

Humanitarian principles – CARE

CARE's aim is to provide long-term developmental assistance to people and communities striving for social well-being, and to offer relief in emergencies. Our purpose is to relieve poverty and to achieve sustainable development, leaving lasting benefits to the communities we serve.

In times of humanitarian crisis, our objective is to relieve suffering, to save lives, whenever it is within our power to do so. In all activities of CARE Czech Republic, we are firmly committed to all CI guidelines and policies based on the core humanitarian principles: Independence, neutrality, impartiality and non-discrimination, accountability and transparency. Throughout the whole project cycle, we are guided by the following key documents:

CARE International Code¹

CARE is a signatory of and holds itself accountable to accepted international humanitarian principles, standards and codes of conduct, including:

- [Red Cross/Crescent & NGO code of conduct](#);
- [Sphere standards](#);
- [Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability](#);
- [Grand Bargain](#);
- [Charter for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action](#); and
- [Charter4Change](#).

In order to fulfil CARE's Vision and Mission, all of CARE's programmes should conform to the following Programme Principles. They should inform and guide, at a fundamental level, the way we work. They are not optional.

➤ **Principle 1: Promote Empowerment**

We stand in solidarity with people living in poverty and support their efforts to take control of their own lives and fulfil their rights, responsibilities and aspirations. We ensure that **participants and organisations representing people living in poverty, especially women and girls, are partners** at all stages in our programmes.

➤ **Principle 2: Work with Partners**

We work with others to maximise the impact of our programmes, **building alliances and partnerships with those who offer complementary approaches**, are able to scale up effective solutions, and/or have responsibility to fulfil rights and reduce poverty through policy change and implementation. We commit to working in ways that support and reinforce, not replace, existing capacities.

➤ **Principle 3: Ensure Accountability and Promote Responsibility**

We seek ways to be held accountable by the people we serve and partners we work with. **We identify individuals and institutions with an obligation toward poor and marginalised people**, and support and encourage their efforts to fulfil their responsibilities.

➤ **Principle 4: Address Discrimination**

In our programmes and in everything we do **we address discrimination and the denial of rights** based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, class, religion, age, physical ability, caste, opinion or sexual orientation.

➤ **Principle 5: Seek Sustainable Results**

As we address underlying causes of poverty and rights denial, **we develop and use approaches that result in lasting and fundamental improvements in the lives of the people we serve**, particularly women and girls. We work to influence changes that are environmentally, socially and institutionally sustainable.

¹CARE International Code (2018) <https://www.care-international.org/files/files/publications/CI%20Code%2002%20July%202018.pdf> (Accessed 23. 06. 2020)

➤ Principle 6: Do No Harm

We analyse the intended and unintended impacts of our programmes, **encourage honest learning, and take action to prevent and respond to any unintended harms**. We place special focus on preventing and addressing gender-based violence in all of our programmes.

We hold ourselves accountable for enacting behaviours consistent with these principles, and ask others to help us do so, not only in our programmes, but in all that we do.

CARE International's Code of Ethics²

CARE members abide by the confederation's statutes, codes and ethics and are responsible for conducting activities in accordance with accepted professional standards of accuracy, truth, integrity and good faith. CARE Czech Republic is bound by the International Statutes that require Members:

- A. **to act in accord with the statutory requirements** of their respective countries;
- B. **to work to help combat hunger, sickness and poverty**; provide emergency assistance; and contribute to sustainable ecological, social and economic development in developing countries and other geographical areas of need;
- C. **to ensure full independence** from any political, religious or other considerations not related to aid and relief;
- D. **to exercise all due and proper responsibility in all financial matters**, including accuracy of fundraising literature, application of funds only in pursuance of the organisation's stated objectives, and the practising of complete and accurate, public financial disclosure.

Accountability and Transparency

CARE is committed to meet international standards of quality and accountability. CARE's [Programme Information and Impact Reporting System \(PIIRS\)](#) monitors the extent to which we are making progress in achieving our global impact goals. Organizational data and achievements are regularly published in our Annual Report. Country Offices, such as CARE Czech Republic, also regularly publish Annual Reports summarizing programmatic, organizational, and financial information.

CARE shares a substantial amount of relevant project information on open sources, including strategic plans, annual reports, advocacy policy reports, programme reports, research reports, external evaluations, or media releases. All partnering entities and stakeholders have the right to provide feedback to CARE, including a complaint, and will receive a response. For this purpose, CARE International Secretariat has introduced a [Complaints Policy](#) ("Whistleblower Policy"). CARE is having strong Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) reporting system in place throughout all our mission. CARE has put in place a single global [CARE Line](#) for receiving reports of fraud, misappropriation, discrimination, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, support of terrorism, and other wrongful conduct – with assistance in over 100 languages, online or by phone, as well as anonymous reporting options. Any CARE employee or volunteer, partner, vendor, programme participant, or other outside party, may use this service to report wrongful conduct.

Since 2011, CARE International is a member of [Accountable Now](#): A cross-sectoral platform of 25 international civil society organizations (CSO) that signed 12 Accountability Commitments of the Global Standard for CSO participation and diversity.

FoRS Humanitarian Standards

The *Czech Forum for Development Cooperation* (FoRS) associates non-governmental non-profit organizations providing humanitarian aid in the Czech Republic and abroad. The platform promotes greater relevance and effectiveness of Czech and international foreign development cooperation and aims at increasing the positive impact on the people in the target countries. In 2019, FoRS counted 27 members. The main task of FoRS is to represent the common interests of members and to strengthen cooperation and relations between state institutions in the Czech Republic and the EU and non-governmental organizations in the field of development cooperation.

CARE Czech Republic is among the eight member organisations that signed the [FoRS Humanitarian Standards](#) proceeding from the *Code of Conduct for Red Cross Humanitarian Workers and Non-Governmental organizations*, the *Sphere Standards*, and the *internal ethics codes* of the organisations which are publicly accessible.

² CI Code of Conduct (pp 2-3).

CARE's focus and expertise

We recognize that addressing gender inequality and women's empowerment is an effective strategy for reducing poverty and tackling social injustice. This focus also stems from a firm commitment to the right of all people to live free of poverty. CARE promotes the empowerment of women and girls, and engages men and boys, to transform unequal power relations and address gender inequality, including gender-based violence. In humanitarian crises, CARE analyses the different needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls, men and boys, to determine how best to respond. As communities start to build their resilience, CARE ensures women and girls do not lose out and instead, can fulfil their potential.

Based on CARE's own experience and global evidence, CARE became a global lead in linking and addressing seemingly separate issues of climate change and gender inequalities. CARE has developed a wide range of tools, guidance and research on gender equality and adaptation, particularly around agriculture and natural resource management. At CARE we believe that increasing resilience reduces the drivers of risk that are at the root of each disaster, and promotes an enabling environment, that works to support people to move out of poverty and reduce their vulnerability.

Following the approaches and guiding principles of the Environmental Policy for EU CARE Members, CARE Czech Republic has zero tolerance for doing harm to the environment by adhering to the CARE internal guideline on climate change.