



Food and Nutrition Security for All

Over 815 million people around the world do not have enough food to eat. While emergency response and food aid are critical in many circumstances, our goal must be to lessen the frequency, severity and impact of devastating emergencies and focus on developing each country's self-reliance and ability to meet their own population's needs. That's why CARE focuses on long-term food and nutrition security programs that support the ability of farmers and families to grow, buy and access nutritious and adequate food.

The Problem:

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

Women and children comprise the majority of the world's chronically hungry people, and when food is scarce, women are often last to eat. Poor nutrition early in a child's life permanently impairs physical and cognitive development. Focusing on nutritional needs of women and children in the first 1,000 days, from a mother's pregnancy to a child's second birthday, helps ensure the best possible development outcomes for a child.

Many small-scale producers are women, yet they frequently lack equal access to resources, such as land, credit, and training. Small-scale farmers make up 85 percent of the world's farms. Yet they often struggle to grow, catch or buy enough nutritious food due to issues such as small plots of land, water scarcity, unavailability of diverse foods, or low incomes. They also often struggle to access markets or sell their harvest at fair prices.

Small-scale farmers – particularly women – are also vulnerable to changing weather patterns, such as high

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

The Solution:

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

In 2016, the Global Food Security Act (GFSA) was signed into law – a historic step toward reducing malnutrition around the world. This legislation marks the first time in history that the U.S. government mandated a comprehensive global food security strategy, which coordinates the government agencies working to address food insecurity and focuses on the important role of women, small-scale farmers and the use of natural resources in addressing global hunger. **By reauthorizing the GFSA this year, we can assure that these vital food security programs continue to save lives and empower communities to be self-sufficient.**



By empowering women with the right tools and education, the GFSA will empower women farmers to better respond and prepare for times of uncertainty and achieve long-term food security for themselves and their families. **In fact, research shows that if women had the same access to resources and information as men, we could reduce the number of hungry people by up to 150 million.**

Eradicating hunger and malnutrition also requires empowering hungry people to grow or buy adequate nutritious food themselves.

CARE advocates for programs, such as those supported by the GFSA, that empower small-scale farmers and women to gain access to nutritious food and to sustainably produce food in the future. Continuing these programs is critical to reducing hunger and poverty.

Next Steps:

CARE advocates for U.S. food and nutrition security programs to continue a comprehensive approach that both empowers the world's poorest women and their families to realize their right to nutritious food and also promotes equality and sustainability.

CARE calls for:

- Support for reauthorization of the bipartisan **Global Food Security Act**, comprehensive food and nutrition security legislation that improves and codifies a government-wide strategy to address food insecurity across the world.



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