



## Program Overview

### Pathways to Empowerment: Increasing Food Security for 50,000 Women Farmers

**OVERVIEW** With the generous support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CARE's Pathways Program is based on the conviction that women farmers possess enormous potential to contribute to long-term food security for their families and substantially impact nutritional outcomes in sustainable ways. Pathways works in six countries (Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, and Mali) to increase food and nutrition security for 50,000 women farmers, their families, and their communities.

#### Impact So Far

Pathways has directly worked with 49,000 women farmers through more than 3,600 community groups. Using improved agricultural methods, Farmers' Field and Business Schools ([www.care.org/ffbs](http://www.care.org/ffbs)), marketing techniques, and lessons on nutrition and gender equality, CARE and the communities we work with have been able to have a huge impact. Since the program began, Pathways has:

- Advocated for women to get access to 9,296 acres of land for production (that's half the size of Manhattan)
- Increased yields up to 200% on fields and crops, for an additional 537,498 tons of food grown in these communities
- Generated more than \$7.3 million in revenue for female farmers and businesses
- Gotten 70-90% of women farmers to adopt improved agricultural techniques
- Mobilized more than \$15 million in savings and nearly \$2 million in loans through VSLAs
- Tripled women's access to information and extension services around farming practices

Perhaps most importantly, Pathways has promoted more equal relationships and decision-making at home. In all of the project areas, women and men are telling us stories of how they now work together to increase income and food and nutrition security.

**“This is the first time my husband has given me land to farm my own crops. Over the years any time I asked for land he would tell me that the land is not even enough for him to share with me .... So I thank you people for changing the minds of our husbands.” -Pathways Participant**



## Impacts on gender equality

We're seeing big impacts for women and men in communities on gender equality. Women in leadership positions has increased by 20-60%, depending on the country. In Malawi, 66% of men and women in now work together for agricultural decisions. In Ghana, 67% of men are allocating land to their wives for farming,.

## Goals

Pathways' goal is to increase the productivity and empowerment of women farmers in more equitable agriculture systems at scale. Specific objectives include increasing the productivity and empowerment of 50,000 poor women farmers in sustainable and equitable agricultural systems; enhancing the scale of high-quality women-responsive agricultural programming within and beyond CARE; and influencing debates and policy dialog on women and agriculture at local, national and global levels. The program design is guided by a consistent Theory of Change derived from in-depth analysis of barriers facing women farmers in the six Pathways countries and beyond.

## How We Get There

CARE's Pathways program is using several innovative approaches to achieve our results. A couple of our

innovations at work are:

- **Focusing on Gender Equality**--we know that the face of hunger is largely female, and promoting equality helps reduce food insecurity. We use our women's empowerment framework to guide our interventions to make sure we are building equality by looking at agency, structures, and relations.
- Our **Theory of Change** focuses on 5 "change levers" to help women reach more secure livelihoods: capacity, access, productivity, household influence, and the enabling environment.
- **Farmers' Field and Business Schools**--an experiential learning approach that puts farmers at the center of learning, and includes sessions on nutrition, marketing, and gender equality in addition to agricultural practices.
- **Push Pull Approaches**--a model that aims to graduate people out of poverty by building their skills and assets, and connecting them to markets.
- **Participatory Performance Tracker**--a tool that lets communities assess the changes that have happened and decide what steps we need to take next.
- **Engaging Men and Boys**--a framework that helps men and women think about how more equal relationships helps everyone accomplish more.

Want to learn more? Check out the information at [www.care.org/pathways](http://www.care.org/pathways)



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