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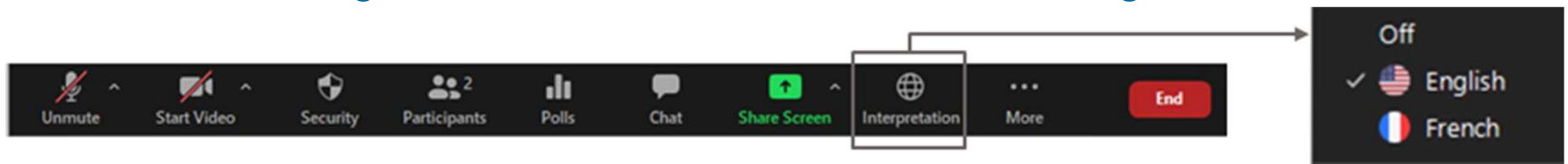


Building Resilience through Women's Groups: A discussion on why psychosocial factors are critical for their success

11 May 2021

Welcome & Instructions

- Select English or French: Everyone must select a language!
- Sélectionnez anglais ou français : Chacun doit choisir une langue !



- Introduce yourself in the chat
- Présentez-vous dans le chat

Remember:

- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Reach out to Zubaida in the chat for any tech support.



Panelists



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Objectives

- Share and learn from others on “**what works**” regarding how women’s groups strengthen the ability of members and their households to cope with a range of shocks.
- Discuss how to **unpack the causal mechanisms** by which women’s groups contribute to members’ psychosocial capacities and resilience, reflecting on evaluation and implementation barriers.
- Consider how we can expand support beyond material assets and livelihood strategies to **include support of psychosocial capacities**, such as social capital and women’s empowerment.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Presentation: Evidence review
3. Panel discussion
4. Breakout group discussions
5. Next steps

Defining our terms

- Women's groups
- Resilience
- Psychosocial factors



Building Resilience Through Self Help Groups: Evidence Review

Key Findings

Aims for the Evidence Review

1. Provide a better understanding of what is already known about how psychosocial factors contribute to resilience through Self Help Groups.
2. Highlight the gaps in the current evidence base to inform a learning agenda.



**BUILDING RESILIENCE
THROUGH SELF HELP
GROUPS: EVIDENCE REVIEW**

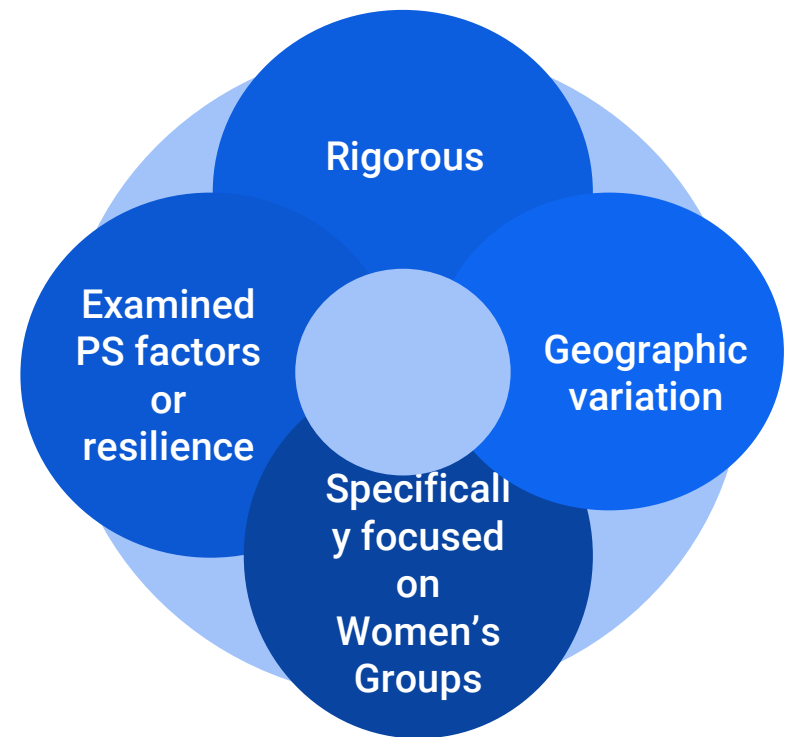
Evidence Review Methodology

Sources were collected for the evidence review in two steps:

1. Identified **academic publications** in peer-reviewed journals.
2. Broadened the scope to **evaluation studies** and **program-specific research** that outlined a clear methodology.

Limitation: Research at the intersection of these four factors is still limited and a growing field.

Literature selection criteria:



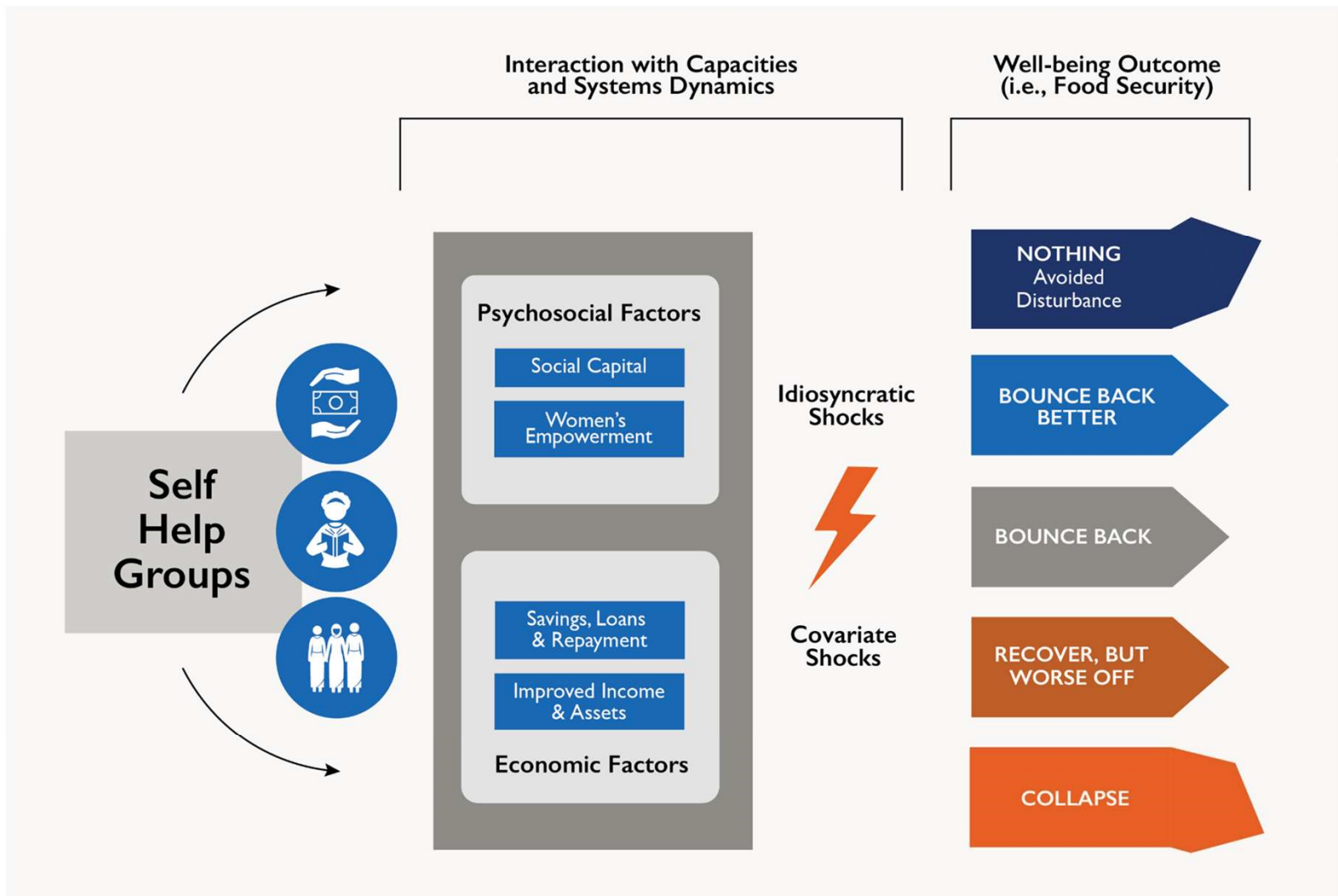


Figure 1: Building Resilience through Self Help Groups: Conceptual Framework (Cabot Venton, Prillaman, Kim 2021)

Social Capital

The networks and resources available to people through their relationship within groups (*bonding* social capital), between groups (*bridging* social capital), and with people or groups in positions of power (*linking* social capital).

Women's groups:

- Expand women's **social networks**,
- Increase a **shared sense of trust** amongst women, generating solidarity amongst group members,
- Create capacities and institutions for **collective action**.



Photo: Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps, 2020

Women's Empowerment

A term that is widely used by academics, practitioners, and implementing agencies, though to varying degrees of precision. Broadly, it refers to women's power to make important decisions that change their course of life.

Women's groups:

- Positively impact women's **individual and collective empowerment**,
- Encourage women's **civic and political engagement** and local collective action.



Photo: Laura Hajar/Mercy Corps, 2015

How do women's groups facilitate psychosocial factors and resilience?



(1) Access to Savings, Loans,
and Financial Institutions



(2) Technical Training
and Support



(3) Group Solidarity
and Networks

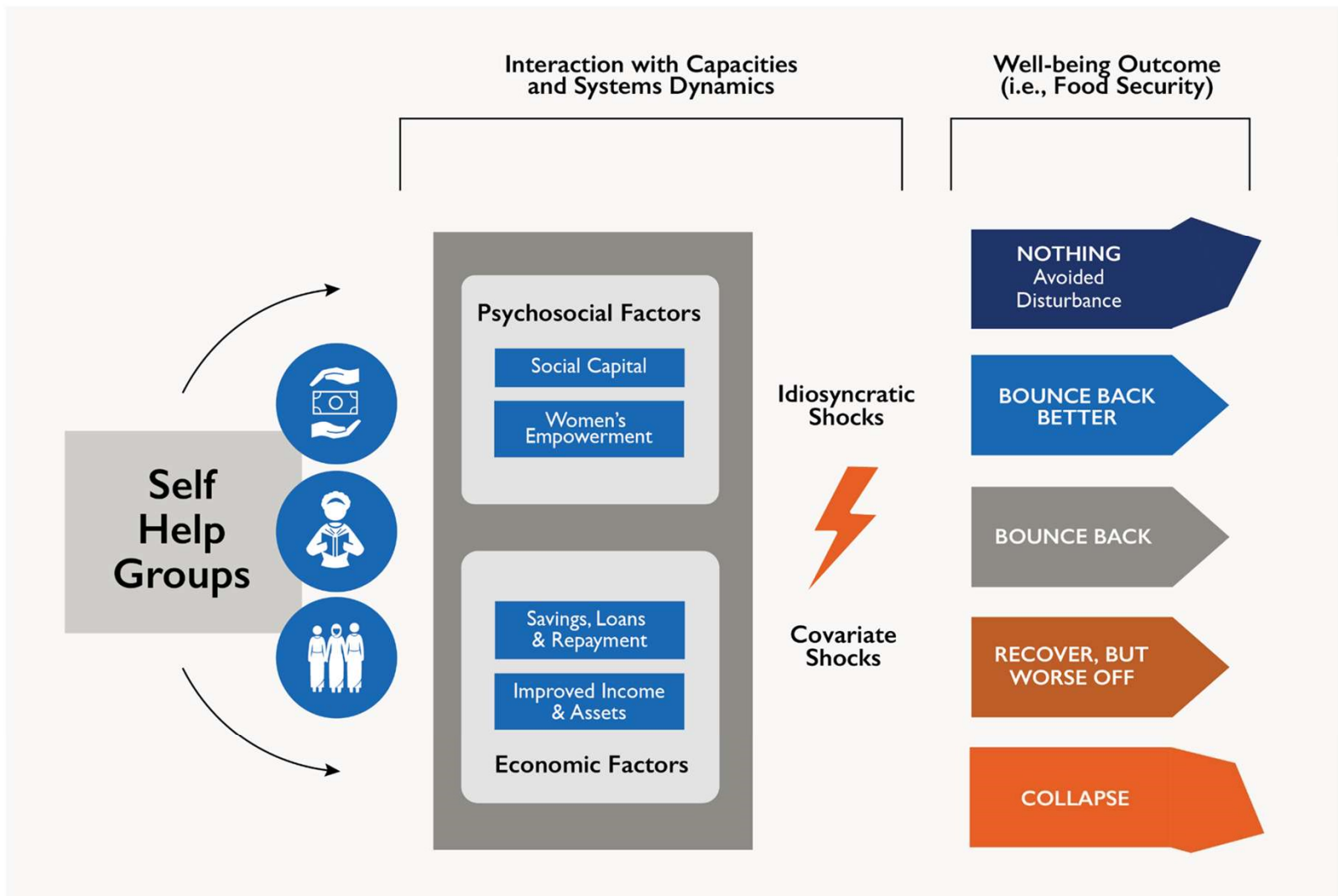


Figure 1: Building Resilience through Self Help Groups: Conceptual Framework (Cabot Venton, Prillaman, Kim 2021)



Panel Discussion



Breakout Group Discussions

Breakout group: Programming

- Which program components are most important to enhance the role of psychosocial factors?
- How do sequencing, layering, and integration facilitate these?
- Challenges? What strategies have you tried to respond to these challenges?

Breakout group: Evaluation

- What are the knowledge gaps?
- What are the causal mechanisms behind social capital and women's empowerment in the context of women's groups? Or specific components?
- How do we measure or estimate their importance?
- What insights can you share on the best methods to evaluate psychosocial factors?



Recap & Continue the Conversation

Continue the conversation

How would like you to continue the conversation around why psychosocial factors are critical for the success of women's groups?

- **A working group on [FinEquity's Collaborative Platform](#)**
(share resources, ask questions, and learn from each other, co-create learning products)
- **Timebound online discussion on [FinEquity's Collaborative Platform](#)**
(specific topic, facilitated, limited time frame to discuss)
- **More webinars like this**
- **Something else**
(please add your ideas the Google doc)

[Please respond in the Google Doc](#) - add your name & email

Thank you!

Event evaluation survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8KCDYT6>

Learn more about REAL: <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/REAL>



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