



CAUSAL
PATHWAYS

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2023

DISCOVERING HOW, WHY, AND
WHEN OUR STRATEGIES MATTER

When should we be doing this?

Presented by Kimberlin Butler, Abdoul Karim Coulibaly, and Carlisle Levine

Speakers

Moderator



Kimberlin Butler

Senior Director of
Foundation
Engagement,
Mathematica



Carlisle Levine

CEO and
President, BLE
Solutions



**Abdoul Karim
Coulibaly**

Independent
Consultant

Welcome + Norms

1. Listen to light the path *with* communities
2. Lean into discomfort and each other
3. Commit to non-closure and practice
4. Embrace paradox
5. Seek intentional learning, not perfection
6. Stories stay, lessons leave

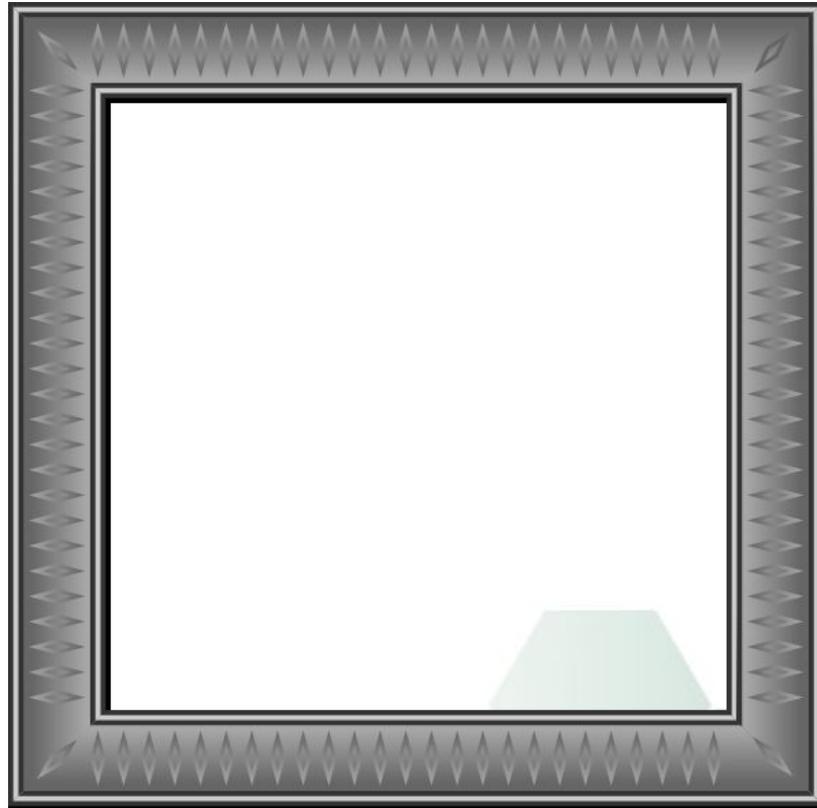
What's on your mind?

Opening poll:

1. What questions do you bring to this session?
2. Where are you **most challenged**, if at all, in exploring **when** to use causal pathways?

(Please post your responses in the chat.)

Session framing



CAUSAL
PATHWAYS

VIRTUAL
SYMPOSIUM
2023

Exploring causal pathways depends on need

Whose need?

Exploring causal pathways depends on readiness

Timing

Relevance

Resources

Perceptions
of credibility

Buy-in

Trust

Core
values

CARE INTERNATIONAL'S SAFI PROJECT

Sustainable Access to Financial Services for Investment

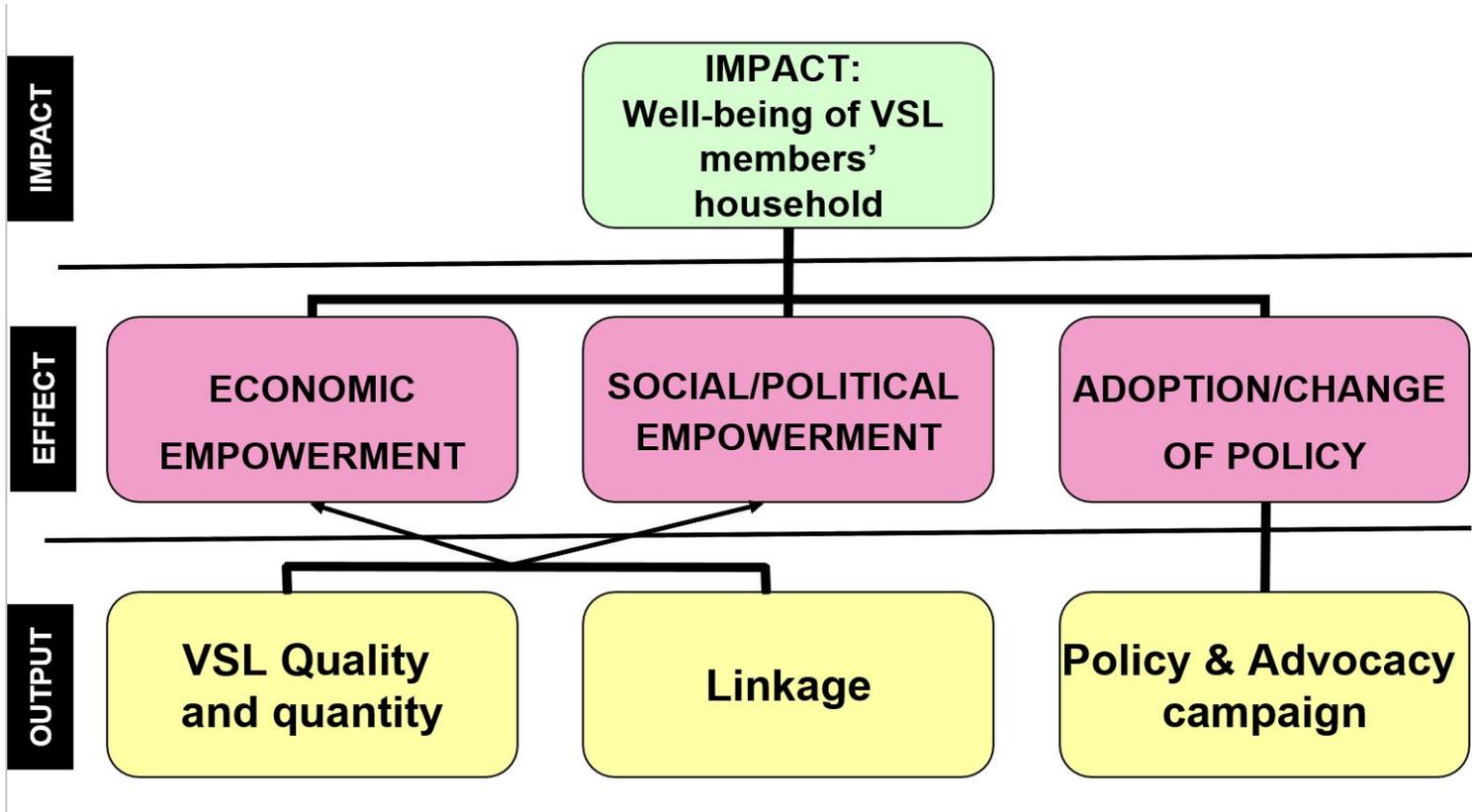
- 2009-2012
- Donors: The MasterCard Foundation and CIDA
- Focus : Targeting vulnerable people
- Implementers: CARE with 6 partners

Expected Results

- 108 200 VSL members will increase their income
- 65% of women making decision making in their household and the community
- 75% of members will increase their resilience to shocks



PROGRAM THEORY OF CHANGE



EVALUATION DESIGN

- VSL Member cohort survey
- Random group selection using cluster sampling
- Household survey Baseline (in October 2009)
- Endline on same members (in December 2011)
- Statistical test of significance between baseline and endline
- Qualitative at endline seeking to: “confirm/infirm the findings from the quantitative survey and understand if, to what extent and how VSLA have contributed to these changes”.
- Triangulation: members, husband of members, non-members, local leaders

RESULTS

Indicators	Baseline 2009	Endline 2011
% of VSLA members who did house improvement	15%	39%
% of HH without food for 1 day during the last 3 months	57%	29%
Food quality index	37	46
% who have purchased asset during the last 12 months	31%	63%

RESULTS

At the share-out, we purchased small livestock that have since given birth. This livestock has also provided us with manure for agricultural use. (Women member).

My wife's participation in the VSLA has greatly benefited us. Thanks to her involvement, we were able to acquire assets such as a table, mattress, goat, modern chairs, and a mobile phone. (Husband).

Before, the group members lived in straw houses and slept on the ground or on straw. Now, they have metal-roofed houses and sleep on mattresses. (Local leader).

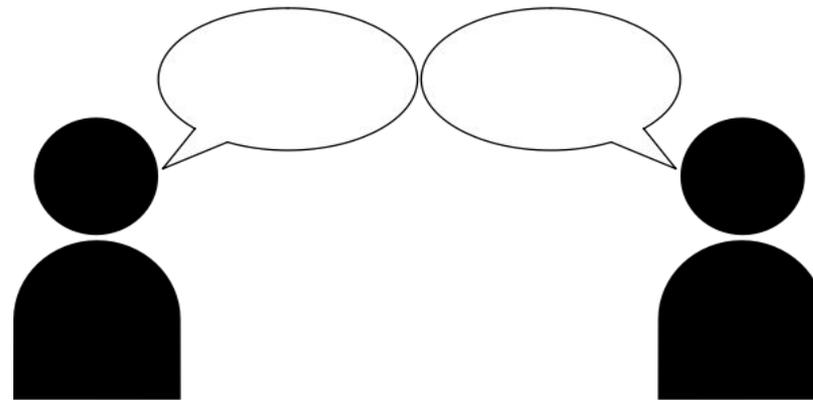
What are your thoughts as we conclude this session?

Closing poll:

1. What was raised in this session that you would like to discuss further?
2. Name **one thing you will commit to practice** after this session in your context.

(Please post your responses in the chat.)

Questions?



VIRTUAL
SYMPOSIUM
2023