“Now we feel comfortable to talk about sex and family planning. We can even give testimony about our own use of family planning.”
– CARE Staff

“Before people had too many children and they could not care for them. Now, fewer children means we have more resources for each child.”
– Community Support Group Member

The Social Change for Family Planning Results Initiative is funded by the Reproductive Health Trust Fund (RHTF). The RHTF is a cooperative agreement supported by investments from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and CARE private donors. The RHTF was designed to build institutional capacity in sexual and reproductive health within CARE.
IMPROVING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, AND SPECIFICALLY, ADDRESSING THE UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING AND RESULTING HIGH RATES OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCY, IS CENTRAL TO CARE’S COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUITY AND REDUCTION OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE.

“We used to think that we men had the right to have sex when we wanted. Now we know it is between two people to agree and you have to prepare.”

– Male Village Savings and Loan Member

RESULTS INITIATIVE: AN OVERVIEW

The goal of the Social Change for Family Planning Results Initiative (RI) is to increase and sustain Family Planning (FP) access and use through a combination of health system strengthening and strategies to address the social factors that influence health. The RI’s intermediate results include:

- Improved FP and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) knowledge and demand for services
- Improved access to and quality of FP/SRH services
- Improved gender equitable attitudes, behaviors, practices in the household and community
- Enhanced community capacity to address social norms
- Enhanced community capacity to take collective action

The Results Initiative is being implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda. Their experiences and lessons are being shared across CARE’s sexual and reproductive health programs.

MEASURING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Family planning results will be measured by indicators such as Contraceptive Prevalence Rates (CPR) and strengthened health service delivery. We will also measure changes in other influencing factors such as:

- Social and cultural norms that have an influence on family planning use and access
- Factors such as governance, religious beliefs, power balance and politics that also influence family planning use
- The role of the community and community structures in supporting access and use of family planning
- Staff transformation in terms of our own beliefs and assumptions about gender roles and family planning.

Together these projects provide a package of interventions that are innovative, practical, sustainable, and contextually appropriate. The strategies implemented to date have built local capacity, mobilized communities and support groups, and have created safe spaces to reflect, dialogue, and address the structural and social factors that influence health outcomes.