



After a 6.7 magnitude earthquake in Nepal, CARE was able to respond to immediate needs, prioritizing vulnerable women and girls.

HUMANITARIAN SURGE FUND

Responding Immediately Leads to Long-Term Impact

Background

Whenever and wherever disaster strikes, the Humanitarian Surge Fund allows CARE to be among the first there, not only to deliver lifesaving aid, but also to **help shape larger-scale, long-term relief and recovery efforts so that women and girls are at the center**. Natural disasters are not gender-neutral, and neither is human warfare.

This fiscal year, **every dollar donated to the Humanitarian Surge Fund has leveraged \$57** from multiple sources in support of CARE's humanitarian work.

Pre-existing inequalities and insecurities are laid bare and exacerbated in a crisis. When food is scarce, women and girls eat last and least. When communities become war zones, women and girls face far greater risks of sexual violence or harassment. **Rapid response teams** funded by Humanitarian Surge Fund resources provide on-site support to CARE's country offices in emergencies, bringing in technical expertise in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); food and nutrition; logistics and communication; and health and gender. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, the Surge Fund makes it possible for CARE to conduct a **rapid gender analysis**, a tool innovated by CARE and widely adopted throughout the humanitarian sector that helps amplify women's voice and leadership.

In addition to saving lives, reacting quickly to disaster helps position CARE in the spotlight, attracting the attention of major media as well as donors who are interested in **helping communities to build back better and to be more prepared for the inevitable next emergency**. With Surge Fund resources, CARE staff in disaster-prone areas can **preposition supplies, provide training, and partner with local leaders to create meaningful crisis plans** – building their capacity to mitigate their own risks. Disaster risk mitigation saves time *and* money. The Surge Fund also **fills critical gaps and replenishes resources for disasters that may have faded from public consciousness**. Long-running famines or refugee crises may not be in the news anymore, but the human suffering continues. *We cannot look away.*

How Your Gift Makes a Difference

Over the past year, the Humanitarian Surge Fund has made a critical difference in CARE's ability to meet immediate needs after emergencies and help people in the most vulnerable communities begin to rebuild their lives. On these pages, you can see examples of the impact made possible by Surge Fund supporters.

- Mozambique – Cyclone preparedness:** Every year between January and April, Mozambique's cyclone season exposes the country to high risk of flooding and wind damage, exacerbating existing risks to food security; water, sanitation and hygiene; shelter; and protection. CARE has been among the first responders to multiple major storms to strike Mozambique in recent years, working with nine local partners for a fast, flexible response. In advance of the 2024 cyclone season, CARE **invested \$40,000 from the Surge Fund** to preposition stocks to be better prepared to deliver lifesaving aid within 72 hours. Women, men, girls, and boys all face vulnerabilities to natural hazards. However, rapid gender analyses conducted for cyclones Freddy, Gombe, Idai, and Kenneth all describe some gender-specific vulnerabilities. To mitigate the risks for women and girls after an emergency, CARE includes menstrual hygiene supplies in hygiene kits, while also addressing protection issues at short-term accommodation centers and encouraging the registration of women as family representatives when aid is distributed.
- Nepal – Jajarkot earthquake:** On November 3, 2023, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Jajarkot district, killing more than 100 people and setting off hundreds of aftershocks. About 10,000 houses were destroyed, leaving families to survive under tarps as winter weather loomed. With a high risk of more aftershocks, even people whose homes were only partially damaged were discouraged from returning. Although there was some media coverage, the initial response of traditional donors was inadequate to meet immediate needs. With **an initial allocation of \$20,000** from the Surge Fund, CARE worked with our [Humanitarian Partnership Platform \(HPP\)](#) to reach 1,361 people affected by the earthquake. We provided immediate relief including food baskets, supplemental nutrition for pregnant and lactating women, winter clothes, blankets, thermoses, and psychosocial support for trauma survivors. Also, we helped students return to class by setting up temporary learning centers and repairing the water supply to a local school.



Tikaram Oli inspects the remains of his house in Bheri Municipality 3, Jajarkot. As winter set in, people without adequate housing were in desperate need of winter supplies.

The Surge Fund does more than allow CARE to react when disaster strikes. It helps us build a lasting foundation so that communities can *prepare for and mitigate the risk of the next crisis*. **Every \$1 invested in preparation saves more than \$2 in emergency response.***

The Surge Fund also supports innovations like CARE's [Humanitarian Partnership Platform](#), now being [piloted in Nepal](#) and other countries. The HPP links local organizations and builds their capacity to collaborate in an emergency, prioritizing women-led groups and lifting up the voices and leadership of women, girls, and marginalized people in emergencies. The result is a self-sustaining network that can act quickly with less reliance on outside help.

*UNICEF/WFP, [Return on Investment for Emergency Preparedness Study](#), 2016.

- Haiti – Gang violence and political instability:** Haitians have been living through a protracted, multilayered crisis over the past five years. In February 2024, gang violence erupted with an unprecedented intensity and breadth, forcing more than 15,000 people – half of them children – to flee their homes over a particularly brutal three-day period. That crisis brought the total of internally displaced people (IDPs) to more than 362,000.

The gang violence has resulted in more than 2,577 deaths, thousands of people wounded, and vandalism and burning of hospitals, schools, and universities. With **\$87,000 from the Humanitarian Surge Fund**, CARE worked with three local partners to provide emergency cash assistance to 8,000 households (40,000 people) and protection services and referrals to 5,000 women and girls, who are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse in times of crisis. CARE and our partners also provided nutrition assistance to 16,000 women and girls.

The numbers are daunting: One out of two Haitians is experiencing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity. Four out of five health facilities are closed. And four out of five women and girls who experience rape or sexual violence do not have access to treatment. Against that backdrop of need, the hurricane season began June 1, looming as a potential threat to thousands of IDPs and others who are already struggling to survive.



“NGOs are working around the clock to respond to people’s needs. There’s a mistaken impression that because of the gangs, no work can take place. But really, **the biggest limitation is that the humanitarian response is so poorly funded.** There are very limited resources to do the work that needs to be done.”

– **Muhamed Bizimana, CARE’s Assistant Country Director in Haiti**



To help prevent a cholera surge, community members clean up uncollected waste.

- Zambia – Cholera outbreak:** The 2023-24 cholera outbreak in Zambia was the most severe on record, with 22,275 cumulative cases and 740 deaths. In October 2023, only two months after a localized outbreak of cholera in northern Zambia was declared over, a resurgence began in peri-urban areas of Lusaka and then spread to eight other provinces, fueled by contaminated water and uncollected solid waste. At the peak, daily total cases averaged 620. With government health systems already overstretched, **\$80,000 from the Surge Fund** allowed CARE to provide critical support in risk communication, community engagement, and infection prevention, especially in rural districts and high-density urban areas. CARE created and distributed educational materials, enlisted volunteers to hold awareness-raising meetings, and provided infection prevention materials, including chlorine for water treatment and latrine disinfection to 9,040 households (27,120 people), along with 13,520 bars of soap. In addition, CARE provided chlorine to treat water at six community distribution points, and distributed 326 sanitation kits – with disinfectant, soap, and buckets – to 25 cholera treatment centers. By the end of May 2024, only two cases of cholera a day were reported.

- Somalia – Flooding:** The rainy season known as Deyr (October to December) had a devastating impact in Somalia in 2023, leaving 188 fatalities and 1 million displaced people in its wake. Flash flooding in low-lying areas, as well as sharp rises in the water levels of the Shabelle and Juba River basins, led to severe flooding across central and southern Somalia. To mitigate the impact of El Niño-induced flooding, CARE used a **\$112,000 allocation from the Humanitarian Surge Fund** to procure and preposition medical supplies, protection kits, and WASH supplies to support disease prevention and enhance dignity among displaced communities, with a special focus on women and girls. The funding was used primarily to transport vital medical supplies from hubs in Nairobi, Kenya, and to purchase protection/dignity kits and WASH supplies.



Flooding in Somalia has displaced millions of people.

- Caucasus – Nagorno-Karabach displacement:** Conflict in the Nagorno-Karabach region beginning in September 2023 set off a mass exodus into Armenia and neighboring regions of Azerbaijan. At least 100,000 people were displaced – more than half the population of Nagorno-Karabach – the majority of them women, girls, and elderly. The influx placed a huge strain on Armenia, a country of fewer than 2.8 million with limited resources and facing its own political turbulence. CARE set out to meet urgent needs of displaced families in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, using an **initial Surge Fund allocation of \$160,000**. In collaboration with local partners, we reached more than 3,000 people with supplies such as food parcels, hygiene kits, menstrual pads, warm winter clothing, and baby diapers.



Yasmin (not her real name), a nurse and speech therapist in northern Gaza, watches news reports on her phone with three of her four children. The family has had to flee six times, most recently after the Rafah invasion.

- Israel/Palestine – Conflict:** As an impartial, neutral, and independent aid organization, CARE continues to stand in solidarity with all communities impacted by intensified hostilities in Israel and the Gaza Strip – and to condemn all violence against innocent civilians. With funding including an **initial allocation of \$536,400 from the Humanitarian Surge Fund**, CARE has reached 352,921 people with critical humanitarian assistance in this evolving emergency. Since the early days of the conflict, CARE has delivered 159,596 liters of bottled water and 5,950 cubic meters of potable water to 165,000 people, and distributed hygiene kits to 69,576 people. In addition, CARE has reached more than 89,678 people in Gaza through donations of mobile medical equipment and medicine. To address gender-specific needs, CARE has distributed dignity kits to 4,493 women and girls. As military operations continue to hinder the flow of humanitarian aid, CARE will continue to adapt in order to reach the most vulnerable people.

The Multiplier Effect of Surge Fund Allocations

The examples on these pages represent just a few of the recent emergencies where donations to CARE's Humanitarian Surge Fund have been deployed. The full list of Surge Fund allocations is shown in the following table. In less than a year (July 2023 – May 2024), **more than \$2 million in allocations from the Humanitarian Surge Fund helped CARE launch emergency responses in more than 30 countries**. Just as crucial, those allocations **unlocked more than \$114 million in leveraged funds** from multiple sources to support communities on the road to recovery, to invest in improved response capacity, and to help prepare for and mitigate disasters before they happen.

Thank you for considering a generous gift as we continue to respond to evolving needs around the world.

Country	Response	Allocation	Leveraged Amount
Syria	Dier ez Zor Clashes	\$100,000	\$90,894,903
Caucasus	Karabagh Refugee Crisis in Armenia	\$150,000	-
Middle East	Gaza Conflict Emergency Response	\$536,400	\$9,800,000
Morocco	Earthquake Response	\$200,000	\$4,000,000
Lebanon	Southern Border Displacement	\$75,000	\$240,000
Nepal	Jajarkot Earthquake response	\$20,000	\$130,000
Jamaica	Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (Caribbean HPP)	\$34,925	-
Tanzania	Hanang District Flooding and Mudslide	\$40,000	-
Mozambique	Cyclone Preparedness	\$40,000	-
Myanmar	Northern Shan State Crisis	\$30,000	\$1,844,000
Kenya	El Niño Flooding	\$108,218	\$784,000
Somalia	El Niño Flooding	\$112,000	\$1,740,000
Ethiopia	El Niño Flooding	\$123,966	\$797,000
Zambia	Cholera Outbreak	\$80,000	-
Chad	Food and Nutrition Crisis	\$150,000	\$1,672,500
Haiti	Gang Violence and Political Instability	\$87,000	\$187,000
DRC	North and South Kivu Displacement and Flooding	\$125,000	\$2,325,000
Total		\$2,012,509	\$114,414,403

June 2024