Since 1984, CARE International in Rwanda has focused on four areas of programming each meeting the changing immediate needs of the most vulnerable. The early years focused on Reforestation and Environmental Protection, followed by Emergency, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation programming from 1994 – 1999. Our strategy then prioritised HIV/AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable Children programming, followed by Economic and Social Empowerment, Women’s Rights from 2005 until 2016. In FY 2017/18, CARE implemented its new Rwanda programme strategy, identifying women and girls aged 10-59 years (in categories 1 and 2 of Rwanda’s Ubudehe poverty ranking) as the target group where it can have the most impact. Development programming is complemented by emergency programming addressing the needs of disaster-affected populations particularly refugees.

Our strengths

- One of the few international NGOs leading in gender justice;
- Developer of transformational intervention models;
- Convener of a committed and capable civil society;
- Collaborator with alliances, social movements, government, private sector and civil society.

By 2025, CARE in Rwanda will triple its reach, to directly support 1,500,000 women and girls aged 10 to 59 in Rwanda to graduate out of poverty and live in dignity.

- **Life Free From Violence:** 500,000 women and girls, men and boys enjoy equal power relations at the family and community levels.
- **Women and Girls’ Economic Empowerment:** 800,000 vulnerable women and girls attain and sustain ‘above basic’ livelihood status
- **Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights:** 250,000 girls are able to enjoy their sexual and reproductive health rights
- **PEOPLE IN CRISIS** receive life-saving assistance and support for reconstruction

Country Snapshot

- **Population size:** 12,089,721 (66% rural)
- **Population under age 15:** 43.3%
- **Land Area:** 26,338 Square Kilometers
- **Poverty Rate:** 39%
- **Population working in agriculture:** 75%
- **GDP per Capita:** $9.1 USD

**Sources:** 2014 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey, 2012 Census, World Bank, Rwandapedia
Our Current Programs

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Programme (2015-2020) works to socially and economically empower women and girls to exercise their rights. To date, 86,940 women (all VSLA group members) have been supported with financial literacy training, enterprise development training, adult literacy and numeracy training, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) awareness.

The Promoting Financial Inclusion for Small-holder Farmers (2017-2020) project works with 120,000 small-holder farmers (70% women, 30% youth), to increase on-farm productivity and incomes in the maize, horticulture and small livestock value-chains, via strengthening value-chain financing systems. The project will link 72,000 farmers to formal finance.

Promoting Opportunities for Financial Inclusion in Rwanda (2013-2018) seeks to increase financial inclusion in Rwanda through a demand and supply approach: Demand: working with 395,761 VSLA members (70% women) to build financial literacy and link groups to formal financial service providers; and Supply: supporting partner banks to develop and deliver appropriate financial products and services to rural communities. This includes piloting digital-driven financial inclusion through mobile banking channels. The Government of Rwanda has noted the programme’s successes, and has included VSLAs into the national financial linkages programmes.

Safe Schools for Girls (2015-2020) and Better Environment for Education (2016-2018) work to keep adolescent girls (12-18) in school, improve their performance, and attract those who have dropped out to return to school. The programme’s focus on: mentorship, scholarships for the most marginalised, VSLA groups and subsequent financial training, and engaging boys.

Enterprise Development and Economic Empowerment for Out-of-School Adolescent Girls (2015-2018) supports out-of-school girls, aged 14-19, to claim and enjoy their economic rights via a blended approach of forming and strengthening youth VSLA groups, ensuring access to finance, and providing financial and enterprise management trainings. 8,959 adolescent girls have been supported to date.

Agents for Change (2014-2018) focuses on reducing Intimate Partner Violence, Gender Based Violence, and power imbalances between couples, through engaging men and women at the individual, household and community levels, to challenge harmful constructions of gender that drive inequality and lead to violence. Working with 78,576 vulnerable people—50% women.

Every Voice Counts (2016-2020) strengthens citizen engagement and social accountability in relation to gender based violence. Using the Community Scorecard, the programme engages communities and service providers in productive and accountable dialogues.

CARE International Rwanda Impacts in 2016/17 Financial Year

- CARE worked with 9 Civil Society organizations, Government of Rwanda, and Private sector.
- 18,500 Village Saving and Loan Groups (VSLGs) in 26 districts where CARE is working.
- 550,000 people reached through savings Groups - 75% women.
- 9,092 out-of-school and 6,000 in-school girls supported through our projects across the country.

Last updated August 2018