1. CARE International is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working across humanitarian assistance and protection, recovery and development programmes in over 80 countries, with a focus on women’s empowerment and gender equality. CARE’s response to the Syrian crisis has reached more than 356,000 beneficiaries in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. New programmes are also starting in Yemen. In neighbouring countries, CARE has focused on support to host communities and non-camp refugees dispersed in urban and rural settings, with particular emphasis on cash, water and sanitisation, shelter and food assistance. Inside Syria, CARE supports local Syrian partner organisations working in some of the most conflict-affected parts of the country.

2. Priority recommendations:

   **Humanitarian access**
   
   I. CARE calls on all parties to the conflict to end the violence against civilians and open-up access for humanitarian aid.
   
   II. Donor funding and relations with institutions affiliated with the parties to the conflict should be reviewed to preserve and broaden humanitarian space, as well as enable the impartiality of NGOs delivering humanitarian assistance.

   **Empowering affected populations and local civil society**
   
   III. Independent Syrian activists and civil society, including women’s groups, should be given greater recognition and support, both in terms of donor funding and policy engagement.
   
   IV. Increased donor support should be provided to host governments to cope with the development impacts of the crisis. Implementation of the ‘National Resilience Plan’ in Jordan (NRP) and ‘Roadmap for priority interventions for stabilisation from the Syrian crisis’ in Lebanon should strengthen the participation of civil society and municipal institutions. Funding for these plans, such as the Lebanon multi-donor trust fund, could also benefit from NGO participation in their advisory committees.
   
   V. Engaging the Arab Network on Social Accountability on the NRP and Roadmap could help with promoting a community-based approach and accountability in their implementation.
   
   VI. Aid targeting, implementation and monitoring needs to more systematically address specific vulnerabilities of affected populations, especially related to gender, age and nationality.

   **Promoting longer-term approaches to the crisis response**
   
   VII. Options to support the coping strategies of the Syrian refugees, including livelihoods, training, education and psycho-social programmes should be supported; alongside programmes to address host community concerns regarding the impact of refugees on their labour market and economy.
   
   VIII. Social protection approaches, such as emergency cash transfers, for both host and refugee communities should be targeted to the most vulnerable, harmonised and scaled-up.
   
   IX. Shelter efforts should shift from a focus on winterisation and short-term accommodation to longer-term issues of housing, property and land rights.

   **Aid coordination**
   
   X. UNHCR coordination and partnership with OCHA and others should build on approaches outlined in the new UNHCR Refugee Coordination Model policy.
   
   XI. Design of the OCHA-led Comprehensive Regional Strategy should be based on effective consultation with NGO technical specialists at country, regional and global levels.
   
   XII. UN agency relations with NGOs could be strengthened by implementing the global ‘principles of partnership’ for UN-NGO engagement agreed in 2007.