

THE 2021 MALAWI ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY CONFERENCE



BUILDING RESILIENCE TO RANDOM EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SHOCKS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS:

Experiences in Improving Gender Justice and Transformative Food Systems

by

Lemekeza Mokiwa - CARE MALAWI

Food & Nutrition Security / Climate Change Resilience Program Specialist

2nd June 2021

Quick facts about CARE Malawi



- CARE is a global leader within a movement dedicated to ending poverty.
- Established in 1998 in Malawi; works in 14-15 districts in a given year.
- CARE has funding (within the last 12 months) from FCDO (formerly DFID), USAID, EU, ECHO, Global Affairs Canada, GIZ, WFP, as well as a host of private foundations e.g. BMGF.
- **Vision:** We seek a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and all people live with dignity and security.
- **Mission:** CARE works around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice.
- **Focus:** We put women and girls in the center because we know that we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities.

Quick facts about CARE Malawi



- **Promoting lasting change and innovative solutions.** CARE and our partners trigger innovation for sustainable development. We focus on:
 - *Gender equality*
 - *Right to food, water, and nutrition*
 - *Right to health*
 - *Humanitarian assistance*
 - *Women's economic justice*
 - *Climate justice*
- **Multiplying Impact.** Relying on the **evidence, learning and innovation** generated by our programs, we seek to influence broader social change, at significant scale

The Gender Justice and Food Systems Context

- Agriculture generates 29% of GDP, 65% of employment, and 67% of export earnings (IFPRI, 2017).
- Despite the high dependence of the economy on agriculture, **Agricultural production and productivity in Malawi** has not increased sufficiently over time to match growing domestic demand and available export opportunities. (Ref. The NAP).
- Lack of **inclusion of youth, women and vulnerable groups** in the agricultural sector hampers Malawi's growth. It has been estimated that ***closing the gender gap may increase crop yields by 7.3% per annum and increase GDP by 1.8%*** (UNWomen, 2015).
- Despite the significant potential of the women and youth towards achieving sustainable agricultural development, they face challenges to access to and control over land, labour, capital, market, financial services and agricultural technical services.

The CARE Approach:

- **Strengthening gender equality and women's voice**
 - Gender Equality & Women's Voice Framework
 - Robust Gender Analyses and Comprehensive Gender strategies and action
 - Social Analysis and Action (SAA)
- **Promoting inclusive governance**
 - Community Score Card to amplify citizens' voice in demanding for better quality and more equitable service delivery by the public and private sector
 - Strengthen community-based and decentralised governance structures
 - Participatory Performance Tracking (PPT) and Outcome Mapping to facilitate communities' meaningful participation in M&E
- **Increasing resilience** (Anticipatory, Adaptive, Absorptive, Transformative)

Programmatic Framework: SuPER



Rights to Food & Nutrition Security for 50 million women and youth small-scale producers and their families

in SuPER food systems:

Sustainable - Productive (including profitable & nutrition-sensitive) - Equitable - Resilient



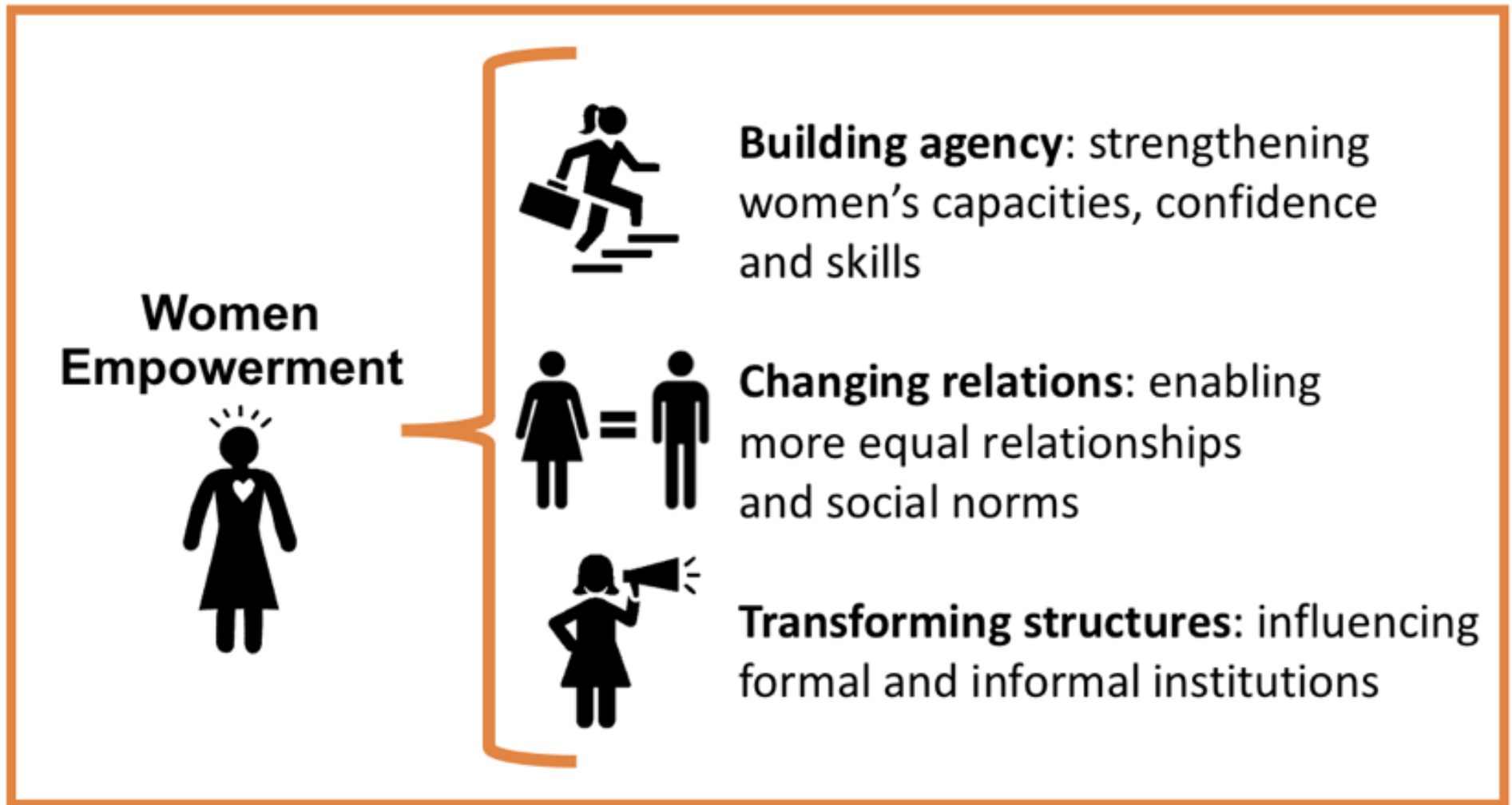
Multiplying Impact

Advocacy & influencing for scale

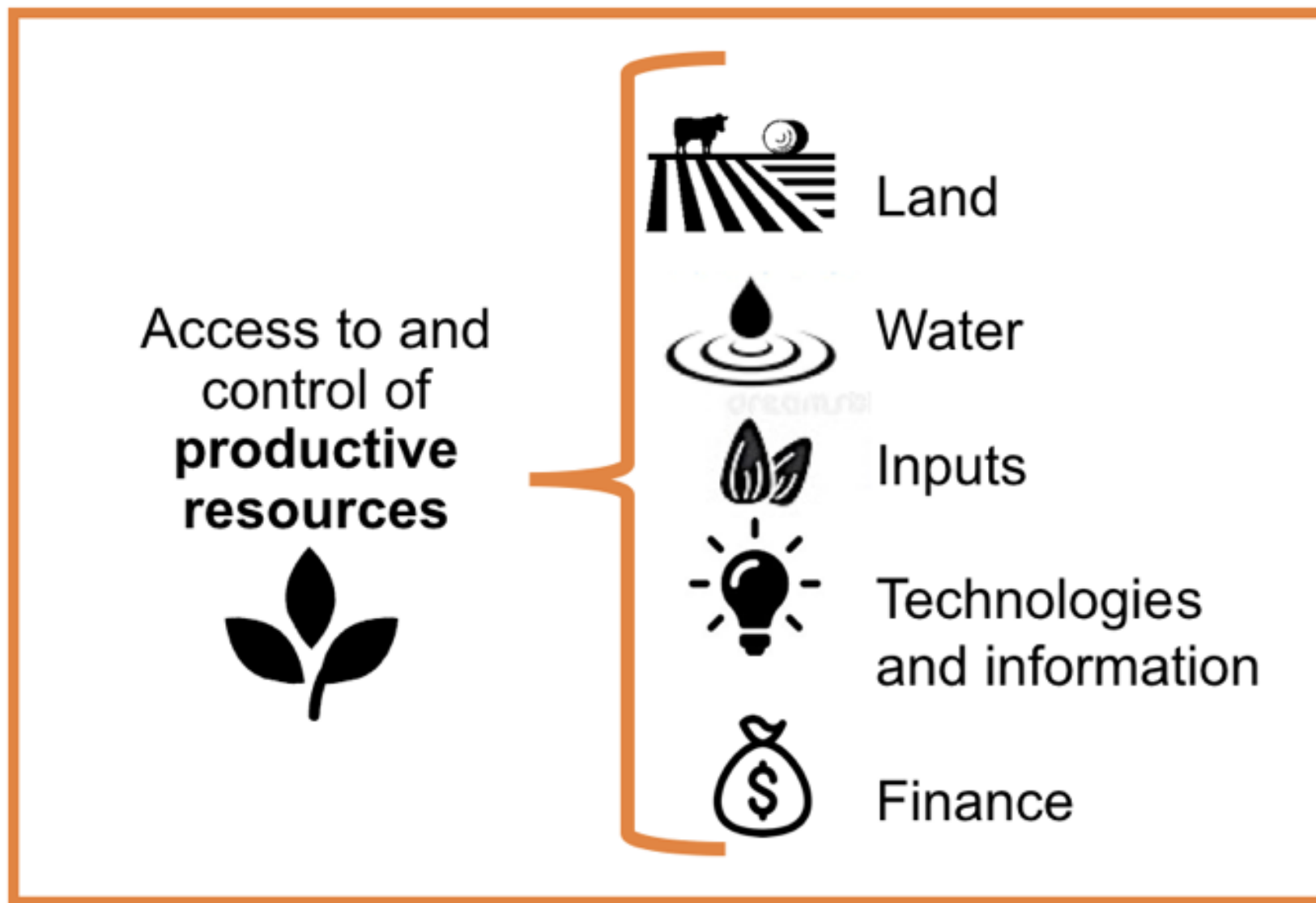
Partnerships & platforms



Area of Change 1: Women's Empowerment



Area of Change 2: Access to and Control of Productive Resources



Area of Change 3: Inclusive Markets



**Inclusive
markets**



Inclusive Value Chain and
Market Systems Analysis

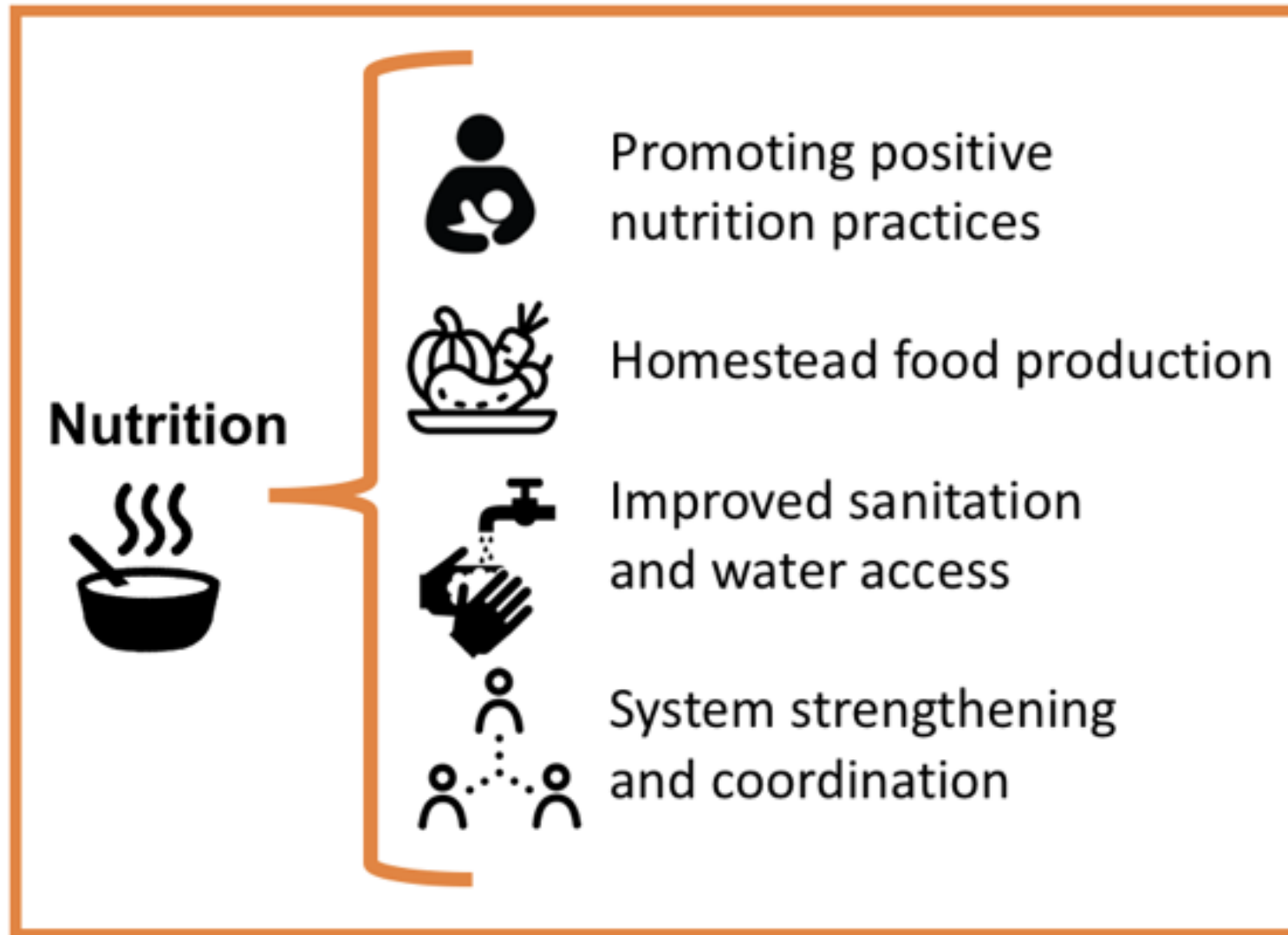


Food processing and
value addition



Collective marketing skills
and structure

Area of Change 4: Nutrition



Area of Change 5: Multiplying Impact



Multiplying
Impact



Advocacy and influencing for scale



Partnerships and platforms



Innovation and Research



Evidence and Learning

Integrating Proven Models & Approaches



The following approaches are tested and widely adopted in Malawi and beyond, and have a demonstrated and measurable positive impact on the lives of the poor and marginalized:

- **Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS)** to increase smallholder productivity and profit from agriculture;
- **Village Savings and Loans (VSL)** to facilitate women's participation in economic activities and asset building for very poor families;
- **Community Score Card®** to strengthen citizen engagement in decision-making about resource allocation for services, and oversight of the quality and equity in service delivery;
- **Climate-Resilient Agriculture** (Water-smart Agriculture, Conservation Agriculture, Agroforestry, Small-Scale Irrigation, Watershed Management, Post-Harvest Loss Management)
- **Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation** (Disaster Preparedness, Community capacity strengthening – anticipatory capacity, adaptive capacity, absorptive capacity and Transformative capacity)

Integrating Proven Models: *Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS)*



- Participatory, Women-Focused Extension to increase smallholder productivity and profit from agriculture
- Builds skills in production and marketing
- Engages men, gov't extension, and community leaders
- Integrates learning into seasonal cycle
- Uses existing VSLA, producer, self-help groups
- Climate-smart/ water-smart

Integrating Proven Models: Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA / YSLA)



- Platform for women's empowerment and social cohesion
- Financial literacy and business skills
- Exposure to agricultural technologies and information
- Links women to input/output markets
- Links members to MFIs
- CARE Influenced the MNSSP

Integrating Proven Models: Community Score Card



- The Community Score Card, first developed by CARE provides a platform for structured interface (listening, discussing and agreeing on action) between duty bearers and rights holders to bring about agreed upon change
- Strengthen citizen engagement in decision-making about resource allocation for services, and oversight of the quality and equity in service delivery

Coordination and Partnerships



- **Government:** CARE Malawi works in close collaboration with several Government Ministries and Departments – Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; Local Government; Gender, Children, Disability and Social, Land Resource, Forestry, Fisheries and then Environmental Affairs department. (National and District levels)
- **Civil Society Platforms:** CARE is an Executive Member of CISANET, CISON ECC MaFAAS, Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance (CSONA), Malawi Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (MCSAA), National Youth Network on Climate Change (NYNCC)
- **Academic and Research institutions:** the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), National University of Ireland Galway to name a few.

THANK YOU...

