Tipping Point Roundup April/May 2016

STAFF UPDATES

Bangladesh: Rawnak Jahan has joined CARE Bangladesh Tipping Point team as the Technical Coordinator for Advocacy and Communications and Sree Arup Ratan Das has joined as the M&E Officer in JASHIS Tipping Point team.

For an updated list of Tipping Point team members and contact information click here.

TIPPING POINT NEWS

Tipping Point Annual Reflection Meetings - Looking Back to Plan Forward

Teams in Bangladesh and Nepal hosted 3-day meetings in each country reflecting on the past year to inform the coming year. Some key parts of the meetings in both countries included:

- Revisiting the Tipping Point core commitments and learning about the highlights of the work of all three teams across Nepal, Bangladesh, and USA
- Reviewing the overall strategies and the linkage to core outcomes of the project
- Applying a social norms lens to the strategies and reflecting on effort vs. potential impact on community level norms
- Reflecting on the changes we are seeing thus far and those we are not and linking to challenges and gaps in our programming strategies
- Looking forward and identifying priorities and needed changes in programming approaches to address the gaps and to strengthen what appears to be working

Highlights from Bangladesh meeting [April 18-20]:
Approximately 40 participants including CARE and partner staff, field facilitators, community volunteers, and center facilitators were part of the meeting in Savaar. Three colleagues from CARE Nepal also joined along with two from CARE USA. The team was thankful to have Arshad Muhammad, Assistant Country Director for CARE Bangladesh join for the first day, and Fawzia Khondker (gender specialist consultant with rich experience in gender and GBV work, and long time women's rights activist in Bangladesh) as the meeting facilitator.

What seems to be working well: work with girls at the fun centers, the organizing of football practice and tournaments with girls, working closely with parents and community members to get support and buy-in for girls' participation in project activities, school re-enrollment efforts, and attempts to connect girls to IGA activities through government programs.
Areas for further adjustments and revisiting informing Year 3 work planning: working with men and boys, addressing issues of sexuality, continuing to move away from punitive approaches/actions taken by EVAW forums or NNPCs, connecting the local to the national, moving from individual actions to collective action, facilitating self initiated outward facing positive messaging and actions.

Highlights from Nepal meeting [April 25-27]: Approximately 60 participants attended the meeting in Pokhara. Amidst the participants were CARE Nepal staff, CARE USA staff, CARE Bangladesh staff, full teams from the partner organizations SSS and DSDC, and representative group facilitators. The meeting was also fortunate to have representative community members (adolescent boys, girls, parent, religious leader, and VCPC member) who shared critical reflection and insight on the projects programming and perceived successes and gaps. The team was also thankful to have Lora Wuennenberg, Country Director, and Popular Gentle, Assistant Country Director, from CARE Nepal and to hear their very insightful and inspirational inputs. Additionally the meeting was facilitated by Binod Upadhyaya, whose deep experience with participatory facilitation and working with adolescents was also a welcome addition to the meeting.

What seems to be working well: the work with adolescent boys and girls in the groups, school re-enrolment, the street drama, the cooking competition with boys, the work with religious leaders, connecting adolescents to get budget from the VDC, and working with mothers to build support for girls and boys to attend project activities, connecting the local voices to the district and national spaces.

Areas for further adjustments and revisiting informing Year 3 work planning: working with fathers, addressing issues of sexuality, continuing to move away from punitive approaches/actions, NNPCs, connecting the local to the national, moving from individual actions to collective action, facilitating self initiated outward facing positive messaging and actions, and the scholarship program for girls.
The CARE National Conference 2016 was held from May 2 – 4. There was a panel on Tipping Point - Digging up the Roots of Child Marriage to Replant the Future – here are some details:

- Nidal Karim, Director of Tipping Point Project spoke about CARE’s Tipping Point program. She described the program’s unique design and the evidence obtained from recent research on what leads communities in these countries to push adolescent girls towards marriage.

- Meg Greene, Greenetworks, Inc. gave an overview of what the research community knows about child marriage – where it is most prevalent, what are its key drivers, and the sub-themes we should be examining further (e.g., dowry, sexuality, etc.).

- Mehret Mandefro, producer of the groundbreaking documentary Difret, showed a powerful clip and then discussed the role of the media in raising awareness of child marriage. The movie is about the consequences of forced marriage through the perspective of a young girl and examines the dynamics of child marriage in Ethiopia. (More about the Movie: here)

RESOURCES & NEWS

CARE Nepal’s Documentary Video on Tipping Point:
Check out the phenomenal video on Tipping Points work in Nepal at the following link. (here)

In the Media: The article titled Deprived of a Childhood written by Ayushma Basnyat was posted at Republica (April 1, 2016) You can find the article here

Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality Series: Man in the Mirror—reflections on men and boys. You can find the brief document here.

The New York Times Opinion section published a powerful photo essay and a video clip. Photojournalist Stephanie Sinclair focuses on the problem of child marriage in Nepal. Child marriage often rises after natural disasters as poor communities, and especially women and girls, struggle to cope. The first anniversary of the earthquake is on April 25. You can find the relevant link here.

UNDP graphic novel sheds light on issues affecting Roma women highlighting gender-based discrimination in the Roma community, particularly child marriage (Relevant link: here)