“Every girl can become a force for change. To unlock her potential, she must have the opportunity to go to school and build the skills and confidence needed to meet life’s challenges head on.”

— Dr. Helene D. Gayle, president and CEO of CARE
• **Poverty:** Girls are exposed to various risks and vulnerabilities that stifle their ability to achieve their full potential. Such risks are often directly related to issues of poverty and marginalization, a lack of economic opportunities, heavy labor demands in the household, poor access to healthcare and other public services, and exposure to violence, conflict and natural disasters.

• **Social Support:** Girls’ ability to develop self-esteem and leadership skills for transformative change is largely dependent on acceptance and support from family, community and peers.

**Policy Recommendations:**
The U.S. can play a leadership role in securing girls’ access to education by:

• Elevating International basic education as a development priority.

• Addressing gender inequity in education and targeting marginalized populations.

• Passing the Education for All Act, which will support a successful international effort to ensure that girls and other marginalized children in the world’s poorest countries achieve a quality education.

**Advancing Community-Based Education in Afghanistan**
CARE committed to supporting education in Afghanistan, a country fighting to reverse the effects of decades of conflict. The Partnership Advancing Community-Based Education in Afghanistan (PACE-A) reaches over 90,000 Afghan women and girls in approximately 1,000 remote communities.

This program, funded in partnership with the U.S. government, primarily supports communities that lack access to formal schools by providing primary education to Afghan children, 60 percent of whom are girls. PACE-A also offers accelerated learning, literacy and early childhood development activities in communities that identify these needs.

**Innovative Approaches to Promoting Girls’ Leadership**
CARE’s Power to Lead Alliance is a three-year public-private partnership between CARE, the U.S. government and the private sector to promote girls leadership and education in vulnerable communities in Egypt, Tanzania, Honduras, India, Yemen and Malawi.

In Tanzania, this innovative initiative supports the development of leadership skills in girls in vulnerable communities. Girls learn about civics and are exposed to positive role models, including female legislators and university students. These activities reinforce the value of education, and inspire girls to reach their full potential and play a greater role in their communities.

For example, in collaboration with the Kahama District Council, 60 girls from 17 schools attended a Tanzania National Parliament Assembly session where they observed parliament proceedings and met with female Members of Parliament.

**A woman’s earnings will be 10-20% higher for every year of school completed.**
**A child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past the age of 5 years.**
**Children with educated mothers are twice as likely to go to school and are less malnourished.**