Breaking Barriers to the Health and Rights of Women and Girls

Center for Health and Gender Equity Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2015: July 2014 to June 2015
Letter from the President

For 20 years, CHANGE has stood with women and girls to advance their health and rights by breaking political barriers to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, family planning, respectful maternal health care, and access to abortion for women and girls raped in conflict.

During our 2015 fiscal year, CHANGE celebrated our 20th anniversary; we looked back over two decades of success and celebrated our accomplishments as a woman’s rights organization dedicated to breaking barriers to the health and human rights of women and girls.

• Our advocacy has resulted in the elimination of the abstinence-only earmark in U.S. global AIDS funding, the adoption of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention in U.S.-funded programs and the launch of the DREAMS Partnership, a $500 million commitment from the U.S. to reduce new HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls in sub-Saharan Africa.

• Our convenings have supported advocates in other countries to have a greater voice in U.S. policy and decision making that impacts their health and rights, hosting advocates from all over the world in Washington, D.C., including from Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Mali, Colombia, Ethiopia, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Guatemala, and Cambodia.


As president, I am proud of CHANGE’s legacy of fighting for the health and human rights of women and girls globally. At CHANGE, we know that our movement is stronger when we work together. It is an honor to work with dynamic, leading women and men from around the world and we are deeply grateful to our funders and supporters who make this work possible.

Serra Sippel
President, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Break Barriers

On a cold and rainy December day in 2014, CHANGE and nearly 100 human rights, women’s rights, faith-based, youth organizations, and advocates rallied in front of the White House calling on President Obama to stand with women and girls raped in conflict. CHANGE hosted advocates from the global south to speak at the rally including Viviana Bohórquez Monsalve, from La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres in Colombia and Bafana Khumalo, from Sonke Gender Justice in South Africa. Viviana and Bafana urged the President to take executive action on the Helms Amendment and break barriers to post-rape care, including access to safe abortions.

In June 2015, at St. John’s Church across from the White House, CHANGE and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice hosted a faith leaders’ summit to stand with women and girls raped in conflict. Members of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities, and other human rights advocates, spoke out in support of access to safe abortion services as part of post-rape care. The faith leaders also delivered a resolution to the White House urging the president to allow U.S. support for abortion access overseas like in the cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment.

During the summit, Kenyan survivor-advocate and CHANGE partner, Jaqueline Mutere, founder of Grace-Agenda, shared her powerful story about being raped during the outbreak of violence following the 2007 elections in Kenya and how she tried unsuccessfully to access a safe abortion. Jacqueline said, “access to safe abortion is as critical as the peace process in conflict resolution.” In an editorial, The Washington Post called on President Obama to heed our message and break barriers to safe abortion care for women and girls around the world. It’s time for President Obama to stand with women and girls.
CHANGE’s 20th Anniversary Party at the New Zealand Embassy


Below: (From L to R) Serra Sippel, President of CHANGE; Frances Kissling, Visiting Scholar at the Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania; Jon S. Bouker, Partner and Co-Manager of Government Relations Department at Arent Fox LLP.

Below: (From L to R) Serra Sippel, President of CHANGE; Musimbi Kanyoro, President and CEO of The Global Fund for Women.
CHANGE’s 20th Anniversary Party at the New Zealand Embassy

Below: Serra Sippel, President of CHANGE welcomes guests.

Right: CHANGE’s Board members Vignetta Charles, Chief Science Officer at ETR; and Aziza Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Law at Northeastern University School of Law.

Below: (From L to R) Pedro Alfonso, Chairman and CEO at Dynamic Concepts, Inc.; Kim Alfonso, Chief Operating Officer at Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind; Princess McDuffie, Community Supervision Officer, Commission for Women; Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie; and Hyesook Chung, Executive Director at DC Action for Children.

Right: (From L to R) Maria Tildon, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Community Affairs at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield with Beirne Roose-Snyder, Director of Public Policy at CHANGE.
The Right to Safe Motherhood

Women’s rights advocates from around the world are speaking out in support of rights-based maternal health care. On April 11, more than 1800 organizations and individuals from 62 countries celebrated the International Day for Maternal Health and Rights through social media engagement, a blog carnival, and panel discussions. *The Lancet* issued an editorial on the need for global support for rights-based maternal health care, supporting CHANGE’s call for an International Day for Maternal Health and Rights.

In the week leading up to the Day, CHANGE hosted a panel — in partnership with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Pathfinder International, the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, and the Maternal Health Task Force — at the Pew Charitable Trusts to discuss the right to respectful maternity care and safe, comprehensive maternal health care. The panel convened experts and advocates who brought personal, local, and global perspectives on maternal health and rights. Panelist Dr. Yetnayet Asfaw of EngenderHealth said, “as a mother myself, a mother of four, as a woman, as a healthcare professional, I cannot afford not to be hopeful.”

We are excited to continue working with advocates, organizations, and policymakers to ensure that women are at the center of maternal health and rights.

Photo: Panelists discuss maternal health and rights in the U.S. and abroad. (From L to R) Beirne Roose-Snyder, Director of Public Policy, CHANGE; Shamika Withers, Peer Advocate, The Women’s Collective; Anne Robinson, Senior Legislative Counsel, Office of D.C. Councilmember David Grosso; and, Dr. Yetnayet Asfaw, Vice President of Strategy and Impact, EngenderHealth
Women and Prevention

We cannot achieve an AIDS-free generation without women. That is why in June 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya, CHANGE and AVAC convened a meeting of 24 women advocates from across sub-Saharan Africa to create a prevention agenda by and for women and girls. The group included advocates working at the intersections of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV, gender-based violence, sex worker rights, youth sexual health and rights, maternal health, and abortion access.

While family planning, STI, HIV, and maternal health funding and service delivery are often disconnected, preventing unwanted pregnancy and HIV transmission are inextricably linked in the lived experiences of women and girls.

The Nairobi collective of advocates agreed that the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls cannot be fully realized until there is global, regional, and national-level commitment to the delivery of integrated health care services. Together, they crafted a vision of integrated, rights-based SRHR. A vision, for example, of a world where a woman can walk into one clinic and have her health needs met free from discrimination, financial barriers, and bureaucratic inefficiencies no matter who she is or where she lives.

This collective vision will serve as a roadmap for continued collaboration to advance a woman-centered prevention agenda and coordinated advocacy.

Photo: Participants at the Nairobi meeting
Look Ahead

Can you imagine a world that respects, protects, and honors sexual and reproductive rights for all? We can. As a women’s rights organization, CHANGE is committed to advancing gender equality by advocating for the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls globally. From ensuring access to post-rape care for women and girls raped in conflict, to advancing the maternal health and rights of women, to promoting HIV prevention for adolescent girls and young women, in the coming year CHANGE will continue to break barriers to women’s health and rights. We will do this by working with fearless women advocates from across the Global South to lift up their voices and ensure that policies crafted in the U.S. reflect their lived experiences at home. The movement to advance women’s rights is stronger when we all work together and put women and girls at the center of our global health policies.

Abortion Access: Access to safe abortion is a human right. CHANGE will fight back against U.S. restrictions that endanger the rights of women and girls worldwide. We will continue to lead the call on President Obama to break barriers to comprehensive post-rape care, including, access to safe abortion services, for survivors of sexual violence in conflict. We will also work to end the stigma around abortion so that every woman has access to safe abortion services.

Maternal Health: Every woman has the right to safe motherhood. CHANGE is dedicated to advancing maternal health that is rooted not just in preventing death and injury but in the fundamental value of women’s lives. CHANGE will continue to raise awareness about the need to provide rights-based, respectful care for women before, during, and after pregnancy and childbirth. CHANGE will also work with advocates, researchers, and providers to see April 11th celebrated and recognized as International Day for Maternal Health and Rights.

Women-Centered HIV Prevention and Treatment: Addressing the health of women and girls – including those living with HIV – is a priority for the global health community. However, without the voices and partnerships of women and girls, there can be no AIDS-free generation. CHANGE will advocate for women-centered policies that reflect the needs of women and girls, everywhere. CHANGE will work to guarantee that global HIV programming focuses on adolescent girls and young women.

Strategic Plan: In FY16, CHANGE will launch our new strategic plan that will embolden us in our continued work to advance SRHR and gender equality. CHANGE’s new strategic plan provides a roadmap for advancing the health and rights of women and girls through our advocacy, research, communications, and our ability to connect organizations, advocates, and policymakers from around the world. The strategic plan will shape and guide CHANGE’s work so that the health and rights of all women and girls are respected, protected, and honored, so that they can live the lives they want and build communities that are safe, just, and thriving.
**Activities Statement**  
Year ending June 30, 2015

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<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>618,491</td>
<td>813,162</td>
<td>1,431,653</td>
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<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>9,381</td>
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<td>Unrealized Gain on Investments</td>
<td>(5,478)</td>
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<td><strong>622,394</strong></td>
<td><strong>813,162</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,435,556</strong></td>
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Net assets released from:
- Satisfaction of program restrictions  
  |                | 762,000      | (762,000)              | -        |

**Total Revenue**  
- 1,384,394  
- 51,162  
- 1,435,556

**EXPENSES**

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<td>General and Administrative</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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**Total Expenses**  
- 1,331,212

**Change in Net Assets**  
- 53,182  
- 51,162  
- 104,344

**Beginning Net Assets**  
- 640,652  
- 840,000  
- 1,480,652

**Ending Net Assets**  
- 693,834  
- 891,162  
- 1,584,996

*Audited financial statement from Fisher & Lopez, PLLC.*
### Financial Position  June 30, 2015

#### ASSETS

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<th>Current Assets</th>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<table>
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<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
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<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<th>Other Assets</th>
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<td>Deposit</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
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| **Total Assets**                    | 1,624,489 |

#### LIABILITIES

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<th>Current Liabilities</th>
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<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Net Assets</strong></th>
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<td>Unrestricted - Board Designated</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,584,996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | 1,624,489 |

*Audited financial statement from Fisher & Lopez, PLLC.*

### Institutional Donors

- Anonymous (2)
- Arent Fox (Pro Bono)
- Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
- Compton Foundation
- Even the Score
- Female Health Company
- Ford Foundation
- MAC AIDS Fund
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
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