



GLAI Annual Coordination Workshop 2012 Committed to Embracing Change at all levels

During this year's annual GLAI workshop held in Kampala in November 2012, CARE's country offices where GLAI operates (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda) have committed to merging operations with their Women Empowerment Program (WEP). The workshop was attended by CARE staff and partners from CARE in the four countries, with support from CARE Norway and Tom Barton, a renowned facilitator and friend of CARE.

Commenting on the need for a joint advocacy within country offices, Lisa Sivertsen, Head of Advocacy at CARE Norway said advocacy is about change which never ends. **"It is about influencing policy and systems and making them work"**, she said, adding that CARE should adopt the advocacy wheel spinning from local to national advocacy, then to regional and international advocacy.



GLAI's advocacy wheel

The group agreed that the merger of GLAI to the WEP programming will enable better management of resources, coherence in programming and implementation and greater involvement of partners, among other advantages. In that sense, the participation to the workshop of representatives of GLAI's strategic national partners and of CARE's country management was seen by all as an important step to achieve this objective.

As advocacy becomes a shared approach at all levels within CARE and in the collaboration with partners, capacity building, experience sharing and collection of best practices remains central in GLAI's learning agenda. In Kampala, workshop participants had the opportunity to reflect upon how structures and relations



GLAI Focal Persons thumb up during the GLAI workshop in Kampala

can be better used to inform evidenced-based advocacy. They drew maps showing the complexity of information exchanges and discussed about each one's role in the system.

Participants were also confronted with dilemmas in the form of scenarios that they might encounter when implementing advocacy programs and activities at their level. The creativity and motivation – and humor! – with which they took up these challenges showed that commitment level to implementing successful advocacy is high within the GLAI family.

These four intensive days have been a good kick-start for GLAI's fourth year. As a transitional year towards full merging with the Women Empowerment Programs it promises to be full of new challenges and lessons to learn. Therefore, stay tuned to this newsletter to hear about this!

In this issue:

Front Page: Committed to embracing change at all levels

Country updates

Burundi: Strengthening partnerships through learning

DRC: Enduring the Present and Acting for the Future

Rwanda: Launching of the Zero Tolerance Now Campaign

Uganda: Increasing support to survivors of sexual assault

They have the power to change their world. You have the power to help them do it!



COUNTRY UPDATE

Burundi: Strengthening partnerships through learning

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

GBV Sharing Sessions ongoing in Women Empowerment Program Provinces



Local authorities and other key actors in WEP provinces prioritize what will be done in their future plans

In October and November, CARE Burundi in partnership with the Gender Ministry and SBVS (a GLAI Partner in implementing activities at grassroots level) continued GBV data sharing sessions in WEP provinces. After the provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi, Kirundo and Muyinga, the sessions were organized in Bubanza, Gitega and Bujumbura provinces. The aim of the two days workshop was to share the report from GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) by each province and commune and elaborate an action plan at communal and provincial levels. The sessions brought together authorities at provincial level (Administration, Justice, Police, Education, Health, Gender Ministry), communal level (Administrators, President of communal councils), local medias, Religious Leaders, SGBV survivors, grassroots activists Focal Points, CBOs, CSOs and INGOs. During the two days, participants recommended a periodic evaluation of the Actions Plans.

Learning and exchanges between CARE Burundi, partners and grassroots activists

In November, a learning and exchange sessions regrouped CARE Burundi staff within WEP, SPPDF and SBVS Partners staff and grassroots activists. The objective was to analyze the implementation of the GLAI 2012 action plan, key achievements and challenges. During the two day workshop, participants discussed the action plan developed during Kampala Workshop and GLAI priorities next year. Successes include the effective use of GBVIMS by partners, awareness of local authorities and leaders to contribute in fighting GBV, implementation of Kinshasa Communiqué by Gender and Justice Ministers from ICGLR members states - the Government through CDF stated to put in place Anti-GBV committees at grassroots level. The low number of grassroots activists and the lack of cooperation in capturing perpetrators were highlighted as key challenges. An action plan was developed in order to address challenges identified.

Strengthening advocacy initiatives by building partners' capacities: SPPDF & GLAI revised advocacy, communication and fundraising strategies



Participants' discussions on advocacy priorities in the next five year period

In the beginning of December, GLAI supported a CARE Burundi Advocacy partner (SPPDF) within WEP to develop its Advocacy, Communication and Fundraising Strategies. The GLAI Focal Person worked with the local organization to analyze its 2012-2016 Strategic Framework and to prioritize key strategic axes on which to focus its advocacy agenda, its communication strategy and fundraising opportunities. Two main strategic axes will guide SPPDF advocacy agenda: a) Governance, Peace and Security and b) Socio-economic development. Gender Based Violence will be the central focus within the two main axes.

They have the power to change their world. You have the power to help them do it!



COUNTRY UPDATE

DRC: Enduring the Present and Acting for the Future

By Jackie Kiernan, Programme officer and GLAI Focal Point, CARE DRC

The last quarter of the GLAI 2012 project was especially challenging for CARE DRC team, as war broke out in North Kivu and the provincial capital, Goma, was taken by rebels on November 20, 2012. While Goma endured heavy shelling, looting, and widespread panic building up to and following the takeover, work activities were unable to continue as normal, as most staff sought safety and shelter while hibernating in their homes. Although a week after the fall of Goma the office tried to resume work as normal, on November 27, residents of Goma again woke to shooting and shelling; at the time of writing, it is not clear when the situation will stabilize enough for regular activities to resume. Despite the hardships noted during the second half of the quarter, the first half of the quarter (October-mid November) saw a high level of GLAI activity.

Training and set up of 20 school clubs to fight GBV in educational environments

The North Kivu Children's Parliament (PARDE) partnered with CARE and ActionAid International to create 20 school clubs in Goma, with the goal to



Students participating in the 5 day training on fighting gender based violence and the establishment of school clubs. ©North Kivu Children's Parliament, A. Tahwa.

support local youth fight gender based violence in school settings. Supported by the Division of Gender and GLAI partner DFJ (*Dynamique des Femmes Juristes*), 40 students from 20 school participated in a week long training that covered a broad spectrum of related subjects, including basic concepts of GBV, leadership, the role of men and boys in the fight against GBV, and leadership skills and advocacy tools. After the October training, PARDE, CARE and ActionAid followed up with on-site support visits to the students as they established their clubs. These visits also provided the opportunity to identify gaps for continued training and support. Pending security, a review will be held for students to share experiences and lessons learned; this is set to take place before the end of the project. This activity will continue to be supported and developed through GLAI 2013.

Participation in New York advocacy campaign

In preparation of the annual review of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, CARE invited colleagues from Nepal, Uganda and the DRC to participate in a week of advocacy with activists and UN Missions in New York during the month of October. The DRC GLAI Focal Point was able to join these activities, sharing information about the situation in the DRC, gender promotion and protection work,

as well as how best to engage with civil society. During the first day of activities, a roundtable discussion was held to share with participants' best practices on engaging civil society to fight GBV in the Great Lakes region. The second day revolved around one on one meetings with UN Missions; CARE was able to meet with the missions of Guatemala (UN Security Council President for the month of October), the UK, Norway, France, Liechtenstein, Austria and Canada. These smaller settings proved opportune for the team to provide recommendations for the annual Presidential Statement on 1325.

High level advocacy training and the conception of an advocacy strategy

CARE working with the consultancy office Axyom held a three day training on advocacy tools and approaches for high level activists in Goma, North Kivu. The training was followed by a two day workshop with key GLAI partners and activists to develop an advocacy strategy for 2013. The latter activity drew on the experience and resources of CARE Burundi, with the facilitation overseen by the Burundi Office's Advocacy and Communications Officer. Both activities were successes, with a reported high level of participation from participants. A draft advocacy strategy is under review by the DRC team. Depending on the security issue, it will be available for sharing early next year.

They have the power to change their world. You have the power to help them do it!



COUNTRY UPDATE

Rwanda: Launching of the Zero Tolerance Now Campaign

By Olive Uwamariya, Advocacy Advisor (GLAI Focal Person) CARE Rwanda

Launching of the Zero Tolerance Now Campaign during the 16 Days of Activism

On 25th November Rwandan MPs launched the sixteen days of activism with a call on Rwandans to respect gender equality and fight against violence subjected to women and girls.

In a statement issued ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women marked on November 25, the lawmakers reaffirmed their commitment to cooperating with all stakeholders to stem gender based violence by mobilizing the population to play their role in the fight.

Parliament "pledges, with men's participation, to keep on playing its role in mobilizing the Rwandan Community as to the understanding of the concept of gender equality and the fight against Gender Based Violence the women and girls are subjected to," the lawmakers said in the statement.



The House hailed the government's policies and programs that foster women empowerment, especially the "Kuremera" (startup provision) program meant for the poor and other activities meant to foster peace at the household level, by mobilizing men and women to stay closer to their children thereby protecting them from violence.

Following this statement the 16 days campaign kicked off at Rwamagana District in the Eastern Province on 27th November, one of the districts ranked high

Couples undergo civil ceremony to reduce effects of cohabitation

in GBV prevalence according to the National Police statistics of 2012. One of issues emphasized by stakeholders and CSO representatives is the need to implement a multidisciplinary approach in prevention and response to GBV. This without a doubt requires increased financial and human resources and coordination especially at the village level.

The same day the "Zero Tolerance Now" Campaign on Gender-Based Violence was launched, as decided by the Ministers of Gender and of Justice of the ICGLR countries in July in Kinshasa. The emphasis was put on the role of security organs and judiciary system in ensuring that violence is not tolerated at all.

"Our country signed several international agreements regarding promotion and protection of human rights to end injustices, and we have taken tremendous steps towards achieving this. The fight to end injustices is still on, that is why the 16-days-of-activism campaign is still very much in place. Rwanda aims at being a GBV free country," expressed the President of FFRP.

Various activities and campaigns were carried out in this period, which mainly emphasised the need for increased collaboration among service providers, including community sensitisation by the National Women Council and training of army men and women with their partners on GBV and community public dialogues. One of the activities launched on 27th and subsequently carried out across the country was GBV mobile clinics, which involved key service providers including a police focal person, in charge of good governance, the judiciary (Maison d'Accès à la Justice – MAJ), the National Women Council and Local Mediators, whereby this team meets individual victims of GBV and assist them to come up with solutions. The added value in GLAI's intervention areas was case managers, who work with these teams to solve GBV issues.

"Rwandan women should know that they have rights like anyone else because human rights are for all... They should also know that there are laws that protect them from these kind of injustices and should always refer to the law in cases where their rights have been violated"



Alphonsine Mukarugema,
President of Forum of
Rwandan Women
Parliamentarians (FFRP)

In other news...

Rwanda mourns the loss of the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion who died on 6th December after a long illness. She had occupied the post since May 2011.

She strongly believed in empowering women to take up leadership roles and to be free to use their skills and talents and participate in building the nation. She also believed in the vital role of the family to ensure socio-economic development of the country.

They have the power to change their world. You have the power to help them do it!



COUNTRY UPDATE

Uganda: Increasing support to survivors of sexual assault

By David Labeja, Research and Advocacy Coordinator of CSOPNU & Acting Advocacy Manager, CARE Uganda
(From IRIN, Published on 29 November 2012)

A new initiative in which qualified village nurses and clinical officers provide free medical examinations and counseling services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Uganda could help to speed up the prosecution of such cases, say officials.



A member of a CARE supported group making beads

Uganda's Justice Law and Order Sector has allocated 250 million shillings (about US\$92,700) to the 2012-2013 budget for the Uganda Police Force to implement the program. The medical examinations are part of the legal process following reports of sexual assault. Health workers who perform the examinations will be paid 25,000 shillings (about \$10). It is hoped the program will extend access to justice to some 10,000 SGBV survivors.

"Most SGBV survivors avoid reporting the abuse as they cannot afford to meet the cost of medical examinations," said Byaruhanga. "Without this [medical report], how do you expect [the] court to pass its verdict? Definitely such [a] case, without medical proof, [will be] stashed away."

"It dehumanizes"

According to the Wade Mone Women's Group, an association of SGBV survivors in the village of Koch Ongako, in the northern Gulu District, the initiative will help to protect the rights of impoverished rural women who have limited access to legal support.

"I am victim, and I know what it [means] to undergo such an experience; it's horrible because you don't feel free. It dehumanizes," Vicky*, a Wade Mone member, says. She added that high hospital fees discourage women from reporting such crimes.

"I had a similar experience in 2009, when my daughter was sexually abused by a neighbor. I reported the case to the police, and the police referred us to Gulu Hospital to have my child examined, but a doctor asked for 80,000 shillings [\$29] in fees," Christine* says. "I gave up and it turned out horribly because my daughter tested HIV-positive recently."

"My daughter's future is no more. She has to live on drugs all her life and I don't know if she will be able to cope," she added.

Critical services

Poverty and ignorance increase rural women's vulnerability, said Henry Barnabas, a principle medical officer and a Ministry of Health trainer on SGBV. He noted that there is a need for SGBV survivors to seek prompt medical care to avoid secondary infections and unplanned pregnancies.

"[SGBV] is a big problem eating the society. For long, offenders have been escaping the hands of the law because victims fail to [obtain] medical evidence,"

Moses Byaruhanga,
Head of the medical
service in the Uganda
Police Force.

"We have had patients who come to the clinic weeks after they have been abused. That is very bad because it puts their health at more risk," said Barnabas. He hopes more survivors will seek out the service now that it is free.

SGBV survivors who seek medical care are provided post-exposure prophylaxis kits - a course of HIV medications that can help prevent infection - and are tested for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. "We do this because of its consequences to victims," he added.

Plans are underway to strengthen and establish SGBV 'stop centers' at all regional referral hospitals in Uganda with the required facilities and staff.

NGOs providing care and support to SGBV survivors are also calling for more sensitization and advocacy to ensure that the community knows the dangers of SGBV and that they are aware of the free medical service available.

"We need to focus on deterrent measures to curb the problem. We need to see that these perpetrators are given severe punishments like life imprisonment," Susan Akello, an official with the Uganda Legal Aid project, said.

"My younger sister was sexually abused in the afternoon of Monday last week. I reported the matter to the police and the perpetrator was arrested immediately. They [the sister and the perpetrator] were rushed to Gulu Hospital, where they were examined. The perpetrator was found to be HIV-positive, and my sister was put on post exposure prophylaxis," said Sarah* from Amuru District.

*Family name withheld

They have the power to change their world. You have the power to help them do it!



INTERNATIONAL

Outcome of CI Advocacy October visit to New York

By Sébastien Fornerod, GLAI coordinator for CARE-Norway

In the previous issue of the ACT newsletter, GLAI reported on the international "Advocacy tour" organized by CARE International with a delegation from GLR and Nepal, to influence the Security Council annual meeting on SCR 1325 and its successors. This advocacy initiative was an important opportunity to bring grassroots evidences and experiences to one of the most important decision-making body in the international system. It was also essential for GLAI to use this event to learn how to get more involved at the global level and to gain confidence that results can be obtained thousands of kilometres away from the Great Lakes Region.

Despite the exceptional weather circumstances that hit the city of New York in that period, the work of the delegation was a success when judging by the number of high-level bilateral meetings participants were invited to and by the positive feedbacks they received when presenting lessons from the grassroots. But in addition to these immediate feedbacks, CARE was positively surprised to see how much of the input we supported, together with other civil society coalitions, had been included in the presidential statement¹. The influence of the civil society was also acknowledged in the document itself as it stated that *"the Security Council recognizes the contributions of civil society, including women's organizations, through informal interactions with members of the Council at Headquarters and during Council field missions"*.

In this document, the Council supports *"enhanced participation, representation and involvement of women in prevention and resolution of armed conflict and in peacebuilding, as well as a stronger commitment to address challenges to such engagement of women at all levels"* which was a key recommendation of CARE. Furthermore, the Council *"takes note of the important role that civil society, including women's organizations, can play in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations and encourages the international community, regional organizations and concerned Member States to promote their active engagement and effective participation in a variety of roles, as appropriate, with a view to the implementation of 1325 (2000)"*. It welcomes as well *"the efforts of Member States to implement resolution 1325*

(2000) at the national level, including the development of national action plans or other national-level strategies, and encourages Member States to continue to pursue such implementation" which is a process where GLAI and its allies within local civil society play an important role.

At the national level, the statement continues by stressing *"the importance of assisting Member States in promoting women's full and equal participation in post-conflict electoral processes and constitutional reform"* and by encouraging the states *"to address the gender dimension in all phases of electoral processes, noting that specific attention must be paid to women's safety prior to, and during, elections."* The importance of security dimension is also further underlined in the acknowledgement *"that human rights of women and girls are at particular risk during armed conflict and post-conflict situations and [...] that civil society members working on women's human rights issues may be targeted in a number of these situations."* A situation which leads *"The Council [to urge] concerned Member States to pay special attention to addressing these risks."*

Other important dimensions and good practices promoted by GLAI and by CARE's delegation also found their way into the statement. The importance of engaging men and boy was recognized as well as the reinforcement of *"gender-responsive legal, judicial and security sector reform and other mechanisms."* In that sense, the Council also reiterated *"its strong condemnation of all violations of applicable international law committed against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence and killing and maiming, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations"* and urged *"the complete cessation by all parties of such acts with immediate effect. The Security Council also urges Member States to bring to justice those responsible for crimes of this nature"*, stressing, as does CARE and its partner, the centrality of *"the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern committed against women and girls."*

All these positive messages included in the statement are the result of broad and durable advocacy effort of multiple civil society actors among which GLAI wants to continue playing an important role. The advocacy tour in New York has proven that this is not only possible, but also key to CARE's added value.

¹ See the full statement on <http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/S-PRST-2012-23-WPS.pdf>



Contacts

If you want more information about GLAI or if you would like to contribute to future issues of ACT, please contact the focal persons below:

CARE Norway:	Mr. Sébastien Fornerod, sebastien.fornerod@care.no
CARE Burundi:	Mr. Jean Baptiste Nimubona, JeanBaptiste.Nimubona@co.care.org
CARE Rwanda:	Ms. Olive Uwamariya, oliveu.rw@co.care.org
CARE Uganda:	Mr. David Labeja, dlabeja@co.care.org
CARE DRC:	Ms. Florence Masika, florence.masika@co.care.org

CARE's Great Lakes Advocacy Initiative (GLAI)

GLAI is a regional initiative addressing gender-based violence in the Great Lakes region, supporting GBV survivors in the community, and using grassroots activism and evidence-based advocacy to positively influence attitudes, policies and behaviour. The initiative is integrated into the country offices' respective women empowerment programmes. This adds an extra dimension to our programmes in this region as GLAI activists (often women from village savings and loans (VSL) groups and engaged men) work at the local village level with communities, and at the national level to influence policymakers. Moreover, GLAI seeks to lift up its grassroots experience in order to influence the international debate on women's human rights in post-conflict situations (cf. United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325). CARE is committed to addressing the root causes of GBV in the region and to carrying out advocacy efforts towards duty bearers and policy makers at different levels.