CARE commenced its humanitarian programme in Kenya in 1968. Since then we have built a substantial development and humanitarian programme, and currently carry out major programmes in refugee assistance, health, water and sanitation, financial inclusion, adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction, agricultural value chains and humanitarian/emergency response with an average annual budget of approximately US$ 35 million. CARE is a lead partner of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme (WFP), for water & hygiene, food distribution, and formal education in the refugee camps in Dadaab, near the Kenya-Somalia border. As of 31st March 2015, the refugee population in Dadaab was 351,446 refugees.

Our main office is in Nairobi, and our main focus areas are western Kenya, Nairobi informal settlements and northern Kenya arid and semi arid lands. We also have projects in central and rift valley counties around financial inclusion and agricultural value chains. We currently work directly in 17 Kenyan counties through our programming, with 355 staff country-wide.
Livelihoods: Our Livelihood sector exists to empower vulnerable rural communities to enhance their livelihoods through multiple approaches including food security and economic development, integrated water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), disaster risk reduction, community based climate change adaptation (CBA) and value chain/ making the markets work for the poor. This sector implements interventions that address diverse livelihood needs of different segments of the target populations. The needs range from inadequate water, hygiene and sanitation services, food insecurity and low income. In rural, remote and semi-arid regions where living conditions are deplorable and unfavorable, CARE Kenya has strived to address the underlying causes of poverty by actively involving the local communities and stakeholders to finding sustainable solutions to their own problems and needs. Relevant interventions are being rolled out to mitigate effects of drought, hunger, climate change and environmental degradation as well as enhancing disaster risk reduction. CARE’s projects focus on livelihood improvement, specifically contributing to food security through value chain and market based approaches (Kilimo Biashara project), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (MWA-KALDRR and SWASH+) and climate change adaptation and mitigation (ALP). The sector has also other new opportunities in the pipeline (Climate Smart Agriculture and WASH) that are still at design or donor negotiation level.

Refugee assistance program: Conflict in Somalia has displaced hundreds of thousands of individuals. Since 1991, CARE has provided relief and development assistance for the three refugee camps in Dadaab in addition to supporting host communities around the camps. Dadaab has a total of 5 camps in the area all under UNHCR sub office Dadaab. Our funding partners include UNHCR, WFP, ECHO, BPRM, MoFA Germany, MoFA Luxembourg, DRC and a German based private donor (RTL). Our work in the camps includes Logistics and Distribution of relief food, education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Gender and Community Development.

Financial inclusion: CARE has implemented the Group Savings and Loan (GS&L) methodology, a community managed micro finance (CMMF) scheme whose approach is to increase the economic resilience of micro entrepreneurs. Its basic principle is that members of a self-selected group form an association and save money by contributing regularly to a fund, governed by the group itself. Members save at a rate matching their capacity, thus lowering the threshold of entry for the poor. We currently implement wPower, Banking on Change (BOC II), Link Up, Advancing Pro-Poor Financial Access, Linkage and E-Recording (APPLE) and Lighting Kenya financial inclusion projects in Embu, Garissa, Homa Bay, Kisii, Kisumu, Marsabit, Migori, Nairobi, Nyamira, Siaya, Turkana and Vihiga counties.

Health, HIV and AIDS: The Chagua Maisha program, a PEPFAR funded comprehensive HIV program implemented in Kisii County and supported through the US Centers for Disease Control and prevention, aims to increase the quality, access and utilization of HIV prevention, care and treatment services at the individual, community and facility levels. The Kisumu Integrated Family Health Project aims to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, to improve maternal and child health sexual reproductive health, family planning and nutritional status of communities living within Kisumu slums, including Nyalanda, and Manyatta urban slums.

Women and Girls’ Empowerment: CARE Kenya is part of the three-year Women and Girls Lead Global project, a campaign that focuses on the power of film for social change, specifically to inspire women and girls to be empowered in community leadership. This project is funded by Independent Television Services (ITVS) USA, and is currently implemented in Nairobi, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Embu and Marsabit counties. Sponsored by Venus Williams and the Aqualia Foundation, the Girls Scholarship and Empowerment Project aims at empowering girls through scholarships paid for their high school education. Currently, we are paying for the secondary education of 4 girls in Nairobi.

Emergency: The Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Conflict affected communities in Wajir County project aims to increase accesses to clean water, sanitation and hygiene and support early recovery for 15,000 persons as well as improve nutritional status of children who are internally displaced from recent inter ethnic conflicts in Wajir County.