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# ANNUAL REPORT: IN BRIEF

## Pathways to Empowerment Program

**OVERVIEW** CARE's Pathways to Empowerment program (Pathways) aims to empower and increase the productivity of 52,000 poor women smallholder farmers in more equitable agriculture systems at scale in Mali, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, Bangladesh and India. This in brief report presents progress achieved during the third year of program implementation (2015).

### GLOBAL PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 8,932 acres of new access to land for women's farming
- \$18,005,393 in income on agricultural yield increases and marketing techniques
- \$15,187,867 in savings through VSLAs
- \$1,885,693 in loans through VSLA and an additional
- \$66,736 in loans from formal institutions
- 495,729 metric tons of increased agricultural production
- Women in leadership positions increased from 20-60%, depending on the country
- Adoption rates of improved agricultural techniques from 70-90% depending on the practice and country
- \$83,606,045 of funding leveraged for 17 additional projects

### Global Learning Event: Malawi, May 2015

The **Pathways FFBS methodology and toolkit** was the cornerstone of the global CARE learning event in 2015, reaching over 70 program staff from 21 countries. The FFBS methodology was instrumental in designing winning proposals for more than \$125 million in USAID Food For Peace Programs in Bangladesh and Mali.

### Key Results

**CAPACITY: Improved Knowledge, Skills, Relationships, Self-Confidence, and Conviction of Women Smallholder Farmers.** Smallholder women farmers gained skills in good agricultural practices, business management (cost-benefit analysis, record keeping, etc.), market literacy, financial management, nutrition and gender equity in all the countries. This was achieved through the Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) across all the countries with others implementing aspects of it. Across the 5 countries, Pathways organized 3,536 trainings covering topics of improving skills, resources, and capacities with an average of 43 people per training session.

**ACCESS: Increased Access to Productive Resources, Assets, Markets, and Appropriate and Reliable Services and Inputs for Poor Women Farmers.** Pathways' work on access focuses on improved inputs, extension, land, output markets, finance and post-harvest technologies. Some key successes in this area include:

- **Increased access to extension services:** Women have doubled or tripled their access to agricultural extension, with the biggest improvement in Tanzania, where access rose from 28% of women to 75%.
- **Better access to inputs:** In India, Ghana, and Tanzania, agri-kiosks and seed replicators have lowered costs and barriers of high-quality inputs for farmers.
- **Increased access to markets:** In Ghana and Malawi, farmers have doubled the amount of products they are selling in recognized agricultural markets.

**PRODUCTIVITY: Improvements in Yield and Income Through Adoption of Sustainable and Intensified Agriculture and Value Addition.** Adoption rates range from 70% in Malawi to 91% in Ghana, and have led to dramatically improved production across countries and value chains. Production rose by 200 to 400%, depending on crops and adoption rates. Overall, at least 495,729 additional tons of food have been grown as a result of yield increases across the 6 countries. Because of increased agricultural production and improved market connections, farmers have been able to mobilize more than \$18 million in income based on the market prices in their communities.

**HOUSEHOLD INFLUENCE: Increased Poor Women Farmer Contributions to and Influence Over Household Income and Decision-Making.** CARE organized more than 1,816 trainings and dialogues on gender, empowerment, and joint decision-making, reaching more than 42,157 men and women. These have led to impressive results, including a 57% increase in the number of Indian women in leadership roles. In Malawi, 66% of men and women now make agricultural decisions together.



**ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: More Positive and Enabling Attitudes, Behaviors, Social Norms, Policies, and Institutions.** Progress here has been substantial, starting with building CBT capacity and identifying male champions for gender equality. A new law in Mali has set a quota for a minimum of 30% women's representation in all government bodies. In Ghana, 4 new communities have

written bi-laws that include protecting women's rights to education, land, and protection from violence. In Ghana, there has been a 40% drop in the number of people who believe that women must submit to violence in order to keep peace in the family.

**Due to increased agricultural output and improved market connections, farmers have been able to mobilize more than \$18 million in income.**



### Contributing to the Global Discourse on Women and Agriculture

The Pathways' **Outcome mapping for a Gender Indicator Framework** was shared at USAID's knowledge sharing meetings in Malawi and in Washington, DC. hosted by USAID and TOPS, and has been featured as a grand prize winning case in the USAID Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation Case Study Competition, and presented at the CLA symposium in November 2015.

### Partnerships

Pathways' interventions aim to engage other direct stakeholders in the process of creating a more equitable agricultural system that is responsive to women. Partnerships have been established with research and academic institutions, governments, private sector partners and microfinance institutions, as well as local NGOs.

### Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation

The PPT tool and ARS were used in all countries to track the adoption of practices and specific household gains for the first cropping season of the program, while the mobile-based application for remote monitoring with Dimagi was piloted in India and Tanzania. The Pathways learning agenda has also made gains in the past year, with emphasis on collectives and empowerment.

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