodriguez@care.org) for more information about the conference.

Evidence from CARE's work on contraceptive services in DRC published in *Conflict & Health*

CARE DRC, in collaboration with the RAISE Initiative, strengthened the Ministry of Health (MOH) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to provide contraceptive services in Maniema province. Results

from this effort were recently published in an article, "[Contraceptive availability leads to increase in use in conflict-affected Democratic Republic of Congo: evidence from cross-sectional cluster surveys, facility assessments and service statistics](#)" in *Conflict and Health* where effectiveness of the support for MOH health facility provision of contraception was evaluated.





Pfizer executives providing pro bono consulting services in support of SRHR 100M goal

CARE's SRHR team has partnered with Pfizer as part of Pfizer's 2017 Executive Global Health Team (GHT) program. Pfizer's GHT program is in its third year and brings together a team of 10-12 Pfizer executives across different parts of the organization (e.g., strategy, finance, R&D, HR, operations, compliance) to partner with an INGO and provide strategic pro bono consulting services in support of the INGO's goals. Pfizer previously partnered with Intrahealth and Population Services International and now is supporting CARE's SRHR team to provide guidance on scaling certain models to achieve CARE's goal of ensuring 100 million women and girls exercise their rights to sexual, reproductive and maternal health. From April 19-20, CARE's EMT, SRHR and Strategic Partnerships & Alliances teams hosted the Pfizer team to share about CARE and SRHR's strategies, programming and operations as well as discuss different aspects of achieving scale and learning Pfizer's initial feedback. From May 7-11, Pfizer's GHT will break into two smaller teams to simultaneously visit the Cambodia and Sierra Leone country offices to learn more about SRHR programming. The project will end June 19 in New York City, when Pfizer will deliver its final set of recommendations to CARE.

CARE and partners complete study on SRHR services in health facilities impacted by Ebola epidemic

In collaboration with the Mano River Union Secretariat (www.manoriverunion.int) and the West African Health Organization (www.wahooas.org), CARE Mano River recently conducted a study on the state of healthcare facilities and SRHR in the border zones between the Mano River countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). The study, which covered 19 border zones and over 50 health facilities, illuminated the profound impact of the Ebola epidemic on already-fragile health systems serving some of the most marginalized communities in the region. Notably, less than one third of the facilities studied had the ability to provide basic emergency obstetric care or had functioning referral systems to transport women experiencing pregnancy complications. To validate the findings of the report, CARE Mano River and its partners held a workshop in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from April 20-21, 2017. During the workshop, recommendations were made to representatives from the ministries of health of all four Mano River countries regarding prioritization of improvements to facilities and allocation of qualified health providers to the border zones. CARE Mano River and the CARE USA SRHR team are now working together towards resource mobilization to support strategic programming in the Mano River border zones. For more information or a copy of the report, please contact Erin Dumas (erin.dumas@care.org).

Taking Charge investment opportunity launched

Taking Charge is a CARE SRHR investment opportunity, part of CARE USA's Campaign 2020. *Taking Charge* is seeking \$44 million to scale up a model to enhance reproductive health information and services, and expand opportunities for adolescent girls in select countries in Africa and Asia. Please reach out to Mariela Rodriguez (Mariela.rodriguez@care.org) for the document that describes this investment opportunity.

SAA Training Workshop: 24-28 April in Lilongwe, Malawi

We are pleased to announce the upcoming Anglophone Africa Social Analysis and Action (SAA) training taking place in Malawi from 24-28 April. In collaboration with both the Food, Nutrition Security (FNS)



and SRHR global teams, the goal of this 5-day training is to build the capacity of CARE staff and SAA practitioners to consistently integrate and facilitate the SAA process in all their programs, as well as share program experiences and stories among each other.

CARE staff attend VCAT Workshop in Nairobi


CARE SRHR francophone staff (Niger, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire) participated in "Values Clarification and Attitudes Transformation (VCAT)" workshop in Nairobi at the end of March. CARE's objective in participating in this workshop was to engage around sensitive SRHR topics among key SRHR staff.

CARE's work on frontline health providers in Bangladesh featured in FHWC blog

To celebrate International Women's Day, CARE USA and CARE Bangladesh collaborated on a blog on 'unlikely health workers,' highlighting CARE's work with private, community-based, skilled birth attendants that was published on March 8 on the [Frontline Health Workers Coalition website](#).

Community Score Card featured in Huffington Post

CARE's Community Score Card was featured in a [Huffington Post](#) article articulating how the CSC is helping achieving health access and generating local solutions. The article was published during the Institutionalizing Community Health Conference and highlights results from CARE's recent randomized controlled trial evaluation which was published in [PLOS ONE](#).

 USAID's Flagship Maternal And Child Survival Program, Contributor (MCSF)

Generating local solutions: How CARE's Community Score Card is helping achieve health access for all

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Advocacy Updates

Global

Launch of Advocacy and Accountability working group for IAWG

In January, CARE and PAI launched the new Advocacy and Accountability Working Group for the Interagency Working Group for Reproductive Health in Crisis (IAWG.) The group will lead joint advocacy for the prioritization of investment in and accountability for comprehensive SRHR services in all humanitarian crises. Please contact Christina Wegs for more information (christina.wegs@care.org.)

CARE participates in Health and Human Rights consultation

In February, CARE participated in a high-level consultation on Health and Human Rights convened by the WHO and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. A report with concrete recommendations for



the fulfilling and protecting rights through UN Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescent is forthcoming. Please contact Christina Wegs (christina.wegs@care.org) for more information.

CARE International's coordination on U.S. Global Gag Rule/Mexico City Policy

The CARE International Secretariat and several CARE International (CI) members engaged in coordinated advocacy opposing the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule by the U.S. Trump Administration, and advocated for their own governments to champion and fund comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to offset the impact of the policy. CARE has also developed a set of talking points and FAQs regarding the Global Gag Rule and its implications, which you can find [here](#).

CARE global family planning advocacy strategy forthcoming

CARE is partnering with a consulting group to develop a global family planning advocacy strategy for 2017-2020, including internal and external key informant interviews and focus group, policy landscaping and analysis of CARE's niche and role advancing FP advocacy the global, regional and national level. A proposed strategy will be shared for feedback and finalization with key stakeholders across CARE in April-May. Please contact Christina Wegs (Christina.wegs@care.org).

Regional/National

CARE partnering with SciencesPo for SRHR policy landscaping

CARE is partnering with graduate students from the SciencesPo University in Paris to complete an SRHR policy landscape for 11 countries in CARE's WARMU. The policy landscaping will help inform the development of regional and national level SRHR advocacy strategies in 2017. Please contact Erin Dumas (erin.dumas@care.org) for more information.

CARE DRC advocacy platform

In North Kivu Province, CARE DRC convenes a provincial -level multi-stakeholder family planning advocacy platform. Through this platform, CARE led a process to quantify the provincial level FP funding gap and successfully advocated with lawmakers to secure a **budget line item to fill the gap and ensure adequate funding for contraception/family planning**. At a national multi-stakeholder meeting reviewing the DRC's progress in achieving its FP2020 goals, CARE's advocacy in DRC was recognized by the government and key donors (including Packard Foundation and the Gates Foundation) as a national model, and partners in several other provinces committed to using CARE's approach advocate for family planning funding.

CARE DRC also helped a local women's organization to secure funding from the Amplify Change Fund to lead a Kinshasa-based SRHR advocacy coalition.



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

Global Conferences

Global Adolescent Health Conference (Ottawa, Canada)

The Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH), along with [Every Woman Every Child \(EWEC\)](#), the [Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health \(PMNCH\)](#) and the World Health Organization (WHO), will be hosting the **Global Adolescent Health Conference: Unleashing the Power of a Generation**, an international conference around timely issues and exciting solutions in adolescent health for the hardest to reach both in Canada and internationally. The conference will be held May 16-17 and CARE will be in attendance. Find out more about the conference here:

<http://www.canwach.ca/global-adolescent-health-conference-2017/>

Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCSRHR): This conference will be held in Vietnam from 27-30 November 2017. APCSRHR is a biennial conference gathering of civil society, young people, academia, government, media, private sector, and development partners from the region who are concerned about sexual and reproductive health and rights. The conference's theme is "Leave No One Behind- Justice in Sexual and Reproductive Health." Please visit <http://apcsrhr9vn.org/> to learn more.

2018 International Conference on Family Planning announced

The 5th International Conference on Family Planning will be held in Kigali, Rwanda 12-15 November 2018. Stay tuned for more details regarding the conference program and abstract submissions here:

<http://fpconference.org/2018/>

2018 Global Health Systems Research Symposium announced

The 5th global symposium on Health Systems Research will be held in Liverpool, England 8-12 October 2018. Stay tuned for more details on this conference here:

<http://www.healthsystemsglobal.org/globalsymposia/>

Resources

FP2020 web resource on rights-based family planning

Family Planning 2020 has launched a [new web resource](#) dedicated to rights-based family planning—an approach to developing and implementing programs that aims to fulfill the rights of all individuals to:

- Choose whether, when, and how many children to have;
- Act on those choices through high-quality sexual and reproductive health services, information, and education; and
- Access those services free from discrimination, coercion, and violence.



The pursuit of this demands that that policies, plans, and programs are designed and implemented to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of girls and women and are grounded in human rights principles, as outlined in [FP2020's Rights and Empowerment Principles for Family Planning](#).

New IBP “Guide on Documenting Best Practices”

Implementing Best Practices (IBP) consortium has recently developed a “Guide to Identifying and Documenting Best Practices in Family Planning Programs.” The guide is based on two documents guiding the documentation of best practices, currently used in Africa: the WHO Regional Office for Africa Guide for documenting and sharing “best practices” in health programs (2008) and the Guide for documenting good practices (2015), developed by the West African Health Organization (WAHO), IBP, USAID and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). You can access and download the guide here:

www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/family_planning/best-practices-fp-programs/en/

People: CARE Staff



Lily Brent recently joined CARE as a Technical Advisor for SRHR. She will be working with Amy Vincus and the CARE Bangladesh and Niger country offices to launch the Gates Foundation funded project supporting newly-married, nulliparous adolescents. A trained social worker, Lily has provided counseling and psychosocial support to adolescents in diverse settings including public school and outpatient psychiatric care in New York City, a mentoring program for youth in foster care in Washington, D.C., and a holistic community for teenagers outside of family care in Rwanda. Lily comes to CARE from

Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. government agency committed to poverty reduction through economic growth. As a Program Officer for MCC, Lily worked with local government counterparts in Benin and Nepal to design gender and social inclusion strategies for large-scale electricity and roads infrastructure projects.

While obtaining master’s degrees in Social Work and International Affairs from Columbia University, Lily pursued research on best practices for developing social services for Children Affected By AIDS through internships with USAID’s Office of HIV/AIDS and UNICEF’s HIV/AIDS Protection Care and Support unit. She conducted her master’s thesis research on gender and corruption in Zimbabwe through a Capstone Project with Transparency International Zimbabwe.

Lily is a writer of short fiction, currently teaching herself to paint by watching Bob Ross on Netflix. A new Jersey native, she welcomes tips on life in Atlanta. She can be reached at lily.brent@care.org.