Learning Behind the Numbers

Creating lasting change: Learning from projects working across CARE's Gender Equality Framework
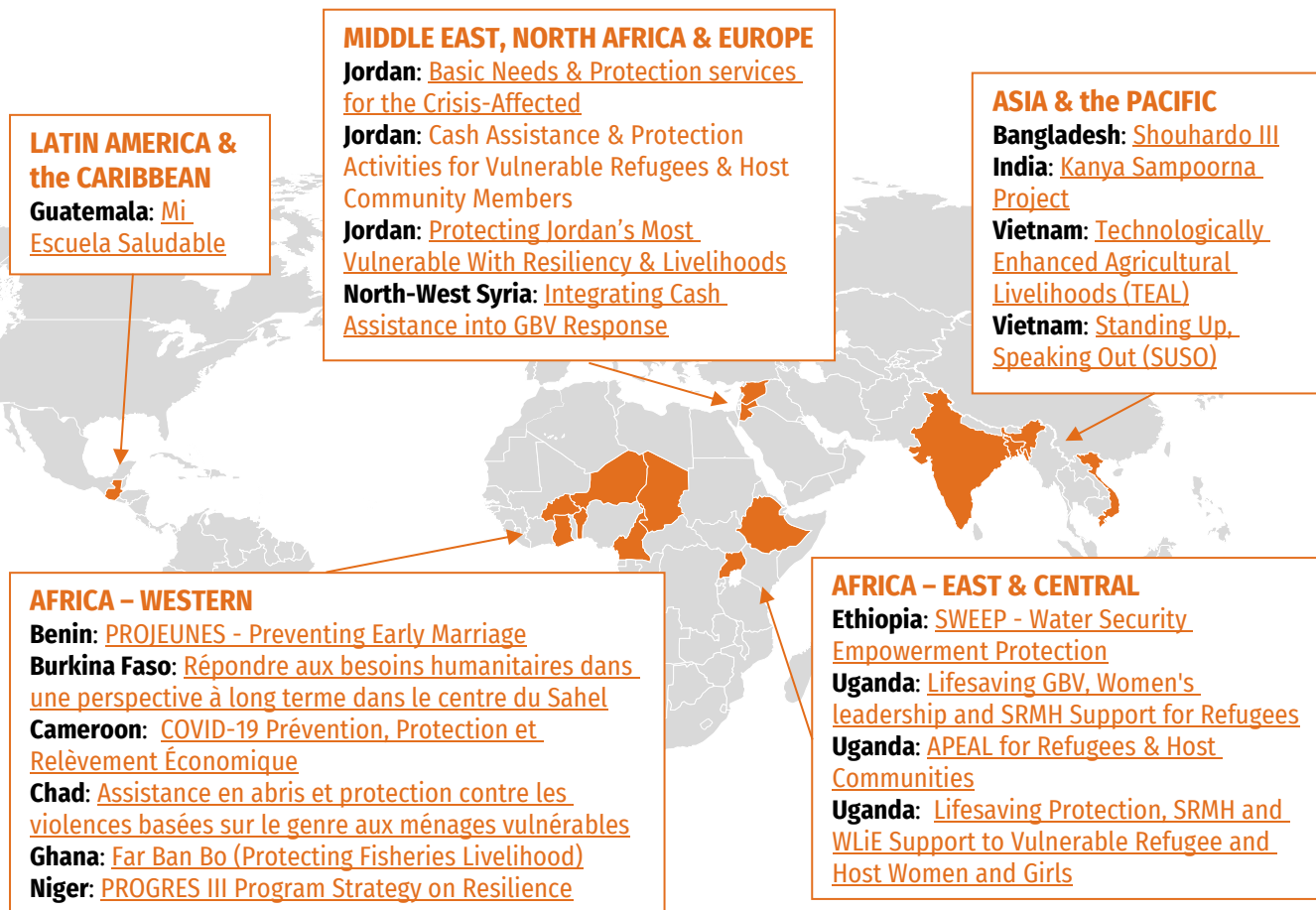
To ensure people of all genders see lasting change in their power and choices, CARE aims to address the root causes as well as the symptoms of gender inequality. Recognizing that change must happen beyond individuals to ensure this is sustained, CARE engages people across all three domains of our Gender Equality Framework. Our impact reporting system allows us to track which projects are doing this well and identify what we can learn from them.

Every year, CARE projects worldwide submit impact data into PIIRS, our global reporting system, under 30 core global indicators. The data under these indicators contribute to reporting under three **framing indicators**—"umbrella" indicators which help us consolidate and aggregate impact data from all programs, projects, and initiatives under the three domains of CARE's Gender Equality Framework.[1]

Under CARE's Vision 2030, a total of 19 projects have reported impact under all three domains since 2020, including 12 projects reporting impact in FY 2022.[2] *In this brief we highlight examples of best practice seen in 2022 and reflect on what we can learn from these projects.*

CARE's **Gender Equality Framework (GEF)** was developed to assist CARE staff in conceptualizing and planning gender equality work. Our theory of change is based on CARE's experience that achieving gender equality requires transformative change.

The aim is to **build agency** of people of all genders and life stages, **change relations** between them and **transform structures** in order that they realize full potential in their public and private lives and are able to contribute equally to, and benefit equally from, social, political and economic development.

LATIN AMERICA & the CARIBBEAN
Guatemala: Mi Escuela Saludable

MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA & EUROPE
Jordan: Basic Needs & Protection services for the Crisis-Affected
Jordan: Cash Assistance & Protection Activities for Vulnerable Refugees & Host Community Members
Jordan: Protecting Jordan's Most Vulnerable With Resiliency & Livelihoods
North-West Syria: Integrating Cash Assistance into GBV Response

ASIA & the PACIFIC
Bangladesh: Shouhardo III
India: Kanya Sampoorna Project
Vietnam: Technologically Enhanced Agricultural Livelihoods (TEAL)
Vietnam: Standing Up, Speaking Out (SUSO)

AFRICA – WESTERN
Benin: PROJEUNES - Preventing Early Marriage
Burkina Faso: Répondre aux besoins humanitaires dans une perspective à long terme dans le centre du Sahel
Cameroon: COVID-19 Prévention, Protection et Relèvement Économique
Chad: Assistance en abris et protection contre les violences basées sur le genre aux ménages vulnérables
Ghana: Far Ban Bo (Protecting Fisheries Livelihood)
Niger: PROGRES III Program Strategy on Resilience

AFRICA – EAST & CENTRAL
Ethiopia: SWEEP - Water Security Empowerment Protection
Uganda: Lifesaving GBV, Women's leadership and SRMH Support for Refugees
Uganda: APEAL for Refugees & Host Communities
Uganda: Lifesaving Protection, SRMH and WLiE Support to Vulnerable Refugee and Host Women and Girls

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[1] CARE staff can view definitions and guidance for each of the framing indicators – agency, relations and structures – on CARE Shares.

[2] Read more about how we define reported impact versus simply reporting reach. CARE fiscal year 2022 covers the period July 2021-June 2022; projects submitting impact data during this period are counted in the FY22 figures.

Program example: Uganda

In FY22, **CARE Uganda** reported impact across the three domains of the GEF for the Global Affairs Canada-funded one-year *Lifesaving Protection* project, which provides Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health (SRMH) and Women Lead in Emergencies (WLiE) programming for vulnerable refugee and host women and girls in the Rhino and Imvepi refugee settlements.
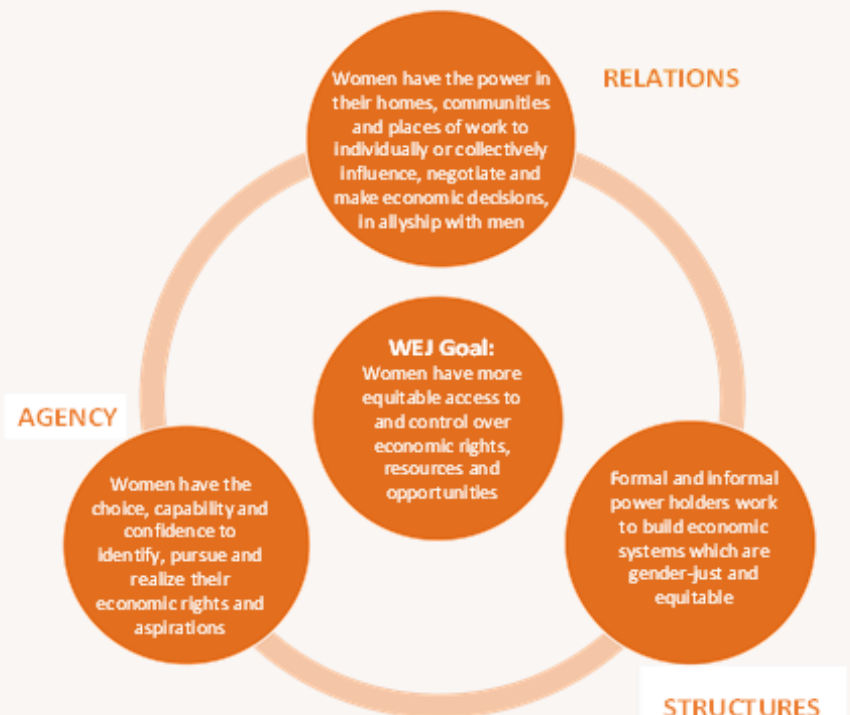
This resulted in impact including:

- Increased **AGENCY:** More women reporting confidence in their negotiation and communication skills and increased self-efficacy.

- Changed **RELATIONS**: Including more women reporting being able to work collectively with other women to achieve a common community goal and participate meaningfully in formal and informal humanitarian decision-making spaces.

- Strengthened **STRUCTURES**: The project strengthened health systems to the satisfaction of community members, including the availability of Antenatal Care services, family planning, HIV counselling and testing, management of sexually transmitted infections, safe and clean delivery at health facilities and ambulance referral and SGBV services.

Program example: Vietnam

In FY22, **CARE Vietnam** reported impact across the three domains under the *Technologically-Enhanced Agricultural Livelihoods* project, funded by the Australian NGO Cooperation Program. This project is part of CARE Vietnam's Rural Program and aims to see that ethnic minority women are visible, respected and productive actors in the Arabica coffee value chain.

The project aimed to align with CARE's Gender Equality framework (see image) and the final evaluation found the project was fully compliant with this objective.

RELATIONS — Women have the power in their homes, communities and places of work to individually or collectively influence, negotiate and make economic decisions, in allyship with men

WEJ Goal: Women have more equitable access to and control over economic rights, resources and opportunities

AGENCY — Women have the choice, capability and confidence to identify, pursue and realize their economic rights and aspirations

STRUCTURES — Formal and informal power holders work to build economic systems which are gender-just and equitable

This resulted in impact including:

- Increased **AGENCY**: The project organized training courses for women on money saving and financial management and engaged new participants by providing coffee cherries to processing groups.

- Changed **RELATIONS**: The project organized dialogues on gender equality that engaged ethnic minority men, women and couples, as well as sessions on GBV topics that targeted husbands.

- Strengthened **STRUCTURES**: Though the organization of community events aiming to remove barriers and address social norms, and with advocacy to policy makers to empower ethnic minority men and women farmers.

Success factors demonstrated by these projects

A **program design** working across all three domains.

A logframe **incorporating Vision 2030 indicators** or aligned custom indicators.

Regular **monitoring** which kept projects on track towards goals and in alignment with strategies.

A report clearly **documenting the measurement process** and including a simple indicator table, detailing which indicators connected to Vision 2030.

What does it take to be a project which reports across all three domains?

The 12 projects that reported across all three domains in FY22 show us that:

The Gender Equality Framework can be integrated across any type of project:
50% of the projects worked in the humanitarian and development nexus, 33% were development projects and 8% were humanitarian projects.

The Gender Equality Framework can be integrated across sectors:
All the projects reported working across more than one impact area.

The Gender Equality Framework can be integrated into projects of any size:
The reported reach of these projects ranged from 160 people to 2.02 million people. Budgets ranged from $538k –111M.

Engaging men and boys and addressing GBV are also key in effectively working across agency, structures and relations:
11 of the 12 projects reporting impact did both things.

The Gender Equality Framework can be integrated even when working in partnership:
Most of these projects implemented all, most or some activities with or through partners (75%). 42% of the projects reported all activities implemented through partners.

Working across the Gender Equality Framework is not only for Gender Transformative projects:
2 projects are rated Gender Sensitive and 4 are rated Gender Responsive.

LEARN MORE

This learning brief builds upon CARE's **snapshot of projects showing gender transformative impact in FY21**.

This learning brief complements CARE's **reflections on why we report more impact on agency** and how we can increase this for relations and structures.

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