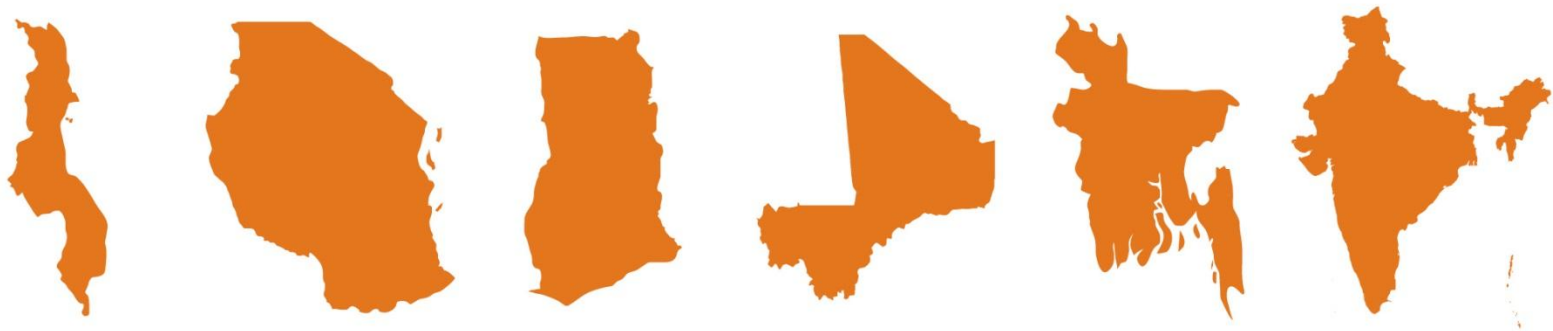


# Multi-dimensional measures of empowerment



MALAWI • TANZANIA • GHANA • MALI • BANGLADESH • INDIA

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**TANGO**  
INTERNATIONAL  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to NGOs

# Overview



- **Designing the aggregate index for empowerment**
- **Relevance of baseline findings to CARE's project implementation**
- **Lessons learned**
- **Benefits and challenges of using multi-dimensional empowerment indices**

# Mixed-methods

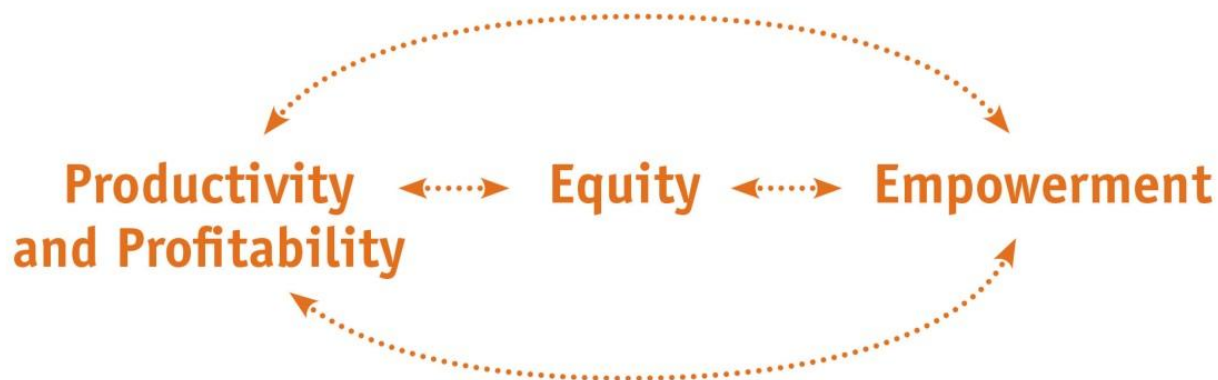
	Malawi	Tanzania	Ghana	Mali	Bangladesh	India
# of households surveyed	763	849	175	785	454	923
# of focus groups	36	36	12	36	40	48

- Quantitative household surveys
- Qualitative research
  - Female, male, and mixed focus groups (200 + total)
  - Participatory tools
    - Seasonal calendars
    - 24-hour time allocation analysis
    - Decision-making matrices
    - Venn diagrams
  - Key informant interviews (as many as 50 per country)

## CARE PATHWAYS THEORY OF CHANGE

### More Secure and Resilient Livelihoods

Food and Nutrition Security, Coping and Adapting Ability



#### 1 Capacity

CHANGE LEVER

Knowledge, skills and relationships  
Self-confidence and conviction of power

#### 2 Access

CHANGE LEVER

Access to productive resources, assets and markets  
appropriate and reliable services and input

#### 3 Productivity

CHANGE LEVER

Improved yields and income through the adoption of sustainable agriculture and value addition

#### 4 Household Influence

CHANGE LEVER

Contribution to and influence over income and decision-making

#### Enabling Environment

More positive and enabling attitudes, behaviors, social norms, policies and institutions

CHANGE LEVER

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Domain	Indicator	Weight
PRODUCTION (20%)		
RESOURCES (20%)		
INCOME (20%)		
LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY (20%)		
TIME/ AUTONOMY (20%)		

Adapted from the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index. IFPRI/USAID, 2012

Domain	Indicator	Weight
PRODUCTION (20%)	Input in productive decisions	10%
	Autonomy in production domains	10%
RESOURCES (20%)	Sole or joint ownership of assets	6.7%
	Decision-making control over assets	6.7%
	Access to and decisions on credit	6.7%
INCOME (20%)	Control over household income and expenditures	20%
LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY (20%)	Group participation	5%
	Speaking in public	5%
	Self-confidence	5%
	Political participation	5%
TIME/ AUTONOMY (20%)	Satisfaction with time available for leisure	6.7%
	Mobility	6.7%
	Attitudes that support gender equitable roles in HH	6.7%
Total		100%

# Analysis with original thresholds



Extremely high rates of baseline achievement

- > 80% of women considered to be empowered
- > 90% achievement for individual indicators

What does this mean for project focus?

# Adjusting indicator thresholds- Malawi

Indicator: Sole or joint control over purchase or sale of assets

## Original threshold

Woman has sole or joint control for at least one type of asset.\*

Result - 93% achieve

## Adjusted threshold

# of asset types\* for which women have sole or joint control

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# of assets types reported by household

Must be  $\geq .75$

Result - 62% achieve

*\*except if only poultry or non-mechanized equipment*



# Results- Empowerment Index Score

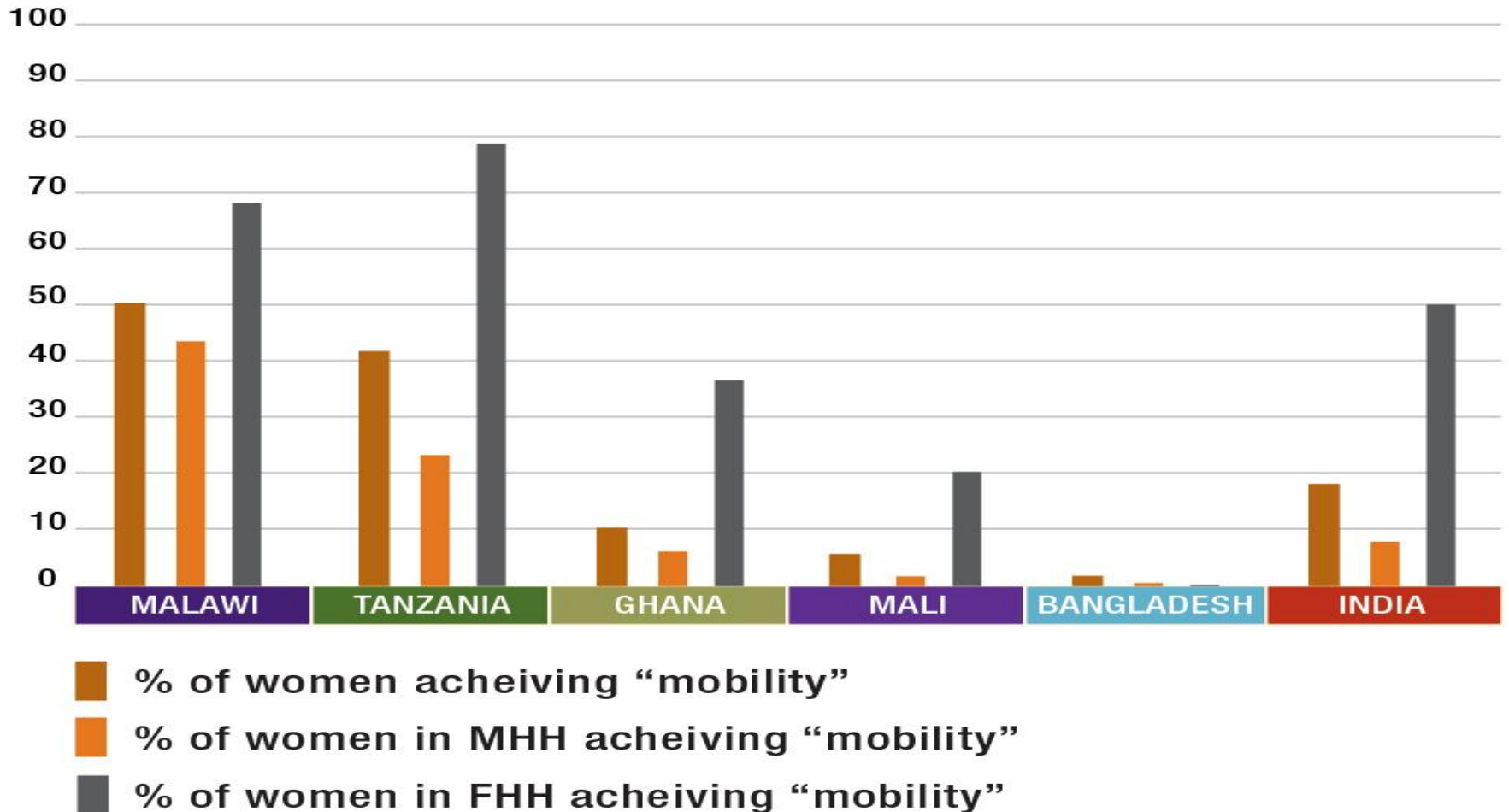


	Malawi	Tanzania	Ghana	Mali	Bangladesh	India
<b>Empowerment index score</b>	.66	.58	.47	.32	.29	.46
<b>% of women achieving empowerment (score of .80 or greater)</b>	23.2*	13.1*	1.7*	2.2*	0.0	4.4*
<b>n</b>	763	819	173	776	454	924

\*Significantly different between male- and female-headed households within individual countries at  $p < .05$ / India ( $p < .10$ )

Empowerment index score = aggregate value of the weighted average of the 13 indicators

# Results – Mobility



## Destinations where > 70 % of female respondents must “always” or “almost always” ask permission to visit

	Malawi	Tanzania	Ghana	Mali	Bangladesh	India
Church, Temple or Mosque						
Health care provider						
Public village meeting						
A meeting of any group in which she is a member						
Market						
Leave the house to earn money						
Local social event						
Female friend's home						
Family member's home						
Outside her village						

# Lessons Learned



## Length of survey

Aim for separate measurement activities

## Measuring decision-making control with precision

Refine menu of responses. A decision-making continuum?

## Mobility indicator - Do I have to ask my wife what ? !

Frame questions identically to accurately measure parity

## Difficulty standardizing empowerment measures

Six very unique Pathways countries/ differing perceptions of what matters

## Trade-off of contextualizing indicator thresholds

Allows for more precise country performance monitoring, but hampers ability to do cross-country comparisons of aggregate index values

# Multi-dimensional empowerment indices



## Benefits

Gender is mainstreamed at high-level impact level of M&E framework

Many facets of empowerment are considered in one aggregate value

If standardized, allows stakeholders to make cross-country comparisons/ filter for allocation of specific resources

If used well, informs two distinct audiences:

- High-level stakeholders can explore long-term trends.
- Implementers can use the results of disaggregated indicators to inform program design.

# Multi-dimensional empowerment indices



## CHALLENGES

Utility for high-level stakeholders generally means a standardized framework (yet by standardizing, we lose valuable information)

### Risk:

- Relying on aggregate value alone
- Index components with no direct link to project initiatives
- No priority/budget for complementary qualitative research

# Multi-dimensional measures of empowerment



THANK YOU

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