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# Resiliency in Northern Ghana

VSLA Summit  
March 23, 2017





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## USAID Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) Project

- **Dates:** June, 2014 – June, 2019 (5 years)
- **Geographic Location:** 17 districts of the Northern Region
- **Funding:** 14 districts receive direct government-to-government funding from USAID; 3 districts funded through Global Communities
- **Goal:** Improved livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable households
- **Expected Results:** Contribute to USAID/Ghana FTF goals:
  - 20% decrease in stunting, wasting, underweight, and anemia among CU5
  - 80% of target HHs have increased incomes of  $\geq 100\%$
- **Five technical areas:** Agriculture, Livelihoods, Nutrition, WASH; and Governance





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## Village Savings and Loans Associations

- Women's groups depositing small weekly savings
- Low cost intervention with positive results
  - 29,405 members of 1,090 groups
  - Savings accumulated to date of GHs 2,587,638 with average savings of GHs 52
  - Total Loans to members GHs 995,353
  - Loan utilization (dry season): 27%- Agriculture, 12%- Education, 50%- Income generating, 7%- Health and 4%- Others
- Strong social cohesion
- Enthusiastic participation and demand
- Good adherence to routine meeting schedule



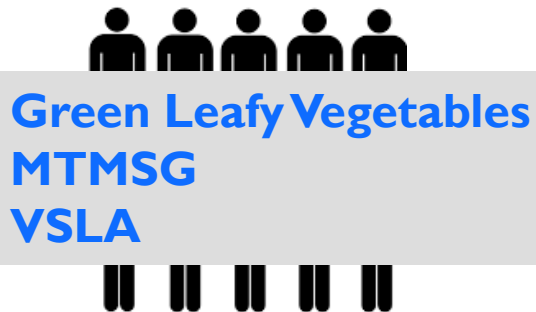


## Activities at the District Level

Community A



Community B



Community C



Community D



Community E



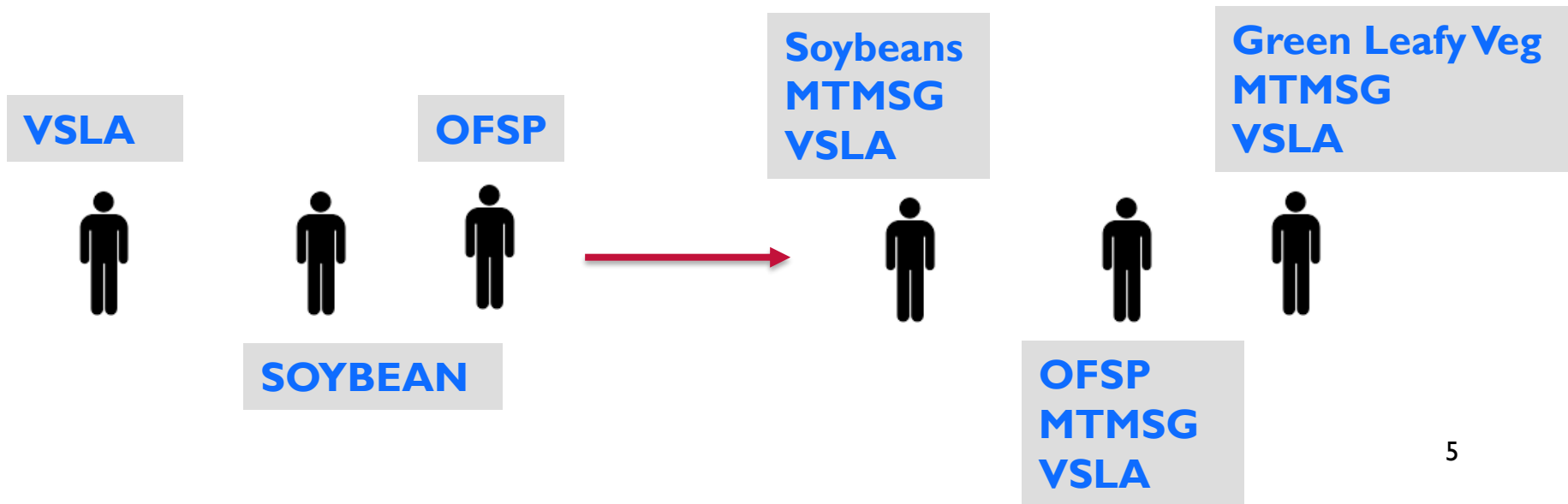
Community F





## The “Layered” Approach

- Leverage the social cohesion and routine meetings of VSLA group
- Ensure that agric beneficiaries are linked to savings mechanism
- Ensure that agric/livehoods beneficiaries are linked to nutrition social and behavior change communication activity
- RING in the process of scaling up VSLA alongside an agric/livelihoods intervention and nutrition intervention (MTMSGs)





## Integrating nutrition-specific intervention with VSLA

- Conduct sensitization visits: review activity, discuss participation, select co-facilitators
- Train 1 VSLA woman and 1 Community Health Volunteer or Health Worker to co-facilitate meetings
- SPRING/Ghana MTSMG curriculum
- Key behaviors: exclusive breastfeeding, reducing contamination of food/water, water treatment, complementary feeding, breastfeeding difficulties, types of health services
- Flow of meetings: 1) discuss previous meeting's topic, who adopted the behavior and why or why not; 2) discuss the current meeting's topic; and 3) commit to adopting the behavior
- 155 RING VSLA groups have initiated MTMSG meetings
  - Women enthusiastic and embraced MTMSG concept
  - Interactions with women demonstrates solid knowledge of key IYCF practices
  - Meet more regularly than standalone groups
- Lessons:
  - Joint monitoring GHS/BAC, literacy levels, process is key





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# Thank You

