



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

U.S. “Global Gag Rule” Reinstated

On January 23, 2017, newly inaugurated U.S. President Trump signed the “[Presidential Memorandum on the Mexico City Policy](#)”, also known as the “global gag rule.” The policy stipulates that foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) cannot perform or actively promote (through information or education) abortion as a method of family planning,” using funds from any source (including non-U.S. funds), as a condition for receiving U.S. government global assistance. CARE believes that the Mexico City Policy interferes with the doctor-patient relationship by restricting medical information health care providers may offer, limits free speech and impedes women from making informed choices regarding their reproductive health and their ability to access health services. CARE USA’s Policy and Advocacy Department is working to provide guidance and information to CARE USA, CARE International and CARE Members, however, the implications of the policy are still unknown. CARE USA has drafted Talking Points (for internal use) that are available here: <http://familyplanning.care2share.wikispaces.net/Global+SRHR> We will keep our CARE SRHR stakeholders updated with as much information as we can and will be sharing more information soon. For any questions on U.S. policy, please reach out to Rachel Hall (Rachel.hall@care.org). For questions on global implementation reach out to Mariela Rodriguez (mrodriguez@care.org) and for questions related to global advocacy, contact Christina Wegs (cweggs@care.org).

CARE’s New Governance Measures published in *Development Policy Review*

Development Policy Review, 2017, 35 (2): 289–311

Women's and Health Workers' Voices in Open, Inclusive Communities and Effective Spaces (VOICES): Measuring Governance Outcomes in Reproductive and Maternal Health Programmes

Anne K. Sebert Kuhlmann, Sara Gullo, Christine Galavotti, Carolyn Grant, Maria Cavatore and Samuel Posnock*

Given the growing popularity of the social accountability approach to governance, we developed and tested measures of governance outcomes to evaluate maternal and reproductive health social accountability interventions. We articulate a theory of change for how CARE's Community Score Card[©], a social accountability approach, 1) empowers women, 2) empowers health workers and 3) creates expanded, inclusive and effective spaces for the two to interact. Our measures worked well in surveys of women and health workers. For women, eight of 13 scales had alphas ≥ 0.70 . For health workers, five of 11 scales were ≥ 0.70 ; four were .60–.69. To our knowledge, this is the first attempt to develop comprehensive measures of governance outcomes to evaluate a social accountability approach for maternal and reproductive health.

Key words: Social accountability, governance, CARE's Community Score Card[©], reproductive and maternal health, measurement

Members of the SRHR team have published a peer-reviewed article in a special themed issue of *Development Policy Review*, focused on Women and Development. The paper describes a new set of governance measures that were developed as part of the [Maternal Health Alliance Project in Malawi](#). These measures, called Women’s VOICES and Health Workers VOICES, are the first of their kind, and were developed to measure governance outcomes associated with the use of CARE’s Community Score Card to improve maternal and reproductive health. We hope these measures and their use will contribute to building a body of evidence on the effectiveness of social accountability approaches in achieving health and development outcomes. The article can be found online [here](#).



Evaluation of CARE's Community Score Card® published in PLOS ONE

Funded by the Sall Family Foundation, this publication is the first study to use a cluster-randomized controlled design to evaluate the effectiveness of [CARE's Community Score Card®](#) (CSC) in improving accessibility, quality and equity of reproductive health service delivery, and one of only a few rigorous evaluations of a social accountability approach in the literature. Results showed significant increases in community health workers' home visits during

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effects of a social accountability approach, CARE's Community Score Card, on reproductive health-related outcomes in Malawi: A cluster-randomized controlled evaluation

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and after pregnancy, improvements in clients' satisfaction with services, and an estimated 57% greater use of modern contraception in the intervention versus comparison sites at endline. We hope you find this evidence useful as you continue to build, promote and support CARE's work in this area. The article can be found online [here](#).

Scale X Design Impact Challenge Winners



The [CARE's Scale X Design Accelerator](#) is a program at CARE that seeks to tackle the world's biggest problems at scale by arming CARE's development practitioners with the skills, mentorship, resources and connections they need to do so. The first cohort of the program ended with The Scale X Design Impact Challenge, where five teams pitched their programs in New York City in January 2017. The Winners of the Challenge were teams from Bangladesh, Tanzania and Cambodia. The Cambodia program [CHAT!](#), led by Julia Battle, Supraja Suresh and Maly Man (featured in photo), harnesses the reality of young urban factory workers in Cambodia, integrating both entertainment and technology to provide cost-effective and high-impact sexual and reproductive health education through a unique combination of hands-on training, relatable video dramas and mobile games. Congratulations to the Cambodia team and all the teams who participated in Scale X Design!



Supporting Newly-Married Nulliparous Adolescents Project Update

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has recently awarded CARE a 2.5 million grant to support newly-married nulliparous adolescents in Niger and Bangladesh. This is the first time that CARE has received a grant from Gates Foundation's Family Planning Team. This 4-year project officially began in November 2016 and has three phases: (1) a formative research phase, (2) an intervention design phase, and (3) a testing phase. We are thrilled to be collaborating with the teams in Bangladesh and Niger as we undertake this work. To support the formative research phase, we are collaborating with ICDDR,B in Bangladesh as well as Ghazaleh Samandari and faculty at the Maryam Abacha American University in Maradi for the formative research in Niger. Given the importance of providing appealing alternatives to immediate child-rearing, we also have identified MarketShare Associates to support a market analysis during phase 1. By July 2017, we will move into phase 2, calling on the expertise of a human-centered design firm, GRID Impact.

We are pleased to announce that Amy Vincus has joined CARE as the Project Director (read more about her in the 'People' section of this update). We are thrilled to have identified two CO hires as program managers—Mary Rashid joining the Bangladesh team and Halimatou Niandou joining the Niger team. Congratulations to the SRHR team, CARE Bangladesh and CARE Niger on winning this award. We wish them all great success as we learn how to tackle this issue of delaying first birth! If you have any questions about the project, please contact Amy Vincus (amy.vincus@care.org).

SRHR West Africa Engagement Strategy

CARE's SRHR Engagement Strategy for West Africa outlines the injustice, goals and actions that will be guiding our sexual and reproductive health work in the region. We seek to reach 12 million women and girls to exercise their rights to sexual and reproductive health by 2020. This document is a visual summary of a larger, comprehensive strategy document that was created by a committee of SRHR Global and Women on the Move team members. The strategy can be found here: <http://familyplanning.care2share.wikispaces.net/SRHR+in+West+Africa>. For more information, please reach out to Erin Dumas (erin.dumas@care.org)

CARE attends annual Ouagadougou Partnership meeting

From December 12-15, 2016, SRHR colleagues Ghislaine Alinsato and Erin Dumas attended the 5th annual [Ouagadougou Partnership](#) (OP) Annual meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The OP represents 9 Francophone West African Countries and seeks to accelerate achievement towards those countries' FP2020 goals. The OP is made up of member countries (namely, their ministries of health and parliamentarians), civil society representation—including religious leaders, CSOs, and youth ambassadors—technical/implementing partners, and donors. CARE has also been invited to join the adolescent/youth working group for the OP and will continue to engage with key stakeholders in the partnership in advocacy, sharing and elevating best practices, and supporting ministries of health to improve their SRHR indicators. For more information, reach out to Erin Dumas (erin.dumas@care.org)



CARE Workshop in West Africa: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Emergency Settings and Humanitarian Response

From November 29-December 3, 2016, CARE West Africa convened 37 CARE staff in Accra, Ghana, for orientation and training on responding to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in emergency and crisis-affected settings. Among those who attended the workshop were representatives from the eight CARE West Africa country offices, members of the SRHR Global Team, the Deputy Director of the Emergencies and Humanitarian Assistance Team, and the CARE Regional Emergency Coordinator for West Africa. Two representatives from our key partner, UNFPA, facilitated sessions on procurement and distribution of SRH supplies and equipment kits during acute crises. You can read more about the workshop in the report here:

<http://familyplanning.care2share.wikispaces.net/SRHR+in+West+Africa>

CARE presents at Global Symposium on Health Systems Research; Wins Best Poster Award

CARE's SRHR work from Benin, India and Malawi was presented at the [2016 Global Symposium on Health Systems Research](#) held in November 2016 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The theme of this conference was "Resilient and responsive health systems for a changing world." CARE's poster on India's team-based goals and incentives model won a Best Poster award! For the presentations and more information about the conference, visit: <http://www.healthsystemsglobal.org/globalsymposia/>

Newsletters from CARE's CHAMP project

Continuum of Prevention, Care and Treatment (CoPCT) of HIV/AIDS with most-at-risk-populations in Cameroon (CHAMP) is a USAID-funded project that aims to improve the Cameroonian government and civil society's technical capacity to provide and implement evidence-based prevention, care, and treatment services and programs for members of key populations. You can find the most recent newsletters (some in French) from the CHAMP project here:

<http://familyplanning.care2share.wikispaces.net/CHAMP>

CARE attends WAHO Best Practices Meeting



CARE colleagues Ghislaine Alinsato and Alfred Makavore attended the West Africa Health Organization 2nd Forum on Best Practices in October of last year. This meeting brought together several stakeholders in the region. The objective of the conference was to facilitate the sharing of, and show case good and promising practices in health from the 15 ECOWAS countries for possible scale up, with emphasis on promoting innovations in reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ghislaine and Alfred co-facilitated working group discussions on early

and unintended pregnancy, and maternal mortality during the pre-conference workshop on adolescent



and youth sexual and reproductive health. For more information on the WAHO meeting, please reach out to Alfred Makavore (Alfred.makavore@care.org).

CARE India leaders visit CARE USA and share work from health programming in Bihar, India

Dr. Hemant Shah and Dr. Sridhar Srikantiah visited CARE USA's Atlanta office in November of 2016 and shared how CARE is supporting the Government of Bihar to increase the universal coverage and quality of life-saving interventions in order to improve the health and survival of women, newborns and children. Bihar is India's third most populous state, and despite some significant improvements in the health and wellbeing of the population, it has some of the country's highest rates of maternal, neonatal and infant mortality, as well as high prevalence of malnutrition and stunted growth and high fertility rates. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CARE has been working with the Government of Bihar since 2011 to improve maternal, neonatal and child health by utilizing mobile technology, building capacity of frontline health workers and increasing access to family planning. Dr. Shah's and Dr. Srikantiah's presentation can be accessed here:

<http://familyplanning.care2share.wikispaces.net/Integrated+Family+Health+Initiative>

CARE's work with frontline health workers in India featured in Frontline Health Workers Coalition Blog

As members of the Frontline Health Workers Coalition, CARE is regularly invited to write blogs on our work with frontline health workers. In this blog, CARE colleagues Carolyn Grant and Mariela Rodriguez describe CARE's work with frontline workers in India and how mobile applications are helping FHWs register and track patients, manage care, and help counsel pregnant women and mothers with newborns. You can read the blog here: <https://www.frontlinehealthworkers.org/at-their-finger-tips-how-mobile-technology-is-motivating-frontline-health-workers-in-bihar-india/>

CARE attends High Impact Practices in Family Planning Partners Meeting

In November 2016, CARE attended the High Impact Practices (HIP) Partners Meeting. This is the 2nd Partners meeting CARE has attended since joining HIPs in 2015. There are 17 [High Impact Practice briefs](#)— and since CARE joined, we have officially 'endorsed' 3 of them (Community Group Engagement, Galvanizing Commitment and Adolescent-Friendly Contraceptive Services). This meeting highlighted the need to strengthen the dissemination of HIPs at the global and country levels, and also a closer collaboration and alignment with other initiatives such as FP2020 and Implementing Best Practices consortium. For any questions related to HIPs or the 2016 meeting, please reach out to Mariela Rodriguez (mrodriguez@care.org).

NEW SRHR Overview Brief

A new overview brief on CARE's SRHR programming has been finalized. The 4-page brief outlines the main areas of work for SRHR programming, including regions of focus. You can find the brief here:

<http://familyplanning.care2share.wikispaces.net/Global+SRHR>.



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

Global Conferences

Institutionalizing Community Health Conference (ICHC)

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP), will host a four-day conference focused on supporting countries to strengthen partnerships with communities as resources to transform the future and ensure that every mother, newborn, and child not only survives, but thrives. The conference will mobilize government officials, civil society leaders, policymakers, sub-national managers and practitioners, private sector, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and researchers. The Institutionalizing Community Health Conference will focus 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.

This conference will be held in Johannesburg March 27-30 and CARE has been invited to attend and co-sponsor. CARE's work on the Community Score Card© will be shared. Learn more here: <http://ichc2017.org/>

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.

Resources

World Health Organization releases new set of ANC recommendations

The World Health Organization has released a new set of antenatal care (ANC) recommendations to improve maternal and perinatal health worldwide. The guidelines seek to reduce the global burden of stillbirths, reduce pregnancy complications and provide all women and adolescents with a positive pregnancy experience. The new ANC model raises the recommended number of ANC visits from four to eight, thereby increasing the number of opportunities providers have to detect and address preventable complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. The guidelines provide 49 recommendations for routine and context-specific ANC visits, including nutritional interventions, maternal/fetal assessments, preventive measures, interventions for common physiological symptoms and health system interventions. Given that women around the world experience maternal care in a wide range of settings, the recommendations also outline several context-specific service delivery options, including midwife-led care, group care and community-based interventions. You can find the guidelines here: <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/news/antenatal-care/en/>



World Bank offering Citizen Engagement online course

Following two successful offerings in 2015 and 2016 which together reached over 26,000 participants around the world, this latest version of the course includes a fifth module that looks at Citizen Engagement in practice. Developed jointly by the World Bank Group Open Learning Campus (OLC), the Citizen Engagement Secretariat, the Governance Global Practice and the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, this free 5-week course is hosted by edX. It has been developed in partnership with the London School of Economics (LSE), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Participedia, and CIVICUS. The course is taught by a number of leading experts in this field and the course also **features CARE's work in Ghana** as part of the featured practitioners. The course begins March 15, 2017. To register to the course, please visit <https://www.edx.org/course/citizen-engagement-game-changer-wbgx-ce01x#!> and click on the green "Enroll Now" button. If you are not registered with edX you will need to complete the registration form and then you will be enrolled in the course. If you already have an account with edX you can sign in to complete your enrolment.

The Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) and PLOS ONE call for papers for the fifth annual MHTF-PLOS Collection, "Non-Communicable Diseases and Maternal Health Around the Globe"

The Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) and *PLOS ONE* are delighted to announce the call for papers for the fifth annual MHTF-PLOS Collection: "*Non-Communicable Diseases and Maternal Health Around the Globe.*" Papers submitted to this collection must present and discuss primary quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods research in maternal health with the following focus:

- Investigation of the role of NCDs and social determinants in the shifting epidemiology of maternal health
- Assessment of NCD risk factors and implications for reproductive or maternal health
- Application of the life course approach to assessing maternal health in the context of NCDs
- Implementation and evaluation of interventions designed to reduce the burden of NCDs with a particular focus on women of reproductive age
- Community-based research identifying local perceptions of links between NCDs and maternal health using rigorous qualitative methods
- Analysis of disparities in maternal health among populations with high NCD burden

Research articles should adhere to *PLOS ONE*'s [publication criteria](#) and submissions that present new methods or tools as the primary focus of the manuscript should meet [additional requirements](#) regarding utility, validation and availability. Authors should refer to the *PLOS ONE* [Submission Guidelines](#) for specific submission requirements. **Submissions are due April 1, 2017.** Contact Sarah Hodin (shodin@hsph.harvard.edu) with any inquiries about the MHTF-PLOS Collection

Reproductive Health Matters call for papers: "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Humanitarian Crises"

Reproductive Health Matters has issued a call for papers on SRHR in humanitarian crises. The journal is looking for articles that offer new insights and evidence to contribute to the global knowledge base regarding SRHR in humanitarian crises, particularly in relation to the themes outlined above. They



welcome analytical pieces, critical perspectives, and policy and human rights analyses that interrogate these issues, and we encourage original research articles, along with commentaries and viewpoints. Further, they invite critical reflections regarding the methodological and ethical challenges of conducting SRHR research in humanitarian settings. They also encourage the submission of narratives from individuals with relevant first-hand experiences, as well as contributions from affected countries and from activists and actors working in this field. **Submissions are accepted between 15 February and 1 May 2017.** Find out more at: <http://www.rhmjournal.org.uk/journal/call-papers/>

USAID Maternal and Child Survival Program releases 2 new resources:

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program is pleased to introduce two new resources, the **Postnatal Care Pre-Discharge Checklist** and accompanying **Postnatal Care Pre-Discharge Poster**. Both were developed to help providers in health facilities operationalize the WHO 2013 Postnatal Care recommendations. The job aids remind providers that women should stay at least 24 hours after birth before discharge, while guiding them through a pre-discharge checkup for mother and baby. The Postnatal Care Pre-Discharge Checklist can be used to prompt PNC service providers to implement key health interventions for mother and newborn prior to discharge. It should ideally be used on the postpartum ward as a job aid. The poster visually reminds PNC service providers about critical steps of assessment prior to discharge. It may also serve as a prompt for women and their families to ask questions about postnatal care while still in the health facility. Find the checklist and poster here <http://bit.ly/2gZsKKc> The checklist and poster are currently available in English. French, Portuguese and Spanish translations are coming soon.

People: CARE Staff



Anushka Kalyanpur is the new Technical Specialist for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies on the Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post-abortion Care (SAFPAC) team based in DC. She will also be providing support to SRHR resource mobilization efforts. Previously, Anushka worked at International Medical Corps (IMC) where she provided technical assistance on SRH programming in Asia and the Middle East. At IMC, she worked to establish SRHE programming in Syria's complex humanitarian emergency and Nepal's post-earthquake response. She has also spent time working in Yemen and Ethiopia, ensuring that much needed SRH services are at the front and center of emergency response. Anushka is committed to SRHE work in the humanitarian sector, plays an active role on the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) for SRH in crisis-settings, and co-chairs the IAWG Adolescent sub-working group.

Anushka is a graduate of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. She previously worked with several different development and humanitarian response organizations, including the United Nations Relief & Works Agency, Save the Children, and Management Systems International. You can reach Anushka here: akalyanpur@care.org



Amy Vincus brings more than 25 years of experience working in public health to her new role at CARE. Amy has been hired as the Project Director of the 4-year effort funded by the Gates Foundation. The goal of the project is to support newly-married nulliparous adolescents in delaying their first birth. As the Project Director, Amy will draw on strong sexual and reproductive health technical knowledge, well-honed research and evaluation skills, and strong project management experience. Amy comes to CARE from Ipas, where she led several projects to advance women’s sexual and reproductive health, oversaw research and evaluation efforts at the global and country level, and directed an initiative to improve

organization-wide project management practices. Prior to working at Ipas, she worked on school-based adolescent health projects at RTI International and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation as well as work addressing health disparities in North Carolina. She launched her public health career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco. Amy holds an MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of North Carolina and a BA in English Literature from the University of Illinois.

Amy originally hails from Chicago, Illinois—though she surprised herself by staying in North Carolina after graduate school. She is a founding member of an intentional community (a cohousing community) in Durham, NC. As an endorphin junkie, she is avid about cycling, hiking, and running. She has more recently become a yoga convert, after having practiced Pilates for more than 15 years. In addition to feeding her endorphin habit, she loves to (cook for and) feed her friends. Her partner, Joseph, works for Duke University in Durham, building their research grant portfolio in the humanities.

For those of you who know Atlanta, Amy is living in Midtown now, walking to work. And thoroughly enjoying “big city” life. You can reach Amy here: amy.vincus@care.org