



# Food and Nutrition Security for All

An estimated 821 million people around the world are undernourished and do not have enough food to eat. Emergency response and food aid are critical in many circumstances, but our ultimate goal must be to lessen the frequency, severity and impact of devastating emergencies. We must support increased resilience in the face of a changing climate and enable each country to sustainably meet food and nutrition needs. That's why CARE focuses on long-term global food and nutrition security programs that support the ability of farmers and families to sustainably grow, buy and access nutritious and adequate food.

## The Problem:

Global hunger is a complex problem requiring a comprehensive approach that sustainably addresses all aspects of hunger and malnutrition, from immediate emergency to long-term food and nutrition security needs.

The number of chronically hungry people has increased in recent years. Poor nutrition early in a child's life permanently impairs physical and cognitive development, often creating an intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Inequality shapes who has access to food and the resources to grow and buy it. It determines who is resilient to hunger shocks and who is vulnerable. The reality of inequality is no truer than for women, who make up half the world's population and receive far less than their fair share of the world's resources.

Women and girls comprise 60 percent of the world's chronically hungry people, and often carry the burden of food production

and preparation. Small-scale farms make up nearly 85 percent of the world's farms, and the majority of small-scale producers are women. Yet they frequently lack equal access to markets and resources, such as land, credit and training.

Small-scale farmers – particularly women – are especially vulnerable to changing weather patterns, such as flooding, high temperatures and drought. They grapple with poor quality soil, small plots, depleted fish stocks, water scarcity, lack of diverse foods in markets or low incomes. Nearly 70 percent of the planet's land is degraded, and 90 percent of the world's fisheries are fully- or over-fished.

CARE's decades of work in food and nutrition security has shown us that we must focus on women and small-scale farmers while protecting the planet's resources.



### The Solution:

We have the solutions to address the needs of today's global food and nutrition security challenges. We need to tackle these problems with the right tools in both emergency and long-term food security contexts, setting families and communities on a path toward sustainability, success and independence.

Equality for women food producers and addressing women's nutritional needs must be at the center of any strategy to adequately address global hunger. By empowering women with the right tools and education, women farmers are better able to respond to and prepare for times of uncertainty and achieve long-term food and nutrition security for themselves and their families. Eradicating hunger and malnutrition also requires enabling hungry people to grow or buy adequate nutritious food themselves.

The Global Food Security Act (GFSA) was signed into law in 2016 and reauthorized in 2018. This historic bill resulted in the first comprehensive U.S. government global food security strategy, which included a focus on the important role of women small-scale farmers to address global hunger. But, as this law is implemented, more work needs to be done to ensure that

programs are transparent and include a focus on women, nutrition, sustainability and resilience.

CARE advocates for transparent programs that empower small-scale farmers and women to increase their resilience, gain access to nutritious food and sustainably produce food now and in the future. Continuing – and strengthening – these programs is critical to reducing hunger and poverty.

### Next Steps:

CARE advocates to protect and improve comprehensive U.S. food and nutrition security programs that empower the world's poorest women and their families to realize their right to nutritious food, while promoting equality and sustainability.

#### CARE advocates for the U.S. Government to:

- Support robust funding for emergency and long-term food and nutrition security programs and oppose any cuts to these critical global programs.
- Implement transparent global food and nutrition security programs that sustainably eliminate hunger, support women and comprehensively address undernutrition.

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