



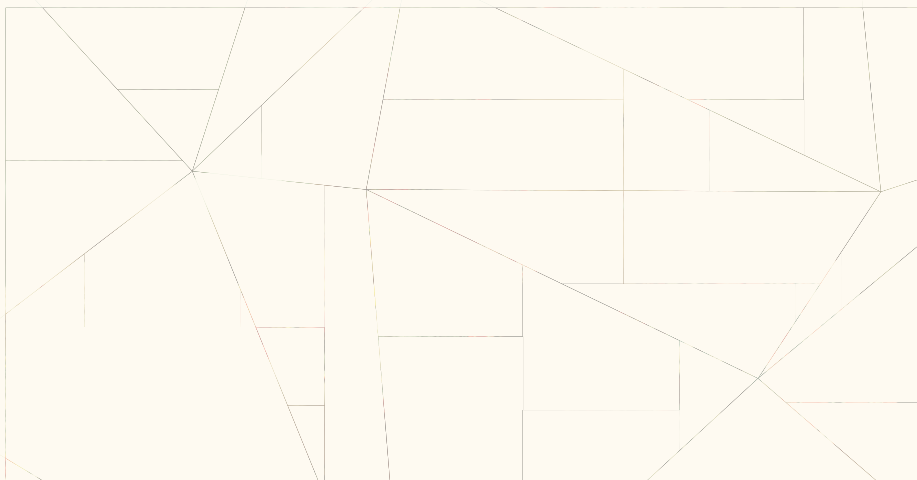
## Woman Empowerment How Pathways Changed the Game

CARE's Pathways to Secure and Resilient Livelihoods project promotes women empowerment among the female smallholder farmers and helps them to establish themselves as an important part of the community and national development and ensure their contribution in the economic growth of the country. Pathways' vision is to empower women smallholder farmers and to celebrate their contributions in achieving secure and resilient livelihoods and sustainable futures for their households and communities. The project achieves this vision by promoting women's leadership and productive and profitable engagement in intensified, sustainable agriculture.

The project has facilitated access to land for 207 women small holders and facilitated two year written agreements between farmer groups and the Union Parishad to access the roadside and canal side lands. Besides this, the project has also facilitated agreement between Gher (large pond) owners, local landlords, and women farmers so that women can access Gher-side agricultural land.

The project also identified 16 input shops to brand with quality inputs and linked those shops with farmer groups. At Satkhira, the project developed 12 input shops under Krishi Utsho, a franchisee network brand for input shops. Additionally A total of 1,807 other community members also participated in the gender technical sessions of which 57% are women.

The project team reviewed the access and control tool from the Farmers Field Business School (FFBS) toolkits and translated it in Bengali. This tool was used to facilitate gender awareness sessions on women's access to household assets. The project's M&E tools captured progress towards these goals. An exclusive gender monitoring tools (GMT) was also developed to see the status of asset ownership and asset liquefying status of the targeted groups. The following table shows the engagement status in details on GMT:



**Table 15: Men and women's engagement in gender dialogue sessions**

Session name	# of Session	Women	Men	Total
Gender Role/Women's contribution in Agriculture	108	4,091	1,094	5,185
Women mobility	60	3,006	672	3,678
Daily time use by men and women	37	1,494	454	1,948
Decision making pile sort	8	298	77	375
Wage Analysis	98	2,331	723	3,054
	311	11,220	3,020	14,240

## The approaches

Pathways facilitated the Community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) session to identify area-specific key climatic vulnerabilities around agriculture and the gender specific vulnerabilities, as well identified the key facilitation areas to raise community awareness on climate impacts in their livelihoods. After the initial analysis, the project then builds community capacity to best adapt to climate change impacts. The table below shows the summary of key vulnerabilities and community adaptive planning that project teams followed in designing capacity building packages.

The Pathways project facilitated access to land for extreme poor women via agreements between the group and the Union Parishad (UP) to use roadside land for vegetable and indigo cultivation. With the Pathways' support, women farmers from 47 groups developed two-year written agreements with the Union Parishad for 107 km of roadside land to cultivate vegetables and indigo. Based on the solid learning from the previous phase, the project facilitated access to communal land for extremely poor women with a key focus on women wage earners so that they are better able to produce nutritious vegetables for home consumption and have some additional income to buy food during disaster.

## The results

The program appears to cause significant shifts in gender roles and increased participation of women in household decision making; which previously appeared to remain strongly in favor of the men. Few women were able to make decisions on selecting crop and livestock varieties, and they are more vulnerable in disaster to some extent. However, the program's gender dialogues seem to influence changes using a set of tools including: the daily time use tool, mobility mapping, decision making pile sort, access/control matrix and participatory wage analysis towards reducing gender inequalities. The project has identified gender based challenges through some participatory analysis and gender based vulnerabilities followed by disaster, has been explored through the CVCA analysis. Key vulnerabilities are mentioned here and more debriefed in CVCA summary.



## Key Gender Based Challenges identified through CVCA

- Women and girls suffer additional social problems due to flood and water logging. Bathing and defecating become extremely awkward, and they are often forced to do it at night
- Early marriage (to protect girls in a difficult situation) and increasing rates of divorce (due to husbands migration for work)
- Migration of male counterparts to work outside the community also results social insecurity for women.
- Discontinuing education of children and use child labor especially for girls.
- Challenges in mobility as flooding damages roads and submerged conditions create insecurity
- Women are more vulnerable with food insecurity followed by disaster.
- Assets are liquefied that are specially owned by women (e.g. livestock, small jewelry)







For Further Query or Technical Assistance

**Anowarul Haq**

Director, Extreme Rural Poverty Program  
CARE Bangladesh  
RAOWA Complex (Level-7)  
VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1206  
Mobile: +880 1777 755848  
Email: [anowarul.haq@care.org](mailto:anowarul.haq@care.org)

**Ahmad Sadequl Amin**

Coordinator, Agriculture & Value Chain  
Extreme Rural Poverty Program  
CARE Bangladesh  
RAOWA Complex (Level-7)  
VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1206  
Mobile: +880 1755 500195  
Email: [ahmadsadequl.amin@care.org](mailto:ahmadsadequl.amin@care.org)

**Akram Ali**

Program Manager, Marketing and Communications  
Extreme Rural Poverty Program  
CARE Bangladesh  
RAOWA Complex (Level-7)  
VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1206  
Mobile: +880 1736108138  
Email: [akram.ali@care.org](mailto:akram.ali@care.org)