



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



PATHWAYS TO SECURE LIVELIHOODS Empowering Women in Agriculture

CARE's *Pathways* program builds on and is inspired by the vital roles that women play in smallholder agriculture around the world, meeting the food needs of their households and contributing to development and growth. The vision of the program is empowered women smallholder farmers celebrated for their contributions to achieving secure and resilient livelihoods and sustainable futures for their households and communities. This vision will be achieved by promoting women's leadership and productive and profitable engagement in intensified, sustainable agriculture.

Pathways is being implemented in selected regions of six countries **Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Tanzania, Mali, and Ghana** with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In its first phase, Pathways targets to directly impact **150,000 poor women smallholder farmers** and others in their households and communities, representing direct wellbeing impacts for 840,000 people across six countries. The countries chosen represent a diverse range of contexts that present difficult food security and agricultural productivity challenges, but also offer promising opportunities for agricultural development and women's empowerment.

Strategic Approaches

The design of *Pathways* drew on the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture framework, developed by CARE to guide planning, implementation, and evaluation of agriculture programs. This framework builds on CARE's long history of work and shows that in order to have a sustainable impact CARE must work across three

dimensions of empowerment: Agency, Structure, and Relations. Using this framework and in-depth contextual analysis in each country of implementation, CARE has identified several strategic approaches that stretch across the six countries. These include:

- Nurturing collectives and community groups:** Selecting a broad range of collectives, such as self-help groups, Village Savings and Loan Associations, and producer groups to facilitate women's capacity building, access to and control over resources and inclusion in financial and agricultural markets while also tackling barriers to empowerment.
- Promoting intensified and sustainable agriculture:** Promoting sustainable and intensified agriculture practices to overcome environmental and climate challenges, improve the resiliency of women and their families and increase productivity.
- Developing more inclusive and efficient markets and services:** Applying a gendered value chain approach to identify and address systemic failures that limit women's access to inputs, services, finance, and output markets.
- Engaging men and boys in the process of change:** Using strategies to engage men, boys, and other power holders in efforts to advance women's empowerment and sustainable agriculture will ensure long-term benefits for women, their households and communities.

- **Learning and Evidence Building:** *Pathways* is more than a multi-country initiative, it is a flagship effort to build on the best of what CARE and our partners have learned through 60 years of development practice about reducing hunger and poverty. Learning and evidence building are central aspects of all that we do to ensure ever broader impacts.

Anticipated Impacts And Outcomes

Pathways seeks to effect change at multiple levels in a range of areas: agriculture and market knowledge; agricultural services, systems, policies, and technologies; gender relations in households, communities and society and a range of social norms and governance processes. Anticipated impacts and outcomes resulting from these changes include:

- **Improved knowledge, skills, and relationships:** Fostering a range of agriculture-related technical, analytical, and functional skills to build women's empowerment and capacity for change.
- **Improved productivity and incomes:** Through the adoption of sustainable agriculture and value addition, an increase in yields and agricultural incomes of up to 50 percent.
- **Improved access to productive resources, assets, and markets:** Increasing by 50 percent the numbers of poor women smallholders who have access, report control, or own a core set of agricultural services and productive assets.
- **Increased household income and decision-making:** Promoting sustainable gains in empowerment by ensuring that as women generate higher incomes they are increasingly influential in household decision making about expenditures, investments and their own mobility and use of time.
- **Improved nutrition and food security:** Contributing to improved nutrition and food security by addressing the availability and access of nutrient-rich food, increasing women's incomes and influence over household decision-making, and enhancing knowledge on effective nutrition practices.

- **More positive perceptions and gender relations:** Working to change attitudes, behaviors, social norms, policies, and institutions at multiple levels to ensure broader participation in agriculture and markets.
- **Strengthened evidence base:** The development and rigorous validation of alternate pathways toward more secure and resilient livelihoods for farmers and their households will influence CARE's programming globally and inform and be informed by global practice.
- **Expansion at Scale:** Extend the impact by reaching approximately **13 million people** through 150 existing and future CARE agriculture initiatives, and a wide network of relationships.

CARE'S EXPERIENCE

Founded in 1945 with the creation of the CARE Package, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. CARE places special focus on working alongside girls and women because, equipped with the proper resources, they have the power to lift whole families and entire communities out of poverty. Last year CARE worked in 84 countries and reached 122 million people around the world.

CARE has gained extensive knowledge in the areas of agriculture, market access, and women's empowerment. We have managed agricultural economic development programs for more than 25 years, and have seen significant transformation in participating individuals, families, and communities. During this time, we have worked extensively on all dimensions of food security programming from disaster response to ensuring food availability, accessibility and utilization.

The *Pathways* program builds on past experiences, bringing together the best of what we know to improve program quality and impacts for the more than 150 smallholder agriculture initiatives CARE is currently implementing across the world.

To learn more, visit the *Pathways* website at www.carepathwaystoempowerment.org

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