

## advocacy: shaping our world

**A crucial aspect** of CARE's work to eradicate poverty is promoting policy reform and advocating for change. CARE works with leaders at all levels to help promote healthy, stable households.

### HIV/AIDS

Worldwide, CARE continues to urge governments to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to promote the needs, rights and responsibilities of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

In April 2001, a lawsuit by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of South Africa prompted a debate about how best to help millions of people in developing countries who lack access to inexpensive drugs to combat HIV/AIDS. CARE staff went to the Pretoria, South Africa, trial as observers, and CARE International urged the plaintiffs to drop their case. CARE International also asked donor governments to provide funding to make AIDS drugs available to all those infected, regardless of their ability to pay.

Later, when legal action against the South African government was dropped, we called on leaders around the world to intensify efforts to promote prevention, care and community support through public education, counseling, testing and treatment.

In June, CARE staff from 10 countries participated in the UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS, meeting with national delegations and promoting a more effective Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

### Reproductive Health

CARE participated in the Planet Campaign, a coalition of six U.S.-based organizations seeking to build support among the American public for international family planning. The campaign highlights the connections between the health of women and children and the quality of the environment.

In several reports, we examined the reproductive risks faced by millions of women around the world and demonstrated how reproductive health programs address these problems and reduce risks.

### Kenya

Along with the National Council of Non-Government Organizations, CARE supported Kenya's government in gathering information for



the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper; CARE Kenya sits on the council's executive committee. In addition, CARE staff worked with local government officials to review national budget priorities and incorporate poverty reduction priorities into their plans.

### Afghanistan

In June, CARE USA President Peter Bell traveled to Afghanistan to better understand the challenges faced by ordinary Afghans under the Taliban and to see CARE's work. Time and again, he met families who were barely surviving – just some of the 5 million people facing food shortages after years of drought and decades of war. Bell gathered firsthand knowledge that set the stage for a much broader effort by CARE staff in subsequent months to promote humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and to support the rights of Afghan refugees in neighboring countries to food, shelter and other support.