



CARE in 2026: A Smarter Model for Global Impact

Origin Story: From an Act of Solidarity

CARE began in 1945 with a simple, practical response to crisis. As families in postwar Europe faced hunger and displacement, CARE delivered the first CARE PACKAGE®, filled with food and basic supplies. The package met urgent needs, but it also stood for something larger: **a belief rooted in dignity and solidarity across borders.**

Over the next eight decades, CARE evolved alongside a changing world. Experience showed that relief alone is not enough. CARE expanded from emergency aid into long-term partnerships with communities, governments, and local organizations, placing women at the center of this work based on decades of evidence. The **CARE PACKAGE®** evolved as well, reimagined today as a modern emergency package that brings together essentials like water purification tools, hygiene supplies, cooking tools, and solar power to help families stabilize in the earliest days of crisis.

Working through trusted local partners, CARE delivers immediate relief, such as cash assistance, clean water, health services, and protection for women and girls, while helping communities take preventative measures for future emergencies. This flexible funding model ensures that aid is not only fast, but strengthens local capacity for lasting resilience.

Snapshot of CARE's Humanitarian Response:

- **Cash Transfers:** Evidence shows that direct cash assistance reaches more people, more effectively and quickly, than in-kind aid. It eliminates supply chain costs and enables families to buy what is most essential for their households during an emergency.
- **Health and Survival:** CARE provides disease prevention through clean water and hygiene, primary healthcare including childhood immunizations, and maternal health services.
- **CARE PACKAGE®:** Combined with early warning systems, it provides rapid response tools to stabilize families in the earliest days of crisis.

Impact in Action:

- Evidence shows that **early humanitarian interventions can more than halve the cost of emergency response**. CARE's Surge Fund fuels action at the onset of crisis.
- In Poland, responding to refugees from Ukraine, **CARE delivered \$0.89 of aid for every \$1 spent, compared to an industry average of \$0.68**, by working through local partners and lean delivery systems.
- In 2025, CARE's Humanitarian Surge Fund **deployed \$1.1 million across ten emergencies**, and leveraged an additional **\$2.9 million** in external funding for expanded response and recovery.
- Since its inception, the Surge Fund has leveraged **donor impact by nearly 27x**, proving that early, flexible capital accelerates impact and mobilizes larger-scale humanitarian aid.

Expanding Opportunity and Economic Power for Women and Girls

Economic empowerment is central to CARE's strategy because it delivers lasting change. When women have income, savings, and decision-making power, families are more resilient and communities recover faster. CARE's Savings Group model brings women together to save, access small loans, invest in businesses, and plan for the future. Designed to scale, the model is widely adopted and often grows organically without direct CARE support.



Snapshot of CARE's Economic Empowerment Program:

- **Cash and Resilience:** Women-led savings groups that enable saving, lending, and small business growth.
- **Education to Economic Empowerment:** CARE creates pathways for adolescent girls and young women, building financial literacy, livelihood skills, and entrepreneurial capacity.
- **Livelihoods and Market Access:** Pathways from savings groups to market linkages, formal credit, and entrepreneurship.

Impact in Action:

- Nearly 20 million people worldwide **are currently participating in CARE-supported savings groups, the majority of them women.**
- More than 21.6 million participants **have taken part directly in savings groups established with CARE support.**
- **Over 30 million people globally have joined savings groups formed independently as communities replicate CARE's model.**

In 2026, building on this proven foundation, CARE is launching RISE, a \$150 million global initiative designed to unlock financial systems for women entrepreneurs. Leveraging 80 years of expertise in financial inclusion, **RISE will help 70 million women access capital, grow their enterprises, and create jobs that lift entire communities.**

By partnering with banks, investors, and governments, CARE is transforming how markets recognize and finance women's economic power—turning decades of grassroots success into global systems change.

Health: Keeping Essential Services Running When Systems Fail

CARE strengthens health systems so women and children can access care during conflict, climate shocks, and funding disruptions. By working with governments, CARE helps build health systems that reduce maternal and child mortality at scale.

Snapshot of CARE's Health Program:

- **Safer Births:** CARE deploys frontline Community Health Workers to provide maternal, newborn, and child health services.
- **Nutrition and Immunization:** Screening for malnutrition and immunization services in hard-to-reach communities, with a primary focus on women and children.
- **Community Health:** Programs that improve individual and family-level health and nutrition outcomes by increasing access to preventive healthcare services through mobile clinics.

Impact in Action:

- In India, CARE's large-scale health systems work trained more than **200,000 female frontline workers**, delivering preventive health and nutrition services to nearly **130 million people** and cutting maternal mortality in half in target areas.
- In Bangladesh, CARE helped raise childhood immunization rates from **2% to over 80% within three years**, a system still in use today.
- When U.S. funding cuts forced health clinic closures in 2025, CARE's Emergency Triage Fund reopened **105 therapeutic feeding centers in Ethiopia** and restored services to **63 health facilities in Somalia**, reaching **92,650 people**.

Education: Getting Girls Back to School—and Keeping Them There

Education is one of the strongest predictors of long-term stability, especially for girls.

CARE focuses on second-chance pathways for girls pushed out of school by poverty, crisis, or early marriage.

Across low-income and fragile settings, millions of adolescent girls are ready and eager to learn but cannot access education designed for their reality. Traditional systems were built for on-time enrollment and grade progression, not for a 14-year-old who missed years of school due to conflict, poverty, or early marriage. Without targeted second-chance pathways, leaving school becomes a permanent break, with lifelong consequences for girls, their families, and their economies.

Snapshot of CARE's Education Program:

- **Crises Responsive Learning:** Accelerated education programs help girls catch up and re-enter formal schooling through community-based learning models aligned with government systems.
- **Safe Learning Environments:** Education pathways that strengthen protection, confidence, and well-being so girls can stay in school and succeed.

Impact in Action:

- In Nepal, CARE's SOAR accelerated education program supported **more than 850 out-of-school girls**.
- **93% completed the program**, and **100% transitioned into formal school**.
- The Government of Nepal is now adapting CARE's model for national re-entry strategies.

Why CARE?

A Proven Platform for High-Impact, Cost-Effective Interventions

CARE combines scale, evidence, and discipline to deliver results in a constrained global funding environment.

Designed for Efficiency and Scale

Through CARE's Value for Money Initiative, cost-effectiveness is embedded into how programs are designed, adapted, and scaled. Across more than 20 cost-efficiency analyses, CARE has demonstrated it can increase impact per dollar without compromising

quality. In Yemen, CARE reduced unit costs by over 20 percent while delivering water infrastructure three times faster by shifting to community-led delivery. These insights guide where CARE invests and how programs are scaled through governments and partners.

Evidence Over Expansion

CARE prioritizes fewer, higher-impact solutions with clear pathways to national adoption. By embedding proven models into government systems, policies, and curricula, CARE extends impact far beyond individual projects.

Women-Centered by Design

CARE’s work is grounded in evidence that investing in women delivers stronger, more durable outcomes for families and communities.

In a moment when every dollar must work harder, CARE offers a proven platform for catalytic investment.

A Defining Moment for Global Aid and for CARE

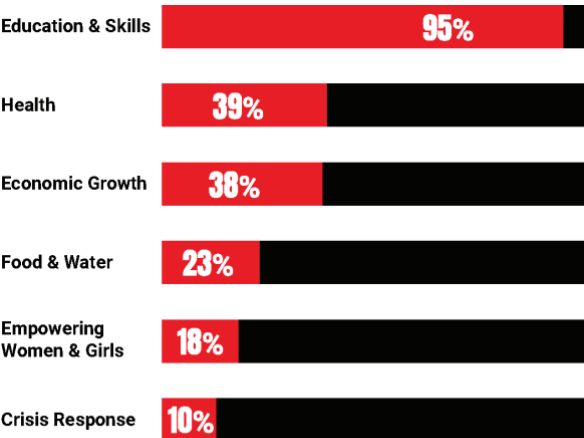
How We Responded to Historic Funding Cuts, Protected Lives, and Emerged with Clearer Focus

In early 2025, the global humanitarian system experienced a sudden and historic disruption. The U.S. Government terminated more than **80% of its international assistance programs**, forcing abrupt stop-work orders across the sector. For CARE, this meant that **46 programs were halted almost overnight**, putting **18.4 million people in 30 countries** at risk.

CARE concentrated limited resources where they could do the most good, prioritizing proven interventions and urgent needs. Flexible philanthropic support enabled CARE to restore essential health and nutrition services and deliver emergency cash assistance. Across **13**

Most Impacted Programs

Roughly three-quarters of the terminated funding supported CARE’s long-term development work—programs that tackle the root causes of poverty and build resilience before crisis strikes.



● Percent Terminated



countries, this rapid response sustained **14 high-impact programs**, reaching **more than 687,000 people**.

This moment reinforced lessons CARE has learned over eight decades: local leadership matters, flexible funding saves lives, focus drives impact, and adaptation is essential. Despite the setbacks of the aid cuts, CARE remains on solid footing and has emerged well positioned to lead in a changed landscape.

Yet we can't do this alone. As government funding becomes more constrained and unpredictable, CARE is building a stronger base of flexible philanthropic support, the kind that allows us to move quickly, invest strategically, and stay focused on global impact.

How CARE Is Adapting and Leading Forward

Sharper Focus. Smarter Systems. Greater Impact in a Changed World.

The global funding landscape has changed, demanding sharper focus and smarter systems. CARE is making intentional choices, concentrating resources where evidence is strongest, scaling solutions that last, and investing in local leadership to deliver impact faster and more efficiently. With 80 years of learning behind us, we are refining how we work for a new era, ensuring that every dollar creates measurable, lasting change.

We are focusing on scalable models that governments and markets can sustain, replacing traditional grants with catalytic capital that unlocks broader investment. Evidence drives every decision, from where we scale to how we partner and where we step back. By embedding what works into public systems and policies and acting collectively with peers rather than alone, CARE is building a smarter, more resilient platform for global progress.

This is a defining moment for leadership.

Your partnership can shape the next chapter of global progress, grounded in evidence and efficiency. By standing with CARE now, you help strengthen what works, scale proven solutions, and ensure millions of women and families not only survive crisis but build lasting stability. Together, we can turn this moment of disruption into a decade of transformation.