

SLWG Mid-Year Meeting 2019

Date: May 14, 2019

Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am (EDT)

Attendees (19)

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of SEEP's Savings Groups Learning Agenda
3. 2019 SEEP Annual Conference
4. Member Updates
5. WG Communication Platform: Get connected!

Notes

- Overview of SEEP's Savings Groups Learning Agenda
 - o Recent outputs since last annual meeting of the SLWG
 - State of Practice report on SGs and the Role of Government in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Number of updates in the revised version released in March 2019
 - Maps 74 government initiatives related to Savings Groups – 20 countries in SSA – across financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, social protection, regulation & sector coordination
 - Commentary from Fiona Jarden, formerly from CARE and one of the lead authors
 - o Importance of CARE network and SLWG members in identifying more government representatives to interview
 - Women's Empowerment and Savings Groups: What Do We Know?
 - Released March 2019 – pathways between SGs and Women's empowerment across 7 domains (economic independence, self-confidence, voice & leadership, decision-making, time use, mobility, health)
 - Accompanying MRM toolkit and video scheduled for release in June
 - Great resource for building SG programming within gender equality, WEE or women's empowerment programming more broadly
 - o Current work
 - Case Study series on SGs and Consumer Protection

- Government Regulation, Rules and Guidelines (Arora Associates, June)
 - Risk Mitigation through Community-Based Structures (CRS, June)
 - How SGs Responded to Insecurity and Theft in Madagascar (CRS, June)
- The Digitization of Savings Groups: Evidence from Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania (Kuria Wanjau, August)
- Research
 - The Impact of Bank Linkages: A Randomized-Control Trial in Uganda (Stromme Foundation, December)
 - Savings Groups and Women's Empowerment (Nathan Associates, June)
 - The Long-Term Performance and Evolution of Savings Groups (L-IFT, December)
- Peer Learning Groups
 - Savings Groups: Expanding Access to Financial Services for Refugees (May-Dec)
 - Participants – Danish Refugee Council, FSDA, Mercy Corps, Trickle Up, UNCDF, UNHCR, VisionFund
 - The Role of Savings Groups in Supporting Graduation from Social Safety Nets (March-Oct)
 - Participants – Senior government officials from Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania, and Trickle Up and BOMA
- National Stakeholder Meetings
 - SGs and Women's Empowerment | Tanzania (July 2) and Ethiopia (July 5)
- Planned Work
 - Learning Briefs
 - SGs and Male Engagement (Ashley Wheaton, June-August)
 - Financing Local Food Systems: Savings Groups and Smallholder Farmers (July-Sept)
 - Toolkit
 - SGs Monitoring and Results Measurement Toolkit (July-Sept)
 - Peer Exchange Workshops
 - Two peer exchange workshops (Nov-Feb) to be defined – any ideas?
 - SLWG members welcome to suggest ideas – can host something on a specific topic or would like to learn about another topic
 - Global Savings Groups Conference
 - SG2020: The Power of Savings Groups to be hosted in Durban, South Africa (March 2020)
 - Will be launching Request for Proposals around August 2019
- Member Updates
 - Group feedback: Looking for more space to connect to other members
 - Courtney O'Connell, World Relief

- Deciding Together – family strengthening component being added to SGs, launching this month in Rwanda
 - Brings couples together to discuss financial hopes and dreams,
- Working with Paul Rippey on The Nudging Project – employs “nudging” technique to influence program changes at low cost to increase inclusivity, SG formation, and thank you payments/gifts
- Chris Prottas, The Water Trust
 - Water and sanitation hygiene organization working in Northern Uganda, started working with SGs in 2016
 - Releasing an evidence update this week on year 2 results and mid year results
 - More geared toward water, sanitation and hygiene community which has less experience with SGs
 - Looking at school level and cluster approach to finance operations and maintenance needs of schools
 - Referenced evidence brief: <https://watertrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/The-Water-Trust-Evidence-Update-May-2019.pdf>
- John Schiller, Independent Consultant
 - Interesting assignment with Plan USA in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Togo – Looking at results of a 4-year project called Women and Youth Savings for Empowerment, to see what was there 15 months post project
 - Frequent networking among SGs to solve common problems, some encouraged by the project but took on a life of its own – Work tended to succeed much more when it was a social rather than economic problem
 - Networks helping to imbed SGs that much more firmly within the communities
 - Upcoming report to be released by the end of the month
- Pamela Eser, UNCDF
 - Toolkit and business case on bank linkages to SGs, in final stages of production – to be released in the coming months
 - UNCDF and UN Women partnering on country wide SG initiative in Egypt with tremendous government support and buy in
- Will Kendall, HOPE International
 - In Year 2 of having a consulting team for partners interested in implementing SGs – have created a toolkit for this, happy for any feedback
 - Talking with TearFund about their approach to self-help groups, interested in the difference in impact of shareout and non-time bound model and capital accumulation of SHGs

- Marc Bavois, CRS
 - Revising set of core guides to be released by end of June
 - Field Agent Guide, based on learnings from EFI and risk assessment
 - Sharia compliant version based on results from Mauritania and Darfur
- SEEP Annual Conference
 - October 21-23 in Arlington, VA
 - Suggestions for submitting proposals
 - Address key learning questions
 - Stress on applicability to a broad audience
 - Feature replicable experiences
 - Show diversity of perspectives
 - Be informed by strong M&E
 - Advance the conference theme
 - Be interactive
 - Innovation Challenge – poster sessions displayed in gallery style on first day, followed by 7-minute presentations in plenary. Audience determines winner
- WG Communications Platform
 - Widespread and consistent feedback on maximizing communications within the SLWG
 - Membership and decision making – big emphasis on being able to attend the in-person meeting at the Annual Conference
 - Communication mainly bilateral, limiting the network effects of the WG
 - Unequal opportunities to contribute