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Throughout this report, CARE Australia refers to our operations in Australia, as well as Australian-based donor-supported and/or funded programs and emergency responses in the three Country Offices we managed in 2024/25 (Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu) and the Pacific countries in which we worked through partners with (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu). Throughout this report, CARE International or CARE, refers to the entire CARE International organisation consisting of a confederation of 20 International Members, Candidates and Affiliates, of which CARE Australia is one.

#### **Acknowledgement**





CARE Australia acknowledges the First Nations of the land on which we work, including the Ngunnawal and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung of the Eastern Kulin Nation. We respect and celebrate the sovereignty of the Traditional Owners of these lands and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

CARE Australia further acknowledges the Indigenous peoples and traditional owners of the lands across all the countries in which we work and recognises the enduring impacts of colonisation and ongoing inequality and injustices in the global, national and local distribution of resources, power and privilege.

### Message from the CEO

#### Our achievements

It's only through the support and dedication of our donors, partners, program participants and staff that we're able to achieve lasting impact. Reflecting on the past year, I feel immensely proud and grateful for all that we've been able to achieve together despite significant global challenges.

In a time of rapidly declining global support to humanitarian and development aid, we, like many of our peers, have navigated reduced funding and major uncertainty across the global economic and political landscape and achieved financial stability.

CARE Australia has supported almost 700,000 people, and engaged communities across 24 countries. As part of the CARE family, we've continued to deliver life-changing humanitarian and development programs in over 100 countries, reaching almost 59 million people globally. Some highlights include working with partners to be a first responder to the Myanmar earthquake, delivering education to girls in Afghanistan, and supporting refugees in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, with access to clean water and safe spaces for women and girls.

In Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and across the Pacific region, we've continued to work with communities on climate resilience to prepare for natural disasters. I had the pleasure of visiting CARE in Timor-Leste this year and witnessing firsthand how effectively they work with the government, ministries, and communities to deliver critical education, nutrition and farmer financing programs in areas of greatest need.

As part of the CARE confederation, we continue to support some of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, including Gaza and Sudan. CARE has been working with Palestinian communities since 1948 and has continued working alongside local partners in Gaza and the West Bank despite the challenging operating environment, to deliver healthcare, psychosocial and protection services, nutrition services for mothers and children and water and sanitation services.

I'd also like to acknowledge CARE staff globally, the experienced professionals who work at the front line, to support lasting change.

#### **Board Chair transition**

Thank you to Marcus Laithwaite, Chair of CARE Australia from 2020 to early 2025, for your support, wise counsel and leadership. And I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Chair, Phoebe Wynn-Pope, who brings deep knowledge and experience of the humanitarian sector and passion to the role. After first joining the board in 2018, Phoebe was appointed to the Chair position in February 2025.

#### Looking ahead

At the close of this financial year, we launched our new five-year strategy, which continues to be underpinned by our vision: seeking a world of hope, inclusion and social justice where poverty has been overcome, and all people live with dignity and security. As part of our new strategic objectives, over the coming five years we will be focused on achieving impact at scale, optimising our resources to deliver the most impact, and ensuring we are future-ready, by investing in our technology, partnerships and people. Across the globe, we will continue to focus on the areas of need across our six programmatic areas of disasters and emergencies, protection and safety, education and livelihoods, health, food and water and climate.

Above all, we are committed to, and passionate about, making a positive difference in the lives of women and girls globally, and we will continue to work tirelessly towards this goal.

#### Heartfelt thanks

Lastly, I'd like to say thank you to all our partners and donors for their ongoing support and unwavering belief in our mission. This past year, thanks to your generosity, we've delivered lifesaving aid to women and girls and families in crisis, while also investing in long-term solutions to address systemic inequality.

Thank you for your support and partnership.



Morgana Ryan Chief Executive Officer CARE Australia



### Thank you from the Board

As the baton passes, I'm honoured to serve as the 8th Chair of CARE Australia.

In 2024-25, we have continued to work with women and girls in 24 countries around the world despite the sector facing some significant challenges.

The last 12 months have seen unparalleled disruption to the global aid system, with many donor nations reducing their overseas development assistance. 305 million people now require humanitarian and aid assistance.

Our work is more essential than ever. This is not a time for timidity but rather to strengthen our resolve and belief in a world where all people can have an opportunity to live a life of dignity.

To this end, CARE Australia continues to stand alongside communities facing humanitarian crises, poverty, the devastating impacts of climate change, and ongoing gender inequality.

Our responses to the Myanmar earthquake, the Bougainville drought in Papua New Guinea, and our ongoing work in Timor Leste exemplifies what we can achieve when we remain focused on our mission.

CARE teams have worked tirelessly to serve communities in need, demonstrating the dedication and resilience that defines our organisation.

I want to thank my fellow directors and in particular our outgoing Chair, Marcus Laithwaite, for his

sound judgement, strong, committed, and tireless leadership, and Morgana Ryan for stepping off the Board to guide us through these testing times with steadfastness as our new Chief Executive Officer.

Thanks also to our dedicated staff without whom there is no CARE, the Australian people whose unwavering generosity enables us to do our job, and the Australian government whose partnership enables us to deliver vital programs, amplify women's and girls' voices, and advance gender equality.

On behalf of the Board, thank you all our supporters, partners, and the communities with whom we work, your trust and commitment inspire us.

Together, we are creating meaningful change for a fairer future.



Phoebe Wynn-Pope Chair CARE Australia

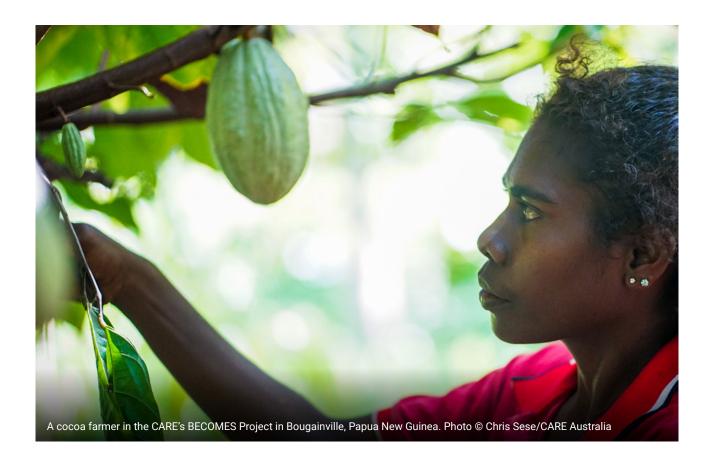
#### **Acknowledging our Outgoing Chair**

CARE Australia extends its heartfelt thanks to Marcus Laithwaite for his outstanding leadership and service as Chair of CARE Australia.

Marcus was appointed as Chair in 2020, and during his five-year tenure, steered CARE through COVID-19, deepened CARE's focus on locally led development, and strengthened our partnerships across the Asia-Pacific region.

We thank him sincerely for his dedication and leadership, and wish him every success in his future endeavours.





#### **Board Members**

Dr Phoebe Wynn-Pope Director since October 2018, Chair from February 2025

Marcus Laithwaite Director since July 2017, Chair from March 2020 to February 2025

Joseph Tesvic Director since September 2016, Treasurer from March 2020

Natalie Kyriacou OAM Director since December 2024

Diana Nicholson Director since July 2019

Michael Stutchbury Director since January 2025

Joanne Thomson Director since May 2021

Peter Varghese AO Director since July 2019

Kaajri Vaughan Director since January 2025

#### **Committee Members and Observers**

Natalie Kyriacou OAM Fundraising & Marketing Committee from November 2021 to December 2024

Hong Pham Finance, Risk & Audit Committee since March 2024, People & Impact Committee since February 2025

Meenal Khare Board Observer since February 2024, Revenue Strategy Committee since February 2025

Methmie Herath Board Observer since February 2025

# **CARE Australia's Impact Snapshot**

### Together, we have:







Delivered emergency relief for 184,837 PEOPLE of which 59% WERE FEMALE

50% of all CARE Australia projects were implemented with local partners



# Across CARE globally, we have:



**Supported 58,735,279 PEOPLE** 



Supported work across 121 Countries



Delivered emergency relief for 21,675,080 PEOPLE of which 54% WERE FEMALE

86% of all CARE Confederation projects were implemented with local partners



### Why we exist

### Our vision

We seek a world of hope, inclusion and social justice where poverty has been overcome, and all people live with dignity and security.

### Our purpose

Working to save lives and defeat poverty.

### Our focus

Building a world where women and girls are equal.

### Our work

CARE Australia works globally across both humanitarian and development contexts. We work across six program areas:



Disasters & Emergencies



Education & Livelihoods



Protection & Safety



Food & Water



Health



Climate



# CARE's focus Building a world where women and girls are equa

#### Building a world where women and girls are equal is central to our work.

We cannot eradicate poverty while inequality persists. Discrimination harms and disadvantages women and girls. Discrimination fuels food insecurity, safety risks, and exclusion from life-saving services and opportunities. It weakens global security, development, the economy, food security, health, climate, and the environment.

And yet, women have consistently demonstrated that they are the strongest agents of change. When women and girls lead and make decisions, they drive the changes needed to end poverty and inequality.

#### CARE Australia builds a world where women and girls are equal through:

- Building women and girls' knowledge, skills, confidence and aspirations
- Supporting women to change unequal relationships that are holding women and girls back
- Supporting women to create an environment where women and girls can thrive by driving progressive laws, policies, cultures and values that support equality.





#### **Empowerment through Education in Afghanistan**

With the support of the Australian Government, CARE Australia, in partnership with CARE Afghanistan, implemented the Empowerment through Education in Afghanistan (EEA) program from 2011 to 2024.

The program provided Afghan children, particularly girls, with quality and empowering education to achieve a broader range of opportunities in life.

"Learning to read and write has now given me a clear purpose. I am now aware of my rights and those of others. This program has provided me with the opportunity to study like other girls. In this area, perhaps only two or three girls would become literate, while the others would remain uneducated. This program has a profoundly positive impact and is very helpful for the girls here, allowing them to continue their studies." - EAA student

Through the work of CARE Australia and CARE Afghanistan, and with the support of the Australian Government, EEA has left an enduring and positive legacy on tens of thousands of Afghan girls and boys. The program demonstrated our unwavering

commitment to girls' education everywhere and shows that even in the most complex and difficult of situations, positive impacts and change can be achieved.

To celebrate the impact the EEA program had, and to thank the Australian government for 13 years of bipartisan support, CARE Australia hosted a photographic exhibition in November 2024, in Old Parliament House, Canberra. The exhibition showcased images from all three provinces in which the program ran, captured by local Afghan photographer Sajjad Sangar.

The event was attended by Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Former Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, who both provided remarks. Other guests included DFAT Humanitarian Coordinator, Beth Delaney; DFAT First Assistant Secretary South and Central Asia, Sarah Storey; the Ambassador of the European Union to Australia; the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Australia; and representatives of USAID and the Minderoo Foundation.

#### **Project Goal:**

Children, particularly girls, in targeted communities of five provinces of Afghanistan will have access to a broader range of opportunities in life after obtaining a quality, empowering education.

#### Since 2011, the EEA project has supported:



**40,042 Students** (Including 32,557 girls)



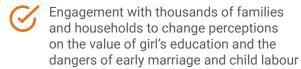
**1,821 Teachers** (Including 693 females)



#### **2.078 Village Education Committees**

(Including 1,154 females members)





Construction of 151 latrines and physical improvement of Community Based Education classes as part of refurbishment activities

Established and maintained mutual coordination and collaboration with Ministry of Education of pre-2021 Government of Afghanistan





Photo © Ben Appleton/CARE Australia







### **Case study: Umbelina takes part in the local Disaster Management Committee** in Timor-Leste

Umbelina is a member of the local Suco (village) Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) in rural Viguegue in Timor-Leste.

In her community, steep slopes and tall trees surrounding the area have made the local villagers vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather events.

Amid this, Umbelina noticed that women and girls in her community are often severely impacted.

"Women in labour would suffer the most during rainy seasons. Road paths would be destroyed, and when women were due to give birth, it was difficult for the ambulance to reach our location to take them to a nearby health facility", says Umbelina.

Umbelina's opportunity to influence change came about when she joined the SDMC, formed and regularly convened with the support from the Disaster READY\* project.

With her involvement in the project, she regularly participates in leadership training that boosts her confidence to advocate for meeting women and girls' needs in municipal disaster preparedness and risk reduction initiatives.

Now that she is aware of the impact she has on her community, Umbelina is actively encouraging other women to participate in local decisionmaking processes to accomplish one common goal; reducing the detrimental impact disasters have on women and girls.

<sup>\*</sup>Disaster READY is supported by the Australian Government and has a focus on ensuring vulnerable groups are represented and heard in disaster preparedness, management, and risk reduction activities.

#### Case study: Tetiana receives health support and protection services from CARE and its local partner Avalyst in Ukraine

Across Ukraine, the conflict has claimed more than 13,000 lives and displaced over 4 million people inside the country.

Between February 2022 and early 2025, nearly 7 million people fled to neighbouring countries such as Poland, Romania, and Moldova.

The war has pushed an entire generation of Ukrainian women backwards: they are facing heightened exposure to gender-based violence; rising unemployment; reduced influence in decision-making; greater domestic burdens; and, a severe mental health crisis.

Tetiana is from eastern Ukraine. She worked at the local coal-based fuel plant. The invasion in February 2022 caused severe damage there and in other parts of the country.

"February 2022 split our lives into 'before' and 'after," says Tetiana.

"At first, we couldn't believe what was happening. We were used to shelling, but when we had to leave our home, that's when the pain became real."

Tetiana now lives in a former children's recreational centre surrounded by forest in the Dnipropetrovsk region. The centre serves as a shelter, providing housing for 300 displaced people. She shares a small room with her mother and younger sister.

"The hardest thing was losing our home — a place of comfort, love, and belonging," she says.

"Before the war, life was normal — with schools, markets, healthcare, and jobs. Now, it's all gone."

Tetiana is finding ways to heal and rebuild her life. She receives health support and protection services from CARE and a local partner Avalyst at the shelter.



"From the very first meeting, they made us feel heard and included," says Tetiana.

"We joined group sessions and creative workshops to talk, create, and reconnect with others."

Tetiana also found part-time work. "It's not easy, but it helps me meet some of my needs. Most importantly, I feel stronger and more confident.

"I'm no longer just surviving — I'm living again."

CARE and our partners are responding to the crisis in Ukraine and regionally across Poland, Romania and Moldova to address the most pressing humanitarian needs.

Initially focused on housing and basic needs for displaced persons, CARE is now increasingly providing psychological support, addressing gender-based and conflict-related violence, housing rehabilitation, and supporting women's leadership.



### CARE'S work

### Disasters & Emergencies

Whether it is a sudden emergency or an ongoing crisis, CARE works to deliver life-saving assistance, and protect people's human rights and dignity, wherever we are best placed around the world.

We partner with local organisations in the Pacific region to prepare for natural disasters; deliver humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected areas like Ukraine and Afghanistan; and support recovery and rebuilding efforts alongside communities in Myanmar following devastating earthquakes.

In either sudden or protracted emergencies, CARE recognises the unique situation, needs, and vulnerabilities of women and girls when emergencies strike.





#### Case study: CARE responds to the Myanmar earthquake

Since one of the strongest earthquakes in a century struck Myanmar in March 2025, CARE has been working with our partners on the ground delivering relief and supporting affected communities.

Meet Thiri, a single mother of four all aged under 11, who lives in Mandalay. She was working at a food stall when the earthquake struck, and she rushed home immediately.

"The children were huddling with their grandmother in the house. I had to run on the street when everything collapsed."

Now out of immediate danger, Thiri Hlaing's biggest ongoing worry is how to feed her children.

"If I have to say what's in my heart, I think it's money. If I have money, I can take care of them. If I don't have money, I can't even buy them food if there's someone selling it. I can only watch others eat."

Within 72 hours of the earthquake striking, CARE provided Thiri with cash assistance for her household for one month, allowing her to purchase basic necessary items whilst infrastructure like banking systems remained down. CARE was one of the first responders that provide Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to the earthquake affected communities in Myanmar.

In total, CARE reached over 10,652 people like Thiri and her family, with humanitarian assistance following the earthquake. This included the distribution of food and water, cash, medical supplies, emergency shelter, and hygiene kits, as well as medical assistance for people with injuries.

Our Global Emergency Fund continues to provide lifesaving aid and services to Myanmar.

100% of those who received cash assistance from CARE Myanmar reported improved household food security.



### CARE'S work

### **Protection & Safety**

We work to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, ensure that people's rights are respected, and they have access to what they need to live a life of dignity.

CARE works to prevent harm such as violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, especially against those who may be more at risk, including women, children, and people with disabilities.

We support people to access essential services, protection, legal support, and helpful information. Everyone deserves to live with dignity, to make decisions about their own bodies, and to take part in their families and communities.

Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, which often increases during times of crisis, is an integral part of CARE's work.

We support women and girls to access safe spaces, health care, counselling, and legal support.

We also work with communities to challenge harmful attitudes, shift power imbalances, and create safer homes and public spaces.

Tian, 21, mother, of three, refugee from Sudan, arrived in Jau, a small village at the border to Sudan where CARE has a health center. Photo © Sarah Easter/CARE International



#### Case study: Salma\* takes part in a sewing class as part of a Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS), operated by CARE and partner Mukti Cox's Bazar, in Bangladesh

The world's largest refugee camp, Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, hosts over 850,000 ethnic Rohingyas who fled from neighbouring Myanmar.

CARE has worked in Cox's Bazar and other refugee camps to provide shelter, water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) programs, vouchers for basic household items, and psychosocial and reproductive health services.

Meet Salma\*, who arrived at the camp in Cox's Bazar after fleeing violence in Myanmar in 2017.

Salma juggles continued grief of displacement, caregiving, and emotional distress while being the primary caregiver for five young children and her husband who lives with a physical impairment.

Limited support and the pressure of these responsibilities left Salma feeling overwhelmed, isolated, and mentally exhausted.

Salma was discovered during a door-to-door visit by female volunteers from the Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS), operated by CARE and partner Mukti Cox's Bazar, a support initiative for women and girls living in the camps.

Both organisations provide psychosocial support, recreational activities, mental wellbeing and skill-development sessions.

The women and girls in the camps fondly call the centres where these support activities take place, "Shantikhana", which translates to "a place with peace".

After being invited to visit WGSS, Salma was welcomed by a trained female caseworker. Through regular one-on-one psychosocial sessions, Salma began to share her challenges, process her grief, and rebuild her confidence in a confidential, supportive environment.

Salma also joined group sessions on gender-based violence, women's rights, and emotional resilience. She participated in healing activities such as storytelling, breathing exercises, and skill-building activities such as sewing and tailoring, which provide Salma with opportunities for social connection and future livelihood options within the camp.



"Before, I didn't even have a moment to breathe or speak about my pain. At Shantikhana, I found people who listened. It became a place where I could heal," says Salma.

Salma's adolescent daughter Asma\* also received support from WGSS. Asma enrolled in peer-support groups and life-skills sessions which offered personal growth and the opportunity to connect with other girls her age.

\*Names changed to protect anonymity

Almost 33,000 people were reached with services aimed to eradicate gender-based violence from Cox's Bazar.



#### Staff profile: Saida Marzia, Disability Inclusion Manager, CARE Bangladesh

Saida fulfills the role of Disability Inclusion Manager, overseeing our work in the Rohingya refugee camps.

"I'm deeply drawn to CARE's mission, vision, and its strong commitment to empowering vulnerable women. As a woman from a developing country, I have witnessed the struggles of women firsthand, and I feel a strong urge to contribute to their emancipation — a goal that aligns closely with CARE's work. This alignment is what continually draws me back to CARE Bangladesh," explains Saida.

"In this role, I collaborate with disability inclusion focal points from consortium partners across three key focus areas. Staff Capacity Development involves building knowledge and skills among staff members to ensure inclusive programming. Leadership and Empowerment support people with disabilities through self-help groups and disability support committees, so they can become changemakers within their communities,

ensuring the sustainability of our programs. Lastly, Advocacy and Coordination involve engaging with stakeholders and community members to raise awareness about disability inclusion, creating an environment where people with disabilities feel supported and empowered rather than isolated," says Saida.

"It's so inspiring to see our program participants raise their voices to claim their rights, support others in vulnerable situations, and work together to build better lives within their communities."

"Disability inclusion is still an evolving concept, and there are only a few individuals working in this area in Bangladesh. At times, it feels challenging, but the need is immense. People with disabilities continue to face exclusion, and there is a critical need for focused efforts on their inclusion."

"I hope CARE will continue to extend its support to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for people with disabilities in Bangladesh."



### CARE's work

### Health

Basic healthcare is a fundamental right for everyone across the world, and yet not everyone has access to it.

According to the World Health Organisation, approximately 700-800 women die from preventable causes related to childbirth globally each day. Maternal health as well as global health problems are exacerbated by poverty, limited access to healthcare, and inadequate infrastructure.



#### Case study: Liza in Papua New Guinea

Liza had always been passionate about mental health and providing quality care to those in need.

As a mental health practitioner in the West Sepik Provincial Health Authority for 15 years, she has seen the struggles and challenges faced by those with mental illnesses. But despite her dedication, she often felt limited in her role and unable to make a bigger impact.

To support women like Liza, who hold untapped potential as leaders within Papua New Guinea's Healthcare system, the Australian Government's PNG-Australia Transition to Health (PATH) Program designed the Sapotim Lida Program (SLP). Sapotim Lida Program coordinated the Senior Executive Women's Program in West Sepik.

Liza described the training as challenging, with workshops, and group activities designed to equip healthcare workers with increased knowledge, skills, confidence, and a better understanding of their leadership style that included highlighting their strengths and areas that they could improve on. Liza came away from the training, inspired by her own potential as a leader.

Little did she know at the time of receiving the training, that her newfound confidence and skills in public speaking, and presenting would be put to the test in an emergency context.

When a major landslide engulfed villages in Maip Mulitaka, Enga Province, Liza was deployed to provide immediate support to the affected community and healthcare staff in the province. Having received not only leadership training but also gender sensitisation training, Liza was confident in her own capabilities as a female practitioner, leader and expert in her field.

Liza conducted not only the clinical assessment of survivors but also the Psychological First Aid training to healthcare staff. This meant she was able to provide crucial assistance to the survivors, helping them cope with the traumatic experience and equip healthcare staff to provide this support ongoing. Liza was selected to go to Mulitaka to deliver this training not once but twice, deploying a second time after being recognised by her superiors for her outstanding work.

She realised that she could make a difference not just in her Province, but on a National Level as well. In late 2024, Liza successfully secured a role with the Directorate of Social Change and Mental Health within the National Department of Health.



Liza has accepted the position, knowing that she will now lead and draft the scope of National Nursing Standards for Mental Health Services in Papua New Guinea.

Liza's journey from mental health practitioner to a national leader is a testament to her determination, passion, and the transformative power of women's leadership training.

As a result of the Sapotim Lida program, women in leadership positions experienced a more supportive work environment, which when coupled with increased confidence and agency, has contributed to their ability to influence health sector decisions.



### CARE'S work

### **Education & Livelihoods**

Education and the right to work are two of the most powerful tools in overcoming poverty.

Women should have equal access to the resources needed to earn an income such as education, land and financial credit.

CARE helps women access the skills, knowledge and resources they need to succeed and lead their families out of poverty.

CARE works to increase access to quality education for all children, particularly girls living in fragile and conflict-affected settings and help women fight for their rights to get a job, be paid equally and treated fairly.



## Case study: The HATUTAN program helped to improve literacy, health, and nutrition outcomes for both children and adults in Timor Leste

Malnutrition has an adverse effect on children's cognitive development and working memory. Students with limited working memory typically struggle to learn to read and understand written text.

In Timor-Leste, in 2020, 47% of the children under five were stunted, with 32% underweight.

CARE's HATUTAN program, which ran until 2025, improved literacy, health, and nutrition and dietary practices for primary schoolchildren in three municipalities of Timor-Leste (Manatuto, Oecusse and Ainaro).

A key focus of the program was supporting the full implementation of Government of Timor-Leste's national school feeding program.

Each January through March, CARE in Timor Leste supported the provision of nutritious meals to 70,000 children in target areas, to ensure that students began the academic year with access to school meals.

The program also enabled access to resources and knowledge so people could produce, sell, and buy healthy food, and empowered the Parents and Teachers Association by equipping them with the skills to monitor the supply of fresh produce for school meals, ensure hygienic meal preparation, and oversee meal serving.

HATUTAN also helped to improve livelihoods through the establishment of Village Savings and Loans Associations, supporting local farmers to supply nutritious fresh foods to the school feeding program, and by creating opportunities for women farmers.

In 2024/25, HATUTAN reached over 94,000 people in Timor Leste with improved education and livelihoods.





#### Staff profile: Sylvio Fonseca, Communications Manager at CARE in Timor-Leste

Sylvio's journey with CARE in Timor Leste began in July 2022. He first became fascinated by CARE in Timor Leste's work by reading Lafaek magazines when he was still in primary school.

CARE in Timor-Leste has produced and distributed Lafaek magazines, which feature educational content for schoolchildren, teachers and parents, since 2001.

"I loved the creative stories, and I saw reflections of my own friends in the characters featured. As I grew older, I began to understand more deeply about the important work that CARE does, especially its commitment to reaching rural and remote communities across Timor-Leste. I particularly admire CARE's focus on supporting women and girls to overcome development challenges and access opportunities," says Sylvio.

As Communications Manager at CARE in Timor-Leste, Sylvio supports all six of CARE's programs in Timor-Leste with communications and media initiatives.

"My role focuses on communicating CARE's impact across digital and traditional media platforms and positioning CARE as a leading INGO in the country," explains Sylvio. "I currently work alongside a small but dedicated project-based communications team, including colleagues from the Disaster READY program and the Lafaek Learning Media project. Together, our goal is to tell powerful stories that reflect the realities and resilience of the communities we work with."

For Sylvio, the opportunity to meet people in rural communities and share their stories is what he loves most about his work.

"All of our projects are implemented in areas that are hard to reach, and being able to bring attention to the challenges faced by these communities and highlight their resilience is incredibly fulfilling," says Sylvio.

"With a small communications team, it can be challenging to find time to regularly travel to the field and gather new content. However, I'm grateful to work alongside committed project teams who are always willing to support and help ensure we continue capturing and sharing meaningful stories.

"As CARE in Timor-Leste increases its focus on resource mobilisation, I hope to see the organisation grow and secure more opportunities to expand its impact."



# CARE's work Food & Water

Hunger and malnutrition remain the leading threats to public health worldwide.

Over the last three years, conflict and the impacts of climate change have caused food insecurity to increase in many countries, year on year.

When basic needs aren't met, whole families struggle to find a way out of poverty. Babies who don't get the right nutrition early in life may never reach their full potential as adults. Children who are hungry may struggle to do well in school — if they are able to go at all. And women who sacrifice their own meals to feed their families often struggle to work effectively, maintain their health and stave off disease.





#### Case study: Tackling drought conditions in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

Since November 2024, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has been experiencing below average rainfall and drought conditions.

This has significantly impacted food insecurity, the availability of fresh water, and the loss of cash crops and other income earning opportunities across the atoll communities of Nissan, Nuguria-Fead, Carterets, Takuu-Mortlock, and Nukumanu-Tasman Islands, affecting over 10,000 people.

The atoll communities have a high economic dependence on fishing and marine resources, and marine coral bleaching has negatively impacted fishing grounds, reducing local members of the community's ability to source their own fish and seafood.

In addition to the lack of rainfall since November 2024, there has been saltwater intrusion on the remote communities, which has damaged the remaining freshwater sources and food gardens. Together with the drought, this has caused the loss of food gardens, cash crops, and traditional coping mechanisms used by atoll communities.

Communities are entirely reliant on rain-fed tanks and water wells for drinking and cooking. The atoll communities can experience very high temperatures, increasing risks of dehydration, health complications and death among vulnerable groups.

"In good times, they have bananas or cassava growing. During a drought, the crops dry up so they have to go back to mangrove seeds and coconuts to live on, which means drinking water from coconuts as well. But in Nuguria, there was a king tide last year and so many of the coconut trees died out."

- Emilly Meren. CARE International in Papua New

 Emilly Meren, CARE International in Papua New Guinea's Humanitarian Projects Manager

In response to the drought in Bougainville, CARE Australia received funding from the Australian Government to provide water, sanitation and hygiene, food assistance, and logistics support to the Bougainville atolls of Nuguria-Fead and Pinipel.

CARE International in PNG's ongoing work will include the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure such as water tanks and rainwater collection systems, as well as installing new water infrastructure to increase the overall water storage and rain harvesting capacity of the region.

CARE's response will lead to an increase in water storage capacity of 108,000 litres. Prior to the response, the region had a water storage capacity of about 17 days; after CARE's response, the islands of Nuguria-Fead and Pinipel will have 26 days of water storage capacity.

CARE International in PNG reached 100% of the populations on Pinapel and Nuguria-Fead Islands as part of the drought response.



# CARE's work Climate

The world's most economically vulnerable people are experiencing the impact of climate change with devastating consequences.

Recent reports by the World Bank Group estimate that climate change could push an additional 132 million people into poverty by 2030.

People who have contributed least to global warming – the Pacific region contributes just 0.02% of global emissions – are feeling the effects the most and are being left to deal with the consequences.

CARE supports communities to adapt to the changing climate. This means diversifying food production and income, so they always have a backup. It means introducing drought resistant seeds, climate-resilient livestock, and water-saving technologies.

It means investing in community-based early warning systems and supporting governments to improve their disaster forecasting and climate policies.

Elma is a farmer from the Philippines, who battles the effects of extreme heat on her vegetables and livestock. Photo © Kathleen Lei Limayo/CARE Australia





#### Case study: Building community resilience in Sulphur Bay, Vanuatu

Tanna Island in Southern Vanuatu is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and volcanic ashfall.

Communities like Sulphur Bay, located on the island's east and accessible only via the volatile plains of Mount Yasur — one of the world's most active volcanoes — face significant challenges due to difficult terrain and climate impacts.

Recent cyclones have triggered volcanic ashfall, damaging crops, homes, and contaminating water sources. These events have disrupted access to essential services, compounding health and sanitation risks. In response, CARE and partners, through the Disaster READY 2 program, supported by the Australian Government, have worked with six communities to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience.

A key initiative has been the establishment of Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs). With a strong focus on gender inclusion, these committees have improved local disaster planning and become trusted sources of early warning information. Women are now equally represented in CDCCCs thanks to CARE International in Vanuatu's Finding Your Voice training.

"In the past, women were too shy to speak up, but the training has helped build our confidence," said a female CDCCC member.

CARE also partnered with Vanuatu Society for People with a Disability (VSPD), Tafea Disability Desk, and Osnalmok, to improve disability inclusion. These collaborations have strengthened the capacity and visibility of disability organisations in disaster preparedness, expanded their reach, and supported the mainstreaming of disability inclusion in community planning. As of June 2025, the program has exceeded its target, reaching 900 people, including 54 people with disabilities.



In areas where they operate, Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees are now the second most common source of early warning information for natural disasters, behind only phone alerts.

### **Staff profile:** Isabella Peryman, Program Portfolio Coordinator, CARE Australia

Meet Isabella Peryman, Program Portfolio Coordinator in our Program & Partnerships team based in Australia.

"I started working at CARE Australia in August 2021, but my journey with CARE started before that back in 2014, when I worked as a volunteer for CARE International in Cambodia for 12 months.

"This year, I travelled to Cambodia for a project monitoring visit, so that was a full-circle moment for me, and it was lovely to reconnect with familiar faces," says Isabella.

Isabella has always been passionate about gender equality and ensuring women and girls have equal access to services and opportunities and can live safely in their communities.

"CARE Australia, as experts and leaders in gender programming, made me really want work in an organisation doing such important work," explains Isabella.

In her role as Program Portfolio Coordinator, Isabella has supported projects in many different countries including Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Timor Leste, and currently, Vanuatu and Cambodia.

"This has given me a great appreciation of the depth and breadth of CARE's work globally and the amazing CARE staff and local partner organisations who are the driving force behind CARE's projects," says Isabella.

"What my team does is quite varied but includes things like providing technical support in areas like gender, disability equity and rights and safeguarding."

Isabella also works closely with project staff in CARE's country offices, supporting them to finalise donor reporting and project evaluations, and write case studies to demonstrate the impact of CARE's projects on the communities we work with.

"CARE staff are a talented bunch. I love learning from my colleagues in our country offices and enjoy travelling overseas and meeting people who have been positively impacted by our work and our incredible local partner organisations.

"Only through talking with people face to face can you really get a true appreciation of some of the challenges communities are facing," says Isabella.



### **Our People**

Women are at the heart of everything we do and that begins with the people who make our work possible. Our team of nearly 500 passionate employees across Australia, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea drive our efforts to save lives, defeat poverty, and create a fairer world for women and girls. Our volunteers who generously give their time and expertise are also integral in supporting our work.

We're proud that women lead the way across our organisation, holding 67% of senior roles. In Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu, 96% of our staff are national employees, bringing local knowledge, strength, and leadership to our work. Our people, all united by one shared purpose: to stand with women and girls everywhere for a more equal world.



Location	Employees
Australia	53
Papua New Guinea	107
Timor Leste	256
Vanuatu	83

#### **Safeguarding**

CARE Australia is committed to keeping people safe, and preventing all forms of harm, abuse and exploitation of children and adults, including to personnel.

Across all the countries in which we work, we take proactive steps to foster a safe organisational culture, raise awareness of expected standards of conduct, identify and mitigate safeguarding risks, and promote rapid reporting of all safeguarding incidents and concerns by any person involved in, or impacted by, our work.

In 2024/25, CARE Australia responded to eight (8) safeguarding reports. All matters were carefully examined, with a total of four (4) reports being substantiated, requiring action from CARE Australia.

In each instance, psychosocial support was made available to the survivor, including through external referrals, accompanied by a range of targeted refresher training and awareness-raising activities, with a focus on expected conduct, types of harm, and reporting.

Type of abuse	Reports filed	Substantiated	Outcome
Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (PSEAH)	3	3	Two formal warning letters issued: additional training. One employment contract was terminated.
Child Protection	1	0	Determined to be an external matter. Referral was made to local child protection services.
Alleged Code of Conduct breach (other)	4	1	One employment contract was terminated. Other actions included caution conversations, refresher training workshops delivered, referral to external services for support.

#### **Governance, accountability and sustainability**

CARE Australia is committed to the highest standards of governance, transparency, and sustainable impact. A Lead Member of the CARE International confederation with governing responsibilities for country offices and programs delivered where CARE does not have a country office presence, CARE Australia operates within a legislative and ethical development framework that guides our decisions, strengthens public trust, and ensures we remain accountable to the people and partners we serve. In 2024/25, we continued to embed strong governance practices, align with evolving sector standards, and strengthen our strategic approach including gender equality, disability inclusion and locally led development. These principles are core to our strategy and operations, and central to the way CARE Australia measures our impact.

#### Governance

CARE Australia maintains full compliance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations Act 2001. Our Board of Directors holds overall responsibility for governance, risk oversight and strategic direction. ensuring we operate ethically and within our purpose. As a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, we uphold standards for transparency, effectiveness and accountability. Regular reviews of risk, policy and operational frameworks ensure continuous improvement of our systems towards best practice, including in financial management, safeguarding, people management, and workplace health and safety. Together with our Country Offices in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu, we deliver programs grounded in gender equality, climate resilience and inclusive development.

#### Gender equality, disability and inclusion

In 2024/25, gender equality remained a central focus in our program design and humanitarian response, ensuring women and girls are equitably represented in decision-making. Our efforts continue to dismantle harmful gender norms and empower women through targeted and integrated programming. We deepened our focus on disability inclusion, mainstreaming accessibility into program delivery. We engaged with people with disabilities and representative organisations to shape programs, embed feedback, and ensure our work is inclusive by design. Across our operations, we took further steps to foster a diverse and inclusive culture, including psychological safety training and engaging in community led partnerships to address systemic marginalisation.

#### Climate action

Climate change is both a humanitarian action and development programming challenge. In 2024/25, CARE Australia continued to support communities that are most vulnerable to climate-related shocks especially in the Pacific region. We integrated environmental sustainability into program delivery and internal operations. We measured our carbon footprint across utilities, travel, and fleet, and continued our commitment to emission reduction. In 2024/25, we purchased carbon offsets through a coordinated carbon reduction initiative led by the CARE Climate Justice Center through joining the BACHAT II carbon reduction program, supporting clean cookstove distribution and local climate adaptation in India. CARE Australia is committed to reducing its operational carbon footprint and aligning with CARE International's broader Climate and Environment Policy and emission reduction ambitions.

#### Locally led development

In 2024/25, CARE Australia maintained our commitment to locally led development, in line with the DFAT International Development Policy and our obligations under the Grand Bargain and the Pledge for Change. Where applicable we prioritised partnerships with local organisations, ensuring their leadership, knowledge, voices and agency are central to program design and delivery. This shift enhances program relevance and reflects the communities we serve. CARE Australia remains focused on shifting power and resources to local actors wherever possible.

#### No tolerance for fraud and corruption

CARE Australia's Fraud and Corruption Policy focuses on the prevention and early identification of suspected fraud and corruption. Staff and suppliers are screened, and systems and controls are in place to manage risks and protect CARE Australia and the community from criminal abuse and financial exploitation in accordance with guidance from Australia's financial intelligence unit and anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing (AML/CTF) regulator. Reporting suspected fraud and corruption is encouraged, with several avenues available, including the option to remain anonymous. In 2024/25, there were four (4) suspected incidents of fraud across the countries in which we work. All suspected incidents have been appropriately investigated, with one (1) of the suspected cases being substantiated.

### **Our Finances**

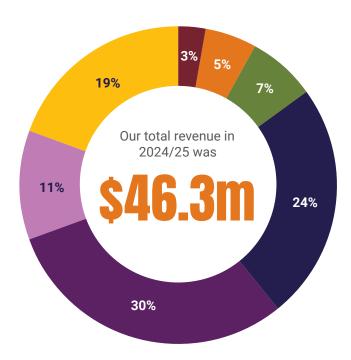
We are committed to ensuring that the funds we raise are used in the most effective way to enable us to provide the most impactful programs for the communities we work with now and into the future.

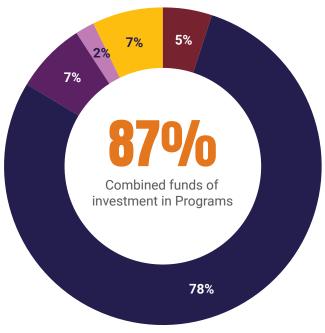
This includes investing in our people and our systems to run our organisation sustainably and deliver better outcomes.

#### Where the money comes from



- Grants Other overseas 5%
- Grants Multilateral agencies 7%
- Grants CARE International members 24%
- Grants Other Australian 30%
- Grants DFAT 11%
- Public Fundraising 19%





#### Where the money goes

- Accountability and Administration 5%
- Funds to International Programs 78%
- Program Support 7%
- Advocacy and Community Education 2%
- Fundraising 7%



#### **Allocating our resources for greater impact**

Resourcing our organisation to an appropriate level is essential for building strong infrastructure and increasing our effectiveness.

Funds to International Programs includes Development and Resilience Programming, which are the funds we invest in supporting local communities to run long-term development programs, the logistics required, and the costs of expert programming staff to ensure the impact is maximised. This category also includes funds spent on Emergency and Humanitarian Action which are the lifesaving measures taken to support women and marginalised groups to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, conflicts and economic shocks. It includes disaster readiness and risk-reduction measures like training and prepositioning of supplies, support given to people in times of crisis, as well as the logistics required, and the costs of expert humanitarian staff to ensure the impact is maximised.

**Program Support** includes the experts and advisors who deliver training, guidance, oversight, and evaluation of project initiatives and urgent emergency action by CARE Australia, all in the name of maximising impact for the women and girls we work with.

**Fundraising** is how we secure cash donations, grants, and investments from long-term

supporters. It covers the costs of our expert fundraising staff, our efforts to acquire new donors, and the provision of supporter care services — all of which help ensure our critical programming and advocacy can continue with as much impact as possible. Strategic investment in fundraising helps propel an organisation to grow.

Accountability refers to many of the costs required to ensure CARE Australia remains a strong, compliant, accountable organisation with a team capable of achieving our goals. This includes investments in infrastructure, technology and cybersecurity, human resources, finance and accountability, quality assurance and risk management, as well as the costs of our key leadership, administrative and support staff — in effect, the costs of ensuring that we operate in effective and accountable ways to maximise impact.

Advocacy and Community Education efforts support members of the Australian public, supporters around the world, and the Australian government to achieve a greater awareness of global inequality, poverty, crises and social issues. This work empowers CARE's community to tackle issues, and petition for change on both a local and global level.

Visit care.org.au/finances2025 to read CARE Australia's full financial statements for 2024/25.



CARE Australia thanks the generous individuals, trusts and foundations, and organisations who supported us in 2024/25. We also acknowledge and thank those who have chosen not to have their names published.

#### **Major Donors**

**ACME Foundation** Ainsworth 4 Foundation Alphinity Investment Management Pty Ltd Amy and Paul Jasper Annabel Ritchie Annie & John Paterson Foundation Ltd Corrs Chambers Westgarth David Hirsch and Gillian Fox David F O'Dea **Davies Family Foundation** Goldie Nominees Pty Ltd Greengib Foundation InfraBuild Jason Squire Jeremy Chin Dr John Hunter

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#### **Gifts in Wills**

Estate of Sidney Joseph Cliffe
Estate of Graeme Robertson Dunn
Estate of Leendert de Kievit
Estate of Eunice Lillian Feil
Estate of Margaret Mary Finnegan
Estate of Peter Robert Fox
Estate of Anneliese Jenny Hedwig Hirsch
Estate of Patricia McEnerny

Estate of Valerie Lorraine McGuigan
Estate of Alan Ronald Quigley
Estate of Graeme David Rushworth
Estate of John Henry Squire
Estate of Graeme Stanley Starr
Estate of Lucy Elizabeth Whitfield
Estate of Marjorie Elizabeth Wilks

CARE Australia gratefully received more than \$1 million in 2024/25 from generous supporters who left a gift in their Will. These gifts are supporting women and girls around the world to save lives and defeat poverty. Leaving a legacy to CARE Australia is no small action. It's one of the most powerful ways you can create meaningful change, long into the future. No matter how big or small, every gift is a step towards supporting women to make better lives for themselves and their communities.

### **About CARE Australia**

CARE Australia was established in 1987. Former Prime Minister the Rt Hon. Malcolm Fraser AC CH was the founding Chair.

We rely on the generous support of the Australian public to fund our work. We build on this support by attracting additional funds from institutional donors such as Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the United Nations.

In 2024/25, CARE Australia provided management support to three Country Offices (Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu) and worked with partners in six countries in the Pacific region (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu), where CARE does not have a country office presence.

CARE Australia also supports work in the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Türkiye, Afghanistan, Palestine, Ukraine, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Yemen, through the CARE Confederation.

Unless otherwise indicated, all the data in this report is from the 2024/25 financial year and all dollar figures are in Australian Dollars (AUD).



### **About CARE International**

CARE International is a global confederation, founded in 1945, working to fight poverty and social injustice in the world, with a specific focus on the empowerment of women and girls.

Throughout this report, CARE International or CARE, refers to the entire CARE International organisation consisting of a confederation of 20 International Members, Candidates and Affiliates: Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the UK and the USA, forming one of the world's largest

independent, international emergency relief and development assistance networks, which worked in 121 countries in 2024/25.

The national agencies operate independently but cooperate closely and work together with the CARE International Board and Secretariat.



### Support women and girls to defeat poverty.

### Donate today.

#### **Feedback**

CARE Australia's 2025 Annual Report was produced in full adherence with the ACFID Code of Conduct requirements. We welcome feedback on this report and in relation to our operations and conduct. Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct by an ACFID member can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via acfid.asn.au/content/complaints

Feedback and complaints can be lodged with CARE Australia to complaints@care.org.au or in the countries in which CARE Australia works, via CARE Line at care.ethicspoint.com

Further details can be found in CARE Australia's complaints policy at care.org.au/complaints

Read our Privacy Policy at care.org.au/privacy-policy

#### Support

For donor support please call 1800 020 046



**CARE Australia** 

Level 4 53 Queen Street Melbourne VIC 3000 1800 020 046 info@care.org.au ABN 46 003 380 890

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