

## COVID-19

### A Guide for self-help groups (SHGs) and savings groups (SGs)

- **Communication with Savings Groups and Self-Help Groups.**

Try to get the contact details of the group chairperson in order to share information with the group. Find out their preferred means of communication, such as WhatsApp, FaceBook messenger, text etc and whether it is necessary to provide additional phone credit to enable communication.

- **Suspending savings and self-help group unnecessary meetings.**

If Covid-19 is present in the community or the government is restricting group meetings, it is best to suspend SG/SHG meetings for a time. It may also be necessary for groups to do a full or partial emergency share-out of their funds to ensure members have access to their savings (see [full guidance](#))

- **Alternative ways of continuing financial services through SGs/SHGs.**

If small groups are able to gather safely, the leadership committee could meet and members come to them one-by-one during the day/hour to do regular savings/loan repayment in 'shifts', rather than have the whole group meet at the same time. Groups could also be supported to continue their group saving and contributions through a mobile money platform.

- **If groups are able to meet, share key hygiene messages in local languages.**

Only the group secretary and the individual member should touch his/her own passbook. Do not pass the book between members. Likewise all money needs to be passed directly from one member to the Treasurer.



- **Supporting one another.**

Encourage group members to think about how they can continue to support one another and vulnerable members of the community. This could be done using a buddy system or a weekly check-in with other members via phone or at a safe social distance.

- **Market monitoring.**

Update one another about relevant market findings, including any changes in demand or prices, to help group members plan for their livelihoods and families.

**Resource:**

[https://mangotree.org/files/galleries/SEEP\\_Savings-Groups-and-COVID19\\_20200329\\_FINAL.pdf](https://mangotree.org/files/galleries/SEEP_Savings-Groups-and-COVID19_20200329_FINAL.pdf)

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