



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. We will compile your content and include it in the next bi-monthly update.

SRMH Global Updates

Increased Contraceptive Prevalence in regions of Chad where CARE operates



Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) data recently released on Chad show remarkable uptake in Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) in the geographic regions where CARE's Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion Care (SAFPAC) initiative is implemented. In the Moyen Chari and Logone Oriental regions, where CARE has supported the government to provide a full range of contraceptive services, the modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rates (mCPR) have risen to 11.4% and 11.3%, respectively. This is more than twice the national average of 5%. Interestingly, the two regions bordering Moyen Chari and Logone Oriental, namely Mandoul and Logone Occidental, also demonstrated mCPR of 12.6% and 10.5%, demonstrating the reach of CARE's work. Throughout the DHS data collection period, CARE was essentially the only non-government supporter of family planning services in these

regions. **This is an incredible achievement for the CARE Chad team and their government provider colleagues, who are working in just 26 health facilities across these 4 enormous regions!** 1/3 of all maternal deaths would disappear if all women who needed it got contraception, and these teams are making a profound difference in the lives of Chadian women and girls. Download the DHS Report at: dhsprogram.com/what-we-do/survey/survey-display-465.cfm

New CARE brief on transforming policy through evidence in Chad

This new brief highlights CARE's documented experience of training mid-level providers in comprehensive family planning, specifically IUD and implant insertions and MVA procedures for post abortion care in Chad. CARE's work helped to inform nationwide policy changes in the country's reproductive health law. The brief is currently featured on Popline, an online hub for publications and resources related to family planning and reproductive health. You can access the brief here: <http://www.popline.org/node/643159>

Funding awarded to expand reach and impact of CARE's Community Score Card

CARE's Malawi and SRMH teams received a new, four year \$2,000,000 award from the Sall Family Foundation for expanding the reach and catalyzing the impact of CARE's Community Score Card (CSC). To achieve this ambitious objective and respond to the rising demand for the CSC approach for addressing barriers to high quality service delivery and ensuring government accountability and responsiveness, the program will pursue a two-pronged approach: **1)** Carry out research and development to test ideas and develop new guidance and models for expanding the CSC's reach, such as



leveraging technology to engage more people in the process with fewer resources or linking the approach to national level advocacy efforts to affect change at scale; **2)** Establish a new and self-sustaining CSC Consulting Group to arm practitioners globally with the CSC approach. Our CSC experts will provide a range of services to build capacity in implementing the approach, including technical support to practitioners on how to incorporate the CSC into their projects and holding training workshops.

If you have a project that you think could contribute to the CSC research and development learning or are interested in support from the CSC Consulting Group to implement the Score Card in your program, please contact Carolyn Grant at cgrant@care.org or Thumbiko Msiska at thumbiko.msiska@care.org.

CARE receives funding from FP2020 to support Ministry of Health in Djibouti

CARE has received \$90,000 for ten months to support the Ministry of Health in Djibouti to revise the national family planning policy and guidelines, and strengthen the capacity building system for family planning in Djibouti. While Djibouti is an FP2020 country, it has not yet made any commitments to [FP2020](#). This project will help increase the visibility of FP2020 and continue to strengthen CARE and the government of Djibouti's unique relationship.

Reminder: Impact Accelerator + Challenge submissions due 24 February

The "CARE Impact Challenge," scheduled for Fall 2016 in New York City, USA, will bring together designers, investors, development practitioners and CARE staff to celebrate and reward proven and promising programs that have shown true impact to combat and reduce the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice. Challenge winners will receive cash awards and dedicated support from within and outside CARE to work on taking their proven interventions to scale for larger impact.

Teams from across CARE International are encouraged to apply. Applications are **due 24 February 2016**. For application information, webinar recordings of information session and Frequently Asked Questions are available here: <http://www.care.org/care-impact-challenge>

SRMH welcomes Country Directors/Assistant Country Directors

Over 20 of CARE's country leadership were in Atlanta in February to participate in a pilot leadership orientation program. The SRMH team's Senior Director, Chris Galavotti and Director, Jesse Rattan shared with the group plans for engaging strategically with CARE's different regions and sub-regions. They shared stories of program success and the high priority policy asks that we are all working together to shape and effectively achieve in the global SRMH program.



25 CARE staff meet in Indonesia for the International Conference on Family Planning

January 25-28, 25 CARE colleagues from 12 countries traveled to Nusa Dua, Indonesia to attend the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP). CARE had a great showing at the conference with 5 presentations, 2 posters, and 5 side events. The conference brought together over 3,000 participants and is the largest global gathering of family planning practitioners, advocates, donors, and governments, and is held every 2 years. Key highlights from



the conference included an opening keynote address from Indonesia’s President Joko Widodo, the announcement from the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) on a new \$30 million initiative called Adolescents 360 and a joint statement from several faith leaders affirming their commitment to family planning. You can read more highlights from the ICFP here: <http://crowd360.org/icfpdigitalhub/>

CARE USA and partners successfully halt cuts to International Family Planning budget

CARE USA worked closely with a number of NGO partners and Congressional supporters to defeat a proposal that would cut funding to U.S.-supported international family programs by over \$100 million (from \$575 million to \$461 million), halt all U.S. contributions to UNFPA, and forbid recipients of U.S. funds from performing abortion services even if those services were funded by a different donor (known as “Mexico City Policy” or the “Global Gag Rule”). CARE USA and its allies were successful in halting the cuts to family planning and defeating attempts to impose the “Global Gag Rule.” Unfortunately contributions to UNFPA were reduced by \$2.5 million (from \$35 million to \$32.5 million), but this cut is significantly less than what was proposed.

These funding levels mean that the U.S. will likely remain the largest FP/RH donor in 2016 and will allow the U.S. to remain a positive agenda-setter when it comes to global policy.

CARE’s Talking Points on Zika Virus

In response to global attention and concern regarding the spread of the Zika Virus, CARE developed talking points on the issue. The talking points highlight CARE’s call to keep women and girls at the center of the discussion and global response to Zika. The talking points can be found **attached** to this email.

CARE Bangladesh publishes article in PLOS ONE

CARE Bangladesh colleagues and partners from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) have published qualitative research in PLOS ONE journal on **“Reasons for Preference of Home Delivery with Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in Rural Bangladesh: A Qualitative Exploration.”** This research is part of CARE’s partnership with GlaxoSmithKline, the



“Community Health Worker Initiative,” which aims to strengthen community health systems in 50 unions of Sunamganj through a public-private partnership. To read the full article visit:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0146161>

To learn more about the CARE-GSK partnership, visit:

<http://insights.careinternational.org.uk/publications/improving-maternal-and-child-health-in-asia-through-innovative-partnerships-and-approaches>

SAFPAC Results highlighted as #2 Editors Pick in *Global Health Science and Practice*

An article describing the work and results of CARE’s Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion Care (SAFPAC) initiative has been listed as [number 2](#) in the Editor’s pick of the highest impact articles of 2015! The article demonstrates that even in crisis-affected settings, the provision of high quality family planning services is possible and demand of women and couples to use family planning can be met.

SRMH Global Advocacy Updates

Global Strategy for Women’s Children’s and Adolescents’ Health

In September 2015, the UN Secretary-General launched the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health to help further the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda. This strategy builds on 15 years of progress under the Millennium Development Goals and the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement. A key strategic priority for EWEC is the development of an updated accountability framework to ensure strong implementation of the SDGs.

CARE Sri Lanka’s young leader appointed to Every Woman Every Child Independent Accountability Panel

One of CARE’s own young leaders and activists, Dakshitha Wickremarathne from CARE Sri Lanka, was appointed as one of nine members to [Every Woman Every Child’s \(EWEC\) Independent Accountability Panel \(IAP\)](#). This panel will provide independent oversight on the implementation of the Global Strategy and its accountability framework. The IAP is comprised of nine distinguished panelists from diverse regions and backgrounds that range from human rights experts to humanitarian leaders to statisticians. These panelists are empowered to command attention from the global community for the full range of the Global Strategy’s accountability framework – to monitor, review and act.

Dakshitha is a sexual, reproductive health and rights and youth rights advocate and serves as a Commissioner in the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Well Being and as an Advisor to UN Women’s Global Civil Society Advisory Group. He is a Program Adviser for the Youth CREATE project in CARE Sri Lanka, which uses arts and culture as a means for promoting reconciliation and conflict resolution amongst youth to overcome regional and ethnic divides in Sri Lanka. **Congratulations to Dakshitha on this significant role and honor!**



CARE joins multi stakeholder briefing on humanitarian work stream of UN Global Strategy

On January 21, CARE joined a multi stakeholder briefing with partners contributing to the humanitarian work stream of UN Global Strategy to reflect on progress and strategize around opportunities to advance the agenda over the coming year. Over the next few months, partners will develop a 5 year strategy for ensuring humanitarian settings and fragile states are prioritized in the implementation of the new UN Global Strategy. Please see the attached document on Every Woman, Every Child (EWEC) **attached** to this email for more information.

Key upcoming moments: On March 9 WHO, Women's Refugee Commission and CARE will convene a meeting for Inter Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG) partners contributing to Every Woman, Every Child at the IAWG meeting in Dakar. In April, partners will convene in Abu Dhabi to develop a 5 year strategy and plan.

CARE at the table: Influencing 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, and she has been leading the charge to ensure that citizen-driven, participatory accountability mechanisms are an integral part of the monitoring framework for the Global Strategy.

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 will take place 9-11 March 2016 in Dakar, Senegal. This meeting will bring together individuals dedicated to improving the reproductive health outcomes of those affected by conflict or natural disasters. Organizations working in reproductive health or in crisis-affected settings are encouraged to attend, including new members to the IAWG and particularly those working in Western and Central Africa. Information on the meeting is available on <http://iawg.net/annual-meeting/>. CARE's SAFPAC team will be participating in the conference and presenting on their work, including an abstract entitled, *From Pilot to Nationwide Scale Up: Lessons Learned in Increasing Access to FP and PAC in Djibouti*.

IAWG Annual Meeting Pre-Workshop: Safe Abortion Care Champions:

Join safe abortion care champions for a day of values, ethics, and principles workshops, learn about the legal landscape for safe abortion care, get a sense of best practices around safe abortion care in crisis, and gain a better understanding of the resources and networks available to initiate or expand your work around safe abortion care. Space is limited. RSVP by Feb 22 to Devan Shea of CHANGE (dshea@engenderhealth.org). Invitation is **attached** to this email.



Women Deliver Conference: The 4th 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. **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.**

Other Conference Dates and Deadlines:

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; Abstract Submissions Open
<http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2016/>

Resources

WHO Bulletin Publication: [Sexual and reproductive health and human rights of women living with HIV: A global community survey](#) has been recently published in the World Health Organization Bulletin. This article sought to determine the sexual and reproductive health priorities of women living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and so allow the values and preferences of such women to be considered in the development of new guidelines. A core team created a global reference group of 14 women living with HIV and together they developed a global community online survey. The survey, which contained mandatory and optional questions, was based on an appreciative enquiry approach in which the life-cycle experiences of women living with HIV were investigated.

Zika Prevention and Community Education Guide by Hesperian: Hesperian has developed emergency prevention and education materials on Zika in multiple languages that are easy to understand and heavily illustrated. You can access the materials in various languages here: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), and [Portuguese](#)

IDS Evidence Report on Gender, Sexuality and the SDGs:

In 2015, as the MDGs came to an end, a new generation of world leaders – government officials, donors and civil society organizations – joined forces to articulate their vision for a future where all people can contribute to, and benefit from, an inclusive development framework. Across the documents and consultations, these leaders have emphasized a central message: ‘leave no one behind’. The findings in this report, [Leave No One Behind’: Gender, Sexuality and the Sustainable Development Goals](#) are based on a comprehensive review of empirical literature on sexuality, gender and development, including primary research conducted on the Sexuality, Poverty and Law program. In mapping these findings against the brand new SDG framework, the report highlights the importance of SOGIE-inclusive development in the post-2015 era. It argues that unless deliberate steps are taken by development



actors at an international and national level, billions of people will be excluded from the benefits of international development because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

African Commission on Human and People's Rights launches campaign to decriminalize abortion

On January 18, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) launched a continental campaign for the decriminalization of abortion in Africa to bring attention to unsafe abortion which significantly threatens women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights. ACHPR announced the campaign during the African Union Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For more information, read: <http://www.ipas.org/en/News/2016/January/ACHPR-decriminalization-campaign.aspx>

People

The Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health team at CARE USA is hiring! There are currently 5 positions open:

- (1) Technical Advisor, SRMH Integrated Programs*
- (2) Senior Technical Advisor, Evidence Translation and Communication*
- (3) Senior Technical Advisor, Health System Support and Program Quality*
- (4) Senior Technical Advisor, Program Design and Resource Mobilization*
- (5) Senior Technical Advisor, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning*

To see the full job announcements and apply, visit: <http://www.care.org/careers>