

**International Adapted
Corporate Emergency Declaration
in Response to the COVID-19
Pandemic and the Resulting Global
Socio-Economic Crisis**



On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global health emergency. As of 17 March 2020, WHO reports 191,127 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 7,807 deaths in more than 140 countries. Numbers are expected to continue rising exponentially in the coming days, weeks and months. There is an immediate need to act to save lives while considering long-term consequences for the world's poorest and most marginalized women, men and boys.

Earlier today, the National Directors' Committee declared an **Adapted Corporate Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting global socio-economic crisis** for a time-bound period of six months (which will be reviewed in three months). This "adapted" corporate emergency declaration is required as CARE's existing protocols were established for humanitarian crises and are not fully applicable to COVID-19. It is further recognized that this is uncharted territory for all and we will need to continue to adapt as the situation unfolds.

The Adapted Corporate Emergency Declaration results from an understanding that:

- COVID-19 is not business as usual anywhere – the declaration of a pandemic from WHO means that all parts of CARE need to continue to shift, adapt and prioritize a strong and coordinated approach to addressing COVID-19 now and into an uncertain future.
- COVID-19 requires all of CARE to shift priorities and move rapidly from planning to action.
- Global solidarity and support to each and every part of CARE is needed as this situation unfolds.
- Deliberate efforts need to be taken to collaborate with others.
- Staff welfare and safety and security is a key priority.
- COVID-19 is not solely a humanitarian issue; it affects every part of CARE's work and every one of our team members.
- COVID-19 is placing a disproportionate burden of care on women and girls.

The expectations of the adapted corporate emergency declaration include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring that all parts of CARE prioritize developing and adapting programs to respond to COVID-19 in specific contexts, as well as globally.
- Making sure that all parts of CARE provide regular situational reports.
- Ensuring adequate staff time is made available to support the wider CARE (e.g. seconding key capacities to global coordination efforts).
- Allowing an adapted use of the CI-Emergency Response Fund (ERF) to support high and very high-risk countries.
- Committing to a coordinated approach to allocation of appeal and public funds.
- Prioritizing fundraising for program priorities as appropriate for the context; working with donors to advocate for flexibility of use of funds in all existing contracts as relevant.
- Ensuring attention remains on existing humanitarian crises – the most vulnerable people that we are supporting that will also be affected by COVID-19 – which will require increasing and sustained attention.

To provide strategic leadership, the National Directors' Committee agreed to set up a **COVID-19 sub-committee**, composed of Philippe Leveque (CARE France), Michelle Nunn (CARE USA), Promboon Panitchpakdi (Raks Thai) and Sofia Sprechmann (CI Secretariat). A Global Task Team has been established to ensure coordination of preparedness, response and communications on the COVID-19 outbreak and provide global guidance across the Membership (Terms of Reference attached). The Task Team is chaired by Sally Austin (CARE Emergency Group).

