
May was a great month for showcasing the centrality of women to every single goal on the international agenda for development and poverty eradication. Dare I call it a watershed moment? It depends on what happens next.

The third Women Deliver conference—a global call for action to improve the health and well-being of girls and women—closed on the day that the UN’s High-Level Panel on post-2015 development objectives issued its recommendations. Both groups declared that poverty cannot be eradicated until no one, especially girls and women, is left behind.

The message: we must all get out of the “silos” that have each of us working against one problem in the development world while ignoring the rest. We must instead recognize that just as our targets are interlinked – HIV/AIDS, family planning, maternal mortality, violence against women, child marriage – so must our work – and our spending – be comprehensive as well.

Continue reading on Huffington Post

Serra Sippel
President, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Mandy Moore Joins CHANGE and Population Services International at Women Deliver

Actor, singer-songwriter, and Population Services International (PSI) Ambassador Mandy Moore joined CHANGE and PSI at Women Deliver for “Delivering Health and Rights for Women and Girls through Integrated Health Care.” Our session focused on the need to address the inherent connectedness of sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health. “Bringing these services together in smart ways can save lives, and in doing so, open up doors to economic growth in economies where women work and live,” Ms. Moore said.

See pictures of Mandy Moore and CHANGE at Women Deliver on our Facebook page.

Woman-Centered Maternity Care, Family Planning, and HIV: Principles for Rights-Based Integration

Join CHANGE and the Woodrow Wilson Center Global Health Initiative and Environmental Change and Security Program this Tuesday, June 11, from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm for a panel discussion:
Woman-Centered Maternity Care, Family Planning, and HIV: Principles for Rights-Based Integration

Increasingly, family planning and HIV programs are seeking to expand their services to include maternal health care. The movement to integrate health services provides an important opportunity to share lessons learned across the different communities on their experiences with rights-based care. Join us for a discussion with experts in rights-based maternity care and its intersection with family planning and HIV. Dr. Philippa Momah, board member of White Ribbon Alliance Nigeria, and Wuletta Betemariam, project director of the Last Ten Kilometers Project in Ethiopia will give their perspectives on best practices in advancing women’s health and rights.

Woodrow Wilson Center at the Ronald Reagan Building, 5th Floor Conference Room, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

For more information or to RSVP, click here.

Delivering America’s Promise to Women Who Are Raped in War and Conflict

Up until now, U.S. politics have blocked full attention to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls who are raped during war and conflict by denying them access to abortion services. However, the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, an executive order released by President Obama in 2011, is a hopeful sign that this may change. The Plan calls for provision of and access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services that women raped need and deserve. It is reasonable to expect that such services must include safe abortion. This could be a game-changer for women worldwide if policy makers have the political courage and will to ensure it is fully implemented. Read more
CHANGE 5th Annual Healthy Future Action Summit

In May, CHANGE hosted 15 grassroots advocates from Ohio, Texas, and Tennessee for our fifth annual Healthy Future Action Summit. The two-day training covered the framework of global health and U.S. foreign assistance, key global health policies, and the basics of meeting with legislators. It culminated with a day spent advocating for global sexual and reproductive rights on Capitol Hill, during which the advocates gained promises of support from multiple representatives on issues such as Rep. Barbara Lee’s (D-CA) We Can End AIDS Act; and the president's budget request for family planning, maternal health, and HIV. After the two-day training, we got feedback from participants that demonstrated we had an impact:

“I really do have a voice. It also solidified my desire to work in this field...it was some much needed inspiration!!”

“I learned how significant these issues are, and even more so how to go about making a difference.”

See pictures from this year Healthy Future Action Summit on our Facebook page.