



Josh Estley/CARE

Unlocking Access, Unleashing Potential

Empowering 50 Million Women and Girls through
Village Savings and Loan Associations by 2030

Foreword

In 1991, when CARE launched the first Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in Niger, we knew something powerful was happening. But we had no idea of the full catalytic power of the platform that has now shaped communities across 51 countries. Today, the tremendous capacity, impact and network effect of VSLAs has been realized, and I am energized by our aim to scale this model as a key strategy to eradicate global poverty in this generation.

VSLAs are remarkable engines for development and transformation, and powerful facilitators of economic empowerment and of individual and collective progress. Since its inception, CARE's promotion of the VSLA model has formed a constellation of more than 330,000 groups representing over 7 million members – the overwhelming majority of whom are women.

Unique in their resiliency and connective power, VSLAs help members come together to build financial resources, create networks of trust and pursue shared ambitions. Over time, the impact of VSLAs stretches far beyond economic and financial empowerment. As groups achieve one goal – helping one another start small enterprises or pay for school fees – they set their sights on other, often more ambitious goals such as buying land, running for political office or fighting for gender equality in their communities. Along the way, CARE works to support these dreams, accompanying members throughout their journey. And what we know – anecdotally from members and partners, and statistically from research – is that VSLAs play a transformative role in communities. That's why VSLAs are a critical element of our overall strategy.

Just one year ago, we launched a global effort to reach 65 million people, including 50 million women and girls, through VSLAs by 2030. Working alongside governments, private-sector partners, civil society actors and, most critically, the millions of women and girls working every day to escape poverty, we believe this goal is not only achievable, but urgent and necessary.

I am humbled each time I meet with our VSLA members. Their stories inspire me and our entire organization. As you read this report, I hope that you will be inspired, too, and that you will join us in bringing this powerful tool to scale.

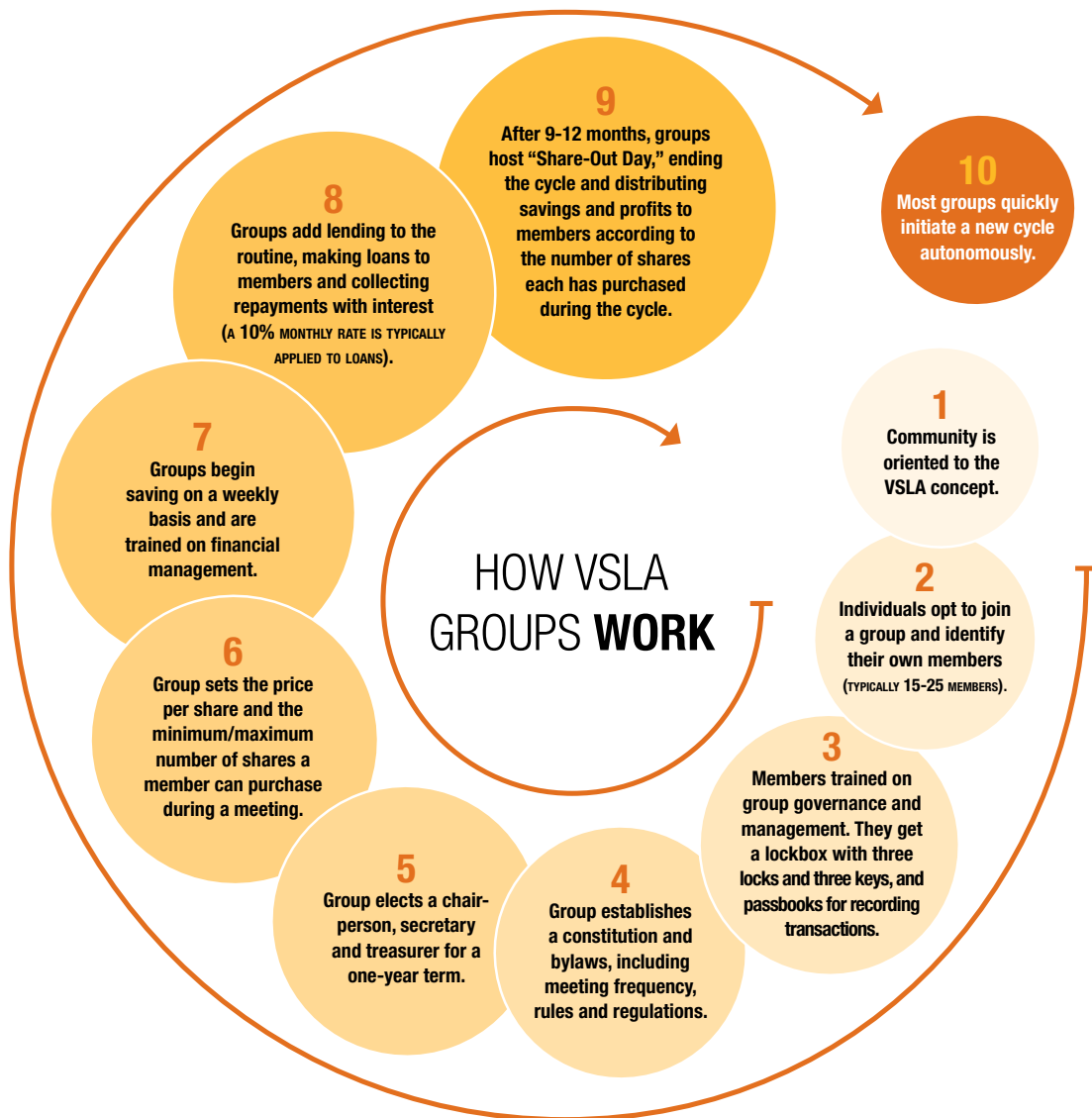


Michelle Nunn
President and CEO, CARE USA





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Josh Estey/CARE

Introduction

In 2018, CARE launched a 12-year VSLA scaling strategy with a goal of supporting 50 million women and girls – 65 million people overall – to form savings groups by 2030. Our commitment was guided by nearly 30 years of experience with the VSLA model, broad-reaching evidence that savings groups can support women and girls to achieve their goals, and a 10-year track record of successful expansion. Between 2008 and 2018, CARE focused on scaling VSLAs in Africa and increasing financial inclusion, leading to a direct increase in membership from 1 million to 7 million people, while influencing peer NGOs, donors and governments, many of whom have adopted the model. As we look ahead to 2030, we believe that scaling VSLAs and supporting VSLA members to pursue their goals can have a substantial impact on the achievement of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. But we recognize that achieving scale demands not only that CARE continues to embed VSLAs in our own work, but also that we work in new ways and with new partners.

Over the coming years, we will intensify the integration of VSLAs in our own programming, working across thematic areas including women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion as well as food and nutrition security; sexual, reproductive and maternal health; humanitarian response; inclusive governance; resilience; and gender justice. We will target countries with the highest rates of poverty and gender inequality sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. We will work increasingly in partnership with governments, many of whom already are committed to scaling VSLAs or are considering investing. And we will lean in with our corporate partners to develop replicable models that allow them to support VSLAs across their supply chains. To accelerate this work – and guide its path – we will develop, test and scale digital solutions that increase efficiency, lower costs and create new opportunities. We also will work internally and with others to expand the evidence base on when, where and how these groups can provide the most value to their members. And, of vital importance, we will work to elevate the voices of women and girls and VSLA members to inform our actions and pursue their goals.

Over the past year, we have galvanized commitment for this strategy across the organization and put in place a series of foundations that will enable us to achieve our goals, including a near-term commitment to doubling the pace of VSLA formation within our own programming by 2020.



Some highlights from across CARE’s work with VSLAs in the past year include:

Stood alongside the governments of Burundi, Malawi and Niger as they announced new policies to support supporting VSLAs.

Launched a peer learning group on VSLAs and social protection for government officials in 6 countries.

Strengthened NGO coalitions in seven countries across West Africa to elevate the voices of VSLA members and support collective action.

Expanded VSLAs into five new countries, – all of them outside of sub-Saharan Africa – bringing our reach to 51 countries worldwide.

Supported nearly 1 million members to join a VSLA both directly and through the efforts of CARE-trained facilitators.

Launched the first phase of our Digital Transformation Initiative with Chomoka, CARE’s group management app going live in Tanzania.

Established a key foothold for Asian expansion with a major food security program in Bangladesh committing to form 4,000 new VSLAs.

Collaborated with Mars, a leader in corporate sustainability, as it made a commitment to scale VSLAs across its cocoa supply chain in West Africa.



Josh Esley/CARE

ROUTES

There are four ways that new VSLAs will be formed.



Integrate VSLA as a **foundation of CARE's** global development programming



Engage **governments** as scaling partners; embedding VSLA in policies, regulations and programs



Engage **corporations** as scaling partners; embedding VSLA in **supply chains** and distribution networks



Adapt VSLA for **humanitarian contexts** to promote adoption across agencies

CATALYSTS

There are three areas of investment that will accelerate the pace of growth and deepen the impact of VSLAs



Pursue a **Digital Transformation Initiative** to lower costs and extend reach while ensuring fidelity and quality



Establish a **Center of Excellence** to explore integration and deepen evidence on VSLA as an empowerment platform



Build **Coalitions** to empower women and influence power holders

Intensifying VSLA as a CARE Programming Platform

At their core, VSLAs are a simple and powerful tool to support women's economic empowerment and to build social cohesion. Group members achieve near-immediate increases in access to and control over resources. Over time, complemented by tools that engage men and other community members, VSLA participants gain increased influence over decisions in their homes and beyond. This is why nearly 50% of CARE's Women's Economic Empowerment programs support VSLAs. And why VSLAs replicate themselves across villages and communities, involving growing numbers of people and surpassing the scope of CARE's engagement.

Over time, the benefits to VSLA members go far beyond economic empowerment. The groups become a platform that women use to improve other areas of their lives. In CARE's experience, women in VSLAs build solidarity and work together to bring about change that no one member could achieve on her own. They band together to tackle issues such as improving food security, addressing gender-based violence, increasing political participation, responding to conflict and disasters, and improving maternal and child health. Recognizing the power that VSLAs provide as a platform to multiply the impacts of any one intervention, programming teams across CARE have worked with VSLAs to support their ambitions. For instance:

- Through our **food and nutrition security programming**, CARE connects smallholder farmers in VSLAs with farmer associations in an effort to improve productivity and increase family income.
- Integrating programming on **family planning, infant and child health, maternal nutrition** and pre- and post-natal health visits into routine VSLA activities to support pregnant women and new mothers. Enabling women to build **peer-to-peer networks and coalitions and pursue collective action** through our Women on the Move initiative, which supports a growing women's movement across West Africa.
- **Emergency response and resilience programming** can leverage the group solidarity that VSLAs build, using the ready-made channel to reach communities to meet their immediate needs during a humanitarian crisis.
- Supporting **adolescent girls and young men and women**, including supporting married adolescent girls to build financial management and entrepreneurial skills by establishing Youth Savings and Loan Associations (YSLAs). To date, YSLAs reach more than 400,000 members.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

In Mali, VSLA groups spread nutrition messages from group to group and independently created 26 community treatment centers to address malnutrition.

In Ethiopia, savings for VSLA member households increased nearly twelvefold. Families doubled their assets; access to credit increased by 89%; and participants shifted their borrowing away from loan sharks as their groups provided a lower cost alternative.

In Myanmar, CARE worked with 35 VSLA groups through a project to support women's organizations and grassroots members in representing their constituents' interests in governmental and peace processes. In addition to saving \$634,515 and giving out \$110,109 in loans, the groups have created significant social capital between community partners.



PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA

In the Amhara region of northern Ethiopia, one-third of girls are married by age 15. The traditional perception that girls are financial burdens – rather than potential wage earners – means that marrying off girls as young as 10 is deemed a smart economic decision for poor families. However, child marriage ultimately perpetuates the cycle of poverty and gender inequality within families and communities. Child brides drop out of school earlier, are at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence, and often are isolated to the domestic sphere, with little or no power in household decisions.

In 2010, CARE launched a program designed not only to support these girls, but to identify the most effective tools for doing so. The aim was to identify the best approaches so they could be scaled up nationwide. Over the next three years, CARE's TESFA project reached more than 5,000 girls, organizing them into peer-based solidarity groups, built on CARE's VSLA model. The girls were trained on financial literacy, health, negotiation skills and income generation. In parallel, guided by the social analysis and action (SAA) approach, CARE facilitated dialogues with village elders, religious leaders, health workers and other influential community members. Together, they explored the factors that contribute to early and forced marriage, and importantly, took action against it. These gatekeepers also acted as liaisons between the program and the community, and were tasked with providing support to the girls' groups. In the process, these gatekeepers were transformed into champions for girls.

The combined approach of linking girls to one another to save money and to learn about their reproductive health, while also working with the broader community

to reduce the incidence of early and forced marriage, has yielded impressive results. Program participants stopped 180 child marriages; girls' savings went up by 72 percentage points (compared with 12 percentage points in control groups), and 45% more girls used their savings for productive investments (compared with only 5% in control groups). Girls also were more likely to discuss family planning decisions with their husbands, and 27% more girls started using modern contraception (compared with 5% in control). The evaluation also found that the most common reason child brides, husbands and gatekeepers' gave for using contraception was because they wanted to be financially stable. This link between economic insecurity and family planning was key to the program's success.

Tesfaye Kasa was married at age 16 and gave birth to her first child at 17. Married life for her meant that she was in service to her mother-in-law

and new husband. Even a visit to see her mother required that she get her mother-in-law's permission. Tesfaye was forbidden from using contraception, as she was told it would cause her to be infertile. She was rarely allowed to leave the household, had no income or savings of her own, and could not access family planning services. For Tesfaye, married life was a dead end. Then, Tesfaye joined a VSLA with other married teenagers. They met weekly to save together, learn about sexual and reproductive health, and discuss topics such as how to communicate in a relationship. In her own words, Tesfaye explains how her life changed after she joined the TESFA VSLA:

“This used to be my life before TESFA project - I have no clue about saving, my communication skills were poor, and I didn't have any awareness about family planning. After joining a TESFA girls' group, we started discussing saving, family planning and how to improve our communication skills. Now, I am able to save money and support myself, use family planning service with confidence, communicate with my mother-in-law and participate in decision making that concerns our well-being.” —Tesfaye Kasa

Supporting Public Sector Adoption and Adaptation

Having worked for decades alongside local and national government partners, CARE has become a trusted voice and adviser on strategies for overcoming poverty, advancing gender equality and reaching the hardest to reach. Amid this momentum, 15 governments have committed to financing the formation of new savings groups, signalling a transition from what has primarily been a philanthropically-driven development model to one that is being institutionalized by elected officials. Governments are adopting the savings group approach as a core element of their poverty-reduction strategies because it is cost-effective, sustainable and exceptionally well adapted to supporting low-income, rural communities and women and youth in particular. CARE increasingly is working hand-in-hand with government partners, providing technical and strategic support and helping to ensure the women impacted by government decisions have a seat at the table.

A 2018 review by CARE, in partnership with the SEEP Network, reflected the depth of impact of that work and the work of peers in these efforts. *State of The Practice: Savings groups and the role of government in sub-Saharan Africa* identified 74 programs across 20 countries that cite VSLAs as a vital component of national plans to achieve financial inclusion, help people break free of dependence on government safety nets and improve gender equality. In 2018 alone, the governments of Burundi, Malawi and Niger made new commitments or announced new policies that advance these goals.

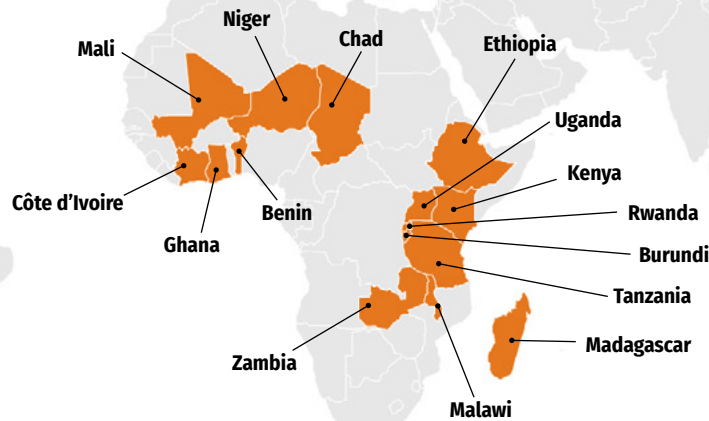


WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Ethiopia: CARE has worked in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia for over a decade to support households enrolled in the government's social protection program. CARE's innovative approach has led to nearly 80% of target households graduating from the safety net program and into long-term food security. CARE's model now has been included in the government's social protection scheme, which reaches 8-10 million chronically food-insecure households each year.

Uganda: The Government of Uganda, with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has invested \$35 million to establish 15,000 new savings groups and strengthen 3,000 existing groups. Over the decades that CARE has directly formed VSLA groups in Uganda, we also have trained partners, program implementers and local NGOs in our VSLA methodology. These organizations are now forming VSLAs on their own, indirectly multiplying the impact that CARE alone could have. They, along with CARE, now work with the government to significantly increase the pace of group formation to reach 450,000 beneficiaries.

Where We Work: Government Engagement with SGs



INFLUENCING central banks to work with savings groups

In 2018, CARE engaged with the Financial Inclusion Strategy Peer Learning Group of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), the leading network of central banks and government ministries focused on financial inclusion. As a globally recognized leader in financial inclusion, CARE was invited to share our experience on the role that savings groups can play in bridging the gap between

the formal and informal financial sectors. CARE, in partnership with the Government of Liberia and the Central Bank of West African States, are jointly developing guidance for AFI members on how savings groups facilitate financial inclusion, particularly for rural and marginalized women. Having a seat at the table with global leaders who have fiduciary responsibility enables CARE to target advocacy efforts to emphasize the potential that savings groups have in spurring economic growth and leveraging the power of women and girls in that effort.



Government of Malawi RECOGNIZES VSLAs as a key tool in the fight against poverty

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with 70% of the population living on less than \$1.90 a day (World Bank, 2016). Despite heavy investment from the Government of Malawi and international donors to reduce income inequality, malnutrition and gender inequality, Malawi ranks 171 out of 189 countries on the human development index and has the eighth highest rates of child marriage in the world. Low levels of economic development, coupled with frequent climate-related and economic shocks, has left one in three Malawians relying on humanitarian assistance in 2016 (WFP, 2016).

CARE Malawi was the first organization to promote VSLAs in the country. Since then, through the evidence of CARE's work and targeted advocacy, the government has included VSLAs in national policies and programs, including the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, the National Social Support Program, and the Finance Inclusion of Malawi program. At the same time, nearly 70 other national and international organizations have adopted the model, integrating VSLAs into programs focused on agriculture, health, climate change and resilience and as a key platform for addressing community-level challenges.



Defining Win-Win Opportunities with Corporate Partners

Much of the world's cocoa, coffee, sugar, tea, rice, spices and other commodities are farmed by smallholder farmers and low-wage workers. CARE believes that agribusinesses are a key scaling channel because they depend on a relatively large proportion of the population being productive. There are 500 million smallholder farmers globally and 2 billion people who depend on them for livelihoods. Firms have a built-in incentive to invest in the productive capacity as well as the resilience of the communities and farmers from which they source.

VSLAs represent a relatively low-cost, high-impact and broadly applicable intervention that can advance these commercial objectives, unlocking farmer access to resources and information (agricultural extension, climate change, livelihoods diversification schemes, etc.) and building absorptive capacity in the form of increased savings and access to both informal and formal insurance. Corporate investment in VSLA promotion will improve the sustainability of supply chains on which their own business depends.



Agribusinesses

CARE has long-standing relationships with many of the largest agribusiness companies around the world, including Cargill, General Mills, Mars, Mondelez, Diageo, Starbucks, Danone, Walmart, PepsiCo and McCormick. CARE's current partners have a total market capitalization exceeding \$1 trillion that relies, in part, on stable or increased agricultural production in rural, low-income countries. As CARE's corporate partners, both large multi-nationals and smaller local or regional players, strive to secure their supply chains, we will work alongside them to extend the reach of VSLAs, contributing to increased economic security and opportunities.

Financial Institutions

Some 1.7 billion people worldwide do not have access to a bank account. Individuals with bank accounts earn a higher return on savings and experience greater control over assets and resources. The burden of insufficient access to financial institutions falls disproportionately on women. In 2018, we learned that despite a decade of effort, the gender access gap in financial services remained *unchanged*.

In our work on financial inclusion, CARE has partnered with leading banks, microfinance institutions and mobile networks to launch digital financial services to increase both the efficiency and safety of VSLA operations. CARE programming has supported more than 53,000 VSLAs, representing more than 1.3 million members, to access formal financial services.

Where We Work: Corporate Engagement with SGs



Mars makes VSLAs a CORNERSTONE of the cocoa supply chain

In 2018, longtime CARE partner Mars Inc. announced a commitment to source all of its cocoa responsibly by 2025 through a strategy called “Cocoa for Generations.” Included as a cornerstone of that vision is the formation of VSLAs across the cocoa supply chain and an initial commitment to support 75,000 cocoa farmer households to join VSLAs in the next few years. The strategy is a tremendous vote of confidence for the work that CARE has pursued in partnership with Mars, one of the largest chocolate companies in the world.

Through the CARE / Mars collaboration in Côte d'Ivoire, called Women for Change, which began in 2015, the partners have directly supported 6,827 women and 1,391 men to form 314 VSLAs. These groups mobilize \$287,000 on average in savings every 9 to 12 months, much

of which is reinvested in the form of microloans to finance income-generating activities in more than 40 cocoa-growing communities. Beyond the economic impacts of this collaboration, CARE and Mars focus on advancing gender equality. We are witnessing gradual shifts in gender norms that for decades had impeded the active participation of women in the cocoa supply chain. Now, through their participation in VSLAs, women are investing in farm upgrades and actively participating in the sector.

Last year, approximately 35% of VSLA-issued loans were invested directly into cocoa production. Currently, CARE and Mars are working to scale up these efforts and aim to reach over 10,000 cocoa-farming households, helping them to mobilize at least \$500,000 for investment in income generating activities and household needs and to serve as a buffer to weather economic or other unexpected shocks.



Improving Emergency Preparedness and Humanitarian Response

CARE is implementing VSLAs in 31 of the 50 countries ranked highest on the 2017 Fragile States Index, including in six of the 10 most fragile contexts. Crisis-affected populations face cyclical and cumulative risks that undermine their ability to increase assets or to engage in income-generating activities. When adapted to humanitarian contexts, VSLAs can provide financial assistance through loans and emergency funds that help families withstand such shocks. Emergency funds can relieve the immediate effect of shocks, while loans and long-term increases in assets – through participation in VSLAs – can build household and community strength and resilience.

We are starting the work of adapting the traditional VSLA model to a wide range of humanitarian contexts. Initial results show the potential of VSLAs to provide much-needed access to resources, even in crisis settings.



WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, CARE established VSLA groups to boost the impact of Tuungane, one of the largest community-driven reconstruction programs ever delivered. Five years later, family income has risen by 200%, and there are remarkable improvements in reducing domestic violence, increasing school attendance and social cohesion.

In Sudan, one community suffered fire damage to 95 homes in 2015. VSLA members supported their affected neighbors with cash from the social fund as well as in-kind support through labor, which contributed to increased peaceful co-existence and built trust among villagers and different tribes. Additionally, the social fund taught members that any household should be ready for the unforeseen. As a result, some social funds reserve as much as 10% of the total savings amount in recognition of the need to manage the many risks they face.



Josh Estey/CARE

ADAPTING the VSLA model to humanitarian contexts: Niger as a Case Study

Women and children make up to 68% of those displaced by conflict in Niger. Displaced women often bear the burden of supporting their families, and living in conflict increases the risk of gender-based violence due to overcrowding in shelters and having to travel longer distances to water points. CARE works in the Diffa region and has established VSLAs to engage women in peace-building and vocational training. Just in the past year, more than 2,000 women joined a VSLA in Diffa.

CARE has generated strong support from communities consisting largely of refugees, IDPs and indigenous people. The VSLA model also has been adapted to accommodate the transitional nature of IDPs/refugees, and the VSLA emergency adaptation model has a six-month cycle rather than a traditional 9- to 12-month cycle. VSLA participants noted that savings groups helped them build resilience to shocks during difficult times by providing access to credit to cover urgent healthcare or food needs.

Even husbands of group members claimed that savings groups contributed to the stocking of grain banks ready for the hunger season to keep food prices lower than in the market.

“My husband fell sick one day, and we had no money to buy his drugs. I took a savings group loan to buy his drugs. When he recovered his health, he resumed his work and gave me money so I could pay back my loan.”
– IDP savings group member in Diffa

Enabling Collective Action



Elizabeth Adewale/CARE

One of the key strengths of the VSLA model continues to be the connectivity it stimulates among individual groups. Nearly 500,000 women members are linked through federation-style representatives in Niger and Mali. Being part of a strong network means group members will have greater opportunity to voice their concerns, influence financial institutions as well as local, regional and national government to provide access to services that meet their needs. Investing in women's constituencies (VSLA groups and networks, local women's organizations, etc.) will equip them with the skills and confidence to safely and strategically participate in and run for public office during those elections.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Halfway into the implementation of the DryDev project in **Niger**, young people from across 10 villages began to advocate that youth involvement was critical to the project's sustainability. The young people mobilized into a network called Youth Social Innovation Lab and used their periodic meetings to identify sustainable opportunities and to develop strategies to maximize the opportunities. As a result of these engagements, elders in all 10 villages donated a parcel of land in each village for youth farming. The youth further mobilized support (including seeds) from other NGOs to cultivate the lands. Recently, the farms yielded 40 crates of potatoes that sold for more than \$1,000.



Josh Estey/CARE

Driving Digital Transformation

The growing penetration of mobile and digital technology presents unparalleled opportunities to enhance the reach of the VSLA model while deepening impacts for VSLA members. Building a suite of digital services that meet the needs of both savings group promoters and members, CARE aims to improve quality, consistency and extend its reach beyond direct programming beneficiaries. CARE's scaling approach focuses on identifying and distributing effective technology and media-driven tools that empower scaling partners to succeed. Chomoka, a smartphone application for savings group record-keeping developed by CARE, simplifies and digitizes group transactions, providing a transparent and safely backed-up history of group activities - building trust, digital literacy and individualized credit histories. Once a group uses Chomoka, their digital record can be used to facilitate access to financial services, insurance and other opportunities.



CARE

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

In the first six months after launching Chomoka in Tanzania, more than 1,500 users across sixty groups recorded their savings transactions on the application. Supporting formal financial inclusion of VSLA members, Chomoka offers a marketplace where groups can obtain information and contact providers of insurance and financial services through the application. Currently, the product offering includes group and family medical insurance, and savings products from Tanzania's leading bank, National Microfinance Bank.



Mark Malhotra/CARE



Mark Malhotra/CARE

Growth by the Numbers

Since 1991,
CARE programming
has helped **7.6** MILLION
members to form
357,000 GROUPS
in **51** COUNTRIES.

81% of VSLA
members are
WOMEN



LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR
380,000 new members	537,000 new members PLUS 380,00 members of replicated groups
46 countries	51 countries

In 2018, **917,533** members joined a CARE-supported VSLA, including **537,533** people directly trained by CARE and our partners, and another **380,000** people adopting the model with support from existing groups.

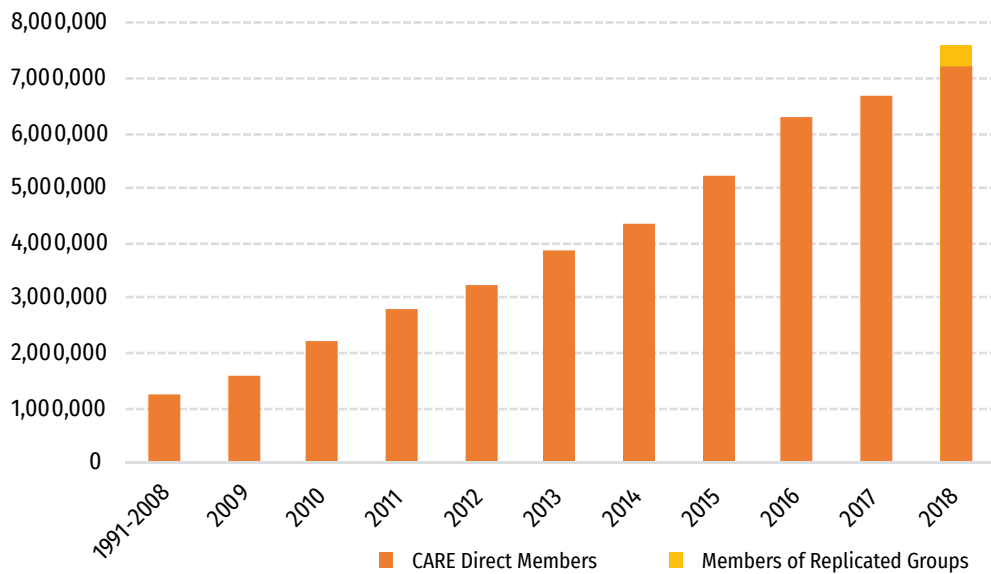


Each year
these groups mobilize
**more than half
a billion dollars**
to invest in their
collective well-being.

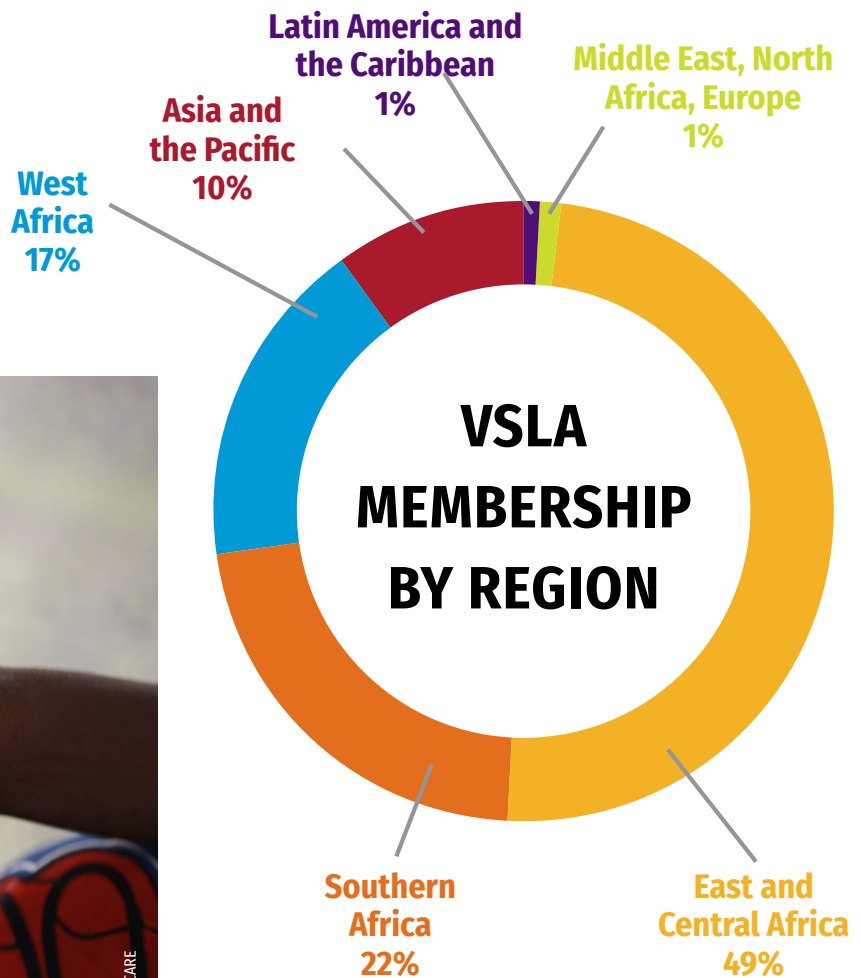


The Growth of the VSLA

1991-2018



This year for the first time, CARE is reflecting the effect of VSLA viral replication in our outreach figures. This phenomenon – when a group or trainer directly supported by CARE subsequently and independently forms other groups – has been promoted and widely documented by CARE and others. Informed by third-party assessments, CARE has set a conservative multiplier to estimate total reach. Researching the scope of viral replication is a top priority for VSLA measurement in 2019/2020.



Josh Estey/CARE



Global Totals as of July 2018

Country	# of Members	# of Women Members	# of VSLAs	5 yr growth rate
Africa - East and Central				
Burundi	603,279	491,534	25,739	27%
DRC	135,219	103,830	5,441	12%
Ethiopia	459,421	268,820	21,332	18%
Kenya	799,759	664,966	41,261	4%
Rwanda	589,186	461,696	20,586	5%
Somalia	20,306	16,186	1,028	46%
South Sudan	13,441	11,130	542	16%
Sudan	25,837	23,592	877	7%
Uganda	917,293	810,753	32,846	4%
Total	3,563,741	2,852,507	149,652	13%

Africa - Southern				
Lesotho	85,180	68,144	3,500	3%
Madagascar	60,767	44,172	2,953	13%
Malawi	397,584	323,736	23,875	9%
Mozambique	148,189	95,873	7,863	4%
South Africa	13,395	12,195	1,570	0%
Tanzania	691,775	507,937	28,737	5%
Zambia	36,747	36,456	1,979	106%
Zimbabwe	184,961	153,851	27,259	3%
Total	1,618,598	1,242,364	97,736	6%

Africa - Western				
Angola	9,115	5,680	634	0%
Benin	35,176	32,554	1,561	5%
Cameroon	14,019	9,531	728	112%
Chad	11,136	11,304	475	n/a
Cote d'Ivoire	213,419	181,589	8,334	57%
Ghana	111,854	74,160	4,529	16%
Liberia	5,663	4,530	229	1%
Mali	286,644	236,312	10,227	10%
Niger	492,698	479,206	19,032	8%
Sierra Leone	59,541	42,831	2,131	3%
Togo	3,322	3,156	174	5%
Total	1,242,587	1,080,852	48,054	12%

Africa Total	6,424,926	5,175,723	295,442	11%
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Country	# of Members	# of Women Members	# of VSLAs	5 yr growth rate
Asia and the Pacific				
Afghanistan	7,276	6,190	388	20%
Bangladesh	335,071	315,331	11,799	9%
Cambodia	4,763	3,869	300	13%
India	274,549	261,367	20,841	2%
Indonesia	220	-	11	0%
Laos	692	692	38	66%
Myanmar	4,065	3,781	160	132%
Nepal	27,228	10,272	923	18%
Papua New Guinea	185	112	8	n/a
Thailand	93	93	12	n/a
Vietnam	14,530	13,874	693	9%
Total	668,672	615,581	35,173	9%

Latin America and the Caribbean				
Ecuador	467	420	12	n/a
Haiti	91,760	68,345	3,189	55%
Honduras	160	117	3	n/a
Nicaragua	90	81	4	n/a
Peru	-	-	-	n/a
Total	92,477	68,963	3,208	n/a

Middle East, North Africa and Europe				
Egypt	44,024	38,620	2,440	12%
Eritrea	4,000	3,200	245	0%
Jordan	130	130	12	n/a
Morocco	1,392	1,372	75	24%
Syria	519	251	29	n/a
West Bank and Gaza	250	180	-	n/a
Yemen	400	225	19	n/a
Total	50,715	43,978	2,820	12%

Global Replication (2018)	379,501	309,622	14,403	
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Global Total	7,616,291	6,213,866	351,046	13%
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w: www.care.org/vsla

Founded in 1945, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty and providing lifesaving assistance in emergencies. In 90 countries around the world, CARE places special focus on working alongside poor girls and women because, equipped with the proper resources, they have the power to help lift whole families and entire communities out of poverty. To learn more, visit www.care.org.

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