

WOMEN RESPOND: What women told us in 2025

Summary

Once again, women told us they are facing compounding crises that leave them hungrier, poorer, and less resilient than before. For many, this is happening year after year, and support is shrinking just when they need it most.

In 2025, global funding cuts were felt across all seven countries surveyed. More than 80% of people surveyed who were aware of the cuts said they hurt the economy, health services, and support in their communities. The outlook remains bleak, as conflict in the Middle East continues to push up food and fuel prices.

Despite this, once again, women tell us they are stepping up, supporting each other, and leading the response in their families and communities.

Women Respond is CARE's global initiative that regularly interviews women to better understand their experiences, amplify their voices, and ensure our work is driven by women's realities and stated priorities. In 2025 we asked 3,560 members of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VLSAs) in Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Syria, and Vietnam about how they are navigating and responding to shocks and crises in their communities.

Read the [full report](https://care.org/WomenRespond) at care.org/WomenRespond.



CRISES

IN 2025, WOMEN FACED:



Food insecurity



Drought



Pests destroying crops



Lack of clean water



Floods

THIS AFFECTED



How much they earned



How much they ate



Access to water and hygiene



Access to healthcare



Safety



Education

“Flooding destroyed houses, belongings and fields, while conflict caused violence, displacement, and loss of life.”

– Woman respondent, Mali

ACTIONS

IN THE FACE OF CRISIS, WOMEN ARE TAKING ACTION BY:



Diversifying their incomes



Using their savings



Volunteering to support community-led action



Leading or supporting the continuity of groups

BUT TO COPE WITH CRISIS, WOMEN ARE ALSO:



Eating less food



Borrowing money



Selling assets

“We lend each other money, we share food, and we provide support when someone is in need. We also used some of our money to help community members, even if they are not group members.”

– Woman respondent, Syria

NEEDS

IN 2025, WOMEN SAID THEY NEED:



Support to earn income



Adequate food



Financial services



Clean water



Healthcare

“We need guidance. With changing weather, we don’t know how to protect our crops or when the best time to plant is anymore.”

– Woman respondent, Colombia