CARE Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) — Women's Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment in Rural Malawi

Gender Equality · Good practice · Malawi

Quality score: 89/100

Evidence strength: Randomised controlled trial

Summary

CARE's Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) organise rural Malawian women into self-governing groups of 20–25. An IPA RCT found women's savings rose 34%, monthly business profits grew 24%, and household decision-making control improved 4 pp — at USD 7.01 per household.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	3/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	1/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	1/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	0/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-06-23

CARE International Malawi — accessed 2026-06-23

CARE microsavings programme page — accessed 2026-06-23

IPA RCT: Savings Groups in Ghana, Malawi and Uganda — accessed 2026-06-23

IPA findings press release — accessed 2026-06-23

PMC 2022: VSLA sustainability in Malawi during COVID-19 — accessed 2026-06-23

ResearchGate: VSLAs and Women's Empowerment in Malawi — accessed 2026-06-23

Cite this — Evidoria. *CARE Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) — Women's Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment in Rural Malawi*. Persistent ID: 0bfaa736-28d5-4fd7-9755-df48ff4e9000.