

STANDARD SECTOR INDICATOR CODE: CED-044	Association Sustainability: Number of savings and loan associations and/or clubs, out of the total that Volunteer/partner worked with, that have implemented a self-assessment process at least once a year and use it to make adjustments as needed. (CED-044)	
CED SECTOR	Sector Schematic Alignment Project Area: Personal Money Management Project Activity Area/Training Package: Savings-led Microfinance	
Type: Outcome	Unit of Measure: Savings and Loan Associations and/or Clubs	Disaggregation: NONE

Definitions:

Partner/s – refers to the local counterpart who is co-facilitating savings and loan association and/or club activities with the Volunteer

Self-assessment process—savings and loan association or club members use a self-assessment tool to periodically reflect on the state of the association’s health in key areas such as attendance, loans outstanding, value of loans outstanding, gender disaggregation. Based on this process, organizations then make an action plan to address areas identified for improvement.

Special Note: In addition to any other Savings-led Microfinance Standard Sector Indicators that projects have selected, PMs/APCDs are strongly requested to report on six key Savings-led Microfinance SIs: CED-039, CED-040-I, CED-041-H, CED-042, CED-043, CED-049. These indicators will allow Peace Corps HQ to share comprehensive data with other microfinance practitioners.

Rationale: An increase in the number of savings-led microfinance associations/clubs that periodically implement a self-assessment and action planning process are more likely to sustain their operations in the future.

Measurement Notes:

- 1. Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use):** Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. A data collection tool to measure this indicator could be based on one of the following methods—observation, interview, focus group—though there may be other data collection methods that are appropriate as well. For more information on the suggested methods, please see [Appendix I in the MRE Toolkit](#). Also be sure to check [this link](#) on the intranet page as sample tools are regularly uploaded for post use. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot it, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.
- 2. General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:** All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes – knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see “Frequency of Measurement”).

- 3. Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection:** Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with a savings and loan association and/or club or group of savings and loan associations and/or clubs implementing a self-assessment process at least once a year and use it to make adjustments as needed. It provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same people. Volunteers should take a baseline measurement regarding the outcome(s) defined in this data sheet. Volunteers should collect baseline information early in their work with savings and loan associations and/or clubs implementing a self-assessment process at least once a year and use it to make adjustments as needed, and may use their judgment to determine timing because the information will be more accurate if the Volunteer has built some trust with these savings and loan associations and/or clubs first. The information for the baseline measurement will be the same or very similar to the information that will be collected in the follow-on measurement (see “Frequency of Measurement”) after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities and it is usually collected using the same data collection tool to allow for easy management of the data over time.

Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see “unit of measure”), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of where savings and loan associations and/or clubs within the target population are in their process of change instead of assuming that they are starting at “0.” It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the savings and loan associations and/or clubs they work with during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

- 4. Frequency of Measurement:** For reporting accurately on this outcome indicator, Volunteers must take a minimum of two measurements with savings and loan associations and/or clubs of the target population reached with their activities. After taking the baseline measurement (described above), Volunteers should take at least one follow-on measurement with the same savings and loan association and/or club(s), typically after completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Please note that successful documentation of a behavior change or new practice may not be immediately apparent following the completion of activities and may need to be planned for at a later time. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one savings and loan association and/or club has achieved the indicator, they should report on it in their next VRF.

Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement with the same savings and loan association and/or club for the following valid reasons:

- Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional savings and loan associations and/or clubs initially reached with activities have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);
- Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;
- A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the

data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new savings and loan associations and/or clubs achieving the outcome in their next VRF.

- 5. Definition of Change:** The minimum change to report against this indicator is a savings and loan association and/or club that both a) implemented a self-assessment process at least once a year, and b) used it to make adjustments as needed. If, at the time of the baseline measurement, a savings and loan association and/or club has either a) not implemented a self-assessment process and/or b) has not used the process to make necessary adjustments, it has the opportunity to be counted as having “achieved” this change when subsequent measures are taken, if at the time of these measurements, both a) and b) are occurring for the savings and loan association and/or club. If the savings and loan association and/or club already does both a) and b), above, at the time a baseline measurement is taken, they cannot be counted as having newly achieved this indicator.
- 6. General Reporting in the VRF:** The “number achieved” (or numerator) that Volunteers will report against for this indicator in their VRFs is the number of savings and loan associations and/or clubs that, as a result of working with the Volunteer, both a) implemented a self-assessment process at least once a year, and b) used it to make adjustments as needed. The “total number” (or denominator) that Volunteers will report on for this indicator in their VRFs is the total number of savings and loan associations and/or clubs that participated in the activities designed to meet this indicator.
- 7. Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** This indicator is not disaggregated.

Data Quality Assessments (DQA): DQAs are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

Alignment with Summary Indicator: NO LINK