

CLIMATE & RESILIENCE CAPACITY STATEMENT



Around the world, climate change is threatening lives and ecosystems. Disasters linked to climate-related risks, both large and small, are on the rise. Slow-onset events (droughts, temperature rise, rainfall variability) are also impacting the livelihoods of millions of people. People are increasingly forced to live in high-risk areas and the percentage of global surface with degraded ecosystems is rapidly growing. These negative trends disproportionately affect those living in poverty, resulting in an annual average of over 199 million people around the world being directly affected by climate-related hazards from 2008-2017 (Source: [CRED](#), 2019). Climate change is becoming the main cause of the loss of lives and destruction of economies.

CARE'S WORK & THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In the face of these extreme changes, CARE aims to build resilience of individuals, communities and systems to deal with the impacts of climate change, but also reduce the greenhouse gases (GHG) that are at the origin of the problem.

1. We support communities to prevent and prepare for extreme events.
2. We support the transition to more resilient livelihoods through community-based adaptation.
3. We promote the use of renewables energies.
4. We work with communities and civil society organizations to lobby the governments to implement better climate policies for adaptation and mitigation.
5. We share our expertise and learnings through a learning platform: the CARE Climate & Resilience Academy.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

When disasters hit, women and girls are often the most affected. Women's workload, limited decision-making power, and unequal access to and control over resources can prevent them from adopting effective strategies to prepare, adapt and respond to disasters and climate change. By understanding the differential experiences of women and men, and incorporating gender sensitive and transformative practices into our work, we are better able to build resilience to climate change and disasters and, in the process, address the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice.

1. We support communities to prevent and prepare for extreme events

Poor people are more likely to live and work in areas exposed to potential hazards and less likely to have the resources to cope when a disaster strikes. CARE works with the poorest to help them build awareness of the risks they face, know when disasters are coming, know what they can do to protect themselves and others, and to recover quickly afterwards.

Simultaneously, CARE supports communities and individuals to look for ways to prevent shocks and stresses from happening. Healthy ecosystems are vital to reduce the impact of climate change, whether it means forested stable slopes, avoiding landslides, healthy rangelands that absorb rainwater or mangroves that reduce wave intensity.

Examples of CARE prevention and preparation work:

- Establishment of early warning systems
- Development of contingency plans
- Training, coaching and lobbying governments to ensure they are prepared and well equipped to respond
- Rehabilitation of degraded rangelands through construction of stone bunds and infiltration galleries (this allows water to infiltrate into the ground, avoiding erosion during heavy rains, and ensuring availability of groundwater during the dry seasons)
- Working with communities and authorities to set up resource management plans and strengthen capacity to enforce these plans, protecting the ecosystems against over exploitation

FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE

CARE promotes a landscape approach, in which we align all stakeholders, government, private sector, and communities who live and make use of the ecosystem to jointly work towards one common goal: the resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods.



2. We support community-based adaptation in the face of climate change

CARE supports communities and individuals to adopt more resilient livelihoods in the face of climate change. To do so, **CARE supports Community-Based Adaptation**, a set of climate change adaptation activities developed in partnership with at-risk communities, in order to promote local awareness of, and appropriate and sustainable solutions to, current and future climatic conditions.

We examine people's livelihoods through a climate change lens, taking social and gender inequalities, as well as governance and ecosystems issues, into account. Climate change adaptation activities are diverse and can relate to sustainable resource management; access to climate-information services to inform livelihood decision-making; promotion of more resilient agriculture practices, such as agroforestry and agro-ecology; and trainings on climate change.

In Peru, for example, CARE worked with farmers to develop an adaptation plan that included the testing and use of native potatoes species that require less water and are more resistant to intense and frequent hail frosts.

Examples of CARE's adaptation approaches and tools

- **Community Adaptation Planning (CAP)**, a process that brings local stakeholders together in an empowering learning process and results in tangible and flexible plans for communities to reduce their vulnerability to climate change over time.
- **Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA)**, a tool used by CARE to gather and analyze information on community-level vulnerabilities and capacities for climate change.
- **Participatory Scenario Planning** an approach to collaborative design and delivery of seasonal user-centered climate information services.





3. We promote the use of renewable energy

CARE's renewable energy programming has gender equality at its core. Indeed, although women are key users of energy products, cultural barriers such as lack of access to finance, knowledge and information, and decision-making power can hinder their ability to get physical access and have a say in how energy is used.

[CARE's renewable energy programming](#) aims to shift the current paradigm from one where women are passive providers and users of energy, to one where they are agents of change in promoting sustainable energy technologies and its productive uses.

Example of CARE's renewable energy work

CARE is introducing and upscaling the use of improved cook stoves in order to reduce deforestation due to charcoal production and collection of firewood for cooking purposes. CARE is also promoting the uptake of biogas in some agricultural projects.

4. We advocate for change for and with communities

We underpin our work on prevention, preparedness and adaptation with **our continuous work to influence policies and regulations.** We do this at all levels, from local to international, to address the underlying causes of vulnerability of different groups of people and improve the social, economic and ecological systems and structures that support them.

This includes upholding governments to international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030. At the same time, we support local civil society organizations in holding their own government accountable at national and local levels. We also empower men and women to use their voice to demand their rights and influence policy makers to ensure they can live safe and resilience lives.

5. We build capacities

The [CARE Climate and Resilience Academy](#) is a platform that aims to give people the necessary knowledge to understand climate change, and provide them with skills and tools so that they are better able to tackle its causes and consequences. Learning resources are directly based on CARE's 17 years of experience in resilience, community-based adaptation, climate advocacy, and in our own efforts to become a climate-smart organization.

The CARE Climate and Resilience Academy offers three type of materials: (1) short online courses available 24/7; (2) interactive 1-year learning journeys that include homework and coaching; and (3) trainers' pack with materials to facilitate the training of others.

CARE Climate Change and Resilience Platform

[CARE's Climate Change and Resilience Platform \(CCRP\)](#) leads and coordinates the integration of climate change and resilience across CARE's development and humanitarian work globally. This platform is composed of a global team of approximately 10 experts based in the different regions we work in and is in regular contact with many experts in the CARE network.

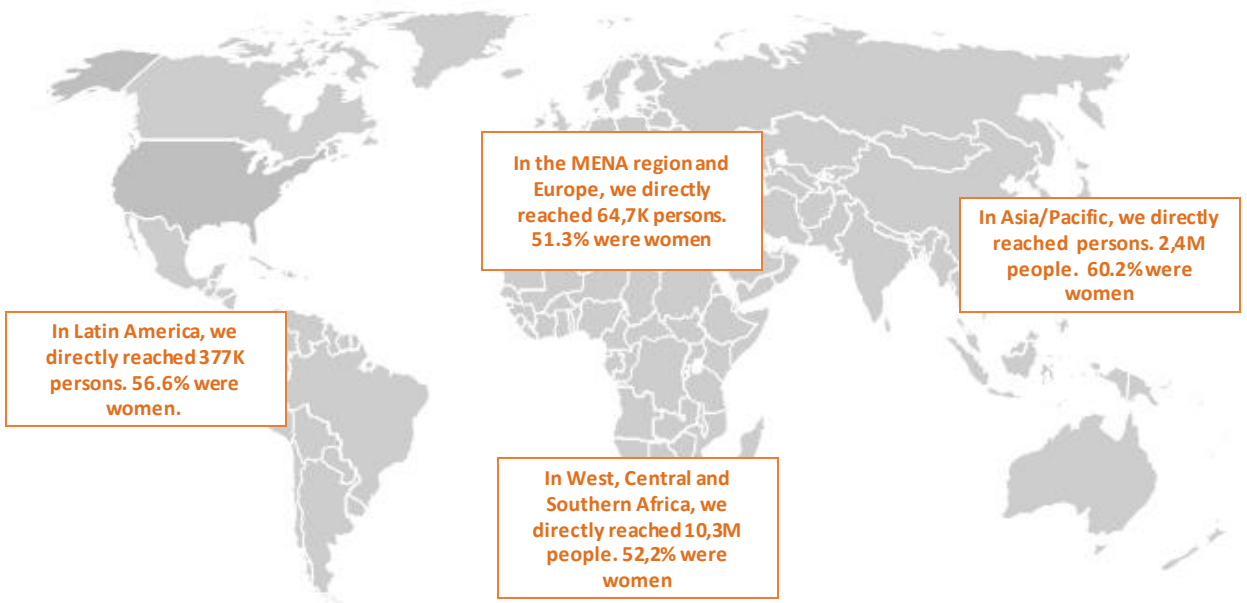
Sustainable Development Goals

Although CARE contributes to a large number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our climate change and resilience work places extra emphasis on the following SDGs:



Impact

Making an impact is key to our work. In FY19, 36% of CARE's projects (371 projects) have integrated climate change, reaching directly 13 million people.



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Are you interested in supporting our work in adapting to climate change and building resilience? Please contact us at info@careclimatechange.org