Savings & Resilience: the state of evidence

• Sector thrives on data and evidence
• What do we know so far
  • Basic methodologies increases resilience
  • Layering interventions increases resilience even more
  • Savings groups are sustainable
• What we don’t know
• Call to action
A sector thriving on data & evidence

Highly collaborative sector working together to bring evidence supporting:
- Effectiveness, Low cost, Sustainability, Failures

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Basic Methodologies
RCTs by Innovations for Poverty Action

- 3 INGOS, 3 similar methodologies (Care, CRS, Oxfam/FFH)
- Oxfam’s study mixed methods (quanti & quali)
  - RCT in 500 villages; 6,000 households
  - Ethnographic survey in 8 villages

Similar results published in one synthesis paper
- Outreach: 82% live under $1.25 a day
- Close the food insecurity gap during the soudure
- Women increase savings and loans in Saving for Change groups
- Bigger investment in livestock
Who are the women who join?

Women who joined first were

• More financially and socially integrated
• Older (3 years)
• Recent shock

Late joiners were less socially integrated than early joiners
Greater Food Security

Freedom from Hunger food security index

- Fewer food insecure households
  - 47% compared to 51% in control villages
- Biggest impacts for women in low status sub-units of big households
Small and Marginally Significant Findings

• Education
• Enterprises
• Agriculture
• Housing

No changes in.....
- Health expenditures, education expenditures and income
- Total consumption & non-food consumption

Mixed findings (no RCT, but positive qualitative findings)
- Social capital
- Women’s empowerment
Layering interventions
Saving for Change and R4

• SfC + agriculture/agroforestry in Mali
  • Increase in productivity from 5T to 6T per hectare
  • Women’s involvement in agriculture
  • Farmers managed natural resource

• SfC + R4 in Senegal
  • R4 is a comprehensive risk management strategies for farmers
    • Savings    Weather index micro insurance
    • Credit     Disaster Risk Reduction
  • Results – Participants receiving SFC + IFA saw the biggest change
    • Increased productivity
    • Increase access to finance (SfC groups, warrantage, mobile banking)
Building resilient communities

- Cambodia – floods
- Vanuatu, Solomon Islands: CA-MEL
- Senegal: SFC + WASH (Ebola epidemics)

- Access to savings is recognized as the most important financial service
  - Consumption smoothing
  - Building financial assets
  - Basic financial education
Sustainability & Low cost

- Low drop out rate around 1 to 2%
- Polling 8, 9 and 10 year groups in Mali
- Savix regularly publishes sustainability data
- $15 per member for a life time change (West Africa)
What we don’t know
Big questions

• Impact on women’s economic empowerment
• Impact on children’s education
• Impact on income
• % of savings in SG
Call to Action

• Savings Groups are Low cost, sustainable, simple, loved

• Private sector has to come and work with us
  • Linkages to more credit
  • Impact of DFS (mPesa)
  • High demand for complex products like insurance, retirement savings,
  • Women are a great credit risk who are penalized for not owning real estate instead of being rewarded for their high reimbursement rates