



CARE's local staff and community links are an important asset as we work to meet basic needs like soap and hygiene supplies.

Updated: April 13, 2020

CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

With much of the world on lockdown, CARE's local resources are more critical than ever.

The global response to COVID-19 is facing unprecedented challenges, as restrictions including stay-at-home orders, closed borders and suspended transit links are severely limiting mobility, including for international agencies. **CARE's long-term local presence and close partnerships within communities** are more vital than ever as we work to reach the people most vulnerable to the pandemic.

Thanks to our **established relationships and existing networks in 100 countries** we are able to share information and resources even in isolated, hard-to-reach areas. To cite one example, CARE-sponsored **Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)** – most of whose members are women – are a **quick, safe and effective way of spreading the word** about precautions against the coronavirus.

CARE's ongoing **health and hygiene programs** provide us with a wealth of experience and resources in **community outreach** – including networks of community volunteers; relationships with influential local community leaders; and innovative communications channels, from radio broadcasts to drama productions. CARE's country staff – **95% of whom are from the communities where they live and work** – have the close relationships and trust necessary to mobilize people to action. A number of CARE's country teams include staff with **experience addressing epidemics such as cholera, Ebola and Zika**.



Local volunteers organized by CARE in Bangladesh conduct community prevention outreach including teaching social distancing and handwashing techniques.

The countries most vulnerable to COVID-19 have the least capacity to cope

According to a [global COVID-19 risk analysis](#), some of the world's poorest countries – from Afghanistan to Yemen – are likely to face the worst potential impact from the pandemic, and have the weakest access to healthcare. **CARE works in 13 of the 14 countries considered at “very high risk.”** Our overall COVID-19 response targets **over 50 countries**, including the following:

- **Bangladesh**, where CARE is installing and equipping handwashing facilities and conducting awareness sessions across the country, including in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee site.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**, where CARE is leveraging our existing Ebola response programming focused on community engagement, surveillance and improved services including water, hygiene and sanitation.
- **Haiti**, where teams are focusing on awareness raising in small groups and via mobile and radio campaigns, working through local networks such as VSLAs, teachers and school committees.
- **Jordan**, where CARE's program staff in the Azraq refugee camp are distributing hygiene kits and supporting awareness outreach, case management, information dissemination and hotlines.
- **The Philippines**, where CARE provides risk communication and hygiene supplies – as well addressing economic dislocation by procuring and distributing fruits and vegetables from small-scale farmers.
- **West Bank and Gaza**, where CARE is working through partners to provide training to medical teams, awareness raising, and materials and supplies to healthcare facilities and households under quarantine.

Our fundraising goal for a global response is **\$30 million**. Some of the ways **your donation can help**:

- **\$50** can build and equip a handwashing station at a public site.
- **\$150** per day can provide 300 people with 20 liters of safe water each.
- **\$4,600** can provide sanitation kits for a health center.

A “Perfect Storm” for Women

The pandemic will have a **profound impact on women and girls** – especially those living in poverty, in countries experiencing conflict, and in refugee/displacement settings.

Among the findings from a [Global Rapid Gender Analysis](#) undertaken by CARE and the International Rescue Committee:

- **Home is not necessarily a safe space** during quarantine or isolation: There are increasing reports of a surge in **gender-based violence**.
- **As limited healthcare resources are diverted to the crisis**, there is a risk that women's health needs will be shortchanged.
- **A global recession will hit hard for women** already living on the edge – but women are often left out of decision making when it comes to economic recovery plans.



During crises like epidemics, women can be the key to economic survival in their communities. Bindu Bonarwolo's family weathered the Ebola outbreak in Liberia thanks to a small business she started with assistance from her CARE-sponsored Village Savings and Loan Association.

As we have for 75 years, CARE is working in some of the world's most isolated places, with deeply vulnerable people who face an unprecedented crisis. We remain convinced that our society will face this test by reaffirming our shared humanity and commitment to one another.

Please join us in this effort: care.org/COVIDupdates