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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 six countries: Mali, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, Bangladesh and India. This in brief report presents progress achieved during the third year of program implementation (2015).

### OBJECTIVES

1. Increase the productive engagement of poor women in sustainable agriculture and contribute to their empowerment;
2. Enhance the scale of high-quality women-responsive agriculture programming at CARE; and
3. Contribute to the global discourse that surrounds women and agriculture.

### 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

### Pathways' Theory of Change

Pathways is guided by a unifying theory of change focused on five change levers:

- ⇒ Increased capacity and skills;
- ⇒ Expanded access to services, assets and inputs;
- ⇒ Increased productivity;
- ⇒ Greater influence over household decisions; and
- ⇒ A more enabling environment for gender equity, both within communities and in extension and market systems.

### Key Results

Objective 1 is the primary focus of CARE's investment in Pathways, representing approximately 70% of the total budget and all programming in the five countries of implementation.

### 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. To improve access to inputs, teams took a range of approaches that included linking groups to existing public sector programs, private sector players through input fairs and other channels, community-level seed production and multiplication and partnerships with research institutions.

**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%. In Malawi, women were 210% more likely to have access to extension services in order to improve their agricultural techniques.

**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. In India, the agri-kiosk model has helped 10 input suppliers reach nearly 4,000 farmers get access to lower-cost inputs for their agriculture. This saved 5-10% of the cost of inputs, and 15-20% of the time they spend going to cities to buy seeds.

**Increased access to markets:** In Ghana and Malawi, farmers have doubled the amount of products they are selling in recognized agricultural markets. In Tanzania, collective marketing helped 8 villages increase their profits on sesame by 14 cents a kilogram above the market price, for a total of profit of \$90,850.



## 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.

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

**Increased production of soybeans and groundnuts:** In Ghana, improved agricultural practices means that farmers increased soybean and groundnut yields per acre by roughly 400%. Collectively, that's a \$377,955 increase in income for the farmers. According to studies conducted by the Millennium Development Authority, this is 1.9 times the national average yield for soybeans.

In Malawi, based on improved prices through collective marketing, farmers earned an additional \$91,918 on groundnuts and soy. Adding this to their individual marketing and yield increases, farmers saw a cumulative increase of \$701,816 in income since 2012. In fact, adding all of their new sources of income together and the practices of farming more effectively, women saw their income increase by 54%, from \$163 a year to \$252. That's a total of \$2,197,944 in income in 2015.

**Increased production in Mali enough to feed an additional 31,000 families for a year:** Using improved agriculture techniques, and high adoption on thousands of hectares of land, women in Mali were able to grow an additional 4,478

**In Tanzania and Ghana, Pathways helped 14 farmers set up certified seed businesses to supply farmers with improved varieties that they would otherwise be unable to buy.**



metric tons of millet, 2,124 of rice, and 23,222 of shallots. That's enough servings to feed 31,000 families for an entire year, or more than \$14 million dollars' worth of food produced at local market prices.

**In Tanzania, increased income sesame:** Using recommended agriculture techniques helped Tanzanian women farmers increase their yields by 262 kilograms an acre—which is an income increase of \$233 per acre. That's a total income gain of \$484,970 on sesame alone.

**India increased income on cash crops:** By growing a variety of spices and selling collectively, as well as production increases on rice and maize, farmers were able to increase their incomes by \$344,171 cumulatively.

## 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.

**Increased women's leadership:** In Malawi, the number of women in leadership positions increased 19% over the life of the project. Additionally, women saw a 23% increase in their willingness to speak in public and voice their views. In India, the numbers rose from 23% to 80%.

**More joint decision-making:** 66% of men and women in Malawi now work together for agricultural decisions, rather than women being forced to wait until after men had taken care of cash crops like maize and tobacco before they could make decisions about their own farming. Additionally, there was a 16% increase in the number of women who now make decisions without consulting their husbands. In Ghana, India, and Tanzania, women say that they are better able to work with their husbands and be included in decisions like when to buy inputs and what land to plant. In Ghana, according to our outcome monitoring, women are now involved in joint decision-making 30% of the time, compared to baseline.

**Pathway's trainings and dialogues on gender, empowerment and joint-decision-making, reached over 40,000 men and women in participating countries.**



## 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. Pathways has pursued positive change in the enabling environment through a common set of channels, tailored country by country to the specific constraints and opportunities.

Progress across the program has been substantial, starting with building CBT capacity and identifying male champions for gender equality. Although there have been instances of backlash against male champions, they are important role models and CARE will continue to support them through dialogues and training.



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**Women in positions of power:** In Ghana, with support from the Pathways program, 18 women successfully ran for seats on local government bodies. There has been a 4 percentage point increase in the number of women in leadership positions. Additionally, there are now 4 more female district representatives (up from 1 in 2013), which makes women 11% of the district assembly.

**Changing government policies:** The Government of Mali just passed a law setting 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.

**Reduced attitudes supporting GBV:** 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. There has also been a 100% increase in the number of communities that have bi-laws protecting women's rights to land, education, and a life free from violence.

## Project Dashboard

Impact and target groups, members and outreach						Total
	India	Tanzania	Mali	Malawi	Ghana	
Number of villages	148	28	107	235	71	589
Number of groups by type						
VSLA	-	135	442	1,020	341	1,938
Producer groups	-	143	7	508	-	658
Self Help Groups	591	50	-	-	-	641
Other	161	3	63	-	-	227
Total number of poor women smallholder farmers (Impact Population) in collectives (Gates Foundation)	13,006	4,865	14,391	10,814	4,317	47,393
Total number of Impact Population (other donors)	4,896	-	-	13,882	3,100	
% of women in leadership position	80	54	16	72.3	33.7	51.2
Total number of other target group						
Men and Boys e. g. spouses, other	40,000	2,085	937	2,090	2,338	47,450
Elites including traditional leaders	150	149	600	294	341	1,534
Other		212			71	283
Total Population Impacted (Gates)	53,156	7,099	15,928	13,198	6,996	91,481
Total Population Impacted (Gates and leverage programs)	58,052	7,099	15,928	27,080	10,096	113,359

**Increased legal support for survivors of violence:** In Tanzania, Pathways staff organized trainings for the staff at police gender desks, and community mobilization with 1,282 community members to increase support networks for survivors of gender based violence.

**Increased women's access to land:** Over the life of the project, Pathways staff were able to help women in Mali negotiate an additional 2,204 acres of land for their use.

**As a result of Pathways, women in Mali have been able to negotiate access to over 2000 acres of additional land for their use**



*A Ghanaian man in Tankpasi listens to messages on the Talking Book while waiting for a VSLA meeting to begin*

## Partnerships

Pathways' interventions aim to engage other direct stakeholders in the process of creating a more equitable agricultural system that is responsive to women. This includes changing the behaviors, beliefs and attitudes of not only the men, boys and power holders in women smallholders' households and communities, but also the private sector actors including traders, buyers, financiers and input suppliers; and government officials and civil society. Partnerships have been established with research and academic institutions, governments, private sector partners and microfinance institutions, as well as local NGOs.



Across Pathways countries, projects are partnering with research bodies. Some examples include: Savannah Agriculture Research Institute in Ghana; the Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute in Tanzania; and, the Institute of Rural Economy in Mali.

In Tanzania, Pathways partnered with the District Agriculture and Livestock Development Office, the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute, the Tanzanian Meteorological Agency on weather information for the project participants and police gender desks on gender-based violence.

In Mali, the program has partnered with microfinance institutions (MFIs), the Aga Khan Foundation and rural banks to educate farmers about these institutions and apply the grain storage loan approach in partnership with MFIs.

In Tanzania, a partnership between CARE Pathways and Cassava Adding Value for Africa is building a strong private-sector to ensure the sustainability of smallholder agriculture beyond the life of a project by linking farmers to marketers and building their capacity to meet market demands around quantity and quality.

Pathways Mali's partnership with MFIs has led to more than \$66,000 in loans to women at lower interest rates, which the Pathways project staff helped the women's groups negotiate

### Enhancing the Scale of High Quality Women Responsive Agriculture Programming

Pathways Objective 2 aims to influence other programs across CARE's country networks. Pathways serves as a flagship program in women's empowerment, agriculture, food security and climate change in and beyond the countries where the project works, and continues to be a key fundraising priority.

Specifically, Pathways is an anchor project for **CARE Bangladesh's** long-term program strategy for its work on wage discrimination and access to land in partnership with local governments.

In **Malawi**, Pathways is one of the two main programs being used to test the women's empowerment agenda for CARE Malawi's largest food security and livelihoods program, which falls under the country's Long Range Strategic Plan for 2010-15. Pathways continues to influence CARE Malawi's programming related to women's empowerment, value chains and market engagement.

Pathways has contributed significantly to **CARE Tanzania's** Mwangaza long-term programming platform. The new theory of change was heavily influenced by the headway made and lessons learned from Pathways. Similarly, Pathways approaches and models have served as the cornerstone for **CARE Ghana's** work on value chains and women's empowerment.

**CARE India's** long-term program strategy for girls and women from low-caste and tribal communities was greatly informed and influenced by the Pathways program. Additionally, CARE India adopted the learning approach focus in Pathways in its long term tribal and *Dalit* (lower-caste) development programs. Pathways is still a major component of **Mali's** food security and climate change adaptation programming.



### Global Learning Event: Malawi, 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. It featured in learning events in Cambodia and Mozambique which reached an additional 51 staff members from 20 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, which will be key anchors of food security programming in the regions and globally for the next five years.

### Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation

The Participatory Performance Tracker (PPT) tool and Annual Review Strategy (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.

The second round of PPT data demonstrate that 58% of groups across Pathways countries are engaging in all of the recommended practices in their value chain. The areas in which groups are taking on learned behaviors most are: harvest, soil and water management, pest and disease management, input and land selection, and use of inputs.

Groups seem to be struggling more to incorporate new marketing practice-oriented, spraying, planting, record-keeping and finance, and postharvest management techniques into their regular practice. While mixed gender groups seem to have an easier time engaging new practices, exclusively female groups are adopting practices related to harvest, soil and water management, and pest and disease management along with these mixed gender groups.



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CARE Pathways Program

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

Pathways Objective 3 aims to influence the global discourse on women's empowerment in agriculture and ensure the program is informed by external stakeholders at multiple levels.

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.

Pathways has also been active in presenting models to the **SEEP network**, which promotes inclusive markets. This includes a joint webinar with USAID's office of Labor and Oxfam with over 100 participants, and a presentation on building resilience, wage labor negotiating, and technical adoption to 350 attendees at the October Global conference.

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