



WATER+ IMPACT REPORT WALKING THE TALK

Background

CARE has provided water+ services to developing countries for over 55 years and is currently working on more than 180 such projects in over 40 countries. Water+ is CARE's term for our traditional work with drinking water provision, sanitation, and hygiene that also encompasses productive uses of water (such as irrigation) and ecologically sustainable water resource management.

Throughout the years, CARE has focused on both emergency response and long-term development. More recently, the organization has emphasized building the capacity of local institutions, strengthening community-led water resource management (WRM) and total sanitation and adopting an integrated water resources management (IWRM) approach.

The Water+ Impact Report, published in April 2013, is an attempt to assess and communicate the state of our impact in these and other areas, relative to our goal of improving the lives of poor women and school-aged girls.

Methods

In 2010, CARE USA's water team developed a theory of change (see diagram below) for our work in water+. This theory of change was used to measure the impact of the activities in 51 program reports, mostly mid-term or final evaluations dated between 2006 and 2012. A scoring tool was developed to score the reports against the three domains of the theory of change.

The case studies also assess the impact of CARE's work with **partnerships; learning, monitoring, and evaluation; WASH advocacy; and emergency WASH.**

The full-color report with photos is over **50 pages** in length and is available at:
<http://water.care2share.wikispaces.net/Measuring+Impact>

Impact Results

DOMAIN 1: SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO WATER+ SERVICES

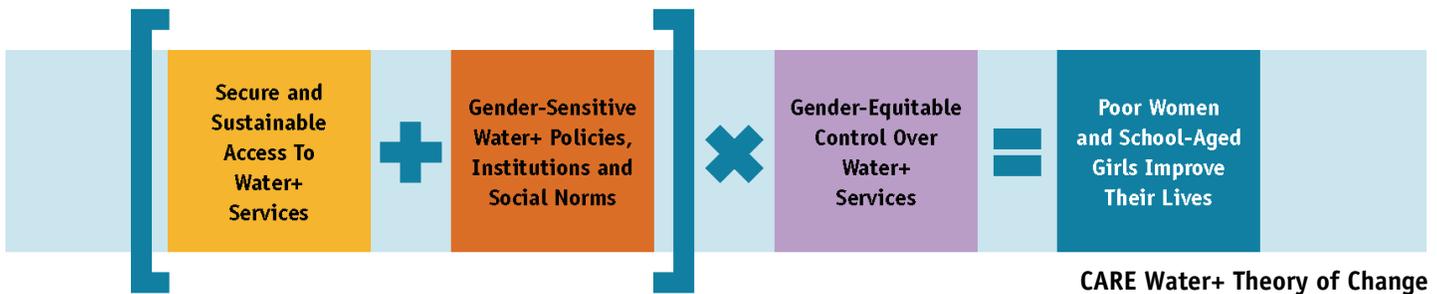
The projects and programs reviewed focused on provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. On the whole, CARE demonstrated excellent work in WASH, WRM, and multiple uses of water. However, improvements are needed to strengthen sustainability and collaboration with other sectors.

DOMAIN 2: GENDER-SENSITIVE WATER+ POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND SOCIAL NORMS

CARE was scored on items such as deliberate influence of policy or policy implementation and community empowerment and capacity building. The evaluations revealed that CARE has done some strong work in strengthening community-based organizations and has some examples of working with government for increasing access to water+ programs, but its efforts in the latter category are not consistent.

DOMAIN 3: GENDER-EQUITABLE CONTROL OVER WATER+ SERVICES

Water committees give women the unique opportunity for public leadership, since water for domestic use is seen largely as the woman's domain. Several evaluations noted results favorable to women and girls, including a decreased burden of fetching water and an increased attendance of girls in school. However, activities to address gender equity issues were conservative. Few of the initiatives studied used tools for analyzing social structures within communities and households.



CARE Water+ Theory of Change

The Report

CARE's Water+ Impact Report gives an **analysis** of impact within each of these three domains as well as **impact snapshots** that provide examples of this work.

The **case study section showcases some of the most successful examples of CARE's work** in making water+ services available to the poor and socially excluded. These cases demonstrate impact and the approaches taken to reach that impact, highlighting strengths that varyingly correspond to one or more of the domains in the theory of change.