PROGRAM OVERVIEW  CARE International has been providing development and life-saving assistance across all regions of Somalia since 1981. Our programs go beyond meeting basic needs at the onset of an emergency to helping affected communities recover and rebuild their lives after crises end.

In order to strengthen communities to better cope with future disasters and address persistent problems of poverty and marginalization, we are implementing a variety of longer term development activities aimed at addressing the underlying causes of poverty in Somalia and Somaliland.

Our development programs particularly aim at supporting marginalized women and youth through innovative projects in education, water and sanitation, sustainable environmental management, civil society development, peace-building and governance and small scale enterprise development. CARE works in partnerships with Somali and international NGOs, civil society leaders and local authorities in order to bring effective and lasting change to the most vulnerable communities.

Development Programming
Through a process of extensive research and strategizing that started in 2009, CARE has development two multi-sector programs that address the underlying causes of poverty and marginalization. We have focused on fostering sustainable change for marginalized women and youth. Our strategies in the Rural Vulnerable Women and

A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT... Somalia has long been identified as a challenging country - both for its communities and for the NGOs that work with them. Extensive insecurity, an inconsistent governance environment and recurring natural disasters - including drought and flooding - have significantly affected the Somali people.

Communities within Somalia are traditionally nomadic, moving to access resources. However, in the 21st century extended displacement has become commonplace. The 2011 Horn of Africa food crisis resulted in famine conditions in six region in the south of the country. Although the situation has improved, over 1 million people (FSNAU) are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Somalia also hosts 1.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and within neighboring countries there are over 1 million Somali refugees (UNHCR).

Natural disasters, changing climate patterns and conflict each contribute to poverty in Somalia. CARE’s long-term goal is to reduce poverty in Somalia through innovative programs that empower women and youth; increase poor people’s access to basic services and resources; and equip local leadership to prevent and resolve conflicts harmoniously.
Urban Youth programs are informed by CARE International’s program approach which focuses on addressing the multiple drivers of poverty and marginalization.

Working in close partnership with local civil society, the private sector and government, we aim to address the systematic issues that these groups face and to achieve long-lasting change by building their capacity to sustain their own livelihoods and play active roles in decision-making at the household and community level and beyond.

CARE has learned through experience that short-term projects do not achieve sustainable impacts on the key causes of poverty. We are taking a longer-term approach to help us tackle a broad range of issues in local communities and to hold ourselves accountable for achieving significant and measurable results.

Rural families are very vulnerable to drought and conflict, and therefore the program also helps to foster peace and reduce the impact of natural resource degradation which is critical for the survival of the pastoralist system in Somalia. The diagram below summarizes our theory of change for this specific group of women.

**Rural Vulnerable Women Program (RVWP)**

Women and girls are at the center of CARE’s global fight against poverty; they are key to bringing lasting change to their communities. In Somalia rural women are increasingly vulnerable and in many cases face social and economic marginalization. Through CARE’s research in Somalia, we found that women-headed households and households where the male head of household does not play a significant economic role are particularly vulnerable from a social as well as economic perspective. These women are the main breadwinners, while also taking care of the children and yet do not have the same voice as men do when it comes to girls’ education, governance in the community and beyond, control over household expenditure and health issues (e.g. Female Genital Mutilation).

Our program aims to help women and their households improve their economic status, reduce their vulnerability to drought and have more sustainable access to key services like water and education. Women village savings and loans groups are at the heart of our rural strategy. Through these savings groups, CARE aims to reduce vulnerability through access to savings, while providing an entry point to directly work with women on a variety of other issues that affect their lives such as girls’ education, leadership development, division of labor between men and women and a range of other cultural practices that put women at a disadvantage.

**INITIATIVES WITHIN THE RURAL VULNERABLE WOMEN PROGRAM INCLUDE:**

**Isku Filaansho (Towards Self Reliance II)** focuses on Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) as a means to build up assets in drought-stricken communities. Most members of groups are women. VSLAs provide members with a safe place to save and access loans and develop leadership skills as well as offering the social benefits of being part of an informal group. In most locations VSLAs are combined with cash for work activities that provide initial cash injections into the local economy to help the community recover from drought. By supporting individuals to start small businesses and increasing members’ purchasing power, the project is helping to rejuvenate local economies. *(Funding: EC, Luxembourg MoFA)*

**Kobcinta Wuxbarashada Gabdhaha (Somali Girls Education Promotion - SOMGEP)** aims to increase access to education for some of Somalia’s most educationally disadvantaged children - rural (sedentary and nomadic).
The project aims to improve access to education, learning outcomes, quality of education and retention of 19,000 girls from some of the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized households in remote and rural areas of Togheer, Sool, Sanaag, Mudug and Galmudug regions in Somaliland, Puntland and Central Somalia. The project works with traditional leaders, religious leaders and government to help communities overcome social barriers to girls’ enrollment and retention through a process of dialogue on the role of girls’ education in Islam and training at various levels. *(Funding: DfID)*

**Horumarinta Elmiga (Promoting Knowledge)** works in Somaliland alongside the Somaliland Ministry of Education in consortium with Save the Children, CARE and NRC. The aim of the project is to support capacity development within the ministry, increase access to formal and non-formal education and training through secondary and vocational skills development and improve the skills of primary and secondary education teachers and TVET trainers. CARE’s component of this project focuses largely on increasing access to education and supporting skills development of teachers in the predominantly rural marginalized regions of Togheer, Sool and Sanaag. The aim of the project is to secure a sustainable system of education that provides quality education for all, with particular attention for women and girls. *(Funding: EU)*

**Hogaan Iyo Nabad (Strengthening Governance and Peacebuilding in Somalia)** works to strengthen local governance and conflict management at village level and aims to help women play a bigger role in local leadership. The project builds capacity of governance and conflict mitigation mechanisms at village and district level, and supports women, youth and other marginalized parts of the community to engage more effectively with these structures. The program is implemented by a consortium of agencies comprising CARE, DRC, IRC and UNICEF. The consortium initially works in three districts in Somaliland and Puntland—in Erigavo, North Galkayo and Burtinle with discussions on expansion into other districts and regions in the rest of Somalia as the project develops. *(Funding: DfID)*

**Foundation For Peace (FFP) project** is designed to tackle some of the key underlying causes that inhibit human security and sustainable development in Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen, which CARE identifies as at high risk of violent conflicts, exacerbated by weak governance and a lack of tangible peace dividends. The Somalia program works in Sanaag and Sool regions focusing on actively preventing and resolving resource-based conflict, increasing women’s active and meaningful participation in village committees and strengthening the economic position of women in communities. *(Funding: Dutch MoFA)*

**Basic Water and Sanitation for the MDGs** sees CARE work alongside the Puntland government to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation facilities and hygiene education in rural and peri-urban communities of Puntland. Through partnerships with well-established local NGOs, community members are trained to manage and run water and sanitation facilities. The project emphasizes work with and through women’s groups as critical stakeholders in managing water resources and uses Public-Private Partnerships as a way to support more sustainable
arrangements for management of water points. The project works closely with the water department (PSAWEN) as well as the private sector. *(Funding: EU)*

**Haraad Rheeb III (Quenching the Thirst)** is an initiative in Somaliland that will work with the Ministry of Water to support the implementation of the new Water Act that was adopted in Parliament in 2011, but has had little follow-up at district level. The aim of the project is, through supporting the implementation of the Water Act, to clarify roles and responsibilities in management of water facilities between government, communities and private sector and subsequently to equip each of these actors with the skills needed to play their designated roles. *(Funding: German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ)*

**Sanaag Livelihoods** aims to increase the livelihood security of vulnerable households in Sanaag region through conditional cash transfers (cash for work) to improve access to food and protection for livelihood assets. The project is implemented in areas where CARE also supports Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). *(Funding: CHF)*

**Deegaankaagu Waa Noloshaada (Your Environment is Your Life)** seeks to improve rangeland conditions and to promote sustainable use of rangeland resources through the empowerment of communities and by enabling the institutional and legal frameworks necessary for rangeland protection. This is critical as drought, climate change, charcoal burning and mismanagement have depleted the natural resources that are so critical to the pastoralist livelihoods of most of Puntland’s rural women. Implemented by CARE and Adeso, this project works to create alternative employment opportunities for rural populations through revived rangeland-based livelihoods and cash for work activities. CARE implements the institutional development component of the project with Puntland’s Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MoEWT) building on traditional law *(xeer)* and national legislation in order to address the need for improved rangeland management. *(Funding: EU)*

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**Urban Youth Program (RVWP)**

The Urban Youth Program is in part a response to the massive migration to towns across Somalia due to recurring drought, environmental degradation and conflict. The program focuses on supporting job creation and other livelihood opportunities for poor urban youth through vocational training, small business development and micro-finance. There is a strong focus on youth from IDP households and marginalized clans.

The rationale for our Urban Youth Program is derived from the fact that children and youth (16 - 24 years old) in Somalia make up about 70% of the population. Often they are unemployed and at risk of recruitment into militia, engaging in piracy, illegally migrating across borders or facing a life of poverty in urban settlements. Without addressing the crisis of youth unemployment it is very difficult to envisage a truly peaceful Somalia. Going forward we will increasingly integrate civic education, peace-building and governance work with youth into the program as well as expanding our linkages with the private sector.

**INITIATIVES WITHIN THE URBAN YOUTH PROGRAM INCLUDE:**

**Somalia Youth Leadership Initiative (SYLI)** aims at empowering Somali youth to contribute positively and productively to society. The project seeks to increase educational, economic and civic participation opportunities for Somali youth and help them become self-reliant. Project activities include classroom construction and rehabilitation for secondary schools, improved community discussions on education, vocational training for unemployed youth, support for small business start-ups and strengthening of youth groups as safe places for open discussions on problems facing youth. *(Funding: USAID)*

**Waxbarashada Waa Iftiin (Education is Light)** focuses on capacity-building of the Ministry of Education in Puntland and aims to contribute to a sustainable, cohesive
education system. We have a team of staff embedded in the Ministry and are working to support the effective delivery of relevant services to school-age children in the region. The project helps improve the quality of education being delivered, improve management of schools and ensure that teachers are being trained. CARE leads a consortium of four agencies including Save the Children, ADRA and the VU University of Amsterdam in implementing this project, with CARE implementing the capacity-building and secondary education components. (Funding: EU)

**Waxbar Caruutada (Educate Your Children!)** is an initiative that builds on our existing education programming funded by the EC and DfID and focuses on helping 30,000 currently out-of-school children attend schools across Somalia with an emphasis on Mogadishu. The project will support the re-establishment of a public education system in Mogadishu, which has been completely destroyed during the war. It will help in particular IDP youth, ex-militia and other vulnerable groups re-engage with the education system, supporting them in finding a more secure future. It will rebuild 18 schools in Mogadishu, train teachers and work with communities to address barriers to education, in particular for girls and IDPs. In addition it will work with the Ministry of Education to support rebuilding the institutional structures needed to support these 18 schools. (Funding: Qatari-based Educate a Child)

**Emergency Response Program (ERP)**

CARE’s capacity and experience allows us to deliver fast and effective assistance whenever an emergency happens. Our emergency program focuses on supporting IDPs and vulnerable host populations in three main areas: food security, water and sanitation and nutrition. In addition we provide protection support to the people displaced by drought and conflict, helping them secure their safety and improve their relationships with the communities hosting them. In settlement camps for IDPs, CARE is helping minimize risks for vulnerable groups including women and girls and advocating for equal, safe and dignified access to assistance for drought and conflict-affected individuals.

Our emergency response is guided by key humanitarian principles; to treat all affected people humanely and equally, and to remain impartial in any conflict. In addition, CARE is committed to building the skills and knowledge of the communities we assist in order to foster self-reliance.

We also strive to ensure that our emergency activities do not harm affected communities and their environment presently or in the future.

CARE does not only help communities during an emergency, we stay on to help them develop their resilience and recover from loss, equipping them to deal more effectively with future shocks. For example, through cash for work initiatives, we help stimulate local economies and improve the ability of the affected people to purchase food and replace livestock and lost property.

**Initiatives within the Emergency Response Program include:**

**Emergency Livelihood Support, Recovery and Resilience Project (ELRRP)** works to improve the living conditions among IDPs in Somalia through the provision of improved access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. We will also assist 250 IDPs from Mogadishu with a voluntary return support package. In addition, nutrition support will be provided to 1000 children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers. (Funding: ECHO)

**Multi-Sectoral Assistance Program for Somalia (MAPS)** aims to enhance the livelihood situations of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and IDPs through cash for work, conditional and unconditional cash transfers, water source rehabilitation, drinking water treatment and construction of sanitation facilities. Basic non-food item (NFI) needs of IDPs in Burao, Galkayo and Bossaso will also be addressed. Protection support to women and girls will also be addressed in addition to complementarity funding for the Somalia NGO Consortium. Emergency nutrition interventions will also work to reduce recurrent malnutrition and associated diseases. The project is implemented in eight regions directly and through strategic partnerships with six local NGOs dispersed throughout Somalia. (Funding: USAID/OFDA)

**Diriswanaag (Good Neighborliness, Hospitality)** works in Puntland with both emergency and urban livelihood components. The first six months of the project focused on providing emergency food assistance to IDPs and the communities hosting them through food vouchers. For the rest of the project duration CARE has been working to improve long-term living conditions for IDP women and youth by providing vocational training and support to start small businesses in addition to training community leaders to resolve and manage conflicts between IDPs and host communities. (Funding: Dutch MoFA)
Budget - Our annual expenditure in FY13 was around 15 million USD, and our budget for FY14 is 27 million USD.

Major Donors - European Union (EU), European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO), United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), UK’s Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AUSAID), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Affairs, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of France and others.

CARE International Members supporting current programs - CARE Australia, CARE Austria, CARE Canada, CARE Germany, CARE Nederland, CARE UK, CARE USA

Founded in 1945, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty and providing lifesaving assistance in emergencies. In 84 countries around the world, CARE places special focus on working alongside poor girls and women because, equipped with the proper resources, they have the power to help lift whole families and entire communities out of poverty. To learn more, visit www.care.org.