

CARE GBV STRATEGY: OVERVIEW

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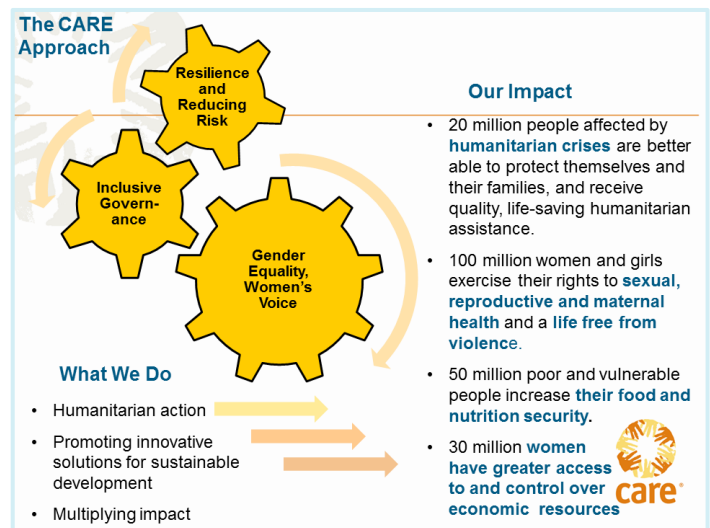
Gender-based violence¹ is both a driver & consequence of poverty, injustice, conflict and gender inequality and is therefore an essential issue across CARE's work. This document outlines components of the CARE GBV Strategy, in line with the CARE 2020 Program Strategy, where GBV is not only a core outcome,² but also essential to CARE's roles and approaches.

GBV & THE CARE 2020 PROGRAM STRATEGY

Across each element of CARE's 2020 Program Strategy integration of GBV is a necessity:

WHAT WE DO: CARE'S ROLES

- GBV prevention, protection and response matter in **humanitarian action** and can save lives. While disruptions from emergencies raise risks of generalized violence,³ violent conflicts and disasters especially see the amplification of existing harmful practices and inequalities. Reasons behind this are often linked to lack of protection for populations affected by crises, group disempowerment and notions of masculinity, as well as social protection tactics (as seen through child marriage trends, for example).⁴
- CARE is committed to GBV programming innovation alongside GBV integration across sectoral programming to strengthen **sustainable development**. We view this combination – of GBV-focused innovation and GBV integration – as two sides of the same coin for gender transformation. At the heart of this, CARE acknowledges that gender norms, unequal power relations and gendered differences in access to resources, information and influence interact with programming across sectors. CARE programs actively integrate GBV work to achieve goals, safeguard against unintended effects and ensure the safety and health of CARE staff and partners.⁵
- In relation to **multiplying impact**, GBV work involves influencing policy articulation and implementation as well as social norms change. Over the past seven years, CARE's advocacy on gender-based violence have provided key entry-points for coordinated advocacy on GBV in conflict and humanitarian contexts linking local, national and global levels, and CARE has experience innovating approaches to influence norms surrounding GBV through programming.



CARE'S NICHE IN GBV WORK

The roles align with CARE's niche in relation to gender-based violence work:

COMBINATION OF GBV INNOVATION and GBV INTEGRATION across PROGRAMMING

- CARE programs actively integrate GBV work to achieve goals, safeguard against unintended effects and ensure the safety and health of CARE staff and partners – across humanitarian and development programming. While CARE focuses on primary prevention, monitoring, mitigation and response remain part of a comprehensive strategy, and are often entry points as well as necessities for our work.

TRANSFORMING ROOT CAUSES TO PREVENT GBV

- CARE works through multiple entry points to prevent GBV at household, community and broader levels with a focus on transforming drivers and triggers of GBV, including women's economic empowerment, engaging men/boys, facilitating community dialogues, strengthening community governance, research on GBV for advocacy and practice, and supporting movements and national advocacy for policy change. This is necessary for sustained and broader impact across the complex environments in which CARE works.

CONVENING DIVERSE ACTORS FOR NEGOTIATION AND ACTION for PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GBV

- CARE supports voices from marginalized communities to represent and negotiate their rights in district, national, regional and global forums.. In donor and governmental spheres, this work may support activists, government and other civil society players to negotiate commitments, priorities and plans for action around GBV across global, regional, national and district levels.

COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY SKILLS AND ATTITUDES AMONG STAFF AND PARTNERS

- CARE understands that engaging in transformational gender work requires all involved to build critical awareness, dialogue and action at all levels, starting with staff and partners. CARE's development of curricula to facilitate critical self-awareness, non-judgment and action around gender and GBV must remain a signature across its work.

THESE NICHE AREAS FULLY ALIGN WITH THE CARE APPROACH, which centres on **gender equality and women's voice, promoting inclusive governance and increasing resilience and reducing risk**. One cannot address issues surrounding **gender equality and women's voice** without engaging GBV work. As both a driver and consequence of gender inequality, GBV limits opportunities and support for those marginalized by gender inequality and can act as a threat against their inclusion in governance and development processes. As a result, **inclusive governance** work must proactively support the empowerment and representation of groups marginalized by gender inequality to meaningfully participate in and shape governance processes, the expansion of inclusive spaces for them to negotiate their rights and promote power-holder accountability with a specific focus on marginalized groups. CARE's niche includes a focus on transforming root causes of GBV as well as integration of GBV work across programming as an essential component for **increasing resilience and reducing risk**. Given the complex relationship between GBV with resilience, it is critical to address GBV as both a driver and consequence of insecurity through a mix of prevention, protection and response activities.

GBV STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Guiding the GBV Strategy is a theory of change which envisions: *In 2020, people of all genders exercise their right to a life of dignity, security, freedom and harmony where diversity is celebrated*. It is important to acknowledge that whilst the CARE 2020 Program Strategy goal measures outcomes in relation to violence against women and girls, GBV is a systemic social problem with devastating consequences for all people and transformation requires standing by people of all genders affected by GBV for holistic change. The CARE GBV Strategy has articulated 4 objective areas which touch each level of the socio-ecological model:⁶

Socio-ecological Model⁷



GBV Strategy Objectives

Objective 1: People of all genders and ages make choices, assert their voices and realize their right to a life free of gender-based violence

- Personal, Individual

Objective 2: People of all genders and ages negotiate and create healthy relationships within families and communities built upon mutual respect, open communication, solidarity and non-violence

- Family and intimate relations
- Solidarity groups and social networks

Objective 3: Groups negotiate rights, choices, access to resources and services with formal and informal institutions, transforming social norms and practices to prevent and respond to GBV

- Community relations and services
- Societal norms, policy and institutions

Objective 4: Accountable formal and informal institutions prevent & respond to GBV

- Societal norms, policy and institutions

WHAT'S NEXT? AN INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED

To date, the GBV Strategy has evolved to include representatives from nearly 30 CARE offices. Moving forward we hope to inform practice based on innovations and promising practices already being developed across over 40 countries. Over the coming year, colleagues are also collaborating to define measures in line with the GBV strategy, and promote the strategy's coherence and accountability mechanisms. Others are building a body of resources for effective GBV integration in practice, and seeking creative ways to communicate the GBV Strategy across the federation. To join these efforts, or for any questions in relation to this work we invite you to contact us via Diana Wu (dwu@care.org).

¹ WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)? GBV is a harmful act or threat based on a person's sex or gender identity. It includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse, coercion, denial of liberty and economic deprivation whether occurring in public or private spheres. GBV is rooted in unjust and unequal power relations and structures and rigid social and cultural norms.

² While there are implications for GBV across outcome areas, the CARE 2020 Program Strategy also discusses the assertion for 100 million women and girls to exercise their rights to sexual, reproductive and maternal health, and a life free from violence.

³ Guidelines for Gender Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian settings, IASC 2005

⁴ Philippines: New approach to emergency response fails women and girls

<http://refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/Philippines%20GBV%20New%20Approach%20letterhead.pdf>

⁵ Bloom et al (2014). Guidance for Gender Based Violence Monitoring and Mitigation within Non-GBV Focused Sectoral Programming. Atlanta: CARE.

⁶ For further discussion on these objectives, strategies that contribute toward them and CARE's niche roles in GBV programming, please see [the full](#) GBV Strategy Document (9 pages).

⁷ Diagram adapted from the [Engaging Men and Boys: programming elements](#) illustration.