



American Chamber of Commerce in Norway

Arbins gate 2
0253 Oslo

30th of November 2021

Dear AmCham Norway,

Thank you so much for granting CARE Norway with your generous gift in relation to your annual Thanksgiving Celebration. We are truly amazed and deeply thankful. Peter was thrilled about the event and the good outcome.

CARE works to combat poverty and has long placed a focus on empowering women and girls, as gender discrimination is a barrier to sustainable development. The emphasis on the most vulnerable women and girls is a key contribution to the overarching principle of 'Leave no one behind'. As part of our main objectives, we aim to contribute to the UN's Sustainability Goals 1 and 5.

Knowing that women are hardest hit in crisis and by poverty, but also knowing that women are key to change, we change one community by another. No long-term development without gender equality!

CARE Norway's Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Program is a multi-country program which aims to strengthen gender equality and women's rights. CARE achieves this goal by improving women's economic empowerment, engaging men for gender equality, strengthening civil society, improving sexual and reproductive health and increasing resilience.

Village Savings and Loans Associates (VSLAs) were first introduced by CARE's own Moira Eknes and women from Niger 30 years ago. The creation and structure of these groups remain our most important tool in fighting poverty. Today 10 million people worldwide have joined these groups. VSLA groups give a chance to women without access to formal banks. They can start their own business, increase revenues, and fulfill dreams for themselves and their family. The VSLA model has been proven sustainable, with more than 85% VSLAs still operational after five years.

Our COVID-19 response has needed to be fast and agile. With the guidance of inspirational VSLA members across the globe, the support of our donors and the ingenuity of our partners, we have continued to adapt and flex. VSLAs have become a force for good during this pandemic, supporting community responses, sharing important health messages and re-focusing finances to adapt to the crisis. Despite the challenges, we have doubled the pace of new VSLA group formations, adding almost one million new VSLA members in 2020. Please find attached the latest annual report for CARE's work with VSLA.



CARE Norway plays a central role in the CARE confederation's work for women's economic justice, and we support technical and strategic teams worldwide to increase the impact of CARE's program. The goal is that by 2030 50 million women have more equitable access to and control over economic resources and opportunities by 2030.

CARE, together with our partners, will support women to access financial services, participate in dignified work, and thrive as entrepreneurs and small-scale producers, whilst also adapting our approach to fragile contexts.

The generous support from AmCham will contribute to CARE's work with women's economic justice, and I want to thank you for your support.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaj-Martin Georgsen".

Kaj-Martin Georgsen
National Director
CARE Norge