



**A Critical exploration of the work of
CARE International* with the focus on
supporting Gender equality and the
empowerment of women.**

*Cooperative for Assistance and Relief
Everywhere

<https://www.care-international.org/>

Lindsay Haywood



Introduction: Aims and Claims

Started in the USA in 1945 to send "care packages"

Food Aid, Primary Health Care, Emergency relief, food security more recently moving to a more rightsbased approach

CARE claim to understand the root causes of poverty in inequality

CARE places women and girls at the centre of their work

Women and poverty

CARE claim that women and girls are the most effected by poverty therefore by focusing on reducing inequality for women and girls this will help the whole community.

girls are often last to eat and first to be kept home from school

Denied right to own land even though they farm it daily

As they are often denied the freedom to leave their homes and walk without threat of sexual violence it is difficult for them to earn a living, attend education or visit a doctor.

How does CARE Promote the Empowerment of women?

Education

Promoting voices

Earning an income

Ending Child Marriage

Engaging Men and Boys

Development goals

Millennium Development Goal number 3- Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Some improvement in parity of access to primary education

Recognition that there needs to be more work to address a number of issues including gender based violence and access to income

Sustainable Development Goal number 5- To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

In 2014 143 countries guaranteed equality in their constitutions but 52 have yet to make this a reality

Ending Gender Violence

35% of women between 15- 49 years have experienced physical and/ or sexual intimate partner violence or non partner sexual violence (Sustainable Development Goals 2014)

CARE defines GBV as:

a harmful act or threat based on a person's sex or gender identity. It includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse, coercion, denial of liberty and economic deprivation, whether occurring in public or private spheres. GBV is rooted in unjust power relations, structures and social/cultural norms

Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Report: DFID (2018) "Sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector"



Key issues:

Staff involved at a high level	Paying local women for sex whilst working on humanitarian response	Staff allowed to resign without further action against them	Failed to report to bodies such as Charity Commission and DFID	Allowed risk of them being further employed	Culture of abuse and Impunity
--------------------------------	--	---	--	---	-------------------------------

The Safeguarding Summit

Independent scrutiny body

Referencing and vetting review

Audit whistleblowing practices

Development of mandatory standards

Annual reports on safeguarding

Mandatory safeguarding training in induction

Clear guidelines for referring incidents, allegations and offenders

CARE International: Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse Transparency Report (2018)

In 2018, CARE had more than 9,000 staff in more than 90 countries.

47 complaints of sexual misconduct allegedly committed by CARE staff or related personnel (i.e. partner staff, consultants, and contractors).

Eighteen of these complaints were substantiated. (higher than the number of reports made in 2017 (total of 28))

(1) 18 of the 47 complaints were about sexual misconduct towards programme participants and community members. Following investigation, eight were substantiated resulting in seven staff dismissals and one warning.

(2) 29 of the 47 complaints were of sexual misconduct towards other CARE staff.

5 of the 47 complaints remain as open cases while the investigations proceed.

Women and imagery

Women are still portrayed as vulnerable and in need in CARES' imagery on social media

CARE claims this is due to the disproportionate effect of poverty on women

Gender equality is seen as being paramount to overcoming this inequality

Therefore it is important that imagery is considered as part of the response to reducing gender inequality.

Earning an Income

Women Led savings groups- A platform to "promote"

Women's economic empowerment

Womens voices

Gender equality

Women on the MOVE (WOM)

CARE International Annual Report 2018

01

Strengthen individual
skills and capacity

02

Build on their collective
voice

03

Influence Government or
community leaders

04

Reduce barriers to
their social and economic
empowerment

Engaging men and boys

Boys involved in programmes that promote non-violent lifestyles are more likely to support women's equality

Programmes that work to transform gender norms and engage men are more likely to be successful

That's because participants don't just change their own attitudes – they act as champions for change in their communities.

"We cannot all succeed if half of us are held back" Malala Yousafzai
(Yousafzai, 2013)



Final thoughts

The active involvement of men in supporting equality is as important as the involvement of women



Thank you for
listening

References

<https://www.care-international.org/who-we-are-1/vision-and-mission>

<https://www.careinternational.org.uk/fighting-poverty/empowering-women-and-girls/promoting-womens-voices>

<http://www.care.org/sites/default/files/documents/2009-SII-Womens-Empowerment-and-Engaging-Men-Brief.pdf>

<https://www.care-international.org/files/files/publications/International-Womens-Day-Women-Empowerment-CARE-Report-2012.pdf>

<https://www.care.org/our-impact/gender-practice/priority-areas/gender-based-violence/cares-strategy>

<https://www.care-international.org/news/press-releases/care-international-sexual-harassment-exploitation-and-abuse-transparency-report-2018>

References

<https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/weps/about>

<https://theirworld.org/explainers/malala-yousafzais-speech-at-the-youth-takeover-of-the-united-nations>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Goal-5.pdf>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

References

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf)

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

<https://wedc-knowledge.lboro.ac.uk/resources/conference/22/Meiring.pdf>

22nd WEDC Conference New Delhi, India, 1996 REACHING THE UNREACHED: CHALLENGES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY, Women involvement: empowerment or disempowerment?, *Monique Meiring, South Africa*
