



CARE's Advocacy and Impact in the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill

Shaping the Future of Food Aid for Global Impact

As food security crises grow more frequent and severe worldwide, CARE pushed for key changes to the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill to improve Food for Peace Title II, the U.S. government's biggest international food aid program. Their efforts focused on creating long-term systems change by ending inefficient practices like monetization. This shift aimed to make food aid more effective, efficient, and tailored to community needs.

CARE played a pivotal role in reshaping food aid under the 2018 Farm Bill by supporting significant policy changes that addressed inefficiencies and inequities in global food assistance. CARE's advocacy drove two major reforms:

Eliminating Mandatory Monetization

Monetization, the practice of selling U.S. food commodities in foreign markets to fund development programs in those countries, often disrupts local markets and harms farmers. CARE's efforts ensured NGOs are no longer forced to monetize aid in Food for Peace to fund development programs called Resilience Food Security Activities (RFSAs), allowing resources to be used more effectively.

Securing Consistent Community Development Funds (CDF):

CARE advocated for making CDF a reliable funding source for non-food costs in Food for Peace RFSAs, eliminating annual approval hurdles. This change increased the flexibility and sustainability of programs designed to build resilience in vulnerable communities.

Real Results in Global Communities

The independent assessment of CARE's advocacy indicates that CARE contributed to passing specific provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill that enhanced the effectiveness and efficiency of Food for Peace, meaning the reforms CARE championed have had tangible effects on the ground. Here's how the changes affected two countries:



Bangladesh

More than **2.43 million people** participated in RFSAs, with funding levels reaching \$51.89 million between 2019 and 2023.

Malawi

More than **1.29 million people** participated in RFSAs backed by \$72 million in funding during the same period

Behind the Success: CARE's Advocacy Strategy

CARE's approach to influencing the 2018 Farm Bill was strategic and collaborative. Key actions included:

- **Building Coalitions:** CARE's leadership brought new voices to the table and created a united front for impactful change. CARE worked with NGO coalitions and faith-based organizations to amplify their collective voice and align advocacy goals.
- **Leveraging Expertise:** Field insights and strong data made CARE a trusted thought leader, helping policymakers see the value of reforms.
- **Targeted Lobbying:** CARE engaged directly with Members of Congress to highlight the inefficiencies of monetization and the need for stable CDF funding.

A Path Forward

However, challenges remain:

- Shifting political landscapes could threaten the progress made, including attempts to reinstate higher levels of in-kind food aid in Food for Peace.
- Continued collaboration with NGO coalitions and Congressional stakeholders will be crucial for defending and expanding reforms in future Farm Bills.

CARE's advocacy in the 2018 Farm Bill highlights the transformative power of strategic partnerships, credible evidence, and a steadfast commitment to systemic change in tackling global food insecurity. By championing smart policy reforms, CARE's advocacy contributed to empowered communities, safeguarded local markets, and enhanced the effectiveness of global food aid. Their efforts ensure that aid serves as a tool for resilience and growth, working with communities rather than disrupting them.



Mohammad Hasan Zobayer/CARE



[Read the Full Report on CARE Evaluations](#)

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"CARE's strong relationships with Members of Congress and their staff allowed them to push the agenda forward and ensure these issues received attention."

- Former Congressional staffer

"CARE served as a co-chair of the InterAction coalition for a while, which allowed them to play a central role in guiding the broader community on how to respond to food security policies emerging from the administration and Congress." – NGO Staffer