



## Advocacy Agenda

**For decades, CARE has complemented our programmatic work on the ground with advocacy efforts that multiply our impact and lift up those in greatest need, especially women and girls. In particular, CARE's commitment to advocacy draws from our experience in more than 90 countries around the world and promotes U.S. policy reforms that foster strong, resilient communities and respond to humanitarian needs. The policy reforms achieved today ensure that current and future generations will benefit from more sustainable and effective assistance and programs.**

As a leader in the fight against global poverty and extreme vulnerability stemming from displacement and humanitarian need, CARE knows that any lasting solution must address the underlying cause of poverty: the lack of access to resources and opportunities. In all of our work, we address the inequalities that lead to poverty so individuals and communities are empowered to improve their lives. In addition, our experience has proven that women and girls, when given the proper resources and tools, have the power to help their entire family and community transition out of poverty and recover from environmental and conflict-driven shocks. We engage men and boys throughout this process because they are an integral part of long-term change.

CARE's advocacy supports the efforts of poor women, girls and families by promoting policy reforms that improve U.S. foreign assistance programs – creating a ripple effect that impacts their daily lives. Our recommendations seek to make U.S. assistance to developing countries more effective, timely, sustainable and efficient.

**In 2019, CARE's advocacy efforts will focus on the Foreign Assistance Budget, Food and Nutrition Security, Maternal Health and Family Planning, Gender and Women's Empowerment, and Humanitarian Assistance and Response.**

### Foreign Assistance

The foreign assistance budget is the U.S. Government's primary funding source for international programs for emergency response and long-term development. Although the foreign assistance budget is roughly 1 percent of the overall U.S. budget, it is routinely targeted during budget cuts.

The U.S. foreign assistance budget contains multiple accounts that save lives and support CARE's fight against global poverty and injustice. Any cuts to the foreign assistance budget would endanger lives and signal a withdrawal of American leadership and our position as a reliable partner. In recognition of the critical role that U.S. foreign assistance plays in improving and saving lives, CARE believes that this funding must be protected. Simply put: There should be no disproportionate budget cuts. CARE supports a strong foreign assistance budget funded at no less than \$60 billion in Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 – on par with recent funding levels. CARE is deeply concerned by proposals for deep and disproportionate cuts to lifesaving programs, particularly those that help the poorest in the world. CARE also continues to advocate for greater accountability, impact and transparency of these funds.



The foreign assistance budget saves lives, promotes global peace and security and provides a sustainable path toward stability and independence for families and communities around the world. CARE opposes any cuts to U.S. foreign assistance programs.

### **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. This includes both the delivery of emergency food aid to areas in crisis and the implementation of long-term programming that works to end poverty and increase food security. 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.

### **Maternal Health and Family Planning**

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 maternal health through policies that increase the quality, access and availability of reproductive and maternal health services, particularly in emergency settings. CARE specifically supports robust U.S. funding for international family planning programming, including funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

### **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. As part of this effort, CARE supports efforts that incorporate strong policies and robust resources to prevent and address gender-based violence, promote women's economic empowerment and combat child marriage.

### **Humanitarian Assistance and Response**

CARE advocates for the United States to respond robustly to humanitarian crises, through both funding and diplomatic engagement, with particular attention paid to the unique needs of women and girls in emergency settings and the importance of empowering women and girls as a central role in responding to crises. The United States remains the single largest humanitarian donor, and when we step up, other countries follow. CARE supports humanitarian assistance that targets the most vulnerable populations through sustainable engagement, specifically women, girls and other key populations, builds linkages between short-term emergency response and long-term development, and includes robust funding for emergency response.

CARE USA Headquarters  
151 Ellis Street, Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-681-2552 | [www.care.org](http://www.care.org)

CARE Action  
1899 L Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-595-2800 | [www.careaction.org](http://www.careaction.org)

