

## The 16 Days Campaign against Gendered Violence 2010 (Nov-Dec) Best practices & recommendations

This report brings a summary on some of the activities and best practices of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV that was held from November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup> 2010. It aims at understanding the challenges and achievements in addressing GBV at CARE Country Office level. In addition to the many activities organised at Country level, CARE International launched a communication campaign giving expression to 16 stories on different forms of violence against women and girls worldwide (at: <http://gender.care2share.wikispaces.net>).

For **CARE BENIN**, this year's campaign proved to be an essential momentum to encourage and mobilize Beninese people and authorities around a proposed new law to prevent and combat GBV. In order to build support around the voting, CARE Benin and partners organised numerous activities.

- Theatre projects focused on the medical, physiological and socio-economic consequences of GBV and the importance of the new law.
- Two documentaries dealing with the issue of violence against women were broadcasted multiple times on the national television.
- A debate with different stakeholders and experts on the urgency of the new national law on GBV was held on national television.
- A variation of 4 different radio spots on combating violence against women and the proposed new law were broadcasted daily during the 16 days.



For more information on the activities in Benin, please contact Jeronime S. Mongbo at [Jeronime.Mongbo@co.care.org](mailto:Jeronime.Mongbo@co.care.org)

**CARE BURUNDI's** theme of this year, '*Mobilisation for effectively enforcing legal, institutional and community response to combat GBV*', aimed at training local elected administrators to effectively implement a revised Penal Code relating to GBV. Almost all of the 700 invited guests attended the 2-days training, which demonstrates its great success. Unfortunately only one-third of the attendees were women while the event aimed to have a female majority. This particular participation rate shows that within Burundi's national legal institution, women are still insufficiently represented. Additionally, CARE held an advocacy event for national parliamentarians on impunity around GBV and adoption of a specific law related to criminalizing GBV. Important lessons drawn from the activities are:

- Need for adequate and sufficient training on the national legal and criminal codes and procedures for elected officials to improve understanding and ownership.
- Increase means for elected officials to attend trainings (as high fees hamper participation).
- Translating national legal and criminal codes into Kirundi.

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**CARE KENYA** opened the campaign with a successful national launch (co-organised with UNIFEM) titled *'Break the Silence, End the Violence'*. At this launch, the Kenyan government - through the Ministry of Gender – showed its interest to coordinate GBV prevention and



response activities. Members of parliament attended the event and expressed their support in advocating for laws that will eradicate GBV, which raised awareness in communities that the government advocates for women's rights and is opposed to GBV. CARE Kenya additionally held various events informing different groups of people on domestic violence, violence against children, children rights, women rights, AIDS and overcoming stigma, and held a lively forum on the relation between economic empowerment and domestic violence and on domestic violence for

older men and women. CARE Kenya noted the following recommendations:

- Need to include men in prevention and response activities as the patriarchal nature of many communities contributes to GBV.
- Need to build the capacity of communities in taking up leadership with organising and continuing campaigns like 16 Days.
- Need for more vigilant Kenyan law enforcers when it comes to GBV cases.
- Hospitals should be more involved in effective handling GBV cases.
- Need for a more interagency approach and bringing on board different stakeholders.

*For more information on the activities in Kenya, please contact Emma Kantai at [emma@care.or.ke](mailto:emma@care.or.ke)*

**CARE NEPAL** teamed up with other local organization and networks to organize an interactive program on the implementation status of the Domestic Violence Act 2009 and the Government Plan of Action of GBV for 2010. The program had three major components:

- A Court Drama sensitized participants about the challenges encountered by women in seeking justice. Participants could express their views and were part of the interaction
- Public Hearing/Workshop in which survivors of domestic violence shared their experiences to make the State, government agencies, and civil society more aware, accountable and responsive in implementing existing laws and policies related to GBV.
- Presentation by National Women Commission focusing on the implementation status of GBV action plan 2010.

*For more information on the activities in Nepal, please contact Claudia Chang at [claudia@np.care.org](mailto:claudia@np.care.org)*

**CARE RWANDA** kicked off the 16 days Campaign with a national launch, located in an area with a high prevalence of GBV. The ceremony was attended by governmental figures, members of parliament, women organizations and roughly 2,000 community members. A highlight was the sharing of experiences of 'positive behavior change' by 2 couples who received counseling to stop domestic violence within their families. During the campaign, more than 100 public meetings (reaching 25,000 people) were organized country-wide and informed Rwandese on different types of GBV and the corresponding national legal instruments and security organs responsible for



combating it. In addition, a frequently broadcasted radio spot focused on how governmental institutions and security organs can work together with communities in the fight GBV. One radio station recorded and played the testimonies of men who had become advocates for ending domestic violence. *For more information on the activities in Rwanda, please contact Suman Bisht at [sumanb.rw@co.care.org](mailto:sumanb.rw@co.care.org)*

**CARE SRI LANKA's** campaign focused on ending sexual harassment in public transport,



relating to a study highlighting the intensity and prevalence of sexual harassment on popular and busy transport lines in the country. Many stickers and posters against sexual harassment were pasted inside buses, on bus stops and in other public (transport) places. The stickers aimed at creating behavioral change among sexual offenders and encouraging the population to report sexual harassment and not to remain silent. The stickers carry important

telephone numbers for reporting an incident of harassment at the police, or helpline numbers for victims in need of legal assistance and psychosocial counseling. The campaign focused on engaging officers from police stations and legal institutions, bus conductors and bus drivers, in order to address the problem more effectively and to build a successful reporting link. The initiative was supported by a media campaign on TV and in radio talk shows, to end sexual harassment in public bus transport. *For more information on the activities in Sri Lanka, please contact Velusamy Weerasingham at [vweerasingham@co.care.org](mailto:vweerasingham@co.care.org)*

**CARE UGANDA's** campaigning title for this year was '*Gender Based Violence and Institutional Response: What is your role?*' During awareness-raising marches, selected guest speakers from various institutions addressed community members on the roles and responsibilities of their institutions in preventing and responding to GBV. Key institutions present were the local government, cultural institutions, health service providing institutions, the police and civil society organizations.

- During several sub-county events, music and drama groups performed songs and dramas with messages calling upon community members to stop perpetrating SGBV and stigmatizing GBV survivors and support them to reintegrate into community as productive citizens.
- In addition, community members identified four men in their community who live exemplary lives by treating their wives with respect and dignity and have 'violence-free' families. The identified men gave their testimonies after which community members voted to choose the most exemplary role models.
- CARE Uganda also aired three radio talk shows highlighting how UNSCR 1325 and 1820 can be invoked to protect the ordinary woman and girl from GBV and promote their



participation in decision making and peace building. The talk shows featured CARE staff, partner organization staffs, and the district gender officer in the respective districts. *For more information on the activities in Uganda, please contact Rose Amulen at [Amulen@careuganda.org](mailto:Amulen@careuganda.org)*

**CARE ZIMBABWE** focused predominantly on awareness raising and training on GBV for CARE staff in all the district offices. Apart from a digital quiz on the 16 days campaign, staff in three main CARE offices was given the opportunity to sign a collectively chosen poster with the quote '*Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent*'. With displaying the poster, CARE Zimbabwe staff said NO to violence against women and YES to women's empowerment. The posters generated a debate amongst staff members as some perceived that the indirect message being sent out through the posters is that 'violence against men is okay'. For future campaigns, the team in Zimbabwe recommends to create incentives for staff to participate in GBV-training and awareness raising events. It also rightly pointed out that there are many good video productions existing on GBV/women's empowerment and requested whether this can be made available to country offices. CI is exploring the possibilities to provide visual material for future GBV campaigns. *For more information on the activities in Zimbabwe, please contact Nyasha Mutongwizo at [NyashaMu@carezimbabwe.org](mailto:NyashaMu@carezimbabwe.org)*