



Hogan  
Lovells

#SHEis

Our Global Advocacy  
Partnership with  
CARE International

2017



# #SHEis

Gender-based violence (GBV) is widely recognized as one of the greatest obstacles to achieving gender equality, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development. Gender Equality is enshrined as its own Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), Goal 5: Gender Equality, and women's empowerment in the home and workplace can add US\$12 trillion to the global economy.

According to the World Health Organization, one in three women will face violence in their lifetime, usually at the hands of a male partner or family member. That's a big problem. Through our partnership with CARE International, we aimed to change that.

CARE is a global NGO with expertise in gender that champions women's rights both on the ground and to global leaders. Hogan Lovells is a signatory to the UN Women's Empowerment Principles and committed to empower, protect, and advance the rights of girls and women globally through our Empowering Girls and Women Initiative. Together we sought to amplify the voices of women working in grassroots organizations to uphold their rights and enable the prevention of gender-based violence through our global advocacy project, #SHEis.

Through **#SHEis** we sought to empower local women's organizations to speak out against gender-based violence, contribute to the design and implementation of GBV prevention strategies, and become gender and humanitarian champions in their local communities. We also shared their stories on the global stage so the world would know that **#SHEisEmpowered**, **#SHEisHeard**, and **#SHEisaHumanitarian**.



'The empowerment and advancement of girls and women is a global issue with significantly positive economic and social benefits. As a global business, we saw an opportunity to make a difference. We partnered with CARE to realize our shared commitment of addressing gender-based violence, empowering grassroots women's associations, and achieving gender equality. There is still a long road ahead, but we are proud of the impact we made on the lives of girls and women through our partnership.'

*Nicholas Cheffings, Chair, Hogan Lovells*

# 1 in 3 women will face violence in their lifetime

Our partnership contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals.



## #SHEisEmpowered

Women's empowerment and equality is central to the continued growth of the global economy. At an estimated value of US\$12 trillion, the effects of empowering women to contribute as community leaders, workers, and citizens have positive outcomes.

Through our partnership, we aimed to empower women to become change agents in their own communities. In Afghanistan, we supported CARE's work with local grassroots women's organizations like the Afghan Women's Network and the Widows of Afghanistan for Advocacy Association (WAFAA).

One woman who has learned about her rights and now advocates for other women in her community is Bibi Gul, a 47 year old widow with nine children. She started out as a beneficiary of CARE's Humanitarian Assistance for Women of Afghanistan (HAWA) program and thereafter became a member of WAFAA. She is the only woman who participates in the elders' council and spends her time resolving domestic conflicts.

In one recent example, Bibi helped a married couple who were living with the parents of the husband. The parents insisted that he should beat his wife and they threw her out of the home. Bibi was invited to mediate and with the support of the community elders, the couple agreed that having their own home alone together would help. The couple's parents consented and signed a declaration of acceptance that was signed by witnesses. The couple are now living happily with their new son.

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Whenever I find violence within the households, I try to solve it by mediation and making both sides aware of their rights and responsibilities which I learnt from the WAFAA sessions.

*Bibi Gul, Community Support Worker, Widows of Afghanistan for Advocacy Association*

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Advancing women's equality  
can add US\$12tn to  
global growth







## #SHEisHeard

Maryam Bibi is not your typical activist. As Chief Executive of Khwendo Kor, a grassroots women's organization working across South Asia, Maryam strives to make her voice heard to support girls and women in their own communities in the wake of disasters.

We helped to take her voice to the global stage. During our partnership, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit which sought to alleviate humanitarian suffering and reduce risk and vulnerability. We took this opportunity to help Maryam attend the summit so that she could share her recommendations on including women's voices in the creation of new policies that aim to protect women.

To ensure that gender was placed at the heart of the WHS outcomes, CARE worked with 20+ women's organizations, including Khwendo Kor, and peer international NGOs to develop

a joint statement to galvanize support. This joint statement and Maryam's voice ensured that gender was central to WHS outcomes, with the Summit's five Core Commitments featuring agreements to support local women's groups as humanitarian actors, ensure universal access to reproductive health, and prevent GBV in crises.

We also hosted a high-level roundtable with the UN, Government, and business to discuss the private sector's contribution to women's resilience in crisis affected countries.

'In my experience, I found that when all the decision-makers on disaster preparedness are men, they consistently focus investments on infrastructure like roads, bridges and so on. If distribution plans are undertaken mostly by men, without consultation with women, then we will fail to meet women's needs. So we need to agree minimum standards for addressing gender - including GBV prevention between all the main stakeholders. The WHS commitments need to help shift things with institutions so that in the future women can better access assistance and protection in their time of need.'

*Maryam Bibi, CEO, Khwendo Khor*

# WHS Core Commitments on Gender



1

Empower Women and Girls to act as change agents and leaders

2

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings

3

Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts

4

Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive

5

Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks, and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights

THE SU

TRANCE  
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WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT





## #SHEisaHumanitarian

Girls and women often suffer most when disaster strikes. The risk of hunger, thirst, and violence increases, while access to reproductive health services and women-friendly spaces decreases. But women are resilient. They are often the first responders to disasters within their own communities and organize community action to provide relief efforts. They are humanitarians.

Following the successful integration of gender into the WHS Core Commitments, we supported the publication of a global policy report, *She is a humanitarian*, drawing on research in Jordan and the Philippines to identify recommendations on implementation of the Core Commitments. It argues that efforts to protect and assist people affected by disasters and conflicts will be more effective if women can contribute.

In Afghanistan, we supported an in-depth study on women's empowerment and GBV in humanitarian policy and practice that aimed to outline recommendations for putting women and girls at the center of emergency relief efforts. The report

identified key recommendations for the Afghan government, Afghan NGO community, and international NGO community to take forward to better address gender and GBV in emergencies, which will ensure that girls and women are protected and resilient when disaster strikes. The report is now also informing the design of a pilot project to support women and girls displaced by drought and conflict from the countryside, as well as forcibly returned refugees, in Kabul.





## Ghezal's story

Women displaced from the countryside to cities by conflict in Afghanistan are amongst the most isolated and vulnerable. In July 2017 one of CARE's Gender Advisors met a woman (Ghezal\* 35 years old) who had been displaced from Sangeen district of Helmand province and was now living in a camp for internally displaced people (IDP) in Kabul city.

When they reached Kabul they couldn't find anywhere to stay; local people not only rejected them because they were IDPs, they also made assumptions that they are relatives of armed opposition fighters. After a long struggle they eventually found a place to stay here in the camp. Ghezal said: *"As we had lost everything in the conflict, my brother sold his 10 year old daughter for 100,000 Pakistani rupees (£780). Later on we heard that the girl was facing violence in the home she had been sold into. She was too young and the family who bought her had expected her to be an experienced woman. My niece struggled with the daily house work and she was punished with physical violence as a result."*

Ghezal's father went to negotiate the child's return, but so far, the other family has refused to give her up. *"If we knew how to bring my niece's case to the relevant government authorities, perhaps this could help..."* There are almost no basic facilities in the IDP camps - no clean water, health facilities or toilets, Ghezal added, *"Even though we've lost everything, we should have the right to live in dignity."* Ghezal continued: *"Fortunately, despite of all our problems, my daughter Farah\*, 12 is going to school and now she is in 6th grade. Farah said "I help my classmates*

*with in their lessons and my only wish is to continue and finish my studies."*

In the words of a CARE Afghanistan advisor, Hasina: *"Ghezal's story is a shocking reminder of how grim the situation is for many IDP families as well as of the specific risks that women and girls face. If the Sustainable Development Goals on issues like poverty, education and ending gender-based violence are ever going to be reached, then we need to invest in support to women and girls like Ghezal."*

*We look forward to using the findings from our research sponsored by Hogan Lovells with women's solidarity groups to inform the efforts of aid agencies and local institutions on the ground in Afghanistan. But we also need to bring these stories and recommendations to the attention of the international community. Commitments were made at the World Humanitarian Summit to better protect and empower women in times of crisis. Now we need to see these translated into action. Our pilot in Afghanistan needs to be one part of a broader and longer-term effort."*

## Over 75% of those in need of humanitarian assistance are women and children

\*Names have been changed in order to protect identities



'The partnership between CARE and Hogan Lovells has bridged philanthropy. This strategic grant has supported efforts to ensure women's empowerment is reflected in humanitarian relief response – and with great success. We were also delighted to get Hogan Lovells support in convening business, government, the UN and aid agencies to discuss how the private sector can work with these other players in a time of crisis – a relatively new and essential topic of discussion.'

Howard Mollett, Senior Policy Advisor, CARE

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