In any emergency, the most vulnerable among us have the most to lose. When disaster strikes, the stakes are highest for the world’s poorest families, and particularly for women and girls.

Last year, we saw the cost natural disasters can levy on families and communities in Haiti when Hurricane Matthew struck, in the Philippines with Typhoon Haiyan, and in Mozambique and Vanuatu when cyclones battered those nations. We saw armed conflict and extreme drought feed famine conditions in an unprecedented four countries — threatening the lives of 20 million people across Africa and in Yemen. Forces like these drove more people from their homes in 2017: Syrians within Syria and into Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and beyond; South Sudanese into Uganda; and Iraqis, Yemenis and Afghans within the borders of their own countries.

On World Refugee Day in June 2017 the UN announced a record number of displaced people worldwide: 65.6 million. That constitutes the biggest crisis in the UN’s history and the biggest since 1945, when CARE was founded to rush lifesaving CARE Packages® to survivors and refugees of WWII. More than 70 years later, we’re still delivering humanitarian aid to families and communities in crisis.

Yet emergencies do not limit themselves to trembling earth or the thunder of bombs. When you’re facing extreme poverty, every day can be uncertain. Life on a dollar or two a day is a relentless grind for the women and girls who seek food or clean water to nourish their families, opportunities to generate their own income (and with it, their independence), health care that’s too often out of reach or an education that’s out of the question. For them, extreme poverty is a crippling headwind keeping them from living into their full potential.

But there’s a bright spot in all of this. It is the difference we’re making together, hand in hand with those who most need it. In the past three decades, there have been successes in the global community’s collective fight: extreme poverty cut in half, for example, or maternal and infant mortality rates that have declined. We’re making significant progress. But with more than 800 million people still facing extreme poverty today, the world’s need demands that we act with urgency. Our mission drives us to do so effectively, efficiently and in a manner that places poverty-fighting solutions squarely in the hands of those who most need them.

That’s why I’m proud that, thanks to your generous support, we worked in 93 countries last year and reached 63 million people through 950 projects. We can and do celebrate these gains, even as we redouble our efforts to achieve even more. With your continued support, we will. Thank you.

Michelle Nunn
President and CEO

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

CARE President and CEO Michelle Nunn congratulates 18-year-old Priyanka Harijan during the 2017 CARE National Conference in Washington, D.C. Priyanka was CARE’s 2017 Deliver Lasting Change Award winner. She defied the practice of child marriage in Nepal, graduated at the top of her class and now speaks up for other girls facing the same pressure to marry early.
These are extraordinary times, regularly punctuated by crises, from war to violence, natural disaster and extreme weather. Even if one is spared from circumstances like these, life on a dollar or two a day can be an endless emergency.

But our work together is extraordinary too. Thanks to generous support from so many individuals, foundations, corporations and other partners, CARE helped families meet their most basic needs in 2017, even as we equipped 63 million people around the globe with the tools and resources they need to thrive.

With your help, we expanded access to education — particularly for girls, who face so many barriers in their pursuit of learning. We delivered clean water and sanitation hand in hand with local communities. CARE Village Savings and Loan Associations brought more financial services to members, mostly women, in remote villages worldwide, harnessing the ancient practice of group savings to unleash new possibilities. Small-scale farmers grew drought-resistant crops to better feed their families and communities, and they learned new farming techniques at farmer field schools. We combatted gender-based violence, child marriage and cultural norms that so often favor boys, leaving girls with less opportunity to realize their full potential. Through your support, we promoted gender equality so that more women can find a seat at the decision-making table of their households and communities. And we advocated for sound policies, speaking up on behalf of the world’s most vulnerable families and communities.

We did all of this and more because partners like you believed they could make a difference. And they did.

You did. And we thank you for that.
In fiscal year 2017, CARE worked in 93 countries around the world, saving lives, defeating poverty and achieving social justice.
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation continues to be a core partner to CARE, contributing vital resources to advocacy, food security, health, water and sanitation, emergency response, women’s empowerment and livelihood development programming. This year, the foundation made new investments in CARE’s family planning work, including a program that aims to delay first births among married adolescents in Niger and Bangladesh, and the expansion of an existing program in the Indian state of Bihar. CARE is the foundation’s lead partner in efforts to strengthen the health system across Bihar, aiming to transform public health and nutrition services, increase child survival, improve maternal health and eliminate an infectious disease. The foundation continues support for CARE’s Learning Tours program, helping CARE raise awareness among policy makers and other influencers of the positive reach and scope of U.S. development assistance, as well as humanitarian responses, including efforts following Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.

Last year, the foundation also supported Pathways, CARE’s initiative to help women small-scale farmers in Ghana, Malawi, Mali and Ethiopia improve livelihoods and food security for themselves and their families. The Fledgling Fund supports powerful visual stories that can spur action around issues affecting the most vulnerable. It has funded CARE’s Letters of Hope initiative, a letter-writing campaign connecting American students with young refugees around the world. The Sall Family Foundation has supported CARE’s work in 17 countries since 1985. Over the past year, the foundation has supported critical programs focused on nutrition, the nexus between conservation and development, and new ideas to reimagine the way CARE tackles the world’s greatest challenges, including how we respond to emergencies around the world. The foundation’s investments have launched important new programs, such as CARE’s Scale X Design Accelerator and the CARE-WWF Alliance, that deeply value risk taking, partnerships and innovation and that set the stage for future international efforts.

The Ford Foundation supports CARE’s work advocating for women and girls globally and building self-reliance and government accountability across the most vulnerable communities in the Middle East. Those efforts include support for a dynamic social accountability project in Egypt and continued support for CARE’s leadership within Girls Not Brides USA, a global partnership of civil society organizations committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential. This year, the Ford Foundation and CARE expanded their partnership, helping Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities in Jordan become self-reliant through income-generating activities, vocational training with complementary life skills, business skills capacity building and increased awareness of legal issues.

The United Nations Foundation supports CARE’s role as a key partner of the Universal Access Project, a multi-stakeholder advocacy effort that seeks to strengthen U.S. leadership toward universal access to reproductive health. The partnership amplifies and leverages the voice of CARE’s grassroots advocacy network to ensure that U.S. development assistance fosters healthier families and more stable, prosperous communities around the globe.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew’s destruction in Haiti, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation contributed resources that helped CARE reach more than 100,000 people in the most affected districts. CARE ensured that women understood the health and reproductive services available to them amid the crisis, and increased access to safe water and hygiene kits in order to prevent the spread of cholera. The foundation’s support also helped restore access to education and address gender-based violence and protection issues.
Delta Air Lines has been a valuable CARE partner since 1988. In fiscal year 2017, Delta sponsored CARE’s three primary public engagement events: Scale X Design, the CARE National Conference and Walk In Her Shoes. Delta’s consistent event sponsorship allows CARE to bring together thought leaders, supporters and partners to innovate, advocate and fight to end poverty around the globe. Delta Air Lines also provided critical support for CARE’s Humanitarian Fund, contributing resources for emergency response that can be mobilized at a moment’s notice. This gift to CARE’s Humanitarian Fund ensures that CARE can maintain a nimble and effective response to natural disasters and human-driven crises around the world. In addition, through Delta’s SkyWish program, customers can allocate their frequent flyer miles to CARE without a transfer fee. The donated miles help CARE channel even more resources directly into projects that empower women and girls worldwide.

Delta

Both CARE and P&G share a purpose and passion for gender equality. Both organizations seek innovative solutions that empower women and girls while being inclusive of men and boys. With our respective insights and expertise into the lives of women and girls around the world, CARE and P&G have developed a strategic partnership plan focused on removing barriers and creating opportunities. One of the biggest barriers to education and economic opportunity for women and girls is limited access to safe drinking water. P&G Children’s Safe Drinking Water Program has partnered with CARE to provide clean water solutions in households and schools for more than a decade in Kenya, Ethiopia and other locations where disasters are common.

P&G

Mars Wrigley Confectionery has pledged $1 million to CARE to empower female cocoa farmers in West Africa, where 70 percent of the world’s cocoa is sourced. Although women contribute to half of cocoa farming activities, they rarely benefit from cocoa-related income. In fact, studies show men own more than 90 percent of cocoa farms in the region. Through the CARE partnership, DOVE® Chocolate — a Mars Wrigley Confectionery brand — builds financial skills, offers guidance and promotes resources, including CARE’s homegrown system of microfinance called Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), to empower female farmers. Experience has shown that, when women have more income, they are more likely to invest it in their families and communities, thus benefiting the current and next generation of cocoa farmers. Additionally, CARE VSLAs build social cohesion among men and women who work together in the savings groups. DOVE® Chocolate invited consumers to join its mission to empower female cocoa farmers by donating to CARE the sales of products in specially marked packaging. This initiative is part of the Mars Wrigley Confectionery stance on sustainability. By 2020, the company aims to source 100 percent of its cocoa from certified sources, thus promoting the well-being of cocoa farmers.

Mars Wrigley Confectionery

Children wash their hands at Goro Primary School in southwest Kenya. Good hygiene promotes good health — and good health leads to quality learning in the classroom.

FEATURED PARTNERS
Not long ago, Ethiopia was in the midst of a food crisis. But unlike a generation earlier, we didn’t see widespread starvation and instability. America’s smart foreign assistance is a major reason why.

In 2012, CARE began implementing and managing a USAID-funded program called GRAD, which stands for Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development. The first phase concluded in 2016, but not before helping 63,000 of Ethiopia’s poorest families — once reliant on their country’s food assistance program — climb out of poverty and leave behind that safety net for good.

They are families such as Admasu and Melkam, and their five children, who previously couldn’t harvest enough food from their farm, even though it was the size of three soccer fields. “Most of the time our harvest was poor due to lack of good fertilizer and improved seeds,” Melkam says, “as well as information on how to cope with erratic rainfall.” A food assistance program run by the Ethiopian government supplied them wheat rations for six months a year, but it wasn’t enough to bridge the gap. They couldn’t sufficiently feed, clothe or educate their children.

Admasu and Melkam tripled their income by working through GRAD, which taught them better farming techniques and linked them to fertilizer and seeds.

Through GRAD, Admasu and Melkam joined a CARE Village Savings and Loan Association so they could put away a modest sum of money each month. It worked for them, as it did for many others in the five-year program: Average household savings for participant families soared by an astonishing 800 percent. GRAD also taught Admasu and Melkam about nutrition, gender equality and climate change adaptation.

Armed with better resources, information and a sense of cooperation, they returned to the fields — and harvested nearly 4,000 pounds of potatoes from their once-unproductive farm. That’s nearly 15,000 servings. GRAD linked them with local markets, where they sold the spuds for a $525 profit.

But the success didn’t end there. Admasu and Melkam invested their earnings in drought-resistant barley seeds, which yielded another successful crop — and more profit — helping to triple the family’s income (GRAD families on average upped their incomes by 87 percent) and grow their access to nutritious food. That means better health for their children. In fact, by the end of the program, GRAD had multiplied by eight times the number of children under 2 who ate a sufficient diet. And it had quadrupled the number of kids eating from four or more food groups each day.

Lifesaving aid is often the face of America in many parts of the world. Women at a CARE distribution center receive bags of wheat to feed their families during a sustained drought that threatened 10 million Ethiopians. CARE helped thousands of people survive the drought in 2016 by distributing food, treating malnourished children and rehabilitating water sources.
Generous support from so many individuals, foundations, corporations and other partners make our work possible in 93 countries.

Thank you.
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Chief of Staff

John Aylward
Chief Marketing Officer

Peter Buijs
Chief Financial Officer

Sheba Crocker
Vice President, Humanitarian Programs and Policy

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In 2017, conflict, drought and hurricanes wrought havoc in people’s lives and livelihoods around the world, producing the largest number of displaced people since World War II: 65.6 million. Extraordinary circumstances require an extraordinary response. To that end, during fiscal year 2017, CARE teams in 93 countries used a range of tools to help meet humanitarian needs in some of the world’s hardest-to-reach places. We are thankful that individuals, foundations, corporations and government institutions stepped up alongside our teams and partners, funding humanitarian support to save lives, even while helping communities and partner organizations build resilience and sustainable livelihoods for the long term.

CARE’s total FY17 revenue and support of $610 million was 16 percent higher than in fiscal year 2016, driven mostly by increases in private U.S. donor and U.S. government support to respond to humanitarian crises. We are proud of our financial efficiency and accountability as we work to maximize the value of every dollar we receive. Our program expense of $535 million represented more than 90 percent of total FY17 expense. Given the high number of disasters, expenses associated with our humanitarian response — $195 million — grew significantly.

Strengthening and expanding our humanitarian work is not our only priority, however. Our strategy also focuses on multiplying impact, which means embracing innovation and working in partnership with many actors to take proven methodologies and approaches to scale. We invest an increasing share of our resources in advocacy, innovation, learning and capacity building in order to deepen our impact on more lives at a faster rate than we grow our revenue. So join us! And know that we are committed to remaining efficient, accountable stewards of resources you and others so generously entrust to us.

Thank you for your support!

Peter Buijs
Chief Financial Officer
At a Glance

Program Work Overview

Selected Financial Information

How We Work

Sources of Support

How We Use Our Funds

Elvire Léger from Haiti stands in front of the products she sells through her home-based kiosk, having launched the business with a loan from her Village Savings and Loan Association. Since the first CARE VSLAs began in Niger in 1991, millions of women like Elvire have found financial independence through the group savings and lending initiative.
Marie Raivomanana, 42, lives with her three children in Mandrangobato, Madagascar. She participates in a CARE program that promotes good health by expanding access to clean water and proper sanitation. She tugs at fabric she has collected and that she will stitch together into a carpet.
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