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A Debate: Closing the DFS Gender Gap

August 29, 2017 | 9:00 – 10:00 am (EDT)



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Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Pro: DFS is the Solution to closing the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion
3. Con: DFS is not the solution to addressing the Gender Gap
4. Pro Rebuttal
5. Con Rebuttal
6. Summary and Take-aways
7. Q&A with panelists

Pro: DFS is the solution to closing the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion



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Overview of BRAC

- BRAC is ranked as the number 1 NGO in the world which has the vision of *a world free from all forms of **exploitation** and **discrimination** where everyone has the opportunity to realise their **potential***
- Our interventions aim to **achieve large scale, positive changes** through economic and social programmes that enable women and men to **realise their potential**.
- We are operating in **11** countries with a holistic approach through a workforce of **112,000** ++ staff



DFS: Closing the gender gap

In support of “DFS is the solution to closing the gender gap in financial inclusion”-

- Ease and convenience of transaction
- Provision of using multiple products using the same tool
- Customized product addressing the need of women
- Technological advancement of women

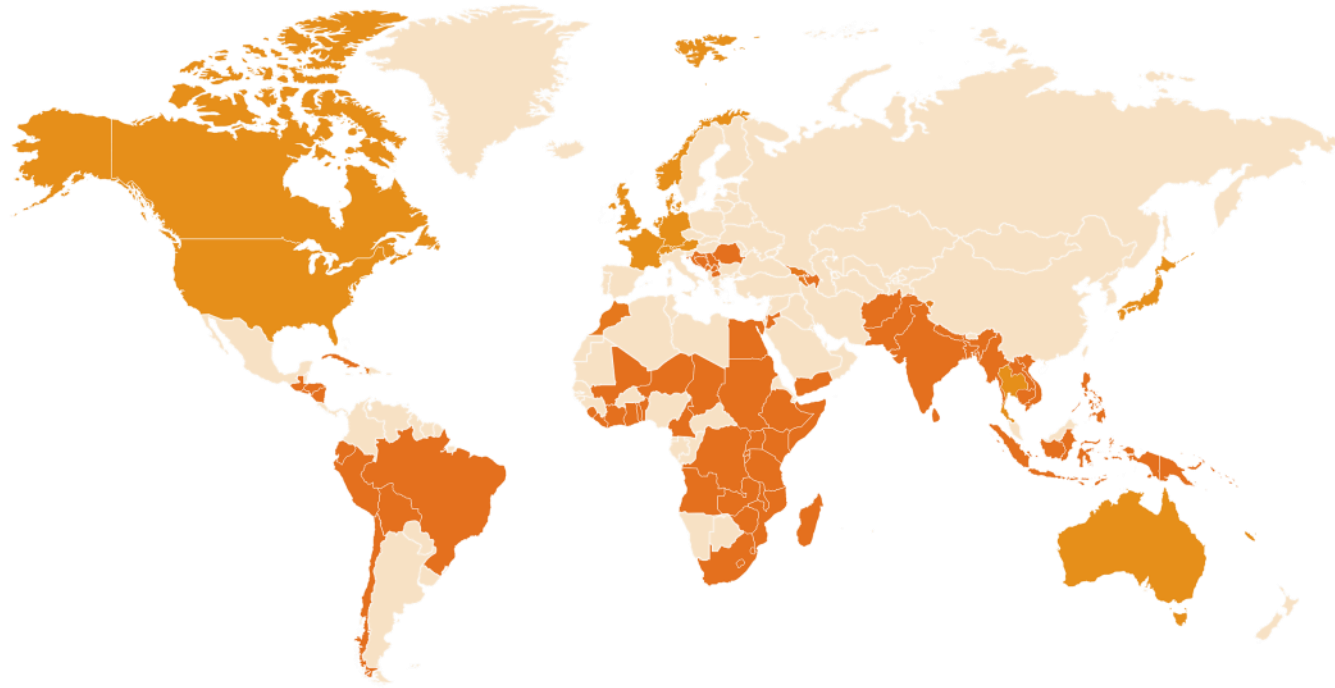
Con: DFS is not the solution to addressing the Gender Gap



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About CARE International



65+

MILLION PEOPLE REACHED

890

POVERTY-FIGHTING PROJECTS

95

COUNTRIES

Lasting
change

Saving
Lives

Multiplying
Impact



Why DFS is not the solution to closing the Gender Gap?

There are prevailing gender barriers that limit **equal access** to and **control** over economic **resources, assets and opportunities**; women and girls especially often lack **power to make decisions** that benefit themselves, their families and communities. Long-term changes in **social norms and economic structures** are needed to close this gap.

These power dynamics are rooted in the following spheres:

Agency: Lack of confidence, self-esteem and aspirations (non-formal sphere) and knowledge, skills and capabilities mainly among women warrant interventions that strengthen these assets;
Example: VSLAs, FL, BSDs, VC, DW, etc.

Relations: Unequal power relations warrant interventions that increase access to social networks and transform power dynamics within relationships;
Example: membership in self-help groups with market linkages; dialogue sessions

Structures: Discriminatory social norms, customs, values, practices, laws, policies, procedures and services require interventions that work at multiple levels to transform structures and norms; that need to be transformed

In summary, we should note that even in the financial landscape, financial priorities are “gendered”; this suggests a need for interventions that equip individuals--especially those who have constraints and barriers to achieving financial autonomy, agency and equality--with better financial tools to meet their unique needs.



Pro Rebuttal

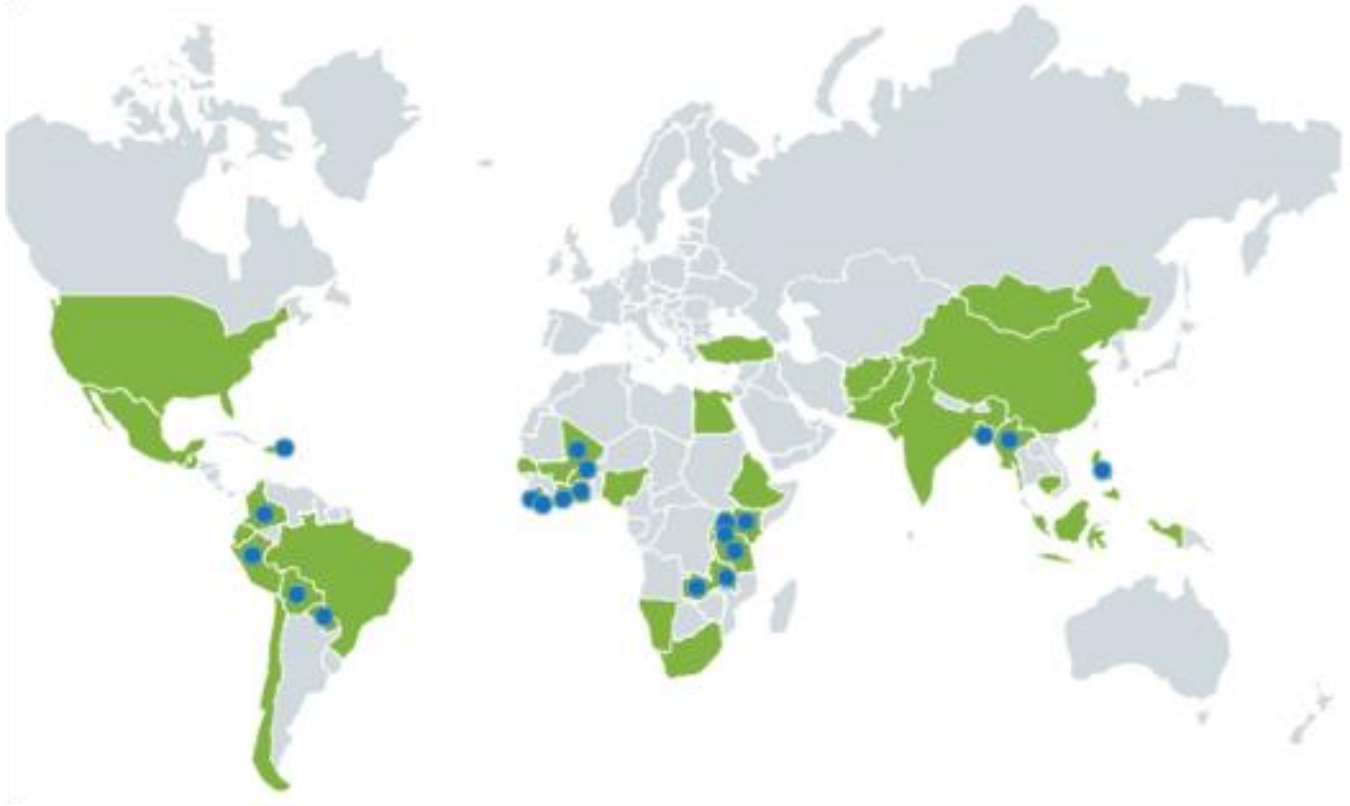


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Innovations for Poverty Action



Objective: Discover and promote effective solutions to global poverty

17 country programs

Over 600 studies

More than 575 academic researchers

DFS can overcome existing barriers to women's economic empowerment

Better access to economic resources

- In Niger, delivering cash transfers electronically increased the likelihood (from 8 to 47 percent) that the recipient, who was a woman, was solely responsible for obtaining the transfer (Aker et al., 2016).
- In India, depositing work payments into female-owned bank accounts led to significant increases in both work and economic engagement especially among women particularly limited by prevailing gender norms. Women who received the treatment were 11% more likely work in the private sector and had 24% higher private sector earnings (Field et al., 2016).
- In Kenya, women with access to mobile money exercised more choice over their occupation, moving out of agriculture and into business (Suri and Jack, 2016).

Privacy & control over spending decisions

- In Niger, households in which women received cash transfers electronically had higher diet diversity and children consumed more meals per day (Aker et al., 2016).
- In India, women who received pay for work directly into a private bank account were more likely to make purchases with their own money (Field et al., 2016).
- In the Philippines, offering a commitment savings account led to increased expenditures on female-oriented durable goods such as sewing machines and kitchen appliances for married women with low bargaining power (Ashraf et al., 2010).



Con Rebuttal



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Grameen Foundation USA



Our Mission

Enable the poor, especially women, to create a world without hunger and poverty.

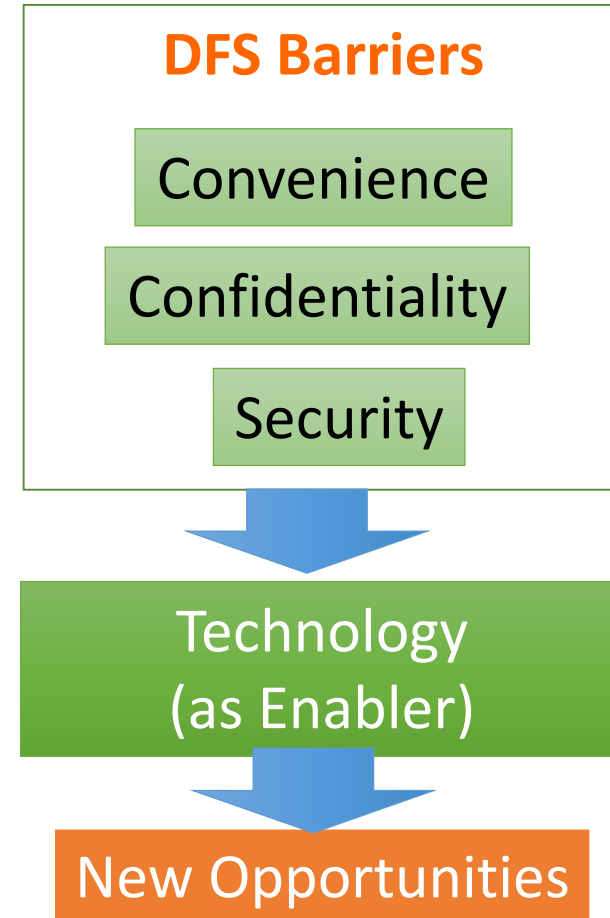
Vision

We envision a world where the poor have broken the generational chain of poverty and lead lives of respect, dignity, and opportunity.



Pro: DFS is the solution to closing the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion

- Agree that long-term changes in social norms and economic structures are needed to close this gap but digital delivery can become an ENABLER to more rapid and agile customization of products and services. We need to find the strong social norms and economic structures in every unique culture for optimum DFS product design, learning and adoption.
- A huge potential for today's girls (youth) to be at par with their male counterparts - Ex. In the Philippines, more than 40% are millennials and they are as quick to adopt to digital channels as their male counterparts.
- Digital delivery can address physical and emotional barriers for women – Ex. In India where women aren't able or allowed to go out often, digital financial services will open the door to allowing them to transact thru a neighborhood agent and eventually, thru self-service.
- Digital savings accounts can be catalytic to asset building for women. Women save – in secret and these savings provide safety nets for the family. Building a history of savings can eventually build a stronger basis for appropriate credit. Individual credit history can further open to market opportunities.
- Providers can lower their costs and reach more women thru digital channels as opposed to purely brick and mortar.





Q & A



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Thank you!



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SEEP Announcements

A Review of 2017 WEE Global Learning Forum is now available!

- WEE Interview Series
- WEE Summary Video



<https://weeforum2017.org/>

Stay tuned for the continuing WEE Interview Series, plenary recordings, and more!