

In the context of CARE’s focus on impact at scale and USAID’s [Journey to Self-Reliance](#), a critical component of reaching the most number of people with the most impact is working with local partners, civil society organizations, and social movements. By working collectively, we can impact more people more sustainably, with solutions that are designed, owned, and driven by the people and communities most in need.

Globally, in FY18, more than half of CARE’s projects (57%) worked with and through local partners. One third of our projects had most or all of project activities working with local civil society organizations. This range of experience highlights a number of ways to work with local partners—from sub-granting to a local implementer, to supporting and convening a social movement where CARE is one of many voices.

Our key approaches

- **Putting partners in charge:** CARE supports partners in setting and accomplishing their own strategic priorities.
- **Opening doors:** CARE helps make links between the partners and governments, research institutions, and donors. We work with partners to make national and global connections available to them directly, and help them present their case to outside actors.
- **Coaching:** CARE focuses on building capacity in monitoring and evaluation, human resources, strategy, accountability, and financial management. Many projects assign staff time to coach the administrative and organizational strengthening roles in partners we work with.
- **Sharing and managing knowledge:** CARE works with the partners to produce evidence and recommendations, and share with key stakeholders.
- **Providing Funding:** CARE provides direct funding to support activities, like advocacy campaigns, funding organizational action plans, or additional learning and networking opportunities for staff.
- **Being a fellow activist:** CARE supports the campaigns and advocacy activities, lending our weight and voice to the priority issues like land grabbing, women’s equal rights at work, or access to finance.
- **Serving as a critical reviewer:** we support partners build and use new data and evaluation systems for project and financial data—and on making information transparent to members and stakeholders.
- **Improving their own governance:** using tools and resources that CARE provides, partners often conduct self-reviews and report transparently to their stakeholders. Many organizations find this so successful that they spread this to peers and members well beyond CARE’s initial terms of reference.

The Latin America Domestic Workers’ Movement

The domestic workers’ movement in Latin America has a long history of organizing dating back to the first decades of the 20th century. CARE started engaging with domestic worker organizations in the late 2000s as part of what would eventually become the *Trabajo Digno* (Dignified Work) program. CARE LAC supported domestic workers organizations in a variety of ways: providing direct financial support; supporting the creation of communications materials; supporting meetings, trainings and workshops; and technical assistance for the development of evaluation tools, grant applications and action plans.

Some key results of this work so far include:

- First-ever collective contracts for domestic workers signed in Mexico.
- A 94% increase in union membership, with 2,075 new members.
- A 3-fold increase in domestic workers awareness of their human and labor rights.
- Ecuador’s second domestic workers’ organization granted legal status.
- 7 times more decision-makers engaged with domestic work program.
- Nearly 150,000 signatures to ratify the ILO convention 189 on domestic work.
- 7 million people reached through communications campaigns.

“They taught us, they didn’t [just hand things to us], we had to learn how to walk on our own.”

- Lenny Quiroz
Zambrano, ATRH

Niger's PROGRESS work on resilience

CARE Niger has been working for over 40 years to support the poorest and most vulnerable people in Niger. In that time, CARE's role has evolved from primarily implementation of emergency relief to an approach that focuses on supporting local civil society to build the structures and skills necessary to meet their own needs and advocate for change. PROGRES II (2013-2017) aimed to contribute to the promotion of a strong, diversified and committed civil society that represents and defends the rights and interests of pastoralists. It does this by working with 3 key civil society partners—The Association for Revitalizing Pastoralism in Niger (AREN), Development for a Better Life (DEMI-E), and the Billital Maroobé Network (RBM).

Key results of this work include:

- With support from CARE, the partners have expanded their membership by 6 times, and including thousands more people in their processes. RBM was able to build 9 new offices to influence local governments and has extended its reach to other countries in West Africa.
- Partners added several women to their own leadership boards, and are focusing on involving women all along the way. 47% of new members are female.
- Partners created 10 new advocacy campaigns, and quadrupled the number of groups active in the movement.
- The government has passed new water rights laws, and the president included NRM concerns in his speech before the UN, partly as a result of pressure from these groups. National and local governments are now routinely reaching out to our partners looking for evidence that will help them make better decisions.
- Created spaces for negotiation between governments and citizens: as one pastoralist said “with AREN we have access to light... and now we have access to justice.” The partners are building conflict resolution forums and links between people and the actors who can help solve their problems.

OIKKO Unity Project in Bangladesh

Garment workers in Bangladesh are taking collective action to improve their situation. Empowering women to work together is bringing positive changes across many areas of their lives. EKATA groups support workers to collectively identify gaps in access to rights, identify actions to address these issues, and provide a safe, established space in which to organise that collective action.

Some key results include:

- 20000 women were motivated to join trade unions.
- 5000 women participating in more than 170 solidarity and community support groups by 2018.
- OIKKO enabled workers to claim maternity pay, support others to apply for sick leave, insist on action against abusive supervisors, demand and receive minimum wage, ensure payment of salaries and compensation for factory closure, and request and gain improved facilities.
- Women in communities were able to ensure community leaders address sexual harassment. They also improved infrastructure in their homes by working with local authorities, and got more accessible services from health providers.

Moving forward, OIKKO will be expanding and adapting the EKATA model to different country contexts. In addition to continuing to increase the number of EKATA groups in Bangladesh, as of June 2019, 18 groups are meeting in **Indonesia** with over 350 members. This will expand to over 50 groups with more than 1,000 members by the end of 2019. 10 groups are meeting in **Vietnam** with over 300 members. This will expand to 25 groups with more than 750 members by the end of 2019.