



## ***Saving for Change* Social Indicator System (SIS)**

### ***Saving for Change* Background**

*Saving for Change*, jointly developed by Freedom from Hunger, Oxfam America and Strømme Foundation, is a highly replicable savings-led microfinance program integrated with simple, relevant, high-impact training in health, business and money management. *Saving for Change* brings basic savings-led financial services including savings and lending to areas that are typically beyond the reach of microfinance institutions and, in doing so, creates sustainable, cohesive Savings Groups that tackle social issues facing their members and their communities.

### **Purpose of SIS**

*Saving for Change* uses the MS Excel-based Management Information System (MIS) used by the Savings Groups industry to monitor the performance of animators and their Savings Groups. While the MIS measures primarily financial performance at the group level such as groups' cumulative savings and loans outstanding, it does not measure social performance at the individual level such as changes in social capital or food security. In order to fill this gap, Freedom from Hunger is developing the Social Indicator System (SIS).

The purpose of the SIS is to measure how members' attitudes, knowledge and life situations change during their participation in the Savings Group program. There are 5 sections of the SIS survey:

1. Respondent Demographic and Location Information
2. Social Capital and Empowerment Indicators
3. Indicators on Relevant Education Topic(s)
4. Progress Out of Poverty Index™ (PPI)
5. Food Security Survey (FSS)

The SIS survey will vary depending on the relevant education topic(s) members participate in and the PPI specific to the country of implementation. The monitoring system sets up a mechanism which allows the inclusion of additional social indicators of interest as well.

### **SIS Procedure**

SIS baseline and end-line surveys will be conducted as follows:

- SIS baseline surveys will be conducted in the first four months of a Savings Group before education sessions begin.
- SIS end-line surveys will be conducted at least one year after the baseline to allow members sufficient time to distribute at least once and experience the benefits of Savings Group participation.

The SIS can be used for only baseline and end-line implementation, or as an ongoing yearly monitoring process.

In order to keep the cost of implementing the SIS low and to ensure that NGOs can manage the SIS, the data collection and analysis will be managed by animators and supervisors. Animators will conduct 30-minute surveys with one randomly selected member of each of the groups for which they are responsible. Animators submit completed surveys to their supervisors who will enter the responses into an MS Excel-based format to share with Freedom from Hunger and analyze in order to inform program decisions. Animators and supervisors will learn how to conduct surveys, enter data and analyze it during a one-day participatory training and limited follow-up by Freedom from Hunger. Freedom from Hunger is currently field testing the collection of SIS data through a mobile phone application with the end goal of collecting data more efficiently and accurately.

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