

# A LIFE FREE FROM VIOLENCE

## END OF YEAR UPDATE

### LFFV GLOBAL WORKING GROUP

This current LFFV Global Working Group was set up in February 2017. To date, we have almost doubled in size with 20 members on board. It's been an exciting year of moving forward on this Outcome Area for CARE, brainstorming, strategizing and working together!



As we head into the start of the New Year, we asked our global team members to share their thoughts as to why they feel a Life Free From Violence is still an important focus for CARE.

This is what some of them said:

*#MeToo - an individual cry of pain  
Is now a stormy rallying call  
Demanding that we staunch the stain  
That demeans us all  
A hidden, shameful, deadly blight  
That cowers us no more  
We will enjoy our human right  
It's one we can't ignore.*

**Allison Burden,**  
Head of Gender Equality,  
CARE International Secretariat

*Why should CARE prioritize promoting a life free from violence? Because GBV is the most widespread example of gender inequality and systematic denial of rights in the world. Because, if it were one in three men that experienced violence in their lifetimes, there is no way that efforts to prevent and respond to GBV would be as limited and under-resourced as they are. And because we have great learning from humanitarian and development programs around the world that can really add value to the women's movement and others in the fight for equality and justice.*

**Jay Goulden,**  
Knowledge Management & Learning Coordinator,  
CARE International Programs Team.

*We are all concerned. The suffering of one young girl or woman can affect the entire community. A life free from violence for every one is a well-being for the entire community. To protect young girls from violence guarantees the protection of the whole generation.*

**Josée Ntabahungu,**  
GEWEP Team Leader,  
CARE International au Burundi

*CARE's work to promote a life free from violence is important because it brings us closer to a world where all people, particularly women and girls, can participate fully and equally in the world around them and can be comfortable in their own skin - no matter who they are, what they look like or how they identify.*

**Milkah Kihunah,**  
Deputy Director,  
Global Advocacy

*1 in 3 women gets abused in their life time! It's a number we cannot simply ignore. LFFV work is important to break the silence and give voice to the voiceless and powerless.*

**Vindhya Fernando,**  
Head of Advisory Services,  
Chrysalis

*Working on a Life Free From Violence is important for CARE simply because everyone has a right to a life free from violence - violence is created by people - and together we can end violence towards each other.*

**Maria Hyttel,**  
Program Advisor,  
CARE Norway

*A life free from violence - what does that look like to women, men, boys, girls people of all genders and people of all abilities? To know that each one of us no matter where we are born have the right to live free from all the many horrendous and subtle forms of violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, psychological violence - the list so long, a daily violation undermining our humanity. With this life free from violence we can live peacefully, creatively, claiming our rights for self-determination, dance any way we wish, speak our languages, speak truth to power, love who we want to and claim this inalienable, indivisible right.*

**Sue Finucane,**  
Manager, Gender Equality Unit (Senior Gender Advisor, WEE), International Programs, CARE Australia

*A life free from violence is a moment, a murmur, a hash tag, a movement that says that all forms of interpersonal violence diminishes us, undermines our humanity and impoverishes us. It is a universal realization that we - regardless of any and all differences - are all equal; we all love, we all bleed, we all hope, we all dream and we all want to feel is safe, valued, loved, happy and fulfilled.*

**Siobhán Foran,**  
Gender in Emergencies Coordinator (Operations), CARE International

*Because this is an open door for a new planet, where men, women girls and boy can interact, love each other, move freely, having choice, share opinion, get opportunity and respect, not because they are men, women, girl or boy but just because they are human beings.*

**Générose Nzeyimana,**  
Advocacy Coordinator,  
CARE Great Lakes Region

*Women will not be safe until a new social conscience takes hold, one which will make the mere expression of condescending attitudes towards women, let alone any form of physical violence, a cause for deep shame.*

**Isadora Quay,**  
Gender in Emergencies Coordinator (PQ),  
CARE International

*CARE should be working on LFFV simply because we must, and because we can. GBV is a fundamental rights abuse, heightening a range of other rights abuses, and acting as a major constraint on women and girls' empowerment, poverty reduction and equity. We can bring our experience to new relationships and ways of working to contribute to change.*

**Cathy Emery,**  
Deputy Regional Director,  
Program Quality - Asia, CARE ARMU

*I believe that working on a life free from violence is important because it remains an often hidden and stigmatized subject for both men and women who suffer from it. Our experience of different forms of violence from childhood and adolescence greatly shapes our attitudes, behaviours and experiences of adulthood. Unless we address this issue, our ambition of gender transformative change results in all other domains (such as economic empowerment, education, food security or humanitarian response) will not be realised. I truly hope that we can deeply understand and mitigate the risk of the GBV that not only girls face, but also what boys suffer.*

**Ayesha Salma,**  
Country Director,  
CARE International in Pakistan

*Working on Life Free From Violence is very important because today people are becoming more and more violent around the world. Also, governments have no respect for international agreements signed, and violence at the community level continues with impunity for perpetrators. Existing social norms are so rigid, that if don't do anything to change them, our situation will only be worse by 2020. We must continue to give voice to those who do not have a voice and continue to advocate and strengthen civil society actors to fight for the rights of people, especially for women, girls and children.*

**Rose Vive Lobo,**  
Coordinator, North Kivu Project (Mawe Tatu),  
CARE DRC

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK THIS YEAR

### COST OF VIOLENCE REPORT

CARE will soon have a report on the cost and scale of violence against women around the world, which looks specifically at the economic cost of violence against women. This report will draw from the three costing studies conducted by CARE - in Bangladesh in 2011, in Zambia in 2014 and 2017, and in Cambodia in 2017. The report synthesizes CARE's own learnings on conducting Cost of Violence studies and will illustrate lessons learned during in-country advocacy. This report will also highlight key global findings from other studies and provide some key asks from government, donors, and the private sector.

The report is an urgent call to action specifically targeting donors, governments and the private sector, to invest in and ensure the prevention of violence against women. This report will be launched in early 2018.

### LFFV THEORY OF CHANGE

In May 2016, when many of the LFFV Working Group members met in Cambodia, on the sidelines of the CIGN meeting, we decided that it was important to have a Theory of Change for this outcome area so as to align more strongly with the CARE Prevention of GBV Strategy. The Theory of Change has undergone 3 rounds of feedback with valuable input from each member of the LFFV Team, and is currently in the process of being finalized.

### NEXT STEPS FOR LFFV OUTCOME AREA

In order to focus all our energies and the limited resources available, this outcome area is currently strategizing around a niche area as we work towards CARE's 2020 goals. Watch this space for more details!