

## Savings-Led Working Group Annual Meeting

October 21, 2019 | Co-facilitators: Ashley Wheaton and Eloisa Devietti

Attendees (65)

### Meeting Agenda

1. Table Talks 1:40-2:10, 2:20-2:45
2. Future Activities
3. Planning Session

### Notes

1. Table Talks:
  - a. Ashley Wheaton: Women's empowerment and Savings groups
    - i. Change is important - what do you want to see in the end? This has to lead the policy changes
    - ii. have gender dialogue and gender trainings
    - iii. talk with community leaders, include men and boys
    - iv. how can we use media better?
    - v. how to flick the data from the surveys and include it
  - b. Unlocking sustainable water through savings groups - Chris Prottas, The water trust
    - i. Western Uganda - community volunteers take care of the water point.
    - ii. Water savings groups are attractive for the users as they are able to have the water points maintained and repaired
    - iii. Groups increased the amount of money collected
    - iv. Also, can link the groups to the bank account
  - c. In other groups:
    - i. digitalization was discussed
  - d. Behavioral science for financial inclusion
    - i. Savings groups in Malawi
    - ii. nudges can be transformational
    - iii. there was some change even in how program staff are talking to the groups
    - iv. changes in the groups regarding some of the subgroups that were not included previously
    - v. messaging was simple
    - vi. low-tech videos were used
    - vii. inclusive speaking was efficient
  - e. FSD Zambia presentation
    - i. expanding financial inclusion
    - ii. master training program (2016-2018)
    - iii. over 4,800 members

- iv. capacity building
  - v. savings groups expansion
  - vi. financial education
  - vii. replication of the master trainer program to rural areas
2. Lessons learned:
    - a. who has incentives to continuously train, certify and supervise lead trainers?
    - b. who can perform necessary information and coordination functions?
    - c. key to sustainability is the need for these things to be done without long-term donor funding
  3. Future activities:
    - a. social entrepreneurship model
    - b. public sector model
    - c. civil society (local and faith-based organizations)
  4. Discussion on how to move forward in terms of the group's future:
    - a. there is a much bigger collaboration potential - membership agreed on the need to explore more ways of doing that
    - b. everyone is trying to scale but often independently of other organizations that are trying to do the same
    - c. bring the conversation and the excitement back about the sector
  5. Planning section:
    - a. discuss subject area or theme, research question, event, resource or tool development, sth else?
    - b. suggestion to revisit a topic (i.e. expansion of economic capacity of savings groups)
    - c. more work needs to be done on the linkages among different actors and institutions - maybe we can come up with some guidance that everyone agrees on
    - d. peer learning group on refugees and savings groups - coming up with experiential learning - it can be a great learning question. How savings groups are working there? Now there is a lot of experience in this area.
    - e. national bodies of association groups - there could be value in understanding the language that is being used among the different implementing organizations
    - f. we should think about our ideas about advocacy and communications
    - g. "how to make savings groups sexy": pick associations that might increase the power of savings groups - how to leverage the purchasing power of sg, for example
    - h. social development connection is important to be considered: from informal sg to markets
    - i. look at social protection broadly - explore these questions as a wider group, also remember to include governments in the discussion. We have to communicate the tools we are using to the governments.
    - j. there is a lot of value in collaboration across sectors (i.e. water user groups)
    - k. think of getting the message out to the groups that are outside of the normal user group
    - l. think of how to standardize the data
    - m. standardize around gender indicators

6. Top choices after voting: (1) policy note on sgs and governments and (2) sgs and hard to reach populations (refugees)
  - a. A comparative study of who the savings groups work better for would be an interesting idea as well
  - b. It should be differentiated between the topic areas and activities
  - c. It should be discussed how to get these things done (in a year or coming up with a more specific agenda, funding, etc.)
  - d. Leading idea is the savings groups and refugees research
  - e. Another idea that caught momentum - microfinance and pensions