

Annual  
Report


# CARE

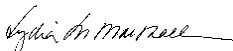
## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CARE WAS FOUNDED 54 YEARS AGO so that Americans could reach across the oceans to help survivors of World War II. Over the years, CARE's focus has expanded, but our spirit has remained constant and true: to relieve human suffering and to strengthen people's ability to improve their lives. The past half-century has seen both dramatic progress and dreadful misery. Most people now live longer and healthier lives, children have greater opportunities for education, and many lives are made more productive by technology. But such advances have not been universal. Gross inequalities persist, violent conflict simmers and explodes, and millions of people struggle every day just to survive. Globalization has not brought shared prosperity: 1.3 billion people – more than one in every five people – live on less than a dollar a day. We are collectively

responsible for the opportunities that could be theirs. At CARE, we are intensely aware of the complexity of the world in which we work. Poverty is often deeply rooted in political and social structures, and defies quick solutions. But we are unbowed by the challenge. As we stride into the 21st century, we are developing cutting-edge approaches to achieving our mission. **OUR BOTTOM LINE.** The concept of household livelihood security guides our work. It helps us to design programs that target the root causes of poverty. It also helps us to implement programs and measure their impact – be it in education, health or agriculture – with the goal of making lasting improvements in families' livelihoods. Simply digging wells or providing loans is not enough. Our work is not done until communities have the capacity and the commitment to build on CARE's investments. Household livelihood security is CARE's bottom line: we will be disciplined by it and held accountable to it. **PARTNERSHIP.** We look to forge alliances at all levels, giving special priority to strengthening local organizations. Continuing dependence on CARE's operational ability can be counter-productive. In fact, our best indication of success is when we can leave a village or even a country – when families and communities no longer need our support. **ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS.** CARE works in difficult conditions – often where governments have failed – with people who are marginalized and oppressed. In such settings, basic human rights – from the right to food to the right to free expression – are frequently abused. In the coming years, we will increasingly look at our work through a human rights lens to ensure that we affirm the dignity and worth of the people we serve. **ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE.** Many of the causes of, and solutions to, poverty and conflict rest in public policy. CARE is using its experience in poor communities selectively to influence policy decisions. Whether it is securing the rights of street vendors in the Philippines, protecting workers from pesticide poisoning in Nicaragua or advancing a just peace in Sudan, CARE helps communities to amplify their voice and advance the cause of justice and dignity. **INTERCONNECTEDNESS.** The world is shrinking. Money, goods, services and people flow in and out of countries with increasing rapidity. CARE strives to bring home the message that we share a common future shaped by the choices we make today. We are reaching out to younger audiences so that today's youth will live up to their role as world citizens. To do this, we are embracing new media to connect people from distant places, for example, through our website's virtual fieldtrips to Mali and Bolivia. We live in a complex and interdependent world. Yet modern comforts can provide the illusion of a snug cocoon. The harsh realities of poverty and injustice may seem oceans away, even though we know they are not. We draw energy from knowing that humanity has never been better equipped to attack these problems. The world is richer now than ever before. The possibility of doing so much good has never been closer at hand. As we stand on the cusp of a new century, let us mobilize our resources and embrace the opportunity to fully realize the promise of our common future. Every step we advance is measured in hope, opportunity and lives fulfilled.

  
Peter D. Bell, *President*

  
Lydia M. Marshall, *Chair*

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## CRISIS IN KOSOVO

After losing their home, possessions and spending three months in a refugee camp, Fadil Bytyci and his family return to Kosovo. Join them on their bittersweet journey home.

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## AFTER THE STORM

In the wake of Hurricane Mitch, Miriam García rebuilds her home and her life. Spend a day with Miriam as she lays the foundation for her new house and a brighter future for her family.

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## TIME FOR CHILDHOOD

Nigist Azene has an opportunity that is rare and precious in many countries of the developing world – the chance to enjoy her childhood. See how CARE has helped her laugh, learn and live securely.

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# Three Lives

In the summer of 1999, we set out to recount the major events of CARE's work over the past year, as well as to capture the breadth and depth of CARE's programs worldwide. We concluded that the power and beauty of CARE's work is found in the individual story: in the details of a life saved, a household rebuilt, a future secured. And that the events of one day in a person's life could tell CARE's story eloquently and explicitly.

So we set out to find three people to help us illustrate our work. The location of two of these people – Honduras and the Balkans – was obvious: Hurricane Mitch and the crisis in Kosovo not only dominated world headlines, but they also comprised major new challenges to CARE's emergency work. The third story, that of a young girl from a village in Ethiopia, exemplifies CARE's development efforts in thousands of villages that do not make the headlines, but that are making a dramatic difference in millions of lives each year.

On the following pages, you'll meet Fadil Bytyci (Kosovo), Miriam Garcia (Honduras) and Nigist Azene (Ethiopia) and spend a day with each of them. You'll learn their sorrows and their joys, their obstacles and their achievements. Their stories aren't particularly unique – they aren't any sadder or any sweeter than those of millions of others who are working with CARE to improve their lives.

But by spending a day with them, you'll come to appreciate the scope of CARE's work. You'll see the cycle of our programs, from lifesaving aid in emergencies, to reconstruction and rebuilding in the wake of disasters, to the long-term development activities that are springboards for secure livelihoods. You'll also see the impact of CARE's work, and you'll know the difference that you are making as you support CARE.

