

# CARE ON CAPITOL HILL



## Protect U.S. International Aid

**Congress must protect U.S. international assistance, including humanitarian and development assistance, so that women and girls can thrive, families can survive immediate crises, and communities can emerge from poverty – ensuring a brighter future for people around the world and here at home.**

U.S. international assistance is a **strategic investment that more than pays for itself** with the safety and stability it brings to the world and here at home. In its 80-year history, CARE has seen firsthand how investments in food aid, health, and women's economic growth results in safer supplies of food imports to the U.S., protection from infectious diseases like Ebola, and less need for taxpayer-funded aid later.

**The challenges we face today are more dynamic than ever**, with increased conflict and natural disasters creating unprecedented humanitarian needs **and disproportionate impacts on women and girls**. In many countries, women are denied economic opportunities, property rights, access to education, leadership roles, and freedom from violence. As we celebrate **International Women's Day on March 8**, CARE recognizes that investing in women and girls leads to proven returns and positive multiplier effects on families, communities, and entire countries.

**Every \$1 USD invested in women's economic projects, like savings groups, returns \$9 within a year, and families of savings group members are more likely to eat an additional meal a day.**

International assistance is a cheap and effective tool **that saves lives worldwide, addresses the underlying causes of poverty and decreases dependency on U.S.-funded aid in the future**, while advancing economies and global security around the world and here at home. It does this by supporting programs that put families and communities on a path towards self-reliance, allowing them to **graduate from being aid recipients to U.S. partners and allies**. For example, a U.S. government-funded program in Ethiopia that teaches farmers how to better prepare and cope with events like drought has helped communities plan their farming and diversify their incomes in response to rain cycles, allowing people to improve their harvests, feed more people, and stop borrowing credit or loans for support.

**Supporting international assistance does not come at the expense of U.S. priorities** – in fact, the small investment complements, not competes, with domestic needs by expanding trade opportunities, reducing mass migration, and allowing America to become – or remain – the first ally and partner of choice for other countries. At less than 1% of the U.S. federal budget, **these small, strategic investments keep the priority on America's needs while ensuring our seat at the table to promote U.S. influence around the world.**

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