

overview

Ethiopia

19% of savings groups formed by CARE
55% of members in CARE groups are women
\$2.6 M USD total savings in CARE groups
(\$13/member)



Burundi

46% of savings formed by CARE
83% of members in CARE groups are women
\$9.4 M USD total savings in CARE groups
(\$18/member)



Malawi

7% of savings groups formed by CARE
82% of members in CARE groups are women
\$660 K USD total savings in CARE groups
(\$16/member)



Bangladesh*

12% of saving groups formed by CARE
95% of members in CARE groups are women
\$638 K USD total savings in CARE groups
(\$45/member)



Rwanda

7% of savings groups formed by CARE
76% of members in CARE groups are women
\$8.3 M USD total savings in CARE groups
(\$29/member)



Haiti

18% of savings groups formed by CARE
80% of members in CARE groups are women
\$245 K USD total savings in CARE groups
(\$62/member)



VSLAs Increase Savings & Income



An average member of a moderately successful savings group sees their total savings **increase by 153% over the 1st year of participation.**



VSLA members experience an **average increase in income of 2.75x over five years.**

A majority of members in savings groups see the number of distinct income generating activities decrease while their income from their primary income generating activity increases and stabilizes.



Median income increased by \$9.35 within 1st year for each \$1 invested.



Average income increased by \$18.85 within 5 years for each \$1 invested.



VSLAs Bolster Food Security



One in five households who joined a savings group consumed an extra meal per day, up from a typical 1 – 2 meals a day.

For programs that were able to follow households for at least two years,

In extreme food insecurity



In moderate food insecurity



* Bangladesh started forming groups in 2019 and now have 12% of the market share.

A typical female member of a moderately successful savings group sees the likelihood of owning at least one asset **increase by 54%** and the likelihood of her having the control to sell that asset without asking anyone permission **increase by 37%**.

For every \$1 invested by CARE, we find evidence for the savings of a typical VSLA participant to **increase between \$7 and \$20**.

VSLAs Improve Resilience



Through COVID-19 lockdowns, approximately 81% of VSLAs were still saving.



Of VSLAs used mobile or alternative means to save money



Of VSLAs who continued to operate used their existing funds to support member households



Of members surveyed during the pandemic stated that their VSLA used some portion of their existing social funds to support non-members in need



VSLAs Improve Education Access



3

Three new children attend school for every \$250 USD invested in VSLAs.

Between 64 and 80% (depending on location) of women members used the extra income gained from VSLAs for family education.

The data in this brief comes from the report [VSLA by the Numbers: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Impact and ROI of VSLAs](#)