



Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.

Founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, The Carter Center advances peace and health worldwide. A nongovernmental organization, the Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 70 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; improving mental health care; and teaching farmers to increase crop production.

Peace Programs

The Carter Center seeks practical ways to help countries striving to overcome legacies of oppression and deadly conflict to build more just societies.

Strengthening Democracy

The Center works to develop inclusive democratic societies that empower their citizens. Known as a pioneer in the field



“People everywhere share the dream of a world without violence, disease, poverty, and injustice. For more than 25 years, The Carter Center has spread hope by taking action in partnership with others to overcome these challenges. Our staff helps others by offering them the tools and knowledge they need to improve their own lives. Progress can be seen in the faces of forgotten peoples who have found new hope by casting their first vote, ridding their villages of debilitating diseases, or laying down arms for the prospect of peace. Underlying all of our work is our belief in the basic human rights to live in peace, free from oppression, and with adequate food, shelter, health care, and economic opportunity.”

Rosalynn Carter

Jimmy Carter



President and Mrs. Carter visit with children suffering from the disease schistosomiasis during a visit to Nigeria.

of election observation, The Carter Center monitors elections in countries with emerging democracies. The presence of impartial election observers can deter interference or fraud in the voting and ballot counting process and reassure voters that they can safely and secretly cast their ballots. In addition to observing specific elections, the Center also is helping to

develop international standards for democratic elections.

A free election does not create an instant democracy, however, and The Carter Center is committed to helping countries deepen democratic principles throughout society. Projects aim to thwart corruption by increasing governmental transparency and to decrease social



Far left: A man casts his vote in Nepal’s first democratic elections. The Carter Center has been an impartial observer of more than 81 elections since 1989.

Left: In Southern Sudan, a young goat herder prepares to drink water through a filtration pipe, which will help protect him against Guinea worm disease. The Carter Center has led a 20-year campaign to eradicate the debilitating disease.



Top: The Carter Center has been working to build a foundation for democracy in China since 1988 by advising on local elections practices and freedom of information.



Bottom: In the Chicacao area of Guatemala, a child takes a dose of the medication Mectizan to prevent the parasitic disease river blindness. The Carter Center aims to eliminate the disease from Latin America, where it is still found in remote pockets of four countries.

inequities. The Center has a special focus on building stronger democracies in the Western Hemisphere and advising on local elections practices and freedom of information in China.

Advancing Human Rights

The Center undertakes a range of activities to promote and protect human rights around the world, including supporting human rights activists who are persecuted and providing a platform for them to speak about their countries' human rights struggles. The Center also supports strengthening international human rights systems by helping to push for reforms at the United Nations aimed at better fact-finding and reporting on violations, wherever they occur.

Preventing and Mediating Conflicts

War and civil strife continue to be the most significant impediments to sustainable development and basic human rights. The Carter Center works to prevent and resolve armed conflict and lay the foundation for long-term peace.



Emmanuel Kwenah, leader of the Bong Youth Association, greets villagers in rural Liberia. The Carter Center has partnered with the community-based organization to educate Liberians about the rule of law.

The Center monitors many of the world's armed conflicts to better understand their histories, the primary actors involved, disputed issues, and efforts being made to resolve them. Even after a peace agreement has been brokered, the Center often must stay engaged for years to strengthen foundations for lasting peace.

Health Programs

The Carter Center has alleviated the suffering of millions of people from illnesses often ignored by others, many of which are entirely preventable. The Center focuses primarily on preventing the spread of neglected diseases and eradicating them where possible. Community health workers trained by Carter Center experts show people how they can take steps to improve their own health and transform their lives.

Preventing and Controlling Disease

The Center spearheads the international campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease, a painful and debilitating condition caused by a parasite. Since 1986, the Center and its partners have helped reduce the number of worldwide cases of the disease more than 99.9 percent.

In addition to Guinea worm disease, the Center is working to halt five other diseases: river blindness, trachoma, malaria, schistosomiasis, and lymphatic filariasis.

To provide the necessary treatment and prevention measures for these diseases, the Center works in direct partnership with the governments of countries in Africa and Latin America, thus ensuring program sustainability. Although treatments vary, health education is part of all the Center's efforts.

Helping Communities Help Themselves

In its health work, the Center aims to help communities become self-sufficient and take care of themselves. To address a

need for rural health care in Ethiopia, the Center helped the Ethiopian government create a program to significantly increase the number of health care workers and improve academic training for them. This model is being adapted by other African countries with a shortage of trained health care workers.

Similarly, The Carter Center has shared agricultural techniques that have helped more than 8 million small-scale farmers in 15 African nations double or triple grain production. These farmers are now better able to meet the nutritional needs of their communities.

Reducing the Stigma of Mental Health

Under the guidance of Mrs. Carter, The Carter Center strives to improve public policy affecting those with mental illnesses. Two annual forums bring mental health professionals together to discuss pressing topics in the field and brainstorm possible solutions. In addition, the Center sponsors fellowships for journalists in the United States and abroad to write or produce works on mental health issues.

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CARTER CENTER



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