



CLIMATE CHANGE

AND RESILIENCE

IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Increasing resilience and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change is integral to CARE's mission. We approach this by placing women at the heart of our work.

CARE has been working with communities in the Asia Pacific region for over three decades, supporting women, their families, and local communities to build their capacities to prepare, adapt and respond to disasters and climate change.

Climate change and gender are often approached as separate cross cutting issues; CARE sees the two as intrinsically linked. We invest significant effort in understanding how gender and other factors intersect to influence people's vulnerability and capacity, and use this insight in gender-transformative initiatives to increase resilience to climate change across the region.



CARE International works across **more than 90 countries globally**, including **17 in the Asia Pacific region**.



More than **6.5 million people** were directly reached by CARE's food & nutrition security and climate change resilience work in the Asia Pacific in 2017.

CARE'S FOCUS

CARE combines global expertise with in-depth understanding of local context. CARE's added value lies in our focus on women's empowerment at every level to ensure efforts to increase resilience to climate change are truly inclusive, while applying sustainable approaches which go beyond the ability to recover from shocks and stresses.

Much of CARE's work focuses on building the capacities of individuals and communities in order to reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and disasters. CARE also seeks to address the underlying causes of vulnerability of different groups of people, and improve the social, economic and ecological systems and structures that support them.

CARE strengthens capacities to deal with shocks, stresses and uncertainty by supporting the ability of individuals, communities and governments to:



Anticipate risks

Unpredictable rainfall patterns, more extreme weather events & rising sea levels have the potential to impact crops, homes and incomes.

CARE supports communities to foresee and therefore reduce the impact of hazards and be ready for unexpected events through prevention, preparedness and planning that ensures women's voices are heard.



Absorb shocks & stresses

Lack of social safety nets can make it challenging for people to meet their immediate needs should crops fail or a disaster occur.

CARE supports people to accommodate the immediate impact shocks and stresses have on their lives, wellbeing and livelihoods, by making changes in their usual practices and promoting tools such as community savings.



Adapt to evolving conditions

Women and marginalised groups often lack access to the skills and knowledge needed to adapt their agricultural and natural resource management practices to a changing climate.

CARE builds the adaptive capacity of individuals and communities in order to increase adoption of climate-smart practices, with a particular focus on increasing women's leadership.



Transform systems & structures

Building productive, equitable and sustainable food production systems requires supportive government policies and services.

CARE influences individual and systemic behaviour changes, local governance and decision-making structures to accelerate adoption of appropriate practices and recognise the crucial role of women in food production.

WHO DOES CARE PRIORITISE?



WOMEN

Women are globally more at risk of death during disasters. Gendered roles in farming and collecting water can mean they are more affected by the impacts of a changing climate. Women often lack formal information on, and access to, training on preparedness and adaptation techniques. Lack of control over assets and little or no input to decision making can also increase their vulnerability. However, when engaged as leaders at household, community and national level, women are also key drivers of change.



MARGINALISED GROUPS

For ethnic minority communities, the resilience of their livelihoods can be especially restricted by limited resources, inadequate access to information, social, cultural and language barriers, and constrained participation in decision-making at various levels. Women may be doubly disadvantaged by their gender and ethnicity.

WHY WORK WITH CARE?

CARE can offer:

- **Proven models:** Trialled and tested frameworks to design gender transformative climate change resilience programs.
- **Broad reach:** On-the-ground presence in 17 Asia-Pacific countries.
- **Focused engagement:** Extensive experience engaging local communities to integrate gender and resilience into programs.
- **Shared learning:** South to South learning opportunities using existing programs across the region.
- **Global expertise:** CARE's global Climate Change and Resilience Platform includes personnel specialised in policy and programming for climate resilience in relation to agriculture, gender and food security.



Dilmani is a female farmer and role model in India who has transformed five per cent of her farm's arable land into a water storage basin for collecting rainwater and irrigating fields.



IMPACT IN ACTION:

Reducing the impact of natural hazards

CARE was supporting communities in Vanuatu to improve their resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events before Tropical Cyclone Pam hit in 2015. An external study found that CARE's gender responsive disaster risk reduction programming contributed to reducing the impact and damage in these communities, where we had been working for two years, when compared to others where CARE was not engaged.



IMPACT IN ACTION:

Promoting climate resilient agriculture

CARE's work to improve the resilience of ethnic minority communities in rural Laos strengthened the capacity of government authorities and community members. Sustainable agriculture techniques, better planning and introduction of community savings groups contributed to a 25% increase in the proportion of project farmers with long-term livelihood planning and farmer groups receiving higher prices for cash crops.



IMPACT IN ACTION:

Adapting to shocks and stresses

When Cambodia experienced its worst drought in a decade, CARE did not need to respond in the communities where we were already engaging on women's leadership and resilience. Women who were interviewed said they had access to improved water infrastructure, resilient agricultural businesses which continued to function during the drought, and access to a financial support system should they need it.



Kien works with meteorologists, local authorities and farmers in Vietnam to help her community better prepare for extreme weather phenomena and advise farmers on what, when, and how to plant.

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