

## *“Improving Maternal and Reproductive Health in Tanzania: Why Governance Matters?”*

Wednesday, August 3, 2011 · 3:00 – 4:30 PM  
Georgetown University Law Center  
Eric E. Hotung Building, Room 2000  
600 New Jersey Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001

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**Mande Limbu** is a human rights lawyer whose career is devoted to advocating for women's rights, particularly for improved maternal, sexual and reproductive health. She has served as a human rights consultant to the Futures Group in Washington DC (2004-2006) providing technical support in designing and implementing strategies to influence rights-based approaches to HIV/AIDS and reproductive health programming. Before joining CARE in 2010 Mande worked for Gender Action, a US-based NGO, conducting advocacy to leverage funding and scale up of more effective and efficient international financial institutions' reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries. As the Director of Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit in CARE Tanzania, she is responsible for providing strategic leadership in the areas of program development, resource acquisition, implementation, impact measurement and policy engagement. She received her LLB from University of Dar es Salaam, LLM from Georgetown University and JSD from Cornell University.

In Tanzania, maternal mortality remains very high with an estimated 454 deaths per 100,000 live births. Rural women account for the majority of the maternal deaths. CARE Tanzania's research has shown that most women know the risks associated with childbirth, however, their decision to access and utilize health services are influenced by barriers that include affordability, transportation to health services, lack of skilled birth attendants, poor quality of care and services, lack of essential equipment, drugs and supplies, and lack of support by husbands and families to seek skilled care during childbirth. CARE Tanzania has been implementing programs to improve maternal, sexual and reproductive health (MSRH) for nearly 15 years. To achieve this CARE focuses on strengthening health systems and services, social and behavioral change, engaging and empowering communities, strengthening community-based actions and governance systems, and strengthening MSRH-positive policies. The objective of the presentation is to share CARE Tanzania's experiences and introduce best practices and tools used by CARE to improve MSRH in the country.