CARE Tanzania

Country Snapshot

Population: 44.93 million
Life expectancy at birth: 61 years
Adult literacy rate: 67.8%
Access to improved water source: 56%
GDP per capita: USD 46.2 billion
Infant mortality rate: 51/1000 births
Maternal mortality rate: 454/100,000 births
HIV prevalence: 5.3%

Who We Are

CARE began its work in Tanzania in April 1994 as a response to the crisis in Rwanda and the influx of refugees into North-western Tanzania. Over the years CARE Tanzania has moved away from being a humanitarian organization to focus on innovative programming in natural resource management, climate change adaption, and women’s empowerment across most of the regions in the country, and particularly the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT). CARE Tanzania has also broadened the nature of its engagement from working primarily as a direct implementer at community levels to greater partnership roles with civil society organizations (CSOs), the Government of Tanzania (GoT), the private sector, research institutions, social movements, and the media to influence national policy.

At its core CARE in Tanzania aims to reach women in rural, food insecure households whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and natural resources. It envisages vibrant, equitable and resilient rural communities where women are empowered to realize their social, political and economic rights and natural resources are sustainably managed in the context of climate change. CARE Tanzania promotes innovative approaches, research and evidence based advocacy, and capacity building of local civil society in the fight for poverty reduction.
Our Programming Focus

Rural communities in Tanzania depend on climate-sensitive agriculture for their livelihoods and face the greatest levels of poverty and adverse impacts from climate change—women being most vulnerable to these conditions. As a result, CARE Tanzania has launched its six-year (2014-2020) **Wezesha Strategy**, which has two sub-strategies: the Sustainable Agriculture and Land Management Program (SALAMA) and Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE)—the latter used as both a standalone sub-strategy and a gender mainstreaming tool to guide all broader country office programs and projects.

Sustainable Agriculture & Land Management

SALAMA accelerates sustainable agriculture and land management practices, based on approaches developed and tested by CARE and other organizations in Tanzania and abroad. Key SALAMA approaches and program areas are detailed below.

**Land Use Planning and Land Rights**

Tanzania faces longstanding land use planning, distribution, and ownership rights challenges among smallholder farmers, pastoralists and private investors. SALAMA addresses participatory land use planning processes at community levels, in collaboration with village and district government authorities, and land use rights among major stakeholders, such as farmers, pastoralists, fishers and forest-dependent communities. SALAMA supports processes for issuance of communal and individual land tenure certificates (CCROs) and ensures that women’s land rights are respected. CARE Tanzania’s GEWE sub-strategy is leveraged to build women’s capacities to claim their rights to access, use, and own land as well.

CARE Tanzania continues to build on its Mobile Application to Secure Land Tenure (MAST) technology for land-use planning, mapping and record keeping, which digitalizes information for the Integrated Land Information Management Systems (ILMIS) of the Ministry of Land and Human Settlement to create a national land use database. CARE also works to provide education on land rights and builds partnerships with local CSOs, (such as CARE’s current Alliance with the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)) to take holistic approaches to land use planning.

**Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Smart Agriculture**

CARE Tanzania contributes to improved food and nutrition security with programming for: sustainable increases in the productivity, availability, and utilization of nutritious foods; healthy agricultural landscapes, with improved soil and carbon stocks; increased agricultural incomes, market linkage, and value chain inclusion for smallholder farmers, especially members of CARE-supported VSLA and Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) groups; and
increased access to financial services tailored to the needs of VSLAs.

**Financial Inclusion**
To ensure that women have access to formal financial institutions and secure, cost-effective, and responsible services, CARE Tanzania establishes VSLAs and builds their capacities to better manage incomes and reinvestments. We support Financial Service Providers (FSPs) to develop saving products appropriate for VSLAs (including mobile network services) and to integrate these products in their operations. CARE Tanzania also works to optimize VLSA outreach with different models that include Partner Organizations (POs), existing networks of local Village Agents (VAs), Community Based Trainers (CBTs), and Franchisees.

We build these groups’ capacities so that they can then offer financial literacy and linkage training to VSLAs and connect them to FSPs. CARE Tanzania works to strengthen these existing models, making them more effective, replicable, and sustainable.

**Land and Water Use at a Landscape Scale**
Natural resource management challenges continue in the context of weak governance frameworks in Tanzania. Key drivers for increased degradation of forest, water and wildlife resources include the rapid growth of extractive industries, population growth, and intensified land and resource use.

CARE Tanzania seeks to empower communities and institutions to sustainably and equitably manage natural resources for improved conservation of habitats and biodiversity. It works with citizens to hold duty bearers accountable for ecosystem integrity and livelihoods, and promotes governance frameworks for sustainable natural resource management and responsible land based investments. The CARE-WWF Alliance multiplies these program impacts, comprehensively building sustainable landscapes and livelihoods.

**Women’s Rights**
CARE Tanzania strengthens the capacities of duty bearers and right holders to promote women’s rights. Training and mentoring help women build the capacities to claim their rights to own and control land and productive resources. Our efforts include: working with men and boys as champions of change, and facilitating debates to challenge gender norms and renegotiate equitable relationships; supporting community-based protection services; supporting economic development, leadership, and skills training that increase women’s agency and self-confidence and reduce their vulnerability to violence; and advocating for responsive public policies to ensure creation, revision, and improved implementation of gender sensitive legal frameworks.

**Gender Equity & Women’s Empowerment**
GEWE is a guiding framework to address gender equality and women’s empowerment. It outlines pathways for women to realize their social, political, and economic rights through entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and women’s rights, including access and control over productive resources. GEWE guides programming that offers women in VSLAs the means to seize emerging business opportunities and to own and operate vibrant, small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). Networks of VSLA women entrepreneurs have a stronger voice to lobby for gender equity and equality and transform attitudes, practices, and policy implementation; VSLA entrepreneurship becomes a means to further women’s social and economic empowerment through participation in SMEs and collective action. CARE Tanzania seeks, inclusive, and sustainable value chains.
that improve rural women producers’ access, participation, roles, productivity, and incomes in agricultural markets. CARE Tanzania also works to scale up training on business management, including marketing, entrepreneurship, product improvement, and value addition to extend and improve the market power of both new and existing VSLAs. VSLA members are encouraged to start non-traditional, income generating to reduce women’s dependence on land and build resilience against climate shocks and stresses.

Major Donors
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