



The Role of Family Planning in Improving the Health of Women and Girls

Ben Schwartz
Director, Health Unit
CARE

July 31, 2013





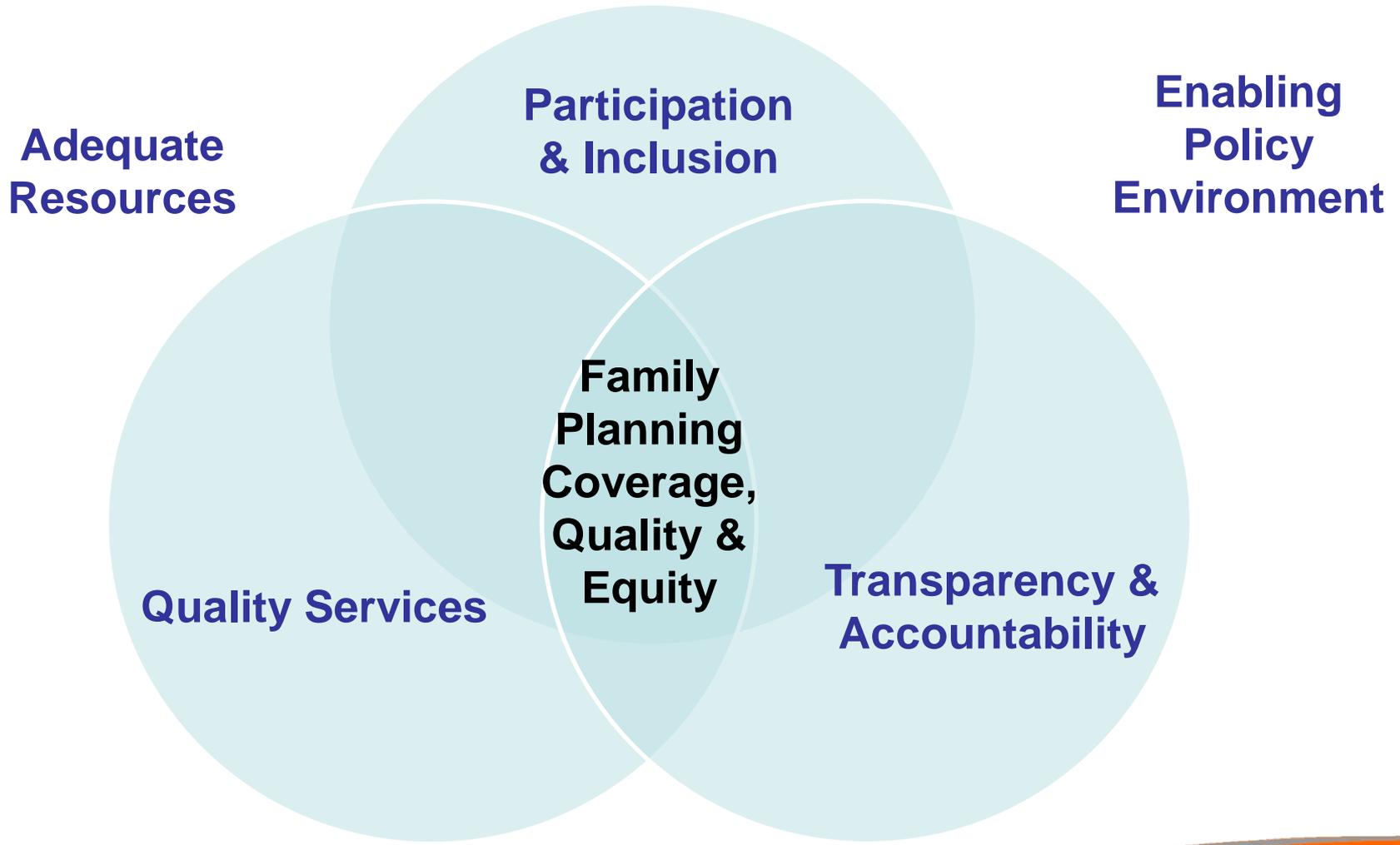
Sexual, reproductive and maternal health (SRMH) programming is critical to improve survival and well-being, while also reducing poverty and increasing social justice



CARE's Approach to SRMH

- Rights-based framing
- Across the humanitarian response – development continuum
- Focus on overcoming barriers to service utilization and health system quality
- Integrate technical and cross-cutting strategies
- Rigorous documentation of impacts for global learning and advocacy

Achieving Rights and Results



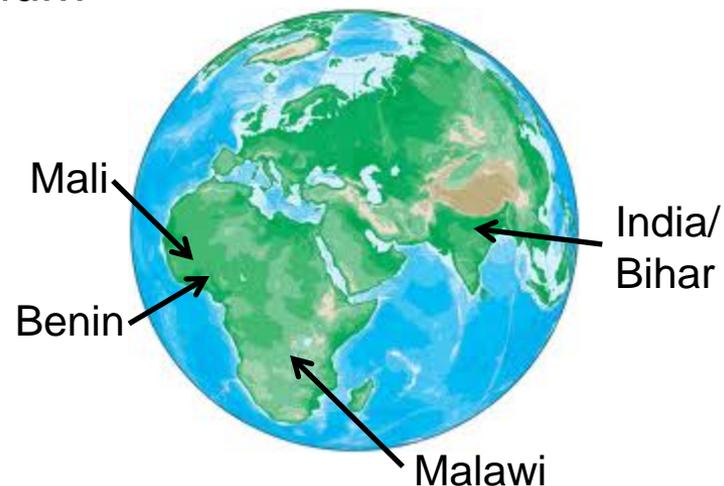
SRH in Conflict and Emergency Settings

- In 2011, 61 m people affected by humanitarian crises
- UNFPA estimates over 25% of maternal deaths in refugee settings from unsafe abortion
- CARE's Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post Abortion Care (SAF-PAC) initiative
 - Work with government and local partners
 - Focus on long acting, reversible FP methods
 - Service delivery & social and behavior change strategies

Country	MMR	CPR	% LA methods in new acceptors	% FP post-abortion
Chad	1,200	1.6%	74%	45%
DRC	670	5.4%	77%	64%
Pakistan	280	21.7%	33%	59%

Integration of Maternal Health and Family Planning

- CARE maternal health programs often integrate FP
 - Service strengthening at government facilities in MH & FP
 - Intervention across the RMNCH continuum
- Programs also include cross-cutting strategies to increase impact
 - Bihar – integrated program including multiple innovations
 - Mali – women’s empowerment and gender equity
 - Malawi – participatory governance
 - Benin – ICT



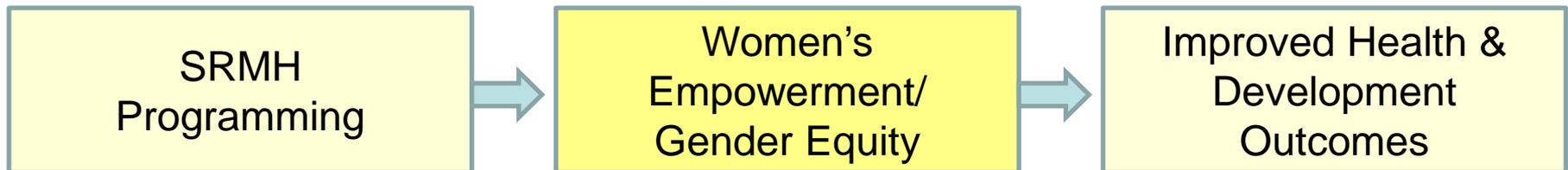
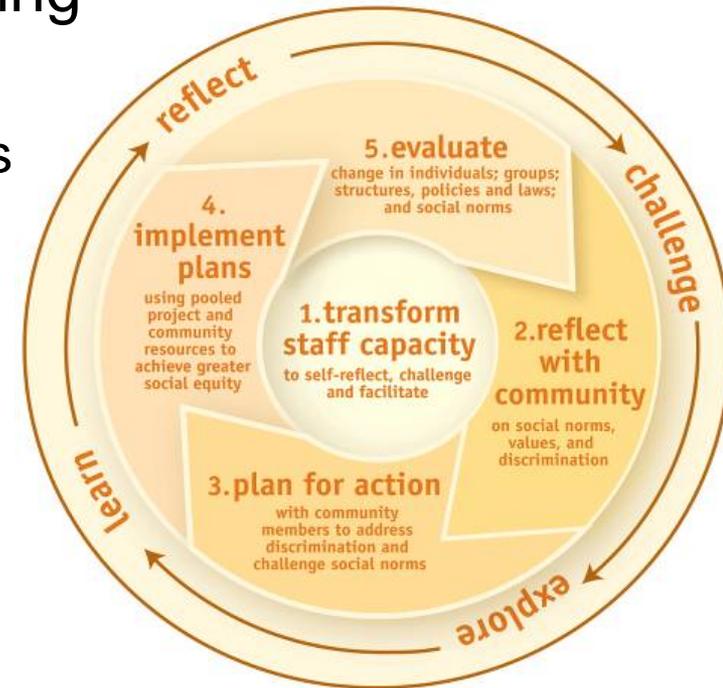
Integrated Family Health Initiative, Bihar, India

- Capacity building
 - Mobile training teams and skill labs
 - Mobile phone job aids: scheduler/reminders, algorithms, counseling messages and videos
- Team building and integration
 - Sub-center level meetings of frontline workers
- Monitoring, quality improvement & data-driven management
 - Periodic assessments – observation of deliveries; LQAS
 - Quality improvement
- Public-private partnership
 - FP network and mobile vans for IUD and training of nurse midwives



Gender Equity & Women's Empowerment

- “Beginning-to-end” gender programming
 - Gender Analysis – identify gender inequalities and social & structural causes
 - Social Analysis and Action – approaches and tools to surface, question and transform gender & social norms
 - Women's empowerment measurement tool – survey of empowerment across its multiple dimensions (WE-MEASR)



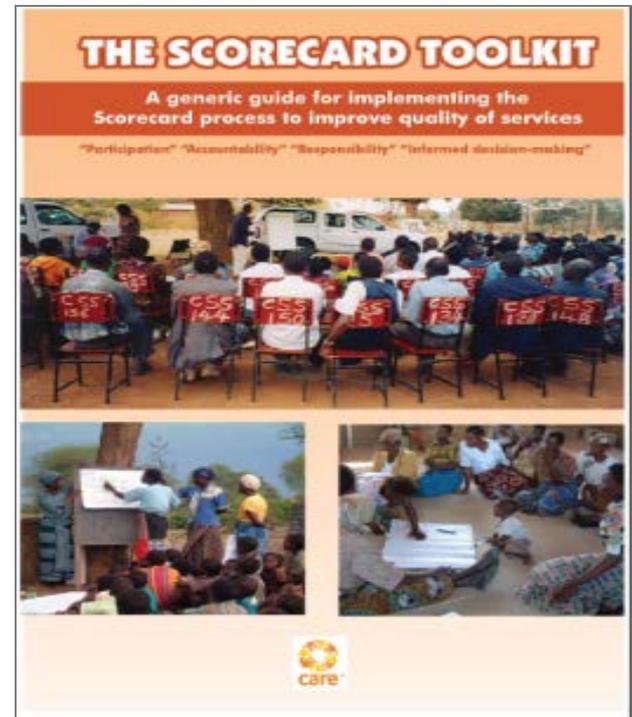


Family Planning “Results Initiative” Kenya & Ethiopia

- 4 yr program to assess impacts of empowerment & increased gender equity on FP uptake
- Evaluation in baseline & endline surveys of women and men
- Key preliminary results
 - Significant increase in current FP use reported by women (Kenya, 32% to 51%; Ethiopia, 32 to 61%)
 - Exposure to program activities significantly associated with FP use
 - Program exposure in Kenya and FP use also associated with belief in women’s right to refuse sex ($p < .01$); self-efficacy to use FP ($p < .01$); and equitable participation in household decision-making ($p < .01$)

Participatory Governance for Social Accountability

- Inclusive and expanded spaces for dialogue and negotiation engaging communities, healthcare providers and local government
- Emphasize mutual responsibility and accountability
- Community Score Card (CSC) approach being evaluated in a Malawi cluster randomized trial





Summary of Strategies for Achieving Impact

- Work with **communities** to overcome barriers (including unequal social and gender norms) to the timely use of health services and improve healthy behaviors
- Work with **health systems** to strengthen the continuum of services from the community to facility level; facilitate ongoing quality improvement; and enhance acceptability and responsiveness to community needs
- Build **participatory governance** for shared oversight, responsibility and accountability