



ADVOCATING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Doubling Impact and Increasing Emergency Assistance

CARE USA's advocacy team and our partner humanitarian organizations successfully influenced the US Congress to provide nearly \$1 billion in supplemental funding for emergency famine relief in 2017 & 2018. As a direct result of this additional funding, the U.S. government supported at least 50.8 million crisis-affected people with humanitarian assistance. This increased assistance has doubled the total number of people for whom CARE's programs have contributed to positive change since 2015. This is just another example of how advocacy makes an enormous difference!

Advocating for a more just and fair world contributes to our mission of making lasting impact in the communities we work. In February 2017, CARE USA identified an opportunity to tackle a looming global problem through advocacy: U.S. emergency food assistance funds were limited, and at the same time, famine-like conditions were affecting communities in South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen. With famine on the brink, this level of need was dire and the lives of millions were endangered. Yet, there wasn't sufficient funding to address the crucial needs across these four countries and the lack of action would result in extreme loss and suffering. Fortunately, CARE and our partners successfully advocated for funding to specifically support communities facing famine-like conditions in these countries. This funding successfully protected these communities from famine, and the funding commitments continued into following years.

In the past, U.S. administrations would request additional funds from Congress to address such emergencies, but no request was coming from the Trump Administration despite the urgent need. Congress had never provided additional humanitarian funding without a direct request from the Executive Branch. Undeterred and driven by a sense of urgency, **CARE organized other humanitarian organizations and tried a new approach: to go directly to Congress with a collective appeal for supplemental emergency famine-related funding to save lives.**

CARE initiated the idea of requesting additional emergency funding to respond to famines in February 2017 and organized a common policy recommendation with other non-profit agencies. Using analysis of the U.S. budget, our experience with U.S. assistance programs, and on-the-ground information from our offices in crisis-affected countries, the coalition developed an evidence-based case for support. The analyses documented the relationship between needed funds and the number of lives at stake worldwide – lives the U.S. government was in a position to protect.

The influencing strategy was bipartisan, strategic, deployed in a particular sequence, and aimed to build consensus that the situation needed to be addressed. CARE's initiation of the idea was critical as it allowed

time to align with the legislative calendar, educate policymakers, and bring allies together. CARE leveraged its strong relationships with the House and Senate leadership as well as key appropriators who had the power to provide the funding. The volume of advocacy outreach was intentionally small but extremely well targeted. It was impactful in large part because of policymakers' trust in our coalition's expertise and political savvy. Support was garnered from the highest levels of Congressional leadership with key senior policymakers pushing the necessary work in a bipartisan way to ensure passage. Thanks to these efforts, the initiative was not perceived as a political initiative but as a true humanitarian need and smart policy.

The result? **In May 2017, Congress took the unprecedented action of providing funding without any request from the executive branch, and the President signed the bill with emergency supplemental resources of \$990 million for famine relief.** This legislative action set the stage for continued congressional commitment and funding to humanitarian needs.

This funding **has remained part of the budget since that time. It continues to help** humanitarian agencies meet dire needs in places like Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and in emerging crises such as Mozambique and Congo-DRC, and has contributed to **at least 50.8 million crisis-affected people receiving humanitarian assistance over the last two years.**¹ USAID estimates that FY17 funding allowed at least 20.8 million people in crisis to receive humanitarian food assistance and at least 30.6 million to receive some form of non-food humanitarian assistance, with FY18 funding providing humanitarian food to 17.9 million people and non-food assistance to 20.2 million. 2 million of these people in crisis were reached directly through CARE programs funded by the U.S. Government, and the remainder through programs of other humanitarian organizations.² Recipients of this funding **would have otherwise NOT received assistance, and this funding would not have been provided without the advocacy and leadership of CARE and its partners.** Added to the 48.3 million people that CARE and our partners have impacted since 2015 through other programs, the supplemental U.S. funding **doubled CARE's total impact numbers to 97.1 million people.**

The U.S. government is in a position to react to unprecedented levels of need in the world and to continue its leadership role as the world's largest humanitarian donor. CARE's advocacy experience, bi-partisan expertise, and partnerships with other expert organizations are enabling millions of people around the world to receive life-changing humanitarian assistance. This example is just one of the advocacy wins that CARE has achieved to increase our impact at scale.

The success CARE and our partners achieved is not just a success in Washington. It echoes through the stories of crisis-affected people whose lives have been saved and improved through timely and high-quality humanitarian assistance.

¹ As there may be some overlap between food and non-food recipients, a conservative estimate of the total number of people benefiting is 30.6 million + 20.2 million = 50.8 million over 2 years.

² Additional famine-relief funding was also approved for FY19, but numbers of people supported by those funds have not yet been confirmed, so these are omitted from this total (though they are likely to be at similar levels to those of FY18).