



SECTOR OVERVIEW



Emergencies: CARE In Action

Overview

CARE International is one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations fighting global poverty. In the fiscal year 2014, CARE worked in 90 countries. Our emergency response and recovery projects reached over seven million people in 51 countries. With 70 years of experience and long-term presence in many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, CARE takes a comprehensive approach to emergency response: first by working with communities to prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters; then by partnering with local groups to provide immediate assistance when an emergency hits; and finally by working with affected communities to help them recover after the crisis has passed. CARE's emergency response is part of a long-term commitment, and we place great importance on building local capacity and lasting resilience.

Our goal for the year 2020 is to continue to strengthen our humanitarian work to have a lasting impact for people affected by humanitarian crises, with a special focus on women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by disasters. We also know from our experience that by empowering women and girls we can reduce the vulnerability of families and entire communities and help them escape poverty.

CARE is committed to meeting international standards of quality and accountability when we respond to emergencies, and to making sure communities have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response.

Before Emergencies Strike

For poor and vulnerable communities, the impact of an emergency can destroy hard-won gains in the fight against poverty. Good planning and preparedness can save lives,

“Our goal for the year 2020 is to continue to strengthen our humanitarian work to have a lasting impact for people affected by humanitarian crises, with a special focus on women and girls who are disproportionately affected by disasters. We know from our experience that by empowering women and girls we can reduce the vulnerability of families and entire communities and help them escape poverty.”

reduce the impact of disasters and help people recover more quickly. By incorporating methods for disaster risk reduction and plans for emergency preparedness into our long-term development programming, CARE helps people develop sustainable methods and strengthen community resilience to prepare for and respond to disasters – be it cyclones and floods in Asia or drought and food shortages in Africa.

During an Emergency

Dedicated resources for emergency response allow us to provide fast, effective relief to communities in need. With ongoing programs in many of the world's most disaster-prone countries, CARE has emergency response experts already on the ground – 96 percent of them citizens of the countries where we work – and additional emergency specialists ready to deploy immediately from around the world. When disaster strikes, CARE provides emergency food, relief supplies, water, sanitation and shelter to survivors. CARE places special emphasis on empowering women and girls, recognizing that they are disproportionately affected by disasters.



After an Emergency

After the emergency phase has passed, CARE works with communities to recover. Our goal is to transition as quickly as possible from an emergency response to rehabilitation, and then to sustained development. We help people help themselves and each other, for example through small business assistance and agricultural rehabilitation, thereby reducing their vulnerability to future emergencies. We provide psychosocial support to help people recover from trauma and promote better coping mechanisms through community activities.

Local Resources, Local Solutions

By buying materials locally whenever possible, we support local businesses and get supplies to the people in need more quickly. By partnering with local aid agencies and community groups and hiring local staff, we benefit from their knowledge of local language and culture and develop a deeper understanding of the people we serve. CARE places importance on building the capacity of local staff and partners in the countries where we work, by providing training, technical guidance and tools; with qualified staff already on the ground, we can respond immediately and quickly scale up our response.

CARE's Technical Expertise and UN Cluster System

While each response is tailored to the needs of affected people, CARE's four main focus areas in emergencies are: sexual and reproductive health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); shelter; and food security, all supported by a strong logistics capacity. CARE's other technical sectors include economic recovery, education, nutrition, psychosocial support as well as agriculture and natural resource management. Cross-cutting areas include gender, disaster risk reduction and accountability.

During an emergency, CARE coordinates with the local government and participates in the United Nations cluster system. This coordinated approach aims to ensure that humanitarian actors work together, reducing duplication of efforts and ensuring all people in need receive aid. At the global level, CARE is active in UN clusters for our emergency focus areas, and we have staff seconded to the WASH and logistics clusters, who are deployed as cluster coordinators during emergencies.

CARE's Programming Principles

CARE follows a set of Programming Principles in our emergency, rehabilitation and long-term development work. CARE's principles are aligned with those of many other humanitarian agencies, and include:

- Promote empowerment
- Work in partnership with others
- Ensure accountability and promote responsibility
- Address discrimination
- Promote the non-violent resolution of conflicts
- Seek sustainable results

"While each response is tailored to the needs of affected people, CARE's four main focus areas in emergencies are: sexual and reproductive health; water, sanitation and hygiene; shelter; and food security."

Accountability

CARE's Humanitarian Accountability Framework brings together CARE's existing quality and accountability commitments, such as the programming principles and inter-agency standards, such as Sphere. Central to these standards is a commitment that humanitarian agencies should be accountable for the quality of their work by ensuring that those affected by emergencies have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response and are fully informed of our activities. To ensure this happens and improve our performance, CARE measures our impact through a series of monitoring activities, as well as conducting internal and external evaluations.

Global Advocacy and Partnerships

Recognizing the link between poverty and gender inequality, CARE's humanitarian advocacy priorities are: women and food security; and women, peace and security. CARE has a particular expertise in civil-military issues, conflict and peace building. CARE works with other international and national aid organizations and UN agencies to maximize the impact of our work.



CARE is an active member of several humanitarian networks that share a common goal to improve quality and accountability in humanitarian action and to alleviate poverty through policy change. Key networks in which CARE is involved or is a signatory to:

- Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief
- The Sphere Project
- Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International (HAP)
- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)
- Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB)
- People in Aid
- Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- Inter-Agency Working Group (IWG)
- Communications to Disaster-Affected Communities (CDAC)
- International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

CARE is committed to being accountable for the quality of our work by ensuring that those affected by emergencies have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response and are fully informed of our activities. To ensure this happens, CARE measures our impact through a series of monitoring activities.

Donors

CARE's emergency work is made possible with the support of our donors, which include United Nations agencies, the European Commission, national governments, private individuals, foundations, and corporations. CARE maintains low overhead costs, with approximately 90 percent of donations going to support CARE's programming.

In 2014, CARE's emergency response and recovery projects reached over seven million people in 51 countries.

Main emergency and recovery interventions in 2014

- Afghanistan: floods, refugees
- Bangladesh: floods
- Bosnia Herzegovina & Serbia: floods
- Bolivia: floods
- Burundi: floods
- Cambodia: floods
- Chad: refugees from CAR
- Cameroon: refugees from CAR
- DR Congo: returnees
- Egypt: Syrian refugee influx
- Ethiopia: drought, refugees
- India: floods, cyclone Hudhud
- Indonesia: floods
- Iraq: civil unrest
- Jordan: Syrian refugee influx
- Lebanon: Syrian refugee influx
- Liberia: Ebola outbreak
- Madagascar: cyclone Hellen
- Mali: conflict, food crisis
- Nepal: landslides
- Niger: Nigerian refugee influx
- Pakistan: floods, IDPs
- Philippines: typhoon Hagupit
- Sierra Leone: Ebola outbreak
- Somalia: food insecurity
- South Sudan: conflict, food crisis
- Sri Lanka: floods, landslides, drought
- Turkey: Syrian refugees
- Uganda: refugees from South Sudan
- West Bank & Gaza: Gaza strip conflict
- Zimbabwe: floods



CARE International's Humanitarian Mandate Statement

Goal

• Responding to humanitarian emergencies is an essential part of CARE's work to fight poverty and injustice and we recognize that emergencies are a cause and effect of both. CARE helps people cope with crises through disaster risk reduction, emergency relief, preparedness and post-crisis recovery.

Objectives

• The primary objective of humanitarian response is to meet immediate needs of affected populations in the poorest communities in the world. Recognizing that people have the fundamental right to life with dignity, CARE also strives to address the underlying causes of people's vulnerability. • CARE is a major force in humanitarian response and has a responsibility as a leader in the sector to demonstrate the highest standards of effectiveness and quality.

Principles

• CARE is a signatory of and holds itself accountable to accepted international humanitarian principles, standards and codes of conduct, including the Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and the Sphere and Humanitarian Accountability Partnership principles and standards. • CARE adheres to the principle of impartiality so that we provide assistance on the basis of need regardless of race, creed or nationality. CARE is committed to addressing the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, in times of crisis. • CARE upholds the principle of working independently of political, commercial, military, or religious objectives and promotes the protection of humanitarian space.

Approach

• CARE believes that local capacity can provide the most effective response to emergencies. However, by their very nature, emergencies often overwhelm local capacities, and in such situations CARE will respond in an appropriate, timely and effective way. • CARE will respond wherever we can add value by:

- Providing additional resources
- Enhancing the quality of response
- Committing to longer-term solutions
- Building local capacities

• We have a range of response options:

- Providing direct relief
- Working with and through partners
- Advocating with national and international bodies
- Keeping the general public informed

• CARE develops focused expertise both operationally and at the global policy level in certain specific humanitarian areas. • In keeping with our programming principles, CARE develops both local and international partnerships to strengthen local capacities and to add value through collaborative approaches. • CARE brings a longer-term view to its humanitarian work, including supporting people to be less vulnerable to disasters in the first place. Where appropriate, our programs link emergency relief, recovery, and long-term development, and include measures for disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

Photo Credits, front to back and left to right: Sabine Wilke/CARE, Sabine Wilke/CARE, Sabine Wilke/CARE, Josh Estey/CARE, Innocent Mbvundula, Innocent Mbvundula/CARE, Josh Estey/CARE, CARE, Mary Kate MacIsaac/CARE, Tom Platzer/CARE, Tom Perry/CARE, Sabine Wilke/CARE

Last updated June 2015

Founded in 1945, CARE is one of the leading international humanitarian organizations fighting global poverty. CARE International is an independent, non-partisan, non-religious confederation comprised of 14 member organizations, with the CARE International Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland. In the fiscal year 2014, CARE worked in 90 countries, supporting 880 poverty-fighting development and humanitarian aid projects, to reach 72 million people. For more information, please visit www.care-international.org or contact us at cisecretariat@careinternational.org.



www.care-international.org