



Activists supporting GBV survivors

By Jean Baptiste Nimubona, Advocacy Advisor (GLAI Focal Person), CARE Burundi

Violence by intimate partners is widespread and has incalculable consequences. Too long hidden behind closed doors and absent from public debate, this violence can no longer be neglected as it is part of the daily life of hundreds of women who live in the CARE intervention area in Burundi.

A 4-month pregnant 24-year old mother tells the story of how she was burned by her husband that she dearly loved. "It was the longest night of my life (...). He used hot water and he burnt my genital area and right thigh." "I did not understand what was wrong with my husband that day, because he had never mistreated me in this way before. In the past, we have only had minor quarrels. He never drinks. But that day he spent the whole day out, without getting into the house to eat. When arriving around 7:30 pm, he found me cooking the evening meal, consisting of beans and sweet potatoes. He said he would rather have peas and *bugali*. I told him that it was too late to prepare that and that he had to wait until the next day. Suddenly he took the pot which was on fire and poured the hot water on me". "I shouted for help and the community leaders came and took me to the hospital. But it was very painful - really painful because I almost aborted my pregnancy".

The next day, psychosocial counsellors and activists went to tell the Administrator about the incident. This arrest was facilitated by a woman administrator, who is also a member of GLAI partner

organisation SBVS (Burundian Synergy for the Struggle against Sexual Violence).



The trauma is deep for both the mother and her child.

The complexity of reporting

Following the efforts of the activists, the psychosocial counsellors and SBVS, the perpetrator is currently imprisoned. Paradoxically, the survivor is not happy with the imprisonment of her husband because she does not know how she will manage on her own. "I am the youngest in a family of six children. My parents died when I was still very young. I legally got married in December 2006. For the moment I have left my husband's family and I now live with my big brother. My husband's family is not happy with me; saying that I am responsible for his imprisonment." "Now I wish that my husband was released from prison and that he asks for forgiveness so that I could live with him. My child is always asking me where his father is and I do not know what to answer. I see that the family of my brother is not comfortable. I would like to return to my family (...) but now I am like a crippled person because I cannot work and I have no strength".

"I used to see my husband as a shield, as my protector and my safety, I saw in him my parents that I lost at an early age. I was disappointed by his behaviour. It is not what I expected from him."

Supporting survivors

Despite the complex situation, the survivor is reporting that she is happy with the services that she has received from SBVS. SBVS psychologists, in collaboration with the psychosocial counsellors, have made regular visits to ensure the psychological recovery of the survivor.

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COUNTRY UPDATE

Burundi: Capacity building of GLAI partners and activists

By Jean Baptiste Nimubona, Advocacy Advisor (GLAI Focal Person), CARE Burundi

Baseline survey

A baseline survey was undertaken in April and May in order to gather information on GLAI indicators as per the expected results and have a common understanding of the GBV situation among the implementers. The baseline was led by the GLAI Focal Person with support of the Program Quality and Learning Team as well as external data collectors from partner organisations SPPDF and ADD. Key respondents for the baseline were grassroots activists and staff from key civil society organisations. The survey was conducted in the Women Empowerment Programme intervention area, including municipalities in the Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura Mairie, Kayanza and Ngozi provinces. Before conducting the baseline survey, the inquirers were trained on data collection.



Data collectors in GLAI baseline survey doing interview with activists in Kayanza province.

Building capacity for new grassroots activists

Between May and June, new grassroots activists based in the Women Empowerment Programme intervention area, received trainings in order to be able to carry out GBV advocacy at the grassroots level. 120 activists newly identified activists from 14 municipalities of Kayanza, Ngozi, Kirundo and Muyinga provinces participated in one-week trainings on gender; GBV, confidentiality skills and counseling advocacy skills, life skills, community leadership and psychosocial assistance. The trainings and capacity building of activities were organised in partnership with SBVS. According to activists' testimonials during the trainings "activists need to strengthen his/her knowledge on all forms of GBV in their communities in order to assist GBV survivors and to carry out advocacy on their behalf". One of the activists participating in the trainings, Marie Goreth Ndawayo, said that she will advocate for women who are beaten by their husbands in the household. The trainings were also an opportunity to elect Activists Focal Points and their Vice Focal Points in the four municipalities.



The picture above shows activists discussing and list the forms of GBV in a focus group.

Heather Munthe Kaas visits CARE International in Burundi

In May CARE International in Burundi had a visit from Heather Munthe Kaas, an intern in CARE Uganda, supporting the implementation of GLAI in the region. During her visit in Burundi she met with women members of VSL/solidarity groups in Ngozi and activists in Kayanza. The purpose of the visit was to gain a better understanding of the Women Empowerment Program in Burundi and how GLAI is integrated within the Program in order to assist the consultants in their study on impunity around GBV (see more information in below section). Heather had meetings with the Country Director, GLAI Focal Person, and staff under the Women Empowerment Programme.



Heather Munthe Kaas in discussion with women in VSL/solidarity groups and activists from in Ngozi province

Impunity study on Gender Based Violence

GLAI Burundi moves towards effective implementation of this year's learning agenda on exploring impunity, which was decided by the three GLAI Country Offices in December 2010 in Kigali. In June a regional study on impunity around GBV has been conducted in Burundi. The purpose of the study is to carry out the drivers and manifestation on impunity in the Region with the aim of examining the possibility of beginning or engaging in regional advocacy

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coalitions or relevant alternative approaches at the national and regional levels. Consultant Lisa Clifford and Lillian Mpabulungi from CARE Uganda, met different actors involved in GBV issues in Burundi with the support of CARE Burundi's GLAI Focal Person. The consultant met key CARE International in Burundi staff, CSOs as well as partners organisations APRODH, ADDF, SPPDF and SBVS, communities leaders, local authorities, GBV Survivors, GLAI activists at the grassroots level, the Ministry of National Solidarity Human Rights and Gender, UN WOMEN, International NGOs like ACORD, and regional institutions like International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGRL).

Planned activities in the next quarter

In the next quarter, key activities planned include implementing the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), which involves training of key staff within the Women Empowerment Programme as well as trainings of 110 existing and 120 new activists in data collection. An exchange visit to GLAI Uganda is planned in September to learn more from their experience on the GBVIMS. Furthermore, a campaign for sensitising local authorities on the importance of activists' work and follow-up of the partners' capacity building plans are priorities for the next months.



Activists, local authorities and GBV survivors from Gihanga municipality in Bubanza province are responding to the questions related to impunity during a focus group discussion facilitated by consultant Lisa Clifford.



COUNTRY UPDATE

Rwanda: Expanding our capacity

By Olive Uwamariya, Policy and Advocacy Manager (GLAI Focal Person)

Informing Advocacy with Research

In May, GLAI Rwanda carried out a baseline study. An external consultant headed the participatory study and engaged staff from CARE Rwanda's Women Empowerment Programme, ISARO, in finalising the tools and data collection processes. 35 of GLAI Rwanda's current Case Managers (CMs) participated in quantitative surveys and in-depth, qualitative interviews. Other key informants for the study included both local and national CSOs, NGOs, and GBV service provider staff. Validation of the study will occur before the end of June. In addition, GLAI Rwanda has participated in the regional stakeholder analysis studying the drivers and manifestations of impunity in the Great Lakes Region. The study sought to better understand the factors contributing to GBV impunity at all levels. GLAI Rwanda will use the research findings to support local women activists in the continuing process of advocating for quality survivor services and effective implementation of GBV policies. Validation of the study includes the identification of national and regional networks, regional advocacy approaches, and the development of an action plan for regional collaboration. Representatives from GLAI's implementing partners, RWAMREC and CNF, will also participate in the validation.



GLAI staff dialogue with local authorities and national police in order to identify cultural norms that contribute to GBV.

Gaining New Case Managers

GLAI Rwanda is in the ongoing process of identifying new CMs to serve GBV survivors in a six-district area. Last year, training officers from the ISARO programme selected 70 CMs, 31 males and 39 females. A CM must be a VSL member and have, among other characteristics, integrity, a commitment to fighting GBV, and an ability to keep confidentiality. The CMs are volunteers who fill an identified gap in the infrastructure of GBV service provision in communities by identifying GBV survivors, providing basic counseling and home visits, and accompanying and referring survivors to appropriate services. Data collected by CMs inform GLAI Rwanda's GBV advocacy initiatives; staff synthesize and analyze the data quarterly in order to identify trends, which create the basis for future advocacy platforms. Due to the extent of the work, GLAI will eventually identify two case managers per sector, one male and one female (a total of 154).



CARE Rwanda VSL groups discuss and identify new GBV Case Managers.

Identifying Activists

In July, GLAI Rwanda will identify grassroots activists! Activists will play a key role in ensuring policy implementation and service provision. Considering the national context, GLAI Rwanda will choose activists who live in the community and are embedded in existing decision-making structures. Activists will synthesize and communicate evidence from case managers to the decision makers, forming a link to the community. GLAI Rwanda and its strategic partners, has identified representatives from the National Women's Council (CNF) as potential grassroots activists. Two female activists will be trained in each of the six districts. Trained activists will be operational by the end of Fiscal Year 2011-12 Quarter 1.

Continued Learning from the Community

In the second week of June, GLAI Rwanda will hold its second GLAI Learning Agenda Reflection Sessions. Last year, such sessions contributed to

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understanding the challenges and successes of case managers, including limitations such as costs incurred on the job, threats to CM security, heavy workload, and household conflict. This year, we will focus on questions that reflect on the most appropriate profile for effective grassroots activists and case managers.

Capacity Building for Staff and Volunteers

In the coming months, GLAI Rwanda has trainings planned to build the capacity of new and existing case managers as well as ISARO staff. Building on past case manager trainings, GLAI Rwanda will partner with ARCT Ruhuka to provide an orientation and refresher training. ARCT Ruhuka is a local NGO with proven expertise in psychosocial support, counseling, and GBV. Training new and existing case managers together will allow them to get to know each other and provide greater peer support. In addition, ISARO staff will participate in a 5-day Training of Trainers SASA! learning event on GBV advocacy in Kampala through the NGO Raising Voices.

Involving Men in the Fight against GBV

CARE Rwanda is currently hosting a team from Promundo, an international NGO partnering with ISARO on male engagement strategies. The purpose of the visit is to further explore how male engagement can be incorporated into our Women Empowerment Programme through an ongoing study and pilot intervention activities in the coming year.

GLAI Rwanda Welcomes a New Team Member!

Alicia Clifton, a graduate student in Development Practice from Emory University, will join the GLAI Rwanda team as an intern for the next 15 months. For six months, split into two trips, Alicia will live in Huye, Rwanda, and assist the Policy and Advocacy Manager on a number of assignments, including documenting learning from reflection sessions and further developing CARE Rwanda's advocacy strategy. For the remaining nine months, Alicia will work five hours per week on smaller projects and related research while she finishes her second year of school in the U.S. Alicia begins in June.

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COUNTRY UPDATE

Uganda: Strengthening grassroots advocacy

By Prudence Komujinya, Advocacy & Information Coordinator Roco Kwo Programme (GLAI Focal Person), CARE Uganda

Strengthening the advocacy capacity of communities

During this quarter, CARE Uganda and partners have undertaken a number of activities to strengthen grassroots advocacy in communities in northern Uganda. In order to strengthen community advocacy on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, increase and strengthen the protection of women and girls against GBV in northern Uganda, CARE Uganda deemed it necessary to equip community advocacy forum members with knowledge on these two key international instruments. A total of 108 advocacy forum members from 16 sub counties of the Roco Kwo implementation area received training on the resolutions. In addition, they received training on communication skills, leadership skills and advocacy. The objective of the training was to equip the community advocacy forum members with knowledge and skills to enhance their capacity to engage in advocacy on issues affecting their communities.

GLAI baseline survey

During this quarter, the base line survey for GLAI was undertaken. The baseline was led by the GLAI focal person with support from an external data collector. Participants for the baseline were drawn from all the seven districts where Roco Kwo is being implemented and included partner CBO staffs, case managers, community based facilitators and community advocacy forum members. The purpose of the GLAI baseline is to gather information on GLAI indicators as per the expected result areas and to have a common understanding of the expected results among the implementers. The baseline is crucial in guiding the project design, implementation and continuous learning and above all, the baseline establishes a bench mark against which the impact of GLAI will be measured.

An impunity study to know the drivers and manifestation of impunity

To better understand the social-cultural and political factors that contribute to GBV impunity at community, national and international levels a study on impunity was undertaken in the three GLAI implementing countries. In Uganda, the study undertaken from 30th May -1st June. The study will enhance GLAI implementers' understanding of impunity and enable CARE COs to carry out more effective regional advocacy activities to address impunity. The study will also guide GLAI's engagement in effective regional partnerships and alliances and enable CARE and partners to leverage key local, national and international policies and practices protecting women and girls from GBV in the Great Lakes Region. A validation workshop for the impunity study is scheduled for 27th-29th June and all the three GLAI implementing countries have confirmed participation in this workshop

Addressing GBV by lobbying actions

At the national level, CARE is a member of the Marriage and Divorce bill coalition advocating for the passing of this bill into law. Consultations and advocacy for this bill dates far back to the 1960s and this bill seeks to expand women's rights in marriage and upon dissolution of marriages. The Marriage and Divorce Bill coalition chaired by Uganda Women's Network met with the parliamentary committee on legal affairs to respond to concerns raised by religious institutions on the provisions of the bill and furnish the committee with



A participant presents group work during advocacy training for activists



Participants engage in a focus group discussion during the baseline survey



Lisa Clifford, the consultant Impunity study takes notes during a focused group discussion with activists

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adequate information on the bill. Thereafter, the coalition organised a retreat for the parliamentary committee members to reflect on the bill in preparation for its debate in parliament before the eighth parliament wound up its business. Unfortunately, when the bill was presented to parliament for debate on 3rd May, the Attorney General withdrew the bill citing the need for further consultation among other stakeholders. The status of this bill now hangs in balance as now there is a new parliament and the coalition will have to build alliances and interest the ninth parliament in this bill.

On Monday 9th May 2011, the Women of Uganda wearing white held a women's Vigil for Peace and Justice and walked throughout the city to a central place carrying empty saucepans/pots and placards with clear messages that condemn the loss of lives, injuries, damage to properties, police brutality and demand for government's rational response to the cries of Ugandans to reduce the soaring commodity prices and other social injustices in the country. After the procession, the Women of Uganda under the Women's movement (spearheaded by Uganda Women Network) presented a statement to the United Nations Special Reporter on human rights, Margaret Sekajja, listened to testimonies from affected people, and prayed for Ugandans including those that have been affected by these processions. The Women's Vigil for Peace and Justice was said to be the beginning of a sustained effort to demand accountability from government on issues affecting Ugandans especially women.

On a positive note, Uganda is now privileged to have the first female Speaker of Parliament who will be presiding over parliamentary debates in the ninth parliament. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga is a lawyer by profession and a seasoned politician who has over the years shown great commitment to addressing issues affecting women. Following her appointment as speaker of parliament, she has publicly declared that she will use her position to influence the legislature to prioritise gender related laws

Coming up:

Plans are underway end of June 2011 for the Gender Development Partnership Group (GDPG) to present priority issues (gathered from civil society organizations like CARE) to the Uganda Women Parliament Association (UWOPA) under the 9th Parliament. In August 2011, CARE International in Uganda in collaboration with partners in Northern Uganda has scheduled a dialogue on women empowerment issues, including GBV and women participation with the new district leadership. In December this year, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) has organised a GBV summit. This conference will bring together the heads of state, political leaders and technocrats from the 11 member states in the Great Lakes region to review their performance on the commitments made during the ICGLR of 2004. As GLAI implementing COs we should position ourselves strategically and use this opportunity to advance our GBV advocacy agenda at the regional level during this summit and task them to commit resources to implement the provisions of the various protocols they have signed to internationally.



INTERNATIONAL

The UN Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence in Conflict visiting Norway

Margot Wallström, UN Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence in Conflict, visited the Norwegian research institution PRIO 15 June 2011 to discuss the work carried out by her office thus far with civil society organisations, researchers and activists.

Wallström was appointed Special Rapporteur by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in February 2010, as a part of the Secretary General's efforts to reduce and combat the widespread use of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings. Wallström has particularly focused on the extent of rape in the DRC. Other focal countries include Colombia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Liberia and Sudan.

Impunity

The problem of impunity and the need for holding perpetrators of sexual violence accountable for their actions in a systematic way has been a major priority for Wallström. Sexual violence is to a greater or lesser extent a feature of all armed conflicts, though there are massive challenges associated with gathering reliable data and ensuring accurate reporting and measuring of occurrences. The Special Rapporteur stressed several times during her intervention, that there is still a sense of the unavoidable about sexual violence committed in times of conflict. This sense of inevitability makes it even harder to challenge impunity and to start creating preventive measures. Wallström argues that sexual violence is not inevitable but that it is a human rights crime that can be overcome with clear benchmarks, international cooperation between member states, involved armed groups and civil society, and with competent judicial systems. Monitoring, reporting and data analysis was repeatedly affirmed as an important tool in addressing impunity.

Naming and shaming

Wallström is a strong believer in the use of 'naming and shaming' approach when calling for accountability, legal action and an end to impunity. The issue of justice and the prosecution of perpetrators for sexual violence, however, could potentially conflict with reconciliation as the survivor often experiences additional trauma through the stigma following sexual violence, including exclusion from their partners, families and local communities in many cases. The widespread impunity for such acts in many local and national courts is a cause of concern, and it is not clear that international courts are able to provide survivors with a real sense of justice and reparation.

Progress

The important work towards an end of impunity for sexual violence in conflict settings is making slow and uneasy progress. When asked to identify issues under her mandate where progress has been achieved, Wallström identifies a changing trend in that never before have high-ranking soldiers standing a trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC) been charged with counts of sexual violence. Wallström particularly referred to the prosecution of several members of the Congolese army (FARDC) standing trial before national courts on charges of wartime rape, indicating increased acknowledgement of the severity of this type of crime as well as of the need to hold commanding officers accountable for gross or systematic uses of sexual violence by

soldiers under their command.

Although Wallström mainly emphasised the imperative to ensure that conflict-related sexual violence no longer goes unreported, unaddressed or unpunished, she also mentioned the importance of providing follow-up services to survivors and their families. In particular, she agreed with the CSOs present that the costs and need for psychosocial services is often underestimated. In addition, several CSOs called for increased attention to and strengthening of preventive measures.



UN Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström

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Read Up!

As the first major UN Women report, the new edition of *Progress of the World's Women* presents the advances that have been made over the past century in the quest for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Progress of the World's Women 2011–2012: In Pursuit of Justice shows that where laws and justice systems work well, they can provide an essential mechanism for women to realize their human rights. However, it also underscores the fact that, despite widespread guarantees of equality, the reality for many millions of women is that justice remains out of reach.

View the report at:
<http://progress.unwomen.org/>

Coming Up

Finalisation of regional study

Consultants Lisa Clifford and Martine Zeuthen from *Integrity Research and Consultancy Ltd.* will finalise the regional study on the drivers and manifestations of impunity in the region, including a stakeholder mapping, by July. The recommendations should stimulate joint advocacy efforts and engagement in GBV and impunity advocacy partnerships/coalitions in the region.

Exchange visits between GLAI countries

In the next quarter, exchange visits for GLAI staff, activists and partners are planned across Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda. The aim is the exchange of experiences and expertise, particularly in the areas of advocacy and the practical use of the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS).

Contacts

If you want more information about GLAI, please contact the focal persons below:

CARE Norway: Ms. Eva Hauge, eva.hauge@care.no

CARE Burundi: Mr. Yawo Douvon, Yawo.Douvon@co.care.org and Mr. Jean Baptiste Nimubona, JeanBaptiste.Nimubona@co.care.org

CARE Rwanda: Ms. Suman Bisht, sumanb.rw@co.care.org and Ms. Olive Uwamariya, oliveu.rw@co.care.org

CARE Uganda: Ms. Lillian Mpabulungi, Impabulungi@co.care.org and Ms. Prudence Komujinya, pkomujinya@co.care.org

CAREs Great Lakes Advocacy Initiative (GLAI)

The Great Lakes Advocacy Initiative (GLAI) is a three-year initiative against gender-based violence (GBV) in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, supporting survivors of GBV in the community, and using grassroots activism and evidence-based advocacy to influence attitudes, policies and behaviour.