



**Achieving Food and Nutrition Security
& Resilience to Climate Change**

Annual Report

Introduction

This year's Food and Water Systems Annual Report is a special one. *Achieving Food and Nutrition Security & Resilience to Climate Change* is about accomplishments, and commitments – new and old – and the challenges that we face in getting there.

In 2014, the [CARE 2020 Program Strategy](#) was approved. The first ever organization-wide strategy in CARE's seventy years of history, committing to supporting 150 million of the most vulnerable people worldwide, including a goal to reach 50 million poor and vulnerable women, girls, men and boys to increase their food and nutrition security and their resilience to climate change by 2020. It was an extremely ambitious goal, deliberately so, with the intention to further facilitate the organization's commitment to be driven by impact.

We knew that traditional programming implementation alone would never bring us there, and that we would need to change the way we operated in order to reach that goal. And that is exactly what we did. Over the past six years, we have established new ways of working, ensuring extensive coordination and better programming alignment across the CARE Confederation. We developed [She Feeds the World \(SFtW\)](#), a new systems' based strategic framework, capturing the best of what CARE does in our food and nutrition security programming and advocacy, to guide our global work. We intentionally brought women and girls in the center of our food and nutrition security (FNS) programming, at the heart of what we do, because we know that we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities.

We brought together our humanitarian and development programming, as a nexus. We improved our monitoring and evaluation systems and our knowledge and management capacities. We tested and disseminated new tools and models such as the [Farmer Field and Business Schools](#) and the [Collective Impact for Nutrition](#) approach. We expanded our donors' base and significantly augmented our funding for food security and nutrition. We promoted new partnerships and we advocated for local, national, and global policy changes to improve the food security and nutrition of millions of people around the world. No doubt it was a gargantuan task, carried out during a time when hunger globally started to rise for the first time in decades, due to political instability, growing inequality, the rise of new conflicts, and the increasing impacts of climate change.

Each of these tremendous efforts paid off, as we can now proudly declare that CARE fulfilled the ambitious goal and our commitment to increasing the food security and nutrition for **48,989,602** people globally by 2020.

However, our work is not done. With this report, we reflect on CARE's impact over the past five years—taking stock and highlighting of some of the key impacts, lessons learned, and successes we've had along the way. First and foremost, *Achieving Food and Nutrition Security & Resilience to Climate Change* is a tribute to the many, many people, from across CARE and our partners and allies, without whom this would not have been possible.

We also observe this opportunity to consider our vision of achieving global food and nutrition security going forward by aggressively addressing the injustices in global food and water systems; particularly in the context of increasing frequency and intensity of conflicts and natural disasters, pervasive inequity, population growth, increasing climate change and variability, and a depleting natural resource base.

In 2020, CARE developed a new shared vision for the decade ahead, [CARE's 2030 Vision: Harnessing collective power to fight poverty, and achieve social justice](#), including the [Right to Food, Water and Nutrition Impact Area Strategy](#), which lays out our priorities to transform food and

water systems, as well as the organizational identity we need to embrace and the resource considerations required to accomplish another ambitious goal: to ensure the fulfilment of the right to adequate and nutritious food and clean water for all by promoting sustainable, productive, equitable and resilient (SuPER) food and water systems, while ensuring equitable, livable incomes and dignified livelihoods.

Undoubtedly, the challenges are immense. For food and water systems to be equitable, we must tackle poverty from a multi-dimensional perspective. Inequality and power imbalances – at household, community, national and global levels – constrain the ability of food systems and water to deliver poverty reduction. And the context in which we are working are not improving. The world is currently facing a famine pandemic of biblical proportions. The UN estimates that the number of people affected by chronic hunger in 2020 rose by more than in the previous five years combined. Reversing this situation will likely take years, if not decades.

Everyone has a right to nutritious food and clean water. The world produces enough food for everyone to eat, yet still so many go hungry. It does not have to be that way. We believe that a world without hunger and malnutrition and water scarcity is possible. We believe too that food and water systems must be more equitable, and thus are wholeheartedly committed to ensure that, by 2030, at least 75 million people, the majority women and girls, will increase their fulfilment of their right to adequate food, water and nutrition thanks to CARE and our partners. In so doing, CARE's Food and Water Systems team strives to empower citizens, hold governments accountable, and foster collective action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and provide everyone access to safe, affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene.

With your help, we will make it happen.

Juan Echanove

Senior Director

Food and Water Systems

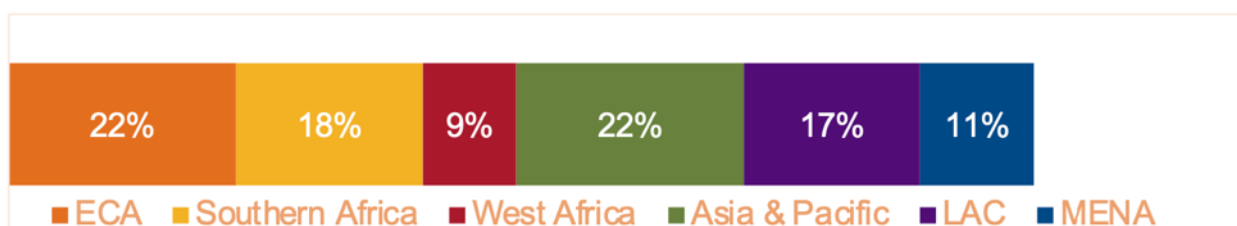
CARE USA

RESULTS

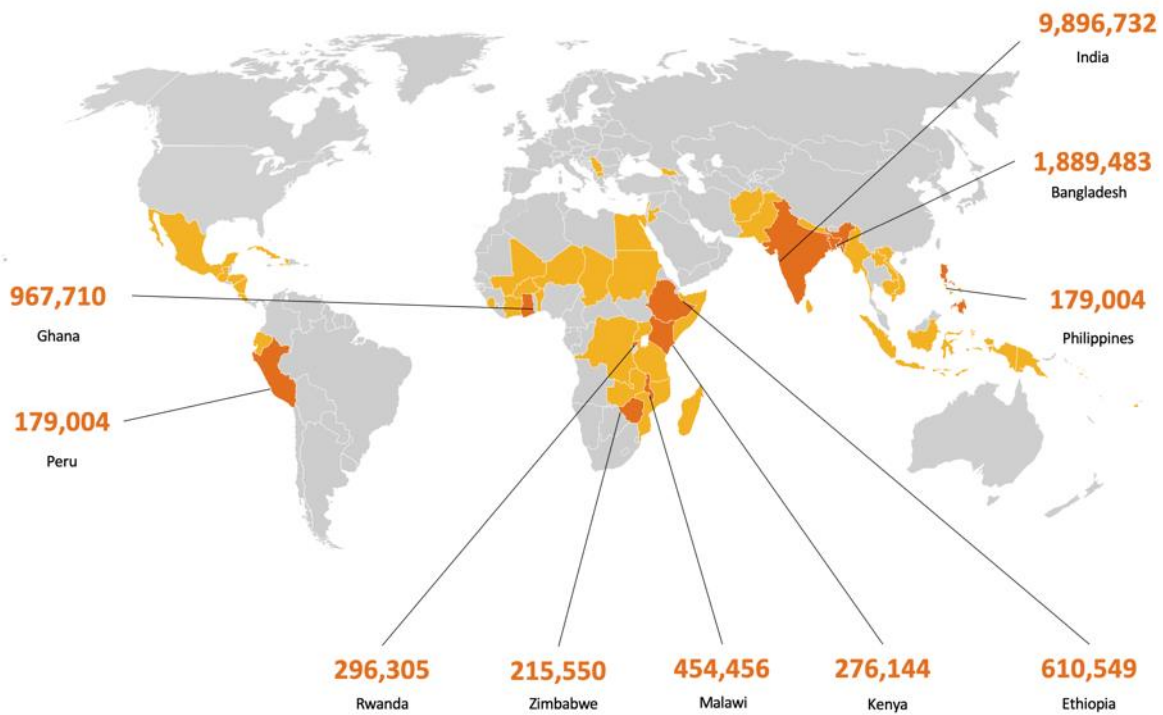
In Fiscal Year 2020, CARE had 629 projects in its portfolio on food and nutrition security and resilience to climate change: reaching 23 million people, 56% women and girls, directly and 76 million indirectly across 76 countries.

Since 2015, CARE has helped **48,989,602** people to increase their food security, nutrition, and resilience to climate change in 70 countries; and **1.3** million people to receive access to water, sanitation, and hygiene.

FNS & CCR IMPACT BY REGION



Top 10 Countries by Direct Reach #s



Impact by Indicator

Reduced food insecurity for 4,836,766 people - 50.9% women and girls - with 80 projects across 28 countries.

Despite progress in recent decades, about 795 million people – or around one in nine – still suffer from chronic undernourishment or hunger. When food is scarce, women are the first to go short, or even go without. The fact is that there is enough food in the world to feed everyone, but not everyone gets enough food to eat. There are three major factors leading to [food and nutrition insecurity](#): poverty prohibits people from buying food to feed themselves and their families; climate change affects food production, especially for small-scale farmers; and food waste and losses also contribute greatly to hunger. In the face of rising food insecurity, CARE is working in some of the world's most vulnerable communities to ensure that no one need die from hunger or suffer chronic malnutrition. CARE works to help people find sustainable ways to make sure they know where their next meal is coming from and support long-term methods of reducing their vulnerability to hunger and malnutrition. This includes supporting farming households to ensure local markets are well stocked, managing natural resources so that they are less at risk from the effects of climate change, and strengthening livelihoods so that people are able to purchase foods.

- Bangladesh is home to CARE's longest standing food security programming, originally started in 1974. There, [SHOUHARDO](#) – one of the largest non-emergency food security programs in the world – has reduced food insecurity for 1.50 million including a 281% increase in the number of households growing vegetables and 81% increase in household dietary diversity.
- With the support of USAID's Food for Peace, and in partnership with WFP, ACF, World Vision, and the Haitian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, [Kore Lavi](#) transformed markets in Haiti by benefiting 156,618 households to improve access to indigenous, nutritious food, improve maternal and child nutritional status, and build governmental capacity to lead and manage a

national safety net and national targeting. Haiti's [National School Feeding Policy](#) highlights Kore Lavi's school feeding program approach which, in pilot, reached 4,000 students (867,000 at scale) increasing attendance by 60% and cutting malnutrition by 65% within the first 3 months.

- [Harande](#) in Mali benefited 270,000 vulnerable people to improve sustainable food, nutrition, and income security conditions, while simultaneously playing a vital connective and multiplier role among NGOs working in the Mopti region.
- [Hamzari](#), meaning “move quickly and steadily toward the goal” in the Hausa language, deploys sustainable approaches that ensure community ownership and use self-reinforcing and self-transferring mechanisms to directly address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in one of the poorest regions of Niger. Coordination with other USAID, donor, UN, and government initiatives ensure synergy and mitigate duplication to reach: 96,000 direct participants in 32,000 households spread across 325 villages in Chadakori, Guidan Roudji, and Guidan Sori, with 17,305 pregnant women and 23,961 breastfeeding women receiving food and nutritional counseling.

CARE has been a partner of USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) since its inception in 1954, with our food security portfolio supporting programming all around the world. In addition to those listed above, programs such as the five-year **Enhancing Nutrition**, CARE Zimbabwe's [Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise](#) program (ENSURE, led by WorldVision), Malawi's [UBALE](#) program (led by CRS), Nepal's [Sabal](#) (led by Save the Children), and dozens of others have empowered countless women and contributed to food, nutrition and water security for millions of CARE program participants; while simultaneously strengthening our systemic and intentional approach to collaborating, learning, and adapting to drive impact and enhance sustainability.

Our programs build on, and are inspired by, the vital roles that women play in smallholder agriculture around the world: meeting the food needs of their households, contributing to the development and growth of livelihoods, and working toward sustainable futures for their households and communities.

Strengthening Gender Equality and Women's Voice: An Integrated Gender Approach

CARE believes that advancement in gender equality would have a greater impact on the realization of people's especially, women's rights to food, water and nutrition. Evidence shows that strengthening gender equality and women's voice results in transformative change for women small-scale farmers and their households, with significant changes in gender regimes that regulate access to, use of, and control over productive resources, labor division, GBV and discriminatory social and gender norms, and strategic decision-making power in household, community, civic and political spheres.

CARE is committed to achieving gender equality and empowerment for women and girls through our humanitarian and development programming using CARE's Gender Equality framework. CARE strives for implementing gender-transformative programming and, in FY20, exactly half of all FNS CCR projects (50%) were reported as Gender Sensitive, and an additional 34% as Gender Responsive (18%) and Gender Transformative (16%).

In FY20, FNS CCR projects were

50%

Gender Sensitive

34%

Gender Responsive

16%

Gender Transformative



CARE implementing the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded **Win-Win Project in Burundi** (2015- 2020) tested how a gender transformative approach called the EKATA¹ improves not only women's empowerment, but also gender equality, food security, nutrition and economic well-being compared to "gender light"² conventional mainstreaming approach. The evaluation revealed a benefit-cost ratio for EKATA at 5:1 – i.e. a return of \$5 for every \$1 invested – as opposed to 3:1 for the Gender Light model, with improved participation of women and men in community activities, significantly greater increases in rice production, food security, and incomes, higher levels of satisfaction with life, more confidence in speaking in public, and as well as feelings of safety and attitudes rejecting gender-based violence. The EKATA group members reported shorter periods of food deficit during lean seasons, and women reported greater satisfaction with the division of both domestic and agricultural tasks and with access to extension services and inputs. All the women in the EKATA groups considered themselves leaders and rated spousal support as significant. The Gender Parity Index (GPI), improved by 51% in EKATA and by less than 10 percent in the gender light and control groups.

The BMGF funded **Pathways³ Project** (2012-2018) worked in six countries (Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, and Mali) to increase food and nutrition security for over 52,000 women small-scale farmers, their families, and their communities. Using the Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS), a gender transformative approach and an integrated model, the project developed farmer capacity and skills, expanded access to services, assets and inputs; increased productivity



¹ Empowerment Through Knowledge and Transformative Action: aimed at transforming power relations by fully engaging men in sharing caregiving responsibilities and enabling women to gain control over productive assets and to participate in household decisions

² Premised on the capacity of women to take individual actions, without addressing key consciousness-raising and collective action

³ Pathways to Secure Livelihoods: Empowering Women in Agriculture program (Pathways)

and greater influence over household decisions, and created an enabling environment for gender equality and women's voice. The Social Cost-Benefit Analysis of the program conducted externally in 2016 showed that Pathways had a \$31 return for every \$1 invested. This was split between women's empowerment, improved food security, and higher incomes, with 25 percent of the impact coming from spillover into the communities of Pathways farmers. The number of empowered women according to CARE's women empowerment index⁴ doubled in Ghana and Tanzania, women's empowerment scores increased an average of 14 points for Mali and Tanzania, and 6 points for India, Ghana, and Malawi. Women's decision making increased by about 25 percentage points—with the highest impact in Mali at 37 percentage points. Household income from farming went up between 40 and 165 percent, with over \$7,240,676 realized from improved yields and better marketing during the life of activity.

Developed during Pathways, the **Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS)** is a participatory, women-focused training and extension approach predicated on CARE's Gender Equality Framework. FFBS integrates sustainable agriculture practices, financial literacy and market engagement, gender and equity, food and nutrition security, group empowerment, and participatory monitoring and evaluation. This integration strengthens results across the spectrum of food and nutrition security and gender equality. Launched in 2014 in the Pathways program, FFBS was piloted in six countries (Mali, Malawi, Ghana, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and India) yielding significant success on women's access to extension, inputs, markets, productivity in addition to transforming social and gender norm barriers. After this successful pilot, FFBS was disseminated to other CARE food security and nutrition programs and has been adopted by more than **28 projects benefiting around 598,068 farmers directly and another 2,343,472 farmers indirectly**. FFBS has evolved as a programmatic solution for bringing in transformative changes for women small-scale farmers and their households and has been adopted into SFtW and the RTFWN-IAS⁵. Beyond CARE, this approach was adopted by the Malawi Government, incorporated into BMGF gender and agriculture strategy, and adapted by IFAD and FAO.

Contributed to 1,205,579 children under 5 escaping stunting, increasing the food and nutrition security of over 2,705,000 people with 27 projects across 18 countries.

CARE focuses on reducing stunting because this reflects success on many fronts: food systems, health systems, education, WASH infrastructure, and safety nets, to name a few. Since stunting occurs during a child's first 1,000 days – from conception through the second birthday – and essentially cannot be reversed, adequate growth and nutritional status is paramount. All of CARE's programming uses nutrition-sensitive approaches to provide the foundation for good nutrition.

CARE's multi-sectoral approach – which has become the cornerstone to our nutrition programming – is grounded in the Lancet's renowned series of papers in 2013 on Maternal and Child Nutrition; promoting a multi-layered approach to programming built upon integrating **nutrition-specific interventions** to address the direct determinants; **nutrition-sensitive interventions** to address the underlying factors; and building an **enabling environment** to ensure adequate resources, policy, and commitment to improving nutrition globally.

⁴ A variation of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index developed by IFPRI

⁵ The Right to Food, Water and Nutrition Impact Area Strategy (FY22-FY25)

Nutrition at the Center (N@C, 2013-2017) became CARE USA's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition program integrating maternal, infant, and early childhood nutrition; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); food security; and women's empowerment initiatives. The project reached mothers, their children, and influential household and community members – in Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, and Zambia – through an integrated intervention model of malnutrition prevention, care, and support, while working toward the goal of a 13% reduction in anemia in women and children and a 9% decrease in child stunting. N@C reached more than 200,000 women, men, and children through almost 5,400 peer groups – including mother-to-mother support groups, VSLAs, SAA groups, and adolescent girls' groups. Working through these groups, in Benin, Exclusive Breast Feeding went from 40 to 76%, in Ethiopia from 54 to 60%, and in Bangladesh from 76 to 90%. In Bangladesh alone, N@C contributed to reducing food insecurity by 37% (from 56.5% to 19.5%), increasing food security for 36,835 people (100% women & girls); contributed to reducing stunting by 14.4% (from 47.2% to 32.8% - a reduction of 2.9 percentage points a year), enabling 3,637 children under 5 to escape stunting, and increasing food & nutrition security for 21,821 people.

As an extension of Nutrition at the Center, CARE's multi-country **Collective Impact for Nutrition** (CI4N, 2018-2020) was implemented to scale up the N@C package of nutrition interventions in Bangladesh and Benin by employing a collective impact approach; working to convene and coordinate government partners and other stakeholders to jointly implement the proven program model and drive advocacy for nutrition. The collective impact approach allowed us to sustainably expand impact far beyond what has been possible through direct implementation – having the potential to help an additional **5.4 million** children escape stunting.

Similar to the CI4N approach, Nepal's USAID-funded **Suaahara II** (2016-2021) operates through a multi-sector partnership with the Government of Nepal and collaborates with existing projects and private sector groups working towards improving the health and nutrition status of women and children under two. **Suaahara II** has contributed to reducing food insecurity by 12.5% (from 25.1% to 12.6%), increasing food security for **1.6 million** people; including an increase in the percentage of children 6-23 months meeting the minimum dietary diversity requirement from 47% in 2017 to 58% in 2019. Working with 4 local partners ([DBI EAN](#), [ENPHO](#), [NTAG](#), and [VDRC](#)) as part of a consortium coordinated by [HKI](#), the US Government-funded program works in 42 of Nepal's 77 Districts. The project has successfully scaled up a participatory health mapping tool at national level (Self-Applied Technique for Quality Health, [SATH](#)), as well as Community Health Score Boards ([CHSB](#)) to promote social accountability.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO ELIMINATE STUNTING?

CARE and our partners' [learning](#) is that this involves:

- Promoting an integrated food systems approach, so all food and nutrition security programs include objectives for improved nutrition, especially for women and children
- Promoting multi-stakeholder platforms that bring a range of actors together to solve malnutrition
- Promoting gender equality and changing social norms, through participatory dialogue to challenge negative power, gender and social norms around nutrition
- Adapting for emergencies, particularly with cash transfers or voucher assistance programs
- Advocating for results, to increase ambition and funding for nutrition, at national and global levels

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG2: END HUNGER

CARE and partners have contributed to close to **1.4 million** children under 5 in **18 countries** escaping **stunting** (1,389,251), an average reduction of 9.5 percentage points (or 1.1 percentage points per year), increasing the food and nutrition security for nearly **3.3 million** people. The largest impacts are still seen from CARE and partner's advocacy and influencing work in **Peru**, as part of the **Child Malnutrition Initiative**, where more than **1.2 million** children under 5 have escaped stunting since 2011. Other examples include the Support for Service Delivery Integration (**SSDI**) Services project in Malawi, a US-government funded consortium coordinated by **Jhpiego**, which contributed to reducing stunting by 10% (from 47% to 37% - a reduction of 2.5 percentage points a year), enabling **50,213** children under 5 to escape stunting, and increasing food and nutrition security for 220,935 people.

CARE's EU-funded **JANO** (2018-2023), in the Nilphamari and Rangpur districts of Northwest Bangladesh, is improving maternal and child nutrition through the implementation of multi-sectoral approaches and strengthened nutritional governance. Through the project, CARE and its consortium partners directly support the Government of Bangladesh with the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN), reaching 4.7 million people to date with knowledge and training on health and nutritional practices. JANO integrates market-based and nutrition-sensitive activities to improve maternal and child nutrition and strengthen government systems; including developing easy-to-use mobile phone-based tools enabling communities to access nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific information on demand. Since baseline, CARE has seen an increase in the proportion of pregnant and lactating women receiving nutrition-specific safety net support from 8.4% to 10.6%; open defecation has decreased from 7.8% to 1.9%; and 22.6% of children 6-23 months have minimum dietary diversity compared to 17.8% at baseline.

Ethiopia's **GROW project** (2016-2020) contributed to reducing food insecurity by 25.8% (from 36% to 10.2%), reducing stunting by 5.9% (from 39.1% to 33.2% - a reduction of 1.5 percentage points a year), enabling 11,643 children under 5 to escape stunting, and increasing food & nutrition security for 254,558 people (18% women & girls) by strengthening local capacity through targeted trainings for government health workers and community groups on Adolescent, Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (AAMIYCN); perma-gardening and keyhole gardening techniques; water point management and maintenance to rehabilitate select water schemes; and basic nutrition education with a focus on multi-sector planning and integration.

The **Southern Africa Nutrition Initiative** (SANI, 2016-2020) has improved the nutritional health of more than 575,000 women of the reproductive age and children under five in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia through increasing access to WASH facilities, focusing on working with local health authorities and communities to strengthen governance and accountability of gender-equitable nutrition policies and programs. It is anticipated that the SANI's dual nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific approach to addressing malnutrition now could bring economic benefits over 100 times as large as the cost of interventions. Most recently, recognized for having established the infrastructure and community support needed for an effective community outreach campaign within each country, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada, SANI received a \$1.1 million extension as part of ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; focusing on improving the capacity of health centers and personnel to respond to COVID-19, building community knowledge and resilience, and continuing to strengthen the food security and nutritional status of target communities.

Increased abilities to build resilience to the effects of climate change and vulnerability for 2,584,569 people with 80 projects across 27 countries.

Climate change threatens to undo progress against hunger and malnutrition—and make the stakes for success that much higher. Climate change impacts all aspects of food security: reducing crop yields, increasing water scarcity, exacerbating unequal access to food, destabilizing food supplies and prices, and hampering individuals' ability to absorb nutrients from food. CARE International's [Climate Change and Resilience Platform \(CCRP\)](#), endorsed and supported by key national directors, and coordinated by CARE Netherlands supports and strengthens the ability of CARE to increase resilience and to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. This is accomplished by building the capacities and by growing CARE's impact, influence and income to better serve the needs of the vulnerable – particularly women and girls – as shocks and stresses, including climate change, are increasingly overwhelming and impeding progress towards CARE's key objectives by harming poor and marginalized people.

Simultaneously, SFtW seeks to address the underlying causes of vulnerability of marginalized groups, and improve the social, economic and ecological systems and structures that support them. CARE's [Resilience Guidance Note](#) outlines how resilience goes beyond the ability to recover from shocks by addressing the context that makes people vulnerable, such as tackling unequal access to resources and participation in adaptation planning, creating an enabling policy environment for climate action, as well as reducing the drivers of risks such as greenhouse gas emissions.

CARE Netherlands has been working with the Dutch alliance [Partners for Resilience \(PfR\)](#), financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016-2020), to reduce the impact of natural hazards on the livelihoods of community members in seven countries: **Ethiopia**, **Guatemala**, **Indonesia**, **Mali**, **Philippines** and **Uganda** using an integrated approach, called Integrated Risk Management (IRM),

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG 2: END HUNGER

In crisis and disaster-affected contexts, CARE and partners have also provided food and nutrition support to **8.5 million** people, including—

Provision of **adequate food** for **7.1 million** people in 25 countries, 51.8% women and girls (7,148,719)

- The Food Assistance Program in Amran and Abyan Governorates in Yemen, supported by the World Food Program, enabled the provision of adequate food for over **1.1 million** people (52% women and girls)
- [JEOP](#) in Ethiopia, supported by the US Government, enabled the provision of adequate food for over **800,000** people (50.1% women and girls)

Supporting the adoption of adequate **nutritional practices** by 1.7 million people in 20 countries, 58.3% women and girls (1,744,989)

- The UNHCR funded Emergency Assistance project for Somali Refugees Hosted in Dadaab as well as the surrounding host population in Kenya supported the adoption of adequate nutritional practices by over **220,000** people (49.9% women and girls)
- Emergency Response to Drought and Cyclone in Mozambique, funded by the US Government, supported the adoption of adequate nutrition by over **170,000** people (55.3% women and girls)



to mitigate disaster risk and enhance livelihoods, particularly by addressing climate change and ecosystem management and restoration. More specifically, CARE defines IRM as the systematic process of reducing disaster risks through anticipative, absorptive, adaptive and transformative actions, taking into account the effects of climate change and the role of ecosystems. It addresses the drivers of risk, the capacities and assets of communities and individuals, and their enabling environment.

Increased access to water, sanitation, and hygiene for 1.3 million people

CARE's Water+ programs work within three domains: Systems Strengthening, Water Smart Agriculture, and Water Conservation and Resilience. Systems Strengthening entails working within existing government, private sector and community systems to ensure that there is financial, environmental, and "people-focused" sustainability in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector. Peru, Guatemala and Ethiopia have long demonstrated commitment in this area, engaging local and national governments, and trying to influence and strengthen capacity for technical support, monitoring and access to all, while engaging all partners on feasible and sustainable WASH solutions.

- In **Guatemala**, for example, nearly 100% of the municipalities within the department of San Marcos and over half in the whole country, now have Offices of Water and Sanitation – something that has been funded and initiated by the government thanks to the advocacy efforts of CARE and other partners. In **Bangladesh**, under the Nutrition at the Center program, local government have increased budgets for health, nutrition, and sanitation by 23%.
- In **Mali**, a major outcome of CARE's Water Smart Agriculture (WaSA) program in 2019 was that women farmers now collect water for their farms every other day – instead of everyday. Decreasing women's time poverty, while still increasing yields.
- In Madagascar, [RANO WASH](#) is a US Government-funded consortium led by CARE, in

CONTRIBUTING TO SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

CARE and partners have helped 8.2 million people in 18 countries access new or improved clean water and sanitation services. Programs contributing to increase access to water and sanitation services include:

- **SABA** in Peru, funded by the Swiss Government, and in partnership with regional and national Government, contributed to increased access to or better managed water and sanitation services for **5.8 million** people
- **RANO WASH** in Madagascar has contributed to increased access for **320,089** people
- **SPLASH** in Zambia, a US-Government funded consortium led by **FHI 360**, worked in partnership with local government and Ministry of Education to increase access to services in schools and their communities, providing clean water services for **259,253** people and improved sanitation for **161,143**
- **COMEQS** in Zambia, supported by Comic Relief, worked in partnership with KZF, PPHPZ and local **Water Trusts**, increasing access to solid waste collection services for **34,069** people, an increase of 30.2% (from 6.1% to 36.3%)

partnership with [Bushproof](#), [CRS](#), [Sandandrano](#) and [WaterAid](#), working to help rural communities create solutions for sustainable and equitable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems. The project works with the government and private sector enterprises so they can invest in, build, and operate rural water systems through public-private partnerships. To date, **67,489** people have gained access to safe, clean water, and **252,600** people to adequate sanitation.

- Under the USAID-funded WASHplus, Nutrition and Hygiene (N&H), and Harande projects, CARE's programs in **Mali** implement integrated rural strategies that have achieved significant gains in sanitation service delivery and policies, reaching 75-100% sanitation coverage in intervention areas. The sanitation approaches encompass the use of context adapted-CLTS and a robust post-open defecation free, or ODF, approach which were adopted for use by the national government.
- In **Somalia**, over 60 solar-powered water pumps in rural areas provide enough excess power that water committees can use income from selling the electricity to cover all operation and maintenance costs for their water pump.

A 2017 World Bank report described how inequalities in access and use of water and sanitation facilities often represent inequalities across other aspects of a society; demonstrating that improving gender equality can have positive impacts on improved equality of WASH outcomes, and vice versa. When women and disadvantaged groups become more involved in decisions and public community committees, such as water committees, they will better articulate and demand their rights to WASH and other services. In **Ethiopia**, a study by CARE found that in households with latrines and handwashing stations by latrines and where women reported less time collecting water – there was a significant increase in women's perceived empowerment and equality in the household. Studies in **Mozambique** and **Ghana** found that CARE programs working specifically on women's empowerment, including engaging men and women together, community-level WASH interventions were more

sustainable, including increased reliability of water points.

CARE's Water+ work is not limited to expanding sustainable coverage for communities. CARE has also worked with Ministries of Education to influence WASH in schools:

- In **Zambia**, the government adopted CARE's manual on menstrual hygiene management.
- In **Guatemala**, through the healthy schools project, the Government has increased teacher curriculum on nutrition and handwashing.
- Most notably in **Kenya**, CARE worked with Emory University and the Kenya Government to conduct research on the impact of WASH facilities in schools and successfully advocate for the Ministry of Education to more than double the allocations for WASH in schools.
- CARE has also worked with Sanergy to develop policy guidelines for schools to assess and adopt private sector sanitation services.

PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2015, CARE has made significant progress towards a more deliberate and strategic approach to partnerships. To achieve our food and nutrition security and climate change resilience goals, we recognized that partners with experience and skills that complement our own are necessary. We built on decades of collaborative working with government and local and national NGO partners, but we also developed relationships with new and non-traditional partners. CARE's work in food and nutrition security is built on extensive and varied collaborations with hundreds of community-based organizations; local, national and regional NGOs and international NGO peers and though we recognize we need to do more to devolve power and autonomy to partners, we made progress during the CARE 2020 Program Strategy cycle – such as supporting the development of strategic relations with regional partners such as the **Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy and Advocacy Network (FANRPAN)** in southern Africa – or the **Scale Up Nutrition Network**.

We also developed and deepened strategic and programmatic collaboration with host government partners, cultivating working relations with relevant ministries at national, sub-national and local levels to support the development of responsive, accountable and rights-based policy and to ensure effective and equitable implementation of these policies. Our partnership work with the UN has also systematically expanded since 2015. We intensified and renewed multilateral partner relations in particular with **IFAD** and **FAO** – whose mandates include advancing SDG2 and realizing the Right to Food. We developed multiple joint technical, learning and policy outputs with the Rome-based agency partners. CARE's partnership with the private sector was also expanded, aiming to amplify impact and improve industry practice. We celebrated a decade of impact in both the [CARE-Cargill Partnership](#) and [CARE-World Wildlife Foundation Alliance](#). Finally, our food and nutrition security partnerships with academia and the wider research and learning community also grew. We widened our research and learning partnership base by engaging with platforms, hubs and communities of practice to engage in learning for influence and impact. Partnerships with formal academic institutions, independent think tanks and research organizations – in the north and the south – allowed us to pilot, innovate and evaluate our work and engage with new audiences and collaborators.

Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of COVID-19

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have exposed the existing flaws in food systems, many of which stem from gender inequalities and the unfair treatment of women and girls. A combination of disrupted markets, lack of international trade, lower travel, and mobility restrictions are impacting people's ability to grow, buy, sell, or prepare food they need to stay healthy. Furthermore, women lack the access, information, and inputs they need to fight food insecurity and malnutrition. CARE's [Left Out and Left Behind: Ignoring Women Will Prevent Us From Solving the Hunger Crisis](#) reveals that despite women's and girls' significant roles in food systems, global responses to COVID-19 and related hunger crises are either ignoring them or treating them as victims who have no role in addressing the problems they face.

CARE's food security response program to the hunger pandemic built on [SFtW](#)'s holistic model to improve food and nutrition security by helping women farmers claim their rights and receive the support they need in face of the pandemic. We know from experience that sustainable and equitable impact necessitates change across many connected areas. CARE's **Food Security Pandemic Response Program** meets the Do No Harm principles for all participants while aligning with [WHO safety guidelines](#) and [CARE International COVID program guidance](#) to provide women farmers access to the resources, support and information they need to invest in their small plots of land, businesses, families and communities by focusing on three core axes across the [humanitarian development nexus](#):

1. Farmers, including women, must have access to water, agriculture resources and markets.
2. Gender equality, including addressing gender-based violence, must be at the core of all response.
3. Safety nets must be gender-responsive and need to be scaled up to ensure that those most in need have access to nutritious food.



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The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of water, hygiene, and sanitation as a defense against COVID-19 and mobilized investments and attention to the importance of sustainable and continual access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. The RANO WASH program in **Madagascar** exceeded sanitation targets despite COVID-19 lockdowns, resulting in a 25% increase over the expected number of households investing in, constructing, and using a household latrine. Local seamstresses and tailors that produce sanitary napkins pivoted to producing reusable masks for their communities – and increased their profits in doing so.

CARE staff from around the world reflected that years of work with national and sub-national Ministry of Water and WASH teams and local governments have strengthened coordination capacities, and increased effectiveness of our in-country WASH sector response to COVID-19. In **Madagascar**, CARE reinforced rural water supply systems and commune government capacity to ensure continuity



of services in vulnerable areas, and distributed hand-washing stations to rural clinics. In **Zambia**, CARE supported the Ministry of Water to develop WASH and COVID guidelines that prioritized WASH investments to areas most vulnerable to spread of the disease. In **Kenya, Bangladesh, Ethiopia** and **Rwanda**, CARE supported WASH facilities in refugee camps, shelters, and community centers hosting families displaced by floods – all communities particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

CARE's COVID response has emphasized two key messages: 1) handwashing, water and sanitation are essential to preventing disease, protecting health, and building resilience – during the COVID crisis and every day; and 2) sustained hygiene behaviors and sustainable WASH services require coordinated action and local and national government investment, planning, monitoring, partnership, and prioritization. If we seek to impact health and resilience, inclusive of food and nutrition security, investing in strong water and WASH systems is non-negotiable.

The Way Forward: CARE's 2030 Vision

CARE's 2020 Program Strategy acknowledged rising food and nutrition insecurity in the face of climate change as a defining challenge of the 21st century with gender inequalities and climate change as major contributors to rising food and nutrition insecurity, further increasing poverty, vulnerability, and injustice.

As reflected in this report, CARE draws on decades of work in protecting and enhancing food, nutrition and water security for the most vulnerable; working closely with governments and communities to protect food and nutrition security for the poorest and most vulnerable and has a strong reputation, trust, and relationships within national and local governments, partner organizations, and communities around the world. However, food and water systems continue to face serious challenges and are characterized by multiple, concurrent drivers and risks. **Gender-based discrimination and the denial of women's human rights continue to drive food and nutrition insecurity, limit**

The world produces enough food for everyone to eat, yet still many go hungry. At CARE, we know that women small-scale farmers are critical to global food production, but lack access to the same resources as their male counterparts. We focus on supporting women farmers so that they can feed the world.

Our 2030 Goal: **75 million** people can better exercise their right to adequate food, water and nutrition.

access to safe water and sanitation, and increase everyone's vulnerability to environmental shocks. The lack of women's voice in decisions—from the household to the global levels—further drives the inequality crippling food systems.

Today, we – and the systems that support us – remain at a crossroads. There is only a decade to deliver progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yet we are faced with an unprecedented global crisis precipitated by COVID-19.

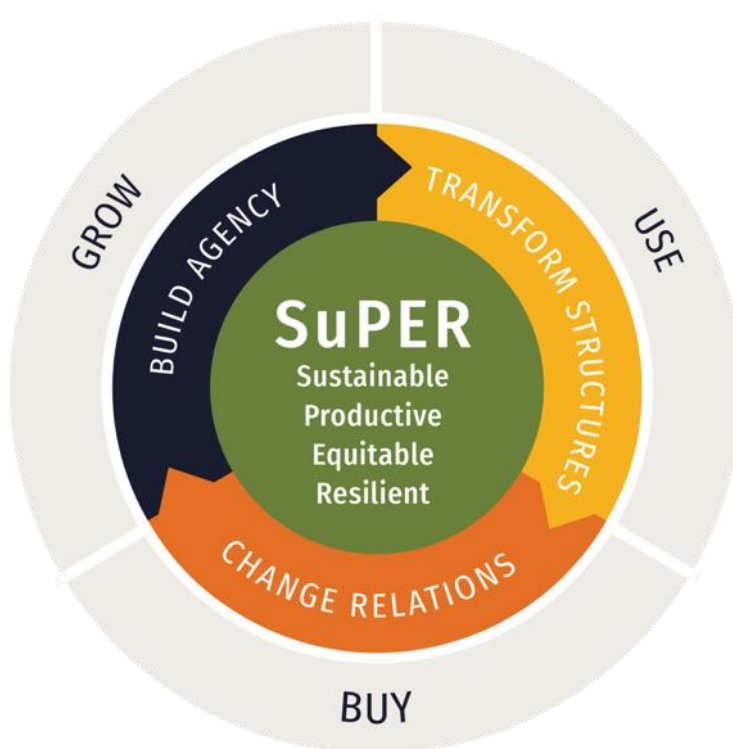
Realizing rights to food, water, and nutrition, which are systematically denied to many in our world, continues to require all our energy and creativity.

To help meet these challenges, CARE now commits to work with partners around the world to support **75 million people, the majority of them women and girls, to fulfill their right to food, water and nutrition** as part of [CARE's 2030 Vision](#). CARE's intent is to **directly reach** at least **25 million people** (at least 55% of them women), and to **indirectly reach** a further **50 million people** in the period from **2020 to 2023**.

We will do this by focusing on gender equality and helping women overcome the barriers they face at all levels. We seek a transformative change that allows for a just and more equal world, with structures, relationships, and skills that lead to equality. We will influence broader systems to support empowered women to:

Grow food and income-generating products, recognizing that healthy ecosystems, water management and climate resilience are critical to be able to sustain water access, grow food, and lead sustainable and resilient lives. For women to access the support, resources, and information they need to grow food and income generating products, we will **promote integrated water resources management and ecosystem protection and restoration**.

Use resources, approaches, social protection mechanisms and technologies to reduce food loss and waste, increase WASH services, and ensure nutrition. To effectively use food to create healthy and sustainable diets, we must **address** work to



UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

This year, the UN is convening a high-level **Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)** to raise awareness and catalyze action to transform food systems. The Summit will draw attention to the actions needed to ensure healthy, nutritious food for all; shift consumption patterns to support healthy diets; promote food production that enhances rather than degrades the natural environment; advance equitable livelihoods throughout food systems; and build resilience to shocks and stresses like climate change and conflict.

CARE has played an instrumental role in shaping the Summit process as a whole and helping to mainstream human rights and governance throughout, including by taking an active role in creating governance structures post-Summit. As leads of *Action Track 4: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods*, CARE has helped launch four coalitions, with a possible fifth, that will continue to move the work forward past the Summit. These coalitions are:

1. Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages for All Food Systems Workers
2. Making Food Systems Work for Women and Girls
3. Inclusive and Sustainable Food System Finance – The Pivotal Role of Public Development Banks
4. Empowering Communities; Recognizing Rights, Indigenous Peoples, and Traditional Knowledge
5. Still in Progress: Coalition of Action on Smallholder Food Systems Workers

The Summit is a critical moment for governments, the private sector, UN agencies, civil society, and philanthropy to make ambitious commitments to transform food systems to support healthy, sustainable diets, advance gender equality, and enable everyone to realize the right to food.

improve nutrition through local collectives, support dietary diversity and promote positive nutrition **food loss and waste**, leverage our agriculture value chains and markets, inclusive finance impact the lives of small-scale women food producers.

Buy and sell food and WASH-related goods and services in inclusive markets while diversifying their livelihoods and using market-based approaches. This area will focus on **enabling women's access to inclusive markets**. Applying the best of our food and water systems and women's economic justice approaches, we will aim to unlock greater production, expansion of profits and social and environmental returns for women from small-scale agriculture and WASH services. CARE will also promote **livelihoods diversification and rural development**.

The reality for communities is that food, water, nutrition, health, education and environmental, climate and economic justice are inseparable. Our proven **multi-sector approach** will continue to help address complex challenges across development, humanitarian, and nexus settings. CARE cannot reach these goals alone. We **support civil society partners, feminist organizations, and social movements** by facilitating connections between different stakeholders and transitioning power to more equal relationships and locally led decisions.



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Founded in 1945 with the creation of the CARE Package®, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. CARE places special focus on working alongside poor girls and women because, equipped with the proper resources, they have the power to lift whole families and entire communities out of poverty. In 2020, CARE worked in over 100 countries, reaching more than 90 million people through 1,300 projects.