



# Women at the Forefront

### CHALLENGE:

Women suffer in the background.

As African women become more educated, they provide their households with superior nutrition, stronger food security and increased access to health care. But Sub-Saharan women constitute only 15% of the region's landholders, and they face disproportionate challenges ranging from domestic violence and sexual exploitation to illiteracy and disease.

### AFRICARE'S SOLUTION:

Women can be leaders.

#### Leadership:

Africare always encourages women to participate in stakeholder committees and to assume leadership positions within their communities. They are mentored by other successful women and receive Africare-vetted leadership coaching to ensure that African women speak out and that they are heard.

#### Influence:

Ninety-five percent of Africare field staff is African. Our expertise in local cultures allows us to effectively and sustainably influence gender norms.

#### Empowerment:

Africare urges women to set challenging goals for themselves, and our projects have provided literacy training, business training, labor-saving equipment, organizational mobilization, financing and market access to help women achieve their goals.

#### Initiative for the Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs (IEEWEP):

In its first three years, Africare's IEEWEP project reached more than 1,600 women in Southern Chad, increasing household incomes by 60%, and these women now possess skills to continue improving their lives and their communities. In 2013, Africare partnered with Shea Touch®, a Texas-based and Chadian-owned personal product brand, to contract IEEWEP women to produce key ingredients for the cosmetic products Shea Touch® sells world-wide, creating an opportunity for IEEWEP beneficiaries to shatter the \$2 per day income ceiling typical for women in the region.



Photo: Jake Lyeil

### OUR CORE COMPETENCIES

-  Agriculture & Food Security
-  Health, HIV & AIDS
-  Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
-  Women's Empowerment
-  Resettlement



Improving lives, Building futures



## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



# 190,499kg

of produce raised by women farmers in the Logone Oriental region of Doba, Chad, yielding a surplus that generated **over \$1,300** in income at local markets.

### About Africare

Africare, the largest and most experienced international non-governmental organization (NGO) focused exclusively on Africa, is committed to improving lives and building futures. In more than 40 years of partnering with local communities, NGOs, governments and the private sector, Africare has invested over \$1 billion through thousands of projects in more than 35 African countries.

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"A woman has the same value as a man."

-Halime Outman  
Africare Beneficiary, Chad  
(Not pictured)



Photo: Alexandra Seegers

"Africare has led the way in improving the lives of generations of Africans."

-Melinda Gates  
Co-Founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

