

europa and the middle east

EUROPE

CARE's work in Europe in fiscal year 2001 (FY01) emphasized expanding social programs in the Balkans, as that area continued to rebuild itself and overcome ethnic conflict.

In FY01, CARE USA provided almost \$10 million in support of programs in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Yugoslavia, including the province of Kosovo.

As political tensions began to ease and armed conflict subsided, CARE's focus in the region shifted from emergency relief to longer-term goals. In Kosovo, CARE continued programs that addressed the needs of children traumatized by war, helping ensure that the next generation is willing and able to continue the peace process.

In the city of Prizren, a program designed to educate teachers and health professionals about trauma was followed by a second phase that spanned five communities and eventually trained 81 primary school teachers and 16 local psychologists. More than 2,100 children participated in therapeutic workshops in music, theater, poetry, art and video.

In June 2001, CARE began a campaign to raise community awareness about the threat of family

violence. With media spots on local television and radio, the campaign brought the issue to the forefront and emphasized the long-term negative effects of violence on children.

CARE also completed the first phase of its project to help train 45 social workers in several municipalities to better meet the needs of vulnerable families.

"Transitioning from emergency relief to economic and social advancement remains an ongoing process, sometimes two steps forward and one step back," says Nick Webber, country director for Kosovo. "Maintaining an emergency-response capacity is crucial, given the fragile peace agreements in the region. Yet it is imperative the mission continue to reinforce the importance of both transitional authority and civic institutions."

CARE's activities in the Caucasus focused on strengthening local communities to identify and overcome the greatest obstacles to their development.

In Georgia, CARE operated a community mobilization project to ease suffering of residents and people displaced by conflict and economic crisis. CARE helped local officials gather resources for those in immediate need, and trained communities to eventually provide those resources themselves.

MIDDLE EAST

In Egypt, the West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen, CARE's work included health care, emergency response and education, with programming totaling more than \$9 million in FY01. Ongoing conflicts in the West Bank and Gaza continued to limit the potential for economic recovery.

Addressing Health

In the West Bank/Gaza, CARE's programs included significant work on health care issues. A two-year, emergency medical assistance project addressed the funding problem that threatens the Palestinian health care sector. The project provided assistance to health clinics, training in trauma care for medical professionals, and support to rehabilitation centers.

(left) Kosovars work to rebuild their homes and livelihoods. (right) Farmers in Egypt grow better-selling crops and increase family income.





In response to the violence in September 2000, a CARE health project, which had helped non-governmental health clinics provide reproductive health services, began supplying hospitals, clinics and local organizations with equipment and materials for emergency treatment of injured persons in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem.

“Our staff is proud to have been able to respond within a week of the outbreak of violence and to have been able to provide more than \$2 million in assistance to a dozen health facilities in the West Bank and Gaza during the year,” says Earl Wall, country director for the West Bank/Gaza.

Despite the unrest, CARE’s theater project continued to operate. Performed by the Ashtar Theatre Group, a local CARE partner, the productions used audience participation to address social problems and acted as a rehearsal for individual and collective social action. The themes of the productions promote human rights and equality for women.

“This project empowers participants to challenge the status quo in ways which liberate them to achieve their potential in all walks of life,” Wall says.

Encouraging Education

CARE’s country office in Egypt launched a long-term strategy that includes expansion of education activities. CARE Egypt already had extensive experience with education projects through activities rang-

ing from feeding programs and school construction projects, to training for teachers and administrators – all of which pay special attention to girls’ education.

In FY01, CARE initiated a new four-year project to promote quality education in rural areas. Along with its partner organizations, CARE began constructing model schools in several under-served communities, improving the quality of teacher training and helping local communities more fully participate in school management and decision making.

CARE helped local organizations plan and implement education and literacy activities. In the 19 communities in which the project operated, residents demonstrated, through cash and in-kind donations, a growing readiness to help ensure quality education for all.

“In fiscal year 2001, we celebrated the graduation of the first class of new community schools,” says Samir Riad of CARE Egypt. “Three years ago, these children had no hope at all for an education. Today, they have graduated from primary school and are very determined to pursue an even higher education.”

A similar project aimed to improve the quality of life in 32,500 households in Upper Egypt. The project trained community development associations to represent and involve residents in community affairs and decision making. The project also improved community access to basic education, credit, water and sanitation, and hygiene education.