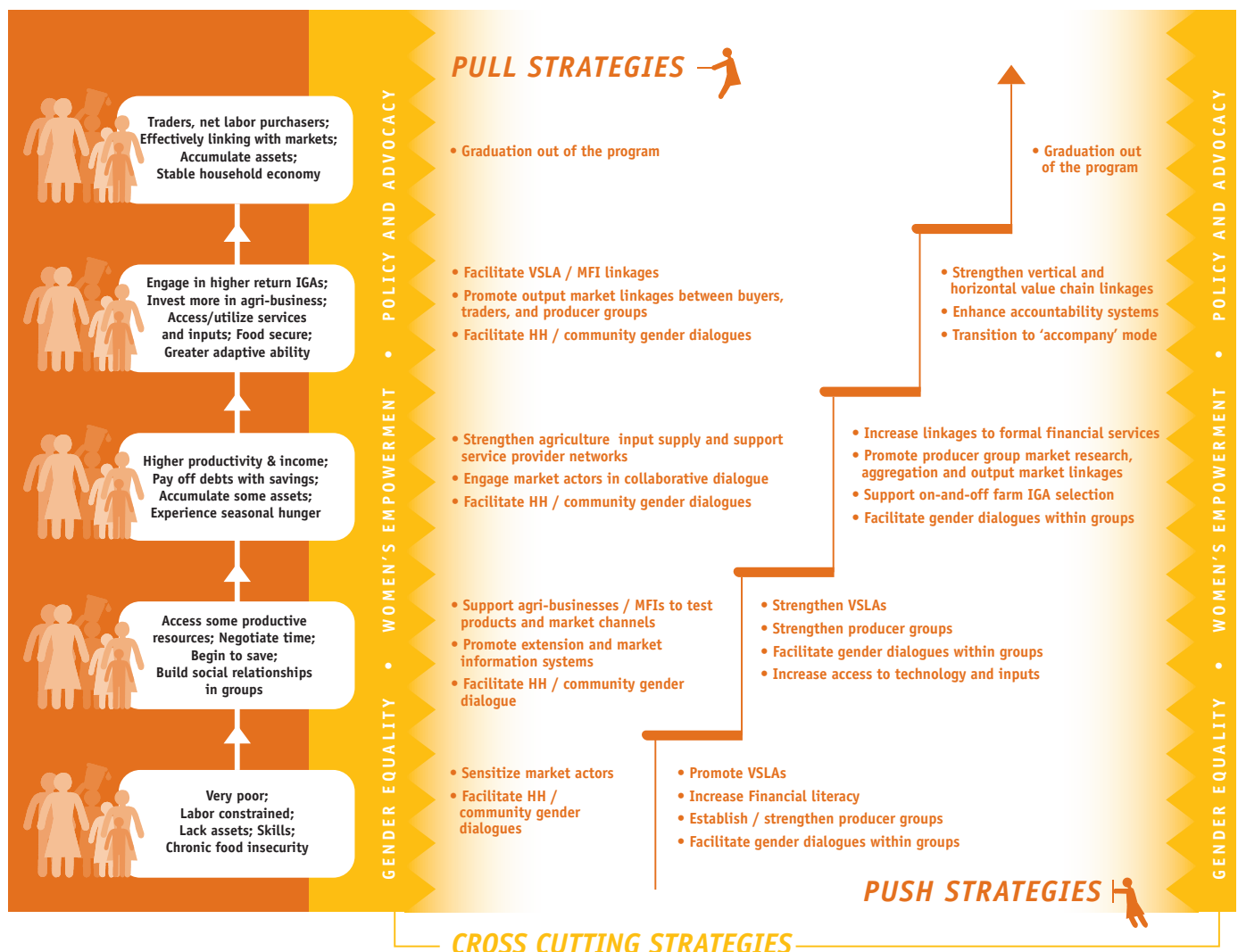




# PATHWAYS OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

## Push, Pull and Cross-Cutting Strategies

The **Pathways Operational Framework** demonstrates how CARE's Pathways program interventions will increase the productivity and empowerment of women smallholder farmers in more equitable agriculture systems at scale. Specifically, the framework outlines a set of push- and pull-interventions CARE will pursue and illustrates how these interventions will be combined and sequenced to support the progressive transition of women smallholder farmers from positions of vulnerability and food insecurity to positions of resilience and food security.



Push interventions in the model reflect efforts to enhance women's individual and collective agency. Specific push objectives include enhancing woman smallholder farmer knowledge, skills and capabilities; strengthening the agriculture-related collectives in which women participate; and expanding women's aspirations and leadership. Coupled with these efforts, pull interventions aim to engage other direct stakeholders in the change process. This includes changing the behaviors and beliefs of 1) men, boys and power holders in women smallholder households and communities; 2) private sector actors including traders, buyers, financiers and input suppliers; and 3) government officials and civil society.

Recognizing that interventions need to be tailored to household vulnerability status, the framework illustrates the types of interventions to be pursued to support households at different levels of vulnerability and how these will be phased over the life of a Pathways initiative. The global operational framework is deliberately general and relatively high-level in the interventions presented. This global framework reflects, in broad terms, the overall program implementation strategy. At the national level, each Pathways implementation team has developed a context-specific iteration of the global framework, which more clearly illustrates how the model plays out in that country.

## HOW WILL THE FRAMEWORK BE USED?

The operational framework is a high-level illustration of CARE's Pathways approach and assumptions across geographies and contexts. The framework therefore establishes a degree of continuity across all implementation areas enabling comparisons and the identification of both common and context-specific lessons learned through the Pathways implementation process. At a country level, the operational framework provides implementation teams with a means of conceptualizing their interventions and the interconnectedness between push and pull factors. By building on a global Pathways standard, the model also enables country teams and their partners to readily assess their results, lessons, challenges and contextual nuances against the results of others teams. Over the course of the Pathways program, the operational framework will serve as a consistent touch stone and organizing model for discussions on what is working, what is not and what we are learning. As Pathways uncovers lessons, the operational framework will evolve to incorporate these. In this way, at program conclusion, the global framework will reflect the sum of Pathways lessons learned on which interventions are relevant for particular household types as well as how these should be combined and sequenced. Similar exercises will be completed at country levels, tailoring the operational framework to the contextual differences in each area of implementation.

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CARE's Pathways program is a six-country program that builds on and is inspired by the vital roles that women around the world play in smallholder agriculture, meeting the food needs of their households and communities, and contributing to development and growth. The goal of the program is to increase the productivity and empowerment of women smallholder farmers in more equitable agriculture systems at scale. The program is guided by CARE's Women Empowerment in Agriculture Framework that focuses on 3 key dimensions of empowerment: Agency, Structure, and Relations. The Pathways program is funded in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

To learn more, visit the Pathways website at  
[www.carepathwaystoempowerment.org](http://www.carepathwaystoempowerment.org)

Pathways Program  
*Jemimah Njuki, Team Leader*  
[jnjuki@care.org](mailto:jnjuki@care.org)

