

# Men Care

A GLOBAL FATHERHOOD CAMPAIGN



JUNE 2014

MenCare's June 2014 newsletter features updates from our partners in Chile, Guatemala, Rwanda, Indonesia and globally. Learn about the MenCare+ partner meeting, new fatherhood guides and materials, successful workshops and more!

## FEATURED NEWS

### Rwanda Hosts Three-Day MenCare+ Partner Meeting



The Rwanda Men's Resource Center ([RWAMREC](#)), the coordinator of [MenCare+ Rwanda](#), hosted a three-day exchange meeting for [MenCare+](#) partners from [Brazil](#), [Indonesia](#) and [South Africa](#) from May 18 to May 21.

[Promundo](#) and [Rutgers WPF](#), the coordinators for MenCare+, were represented by their respective directors and other staff members involved in the implementation of the MenCare+ project. The partner meeting was held in Rubavu on the shores of the beautiful Kivu Lake on the Rwanda and DRC borders.

MenCare+ is a three-year, four-country collaboration between Rutgers WPF and Promundo, created to engage men, ages 15 to 35, as partners in maternal and child health, and in sexual and reproductive health rights.

The objective of the meeting was to share the process and progress of implementing the MenCare+ program in the four countries, to learn from each other's experiences – especially in terms of advocacy – and to strengthen the partnership.

During the meeting, participants shared MenCare+ country updates, discussed advocacy work and explored the sustainability of the MenCare+ project. The meeting also included a site visit to observe group education sessions for fathers, young men and young women in the Musanze District.

The MenCare+ meeting allowed partners to learn about the challenges and opportunities that different country contexts present, and to collaborate toward the shared goal of getting men involved in maternal, reproductive and sexual health and rights.

Learn more about MenCare+ ([here](#)) and MenCare+ Rwanda ([here](#)).

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## WHAT'S NEW

### MenCare Chile Launches Active Fatherhood Guide

## UPDATES AT A GLANCE

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## EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

**Abstract Submission Extended for MenEngage Global Symposium**



Men and Boys for Gender Justice

The deadline for abstract submissions for the second MenEngage

## Guía de paternidad activa para padres



CulturaSalud/EME DBVA UNICEF

CHILE - [CulturaSalud/EME](#), one of [MenCare Chile](#)'s coordinators, recently published an [Active Fatherhood Guide](#) in Spanish for fathers of preschool-aged children. The guide includes sections on how to be involved in caring for your child, the benefits of being an active father, challenges to active fatherhood, being involved during the first years of your child's life and how to support your child in the classroom. It also touches on themes such as professional/personal life balance, adolescent fathers and men's health.

CulturaSalud/EME created the guide in conjunction with UNICEF Chile and Hogar de Cristo.

Download the guide ([available in Spanish](#)) and learn more about MenCare Chile ([here](#)).

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## MenCare Indonesia Hosts Multiple Workshops to Prevent Sexual Violence



INDONESIA - [Rifka Annisa WCC](#), one of [MenCare+ Indonesia](#)'s partners, held the workshop "Outbound with Partners" – *Outbond bersama pasangan* – around the theme of the healthy relationships on May 10 near Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The workshop aimed to improve relationships and communication between partners and had the motto "Love = Care + Share."

More than 80 participants – including fathers, mothers and children – participated in "Outbound with Partners." Through games and sports, families learned about the social context of gender-based violence and its consequences.

Rifka Annisa WCC organizes regular discussions involving mothers/wives, fathers/husbands and children to bolster communication within the family and household, and to strengthen awareness around childcare, sexual and reproductive health and healthy relationships. These workshops also aim to establish and strengthen intimacy and dialogue between partners.

In collaboration with [Rutgers WPF](#) Indonesia (MenCare+ Indonesia's coordinator), the Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association of Bandar Lampung also held a recent training initiative involving approximately 50 people in two different districts of Lampung, aimed at changing mindsets about gender equality and improving maternal and child health.

These trainings addressed topics such as family planning, maternal and child health and the sharing of domestic work and childcare responsibilities between men and women. They also tackled issues such as gender-based violence. Pre- and post-tests showed that participants' knowledge about the issues addressed in the workshops improved significantly after the trainings.

Learn more about MenCare+ Indonesia ([here](#)).

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## MenCare Guatemala Produces New Active Fatherhood Materials

GUATEMALA – [ECPAT](#), the coordinator of [MenCare Guatemala](#), has released a series of posters, flyers and key chains for fathers, which

Global Symposium has been **extended to Sunday, June 15**. The Global Symposium, "Men and Boys for Gender Justice," will be held in New Delhi, India from November 10-13, 2014.

Register for the symposium and submit your abstract on the conference website: [www.menengagedilli2014.net](http://www.menengagedilli2014.net)

The Symposium has a specific track on "Care, Relationships and Emotions." **We encourage all MenCare partners to submit abstracts highlighting the important work you are doing!**

## IN THE NEWS

**Why Don't Men Care?**  
by Gary Barker



"In 1999, while conducting interviews with young men involved in gangs in Chicago, I met Tony. The son of immigrants from Mexico, Tony had spent time in prison for gang activity. The tattoos on his face marked him as a gang member, and he was undergoing a painful process of laser surgery to have them removed because of the harassment he faced from police, former gang members and rival gangs.

"Tony was bitter, both at the gang members who didn't end up in prison and at a world that treated him like a walking problem. He was a marked man wherever he went, seen as either a potential criminal or a potential rival. He couldn't get a job because of his prison record.

"On the cold winter evening that we talked, his life didn't look very promising. I asked him, 'How will you stay out of the gang and not go back to that life?'



will be distributed in clinics, hospitals and health centers around the country and used in trainings for health educators and promoters. The new materials aim to educate fathers about the importance of participating in pre-natal visits, being present during the birthing process and attending pediatric visits with their children and their partners.

The materials support one of MenCare's core themes, which is "[Be involved from the start](#)." Research finds that when men are present in caring, sensitive ways in the birthing and pre-natal phase, women experience less stressful deliveries and are more likely to have access to the best available health care. Studies also find that men who are present from the prenatal phase onward are more likely to be connected to their children from the earliest moments, with benefits for children and men themselves.

See MenCare Guatemala's active fatherhood material in Spanish ([here](#)) and learn more about MenCare Guatemala ([here](#)).

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## Rwanda's First Group Education Sessions Achieve Incredible Success

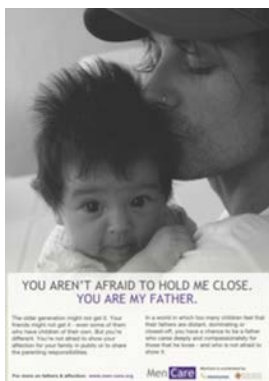
RWANDA - Group education sessions – with fathers, young men, and young women – are one of the main activities carried out by [MenCare+ Rwanda](#), or "Bandeberaho." Group education sessions started more than six weeks ago in the MenCare+ target areas in Rwanda. Although kickoff was slightly delayed by facilitator trainings and manual approval from the Ministry of Health, it is obvious that the long preparation period has already started paying off. Experiences from the field and testimonies from the first sessions are impressive.

One notable example is the role a workshop facilitator played in mediating a relationship on the verge of breaking and the wife on the verge of committing suicide. This is a sign that the project has been designed by taking into account the real problems that society is facing. Not only are beneficiaries happy with the program, but local authorities have also started praising the results. Discussions are already ongoing on how more group education sessions can be conducted, igniting discussion on ownership and sustainability of the project.

Learn more about MenCare+ Rwanda ([here](#)).

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## MenCare's Global Posters Are On Display at the World Bank



MenCare's [global posters](#) are on display at the World Bank in Washington, DC until July 18 as part of the art exhibition "[1 in 3: What Does It Take for You to Be Outraged?](#)"

The exhibition uses multi-disciplinary art to explore the various ways in which violence against women and gender-based violence affects women and girls (and men and boys) worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, 35% of women worldwide (one in three) will be subject to violence during her lifetime, usually committed by a husband or partner.

Find out more about the World Bank's exhibition ([here](#)) and about the MenCare posters ([here](#)).

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"Tony pointed to his young daughter, who was sleeping in his lap. 'Her, man, she's the reason,' he said. ..."

[Continue reading on Transformation.](#)

## Who's Who at MenCare

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[MenCare](#) is a global fatherhood campaign, coordinated by [Promundo](#) and [Sonke Gender Justice](#). Our mission is to promote men's involvement as equitable, non-violent fathers and caregivers in order to achieve family well-being and gender equality.

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