



2016 MALI PATHWAYS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT:

JANUARY - JUNE 2016

(BRIDGE YEAR)

Project: Nyeleni
Submitted by: CARE Mali

I. Summary Information

Project
Name Women in Agriculture NYELENI

Organization Name CARE INTERNATIONAL IN MALI

Grant ID# OPP1009529

Foundation Program Officer
Date Grant
Awarded Month Year NOVEMBER 2011

Project End Date Month Year OCTOBER 2016

Grant
Amount In U.S. dollars 2 400 000

Project Duration In months 60

Report
Period from Month Year JANUARY 2016 **to** Month Year JUNE 2016

Report Due Month Year 30TH June 2016

Has this project been granted a no-cost extension? Yes / No

Principal Investigator/Project Director

Prefix Ms.

Email Address: osseni.amadou@care.org

Surname Amadou

Phone 223 76 54 29 29

First Name Osseni

Fax
Suffix
Web Site
Title Assistant Country Director / Director of Program par interim

Mailing Address Bamako, Mali

Report Prepared by

Mamadou Fotigui Coulibaly Project Coordinator

Date
Submitted June 2016

Phone: 223 79 35 68 90

Email: mamadou.coulibaly@care.org

2016 Pathways semi-annual Report Outline

Progress and Results by Objective: Describe the progress of the project, including where the project has progressed as expected, where it is not, whether the project is still on track to complete expected results within the bridge grant period, and if not, what proposed changes are contemplated.

This report is the first of the transitional phase of Nyéléni. It covers the period from January to June 2016. There is the State of progress of the activities by Change lever, the difficulties encountered and the solutions adopted or proposed.

1. Objective 1: To increase the productive engagement of 52,000 poor women in sustainable agriculture, and contribute to their empowerment

- a. Project Dashboard** *In this section, we would like to compile information on key project numbers to keep track of who we are working with and the project (cumulative) reach. You can separate these by either different geographies e.g. districts or by different impact groups if you are working with more than one impact group. Adjust the columns accordingly table.*

<i>Impact and target groups, members and outreach</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>Malawi</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Mali</i>	<i>Ghana</i>	
Number of villages			107		
Number of groups by type					
• VSLA			442		
• Producer groups			7		
• Self Help Groups					
• Solidarity groups					
• Co-operatives /Networks			63		
• Other					
Total number of poor women smallholder farmers (Impact Population) in collective (Gates Foundation)			14391		
Total number of Impact Population (other donors)					
% of women in leadership position			43		
Total number of other target group					
• Men and Boys e. g. spouses, other			937		
• Elites including traditional leaders			600		
• Other					

b. Results by Exchange Sunrise

Please outline results by change lever as per guidance under each Exchange sunrise. Go through lessons learned during the past 6 months that will help you to achieve your intended results, moving forward, over the bridge grant period. To what extent have these lessons led to modification of the results identified in the results framework?

- 1. Change Lever 1 - Capacity:** Improved knowledge, skills, relationships, self-confidence, and belief of women smallholder farmers.

(Include: Total No. of CBTs and smallholders trained, what they have been trained in, mode of training - FFBS or otherwise.) Outline progress in training, knowledge status at endline as compared to baseline, use available data)

1.1 Results

Sustainable agriculture

During the semester, there were many capacity building activities were organized for women and men farmers on production, good conservation and post harvest and storage techniques, good farming techniques for shallot and other vegetable production (okra, pepper, tomato). These sessions affected nearly 3,406 people including 205 men and 3,201 women.

The training on shallot production practices engaged 4,103 people including 228 men and 3,875 women.

In the area of Djenné, training sessions were provided on soil conservation methods using the mulching technique. Overall, 2,116 people including 2,031 women and 85 men were trained. After using the technique, the beneficiaries could retain moisture and reduced the frequency of watering vegetable gardens. Moreover 1,088 people (1,034 women and 54 men) were trained on composting techniques in 22 market garden plots/perimeters.

In Ségou area, 937 people were trained on compost production techniques and use and 533 of them used compost produced in their market gardens.

Nutrition

Awareness raising and IEC sessions on the adoption of good feeding practices are underway. In addition, emphasis is placed on the adoption of hands washing and other hygiene rules (body and environmental) in households. These sessions have affected 14,217 people including 999 men and 13, 218 women.

Gender

In March 2016, the project implementation team was trained on the concept of "Gender-based Violence". The capacity building for the field agents helped them to understand the types of violence inflicted on women in the project zone of intervention, to know the various forms of violence on women. In addition to knowing the types of violence against women, they understood that men can also undergo some forms of violence but to a lesser degree than women. Nineteen field agents took the training. After this training, the men engaged in the A.M.A.P.R.O.S area also received training on Gender-based Violence. 385 men received the training.

In April 2016, the Core Team Gender Adviser trained the Pathways Mali team (22 people) on men engagement (see Photo underneath) during a support mission in Mali. This training took place in two phases, a theoretical classroom phase and a practical phase on the field in the village of Yolo, commune of Diédougou (Ségou area). During this training, the Mali team, with the support of the Core Team Gender Adviser, developed four tools for holding dialog on themes on men engagement: **"Fatherhood and masculinity"**, **"Men and violence"**, **"the Malian woman's box"**, and **"the man's Box"**



Photo taken during the practical phase of the training on men's engagement in the village of Yolo in April 2016

1.2 Challenges

- The motivation of community workers/relays is a major challenge
- The illiteracy of women and some relays.

1.3 Lessons learned and way forward

- Understanding of men engagement by agents helped to strengthen them in their engagement with communities to adopt gender equity-sensitive behavior changes.
- Use of compost not only reduces production cost but also enhance the quality of products. For example, shallot produced in a plot with compost could be stored longer than the shallot produced in a plot with the use of chemical fertilizer.

- 2. Change Lever 2 - Access:** Increased access to productive resources, assets, markets, and appropriate and reliable services and inputs for poor women farmers.

(Includes: Access to agricultural inputs (which inputs, amounts, show progression from baseline to endline to now); output markets, financial services and credit (include VSLA and SHGs if applicable, amounts, increment through time); land (Acreage for individual or groups, incremental from last year to this year; access to technology and innovation (e.g. postharvest); access to extension services)

2.1 Results

During the reporting period, no new lands/plots were secured. Nevertheless, advocacy and negotiations continue with landowners for securing plots already allocated.

In the area of Ségou, seven women groups were able to repay the equivalent of \$ 9,800 in loan contracted for the purchase of agricultural inputs for the 2015-2016 cropping season. The amount was refunded in February 2016.

In the area of Djenné, members of three groups (92 women) in Sarantomo secured a loan of \$ 6,000 from the village savings Fund at the rate of \$ 2,000 per association. The interest rate is 10% and to be reimbursed within six months.

Existing marketing committees in each village are operational. They conduct market research for members of the association for the marketing of their products.

Challenges

- Securing of plots
- The high interest rates on loans from financial institutions

2.2 Lessons learned and way forward

- Women's access to loans contributes to women's empowerment and food security in their household;
- The establishment of marketing committees and group sales help women not to sell off productions and maximize profit;

- Building women's capacity to produce and use organic fertilizer reduced chemical fertilizer needs which the purchasing power of many women does not allow them to access.
- 3. Change Lever 3 - Productivity:** Improvements in yield and income through adoption of sustainable and intensified agriculture and value addition.

(Yields and income from farm activities, income from wage labor, nutrition outputs). Be as clear as possible, if yield is from individual woman or household plots, clearly show increase from baseline, endline, to this reporting period. Same applies to income. If declined, support the findings with data and additional information e.g. market fluctuation. Use graphics and tables to show yield and income data. Report any nutrition outcomes as well in this section.

3.1 Results

Millet production area increased by/or was grown in?? 63.55% of the villages covered by the project, i.e. 68 villages over an area of 7,463.07 ha. With scaling up, 7,880 farmers, including 7,225 women, adopt the micro dose technique on millet.

Shallot production engages 11.21% land??of the villages, i.e. 12 villages over an area of 445 ha. This shallot production engages 7,022 women with the adoption of IPM (integrated production and pest management).

As for rice, it is produced by 282 people (210 women) in 15.89% of the villages, i.e. 17 villages. However, it should be noted that women can combine two value chains. The absence of the NGO teams on the ground did not allow us to administer the PPT2 to track and analysis the trend of yields for the 2015/2016 cropping season.

The following table shows the trend in yields from 2012 to 2015

Crops	Yield increases 2012-2015 (tons/ha)			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Millet	0.558 - 0.700	0.700 - 1	1	1.10
Rice	2 - 3	6 - 12	6 - 12	6 - 12
Shallot	20	25-41	38 - 42	38 - 40

Trend of yield/crop (source: Pathway Junior Experts Team Dec 2015)

3.2 Challenges:

- The lack of water in wells or streams following rainfall variability due to the effects of climate change.

3.3 Lessons learned and way forward

- In addition to the millet value chain selected for the A.M.A.P.R.O.S zone, women produced other crops such as peanut, Cowpea and sesame. These crops are far more cost-effective in terms of increasing income and food diversification for women. Hence, the request for scaling up the selected value chains for Mali to these crops during the second phase of Pathways.

- 4. Change Lever 4 - Household Influence:** Increased poor women farmers' contributions to and influence over household income and decision-making.

(Use midterm review and gender indicator monitoring data in this section to clearly show improvements in household influence being careful to show the difference with baseline, endline, to this reporting period.) Also report any negative consequences e.g. women's GBV-backlash-workload. Include any power stories and case studies in the annexure)

4.1 Results

Dialogs are still underway in the communities for a greater involvement of women in decision-making in the family and in the community. During the reporting period, emphasis has been on the following topics:

- Family harmony;
- Man engaged;
- Girls education;
- Decision-making in the household.

Similarly, 316 couple dialogs were held as well as 199 IEC/CCC sessions.

It should be noted that during the **semester**, other larger discussion fora on gender equity were organized. The topics discussed at these fora were in relation to gender-based violence, especially violence on women in the project focus area. Despite a few positive results achieved to eliminate these forms of violence, they always remain a challenge for the desired social transformation. These violence include among others:

- Securing allocated lands;
- Access to and control over production assets (equipment, quality inputs)
- Low involvement of women in decision-making at the community level;
- Overload with household chores/production.

These fora brought together people of mixed gender:

- ✓ Village change makers or resource people;
- ✓ Village relays;
- ✓ Women members of VSLA;
- ✓ Religious leaders,
- ✓ The hunters brotherhood;
- ✓ Traditional communicators;
- ✓ Technical services;
- ✓ Local community radios;
- ✓ Locally elected officials;
- ✓ Administrative authorities;
- ✓ Village chiefs;
- ✓ Engaged men.

From a methodological standpoint, these fora were held in commune head cities with the attendance of team field staff in each area to learn lessons before extending to other villages. These fora were organized in 16 communes with 697 participants:

- ✓ Six communes in Ségou : (Cinzana, Tongue, Folomana, Kamiadougou, Diédougou, Fatiné) ;
- ✓ Five villages in Bandiagara: (Barra Sara, Kendie, Diamnati, Dandoli, Timiniri) ;
- ✓ Four communes in Djenné (Djenné, Fakala, Dandougou Fakala, Derary);
- ✓ One commune in Niono (Toridagako.)



Photo taken during the forum held in Cinzana

Each forum resulted in an action plan with commitments by each stakeholder to achieve the desired changes for women's access to and control over production assets, the distribution of household chores and production work, access to decision making bodies in the community. A committee to track compliance with the commitments was put in place in each village where a forum was held.

4.2 Challenges

Though women's participation in decision-making at the household level has improved during the **semester**, participation in decision-making at community level remains a challenge.

4.3 Lessons learned and way forward

- Community dialogs and fora are enabling environments to disseminate messages through specific themes for the adoption of gender equity-sensitive behaviors.
- Couple dialogs have greatly facilitated communication between spouses, which has enhanced women's participation in decision-making in their household.

5. **Change lever 5 - Enabling Environment:** More positive and enabling attitudes, behaviors, social norms, policies, and institutions.

(Include results obtained through engaging men and boys, local institutional structures-traditional chiefs, religious leaders, women's meaningful participation in collective; any policy and advocacy uptake arising from our work that creates an enabling environment.) Support this with data. Include case studies in the annexure.)

5.1 Results

During the semester, the focus was on men's engagement in the process of social transformation for the adoption of gender equity-friendly behaviors in communities. Given that men are power holders, the guardians of norms and traditions, one must work with them to raise their awareness.

After the selection of the men as role models (engaged men) in all the villages, capacity building sessions were organized for these men in the villages where they have already established associations. During these sessions, these men received orientation on the Man's box which contains all characters/traits that family/society conveys to young boys during their education so that they become real men at adulthood. Knowing the characters/traits in this box helped the male role models to understand that some of these characters/traits were not at all consistent with the realities of life today. These trained men pledge to raise the awareness of other men and boys so that they understand the consequences of these negative traits and drop them and adopt gender equity-friendly behaviors. These awareness raising sessions by peers helped to engage other men in addition to traditional leaders. The engagement of other civil society organizations like the hunters brotherhood, traditional communicators, pastors of Protestant and Catholic churches, local administrative authorities, and local services and institutions added value to social transformation advocated by Pathways.

For example, during the forum in the commune of Barra Sarra in Bandiagara, the *Sous Prefet* of the commune testified that he was already committed to the cause of women but that he's gained more understanding on how much women suffer due to men's behavior. He pledged to raise the awareness of men in his *sous-prefecture* to adopt gender equity-sensitive behaviors. Another testimony during the forum of Cinzana was from the Imam of the village who stated that these positive behaviors are clearly consistent with the principles of Islam. According to the Imam, Islam has never regarded women as inferior to man, but human being who must enjoy the same rights as men. Traditional communicators who convey messages within the communities pledged to inform men and women in the community on the need to drop behaviors harmful to gender equity.

Currently, in the area covered by the project, we have 1,363 engaged men distributed in 78 villages with nine to 17 members by association.

The Pathways team is still administering the personal gender PPT tool. It should be noted that the 13 indicators of the tool have been reorganized to take into account the five categories of the Progress Marker (see table below).

1. Workload sharing			2. Sharing decision-making		3. Asset control and income management		4. Self-confidence, autonomy & leadership/ Role modeling respect for women's rights			5. Intimacy and harmony in the relationship		
1. Shared household tasks with my spouse	2. Asked my spouse for support with a task	3. Encourage both girl and boy (equally) to help with household chores	4. Include my spouse in a decision I usually take alone	5. Manage important household issues jointly with spouse	6. Inform spouse the amount of his income	7. Share the use of its income with the spouse	8. Demonstrate in public a behavior that's non-typical for my gender	9. Encourage my colleague/joint in social transformation	10. I resolve conflicts in amicably without violence with my / my spouse	11. I am committed to not practice female circumcision in my household.	12. Practiced active listening with spouse	13. I speak up confidently on issues that are important to me

5.2 Challenges

- Despite these notable changes, it is worth noting that it is difficult to achieve an irreversible change on social norms, policies and institution during the quarter.
- The resistance of some traditional leaders to positive behavior gender change.

5.3 Lessons learned and way forward.

The Organization of fora in communities involving traditional leaders, religious, political and administrative leaders help stimulate social transformation.

2. Objective 2: To enhance the scale of high quality women responsive agriculture programming

Knowledge and incentives applied to scale improvements in program quality across other CARE initiatives, partners and development organizations. Tables for responses are included below.

A. *In this section, include information on how Pathways is influencing other CARE programs, operations and strategies. Provide information for this reporting period only.*

Focus areas	Describe giving bulleted examples
How have you shared Pathways results, tools or lessons with colleagues and CARE partners beyond the Pathways team?	<p><i>Describe any internal mechanisms, presentations on Pathways you have done within CARE and the results of this sharing. How many people attended? What were some of the outcomes from these presentations?</i></p> <p>At the Pathways APRM in February 2016, the Mali team presented its results to CARE USA officials and participants from other Pathways countries. The presentation focused on: productivity, income, the trend of women's social status, the personal PPT, and analysis of progress indicators.</p> <p>The results of the Pathways program, mainly on social transformation, were shared with the management and program managers. These approaches are underway for the personal PPT presentation to other members of CARE Mali and other NGOs which are not involved in the implementation of the project.</p> <p>In Bandiagara, experiences were also shared on February 23, 2016 during the result review workshop hosted by Catholic Relief Services (CRS).</p>
Pathways is an anchor project for your long-term program? Please describe how Pathways is informing your broader country strategy and progress made in the <u>past 6 months</u> . Refer to latest CPR and other processes in the CO	<p><i>Has Pathways influenced strategic programming in the country? Describe how and give some examples.</i></p> <p>The DFAP program in Mali was inspired by Pathways since its design in 2015 and continues to show interest in the FFBS approach, progress indicators, personal PPT. The project also shared gender tools and the FFBS model with the USAID -funded Nutrition and Health project implemented by CARE Mali</p>
Other	<p><i>Include other ways in which Pathways has influenced CARE programming/strategies in the past six months</i></p>

B. Project/Program influenced by Pathways model - Have Pathways tools or lessons been adapted/used in any new proposals in the **past 6 months**? Please list those including the total value of the proposal, whether CARE has won the funds and how many people the project targets (*describe any new proposals or programs that you have been involved in where aspects of Pathways have been integrated or adapted?*) Indicate the program, amount of funding, donor and other relevant information)

List of Projects/Programs (project period in Yr)	External/Internal	Project Value (in USD)	# of communities (approximate)	# of HHs (approximate)	# of individuals (approximate)

(Include a map of the Pathways expansion, if possible.)

During the last six months, although new proposals by CARE Mali focused more on humanitarian assistance (Emergency Program) and health (USAID Nutrition Hygiene), gender dimensions promoted by Pathways were taken into account. However, Pathways partner NGOs for leveraging funding with FAFPA (Fond d'Appui à la Formation Professionnelle et l'Apprentissage) and the WFP (World Food Program) have used Pathways approaches such as the GIPD techniques, soil restoration techniques, the PPT for developing proposals

3. Objective 3: To contribute to the global discourse that surrounds women and agriculture by influencing debates and policy dialog on women and agriculture at local, national and global levels.: Strengthened relationships, effective dialog, and proactive engagement with external actors in learning partnerships and platforms at multiple levels. A table for responses is included below.

Focus Area	Describe giving as much detail as possible
Have you shared Pathways experiences, tools or lessons in external forums or events in the <u>last 6 months</u> ? Please describe the events, the participants and the strategic value.	Describe meeting, venues, organizers and other relevant details of meetings where Pathways has been presented or where Pathways approaches, experiences, and tools have been presented/discussed. In consultation with CARE Women Empowerment program, a conference debate by networks of women in Ségou is being prepared. It will be organized by women at the regional level for a week and will focus on advocacy and awareness-raising activities among decision-makers.
Have any external stakeholders - donors, partners, etc. - come to see CARE's Pathways work in the field or come to meet with Pathways staff to learn more in the <u>last 6 months</u> ? Please describe these visits.	Describe visits by external stakeholders where Pathways has been discussed. Describe who, from where, aspects of Pathways discussed and any known results or use of the information by the external visitors after the visit. Visits planned on the FFBS model could not be conducted due to time constraints. The Harande Program teams wishes to conduct field visits with Pathways Mali in the coming weeks.
Does your team have a regular external communications system (newsletter, etc), have you shared any reports externally or hosted an external event featuring Pathways in the <u>last 6 months</u> ? If so, please describe this/thesis.	Describe any Pathways publications that you have produced that have been disseminated. Include details on the content of the publication, number of people to who these have been disseminated, any feedback on the publication, etc. if available Community fora on GBV were covered by local community radios. Contracts were signed with the radios for a wide coverage for four months.
Other	

4. Challenges and Risks: Are you aware of any significant risks or concerns that have not previously been identified, and that may affect your ability to achieve the agreed - on results? If so, indicate how

you are addressing those risks and challenges? Note: This is the opportunity to raise awareness of any internal or external threats that have emerged (in the last 6 months) to your ability to execute the project. This could include anything from staffing challenges to political turmoil or bad weather.

The security situation has improved during the reporting period and assignments by expatriates for the final evaluation in January 2016 and by the Gender Adviser in March and April were fulfilled.

The delay in contracting between CARE Mali and Pathways (signing of BAM) on the one hand and between CARE Mali and implementing NGOs on the other hand is a major constraint for sticking to the planning of activities.

5. Partnerships: Describe all internal and external partnerships and linkages you have established during this reporting period.

Partner	Names of institutions, overall purpose of partnership, key lessons and challenges. Reflect upon these partnerships in light of how these partnerships show potential for scale and sustainability of Pathways.
Implementing partners- other NGOs CSOs	Regarding farming and nutrition activities, we noted synergies. In the context of adaptation of production systems to the effects of climate change, A.M.A.P.R.O.S, in partnership with IER (AGRA Consortium), implemented a project on the Integrated Soil Fertility Management (GIFS) in three villages in the communes of Fatiné (N'Dogosso), Kamiandougou (Tatla) and Cinzana (Gare.) Results of Niébé production by Tatla network were aired on radio DIÉDOUGOU DIORO by the Kamiandougou Junior Expert. The activity was funded by AGRA Mali. NGOs such as Terre des Hommes, COOPI, AMMED, Climate Change and Red Cross are implementing nutrition/feeding activities: enriched porridge, hygiene, water and sanitation. All these stakeholders conduct cooking demonstrations with enriched porridge, screening of malnourished children and provide financial assistance to the CSCOM to organize awareness raising activities on the use of health centers and other...
Strategic partners- Govt/private extension	Collaboration with the agriculture sector for the conduct of FFBS in market gardening on IPM techniques helped to provide technical support to the Nyéléni team with YA-G-TU. The involvement of administrative authorities (<i>préfet</i> and <i>sous-préfet</i>) and locally elected officials (Mayor and Councilors) in the Farmer Day activities on shallot in Bandiagara and their engagement alongside traditional (villages chiefs, hunters, etc.) and religious leaders (Imams, pastors) in fora in Mopti and Ségou contributed to the success of these activities.
Academic & research, other technical wiretapping	A prospective meeting was held between ICRISAT and the project. Discussions are underway to determine areas of cooperation during the implementation of the WaSA project.
Others	

6. Program Management, Monitoring and Evaluation: What are the significant program management, monitoring and evaluation activities that have occurred in the past 6 months? A suggested table format for responses is included below.

Monitoring and Evaluation	
Monitoring and evaluation activities carried out in the <u>past 6 months</u> giving details	<p><i>Describe activities, who were involved, results. These could include data collection of ARS, PPT, and Gender indicator Monitoring and dissemination of findings, etc.</i></p> <p>The final survey of the project was conducted in January 2016 by TANGO consultant. The final report is expected. The 2015 annual review was conducted by the project in March 2016 as agreed at the February APRM in Atlanta. Data were entered and submitted to the Core Team. PPT data collection began in the first quarter but this activity could not be completed by the NGOs because of the lack of contract from April to June 2016.</p>
M & E lessons and challenges, and changes/way forward	<p>The triangulation of data collected by ARS, PPT or Gender Indicators helped us to see the results achieved by the project on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of yield thanks to the adoption of farming techniques by many women, • Increase in income of women engaged in market gardening and rice farming; • More consideration for women in their households and in the community through growing engagement of male heads of households and especially traditional leaders like village chiefs, hunters, religious leaders like imams and pastors. <p>A mission to support the Core Team M&E and Gender indicators is still needed on the field to build the capacity of the team in measuring and processing social transformation data.</p>
Program Management	
Describe any changes in staffing in the <u>past 6 months</u> and impacts on program, and efforts to bridge these	<p>The staff of the project which was reduced just got strengthened with the recruitment of an agriculture and nutrition specialist and a Marketing and communication specialist. The M&E Coordinator of CARE Mali Food Security Program now devotes full time to the project M&E activities.</p>
Other	

7 Learning issues on collective learning agenda

Pathways has identified collective as central to achieving both short-and long-term changes necessary to facilitate women's influence and empowerment in agriculture. Hence, CARE has prioritized learning around collectives as focus of Pathways learning agenda. The intent behind the focus on collectives is to generate a more robust understanding on what strategies create more effective results. A table for responses is included below. Take time to discuss each question and reflect as a team (include the implementing partner NGOs and other stakeholders in this discussion) before answering these questions.

Question	Reflection - describe giving as much detail as possible. Draw data from ARS, PPT, Gender Indicator Monitoring for supporting your claim

<p>Inclusiveness: Which types of collectives and which types of interventions are best suited to enable impact group (IG) members to actively participate and achieve the program objectives?</p>	<p>The negotiation of land for women groups worked better for the network than for individual groups. Grouped sales or the supply of inputs are also organized in network to attract investors rather than in group. Trainings are provided on farmer fields schools and replicated in individual fields.</p>
<p>Inter Group Synergies and Dynamics: How do relations between and within different types of groups work to create greater coordination and effectiveness? What are the factors that lead to success and how can we avoid traditional failures?</p>	<p>Following the administration of the PPT, the best results of some women influence others. During these sessions, women asked one another many questions to better understand the reasons for the success. A woman who grows millet in the village of Tla in Ségou stated: <i>“with the Nyéléni project, there is an increase in production. The project taught us how to do composting, micro dose technique, the acquisition of plots, subsidized fertilizer and adapted seeds.”</i></p>
<p>Improved Productivity: Are women that are engaged in collective more productive in the agricultural sector than women who are not? Are those women better able to access extension services, improve farming practices and gain more benefit from agriculture? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Through the FFBS approach, the project women beneficiaries observed improvement in yields. <i>“I very much appreciate the new improved practices Nyéléni introduced here. Previously, we would not use any technique. We’re growing haphazardly. We saw with our own eyes the difference between the two techniques - the yield under the new technology exceeds that of our usual farming practices.”</i> According to her, increase in production contributes to food security and provides more income.</p>
<p>Market and Other Linkages with the Ecosystem: How do groups serve as a platform for establishing links with key stakeholders, service providers, private sector market actors and other institutions? What role can collective play in facilitating member access to inputs and markets more reliably and gainfully? What works, what doesn't and why?</p>	<p>The marketing committees are operational. They conduct market research for the group members. They organize group sales and supply during grouped sales or supplies. They organized grouped sales of rice and shallot in 37 villages.</p> <p>Improvements are needed with respect to the assessment of supply and demand at the time of market research.</p>
<p>Improved Gender Roles and Relations: How does women's participation in different groups lead to changes in gender relations and increased voice and power within households, communities and markets? Are they able to better influence and/or control decisions related to agriculture within their households? Why or why not?</p>	<p>The ARS tells us that some progress is observed on decisions on children's marriage, girls education, and health of children through communication within the couple, active listening, mutual consultation for opinion, chat around tea. Detected male champions help the project in social transformation on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of CSCOMs by women for screening cases of malnutrition through public sessions, ✓ Positioning of women on voters lists because Mali is expected to organize municipal elections in the coming months. ✓ The presence of women in municipal council boards; ✓ The appointment of women in decision making positions

	<p>at the local level: case of Ms. Aminata Bagayogo, President of the ASACO of Cinzana, and Mama TRAORÉ in Diédougou;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Women, specifically in the area of Ségou, call for civil marriage at the Mayor's office; ✓ Community leaders and landowners are beginning to transfer ownership titles for the collective plots and networks in their villages; ✓ Men and women discuss topics of common interest in the village such as drinking water supply in the village, construction of health centers, etc.
<p>Intervention Sequencing and Timing: What is the best sequence of interventions and how does this vary by sub - IG? How we develop and strengthen the capacities of the collective as sustainable community institutions, before we exit?</p>	

8 Annexes to be included in the report:

- (i) Key activities planned for the next 6 months (pull these from the bridge grant period workplan);
- (ii) Case Studies or other reports to share.

Testimonies by participants in the forum and their commitment



My name is **Amadou COULIBALY**. I am a teacher and I live in Folomana (commune of Folomana, Ségou district). After seven years of marriage with my wife, I had never chatted with her in privacy.

From this forum on GBV, I pledge to share all household-related issues with her. This will start right away (he points to the tea and the sugar he just bought for the evening chat and that he himself will go and look for fire.)



My name is **Lassana DIARRA**. I'm a Pathways relay in Makili, commune of Diédougou (Ségou). I use to beat my wife anytime, anywhere, no matter how, but problems still remained between us. With this training, I understood that this was not the solution and I stopped beating her. I then established dialog in my household, the situation between us has improved drastically.

Thanks to the communication, I'm now getting from her more easily things that I was not getting with corporal punishment.



The *sous-préfet* in the middle during the forum held in Ouou Sarre

My name is **Amadou TOURÉ**. I am the *Sous Préfet* of Ouou Sarre, district of Bandiagara. I was already committed to the cause of women, but my participation in this forum on GBV has helped me to understand more the suffering women were undergoing due to men's behavior. I am committed to supporting Pathways Mali in this process because it's in straight line with the Government policy on gender equity.