CARE is a leading international humanitarian agency delivering emergency relief and long-term international development projects. Founded in 1945, CARE is nonsectarian, impartial, and non-governmental. In 2016, CARE worked in 94 countries supporting 962 poverty-fighting and humanitarian aid projects, and reaching over 80 million people and 256 million people indirectly. In the Philippines, CARE has worked since 1949 and is known for its disaster response, emergency preparedness, livelihoods recovery, and integrated risk management programs. Gender equality and social inclusion are cross-cutting themes that are central to CARE’s emergency and development programming.

**Women Lead in Emergencies** is a 9-month action research that will pilot a 5-element model built on the objective of women being able to influence decisions about their lives. Women’s voice saves lives and increases gender equality. When women’s voices are not heard, women’s rights and needs are often not adequately met, and emergency response can reinforce gender inequality. Women’s equal voice, leadership, and participation challenges and transforms the root causes of poverty and injustice. Globally, it is part of a larger Women Lead in Emergencies initiative present in Colombia, Tonga, Uganda, and Niger.

To engage more than **500 women leaders and 2,000 individuals** through community-based women’s groups and collectives in 8 months, we will work with local DRR organisations Leyte Center for Development and Agri-Aqua Development Coalition—Mindanao and continue to develop relationships with local women’s rights networks Pambansang Kongreso ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK) and Women in Emergencies Network.

**Five Elements of Women Lead**

- **Staff, partners, and women reflect on women’s voices, leadership, and representation**
- **Structured action learning to reflect on what is happening and adapt accordingly**
- **CARE funds and supports women’s empowerment strategies and activities**
- **Participatory analysis of gender, power, and public decision-making**
- **CARE & partners facilitate women to identify strategies to change barriers to their public voice and participation**
Women Lead in the Philippines

Philippines: Increasing the Resilience to Natural Hazards (INCREASE) aims to increase the resilience of 45,000 women and men small-scale farmers and fishers, including 720 extreme poor female-headed households, to natural hazards and the effects of climate change.

A key element is the deliberate engagement of women of female-headed households in barangay-level DRRM action plans, livelihood risk assessments, and scenario planning workshops. To facilitate this participation, existing socio-civic collectives and women’s livelihood associations will be tapped. These are the same local groups Women Lead will co-create with to strengthen individual, household, and community resilience.

Areas: Northern Samar and Surigao del Sur

The NCD-LOVE Project aims to improve the health conditions of people living with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity by providing regular health consultations, medicines, and avenues to advocate for a healthy lifestyle.

Women lead will connect with the 36 women’s clubs organized by the NCD Team (originally formed to lead and monitor health activities) to facilitate participatory power analyses and amplify women’s voice within the Marawi crisis context and Muslim Maranao culture.

Area: Marawi City, Lanao del Sur

The Pambansang Kongreso ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK) is a national coalition of around 300 rural women organizations in 32 provinces in the Philippines. PKKK works for the empowerment of rural women and the creation of an enabling policy environment for the fulfillment and protection of rural women’s rights.

Women Lead’s model is a natural fit for PKKK’s and WENet’s strategy and advocacy. PKKK brings extensive experience in local women’s organising to WLIE, are keen to further enhance and adapt RGA power and the women-led co-creation model across their programming.

Area: Camarines Sur, Biliran, and Maguindanao

Six Principles of Women Lead

- Women acting with women
- Women decide
- Do no harm
- Meet women where they are
- Increase quality and not just quantity of participation
- Transform unequal power and decision-making structures

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