



Pathways to Resilient Livelihoods

About Pathways to Resilient Livelihoods

Working with more than 25,000 people in 3 countries, the Pathways to Resilient Livelihoods component of CARE's broader Pathways program (see www.care.org/pathways) focuses on bringing climate-resilient agriculture, planning, and household coping strategies to all of our work in food security by assessing, piloting, and spreading appropriate climate information and techniques through the Farmers' Field and Business Schools (see www.care.org/ffbs). This research and learning program is helping us build a platform of good climate-resilient practices that can scale up through CARE's extensive networks of food security programs and tools.

OBJECTIVE

Pathways to Secure and Resilient Livelihoods seeks to build the capacities of communities in Ghana, Bangladesh, and Malawi to bring lasting changes in their livelihoods and build resilience). This will be accomplished through three main outcome areas:

1. Increasing the productive and equitable engagement of poor women in climate resilient agriculture and contributing to their empowerment and resilience;
2. Enhancing the scale of high-quality women-responsive climate-smart agriculture programming in CARE; and
3. Contributing to the global discourse that surrounds women's empowerment in agriculture and climate change. Double-click grey boxes to insert photos. Make sure images are cropped in a visually-pleasing manner.

CONTEXT

Local communities are well aware that their climate is changing, and are eager to understand future risks and plan sustainable strategies. In Ghana and Malawi, poor farmers who depend on a single increasingly erratic rainy season typically produce enough grain to meet five to eight months' of their households' annual requirements (less in bad years).

In Ghana and Bangladesh almost every year floods submerge large areas of farmland, washing away food crops, crumbling homes, driving up food prices, and leaving the poor hungry and destitute.

Program Name:

Pathways to Resilient Livelihoods

Program Countries:

Bangladesh, Ghana, and Malawi

Timeframe:

December, 2014 – November, 2016

Beneficiaries:

- Reached **25,620 people** in 166 communities.
- Supported **11,910 farmers, 92% of whom are women**, to adopt climate-resilient agriculture techniques.
- Trained **704 lead farmers** and extension agents, 79% women in climate-resilient techniques to guarantee women farmers' access to information and techniques.
- Mobilized **\$53,714 in additional sales and savings** through producer groups, increased yield, and VSLA groups.



More Beneficiaries:

- Worked through **692 Village Savings and Loan and Producer groups** to reinforce communities' ability to take action.
- Conducted **gender dialogues with 7,466 people** to discuss women's equality in the home and in the marketplace.
- Built **190 demonstration plots** to help communities test-drive and adopt new, climate-resilient techniques.



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“I have earned about Tk 1,650 (\$20.6) so far, and think I can earn Tk 4,000 (\$ 50) in a year. I exchange vegetables with my neighbors to ensure dietary diversity for our families, and now I can provide nutritious vegetables to feed my family “ Jesmin, project participant

Women face further challenges, as they have less access to coping strategies, information, and climate-resilient techniques than men do. So it is important that community-based responses be inclusive and equitable, taking fully into account the skills, needs, and capacities of the most marginalized—especially women farmers.

STRATEGY

CARE's experience with Community Based Adaptation (CBA) shows that for every dollar governments invest in communities planning for climate resilience, they see a return of between \$3 and \$4. Similarly, our work with women farmers in the Pathways project demonstrates that focusing on the needs of women through Farmers' Field and Business Schools can triple women's access to extension and information, allow women to earn more than \$7.2 million in 6 countries, mobilize nearly 9,000 additional acres of land for women, and dramatically increase women's decision-making in the home. Pathways to Resilient Livelihoods brings together these two proven techniques to meet communities' needs for climate resilient food and nutrition security.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Pathways to Resilient Livelihoods focuses on working with men and women together to overcome the barriers that women face to getting support in adopting new agricultural practices, in access to information, and the ability to play a part in critical decisions. Key strategies involve gender dialogues where men,



women, and community leaders come together to discuss challenges, and how existing social norms are preventing progress. After one year of programming, evidence indicates that 44.4 percent of men in Ghana are now making joint decisions with their wives on site selection and varieties of crop for their family farms. The same report shows that 66.7 percent of men are also allocating productive land to their wives for their own personal farming. In Bangladesh, more than 14,000 people participated in gender dialogues to explore these issues.

The program conducts Community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments, which look specifically at the additional challenges women have in situations of climate shocks and vulnerability, and helps women, men, and governments develop plans to overcome this. Dozens of community action plans have been identified and communities are starting work to take climate adaptive behaviors, such as planting trees, constructing flood breaks, and using climate information.

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