



CARE West Africa: Delivering lasting change through increased Resilience and Gender Justice





Photo: Ilan Godfrey, CARE Join my Village
Cote d'Ivoire

WEST AFRICA

CARE's presence in West Africa stretches from Chad in the East to Guinea in the West and encompasses Mali and Niger to the north. 245 million people live in this geographically and climate diverse region, about 65% in rural areas. Sharp increases in agricultural growth are threatened by climate change and poor resilience - aggravated by strong regional disparities, terrorism, migration and displacement - leaving millions vulnerable to chronic food and nutrition insecurity. All contribute to low development, with Niger ranked in final position on the UNDP Development Index and all others, aside from Ghana, ranking within the bottom 16%.

Despite these challenges, West Africa is at the heart of an African transformation. With a growth rate of 7.4% in 2014, it is the fastest growing region on the continent. As many of its countries witness increased stabilization, it is important to ensure that all members of society, particularly the poor and most vulnerable, reap the fruits of regional growth.

CARE 2020 Vision Our Program Strategy describes the changes in the world we want to see and our role in bringing about those changes. To do so, we seek to maximize our impact in priority sectors of Women's Economic Empowerment; Food and Nutrition Security; Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health and; Humanitarian/Emergency Response.

"In West Africa we aim to contribute to CARE's Global Program goals - Facilitating a movement for resilience and gender justice including humanitarian targets."

GENDER JUSTICE CARE considers Gender Justice a basic human right. We seek to transform social norms and values that create inequality and marginalize gender identity. We particularly work on the social, political and economic empowerment of women, helping them to find their voice and influence the decisions and actions which affect their lives.

RESILIENCE Resilience is the capacity of families, communities and systems to absorb, adapt and recover from shocks and stresses in ways that support equal economic and social development. Resilience can only be sustainable by looking at the relationships between food security, gender equality, economic security and climate change, seeking to increase overall impact and find long-term solutions.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE In emergencies, we save lives with special attention to the needs of women and girls. In 2015, CARE in West Africa responded to emergencies in refugees displacements, climate driven food crises and Ebola. Responses addressed immediate needs in the region and facilitated early recovery linked to our long-term programs, all while strengthening communities' capacity to cope with future shocks.

Innovation In West Africa, we work to stay on the cutting edge of gender transformative and resilience based programming, always piloting new ideas and programs. We implement innovative signature programs such as our Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP). ALP builds on CARE's people-centered approach, combining our decades of development experience with scientific knowledge on climate change. ALP focuses on building adaptive capacity at household and individual levels by building resilient livelihoods and reducing disaster risks, particularly for the most vulnerable groups. We champion advocacy and social mobilization to overcome the underlying causes of vulnerability, recognising the importance of enabling political and institutional environments for local action. CARE launched ALP in 2010 in Niger and Ghana with an overarching goal to increase the capacity of vulnerable households in Sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to climate variability and change. Working in partnership with local civil society and government institutions we:

- Develop and apply innovative approaches to Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) to generate best practice models.
- Empower local communities and civil society organisations to have a voice in decision-making on adaptation.
- Promote best practice models for CBA among adaptation practitioners.
- Influence national, regional and international adaptation policies and plans.

Total current funding for ALP in Ghana/Niger is \$4.4m reaching 18,586 participants

Added Value We seek to unlock the poverty-fighting potential of value chains. CARE signature programs such as Pathways for Empowerment focus on a learning-by-doing approach, putting farmers at the heart of learning and decision-making around new agricultural techniques. Pathways is based on the conviction that women farmers possess enormous potential to contribute to long-term food security for their families and substantially impact nutritional outcomes in sustainable ways. Using several innovative approaches to achieve results, our Pathways projects in Ghana and Mali :

- Focus on Gender Equality. We use women's empowerment frameworks, such as Village Savings and Loans to help build equality by looking at agency, structures, and relations.
- Create five "change levers" to help women reach more secure livelihoods: capacity, access, productivity, household influence, and the enabling environment.
- Establish Farmers' Field and Business Schools who put farmers at the center of learning and include sessions on nutrition, marketing, and gender equality in addition to agricultural practices.
- Leverage Push-Pull Approaches that aim to graduate people out of poverty by building their skills and assets, and connecting them to markets.
- Use our Participatory Performance Tracker's tool so communities can assess changes that have happened and decide what steps they need to take next.
- Engage men and boys to ensure both men and women think about how more equal relationships help everyone accomplish more.

Total current funding for Pathways in Ghana/Mali is \$7.76m reaching 24,346 participants

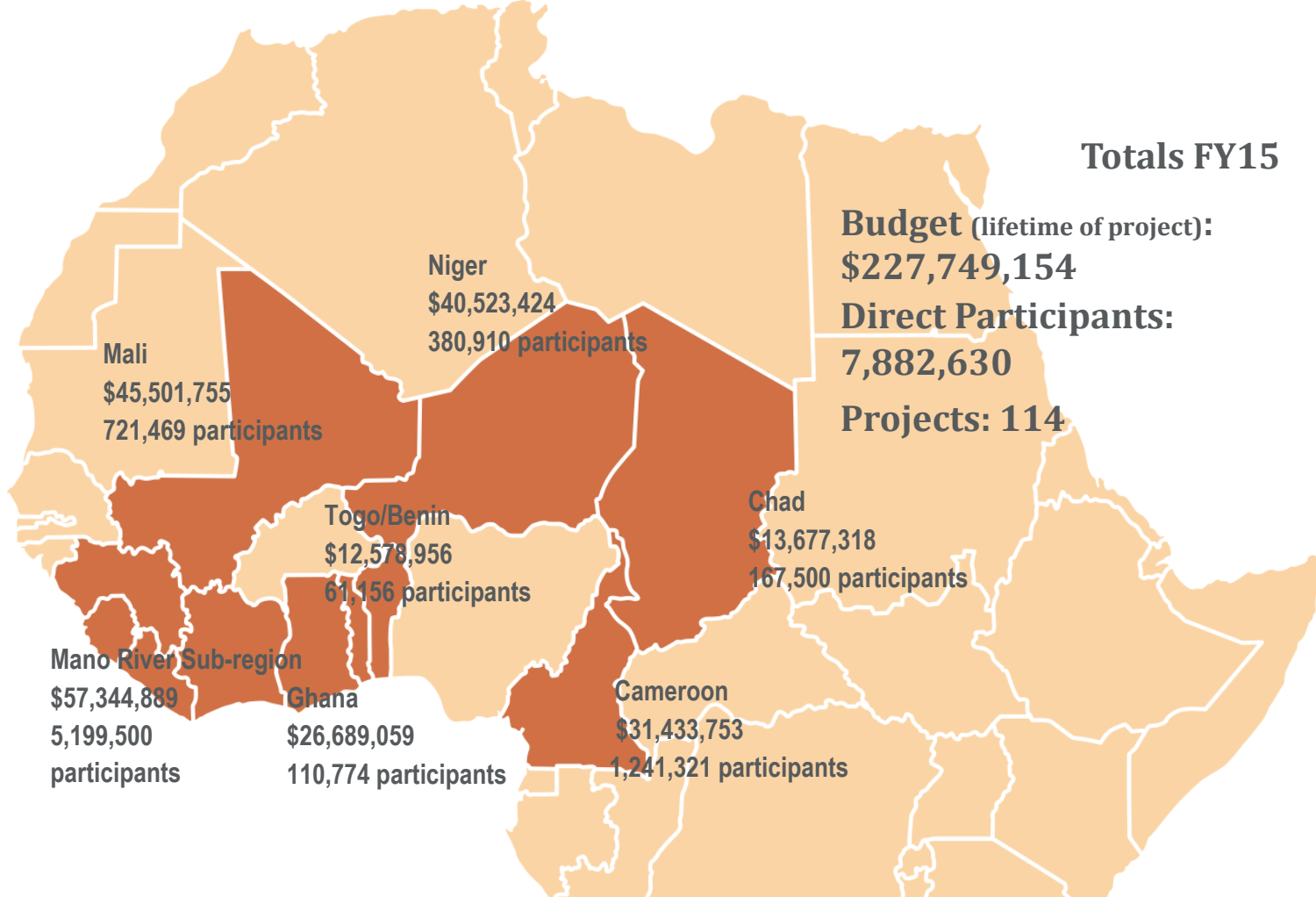
Private Sector Engagement Many global businesses now realize that their greatest growth will be in new and emerging markets. But, these markets are where poverty is most complex and partnerships are key to overcoming it. In West Africa, we partner with companies to champion socially responsibility, managing compatible principles and practices facilitating multi-faceted, mutually beneficial international partnerships. CARE implements a consultation framework for the engagement and coordination of project stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to guide, consult and monitor partners. With large cocoa producing companies such as Cargill and Mondelez in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire we:

- Facilitate access and socially responsible interaction with suppliers and their communities
- Broaden partnerships to achieve mutual goals of empowering women entrepreneurs
- Provide access to and understanding of potential consumer markets
- Help coordinate a multi-asset approach to business development and supplier interaction

Total funding for cocoa sector PSE projects in Ghana/ Cote d'Ivoire is \$11.7m reaching 157,715 participants

CARE West Africa projects in 2015 were funded by: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, PEPFAR, MasterCard, UK Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Pierls Foundation, Danish Development Cooperation, Inter-Church Organization for Development, Ajinomoto, Sall Family Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Cargill, Mondelez International, Barclays Bank, Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START), VISA Inc, USAID/USFS, The Dutch Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative, Soci t  G n rale de France, Dubai Cares, UNICEF, European Union, Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs, World Food Program (WFP), Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Susan Thomson Bufett Foundation, UK Embassy, Global Affairs Canada (formerly DFATD), Netherland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Development Agency (AFD), NORAD, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ), TELETHON, Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DANIDA

Totals FY15



Budget (lifetime of project):
\$227,749,154

Direct Participants:
7,882,630

Projects: 114

441,535 reached

through Food Nutrition &
Security Development
projects

155,001 reached

through Women's
Empowerment Development
projects

886,617 reached

through Humanitarian
Response projects



Our Voices "People say I'm the richest woman in the area, I would rather say that I am just a decent woman", says Rabi Chaweeye. "MMD or, Mata Masu Dubara (Women on the Move) began here in 1991, at a time when no woman was engaged in income generating activities beyond agriculture. The amount of weekly income was 10F (0.02USD). For a year, we saved and saved, but no women took out loans because we didn't understand the ways of business. [But I took a risk] and with the first 'share-out', I bought a goat for 10,000F, then I sold it for 25,000F and bought two more goats. That was the beginning of my flock. I have since purchased land for crops. But my value is not just financial. People now see that it is not just men who can own land. It changes how men look at me. I earned the respect of the village chief. I am now involved in decisions about the community and over time I have become the official women's representative of village, treasurer, and Vice President of our grain bank. I am even running for an office in the local elections this May (2016)!"

Founded in 1945, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. In FY14 CARE worked in 90 countries and reached more than 72 million people. CARE places special focus on working with girls and women.

