**TOPIC 1: WOMEN AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Women produce 50% of the world’s food – and up to 80% in some countries – but own less than 2% of the world’s land[[1]](#footnote-1). There is no doubt that women play pivotal roles in agriculture, yet beyond unequal access to resources, female laborers are frequently paid less than their male counterparts; are tasked with heavier household tasks; omitted from decision-making processes; and are exceptionally under-represented in agricultural organizations. The sum of these barriers is an entrenched barrier separating women from opportunities in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, women are less empowered to contributing to food security and from achieving their full potential to contribute to the society. There exists an alarming gender gap in agriculture. With this in mind, CARE International has strategically formulated programs with the ultimate goal of minimizing the gap and inspiring women to take on central roles in agriculture.

Paralleling the agricultural sector, climate change similarly affects women. Women often bare the brunt of poverty around the world[[2]](#footnote-2), and the impact is magnified by climate change. In the aftermath of droughts, heat waves, floods, and hurricanes, women have no choice but to work harder and longer to support their families. CARE International recognizes that the impacts are especially pronounced in developing nations were more than two-thirds of women in the work force rely on agricultural income, and thus optimal climate conditions. In response, CARE emphasizes two solutions to alleviate the impact of climate change on women. The first: equal access to clean water. CARE calls upon all countries and organizations alike to launch a campaign to educate women about methods to obtain clean water and develop local practices such as regular hand washing. We encourage everyone to join us in delegating with governments to erect long-term political involvement and commitment, ensuring the implementation of policies and reasonable allocation of resources for sustainable improvements. Beyond this, CARE has a vision of blending in efforts on nutrition, education, and adaptation to match the pace of climate change. In the eyes of CARE, drilling more wells or building latrines is not suffice. And because of this, we also want to give women equal decision-making power in discussions on water and sanitation in their communities. CARE urges the establishment of income-generating projects in developing nations where women are given a voice, not just a bucket to haul kilos of water. Furthermore, CARE supports the establishment of local task forces to build sanitary facilities to prevent women and girls from falling sick. This ways, girls are healthier and can stay in school longer to achieve the education for higher-earning jobs in their future.

**TOPIC 2: Elimination of Gender-Based Violence**

As many as 1 in 3 women has been beaten, coerced in sex or abused in some other way – most often by someone she knows, including by her husband or another male family member. Gender-based violence is an unsung human rights transgression, and CARE is deeply concerned about the fate of female abuse victims. CARE’s vision is that reducing gender-based abuses requires addressing the power inequalities between women and men as well as girls and boys. Thus, CARE is devoted to supporting the empowerment of impoverished women and girls in developing nations in particular. Firstly, CARE urges for increased accountability in gender-based abuse cases. CARE works with women in nations across the world to confront gender-based violence, utilizing a holistic approach to such activities. We include prevention with comprehensive service delivery that addresses the root causes of the incident and provides support for the victim. In our work, we strive to continue providing GBV victims with essential medical, legal, psychological, and protection services in more than 40 countries. Furthermore, we seek to establish local activist alliances to distribute assistance and support to manage the survivors while advocating for more just policies and raising awareness to infiltrate such violent behaviors. We encourage organizations and countries to support our research endeavors that aim to further understand the sophisticated causes and impacts of GBV. In these activities, we look to collaboratively develop tools and methods to help local communities and individuals to understand, prevent, and respond to GBV. In particular, CARE runs the Inner Spaces Outer Faces Initiative (ISOFI) and Social Analysis and Action programs. These two programs use effective methods to target underlying causes that trigger GBV. We regularly translate research into action to expand the capacity of staff and communities to perpetrate negative gender norms and grossly unacceptable gender abuses. CARE believes in action as much as research to ameliorate these actions; thus, we welcome the support and involvement of all countries and organizations. We propose expanding these research engagements and hope to do so collaboratively.

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1. "Climate Change." *CARE International*. Web. 01 Nov. 2016. <<http://www.care-international.org/what-we-do/climate-change>>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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