CRISIS REPORT

10 humanitarian crises that didn’t make headlines in 2025

Foreword

This year marks a milestone: for the 10th time, CARE is publishing its Crisis Report on the 10 humanitarian crises that received the least media attention in the previous year. The 2025 media analysis paints a sobering picture: around 43 million people are affected by crises that remain largely invisible to the global public.

Conflicts, hunger, and extreme weather events destroy lives in countries such as the Central African Republic, Zambia, and Honduras. Yet other crises dominate global media coverage. Of the 5 million online articles on humanitarian emergencies that were analyzed, nearly half focus on the conflict in Gaza alone.

When crises remain invisible, funding often fails to materialize. In 2025, global budgets for humanitarian aid and development cooperation were cut, resulting in less food, less medical care, and less hope for people in crisis regions.

With this 10th edition, we also look back and ask: what has changed over the past decade in how forgotten crises are perceived, and what lies ahead? Behind every statistic are human beings. This report is a call to the global community to change priorities and ensure these voices are heard.

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Retrospective 2016-2025

10 years of the CARE Crisis Report

For 10 years, the CARE Crisis Report has tracked not only the world's most urgent humanitarian crises, but also how we talk about them. Even its titles tell a story. The first report was titled "Suffering in Silence," placing the focus on the overlooked suffering of people in humanitarian crises. This was followed by "Breaking the Silence," a title that already conveyed momentum, strength, and the demand for greater visibility.

Today, the report is simply called the CARE Crisis Report. This shift places the analytical dimension at the center: data, facts, and a clearly documented insight that was true from the very beginning and remains true today. Things we do not hear or read about often appear not to exist.

What has changed for the better?

In our society, awareness of the power of language has grown. We engage in debates about social equality, question discriminatory patterns, and increasingly confront structural inequalities, culture, colonial mindsets, and global responsibility. Movements such as Fridays for Future, #MeToo, and the strengthening of Black Lives Matter have shown over the past 10 years that social attitudes can change — that perspectives can broaden and new awareness can emerge.

CARE calls for exactly this kind of shift in how humanitarian crises are viewed. Media coverage often still begins only when the scale of a catastrophe is large enough to generate high reach.

From a journalistic perspective, this is understandable — but it does little justice to those affected. While public attention moves on quickly, the hardships faced by those at risk remains.

At the same time, the media landscape itself has evolved. Constructive journalism, which focuses on solutions rather than solely on negative reporting, is gaining importance. Through social media, the voices of those affected are increasingly heard directly, authentically, and no longer filtered through intermediaries. Modern technologies also make it possible to gain insights into crisis regions and establish direct contact even when journalists cannot be on the ground.

This creates greater proximity and interaction on equal footing. Women in particular — who often take on greater responsibility in crises and disasters, stabilize families, and organize communities — are becoming more visible in their leadership roles.

Now it is crucial to continue strengthening this development. Being seen is a matter of dignity and a prerequisite for people in humanitarian crises to receive the support they need. Where there is no attention, funding for change is often lacking as well.

With the 10th edition of the CARE Crisis Report, we therefore aim once again to help generate attention. Let us look closely, so that people in humanitarian crises are not forgotten, and new perspectives can emerge.

Which countries ranked first in the CARE Crisis Report over the past 10 years?

2016
Eritrea
2 million people lack adequate access to food

2017
North Korea
18 million people affected by food insecurity

2018
Haiti
Around **5.5 million** people (50% of the population) suffer from hunger

2019
Madagascar
2.6 million people affected by drought

2020
Burundi
2.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

2021
Zambia
1.2 million people lack sufficient food

2022
Angola
3.8 million people affected by food insecurity

2023
Angola
7.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

2024
Angola
2.2 million people dependent on humanitarian aid

2025
Central African Republic
2.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

10 humanitarian crises that did not make headlines in 2025

CARE's analysis for this report is based on access to approximately 345,000 online media outlets worldwide. CARE first compiles a list of all humanitarian crises worldwide that affect more than 1 million people. Then, CARE examines how frequently each of these crises was reported during the year. After the total number of media articles — 5 million for 2025 — has been identified, the crises are ranked. This ranking makes it possible to determine which crises received particularly little media attention and which received the most.

The media often covers trivial moments and the exploits of billionaires, but, critically, when stories like these go untold, resources dry up. U.S. funding for humanitarian crises has been decreasing for years, and in 2025, global aid budgets were suddenly slashed. The result: programs were terminated, food rations were halved, critical health supplies ran out, and women-led organizations — the backbone of local response — are struggling.

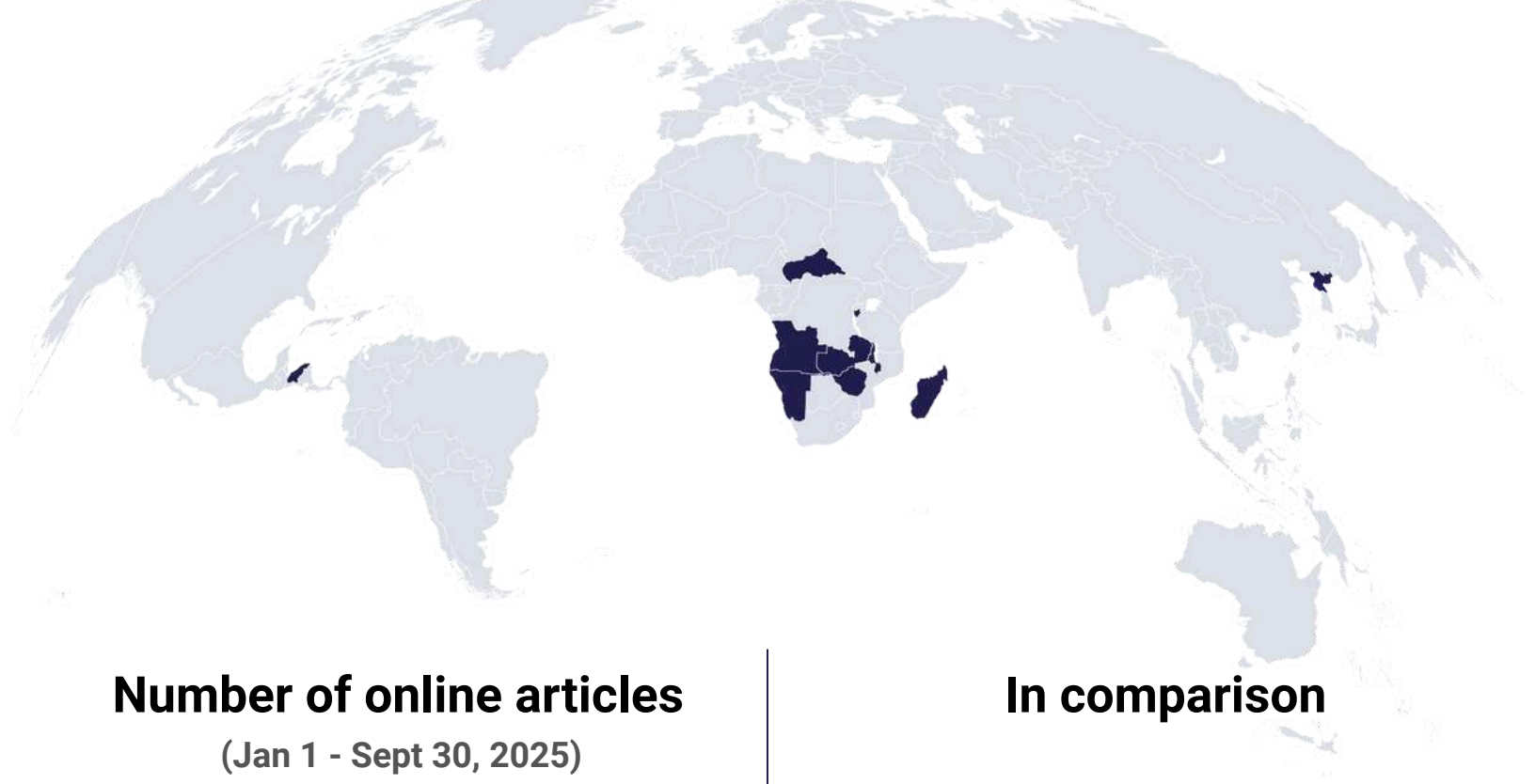
The decision to cover a crisis in the media often comes down to its perceived international importance, high security risks, and lack of local resources needed. When those most affected by crises can share their stories, your attention — and advocacy — matter.

Michelle Nunn, President and CEO of CARE, puts it plainly: "CARE's work is grounded in a simple conviction: we must be present where needs are greatest, whether or not the world is watching. Many people suffer with little or no attention. Yet every life is equal, and we have a moral obligation not only to care, but to turn that care into action."

Approximately 43 million people were affected by these 10 crises in 2025

What is a forgotten crisis?

The European Union defines forgotten crises as **"severe, protracted humanitarian crisis situations where affected populations are receiving no or insufficient international aid and where there is no political commitment to solve the crisis, due in part to a lack of media interest."** The EU identifies such crises as part of its "Forgotten Crisis Assessment."



Number of online articles

(Jan 1 - Sept 30, 2025)

1.	**Central African Republic**	1,532
2.	**Namibia**	2,379
3.	**Zambia**	2,980
4.	**Malawi**	3,436
5.	**Honduras**	3,533
6.	**North Korea**	4,075
7.	**Angola**	4,132
8.	**Burundi**	5,879
9.	**Zimbabwe**	5,905
10.	**Madagascar**	6,210

In comparison

65,292

online articles about Labubu

445,342

online articles about the 48-hour TikTok shutdown

The most-covered humanitarian crises of 2025

	Articles
Palestine (West Bank/Gaza)	1,908,112
Syria	288,377
Venezuela	287,503
Ukraine	278,413
Afghanistan	246,048

What can be done?

Making forgotten crises more visible

1. **Protect press freedom**
   Journalists need safe, free working conditions to report independently and effectively counter disinformation.

2. **Enable first-hand reporting**
   Direct contact with people in crisis regions creates authentic reports; local and international aid organizations can act as intermediaries.

3. **Secure resources**
   Sufficient capacity is essential for high-quality reporting.

4. **Promote critical journalism**
   Through subscriptions, donations, and reflective media use, readers can strengthen independent journalism and challenge potentially biased stereotypical narratives.

5. **Let those affected tell their own stories**
   The visible and audible stories of women, girls, and people from marginalized communities broaden perspectives and can be shared via digital channels even without an on-site presence.

6. **Strengthen local organizations**
   Local partner organizations work directly with people affected by crisis and enrich reporting with their expertise.

7. **Make female leadership visible**
   Women as key players in crisis management deserve more visibility and recognition for their leadership roles.

A message from Michelle Nunn

CARE's work is grounded in a simple conviction: we must be present where needs are greatest, whether or not the world is watching. Many people suffer with little or no attention. Yet every life is equal, and we have a moral obligation not only to care, but to turn that care into action.

In a world where vaccine-preventable diseases still exist and where we have the capacity to prevent children from dying of hunger, our notion of "neighbor" no longer ends at our doorstep. It extends to our global neighbors, whom we can reach through technology, media, and shared resources.

Sudden-onset disasters draw cameras and trigger rapid responses. By contrast, many humanitarian crises are slow-burning — shaped over years by conflict, weak governance, droughts, floods, and other environmental shocks. These crises rarely receive sustained media coverage or long-term reporting. As a result, public attention and political focus gravitate toward places like Ukraine or Gaza, while countries such as the Central African Republic, Zambia, Namibia, Malawi, or Honduras receive only a fraction of the support they need.

"CARE's work is grounded in a simple conviction: we must be present where needs are greatest, whether or not the world is watching. Many people suffer with little or no attention. Yet every life is equal, and we have a moral obligation not only to care, but to turn that care into action"

This invisibility is compounded by shrinking government funding. Sharp cuts to U.S. humanitarian assistance — after years in which the United States financed nearly 40% of global humanitarian aid — have sent shockwaves through the system. Increasingly, resources are tied to narrow national interests rather than to the greatest humanitarian needs. Yet neglected crises can undermine security, weaken civil society, drive migration, and fuel instability, as we see in Honduras today.

We need system-level approaches, fairer allocation of resources, and renewed public support for humanitarian action. By bringing invisible crises into view through reports like this one, and by investing in collaboration, networks, and new technologies, we can save lives today and help prevent deeper and broader crises tomorrow.

Michelle Nunn
CEO and President,
CARE USA

“Without media attention and political focus, resources and action are lacking.”

Ramesh Rajasingham
Head and Representative of OCHA in Geneva,
Director of the Coordination Division

While Gaza and Sudan dominate the headlines, millions of people are suffering in crises the world has forgotten. I congratulate CARE on the 10th edition of its report on forgotten crises, which shines a light on issues that remain invisible to most and lifts up the voices of those who are rarely heard.

In these crises, mothers fear that their children may not be sitting at the table in the evening — if they even have a table or a roof over their heads. Without media attention and political focus, resources and action are lacking.

The media cannot cover all crises equally. In some contexts, such as Gaza, independent access is not even possible. At the same time, emergencies are accumulating because long-term crises remain unresolved. The tragic result is that some crises are neglected. Environmental shifts are dramatically worsening the situation. Today, conflict is the primary driver of displacement, but in the coming years, climate-related disasters will further isolate crises that already receive little media attention.

Hunger is political failure

Almost all protracted humanitarian crises have political causes — and persist because political solutions are absent. In Sudan, Gaza, Somalia, and the Sahel, people are starving even though political measures could prevent this by ensuring access to food and enabling countries to access markets.

But we are not powerless. Humanitarian diplomacy can achieve breakthroughs. One example is the Black Sea Grain Initiative between Moscow and Ukraine, which we brokered together with Türkiye. Increased availability on global markets lowered prices, and cheaper food means that more families with limited resources can be supported.

The collapse of the rules-based system

The core problems are a lack of political will and a lack of respect for international humanitarian law. We are witnessing an erosion of the rules-based international system. Over the past two years, there has been an unprecedented number of targeted attacks on humanitarian workers. This unequal application of international law opens the door to even greater impunity.

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Humanity as a driving force

Eighty years ago, the world emerged from a devastating crisis. Today, generations have grown up without that experience. We must return to an understanding of our shared humanity: when one part of humanity is affected, it affects us all.

With donor support, we can save millions of lives with relatively modest resources. For 2026, we aim to reach 87 million people, requiring USD 23 billion. Throughout the year, we seek to support 135 million people, at a cost of USD 33 billion. Even if that amount were doubled, it would still represent only a fraction of global military spending. Humanitarian actors are not the solution — we provide temporary, life-saving assistance until political solutions are found.

The reset: back to basics

Tom Fletcher, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, has launched the 'Humanitarian Reset.' Its central principle is this: leadership must shift to local actors and affected communities. Local women's organizations and displaced people should tell us what they truly need — not what we assume they need. Respect for international law must also be restored.

What keeps me in this role are the people affected themselves. Their courage in the face of unimaginable threats inspires me. They show me what humanity truly means. If they can carry on, generation after generation, then I can certainly continue in my privileged position.

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1 Central African Republic

©OCHA

War and displacement

The Central African Republic has many treasures, including two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: The Sangha Trinational protected area with dense rainforests, and the Manovo-Gounda-Saint-Floris National Park with extensive savannahs and rich ecosystems.

Despite significant deposits of raw materials, including diamonds, gold, and uranium, the country is one of the poorest in the world: over 80% of the population lives in poverty.

Violence fuels displacement

For more than 12 years, conflict has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic. Attacks on the civilian population and infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, repeatedly lead to displacement.

One in five Central Africans is currently displaced. More than 442,000 live as internally displaced persons in their own country, and almost 665,000 as refugees in neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan.

*Gross domestic product
**Human Development Index

At the same time, the country itself is home to almost 53,000 refugees, people seeking protection from violence or oppression in other countries.

Women and girls bear the brunt of this crisis. They are expected to fetch water, collect firewood, and provide for their families — often under unsafe conditions. Sexual violence is on the rise, especially among refugees and in emergency shelters.

Humanitarian aid underfunded

Nearly half of the population of the Central African Republic (around 2.4 million people) is dependent on humanitarian assistance. However, global aid cuts have drastically reduced support for the Central Africans. At the same time, armed conflicts are obstructing the work of humanitarian aid workers. From January to September 2025, 98 humanitarian workers were put in danger and one person was killed.

Population: **5.5 million**
People in need: **2.4 million**
GDP*: **$3.3 billion USD**
HDI**: **191 out of 193 countries**

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2 Namibia

Worst drought in 100 years

Namibia is drying up. This poses serious consequences to people and nature. The country's worst drought in 100 years began in 2024 and continued into 2025. Low rainfall and high temperatures meant water became scarce, livestock died, and agricultural yields fell dramatically. Between October 2024 and March 2025, the wheat harvest was 83.7% below the previous year's level. For the more than two-thirds of the population who work in agriculture, this is a disaster.

By March 2025, around 1.3 million people in the country were impacted by food insecurity. Thankfully, the situation improved over the course of the year due in part to increased rainfall and higher crop yields, according to an IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) report from October 2025.

Water shortage and its consequences

The effects of drought extend far beyond agriculture. Especially in rural areas, only one in five Namibians has access to basic sanitation facilities.

Water shortages are leading to an increase in disease, as many people are forced to consume contaminated drinking water. In recent years, more than 10% of all deaths among children under the age of five have been attributed to diarrheal diseases, according to Namibia's Report on Mortality and Causes of Deaths (2018–2021).

Women's leadership and urgent solutions

Namibia did make inspirational headlines in 2025 as the only country in the world to with women holding the three top jobs in government. This pioneering leadership extends to the community level, where many Namibian women are leading efforts to improve equality and reduce poverty (UN OCHA).

With increasingly frequent extreme weather events, urgent and lasting solutions are needed to better protect communities and secure livelihoods in the long term. Learn more about humanitarian needs and response on WFP's Namibia page.

Population: **3.1 million**
People in need: **1.3 million**
GDP: $**14.69 billion USD**
HDI: **136 out of 193 countries**

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3 Zambia

Drought and floods

On average, around 1.08 million liters of water per second plunge down Victoria Falls That is equivalent to around 7,200 bathtubs filled with 40 gallons of water each. While the vast torrents of water flowing over Victoria Falls are known worldwide, the floods in other regions of Zambia receive little attention.

“I’ve never seen so much rain,” recalls Maik, a farmer. “In the days before the dam burst, it rained continuously. Then there was a loud bang and everything was gone.”

The three-meter-high trees on his fields were completely submerged by floodwater. In February 2025, another dam burst in northern Zambia. The floods not only swept away houses and fields, but also washed over 13 million gallons of acidic waste from a copper mine into the Mwambashi River, a vital source of drinking water for millions of people.

Climate-resistant corn

The floods destroyed entire livelihoods and, together with droughts, pest infestations, and rising food prices, left more than 1.2 million people facing severe food shortages.

“In the last three harvest seasons, I have harvested almost nothing,” said smallholder farmer Buumba. “It’s getting hotter and hotter, and the rain either comes too late or too heavy. There’s no such thing as normal weather anymore.”

Through a CARE project, Buumba planted seeds for orange corn — a vitamin A-rich variety better able to withstand extreme weather. “It was the only thing that survived the floods,” she says. “Our white corn is destroyed, but the orange corn saved us.”

Population: **21.9 million**
People in need: **5.5 million**
GDP: **$29.37 billion USD**
HDI: **154 out of 193 countries**

Adapting to extreme weather

Extreme weather events particularly affect women and older people who depend on agriculture. They face constant challenges: drought and floods, crop failure, and hunger. Women are increasingly taking the lead in responding to these issues.

“We attended training courses run by CARE and learned how to plant trees, start gardens, and save money,” said Febbie, a farmer. “We use the trees for charcoal, soil improvement, shade, and medicine.”

Adapting to changing conditions is essential in Zambia, where more than half of the population lives below the poverty line. Reforestation protects against soil erosion, gardens provide food and income, and savings groups support financial independence, helping communities building long-term resilience.

“Our maize fields should still be standing after the floods so that we don’t have to go hungry for weeks again” says Buumba.

What CARE does

CARE has been active in Zambia since 1992. Together with local and women-led community organizations, CARE works to empower women and girls, with a focus on improving nutrition for mothers and children and strengthening social protection.

CARE also provides support and training in resilient agriculture, water access, and reforestation. Since 2023, CARE has partnered with the Choma District Women Development Association, which provides humanitarian assistance to crisis-affected communities in Choma District.

“Since CARE arrived, we work as a community.”

–Mable

CARE launched a project that helps families cope with these challenges by supporting crop diversification, drought-resistant seeds, and practical training.

The village has also started a tree nursery. CARE helped launch the project and provides seedlings, while community members work together to nurture the trees. The trees help retain moisture in the soil, providing shade, fertilizing fields, feeding livestock, and generating income through sales.

Mable slowly lowers the bucket into the well, checking how much water remains. “I worry the well will dry up in a few weeks,” she says. If that happens, she and her neighbors will have to walk 10 kilometers every day to find clean drinking water.

In Mable’s village extreme heat, little rainfall, droughts, and sudden floods are becoming more common. Like 60% of Zambia’s population, her community depends on agriculture. “If there is not enough water, the harvest fails and we have no income,” she explains.

“Without trees, there is no shade and no water. By selling some of the trees we grow, we earn income and build a second livelihood alongside our vegetable gardens.”

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4 Malawi

Working together against extreme weather

"When there's no drought, there's flooding – and vice versa." These words are often heard in the Nsanje district in southern Malawi, where communities must regularly prepare for and rebuild after extreme weather events. In recent years, cyclones have become more frequent. Ongoing deforestation – for firewood or for sale, both of which are essential for survival – contributes to soil erosion, with devastating consequences for people, animals, and the environment.

Disaster prevention with early warning systems

"I had a field of corn," says farmer Amie. "But then the rain came and washed everything away." In Malawi, harvests are frequently destroyed by droughts, cyclones, or excessive rainfall that leads to flooding. Weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable.

Despite trying everything to make ends meet, Amie and her husband needed additional support. Through CARE's emergency program, funded by European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the family received a cash grant that enabled them to buy urgently needed food and a goat.

CARE supports the development of early warning systems and community-based disaster preparedness to reduce the impact of floods and other extreme weather events. Evacuation and disaster protection plans are developed together with communities in at-risk regions. In addition to meteorological forecasts, people may also refer to traditional knowledge. For example, unusually large mango harvests or increased ant activity can be seen as warning signs of impending floods.

CARE Malawi works closely with women-led organizations, including Girls Empowerment Network (GENET) and Women's Legal Resources Centre (WOLREC). Together with other local NGOs, CARE ensures the protection of women and girls is central to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Population: **22.2 million**
People in need: **6.1 million**
GDP: **$14.98 billion USD**
HDI: **172 out of 193 countries**

More trees, better soil

In Mangochi District, the soil is hard and dry, and the sun beats down relentlessly. Little grows here, except in farmer Muhamadi's field. He has already planted 540 tree seedlings and plans to plant more than 1,000. Although a fire damaged some young plants, most survived.

Muhamadi's reforestation work is part of the Global Evergreening Alliance Restore Africa project, which promotes reforestation in Malawi and other African countries. He hopes to earn income through CO_2 certificates. "This prospect motivates me," he says. At a nearby tree nursery, villagers learn how to grow and care for seedlings, with the goal of making the land green again.

What CARE does

CARE has been active in Malawi since 1998 and works with partners such as CADECOM Blantyre, GENET, WOLREC, Njira Impact, Eagles Relief, Churches Action for Relief and Development (CARD) Malawi, Circle for Integrated Community Development (CICOD), Synod of Livingstonia Development Department (SOLDEV), and Find Your Feet.

Together, they address food insecurity by combining immediate humanitarian assistance with long-term solutions such as resilient agriculture, support for women farmers, improved nutrition education, and community empowerment – with a strong focus on women and girls. Pregnant women and mothers receive training on balanced nutrition, while savings groups and cash assistance help families build financial independence.

Additional humanitarian context is available via ACAPS and ReliefWeb's Malawi Humanitarian Snapshot (October 2025).

"The humanitarian situation in Malawi is deeply concerning yet remains underreported globally. Millions of households face severe food insecurity driven by climate shocks, El Niño–induced hunger, and recurring cyclones, leaving women and children disproportionately vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, CARE Malawi and its partners have reached nearly 1 million people between June 2024 and June 2025 with life-saving assistance and resilience-building programs, but the scale of need far exceeds available resources. Global attention and investment are urgently required, not only for emergency response but for long-term solutions like climate-resilient livelihoods and inclusive safety nets. Malawi's crisis is not just a local issue; it is a global call to act before vulnerability turns into catastrophe."

Pamela Kuwali
Country Director, CARE Malawi

Better harvests, better lives

“My children used to be hungry often. Now they go to school well fed. Even if another drought comes, I am not worried that the crops will suffer too much.” - Mercy

In the small village of Kuntumanji, near Zomba in southern Malawi, the smell of freshly cooked nshima, a traditional maize porridge, fills the air. Today, however, it tastes different than it once did. Women enrich meals with vegetables and fish, bake cakes from pigeon peas, eggs, and peanut butter, and sell snacks made from pigeon pea flour and oil. What was once a limited diet has become more varied and nutritious.

“This is sweet potato with peanuts – very healthy,” explains Mercy, a committed farmer, pointing to a dish she has prepared. Through the FOSTA Health project, implemented by CARE and funded by Horizon Europe, daily life in the village has begun to change. The project supports farming methods that help communities cope with dry periods and unpredictable weather.

Together with other women and men, Mercy learned new farming methods, including how to use high-quality seeds, plant crops with better spacing, and create well-designed furrows. Farmers tested different crop combinations on demonstration plots to see what worked best when spacing and homemade compost were used together. The results were carefully collected and scientifically reviewed. One approach proved especially effective: planting peanuts and maize together helps keep moisture in the soil. Growing a wider range of crops improves soil fertility and crop resilience, resulting in better harvests.

The village also produces its own organic fertilizer using cow dung, maize stalks, ash, and a small amount of commercial fertilizer. This mixture helps soil retain moisture and protects fields during increasingly frequent dry spells.

The results speak for themselves. Harvests are larger and food quality has improved significantly. Mercy now shares her knowledge with others and earns additional income by selling vegetables.

“People from other villages come to us to learn how we did this,” she says. For her four sons, she hopes they will complete school and find good jobs. In Kuntumanji, crops are growing , and so is hope for the future.

Press Trip to Malawi

Increasing coverage of a forgotten crisis

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In southern Malawi's Mangochi District, the landscape is barren, the heat intense, and the land parched. The soil is hard, making it difficult to imagine that anything could grow here at all.

Yet small plants with delicate shoots can be seen in Muhamadi's field. They look so fragile, one feels the urge to protect them glimmers of hope amid the dry surroundings. These seedlings are part of a reforestation project in Malawi.

Together with journalists, a CARE team from Europe visited Malawi to report on the humanitarian crisis in one of the world's poorest countries. Thanks to the "Sponsorship for Humanitarian Journalism," funded by CC Real, audiences in Austria and Germany are gaining insight into a crisis that is often overlooked.

Malawi is considered a forgotten crisis and regularly appears in the CARE Crisis Report's Top 10 list, including in the current edition. Changing environmental conditions are hitting Malawi particularly hard. What was once an exception has become the norm: cyclones, droughts, and floods repeatedly destroy harvests and livelihoods.

Yet Malawi's people are facing these challenges and refusing to give up. They plant, sow, and apply resilient agricultural methods, shaping their own futures as they do so. CARE supports these initiatives and works alongside communities as they plant hope in the ground, day after day.

This press visit offered insights into strong local engagement during crisis situations. Read selected media reports here that tell stories of resilience and change.

5 Honduras

©CARE Honduras

Triple crisis

In Honduras, more than half of the population lives below the poverty line. Women in rural areas are particularly affected. Environmental changes are most evident in Central America's "Dry Corridor," with drought threatening the livelihoods of over a million families. Droughts leads to crop failures, rising food prices, and migration. People are leaving their villages because, despite their best efforts, they cannot make a living from agriculture.

Honduras is facing a triple crisis – extreme weather, hunger, and lack of economic opportunities for women. Poverty and structural inequality increase the risks for women and girls. In 2024, CARE Honduras conducted a rapid analysis which found that 61% of the women surveyed, compared to only 10% of men, had suffered from hunger in the previous month.

"We were expecting a good harvest this year. But then heavy rains set in and destroyed everything."
–Teresa

Teresa is a smallholder farmer and women's rights activist in Honduras. She is a member of a CARE-supported group in which 17 women and four men are working together to test new farming methods to counter the effects of extreme weather events. Teresa's village is in an arid region where irrigation techniques are important. Recently, hurricanes were followed by heavy rains that caused flooding in large parts of the country.

Teresa and her group called "Caminando juntos y juntas" ("We move forward together") grow corn, beans, sweet potatoes, and plantains on their fields. Extreme weather conditions are a challenge, but Teresa and her group are facing the problem together. "We are learning to adapt and work with the changes," says Teresa. Her group is part of the Farmer Field and Business Schools that CARE supports nationwide.

Population: **11 million**
People in need: **1.6 million**
GDP: **$39.45 billion USD**
HDI: **139 out of 193 countries**

The threat of sexual violence

Violence against women is widespread. Women not only face physical violence, but also emotional abuse, sexual assault, and lack of economic freedom. When women lose their crops, cannot find work, or have no access to land and resources, they become more financially dependent. This often exposes them to a higher risk of control, abuse, or exploitation.

In the CARE survey, women stated that they are afraid to leave their daughters alone because of the risk of sexual violence. They said that domestic violence increases during periods of drought or economic hardship.

What CARE does

In 2025, CARE Honduras and its partners reached over 160,000 people in 23 projects, with almost three-quarters of them being women. Almost 15,000 rural households living in poverty received support, which included activities to increase food production, health, WASH, and nutrition.

More than 10,000 farmers (including 8,000 women) like Teresa were part of "Farmer Field and Business Schools." This enabled them to increase their yields and strengthen their resilience to changes in the climate by adopting good agricultural practices and technologies like irrigation systems.

Additional context and data are available via the Honduras Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, the ITU DataHub country profile, and a podcast episode on Honduras.

"In Honduras, more than 1.6 million people need humanitarian assistance, yet in 2025 only around 11% of the Humanitarian Response Plan was funded. This gap leaves millions without essential services or protection, increasing their vulnerability to new crises — particularly for marginalized women and girls, including migrants, in a country where one in two women has experienced violence."

-**Maite Matheu**
Country Director, CARE Honduras

6 North Korea

Cut off from the outside world

At first glance, it seems surprising that North Korea has hardly made any headlines in 2025. The media often reports on missile tests, espionage cases, military parades, and North Korea's ongoing conflict with South Korea. But behind these political headlines lies a humanitarian crisis that is rarely covered in media.

Difficult access to food

According to United Nations estimates, nearly 11 million people in North Korea, more than 40% of the total population, are affected by malnutrition to varying degrees. Children under the age of five are particularly at risk: for them, malnutrition can have serious consequences for their physical and mental development. Almost one in five toddlers in North Korea is affected.

North Korea also experiences the impact from extreme weather conditions such as droughts, floods, and cyclones. These events weaken agricultural production, worsen soil erosion, and lead to crop failures. Strict import restrictions not only apply to additional food, but also modern machinery and drought-resistant seeds.
In addition, access to clean drinking water, medical care, and other essential goods and services is limited.

Hardly any international aid

Political and economic sanctions in response to the authoritarian regime have almost completely isolated North Korea. Although there are special provisions for humanitarian aid, the lack of information, funding gaps, and delays in implementation make aid efforts considerably more difficult.

Additional data and analysis are available via USDA Foreign Agricultural Service reporting, ACAPS, and the World Food Programme.

Population: **11 million**
People in need: **1.6 million**
GDP: **$39.45 billion USD**
HDI: **139 out of 193 countries**

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7 Angola

Drought, cholera, and unrest

Angola is a country of contrasts. Around 40 languages and dialects, a rich culture, and impressive biodiversity characterize this country in southwestern Africa. But behind this abundance lies a harsh reality. Angola is one of the largest oil producers on the African continent, yet a large part of the population lives in poverty.

In 2025, Angola was on the brink of collapse. The worst drought in decades, a nationwide cholera epidemic, and increasing social unrest shook the country. While millions of people struggled for food and water, the population's anger over rising living costs erupted on the streets.

When the rain fails

Southern Angola is impacted by extreme weather events. Recurring droughts and irregular rainfall are destroying the livelihoods of many farmers. Fields are empty and livestock have died. According to UN figures, almost 2.6 million people are dependent on humanitarian aid, including 1.3 million children. At the same time, cholera is spreading rapidly.

The invisible burden of women

Many women and girls walk for miles every day, often alone, to fetch water. This journey not only takes time but also carries risks of violence and health problems. Pregnant and breastfeeding women suffer from malnutrition and a lack of medical care. Girls often miss school to fetch water or even drop out of school altogether to contribute to the family income. This has serious consequences for their future.

Additional context on Angola is available via Germany Trade & Invest, Senckenberg Research Institute, and the UNICEF cholera situation report.

Population: **39 million**
People in need: **2.6 million**
GDP: **$115.17 billion USD**
HDI: **148 out of 193 countries**

Ines Ininahazwe/CARE International

8 Burundi

Hunger and refugee crisis

CARE has published the Crisis Report for 10 years, and Burundi has appeared on the list of crises overlooked by the global media nine times. The landlocked Great Lakes nation is facing extreme weather events, political unrest, and a massive influx of refugees. People are fleeing to Burundi from the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to escape extreme violence – in October 2025, more than 110,000 refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Burundi from DRC.

But even after fleeing they face a difficult everyday life, as Burundian communities and authorities with limited resources of their own struggle to cope with providing more than just sanctuary for their desperate neighbors.

"By working with local women's organizations, we strengthen local communities and social cohesion, to allow them to access economic incomes and opportunities as they can."
–Josée Ntabahungu
Country Director, CARE Burundi

"We can't afford two meals a day," reports Enock, who lives with his family in a refugee camp in southwestern Burundi. In total, more than 1.2 million people in the country are affected by food insecurity.

Women empower women

Women are also disadvantaged in other areas – such as inheritance law and access to credit. Agriculture, the main source of income for 85% of the population, is male-dominated. Local womRRen-led organizations are therefore extremely important. Their expertise is crucial for identifying needs and driving sustainable change.

Population: **14.4 million**
People in need: **600,400**
People facing food insecurity: **1.2 million**
GDP: **$7.03 billion USD**
HDI: **187 out of 193 countries**

Reproductive health: the key to independence

For women and girls in the country, the already dangerous situation is worsened by domestic violence, child marriage, early pregnancy, inadequate access to contraception, and the burden of housework and childcare responsibilities.

"Because of my pregnancies in quick succession, I was often ill. I couldn't work or take proper care of my children," says Chantal, a participant in a CARE-supported project on sexual and reproductive health. In Burundi, the birth rate is 4.67 children per woman. If pregnancies follow too closely together, the risk of serious health problems increases because the mother's body cannot recover sufficiently from the previous birth.

"Reproductive health plays a key role in our economic independence," reports Evelyne, a member of a savings group in Burundi. "I have three children, each born five years apart – thanks to family planning and the advice I received from CARE's partner organizations such as ABUBEF, SaCoDe, and Yezu Mwiza. This spacing allowed me to work, save, and build up my own income."

What CARE does

CARE has been working in Burundi since 1994. Together with local partner organizations, CARE is committed to providing the support needed for women and girls to be protected and to have the freedom to shape their own futures. The projects focus on strengthening women's economic participation, protecting women and girls from violence, and improving sexual and reproductive health.

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9 Zimbabwe

Drought drives rising hunger

"We were only able to harvest two buckets of sorghum. That wasn't enough. We tried to make sure we eat in the morning and evening whatever we could find after getting work in the nearby fields," explains Alice, a farmer. She and her husband can no longer afford to pay school fees for their three children.

Hardly anything grows in their garden that could support their low income because water is scarce and the soil is parched. In recent months, all 10 of the family's chickens have died. Alice and her husband are facing ruin. They work on other people's fields while their own are empty. The harvests are too uncertain, the rain too unreliable.

Unpredictable rains

Thousands of farmers in Zimbabwe are in the same situation as Alice. During the 2023 / 2024 agricultural season, the country experienced a severe drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon, which led to widespread crop failures and water shortages. As a result, 2.7 million people in rural areas are repeatedly threatened by hunger.

The uncertain food situation hits the youngest particularly hard. According to the United Nations World Food Programme, almost a quarter of children under the age of five are malnourished. In the cities, too, many suffer from scarce supplies and rising prices: 28% of the urban population is affected by food insecurity.

Population: **17 million**
People in need: **7.6 million**
GDP: **$53.31 billion USD**
HDI: **153 out of 193 countries**

Women particularly affected

In Zimbabwe, women continue to be underrepresented in paid jobs, while also doing much more unpaid work – caregiving, household chores, and production.

Compared to men, women are more likely to feel the effects of poverty and extreme weather. It is also often harder for women to access support.

Zimbabwe is also working to address the issue of violence against women and girls.

For Alice, support from local organizations, including Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ) and Padare, is critical. She and her family have received food vouchers for 750 ml of oil, 10 kg of corn flour, and 1.5 kg of beans per person—enough to get them through the most difficult months.

She hopes to be able to harvest again next season and that there will be enough rain to water her gardens.

What CARE and partners do

CARE has been active in Zimbabwe since 1992. Its work focuses on empowering women and girls, reducing inequality and poverty, and promoting food security, resilience, and rapid emergency response.

In response to drought, CARE works to improve water systems and access to water. In Zimbabwe, CARE works with local partners such as NAZ.

Together with NAZ, CARE supported around 24,800 people, including Alice and her family, in drought-affected regions with food vouchers.

Additional humanitarian context is available via the IFRC drought response overview and the WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief (September 2025).

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“Food assistance saved our lives”

For months, two small meals a day were all 35-year-old Alice Mukunga and her family had. In Zimbabwe, the time between October and March is known as the “lean season,” when food stocks run low and hunger increases.

The drought of 2023 and 2024 caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon severely affected already dry regions such as Mutare Rural in eastern Zimbabwe, where farmer Alice lives with her family.

Hardly anything grew in her garden that she could sell. Water was scarce and the soil was parched. The family lost their ten chickens. Alice and her husband worked on other people's fields while their own lay fallow. They could no longer afford to pay school fees for their three children.

With funding from the European Union and in partnership with NAZ and Padare, CARE supports communities like Alice’s. Her family received food vouchers for four months to buy staples such as oil, maize flour, and beans. CARE also provides nutrition education and guidance on crops that can grow under harsh conditions. The pressure has eased slightly — and with it, hope that the harvest will be ready when assistance ends.

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“This food assistance saved our lives. Now we pray for rain. If it rains, we can sell vegetables and afford nutritious food.”
–Alice

10 Madagascar

Extreme weather and political unrest

"In recent years, my eggplant and pepper yields have declined dramatically. The plants have dried up, rotted, or been eaten by insects," said Mama, a farmer from Madagascar. Smallholder farmers like her are the first to feel the effects of extreme weather events. They depend on their harvest for income: "I could no longer afford to pay for my children's education." Severe storms have repeatedly struck this island nation in the Indian Ocean.

Droughts, floods, cyclones

In the first half of 2025, Madagascar was hit by several severe disasters, including droughts, floods, and cyclones. Cyclones Honde and Jude struck within just two weeks of each other. Strong winds and flooding damaged schools and health facilities, destroyed farmland, and led to a shortage of clean drinking water. From late December 2024 to March 2025, more than 200,000 people were affected in the south of the country, and over 46,000 were displaced. Due to displacement and destruction, women and children are at increased risk of violence.

But it wasn't just the effects of extreme weather that shaped the year. In 2025, 4.7 million people, including 2.3 million children, were in need of humanitarian aid due to food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and political unrest. At the end of September, protests broke out in the capital Antananarivo and other locations. Shortly afterwards, the military took power.

Population: **32.7 million**
People in need: **4.7 million**
GDP: **$19.38 billion USD**
HDI: **183 out of 193 countries**

Women save together for financial independence

CARE works to support the economic independence of women in Madagascar through small savings groups. “Since I joined the savings group, my life has completely changed,” said Georlina. She is the mother of three children and chairwoman of a small savings group in a village near Mahajanga in northwestern Madagascar. “With the savings group, I was able to gradually increase my income. I am currently developing a business plan to breed Muscovy ducks. This will allow me to become financially independent.” As a leader within the group, Georlina has participated in regional exchange programs and training courses for female managers. She is also a member of a local rescue team that helps communities prepare for natural disasters and mitigate their effects.

What CARE and partners do

CARE has been working in Madagascar since 1992. In partnership with local organizations, such as SAF/FJKM and Action Intercoopération Madagascar (AIM), CARE supports communities in adapting to the impacts of the changing environment and improving the food situation. CARE provides emergency assistance to populations affected by disasters supports the construction and rehabilitation of homes and community infrastructure, and helps families resume agricultural activities and restore their livelihoods.

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Statements

Nivi Sharma

CEO, Fika (formerly Bridges to Prosperity)

"Under-reported crises are under-reported for a reason: physical isolation breeds informational isolation. The same rural communities cut off from clinics, markets, and schools are also cut off from global attention.

Breaking this cycle requires literal bridges and practical rural solutions, paired with decision-making tools that show where access can save the most lives. These efforts must be carried out in close cooperation with governments so that priorities translate into policy decisions and concrete implementation plans.

In the 21st century, we must no longer allow geography to determine who lives and who is left behind."

Gerd Müller

Director General, UNIDO

"Each year, the CARE Crisis Report reminds us how many humanitarian crises remain in the shadow of global attention: hunger and suffering following droughts and floods in the poorest countries in Africa; violence and displacement driven by conflicts that never make international headlines.

CARE fills a critical gap by making visible what would otherwise remain unseen — the fate of people in countries that often receive the least support, have contributed the least to harming the environment, yet suffer its impacts the most, and are almost entirely absent from our media coverage."

We must not forget these people."

Statements

Farai Shawn Matiashe
Journalist
Zimbabwe

“Humanitarian crises in Africa often receive little media attention internationally. Many media outlets operate under severe budgetary constraints and focus on the interests of their audience in industrialized countries. Crises that do not directly affect these countries are often considered irrelevant. Whether a crisis is reported on often depends on its international relevance and the number of people affected.

Geopolitical interests also have a significant influence on reporting: the media often reflect the priorities of powerful states. Major global conflicts such as the war in Ukraine or the conflict in the Middle East further displace African crises from the media spotlight. For journalists, lack of access, high security risks, and lack of resources are key obstacles. Traveling to crisis areas requires insurance, security escorts, and legal support in some countries or areas- requirements that many media companies cannot meet. Local media in the affected regions in particular have few resources, even though international editorial offices rely heavily on local voices.

Nevertheless, there are approaches to overcoming these structural deficits. Cross-border journalism, cooperation between local and international journalists, and targeted funding can raise the profile of neglected crises. NGOs also play an important role by providing access, contacts, and local knowledge. Young journalists in particular can generate new attention through local networking and a stronger focus on solutions.“

Statements

Ammu Kannampilly
East Africa Bureau Chief, Reuters

"I believe the work of the media — particularly global news agencies — has never been more critical. At Reuters, we prioritize being on the ground and rely on a vast network of journalists across Africa and beyond, whether covering breaking news or pursuing long-term investigations that keep a story alive well beyond the 24-hour news cycle.

Not every news organization has the resources to do this. Still, I remain hopeful that as more people recognize the value of fair and accurate journalism, they will support it through subscriptions — whether to global outlets or local ones.

The threats journalists face and the lack of access to certain locations are among the biggest challenges today. Ensuring the safety of journalists — staff and freelancers alike — as well as the protection of sources, is paramount. Balancing these concerns with the imperative to report on crises in dangerous environments remains an ongoing challenge.

Personally, I strive to balance the broader picture — the data that illustrates the scale of a crisis — with the ability to focus on individual human stories. Bringing audiences closer to the people affected helps foster connection and understanding. At its best, journalism makes the world feel smaller and more intimate, while at the same time expanding our perspective."

Statements

Aggrey Mutambo
Africa Editor, The East African

"Humanitarian crises have become almost routine in Africa. Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo dominate the headlines, but few countries south of the Sahara have been spared.

Crises are not confined to countries at war or in conflict. Hunger, drought, floods or epidemics can affect anyone. When multiple emergencies strike a single country, the results can be catastrophic. Journalists like me have reported on many of these harrowing stories: mothers fleeing violence on foot with hungry babies on their backs, executions of men and rapes of women.

Reporting on a humanitarian crisis often depends on whether access is possible. Safety comes first. In many cases, reporters do not need to be physically present, but they must have access to credible information.

In Sudan, where most journalists have fled persecution, reporting has continued thanks to close cooperation between humanitarian agencies, human rights activists and the media. In other crisis areas, authorities crack down hard on journalists and activists even in times of peace. Local media are often too afraid to portray events as humanitarian crises. Sometimes they are even prevented from doing so.

Fortunately, new technologies facilitate the exchange of credible images and information. We can now interview refugees, aid workers and even conflict protagonists remotely, and even anonymously, giving vital perspective to the story. This allows an accurate picture to emerge even from a distance.

Reporting on humanitarian issues is a public service. As journalists, it is our job to give these reports a human face."

CARE is there

For decades, CARE has worked in the majority of the countries listed in the report. In 2025, CARE reached more than 58 million people in over 121 countries through key development and response efforts. We know the crises outlined are not inevitable. They are the result of choices, priorities, and attention. When emergencies are ignored, lives are lost and futures are stolen. But when we choose to care, we change the story. Every click, every conversation, every post matters because visibility drives resources and action. It begs the question: Who cares? The answer must be all of us.

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