

III. DECENT WORK

Women's economic empowerment is fundamentally an issue of social and economic justice, both essential for equality between men and women and imperative for poverty reduction and survival of women and their families. CARE 2020 Program Strategy established women's economic empowerment as one of four priorities with an aim of 30 million women having greater access to and control over economic resources by 2020. Dignified work is a key pathway to women's economic empowerment.

Women workers are disproportionately represented in the most vulnerable, marginalised, low paid and impoverished forms of work. The barriers these women face to achieving Dignified Work straddle and transcend the boundaries of labour and women's rights, as women workers face discrimination based on their identities as both workers and women. There are critical injustices to tackle at the structural level as well as in the agency and relations of women to overcome the complex and multifaceted barriers to dignified work.

CARE Österreich's initiatives on decent work are built around projects with **garments workers in Bangladesh** and **female construction workers in Cambodia**.



For more information have a look at care.at/dossier/
For questions and/or feedback please mail to advocacy@care.at!

“Advocacy is the deliberate process of influencing those who make decisions about developing, changing and implementing policies [in CARE's case: to reduce poverty and achieve social justice].”

CARE Österreich Advocacy Strategy 2017-2019

“If power imbalances are at the root of poverty, then it is key to consider how advocacy can support more inclusive governance.”

Why is advocacy important for CARE Österreich?

Advocacy is well integrated in CARE International's 2020 Program Strategy. The strategy is based on CARE's wealth of experience gathered from 70 years of poverty-fighting work, our analysis of the strategies that drive positive social change, and our full commitment to addressing the most important factors inhibiting the fulfillment of rights – especially those of women and girls.

CARE's Program Strategy clearly states that at its root, poverty is caused by unequal power relations that result in the inequitable distribution of resources and opportunities between women and men, between power-holders and marginalized communities, and between countries. CARE believes that poverty cannot be overcome without addressing those underlying power imbalances. Advocacy plays a key role in addressing this injustice.

The contribution to the CI Program Strategy, including lobbying at EU level in cooperation with the CI Brussels office, form an integral part of CARE Austria's advocacy efforts.

The main pillars of CARE Österreich's advocacy work are:

- I. WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY
- II. HUMANITARIAN – GENDER IN EMERGENCIES
- III. DECENT WORK

Who is responsible for CARE Austria's advocacy?

- **We all are CÖ**, therefore we all advocate for our mission!
- **Technical Advisor Advocacy for Women, Peace and Security** (regional focus on Great Lakes Region)
- Comms director coordinates **CÖ advocacy issues together with Comms based Advocacy focal point.**

I. WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

Despite the existing Women, Peace and Security agenda, the participation of women in particular in formal peacebuilding processes remains low and rates of sexualised and gender-based violence before, during and after conflict high. As a worldwide movement dedicated to ending poverty CARE works in development and humanitarian, in conflict and post conflict settings. Putting women and girls in the centre of its work, CARE's added value is in its presence across many countries as well as programs rooted in the community, two key aspects needed to link local to global advocacy on Women, Peace and Security.

CARE Austria's advocacy aims to contribute to the goal that national and international frameworks on Women, Peace and Security support women affected by conflict to exercise their rights. To this end, policies need to be effectively implemented and to reflect and adequately address the rights, experiences and needs of women and girls.

A particular focus is put on

- the enhancement of equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, formal and informal decision-making and in emergencies and
- a life free from violence, i.e. the protection from sexual and gender-based violence and survivors' access to integrated assistance in conflict and post conflict situations.

CARE Austria advocates for

- Strengthening **accountability** for national, regional and international WPS policies and frameworks, in particular at level of EU, in Austria and Great Lakes Region.
- Increasing **political and financial support** from relevant power-holders and donor agencies to CSO to be able to engage actively as representatives and facilitators of civil society interests on WPS/gender equality/SGBV and to effectively participate in the monitoring and implementation of corresponding policies.
- Strengthening **participation** of women from crisis-affected communities and local women's groups in decision-making and policy formulation and implementation across peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and humanitarian assistance and protection.

CARE Austria's advocacy goals are interlinked with advocacy goals and strategies in the Great Lakes Region/East Africa (in particular the Regional GBV strategy) and CARE's Gender in Emergencies strategy.



Ways of working

CARE Austria strategically influences the development, implementation and monitoring of policies and politics on WPS at national and regional levels in Austria, at EU level and in the Great Lakes Region and supports civil society organizations in East Africa to conduct effective and inclusive evidence- and human rights based advocacy on gender equality and Women, Peace and Security.

- It **generates and provides decision makers** with evidence, lessons learnt and recommendations from the field (CARE programs and in cooperation with CSO)
- It **aggregates voices of women** and provides them with opportunities to present their concerns and demands to decision makers.
- It **raises awareness** on the WPS among decision makers, CSO and the public
- It **cooperates with CSO networks**, women's groups, CSO and other stakeholders working on WPS at different levels.

II. HUMANITARIAN

CI Humanitarian Strategy Goal is to "contribute to CI humanitarian advocacy goal that affected people, in particular women and girls, are supported to realize their rights in disaster and conflict."

Advocacy is the most important element within **CARE's Multiplying Impact (MI)** approach, and has become particularly important in the humanitarian sphere given the huge growth in the number of people requiring humanitarian support. It is no longer credible to suggest that needs can be met through service provision alone – the impact of the direct support that CARE and others offer to affected people must be **multiplied**, through **influencing those who can act at a larger scale** (such as UN agencies, collective groups of humanitarians or governments) and those who can **reduce the demand for humanitarian aid** by addressing the underlying causes (such as politicians, planners and combatants) and those that can pressure them to do so (such as activists and journalists).

CARE ÖSTERREICH FOCUSES ON THE FOLLOWING TWO OBJECTIVES:

On Type 4 Emergencies by 2020 CARE will influence relevant decision makers to ensure:

1. The **response to such emergencies is gendered** in line with our GIE Objectives above.
2. Affected people have **timely access** to the level of **assistance and protection** they need.
3. Member States provide funding **commensurate to the needs**, and **reduce blockages to aid**.
4. Affected peoples' voices **are heard**.
5. Underlying **causes** of the emergency are identified and addressed.

On Gender in Emergencies, see page 2 above for more details.

