



CARE's Humanitarian Action

Evelyn Hockstein/CARE

Overview CARE International is one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations fighting global poverty, working in more than 70 countries around the world. Last year, CARE's emergency response and recovery projects reached more than 4.5 million people in 37 countries. With more than 65 years of experience and long-term presence in many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, CARE takes a comprehensive approach to emergency response: first by working with communities to prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters; then by partnering with local groups to provide immediate assistance when an emergency hits; and finally by working with survivors to help them recover after the crisis has passed. CARE's emergency response is part of a long-term commitment, and we place great importance on building local capacity and long-term resilience to external shocks. CARE is committed to meeting international standards of quality and accountability when we respond to emergencies, and making sure communities have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response.

Before Emergencies Strike

For poor, vulnerable communities, the impact of any emergency can destroy hard-won gains in the fight against poverty. Good planning and preparedness can save lives, reduce the impact of disasters and help people recover more quickly. By incorporating disaster risk reduction methods and emergency preparedness plans into our long-term development programming, CARE helps people develop sustainable methods and strengthen community resilience to prepare for and respond to disasters – anything from cyclones and floods in Asia, to food shortages or drought in Africa.

During an Emergency

Dedicated resources for emergency response allow us to provide fast, effective relief to communities in need. With ongoing programs in many of the world's most disaster-prone countries, CARE has emergency response experts already on the ground – 97 percent of them citizens of the countries where we work – and additional emergency specialists ready to immediately deploy from around the world. When disaster strikes, CARE provides emergency food, relief supplies, water and sanitation, and shelter to survivors. CARE places special emphasis on women, children and the elderly, recognizing that they are disproportionately affected by disasters.



Bill Kotsatos/CARE



Allen Clinton/CARE



Kate Holt/CARE

After an Emergency

After the emergency phase has passed, CARE works with communities to recover in the long term. Our goal is to transition as quickly as possible from emergency response to rehabilitation, and then to sustained development. Instead of providing long-term handouts, we help people help themselves, for example through small business assistance and agricultural rehabilitation, thereby reducing community vulnerability to future emergencies. We also provide psychosocial support, helping communities recover from trauma by re-establishing communal activities and structures and promoting better coping mechanisms through community activities.

Local Resources, Local Solutions

By buying materials locally where possible rather than flying supplies in, we support local businesses, get supplies to the people in need more quickly, and make our money go further. By partnering with local aid agencies and community groups and hiring local staff, we tap into the knowledge of a community's language and culture, develop a deeper understanding of the people we are serving, and make effective use of local expertise. CARE places importance on building the capacity of local CARE staff and partners in the countries where we work, by providing training, technical guidance and tools; with qualified staff already on the ground, we can respond immediately and quickly scale up our response.

CARE's Technical Expertise and UN Cluster System

While each response is tailored to the needs of each situation, CARE's four emergency focus areas are water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); shelter; food security; and logistics. CARE's other technical sectors include economic recovery, education, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial support, and agriculture and natural resource management. Cross-cutting areas include gender, disaster risk reduction and accountability.

During an emergency, CARE coordinates with local governments and participates in the United Nations cluster system, a coordinated approach that aims to ensure the humanitarian actors work together, reducing duplication of efforts and ensuring all people in need receive aid. At the global level, CARE is active in several UN clusters in our emergency focus areas, and CARE has

staff seconded to the WASH and logistics clusters who are deployed as cluster coordinators during emergencies. CARE often seconds a cluster coordinator for the shelter cluster.

CARE's Programming Principles

CARE follows a set of Programming Principles in our emergency, rehabilitation and long-term development work. CARE's principles are aligned with those of many other humanitarian agencies, and include:

- Promote empowerment
- Work in partnership with others
- Ensure accountability and promote responsibility
- Address discrimination
- Promote the non-violent resolution of conflicts
- Seek sustainable results

Accountability

CARE's Humanitarian Accountability Framework brings together CARE's existing quality and accountability commitments, such as CARE's own programming principles and inter-agency standards such as Sphere. Central to these standards is a commitment that humanitarian agencies should be accountable for the quality of their work by ensuring that those affected by emergencies have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response and are fully informed of our activities. To ensure this happens and improve our performance, CARE measures our impact through a series of monitoring activities, and internal and external evaluations.

Global Advocacy and Partnerships

Recognizing the link between poverty and gender inequality, CARE's humanitarian advocacy priorities are women and food security; and women, peace and security. CARE has a particular expertise in civil-military issues, conflict and peace building. CARE works with other international and national aid organizations and UN agencies to maximize the impact of our work. CARE is an active member of several humanitarian networks which share a common goal to improve quality and accountability in humanitarian action and to alleviate poverty through policy change. Key networks in which CARE is involved or is a signatory to:

- Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief
- The Sphere Project



Evelyn Hockstein/CARE



Evelyn Hockstein/CARE



Josh Estey/CARE

- Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International (HAP)
- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)
- Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB)
- People in Aid
- Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR): CARE International Secretary General Dr. Robert Glasser is currently the chair of the SCHR
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- Inter-Agency Working Group (IWG)
- Communications to Disaster-Affected Communities (CDAC)
- International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

Donors

CARE's emergency work is made possible with the support of our donors, which include United Nations agencies, the European Commission, national governments, private individuals, foundations, and corporations. CARE maintains low overhead costs, with 90 percent of donations going to support CARE's programming.

People reached through CARE's emergency work

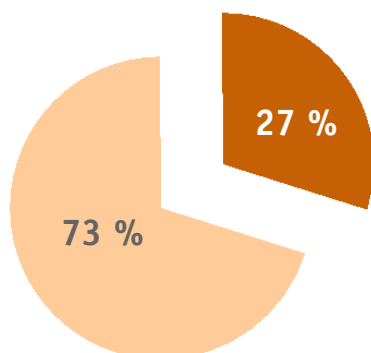
CARE's emergency response and recovery projects reached more than 4.5 million people in 37 countries in 2010.



CARE's emergency work as percentage of programming

In fiscal year 2009 (July 2008 to June 2009)*, CARE spent US\$910 million on development and emergency programs.

- Development programs
- Emergency programs



Main emergency and recovery interventions in 2010

- Afghanistan: earthquake
- Bangladesh: Cyclone Aila
- Benin: floods
- Brazil: mudslides
- Cambodia: Typhoons Ketsana and Parma
- Cameroon: cholera outbreak
- Chad: CAR refugees; Darfur refugees
- Chile: earthquake
- El Salvador: Tropical Storm Ida, floods
- Ethiopia: drought, food crisis
- Gaza: chronic
- Ghana: floods
- Guatemala: food crisis; Tropical Storm Agatha; volcano
- Haiti: earthquake; cholera outbreak
- India: Andhra Pradesh floods; Cyclone Aila
- Indonesia: Padang earthquake; Mt. Merapi volcano
- Kenya: drought; food crisis; Somali refugees (Dadaab)
- Laos: drought; Typhoons Ketsana and Parma
- Liberia: Côte d'Ivoire refugees
- Madagascar: Tropical Storm Hubert; Cyclone Jade
- Mali: food crisis
- Myanmar: Cyclone Giri; Cyclone Nargis; floods
- Nepal: floods
- Niger: food crisis
- Pakistan: IDPs* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; floods
- Peru: floods and landslides
- Philippines: Typhoons Ketsana and Parma
- Papua New Guinea: cholera and influenza outbreaks
- Somalia: drought; food crisis
- Southern Sudan: food insecurity; returnees
- Sri Lanka: IDPs
- Sudan: Darfur IDPs
- Tanzania: floods
- Uganda: DRC refugees
- Vietnam: Typhoons Mirinae, Ketsana and Parma
- Yemen: IDP crisis
- Zimbabwe: food insecurity

*Global financial data for fiscal year 2010 will be available in March, 2011.

* IDPs: internally displaced people



Evelyn Hockstein/CARE



Alix Carter/CARE



Kathryn Richards/CARE

CARE International's Humanitarian Mandate Statement

Goal

• Responding to humanitarian emergencies is an essential part of CARE's work to fight poverty and injustice and we recognize that emergencies are a cause and effect of both. CARE helps people cope with crises through disaster risk reduction, emergency relief, preparedness and post-crisis recovery.

Objectives

• The primary objective of humanitarian response is to meet immediate needs of affected populations in the poorest communities in the world. Recognizing that people have the fundamental right to life with dignity, CARE also strives to address the underlying causes of people's vulnerability. • CARE is a major force in humanitarian response and has a responsibility as a leader in the sector to demonstrate the highest standards of effectiveness and quality.

Principles

• CARE is a signatory of and holds itself accountable to accepted international humanitarian principles, standards and codes of conduct, including the Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and the Sphere and Humanitarian Accountability Partnership principles and standards. • CARE adheres to the principle of impartiality so that we provide assistance on the basis of need regardless of race, creed or nationality. CARE is committed to addressing the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, in times of crisis. • CARE upholds the principle of working independently of political, commercial, military, or religious objectives and promotes the protection of humanitarian space.

Approach

• CARE believes that local capacity can provide the most effective response to emergencies. However, by their very nature, emergencies often overwhelm local capacities, and in such situations CARE will respond in an appropriate, timely and effective way. • CARE will respond wherever we can add value by:

- Providing additional resources
- Enhancing the quality of response
- Committing to longer-term solutions
- Building local capacities

• We have a range of response options:

- Providing direct relief
- Working with and through partners
- Advocating with national and international bodies
- Keeping the general public informed

• CARE develops focused expertise both operationally and at the global policy level in certain specific humanitarian areas. • In keeping with our programming principles, CARE develops both local and international partnerships to strengthen local capacities and to add value through collaborative approaches. • CARE brings a longer-term view to its humanitarian work, including supporting people to be less vulnerable to disasters in the first place. Where appropriate, our programs link emergency relief, recovery, and long-term development, and include measures for disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

Last updated February 2011

Founded in 1945, CARE is one of the leading international humanitarian organizations fighting global poverty. CARE International is an independent, non-political, non-religious confederation comprised of 12 member organizations, with the CARE International Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland. In more than 70 countries, women are at the heart of CARE's efforts to improve health, education and economic development because experience shows that a woman's achievements yield dramatic benefits for her entire family. For more information, please visit www.care-international.org or contact us at cisecretariat@careinternational.org.

