



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

CARE Malawi Pathways 2014 Annual Report
(Dec 2013 – Nov 2014)

Progress and Results: Describe the progress of the project, including where the project is progressing as expected, where it is not, whether the project is still on track to complete expected results, and if not, what proposed modifications are contemplated.

- Objective 1:** To increase the productive engagement of 12,000 poor women in sustainable agriculture, and contribute to their empowerment

A. PROJECT DASHBOARD

Table 1: Malawi Dashboard December, 2014

<i>Impact and target groups, members and outreach</i>	Malawi
Number of villages	235
Number of groups by type	1528
• VSLA	1020
• Producer groups	508
• Self Help Groups	0
• Solidarity groups	0
• Co-operatives /Networks	0
• Other	0
Total number of poor women smallholder farmers (Impact Population) in collectives (Gates Foundation)	10,814
Total number of Impact Population (other donors)	13,882
% of women in leadership position	71.6
Total number of other target group	
• Men and Boys e. g. spouses, other	3,468
• Elites including traditional leaders	289
• Other	0

B. RESULTS BY CHANGE LEVERS

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

1.1. Key Capacity Performance Indicators

Table 2: Key Capacity Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators	Baseline	2013	2014
% women holding leadership positions in formal and informal groups	53.2	68	71.6
% respondents confident speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level			
• Female headed	53.7	66	82
• Male Headed	73.3	73.6	92

Source: Field reports, ARS 2013/14

1.1.1. Collectives and Impact Groups

Women continue to be a greater percentage of Pathways impact groups constituting 88.3% of the total impact groups. There has been improvement in male participation through joining collectives in the program from 398 in 2013 to 584 in the reporting period representing 46.7% increase. This has come

out as a result of increased gender dialogue sessions by the project with the men in the community and specifically for spouses. This has in the end helped in improving household dynamics as more women report of taking part in some of the household decision making processes such as family planning which was initially problematic. While men are increasingly joining groups, women are also increasingly assuming leadership roles in collectives and other community spaces evidenced by increase from 53.2% at baseline to 71.6 % this reporting period.

1.1.2. Knowledge and Skills

Several farmer capacity building activities were carried out in this reporting period with support from Farmer to Farmer Trainers (FFTs). 40 (33F, 7M) more FFTs have been recruited to increase farmer-to-extension worker contact. In total the program engaged 90(53F, 37 M) Farmer to Farmer Trainers who trained a total of 10,591 farmers (7,555 F, 3,396 M) using the Farmer Field Business School (FFBS) approach. Table 3 below outlines type of activities that imparted knowledge and skills to the program beneficiaries;

Table 3: Capacity Building Activities

Name of Activity	No. held	Number of Participants		
		Females	Males	Total
Field days	2	550	125	675
Learning visit (FFTS)	1	30	20	50
Agronomy training in collaboration with ICRISAT (PG executives)	4	144	34	178
Farmer Field Business Schools Demonstration Learning Centers	63	3454	260	3714
Gender dialogue sessions (access & control, man box, fictitious village tools)	188	7193	2464	9654
Nutrition sessions (Cookery demonstrations & six food groups)	8	4436	693	5129
FFBS plot lay out	8	2308	709	3017
Community monthly meetings	48	4732	2461	7193
Marketing reflections Meetings	12	1570	183	1753
Gross Margin analysis	12	3546	887	4433
Inventory Credit	8	3165	791	3956
Participatory performance Tracker (PPT) for PG executives	4	105	665	771

Source: Pathways Field Reports 2014

The above capacity building activities were conducted using various tools including six food groups, fictitious village, man box, access and control (Cash-Flow), person and things and principles of marketing.

The activities outlined in table 3 above enhanced poor women's self confidence, nutrition wellbeing, negotiation skills, equitable relationships in married couples and improved yields as a result of their adoption. More details are explained in various sections of the report that follows.

1.1.3. Women's Self Confidence

With reference to Table 2 above, women are becoming more confident to speak in public about gender and other issues that concern them. Compared to Baseline, over 80% of these women have become more confident to speak up in public; women from male-headed households continue to display more self-confidence than women in female-headed households. However more improvements has been observed in female headed households from baseline due to the enabling environment created by the program through dialogues with community leaders and male engagement. Usually cultural barriers are

stronger on unmarried women to speak on public than married women as married women are more respected than unmarried women in societies. Community leaders played a bigger role in allowing women to speak in public regardless of married or not. As more women become leaders in collectives, their self confidence and articulation of issues also improved and this trickled down to assuming more public roles and contribution

1.1.4: Capacity Lever Challenges

Uptake of skills that requires calculation and reading e.g. gross margin calculation, field measurement, data collection have been a challenge due to low literacy levels. This compromised quality of records and data from Farmer to Farmer Trainers and Producer group executives. To address the literacy challenge, Pathways encouraged producer group members to elect at least 25% of literate executive members to keep records. In some cases where organizations that implement adult literacy classes are present e.g. DAPP, Pathways farmers were encouraged to attend. Furthermore, more efforts concentrated on enhancing skills and capacities that do not require literacy through participatory and hands on techniques approaches like role playing, exposures and visual aids e.g. establishing demonstration plots to enhance productivity and wellbeing

1.2. Capacity Lever Lessons Learnt and Way forward

- Dialogue sessions are provoking discussions on issues regarded as sensitive in nature, and these are significantly affecting communication at household level. The “Person and Things” gender dialogue tool, a role-play about unequal power dynamics and literal objectification of women, was the most effective tool and Pathways will include more dialogue tools targeting community leaders and couples to enhance communication and equitable gender relations among couples.
- Use of drama and role plays during trainings and dialogue sessions helps farmers to internalize new ideas knowledge and skills more effectively. Pathways will continue to strengthen use of these methods upcoming year.

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

2.1. Key Access Performance Results

Table 4: Key Access Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators	Baseline	2013	2014
% women accessing agricultural inputs (seeds) over the last 12 months	77.1	92.3	94
% women accessing output markets to sell agricultural production over the last 12 months	39.9	51.8	66
% women with access to agricultural extension services in last 12 months	26.4	73.2	71
% women accessing agricultural financial services (loans, savings, crop insurance) in last 12 months	96.9	95.8	94.7

Source: Baseline, 2013/14 ARS reports

2.1.1. Access to Agricultural Inputs and Land

Access to agriculture inputs continues to improve, with 44.4 % of farmers (2077F, 156M) utilizing certified seed purchased collectively, as compared to 2013, when 80% used local seed. To access these inputs farmers were linked to several agro dealers shops and research institutions

- Farmers on their own purchased 14, 647 and 9,236 kilograms of certified groundnuts and soya bean seed respectively from ICRISAT, IITA, NASFAM and Saju agro dealers and 7,465 sachets of inoculants from Chitedze research station

- IITA and ICRISAT contributed to 721kilogram of groundnuts and 272 kilogram of Soya respectively as inputs for demonstration plots while Pathways procured 136 kilogram of Soya and 272 kilogram of fertilizer and 136 kilograms of Gypsum which was used in 63 FFBS demonstration sites. Similarly, women under the program accessed land for soya bean and groundnut production by using family inherited land (82%), subleasing/renting (13%) and title deeds (5%) . community leaders played a pivotal role in releasing 3.02 hectares of land for demonstration plots of which 86 percent was free allocation while the other was rented collectively among producer members.

2.1.2. Access to Output Markets

- The program facilitated participatory market surveys of farmer representatives in 8 formal markets to gather data on pricing, grading, logistics, payment and flexibility of use of farmers scales. Fourteen APEX members (10F, 4M) participated in the survey. As a result, **3,718** (3272F, 446M) farmers have been linked to 7 of the surveyed markets, namely Auction holdings, ACE, Sun seed oil, Mgoni market, Trans globe produce, Export trading and EXAGRIS Africa LTD. The markets that farmers engaged with include EXAGRIS Africa Ltd, Export trading and NASFAM where they sold 126 484kilograms of soya and 88468 kilograms of groundnuts at MK150 (0.42USD)and MK340 (0.94USD) (about per kg respectively)
- During the reporting period, ARS 2014 data show that 83 %of women accessed market information and used it to decide whether to sell or not. There was an increase of women farmers who hoard their produce to wait for better market prices from 21.9% last to 34% this year. These farmers sold at 70 percent more in groundnuts and 20 percent more in soya bean
- There is also an increase of farmers who sold collectively, from 5% at baseline to 20 % this year

2.1.3. Access to Extension Services

- More women (71 %) indicated that they accessed agricultural extension services that helped them to improve their productivity during the past 12 months (ARS 2014), compared to 26.4% at baseline. As seen from table four above, number of women who accessed agricultural extension during this reporting period were slightly lower by 2.2% to previous year due to reduction in FFBS demonstration plots from 160 to 63. FFTs were the primary source of extension services and information (63%) seconded by demonstration plot (36%).

2.1.4. Access to Financial Services and Credit

- VSL continue to be the greatest source of savings and loan services for the beneficiaries. 93% of beneficiaries who took loan this reporting period obtained it from VSLA (ARS, 2014). The loan was mostly used for purchase of farm inputs (62%), Food (59%), Education (37%), Investment in business (25%) and others. It was observed that there was an increase in agricultural input investment using savings from 12% in 2013 to 62%. As seen from access to inputs section about 44 % of the women bought certified seed compared to previous year where only 20 percent used.
- Over 98% of the beneficiaries continued to participate in Village Savings and Loan (VSL) activities in their groups. VSL groups shared out a total of **MK 376,768 546 .64** (Equivalent of **U\$ 991, 496.20**) in the reporting period. It has been observed that share out has increased by 71.3 % compared to last year's share out. This increase has been attributed to an increase in investment from soya and ground nuts sales. 85 percent of VSLA groups increased share value by a range of 50 to 400% after seeing the increased ability in members to save due to increased sources of income which include soya and groundnuts sales and businesses.

2.2. Access Lever Challenges

- Low adoption of inoculants usage due to unavailability at market and no significant results in yield improvements seen when used on FFBS demonstration plots due to failure to follow usage procedures; Farmers were advised to plant the soya seeds after coated with inoculant within 24 hours but due to other reasons like heavy rainfall they failed to plant the same day. Furthermore,

several demonstration plots shared the same packet of inoculant which disturbed the living rhizobium in the inoculant rendering it ineffective. As a result, there were no significant differences between treated and control soya crops. The program will ensure that these handling mistakes are not repeated and more trainings on usage and proper handling were conducted with 90 FFTS (53F, 37M) who will in turn man FFBS demonstration plots with the help of Pathways field staffs

- Penetrating formal markets; balancing the expectation of companies and farmers e.g. transaction costs versus low prices. Further to this when markets are identified and agree to buy collectively, they usually come late which lead to more farmers selling individually. Additionally there was lack of warehouses and trust among farmers to bulk and sell collectively in some cases.

2.3. Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

- Some poorer farmers sell to vendors because of immediate money needs soon after harvest while others fail to engage in collective marketing and input sourcing because of trust issues. To deal with this, program will continue strengthening groups in group dynamics and FFBS financing where two or more producer groups will be buying products from farmers and resell at a better price and share the profits among themselves.
- Further trainings will be provided with partners to train farmers on handling and proper utilization of the inoculants
- Pathways will utilize multi stakeholder forums to share farmer’s experiences which will lead to strengthening inputs and output systems for the benefit of farmers.

Change Lever 3 - Productivity: Improvements in Yield and Income through Adoption of sustainable and Intensified Agriculture and Value Addition.

3.1. Key Performance Indicators

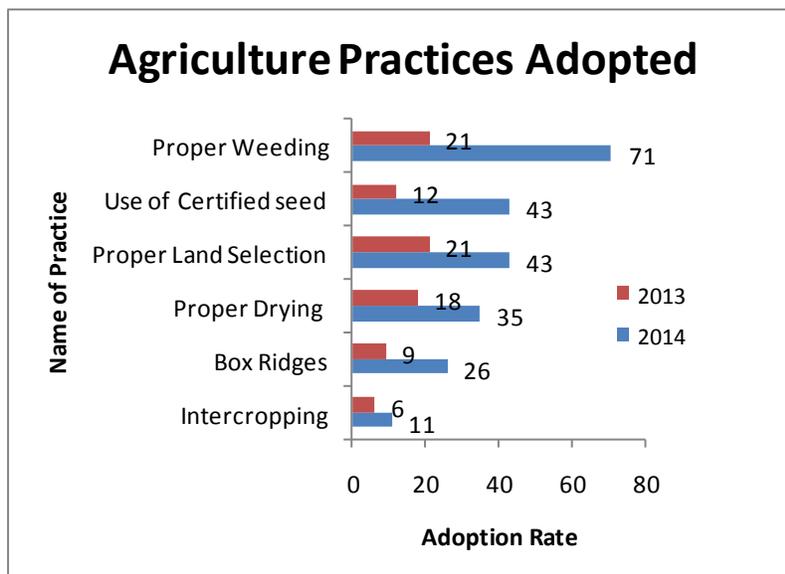
Table 5: Productivity Indicators

Indicator	Baseline	2013	2014
Agricultural yield in crops supported by Pathways (kg. per hectare)			
<i>Groundnuts</i>	837	957.6	1007.3
<i>Soya</i>	795	990.1	1022.8
% women adopting three improved agricultural practices	45.2	56	71
% women farmers adopting improved storage practices	26	71.8	72.5
% women farmers practicing two or more post-harvest practices	62.7	68.3	68

Source: Baseline, 2013/14 ARS Reports

3.1.1. Yield per Hectare

Yield per hectare has been consistently increasing over the years as seen from table 5 above. Yield per hectare increased by 20% from baseline under the reporting period.



Graph 1: Rate of Adoption of Agricultural Practices

3.1.2 Adoption of Improved Agricultural Practices

As seen from Table 5 above, adoption of farming practices increased each farming year. 93% adopted at least one practice in 2013 and 89% in 2014. 71% of farmers adopted at least three practices in 2014(2014 ARS). Some of the practices adopted are plotted in Graph 1 left.

3.1.3. Income from Soya and Groundnuts Sales

3,718 farmers (3272F, 446M) out of 5037 registered beneficiaries in the first half of the year participated in soya and groundnuts marketing and made a total of sales worth **MK 98, 431,071 (USD 252,388)** from soya and groundnuts. A total of **303,470** and **181,469** kilograms of soya and groundnuts respectively were sold, of which 53% was sold collectively at an average price of **MK261 (USD 0.66)** per kilogram in soya and **MK300 (USD 0.76)** in groundnuts. These sales represent a 15 % increase from last year’s sales

Table 6: Groundnuts and Soya Sales Tabulation

Year	Name of crop	Total Volume Harvested (Kg)	Sold collectively (Kg)	Value (MK)	Value (USD)
2014	Groundnuts	300,899	88,468	62,302,638	159,750
	Soya	305,420	126,484	36,128,433	92,637
	Total	606,319	214,952	98,431,071	252,387
2013	Groundnuts	126,839	6,600	21,667,020	60,186
	Soya	500,020	125,803	63,865,570	177,404
	Total	626,859	132,403	85,532,590	237,591

Source: Field Reports, 2014

3.1.4. Investment in Assets

On average, 68% of women accumulated assets which included bicycles, kitchen utensils, household items e.g. TVs and radios; livestock and building new houses. This was less than the previous year where 77.5% invested in assets. More women invested in agricultural inputs than the previous year hence the decrease.



Women showing some of the assets acquired: left; Grecelia Shawa standing in front of unfinished house; right top Patricia Nkhata standing in front of her goat shelter and showing some kitchen utensils and at the center are her goats

3.1.5. Nutrition and Food Security

Cookery Demonstrations at Kaomba



- Women are more aware of six food groups through cookery demonstration held. Midterm review revealed that men are happy with new recipes learnt by their wives through cookery demonstrations 1270) producer group members (1093 F, 277M have constructed vegetable home gardens.
- The ARS data and the general observation indicate changes in nutritious eating behaviors were noted by participants; households are able to eat not less than four food groups out of six.

3.2. Productivity Lever Challenges

Low adoption of record keeping related practices e.g. gross margin analysis due to low levels of literacy

3.3. Lessons Learnt and Way forward

- Farmers become inconsistent in growing of a crop when they meet a challenge. An example would be the drop of area under soya cultivation by 34.9%. However due to low production of the crop national wide, the crop is fetching more money at the market than last growing season. This behavior can also affect prices of groundnut as it has been increased by 29.3%. As a way forward, the program will build farmers' capacity to understand market environment in relation to forces of demand and supply so that they can sell products during those times when it is profitable.
- Village savings and loan groups have shared more income at the end of saving cycle compared to the same period last year. The program will continue strengthening village savings and loan activities in the next implementation period

Change Level 4 - Household Influence: Increased poor women farmer contributions to and influence over household income and decision making.

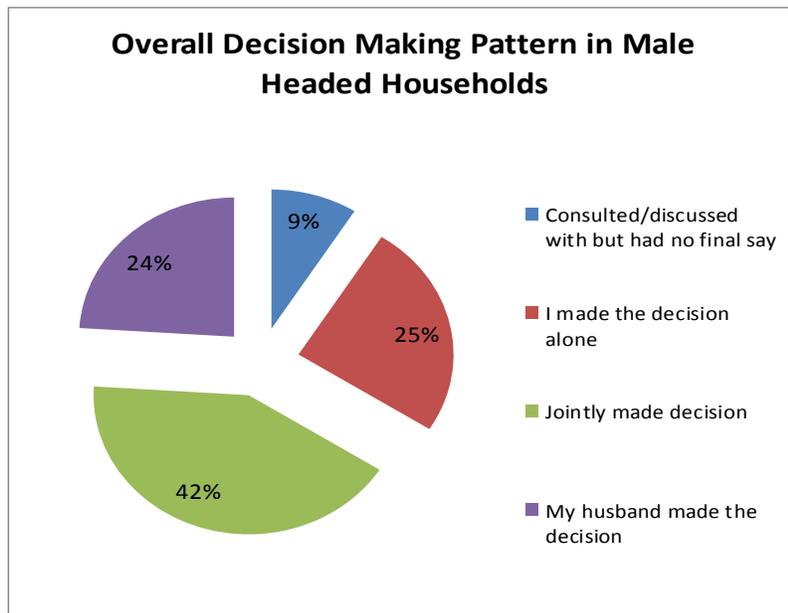
4.1. Household Performance Indicators

Table 7: Household Influence Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators	Baseline	2013	2014
% women with sole or joint control over agricultural income and expenditures	55.5	60.5	82
% women with sole or joint decision-making and control of household assets	57.6	71.8	80
% women with sole or joint decision-making and control over agricultural assets	45.2	74.6	71

Source: Baseline and 2013/14 ARS Reports

4.2. Decision Making and Control over Decisions and Productive Resources



Both qualitative and quantitative research on women household influence shows that women now have bigger influence on various household decisions. The Household performance results framework above shows significant increase in control of women in making various household decisions from baseline Overall it was found out that women form male headed

households had control over 67% of the household decisions as plotted in figure 2 below;

Apart from women’s influence in decisions, they are also contributing to household income. Women Economic Empowerment was the highly frequently mentioned changes observed among women with 44 behavioral changes (refer to Appendix 1; Progress Markers)-(MTR)

Furthermore male cohort panelist in 2014 mentioned that the most significant change they saw in the past 12 months was love in the family (60%) seconded by woman’s ability to contribute to household needs (30%).

On the other hand unmarried women felt they are more independent and do not need a man to survive

4.2. Household Influence Challenges

- While women are celebrating their independency and confidence, some men feel some women are not responsibly handling their empowerment well like this man said;

“Some of the women since they have been empowered refuse sex they say they have the right to say no to sex so as men this is very painful to us” Community leader, 44, Mwase

- Some men are withdrawing from providing for the household leaving more responsibilities to women to meet household financial needs

4.3. Lessons Learnt and Way forward

- Women’s greatest desire is to make joint decisions with husbands not alone. They reported that families that worked as partners are more developed and raise well behaved children, MTR 2014

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

5.1. Key Enabling Environment

Table 7: Enabling Environment Indicators

Performance	Baseline	2013	2014
% of respondents expressing attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life			
• Female Respondents	48.4	56	74
• Male Respondents	46.2	53	80
% of respondents expressing attitudes that reject household gender-based violence			
• Female Respondents	83.4	88	96
• Male Respondents	79.4	85	80
% women participating in formal and informal groups	66.5	92	88.2
% women holding leadership positions in formal and informal groups	35.4	68	71.6

5.1.1. Engaged Men, Boys and Local Institutions

- During the reporting period, the program engaged **3,468** spouses and boys through nutrition and gender dialogues. This is 453% increase compared to last year where only 627



Gender Dialogue Sessions at Njombwa

spouses and boys were engaged in dialogue sessions. In addition **289** Local leaders have also been engaged directly and were instrumental in creating enabling environment for women empowerment through encouraging them to join collectives, giving them public space to speak, condoning gender based violence, offering land for demonstration plots and spreading meeting messages to community members.

- There are a number of development organizations present in the areas that are leveraging the work of pathways by providing markets (NASFAM), training farmer in conservation agriculture (Total Land Care) conducting adult literacy classes, DAPP and promoting human rights by establishing victim support center (CCJP) even though they are not present in all impact areas or simultaneously

5.1.2. More Positive Attitudes and Perceptions

There are strides in changes of negative attitudes and perceptions regarding gendered roles and gender based violence. Through gender dialogue sessions, there is more workload sharing and reduced physical gender based violence. Men now help their wives cook, bath children or sweep when the wives is away and sometimes when around and is overburdened (MTR report, 2014). On the other hand women reported also doing gendered roles like constructing vegetable gardens and thatching roofs (refer to Appendix 2 for more details)

Consecutive annual review studies shows more and more program beneficiaries expressing attitudes that reject gender based violence and support gender equitable roles in the family (refer to table 6 above)

5.1.3. Increasing access to Land

The project has in the year engaged 289 chiefs in dialogue session with an aim of increasing women access to productive resources especially land. As a result of these dialogues, 3.02 hectares of land was given for demonstration for the 63 plots in the 4 traditional authorities for the FFBS learning by the local leaders.

13% of the women farmers in the programme were able to rent land for production of their value chain crops. This was possible because of the enabling environment created through engagement of local leaders and access to finances through VSLA and crop sales.

Chiefs also continued to negotiate with men and spouses who traditionally own land to free some land for women farmers in the programme to produce soya and groundnuts since the impact area produces a lot of tobacco as a cash crop. As a result of this 1266.6 hectares of land was given to women for the soy and groundnut production in the last growing season. There has also been a positive trend in this year regarding the quality of land that has been provided to farmers as compared to previous years where women were given less fertile portions of land for value chain crops which did not yield a lot (MTR findings) The cohort study showed that 54% of the women had gained significant control of land by deciding or participating in decisions over what to be grown on the land.

5.1.4: Increasing access to markets and extension services

In the reporting period, farmers have benefited from visits from Auction Holding Commodity Exchange and Agricultural Commodity Exchange (ACE) which are two large institutions set up to assist marketing of agricultural commodities at national scale. Farmers had an opportunity to discuss the terms of trade with high level buyers who among other things had pledged to offer flexible terms for pathways farmers such as buying at farm gate which is not happening anywhere else and also to allow them participate in the warehouse receipt system.

During the MAAFS meeting, the Project Manager was also able to engage with management of these institutions and has forged relationships which will benefit farmers in the long term. As a result of these interaction, APEX members of the marketing committees were able to visit ACE offices where a presentation was made to them on how they operate and how they could be engaged in their program.

5.1.5: Participation in national level forums

Pathways also prepared a paper titled "Farmer Field and Business School as an extension approach and submitted to the Malawi Forum for Agricultural advisory services (MAAFS) on 14th March 2014.

- MAAFS is the Malawi chapter of the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) which is the umbrella organisation for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Service (AEAS) in Africa. Its objective is to create efficient, effective and synergistic linkages and partnerships between AEAS of member countries to improve the delivery of these services to farmers. It operates through Country Fora that provide a mechanism for the diverse actors -including the farmers - to exchange information, share lessons, identify opportunities for providing services to each other, and for innovating on how to provide advisory services in their domains of work.
- As a result of this submission pathways was invited to a thematic meeting by the Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS) on 10th April 2014 at Malawi Institute of Management. Pathways has so far participated in 4 MAAFs meetings in the reporting period. Pathways also prepared a paper titled "Farmer Field and Business School as an extension approach and submitted to the Malawi Forum for Agricultural advisory services (MAAFS) on 14th March 2014.

5.1.5: **Positive attitudes towards FFBS approach by Extension staff from Government**

In the roll out of the FFBS approach, participation of extension staff from Ministry of Agriculture was very high. They were providing training to farmers participating in the FFBS and linking Pathways farmers to similar initiatives for markets, agronomic trainings and ensuring that they are able to benefit from inputs and services that government is providing.

5.2. **Enabling Environment Challenges**

While women observed that physical gender based violence is reducing, they reported a steady growth of emotional gender based violence. Wife beating and verbal insults were reported to decrease in some areas due to the Pathways gender dialogue sessions especially because of 'Person and Thing' gender dialogue tool and presence of other human rights organizations. However women identified marrying second wives, withdrawing from family provision, using agriculture proceeds alone (especially tobacco proceeds) as common gender based violence.

- Male champions are laughed and discouraged by the community when they do gendered roles saying they have been given love portions

5.3. **Lessons Learnt and Way Forward**

- The Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) demonstrations plot greatly improved spouses engagement as the trainings were more practical and had visible and easy comprehensible results for the pathway beneficiaries' community. As they participate, they are being exposed to gender tools which enhances changes in attitudes and norms against women
- The program will continue encouraging male involvement in project activities through continued community dialogue sessions where village leaders will be engaged to mobilize all the community. Furthermore the program will add two more gender dialogue tools specifically designed to address spouses relationships

Partner	Names of institutions, overall purpose of partnership, key lessons and challenges. Reflect upon these well.
Academic & research, other technical backstopping	Name of institution: ICRISAT Purpose of Partnership: To provide technical backstopping on growing of soya and groundnuts through organizing demonstration plots and conducting field researches. Train farmers on new improved agriculture technologies that enhances productivity and enhance access of improved varieties of seeds <i>Key lessons and Challenges</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late distribution of seed for contract farming coupled with unfavourable rainfalls resulted in low production.
Input suppliers	Names: IITA, Chitedze Research Station, Alinafe traders, SAJU agro dealer Purpose: To link farmers to inputs such as seed, inoculant, pesticides and other inputs for other crops. Key lessons and Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of the identified input suppliers did not have outlets close to Kasungu and Dowa where women farmers can access inputs easily

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

Focus areas	Description
Is your Pathways team engaging with other CARE project teams to learn and improve implementation? Please describe how.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maziko Project, a nutrition project shared nutrition leaflets, charts and nutrition messages to Pathways staff and farmers. Maziko farmers are utilizing the agriculture input and output markets identified through Pathways.
Have you shared Pathways results, tools or lessons with colleagues and CARE partners beyond the Pathways team? How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways and WERISE made presentation in the best practices conference held at Kalikuti Hotel in Lilongwe from 7th – 9th April 2014. The workshop was organized by Ministry of Gender and Dan Church Aid. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together like minded stakeholders whose initiatives and work touch in economic empowerment of women. <p>Engagement with Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of paper titled "Farmer Field and Business School as an extension approach and submitted to the Malawi Forum for Agricultural advisory services (MAAFS) on 14th March 2014. Attended a workshop, exhibition and General Assembly August 2014 at Malawi Institute of Management. Pathways also contributed to survey on gender responsive policies, approaches, interventions and tools. Participated in Outcome Mapping Webex with Outcome Mapping communities in October 2014 where CARE shared outcome mapping experience and results. More than 25 participants joined the webex
Have you adopted Pathways tools or lessons and included them in any new proposals in the past 12 months? Please list those including the total value of the proposal, whether we have won the funds and how many people the project targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARE Pathways to secure and Resilient livelihoods proposal submitted Margret A. Cargil foundation with a total budget of \$753 320 and proposal passed Support for subprojects in Soya value chain development – proposal submitted to Ministry of Trade and Industry which is funded by African Development Bank with a total budget of \$878 471

Focus areas	Description
Is Pathways an anchor project for your long-term program? Please describe how Pathways is informing your broader country strategy and progress made in the past 12 months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes Pathways is an anchor project by design and by implementation since it is line with the programming approach that the CO is engaged in and Pathways continues to influence value chain and market engagement in the country office.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — FFBS as an extension approach is gaining ground and. learning visits to program sites are being requested by other programs within the CO.

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? Please describe the events, the participants and the strategic value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways presented program progress, challenges and future actions plans in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 2 District Executive Committee meetings –Organized by Kasungu and Dowa districts. 88 people attended the meeting — 8 Area Development Committee meetings • Invited to a field day organized by Clinton Hunters Initiative implementing Anchor Farm Business Project in one of the Pathways implementing areas. 16 (7F, 9M) Farmer to Farmer Trainers (FFT) attended the event. • Also attended Food and Nutrition Security Learning Event in Hawassa Ethiopia where Malawi pathways Manager Salome Mhango made a presentation on FFBS.
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? Please describe these visits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected participants from ACRES meeting described above from Ghana and France visited two Pathways sites where they visited FFBS sites. • Vicki Wilde, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Program Officer for Agricultural Development together with the Pathways Program Chief of Party (Maureen) and the CARE USA’s Senior Director of Development, Foundations Unit (Charu) visited selected program sites in Kasungu and Dowa

Focus Area	Describe giving as much detail as possible
Does your team have a regular external communications system (newsletter, etc), have you shared any reports externally or hosted an external event featuring Pathways? If so, please describe this/these.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFBS guide book – The book has been distributed to 61 people (13 staff members and 50 FFTs). • FFBS as an extension approach – paper shared to a forum attended by 30 people from government, NGOs and academia

C. CHALLENGES AND RISKS:

1. Climate change- unreliable rainfall resulting in low yields

- The program will intensify promotion of climate smart technologies such as conservation agriculture through use of organic fertilizers for moisture conservation and agroforestry trees planting. Further to this, the program will continue promoting improved agricultural practices, use of early maturing and high yielding improved varieties; early planting and crop diversification. The project will also continue to promote climate resilient livelihood strategies in combination with income diversification and capacity building for planning and improved risk management
- 2. Access to high yielding improved varieties still a challenge due to few distribution channels. The program has embarked on training some farmers who own Hawkers in strategic places to become agro dealers to stock seed. These agro dealers will be linked to ICRISAT, IITA and other seed manufacturers
- 3. Less engaged men shunning household responsibilities because of women's economic independency. The program has designed and added two more gender dialogue tools that will specifically engage couples in dialogues
- 4. Low turn up of expected participants in the first six months affected FFBS learning sessions because it was a busy farming season. The program will work around properly timing the activities and reducing number of meeting during the busy periods of farming

D. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation	
Monitoring and evaluation activities carried out in the last 12 months giving details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program review at country and regional level • Collection of midterm review and report writing • Data collection from producer groups and VSL groups • Compilation of progress reports (Semi and Annual) • Training of field staffs and Producer groups leaders on PPT. Data entry and submission for analysis • Analysis of data for Annual Cohort study and report writing
M&E lessons and challenges, and modifications/way forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current M&E tools do not capture household income from other sources apart agricultural activities of soya and groundnuts. The indicator that require this data will be reported at end of the project • Data collected by some FFTs and producer group executive members had quality challenges. More capacity building for FFTs and PG executives in data management and record keeping
Program Management	
Describe any changes in staffing in the last 12 months and impacts on program, and efforts to bridge these	The project recruited new M&E coordinator and 3 field officers