Program Overview

CARE began its work in Mozambique in 1984 delivering emergency and large-scale humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the protracted civil war. CARE provided people across the country with regular food assistance, as a great many Mozambicans were displaced and had no source of food or income. Since the end of the war in 1992, CARE has been providing assistance in health, and water and sanitation. We also work with communities to develop their agricultural skills and improve their income generation. As part of our longstanding focus on emergency response, we regularly respond to drought and other natural disasters, and assist communities in developing disaster risk reduction strategies and methods to cope with climate change.

Lifesaving Humanitarian Assistance

CARE International in Mozambique helps meet people’s most basic and pressing needs. The recent cyclones (Idai and Kenneth) and floods, one of the worst natural disasters in the southern hemisphere, has left more than two million people in need of emergency assistance. The impact of these natural disasters goes well beyond immediate life saving needs, negatively affecting food security, nutrition, health, education, housing and water and sanitation.

During the post-crisis period, additional support is needed to help women and girls access education, health and other resources – and protect them from risks such as gender based-violence. A joint needs assessment overseen by the Mozambique government and the United Nations highlighted the acute vulnerabilities and needs faced by women in the aftermath of the cyclone.

As part of the COSACA consortium (CARE, Oxfam, and Save the Children), CARE has assisted over 110,000 people with non-food items, shelter, food assistance and access to temporary learning spaces and water and sanitation.

Following Cyclone Idai and Kenneth, CARE is aiming to assist over 300,000 people with seed distribution for restarting agriculture production, the rehabilitation of schools and health centers, and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene promotion activities to reduce exposure to contaminated water.

To reduce risks to gender based-violence, CARE ensures that emergency interventions are gender sensitive. Through it’s leadership with the Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), CARE has supported the roll-out of a common complaints mechanism and will provide community based training on PSEA.
**Emergency Preparedness and Adaptation to Climate Change**

Mozambique is extremely prone to natural hazards. Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. CARE is working with communities to enable them to prepare for recurring droughts and floods, and to adapt to the changing climate over the longer-term. This includes supporting the adoption of improved farming techniques such as conservation agriculture, as well as distributing seeds better suited to drought conditions. In coastal areas vulnerable to tropical storms, CARE has assisted in mangrove planting and restoration as a means of reducing climatic degradation.

**Food Security and Livelihoods**

CARE Mozambique is also working with communities in drought affected areas to increase the productivity and profitability of crops, and assisting farmers with improved agricultural techniques. Village saving groups help people set up alternative sources of income and become more resilient to shocks caused by climate change and recurring natural disasters. CARE is working with farmers to promote the production of cashew nuts as an alternative source of income, helping them become more resilient to climate change. CARE is also working with local farmers through its in Farmer Field School initiative, assisting them to develop agricultural techniques such as composting to improve their harvests during times of drought.

**Empowering Women and Girls**

Empowering women and girls is a major focus of all our work, as women and girls are particularly vulnerable in times of food insecurity. We work with community volunteers to raise awareness on issues such as gender based violence, early marriage and family planning, and ensure women's participation in decision making. Through “Men in the Kitchen”, CARE is working with men on the sharing of household chores, and our work in village saving groups assists women's access to adequate and affordable financial services.

**Major Donors**

- EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
- European Union
- German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AA)
- Global Affairs Canada
- Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
- Department for International Development (DFID/UKAID)
- Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA/USAID)
- Swedish International Cooperation Agency (SIDA)