



CARE's 2015 Advocacy Agenda

For decades, CARE has complemented our work in the field with advocacy efforts that contribute to our fight against global poverty and multiplies our impact. Our advocacy work draws from our experience in 90 countries to promote policy reforms that foster strong, resilient communities. These policy reforms ensure that current and future generations will benefit from the changes made today.

As a leader in the fight against global poverty, we know that any lasting solution must address the underlying cause of poverty: **the lack of opportunities and access to resources**. In all of our work, we address the inequalities that lead to poverty so communities are empowered to improve their lives. CARE is concerned about the livelihood of all people, but we know that women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty. In addition, our experience has proven that women and girls, when given the proper resources and education, have the power to help their entire family and communities escape poverty. We engage men and boys throughout this process because they are an integral part of a long-term change.

CARE's advocacy supports the efforts of poor women and families by promoting policy reforms that improve U.S. foreign assistance programs. Our recommendations seek to make U.S. assistance to developing countries more cost-effective, timely, sustainable, and efficient. **In 2015, CARE's advocacy efforts will focus on Food and Nutrition Security, Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health, Gender and Women's Empowerment, and Humanitarian Emergencies.**

Foreign Assistance

The International Affairs Budget is the U.S. Government's primary funding source for international programs for emergency response and long-term development. Although the International Affairs budget remains less

than 1% of the overall U.S. budget, it is routinely targeted in budget cuts. Since 2010, the International Affairs Budget has decreased by 16%. In recognition of the critical role that U.S. foreign assistance has in improving lives, CARE believes that there should be no additional disproportionate budget cuts. CARE also advocates for greater accountability and transparency of these funds.

Food and Nutrition Security

CARE's history is deeply rooted in supporting food and nutrition security. As a partner in the fight against hunger, CARE advocates for U.S. government support and funding for comprehensive food and nutrition security policies and programs that feed more people in a more sustainable, equitable, and flexible way. CARE also advocates for sustainable resource management because the livelihoods of small-scale food producers, most of whom are women, are directly dependent on healthy natural resources.

- CARE calls for reforms to the International Food Aid program to reach more people faster by making it more efficient and flexible.
- CARE supports bipartisan, comprehensive food and nutrition security legislation that improves and codifies Feed the Future into law and ensures sustainable programs that build resilience and address the underlying drivers of vulnerability.

Sexual, Reproductive, and Maternal Health

CARE recognizes that access to maternal and reproductive health services, including the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, is a key component of preventing maternal and child mortality. CARE advocates for the U.S. Government's adoption of a comprehensive approach to sexual, reproductive, and maternal health through policies that increase the quality, access, and availability of reproductive and maternal health services.

- CARE encourages U.S. policy and resources to target barriers to accessing health services including inequitable gender and social norms, poor governance, and a lack of local resources.
- CARE supports more robust funding for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health programs and International Family Planning in the International Affairs Budget.
- CARE calls for the introduction of bipartisan legislation on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health that would strengthen the U.S. commitment to ending preventable maternal and child deaths and through support for proven health interventions.



Gender and Women's Empowerment

CARE advocates for the integration of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment throughout U.S. foreign assistance programs. CARE supports efforts that incorporate strong policies and robust resources in an effort to prevent and address child marriage and to combat gender-based violence.

- CARE supports the bipartisan International Violence Against Women Act, which builds on existing efforts to integrate a coordinated strategy for responding to gender-based violence throughout all development and foreign policy initiatives.
- CARE advocates for the Obama Administration's formulation and implementation of a comprehensive, interagency strategy that will address the challenges of child marriage, and calls on Congress to adequately fund efforts to respond to child marriage globally.

Humanitarian Emergencies

CARE advocates for the incorporation of 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 calls for the U.S. Government to uphold commitments made to responding to humanitarian emergencies, specifically addressing the unique needs of women and girls, and to protecting civilians from gender-based violence in emergency settings.
- CARE advocates for the U.S. Government to ensure the International Affairs Budget includes adequate funding for the response to humanitarian emergencies, including building resilience and building links between short-term emergency response and long-term development.

CARE USA Headquarters
151 Ellis Street, Atlanta, GA 30303
404-681-2552 | www.care.org

Washington, D.C. Office
1825 I Street, NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC, 20006
202-595-2800 | www.care.org/CAN

DELIVER LASTING CHANGE

