

CARE Activities for International Women's Day – March 8th, 2011



A moment from an International Women's Day celebration organized by CARE Nepal's Community Support Program in Kalikot; attended by policymakers, security personnel, lawmakers, and other stakeholders.

CARE Afghanistan

1. On March 7, over 2000 women from different women's organizations in Kabul got together to march for justice. It was a silent march and CARE staff joined in this along with over 300 widows who are part of the widow's association project under the HAWA program. All the women wore blue scarves, which here have come to symbolize a demand for peace.
2. On March 8, the main office had celebrations to mark 100 years of International Women's Day. Almost 350 staff members joined in this, the theme of which was building a supportive environment for women's empowerment. 10 staff members who have demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing Gender Equity and Diversity within our organization and/or our programs were awarded. There were plays put on by different teams highlighting challenges women face, how women's participation in decision making can be increased and some of the impact of our work in communities. This was a half day event.
3. Each of the sub-offices also celebrated in different ways, by inviting all relevant stakeholders (representatives of line ministries, project partners, project participants, etc) or by having plays and songs.

CARE Bangladesh

Cost of violence against women (COVAW) of CARE-B has staged "Kokila's Demand" a cultural performance in observance of International Women's Day 2011 for challenging current gender norms, behavior and practices that contribute to VAW. This use of Edutainment has provided a special opportunity for village people to access information,

who are otherwise dependent on having information from traditional opinion makers in the community. By by-passing this existing route, this approach has created a particular appeal to shift the patriarchal attitude and to understand gender constructions that favor boys and men over girls and women.

CARE Benin

All activities were identified to align with the EMPOWER Initiative's FY 11 action plan and in cohesion with the Women's Empowerment Program, emphasizing women's and girls' leadership, and the implementation of laws in respect to women's rights. About 2,312 students (1,102 girls and 1,030 boys) attended major in-site events at three secondary schools in the zones of concentration of the EMPOWER Initiative. The children's viewpoints showed that if nothing is done, harmful gender norms will continue on throughout the generations. We also developed and broadcasted messages in 12 community and national radio stations to call for increased responses and preventive actions against GBV (early/forced marriage, sexual violence, domestic violence, and kidnapping). One panel, consisting of experts from support services, survivors, and government and field workers aired on national television.

CARE Ghana

In Ghana and specifically in CARE Ghana's program areas, the Department of Women (DOW) organized events in collaboration with other NGOs:

1. Prior to March 8, radio discussions were held in English and other local languages on the theme 'Equal access to Education, Training and Science and Technology: Pathway to Reproductive Health and Decent Work for Women.'
2. On March 8, the day started with a float around the major streets in towns and cities involving women's groups, youth groups, traditional authorities and other government institutions.
3. Other activities included durbar and drama role play. Additionally, CARE complemented the efforts of DOW, UNFPA, Action Aid and other organization by supporting the production of T-shirts, banners and other financial assistance for the launch activities.

CARE Nepal

1. A one-hour open house was held at the country office to mark the day. Male and female staff interacted and shared their stories and experiences about the importance and need of celebrating this day together.
2. A flyer about the history of International Women's Day along with a message from the CEO of CARE and the 10 myths stories were shared with the staff and posted on the website.
3. At the district level, the day was marked by organizing mass rallies, distribution of BCC materials, and formation of anti-gender based violence forums. A face-to-face interaction program was organized at the national level in Kathmandu where more than 140 CA members and political party leaders participated and gave their commitment to stop child marriage, dowry, and other forms of gender based violence.

4. A video conference between high school students from the US and the beneficiaries and the staff of CARE Nepal was organized with the support from CARE USA and Global Nomads. The two video conferences focused around bonded labor and child marriage.

CARE Niger

1. Assistance to the Regional Directorate of Population, Promotion of Women and Child Protection in the region of Tahoua (Niger center) as follows:
 - Creation of three banners for the day, fuel for vehicles, drinks for the ceremony participants.
 - Participation in the technical organization such as: organizational meeting by the local government, participation of CARE in the march for women, pictures of ceremonies, reception with the Governor of participating women to receive the message of women's advocacy for peaceful elections.
2. Assistance to a women's organization (Mata Masu Dubar Network) in the Matameye department in Eastern Niger to commemorate International Women's Day:
 - Public information on the network and its activities.
 - Restating the origin of IWD and the importance of the subject in 2011.
 - Theatre and songs on the enrollment of the girls in school, female literacy, and the economic and social empowerment of women and girls.
3. Funding for the trip of a representative of Niger to the UN session on IWD.
4. Funding for the publication of the press launch of the report on the state of microcredit in the world (see here the press in a private newspaper in Niger <http://www.tamtaminfo.com/newspapers/dechaine070311.pdf>)
5. CARE Niger closed all its offices to enable its employees to participate in events (walking, conferences, etc.).

CARE Pakistan

1. CARE Multan Regional Office celebrated the 100th International Women's Day at the office premises on March 7, 2011. CARE Sukkur Regional Office also celebrated 100th International Women's Day at the office premises on March 7, 2011.
2. CARE Islamabad Office celebrated the 100th International Women's Day on March 7, 2011. Key features of the program included:
 - All guests were presented with a yellow flower and purple ribbon.
 - Short films/documentaries on CARE's CIIP, SGBV and Flood Emergency Programs were presented.
 - Implementing partners across Pakistan presented their experiences in changing women's lives and society.
 - Speakers on this occasion highlighted the importance of this day and the way forward.
 - An interactive session facilitated by the Senior Advocacy Advisor on "Qualities of an Educated Woman."

- CARE's thematic slogan competition held and prizes distributed among the winners.
- Tea, refreshments and sale of SGBV project handicrafts.

CARE Somali/South Sudan

CARE Somali/South Sudan closely collaborated with the State Ministry of Gender and Social Development, international NGOs, and local partners to commemorate International Women's Day. This year's theme was "Equal Access to Education, Training, Science and Technology: Pathway to Decent Work for Women." CARE recognized the great cultural/traditional challenges faced by women in South Sudan such as girls being denied access to school and forced into child marriage. We gave thanks for the passage of UN 1325 in 2000 which involves women in peacekeeping processes. In Upper Nile Malakal, an event was held in a football stadium with large numbers of women and girls singing songs for human rights, women's empowerment, and freedom in Arabic, English, and local languages. Speeches were made by the Ministry of Gender and Social Development, UN agencies, and representatives of women's associations and community groups. CARE and ARC presented a joint speech.



Women in South Sudan celebrate International Women's Day with CARE.

CARE USA

On March 8-10, 2011, more than 1,000 CARE supporters came together in Washington, D.C., to gain new perspective on the issues facing poor women and girls, families and communities around the world. The gathering marked both the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day and CARE's 65th anniversary.

Attendees spent time recognizing the work of women who have made a difference over the past century, and spoke out on behalf of poor women and girls. Special guests

speakers included Mrs. Laura Bush, Melinda Gates, Helene Gayle, Rajiv Shah, Melanne Verveer, Rep. Kay Granger and others.

On International Women's Day, attendees enjoyed a concert celebration that featured musical guests India.Arie, Michael Franti, Sarah Darling and Crystal Bowersox. The next day, everyone took part in an engaging program that included keynote addresses, educational sessions to discuss issues affecting global poverty and much more. On the last day of the conference, advocates took on Capitol Hill to meet their elected officials and ask them to do their part in helping empower millions of girls and women create positive change in their lives and communities.