



CARE's 2013 Advocacy Agenda

As a leader in the fight against global poverty, CARE can be a resource for anyone interested in building a better world. Our policy recommendations are the result of decades of work in more than 80 countries coupled with expert analysis that pulls together trends and lessons from across countries and regions.

Our experience has led to the firm conclusion that women – who are disproportionately affected by poverty – hold the key to overcoming it. Girls who are educated earn more income as adults. They also start families later and have fewer, healthier children. Women who have control over household finances spend money on health care, food and education. Simply put, investing in women and girls yields benefits for entire families, communities and societies.

CARE will continue to address the root causes of poverty by ensuring that dollars invested in U.S. foreign assistance programs are used more efficiently. Instead of putting an expensive band-aid on an issue, our recommendations seek to bring solutions to problems before they become costly crises.

Foreign Assistance

CARE advocates for a robust International Affairs budget which contains funding vital to international development and humanitarian assistance and addresses the underlying causes of global poverty, while meeting basic human needs in the developing world. **We oppose further cuts to the International Affairs budget through either sequestration or the FY14 budget process.**

Food and Nutrition Security

CARE advocates for the U.S. Government to support and fund comprehensive food and nutrition security policies and programs that are sustainable, equitable and flexible. The U.S. must enable the world's poorest women and their families to realize their right to nutritious food and healthy families by **empowering women through increased access to and control over resources and tackling the drivers of hunger and vulnerability.**

- CARE supports efforts to include reforms to International Food Aid programs in the Farm Bill.
- CARE supports bipartisan, comprehensive food and nutrition security legislation that ensures sustainable and flexible programs that build resilience and address the underlying drivers of vulnerability.
- CARE supports robust funding for U.S. foreign assistance programs that support and complement sustainable, equitable, resilient, and flexible food and nutrition security.
- CARE leverages its expertise and experience such that U.S. food and nutrition security programs, like Feed the Future, are informed by CARE's comprehensive approach to resilience and food and nutrition security and our focus on women smallholder farmers.



Gender & Empowerment

CARE advocates for the U.S. Government to integrate gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment throughout its foreign assistance programs, including strong policies and robust resources to **promote girls' education and leadership, prevent child marriage, and combat gender based violence.**

- CARE calls on the Obama administration to increase reporting on and provide financial support for programs that address child marriage and married adolescents.
- CARE supports bipartisan reintroduction of the Education for All Act in the House and Senate.
- CARE is working to ensure that USAID makes basic education a core development objective when the agency reviews the USAID policy framework before 2015.
- CARE calls for the U.S. Government to take an active role in helping to end violence against women, one of the most widespread violations of human rights in the world.

Humanitarian Emergency Response

CARE advocates for the U.S. Government to include an overall **focus on ensuring the protection of women and children in global emergency responses, building linkages between short-term emergency response and long-term development, and ensuring humanitarian access to vulnerable communities.**

- CARE advocates for the bipartisan introduction of legislation that increases humanitarian access in areas controlled by groups sanctioned by the U.S. Government.

- CARE advocates on behalf of countries in conflict - like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Afghanistan - to ensure that issues specific to their context where the U.S. has leverage are addressed.
- CARE supports bipartisan introduction of the Women, Peace and Security Act.

Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health

CARE advocates for the U.S. Government to support policies and allocate robust resources **to increase the quality, access, and availability of international family planning services as part of a comprehensive approach to sexual, reproductive and maternal health.** CARE knows that U.S. policies and resources must target barriers to accessing health services, such as: inequitable gender and social norms, poor governance, and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

- CARE supports the permanent repeal of the Global Gag Rule (also known as the "Mexico City Policy").
- CARE supports \$1 billion for international family planning (including funding for UNFPA) and \$750 million for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health programs in the International Affairs Budget.
- CARE supports bipartisan legislation on maternal health and family planning.



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