

**CARE has made some major changes in the past year.**

We have a bold new look and a long-range plan to confront three of the primary factors impacting poor communities: HIV/AIDS, education and emergency preparedness. Our *2001 Annual Report* reflects these exciting innovations and demonstrates that CARE's mission to achieve lasting victories over poverty remains steadfast. **Individually and collectively, the people of CARE reaffirmed our commitment to our vision of a world without poverty.** We have heard those who say it can't be done. We say to them, "Read this report." It's being done. Right now. Around the world. This annual report is more than a recap of the past fiscal year. It offers a glimpse of the victories over poverty we see every day. These are small victories in a much larger campaign. But for the people who achieve them, **these victories are proof that poverty is not inevitable.** Through partnership, hard work and ingenuity, poverty can be overcome. If it can happen for one person, one family, one community – it can happen for millions. CARE is helping to build a world without poverty by sharing knowledge, tools and resources. Self-reliance and responsibility are fundamental to our work. Our solutions are not one-size-fits-all. They are designed locally, responsive to community priorities and culturally sensitive. They are built to last, because lasting solutions are the best solutions.

**Is it truly possible to achieve victory over poverty? Absolutely. With CARE's help, it is happening every day in one community after another.**



## Victory #1: Payatan, Philippines

# growing

**t**hough nearly 70, Presentación de los Santos is a strong woman. She still works her land each day, moving tirelessly from lowland rice paddies up the hill behind her house to the plots where she grows cassava, sweet potatoes, peppers, cacao and cabbage. She speaks softly and wields a razor-sharp machete with expert skill.

But Presentación's efforts yield more than just a vegetable harvest. With CARE's help, she has turned her farm in Payatan, Philippines, into a model that combines larger harvests, more diverse crops and environmental conservation. The result is greater income for Presentación and her family, and the preservation of fertile farmland for future generations.

Presentación says she and her farm set an example for others in the area. "When other farmers see the benefits of this way of planting, they will understand it's not just talk. It really works."

This kind of ripple effect is among the most powerful weapons in the fight against poverty.

"Much of my land is on a slope," Presentación explains. "I have to plant it to grow food for my family, but erosion was always a problem. CARE

showed me how to plant hedgerows of native plants to prevent erosion. I also planted marigolds to act as natural insecticides. With less run-off and fewer pests, my harvest has increased."

Presentación and her farm play an important part in efforts by CARE, the Philippine government and other organizations to ensure that the people who live off the land surrounding Mount Isarog National Park can continue to do so, without harming the mountain's unique ecosystem. With CARE, Presentación and her local farmers' association have pledged to reforest 178 acres of Mount Isarog to control erosion.

"The next step is to plant coffee," says Presentación. "CARE helped our farmers' association start a nursery where we're growing seedlings. The idea is to have one crop ready to harvest and sell all year-round."

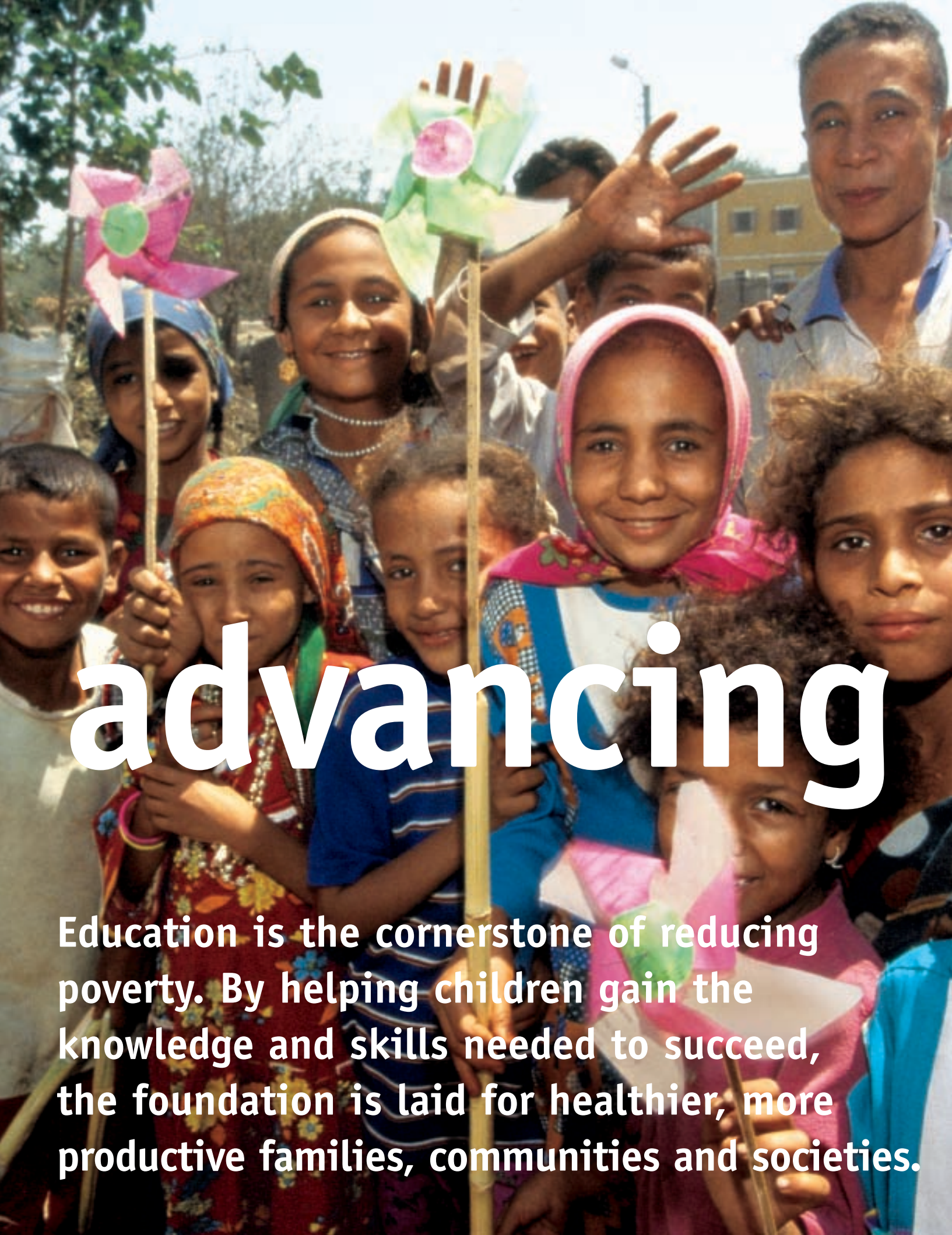
Farmers like Presentación have lived their whole lives on the fringe of the Philippines' oldest national park. But they don't have to live on the fringe of society. Today, their economic future is growing strong, right along with the crops they plant.

**CARE is working in 23 communities surrounding the Philippines' oldest national park (above), helping farmers like Presentación (right) grow more food while protecting a unique ecosystem.**

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey sweater, is shown from the chest up. She is holding a large handful of golden-brown grain in her hands, looking upwards and to the left with a thoughtful expression. The background is a bright blue sky with green foliage. The word "strong" is written in large, white, lowercase letters across the middle of the image.

# strong

**We share one earth. As part of CARE's campaign to create lasting solutions to poverty, we work with communities to conserve and improve the natural resources all life depends on.**



# advancing

Education is the cornerstone of reducing poverty. By helping children gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed, the foundation is laid for healthier, more productive families, communities and societies.

## Victory #2: Sohag, Egypt



Egypt

**t**he scene has been played out in thousands of schools in communities around the world: Children fidget excitedly offstage while harried teachers try to organize groups, and proud family and friends wait eagerly on the other side of the curtain.

And no one is prouder than Magy Mahrous.

“Tonight, the first class to complete primary school through this program will graduate,” says Magy, project manager of CARE’s Community Action in Support of Education Project (CASE). “This is really a major accomplishment when you consider where we began.”

Where Magy began was in the rural villages of

families, communities were eager to participate.”

Magy’s team works with villages to form PTA-like groups that identify community needs and partner with CARE and the Egyptian government to fulfill them. These community associations establish small schools that teach Arabic, math, science, reading and writing.

# education

southern Egypt, promoting the importance of education. The families in these communities often don’t have access to public schools or the means to pay for basic education.

“CARE worked to demonstrate the value of education – especially for girls who typically stay home doing chores and caring for younger siblings,” says Magy. “We had to be sensitive to the fact that many mothers never attended school themselves, so they didn’t always see the need.

“But when we started talking about the long-term advantages of schooling, the fact that educated women are better able to plan and care for their

“CARE provides training and mentors the teachers, but the communities are at the forefront,” Magy explains. “They donate classroom space and make the critical decisions about managing the school, such as varying school hours to accommodate the farming season and market days.”

And the children aren’t the only ones learning skills that will enrich their futures. By strengthening the communities’ capacity for self-help, CARE is promoting both the benefits of education and the skills needed to overcome poverty.

“These communities have developed a way to identify and solve their own problems,” says Magy. “The small schools are the solution now; in 10 years, maybe something else will be. The important thing is that the community is becoming self-reliant.”

**Magy (third from left, above) has helped CARE open schoolhouse doors for more than 1,100 girls across Egypt (left).**



## Victory #3: Leninski District, Tajikistan

# building

**t**he 37-year-old Tajik has been promoted, again. Samad Goibov will lead a new CARE project supporting primary education in his native Tajikistan.

“My first job for CARE was as an interpreter on a project providing emergency food supplies to survivors of the war,” says Samad. “There’s an enormous difference between the situation then and now. Then, people were afraid even to leave their houses to look for economic opportunities.

“The job was a personal revelation. CARE is with the people when they are in economic and social difficulties. The organization fosters community growth. That is exactly what is needed in Tajikistan.”

Determination and enthusiasm have created new opportunities for Samad. In 1995, when CARE’s Tajikistan office began its first agriculture project to assist newly privatized farmers, Samad was asked to help design it.

“When the land is in the hands of the farmer instead of the government, the farmers are eager to invest their time in working and improving the land,” he says. CARE distributed seeds and fertilizer to

farmers and worked with them to test various agricultural methods. Farmers now have the expertise to experiment on their own. The pay-off is enormous.

Before CARE began working with the farmers, there was a shortage of food in the market. During the first year of CARE’s involvement, farmers increased their potato crop yields by 200 percent.

“We’ve moved from giving them food to survive, to building the skills to be independent,” Samad points out. “My most satisfying experience with CARE has been to witness the changes in the farmers’ attitudes. They are not relying on the system, but on themselves. They decide for themselves how to manage their futures.”

That’s one reason why Samad is confident that the education project he will head will empower his fellow citizens, and him.

“I have always been a person who is curious and in search of knowledge,” says Samad. “I wanted to share that curiosity and encourage people to learn. The more you know, the more power you have to make a better place for yourself and your family. I see this every day in my work with CARE.”

**Through CARE, Samad (above) works with farmers to develop innovative techniques to increase their harvests and their household income (right).**



# leaders

Part of CARE's mission is to create new opportunities for people. One way we do this is by hiring people from the countries in which we work, so they can use their expertise to fight poverty at home.



# moving

Solving a problem is like throwing a rock in a pond – the effects spread. Now imagine throwing several rocks at once. By helping communities work together to fight poverty, CARE multiplies the impact of their efforts.

## Victory #4: Curacocha, Peru



Peru

**f**ernando Carrasco sets a small leather bag on the ground beside a sick cow and fills a needle with an antibiotic. The wide-eyed cow turns to watch him administer the injection.

“The cow has a mammary infection,” he tells his neighbor, Luisa Castrejon. “That’s why there’s no milk. It will take a couple of days to clear up.”

With a smile, Luisa hands Fernando an ear of corn for his time and the equivalent of 10 cents for the medicine.

“I was born in this community,” says 33-year-old Fernando, walking from the pasture to his

Another wall is decorated with instructive posters and thank-you notes from his neighbors.

“Everyone in this community helps each other,” he says. “But it didn’t used to be this way.

“Our way of thinking changed six years ago when CARE worked with us to design plans for a road and water system. All 36 families came

# forward

home in the village of Curacocha, nestled in the northern Peruvian highlands. “Cows used to be so skinny because the land was barren. When they got sick, there was no road for the veterinarian to come treat them. Cows eventually would die, and people would be left with no milk to sell and little to eat. Those were bad times. We’ve come a long way since then.”

Inside his modest home, the mud walls are smooth to the touch. Above a table hangs a framed certificate Fernando received two years ago when he completed a veterinary course supported by CARE.

together to build them. Farming courses were held in our own fields. And now, because we share what we’ve learned, we are growing more potatoes and vegetables. We are planting trees on hillsides of scrub and rock. It’s nice to see what green looks like.”

With healthy cows, families in Curacocha have a regular supply of milk to sell. Though they seem small, these positive changes have led to larger gains in the fight against poverty.

“Since we began working with CARE, we have achieved far more than a road or clean water,” Fernando explains. “The experience has been a catalyst for our community to take action. Now, Curacocha is a community that works together. We motivate one another to move forward.”

CARE taught Fernando (above) how to help his neighbors (left) identify the source of problems and solve them for good.



## Victory #5: Balleyara, Niger

# spreading

**f**or centuries, West Africans have migrated to coastal cities to earn money for their families. The trek is a rite of passage for young men and a critical way for poor families to support themselves.

Landlocked and on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert, Niger is one of the world's poorest countries. Each year, countless young men leave their homes in hopes of finding economic opportunity in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's capital.

The migration experience has always been risky, with the threat of theft, arrest, accidents and violence. But the spread of HIV/AIDS has added an alarming and unprecedented degree of risk.

Working with mobile populations spread across several countries is a challenge for CARE, but it also brings opportunities: stopping AIDS while the infection rate is still relatively low in the region.

Like the Pony Express in days of old, CARE's Lifelink project is spreading HIV/AIDS prevention information along the routes traveled by people on the move.

In crowded bus and taxi stands, where travelers wait for hours to catch their next ride, CARE staff

shows videos and leads discussions about preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

A session in Balleyara, Niger, prompted a flurry of questions from travelers: "Can the wind carry AIDS?" "Can you get it if you only have sex one time?" "How many times can you use a condom?"

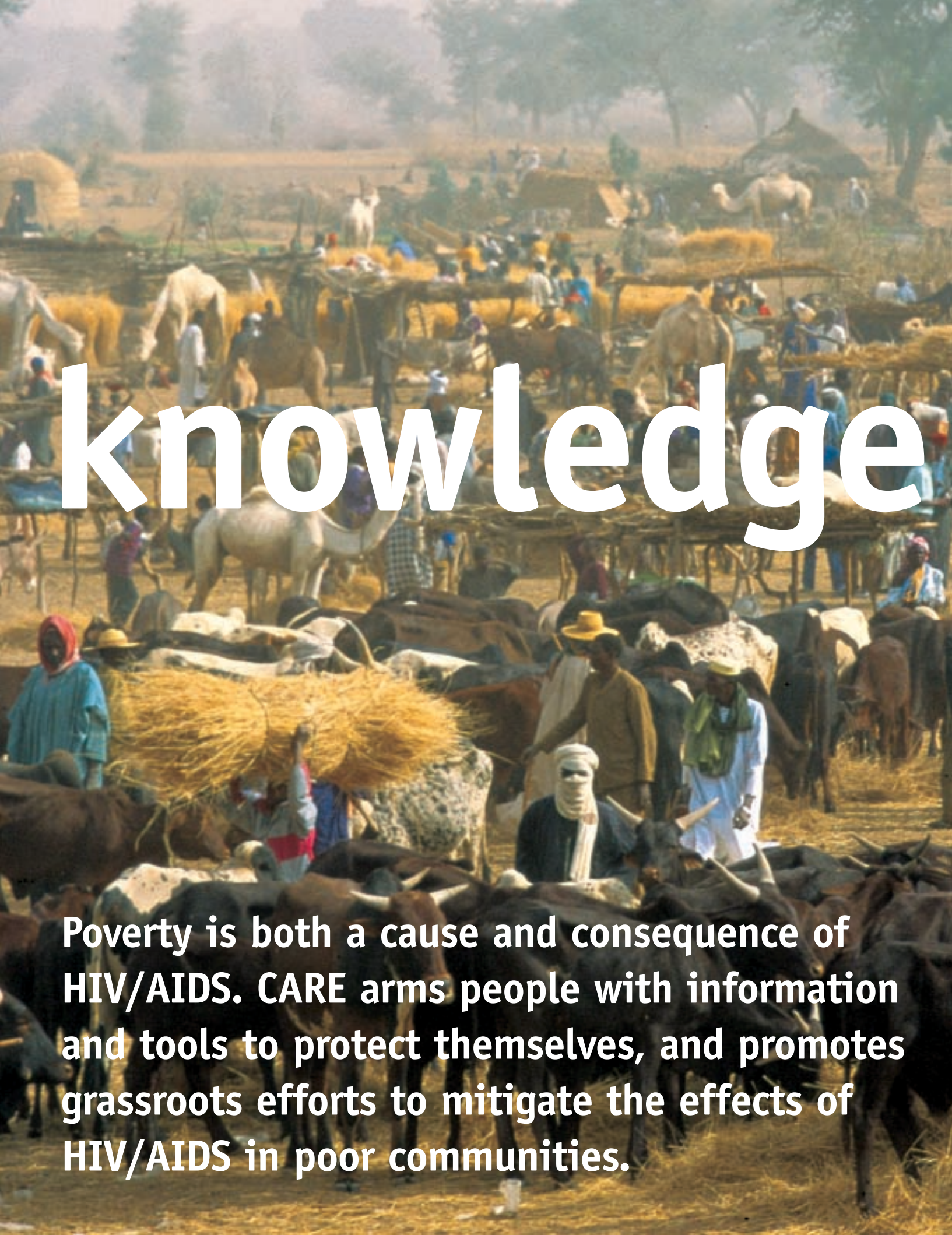
Misinformation is abundant. But there is no mistaking the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS.

"AIDS makes poor families and communities poorer," says Mahazou Mahamane, director of CARE's AIDS projects in Niger. "When a breadwinner dies, families have no money to spend on education, health care, even food."

Mahazou says the Lifelink project works because it's more than a health initiative. Beyond promoting prevention and testing, Mahazou's staff helps people gain new skills, such as literacy and money management, that can help break the cycle of poverty and curb the need to travel to earn a living.

"Poverty is a significant factor in the spread of AIDS," says Mahazou. "It forces people into decisions that jeopardize their safety. What CARE is doing is helping people have more power in their lives, so they can take care of themselves."

**CARE goes to the people; Mahazou (center, above) works in busy markets (right) providing information about how to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.**



# knowledge

**Poverty is both a cause and consequence of HIV/AIDS. CARE arms people with information and tools to protect themselves, and promotes grassroots efforts to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS in poor communities.**



# securing

**“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” That’s why CARE works with communities to assess risk and prepare for natural disasters and other emergencies, protecting hard-won victories over poverty.**

## Victory #6: Antoraka, Madagascar



Madagascar

**t**he town of Antoraka, tucked in a bay along the northeast coast of the island nation of Madagascar, is picturesque and fragile. It's the image of a tropical resort, with sandy walkways, coconut trees and lush foliage. Houses of plank wood stand a few feet off the ground.

But when the big winds come, this quiet community is laid to waste.

In February 2000, the largest cyclone to hit Madagascar in 50 years devastated the town, destroying homes, the church, the school, livestock and crops.

185 students and three teachers.

"I want my children to go a little bit further in life than I did," says Marie Jeanne Vavimanana, who never went to school.

Like other women in town, Marie Jeanne carried buckets of sand from the beach half a mile away to help build the school. Men searched for large

# progress

But, if it is true that every cloud has a silver lining, Antoraka's new elementary school could be proof. Constructed of cement, sand, gravel and the sweat of local residents, the school is the one stable structure in town, making it an excellent cyclone shelter. As the French-speaking locals explain, it is their "batiment dur," a strong building, meant to last.

But it is the longer-lasting benefits that most interest the town's 700 residents. The two-room structure will be the main school for Antoraka's

rocks and crushed them into gravel. Students cleared brush where the new school would stand. CARE provided the cement and construction.

"Practically everyone is involved. It interests all of us," says Mayor Modeste Lasa. "We needed help to overcome this emergency, and CARE was the first to respond. Thank you."

As a next step, the community would like to hire additional teachers and improve the quality of education.

In the face of destruction, the people of Antoraka discovered that passing storms are no match for the lasting strength of their community. By working with CARE, the community's need for emergency shelter and relief has become the catalyst for an enduring legacy of self-help.

The children of Antoraka (above) have a new school designed to last. CARE proudly works with communities (left) uniting to improve their lives.