**East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) Partnership Initiative (EPI)**

***What is EPI?***

ECSA Partnering Initiative (EPI) is: “a mature technical support mechanism composed of partnership coaches and technical experts within CARE who are engaged in providing flexible and sustained support to partnerships efforts within and across country programs in ECA.”

The EPI team was initiated in May 2012 and the team’s work is guided by its **THREE KEY** roles, i.e.:

* **EDGE**–Pushing the boundaries of the theory and practice of partnership through reflection, action research, knowledge generation
* **SERVICE**–Partnering coaching and direct support (e.g. training, reviews) to partnerships in our COs and beyond
* **HUB**–Creating a dynamic learning exchange and networking momentum – between the frontlines, CI HQs, external practitioners – through on-line, face-to-face conversations, peer support.

***Key EPI achievements:***

* Short course training for coaches on Essentials for Effective Partnering by The Partnering Initiative, UK
* Partnership Strategy Development for COs using an agreed set of standards (benchmarks) for “a good enough “partnership strategy.
* Knowledge management group established on Minerva
* Evidence based experience sharing on Partnering with non-traditional partners and Institutional Strengthening

***What documents are out there on Minerva?***

Most of the work of the EPI has been documented and shared on Minerva. Below is a list of the documents available for your perusal.

* Examples of [partnership strategies](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=3426018&objAction=browse&viewType=1) are available, including a document with 7 [benchmarks](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=3441634) for a good partnership strategy.
* Formats are available for;
1. [MoU’s](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=3425909&objAction=browse&viewType=1), and
2. [Sub grant Agreements](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=3427363&objAction=browse&viewType=1)
* Various tools have been developed within this initiative to give (administrative) guidance to partnerships. The following were developed:
1. [Due diligence assessment](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=3618362) development process description
2. [Capacity assessment tool](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=3618811) format
3. [code of conduct](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe/fetch/-3426014/3426019/DMC_Code_of_conduct_-_September_2013-Final.pdf?nodeid=3441229&vernum=-2) for partnership decision making committees
4. A [tool to strengthen partnerships](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=3605476) – including sections on accountability to partners, leadership, consortia, empowerment of social movements and mutual capacity building and knowledge sharing (in French only)
* To assist you in maintaining your knowledge on partnerships [guiding questions](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=3619687) to document partnership experiences have been developed. Examples of how CARE Burundi has tackled this process can be found [here](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=3450715&objAction=browse&viewType=1).

****** *All documents can be found in the following folder right* [*here*](http://minerva.care.ca/Livelink1/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=3426014&objAction=browse) *on Minerva*

***What services are offered by the initiative?***

A community of coaches is offered, providing a service to COs (and partners) that need technical support in the development of their partnership trajectory. Your CO (or partner organization) in the ECSA region can request support from the team of coaches, either remotely or through a deployment. This support could be in the form of advice during a long term strategy development trajectory, but also a onetime session with regards to the development of a certain partnership tool or document based on your CO’s needs.

***How can I engage with this initiative?***

This endeavor provides an opportunity for staff whose roles are focused on partnership to connect with peers and share learning, ideas and challenges and how these challenges have been overcome. Also, if you are a CARE staff (or partner staff) in the ECSA region, whose role is focused on partnership and who has experience, expertise and energy to contribute, you can become a member of the team of coaches.

***How are these services to be financed?***

The EPI has been funded through a two-pronged approach involving CARE Nederland and specific country office budget allocations through unrestricted funding. Funding is based on initiative priorities and Country office priorities as outlined in Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) and Country Presence Reviews. For sustainability of the EPI initiatives, Country offices are encouraged to mobilize resources widely.

***What could I use these documents and services for?***

Need quotes from relevant people – Sally, Bena please advise me who I should ask

You can ask a quote from Jimmy (CARE Burundi), Charles (CARE Uganda) and Norein (CARE Sudan) via the addresses below.

***Current Membership of the EPI***

1. ***CARE Burundi (Co-lead)***
* Bena Musembi, Country Director - Bena.Musembi@co.care.org
* Jimmy Mategeko, Knowledge Management and Partnership Coordinator - Jimmy.Mategeko@co.care.org
1. ***CARE Somalia (Co-lead)***
* Sally Mullei, Partnership and Learning Coordinator – smullei@som.care.org
1. ***CARE Sudan***
* Norein Suleiman, Partnership and capacity building officer - NSulieman@sudancis.org
* Rasha Hassan, Partnership and capacity building officer - RHassan@sudancis.org
1. ***CARE DRC***
* Michael Alandu, Chief of Party - Michael.Alandu@co.care.org
* Toure Abdoulaye, Assistance Country Director-Programs - toure.abdoulaye@co.care.org
1. ***CARE RWANDA***
* Eugene Rusanganwa, Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program Coordinator - eugener.rw@co.care.org
* Theophile Twahirwa, Program Quality and Learning Director - theophilet.rw@co.care.org
1. ***CARE UGANDA***
* Charles Owour, Director Programme  Quality and Learning - cowuor@co.care.org

***Technical support to the current EPI members provided by:***

* *CARE Norway -* Sebastien Fornerod, Program Coordinator - sebastien.fornerod@care.no
* *CARE Nederlands -* Merlijn Van Waas, Programma Coördinator Afrika - vanwaas@carenederland.org

***Who do I go to for more information about EPI?***

* Bena Musembi, Country Director - CARE Burundi, Bena.Musembi@co.care.org
* Salome (Sally) Mullei, Partnership and Learning Coordinator – CARE Somalia, smullei@som.care.org