

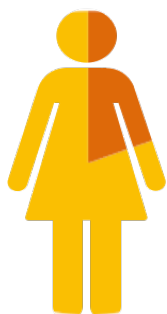
# CARE GLOBAL VSLA REACH 2017



AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL REACH OF  
CARE'S VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS ASSOCIATION  
PROGRAMING

# SCALE

CARE has promoted Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) for over 25 years to enable women living in poverty to increase their financial skills, gain access to and control over resources, and generate economic opportunities and income. In 2009, CARE set out to scale up VSLAs and has since expanded access to this savings-led, community-based financial solution from an initial 1 million members in 2008 to 6.7 million across 46 countries today. These members represent 317,335 groups of predominantly rural, poor women collectively saving and investing over \$433 million per year.



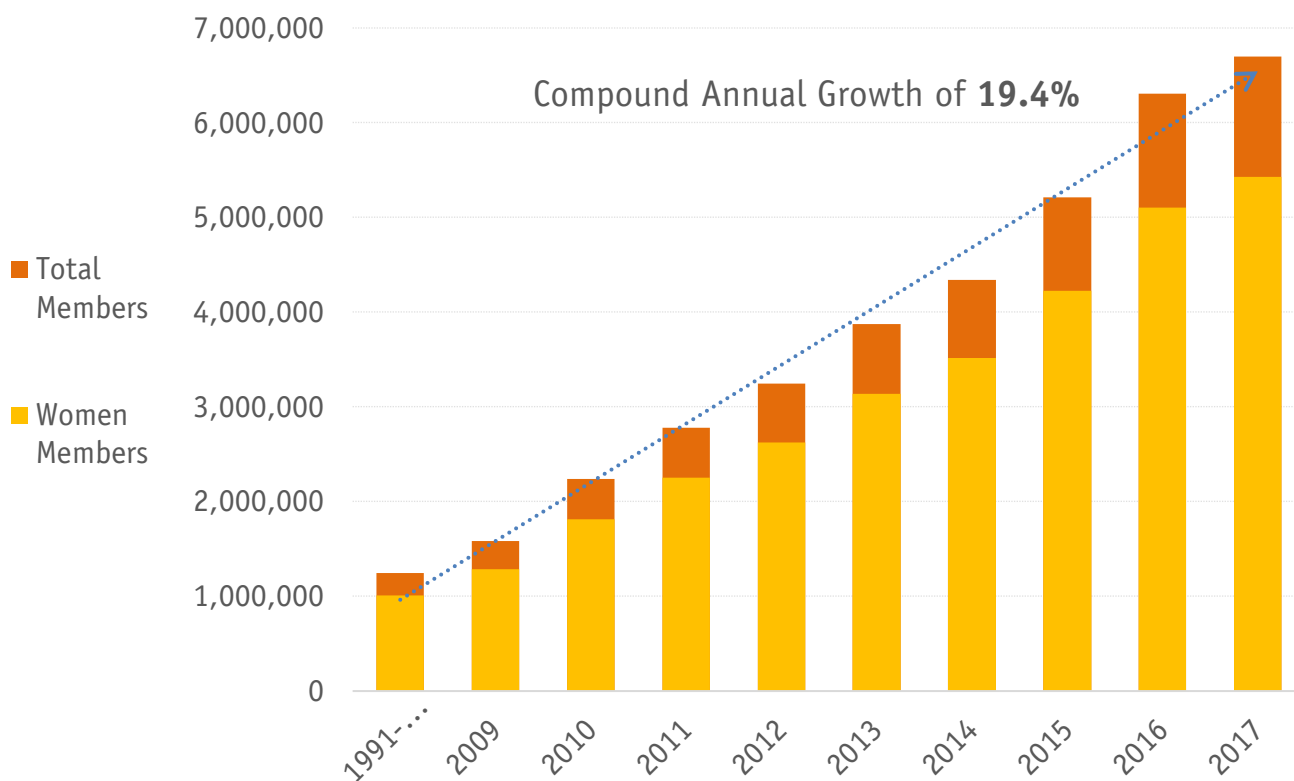
**81%**  
OF VSLA MEMBERS  
ARE **WOMEN**

## Village Savings and Loan Association

abbr. VSLA

*A self-managed group of 20-30 individuals that meets on a regular basis to provide its members a safe place to save their money, to access loans, and to obtain emergency insurance.*

## VSLA MEMBERSHIP OVER TIME

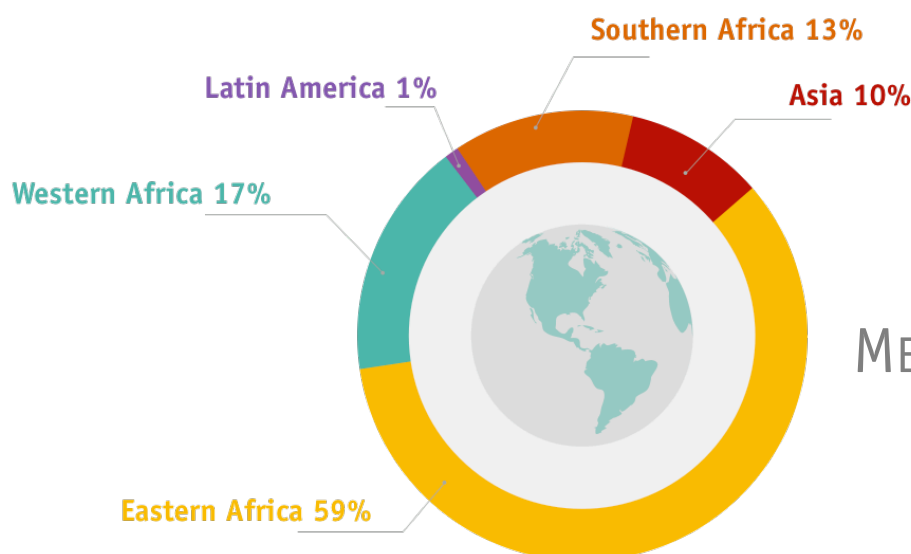


GLOBALLY, CARE HAS WORKED

**6,699,257** VSLA MEMBERS

IN **317,335** GROUPS

IN **46** COUNTRIES

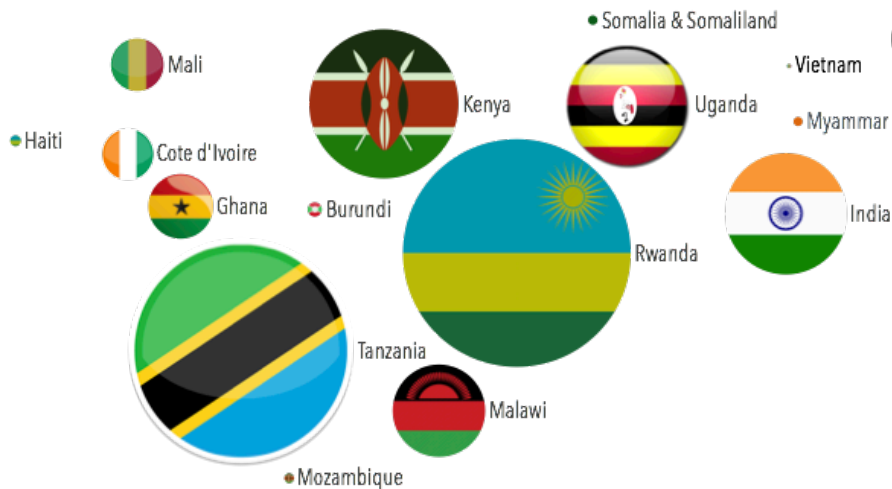


## MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION

CARE created the VSLA model in Niger in 1991, and has since brought VSLA programming to many different regions, adapting it to different contexts as its reach expands. Today, 59% of CARE-trained VSLA members are in East Africa, 17% in West Africa, 13% in Southern Africa, 10% in Asia and 1% in Latin America.

CARE has built a global reputation as the leader for savings-led financial inclusion in Africa and driven a movement much larger than itself. CARE's investment in growing VSLAs and its broad-based industry engagement has allowed it to significantly multiply its impact; more than 26 other NGOs and several governments implementing savings group programming at scale modeled on VSLA. This work has resulted in over 15.2 million VSLA members world-wide who are saving and investing in their respective communities.

# LINKAGE TO FORMAL FINANCIAL SERVICES



CARE HAS ENABLED OVER  
**50,000**  
 SAVINGS GROUPS  
 TO LINK TO FINANCIAL  
 SERVICES

CARE has supported the linkage of 53,565 groups, representing over 1,300,000 members, to link to formal financial institution. These groups serve as an entry point for many individuals to access formal financial services for the first time and an important tactic for leveling the playing field for women who face persistent barriers to access not experienced by men.

CARE has partnered with leading banks, MFIs and mobile networks to launch digital financial services, build financial literacy, and increase efficiency and safety of group operations. More than 12 group-specific, accessible products have been co-developed, six of which are mobile-accessible and take advantage of growing alternative channel networks.

For example, since 2014, CARE has partnered with National Microfinance Bank (NMB) in Tanzania to develop and scale the Pamoja account, an account tailored to informal groups. This effort has led to over 10,000 group accounts representing an estimated 250,000 new customers, far beyond CARE's direct reach. NMB and CARE are now investing in further expansion, targeting 28,000 new group accounts and up to 600,000 individual clients in the next three years. In Cote d'Ivoire, CARE has built partnerships with leading mobile network operator, MTN as well as several financial service providers to design products for savings groups operating in cocoa growing-communities.

Across CARE's programming, these entry-level solutions are helping VSLAs and their members to build confidence in formal banking, increase the security of their savings, and unlock access to larger loans to grow their businesses. In the future, CARE sees potential for members to increasingly have access to and choice of a range of products to meet their needs from savings to investment to insurance.

	# of Groups Linked	Est. of Members Linked
Tanzania	16,035	412,100
Rwanda	15,741	456,489
Kenya	6,752	144,068
Uganda	4,907	122,603
India	4,469	62,048
Malawi	2,592	44,064
Ghana	1,268	31,700
Mali	844	25,264
Cote d'Ivoire	801	18,069
Burundi	62	1,414
Haiti	36	1,044
Somalia & Somaliland	27	648
Myanmar	25	525
Vietnam	6	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,565</b>	<b>1,320,186</b>



Key innovations that have **catalyzed CARE's expansion of the VSLA** model have included:

Adapting VSLA to meet the needs and potential of adolescent girls and young people to save and invest in agriculture and microenterprises.

Pioneering a fee-for-service model, the Village Agent approach, which enhances sustainability of group support beyond short-term projects

Working with governments at every level to promote public sector delivery of VSLA formation services and ensure a productive enabling environment.

**Over 300,000 youth have joined Youth Savings and Loans Associations (YSLA) in 9 countries**

**Village Agent Networks are being established in multiple countries, delivering VSLA training without ongoing support and ensuring sustainability beyond CARE's direct involvement.**

**Nine countries are now directly engaged in or committed to promoting savings groups as part of their national development, poverty alleviation, financial inclusion and women's empowerment programs.**

# INTEGRATION

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In recognition of the model's **unparalleled sustainability** - 85% of groups are still operating five years after CARE exits - VSLAs have become an attractive and powerful entry point for programming across CARE's program strategy outcome areas:

## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Integrating dedicated sessions on women's control over resources and household decision-making deepens women's economic empowerment.

Results from an RCT show that **average savings for members are \$5.94 higher than non-VSLA members** in similar areas, and households experienced a 35% increase in household savings. Women in these households experienced an increase in their influence in decisions over business, food and education.

## FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

Embedding VSLAs in food and nutrition security programming increases the rate of participation among women, mobilizing resources needed to adopt improved practices and diversify income sources.

CARE Ethiopia's GRAD program showed **80% of participating households graduating out of the government food support assistance program.**

## SEXUAL, REPRODUCTIVE, & MATERNAL HEALTH

Combining a group-based approach with health programming builds women's confidence and improves access to information related to health needs, which positively impacts sexual, reproductive, and maternal health outcomes.

Girls who received dedicated training through their VSLA reported that they **discuss and jointly decide the use of contraceptives and desired number of children with their husbands.** Similarly, husbands of the girls also reported making joint decisions on the desired number of children and about spacing childbirth.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Accumulating savings through VSLAs helps improve absorptive capacity for community members to meet immediate needs during a humanitarian crisis.

In Haiti after Hurricane Sandy, **VSLA members cashed out their shares to help those who were in the greatest need,** generating \$40,000 to support their communities to recover. Many of these same groups formed the backbone of the government's community-led response.

# TOTAL VSLA MEMBERSHIP IN FY2017

		# of VSLA Members	# of Women Members	# of VSLAs
<b>Africa</b>	Uganda	860,060	791,255	30,780
	Kenya	798,383	663,616	41,179
	Tanzania	691,269	490,663	28,714
	Rwanda	563,414	442,393	19,634
	Burundi	553,268	406,265	23,799
	Niger	439,285	408,140	17,012
	Malawi	382,603	313,734	23,071
	Ethiopia	331,770	192,427	17,668
	Mali	245,009	244,886	8,733
	Cote d'Ivoire	180,920	167,062	7,998
	Zimbabwe	178,965	147,718	26,362
	Mozambique	131,176	80,949	7,035
	Ghana	110,650	84,869	4,463
	DRC	108,049	72,360	4,425
	Lesotho	85,180	68,144	3,500
	Sierra Leone	53,175	37,196	1,890
	Madagascar	50,085	32,300	2,491
	Egypt	41,165	33,121	2,293
	Benin and Togo	39,117	37,161	1,777
	Zambia	36,747	26,061	1,979
	North Sudan	18,050	16,725	596
	Somalia & Somaliland	14,120	11,296	715
	South Africa	13,395	12,195	1,570
	South Sudan	9,448	8,755	422
	Chad	9,204	8,284	745
	Angola	9,115	5,680	634
	Liberia	5,393	4,314	219
	Eritrea	4,000	3,200	245
	Cameroon	3,824	3,174	209
	Morocco	1,221	1,038	64
	Burkina Faso	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Africa Total</b>		<b>5,968,060</b>	<b>4,814,979</b>	<b>280,222</b>
			<b>81%</b>	

		# of VSLA Members	# of Women Members	# of VSLAs
<b>Asia</b>	Bangladesh	316,234	297,260	11,069
	India	272,423	255,260	20,656
	Nepal	24,954	15,471	874
	Vietnam	12,149	11,214	578
	Afghanistan	6,073	6,073	325
	Cambodia	4,763	3,858	300
	Myanmar	3,646	3,362	141
	Laos	417	417	20
	Indonesia	220	220	11
	Pakistan	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Asia Total</b>		<b>640,879</b>	<b>593,135</b>	<b>33,833</b>
			<b>92.5%</b>	

<b>Latin America</b>	Haiti	90,318	62,319	3,139
	El Salvador	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Ecuador	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Latin America Total</b>		<b>90,318</b>	<b>62,319</b>	<b>-</b>
			<b>69%</b>	





**Questions?**

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