

#WOMEN

EQUAL

 care ACTION

Health, Safety, Recovery,  
& Leadership in COVID-19



2020 CARE  
VIRTUAL SUMMIT

JUNE 9, 2020 5-6:30 PM EST, ONLINE

## ADVOCACY AGENDA

These are incredibly trying times with a global pandemic and increasing economic and social inequality. We must lift our voices to help create a more just and equal world. With economies shuttered, there is a very real possibility that more than 500 million people will slip back into poverty, and that we may not be able to reach the 168 million people around the world who are already in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.

**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.

**Women's leadership and participation are critical** for ensuring an effective, just and accountable COVID-19 response, and building a more just and equal world. The urgency to speak out in solidarity with those who are too often overlooked and underserved has never been greater.

### CARE's Advocacy Agenda

CARE advocates for a global response to COVID-19 that includes a focus on the unique impact women and girls face by this crisis and the women's leadership needed to build back a more just, equitable world.

- The United States must do its part to address the pandemic at home and abroad. Congress must provide no less than \$12 billion for the global COVID-19 response and include a focus on the gendered aspects of the crisis.
- Congress must pass the Safe from the Start Act.
- COVID-19 response must ensure women and girls get the assistance they need by supporting community-driven and gender-sensitive efforts and including gender-based violence response services.
- Women should be supported and elevated in leadership roles in COVID-19 preparedness, decision-making, and response.



**Women and girls have always been the key to changing our world for the better.**

COVID-19 presents new challenges and barriers for those most vulnerable across the globe. Women's leadership and participation are critical for ensuring an effective, just and accountable COVID response, and building a more resilient and inclusive post-COVID-19 world.

# ADVOCACY AGENDA

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. Our health response focuses on four critical objectives: **protecting and supporting** front line health workers, **strengthening communities** to stop the spread, **ensuring continuity** of lifesaving services, including sexual and reproductive health, and **standing with women, girls and the most marginalized**. To avoid a food and nutrition security crisis in the immediate term, **the COVID-19 response must address food and nutrition security and water and sanitation**, particularly among the most vulnerable and those in extreme poverty, including women and girls. **CARE's overall COVID-19 response targets 64 countries**, which represents one of the largest emergency response efforts in our 75-year history.

This includes:

- **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 as 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.



## 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.

Take action at [care.org/fightcovid](https://www.care.org/fightcovid) and tell Congress to put women and girls at the center of response efforts.