



Impact Evaluation of the 1st Cycle of 'SWAPNO'

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Impact evaluation of 1st Cycle of 'SWAPNO'

- ☒ Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities
- ☒ Implemented by Local Government Division, MoLGRD&C and supported by UNDP
- ☒ Kurigram and Satkhira (4500)
- ☒ Standard public works based 'graduation model' targeting only the distressed and vulnerable rural women
- ☒ Graduation model: project outcomes sustain beyond project
- ☒ Graduation model: Direct asset transfer (DAT) vs Public works (PW) based
 - DAT (TUP, CLP, Shiree): consumption support → asset transfer (livestock)
 - PW (REOPA, SWAPNO): guaranteed work → saving → build asset (livestock)



Comparison between Direct Asset Transfer and Public works based models

	Direct Asset Transfer	Public works based model
Selection of asset	Determined by the implementer	It's a choice of the HH
Scaling up	Largely NGO-Donor driven	Government plays significant role
Growth effect	Only through private asset (e.g., livestock)	Both private (e.g., livestock) and public assets (e.g., roads)
Targeting	Participatory approach (e.g., Participatory Wealth Ranking of TUP)	Wage as an instrument of self-selection
Women empowerment	Asset is a gift	Asset is built from own earning (self-confidence, self-esteem, aspiration)



Global best practices

❑ **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), India**

- World's largest (about 6 crore)
- Strong role of gram panchayat (beneficiary selection, public works selection, monitoring)
- Monitoring: ICT, social audit

❑ **Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), Ethiopia**

- Mix of cash transfer (20) and work (80)
- Variable length of workfare
- Wage rate determined by size of HH



SWAPNO: Interventions

1. 18 months of guaranteed job

- Maintenance of public roads and other public assets
- Union Parishad along with local community identified the works
- August 2015 to February 2017
- Received BDT 88,600 in total
- BDT 66,450 as cash wage payments and the rest is mandatory saving

2. Mandatory saving ('graduation bonus')

- 'Graduation' depends on how effectively saving is invested
- BDT 22,150 was paid back at the end of the project



Interventions...

4. Training

- ☒ 7 basic life skill and livelihood trainings

- ☒ Life skill training:

health and nutrition, gender and development, women rights and entitlement, leadership development and coping with climate change

- ☒ Livelihood training:

- preparation of business (cow, goat, sheep rearing, fish culture and crab fattening), accounting



SAMPLE

We have a baseline: August 2015

Kurigram: 600 (Beneficiary =400, Control =200)

Sathkhira: 600 (Beneficiary =400, Control=200)

Treatment group was randomly selected from the beneficiaries and control group from the waiting list

End-line survey: May-June, 2017

Re-visited the same sample of baseline with some attrition



Research method

- ❑ Mix of quantitative and qualitative
- ❑ Four groups – treatment and control in baseline and also in end-line
- ❑ Allows us to use difference-in-difference method
- ❑ For each major outcome variable, we run the following regression
- ❑ $Outcome_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 After + \beta_2 Swapno + \beta_3 (Swapno \times After) + \varepsilon_{i,t}$
- ❑ β_3 is our parameter of interest → treatment effect
- ❑ Measures the extent the impact can be attributed to SWAPNO

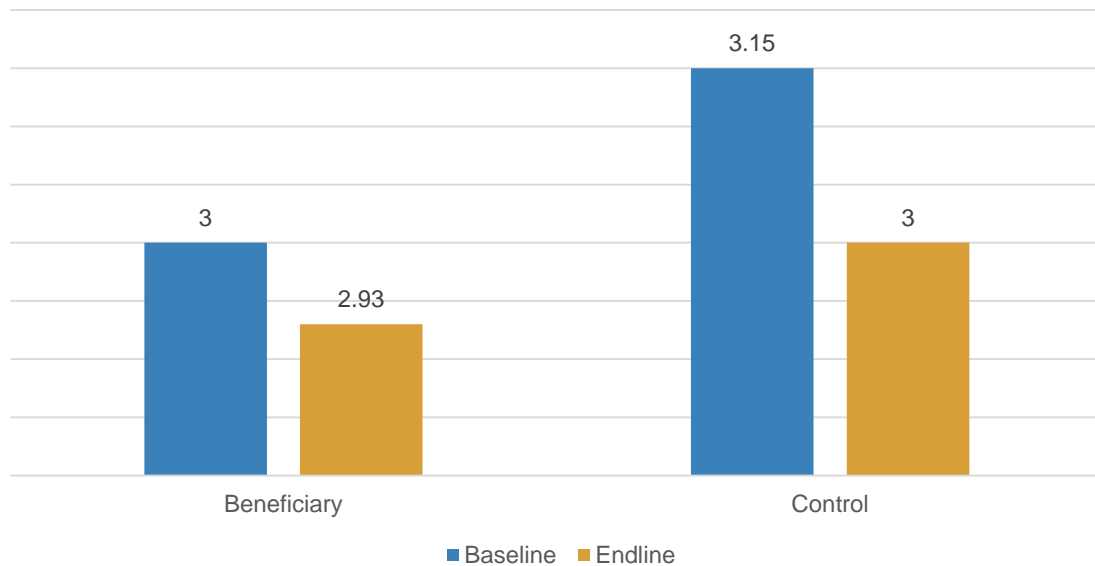


Who are these women?



Who are these women? Household Size

Household Size





Who are these women? Dependency Ratio

Average age of the beneficiaries is about 35

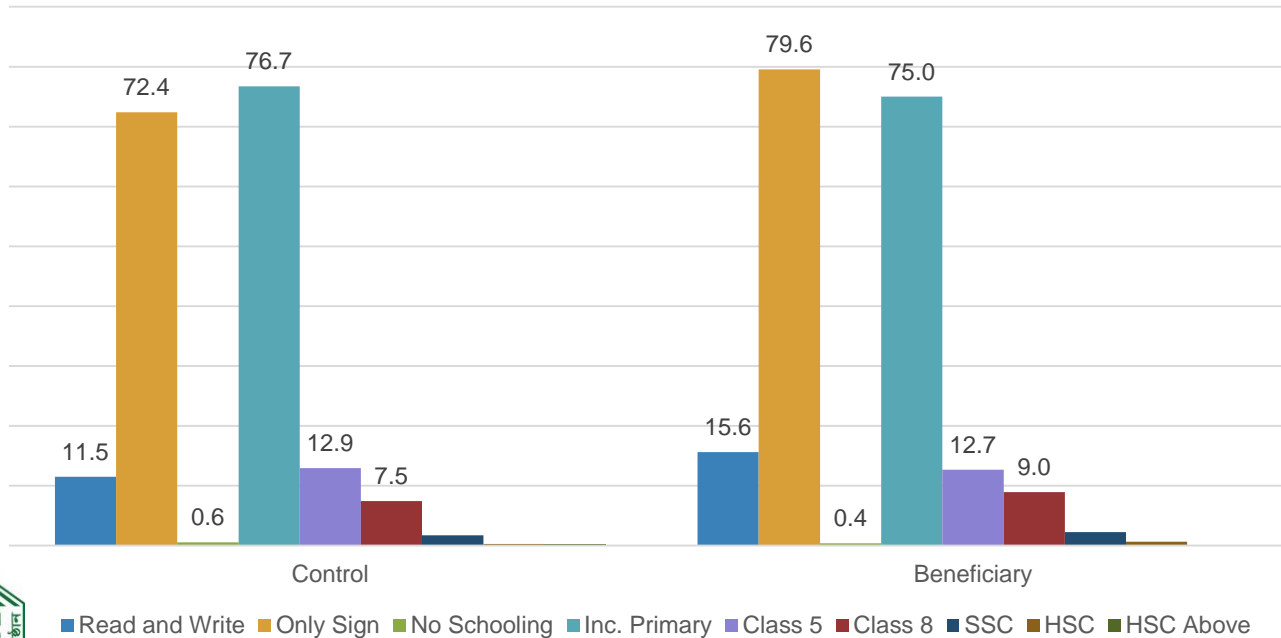
	Baseline			End-line		
	Control	Beneficiary	Diff.	Control.	Beneficiary	Diff.
Overall	68.5	71.1	-2.6	66.7	74.6	-7.9
Young (0-14)	57.4	56.4	1	52.4	58.6	-6.2
Old (59+)	11.1	14.7	-3.6	14.3	16	-1.7

HHs are headed by young female and have 2 young members



Who are these women? Education

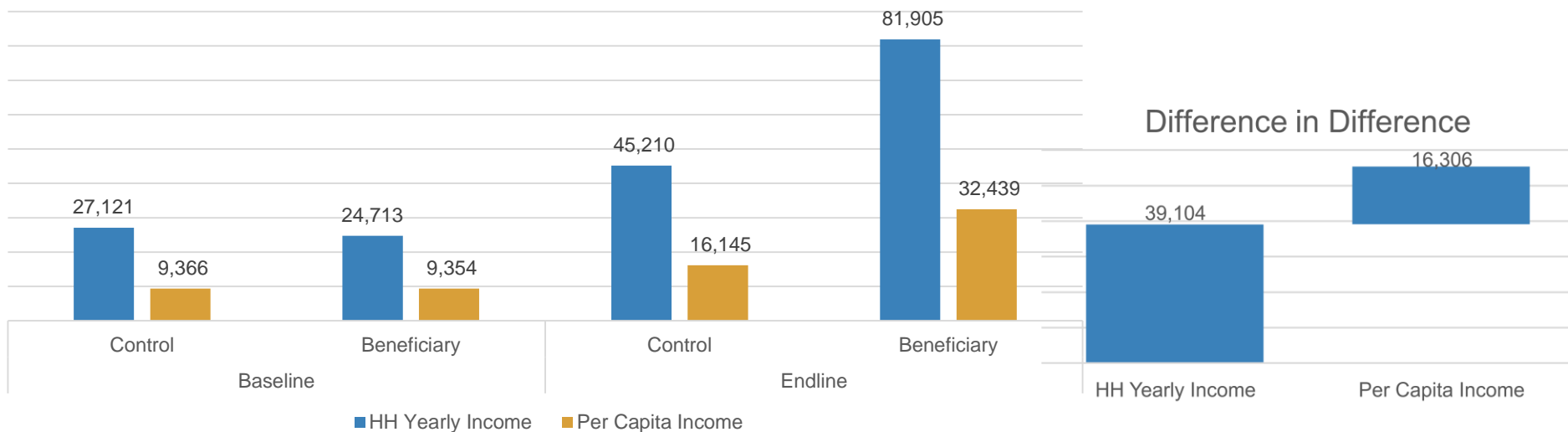
Education of Beneficiary





Impact of SWAPNO on Income, Asset and Expenditure

Household Income

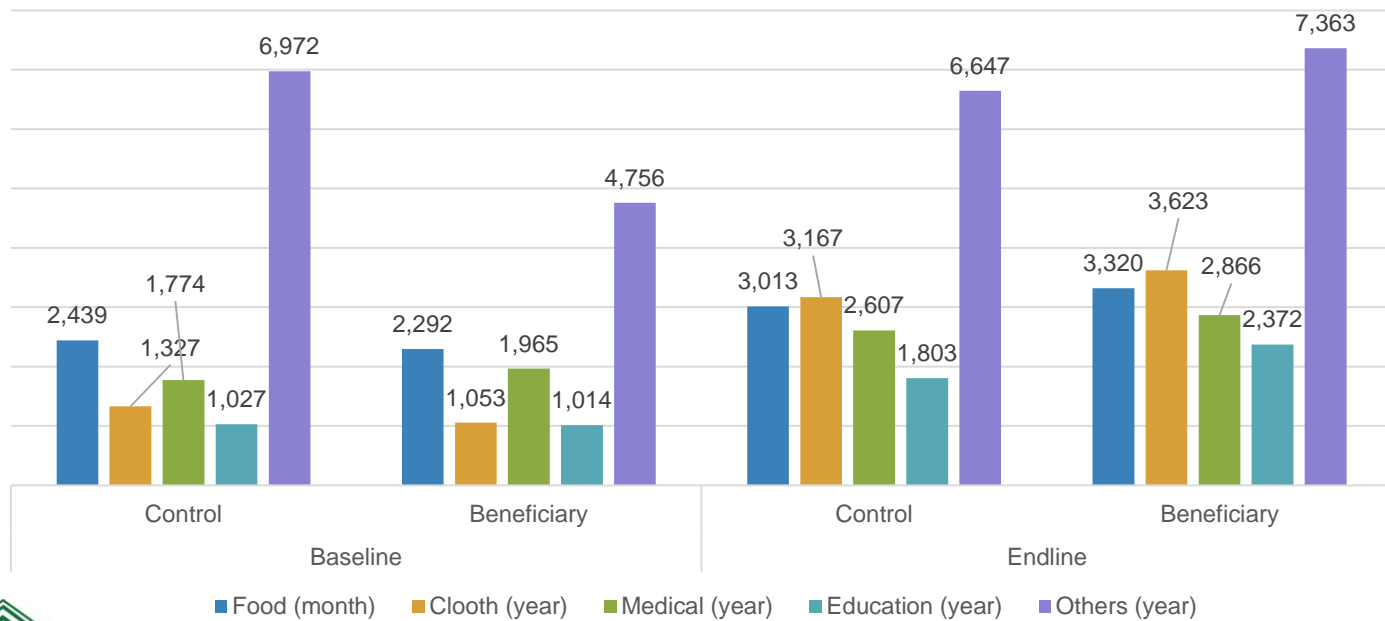


An increase in yearly 'gross' income of about 40 thousand taka can be attributed to SWAPNO



Impact on Income, Asset and Expenditure

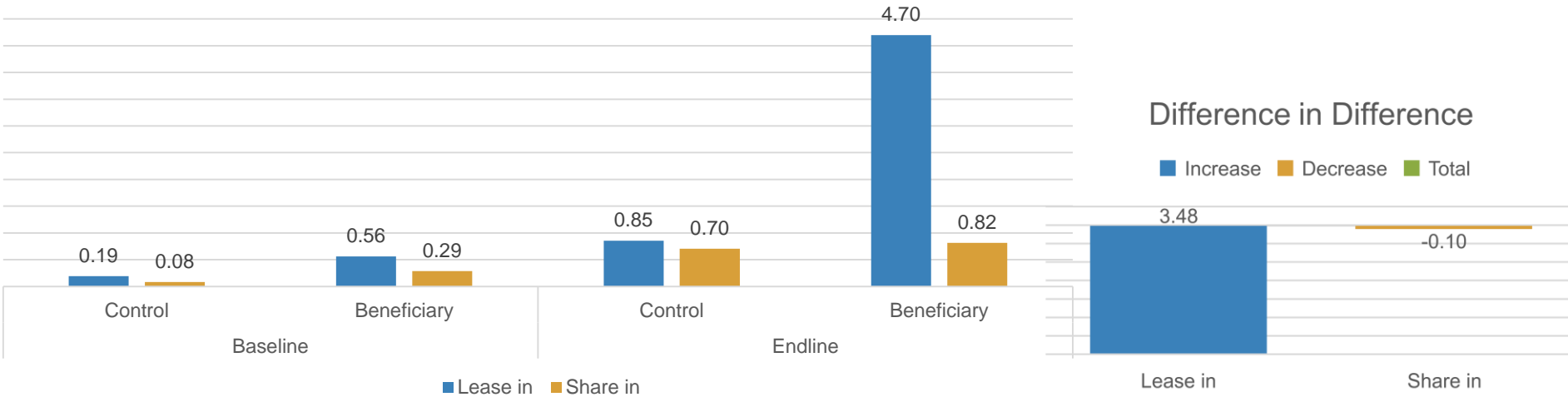
Food and Non Food Expenditure





Impact on Income, Asset and Expenditure

Land Holding



The beneficiaries have greater access to agricultural land market (rental)



Beneficiaries have accumulated assets: *Livestock is now the main asset of the beneficiaries*

Table: mean value of asset (non-land, non-financial)

	Baseline			End-line			Difference in Difference
	Control	Treatment	Diff	Control	Treatment	Diff	
Livestock	2279	1927	-351.9	5136	20757	15621	15,973***
Poultry	452	369.2	-82.79	552.9	1777	1225	1,307***
Fisheries	0	0	0	147.1	1757	1610	1,610***
Household Durables	2568	2381	-187.6	3436	4862	1427	1,614***
Precious Metals	698.8	629.7	-69.12	1140	2347	1207	1,276***

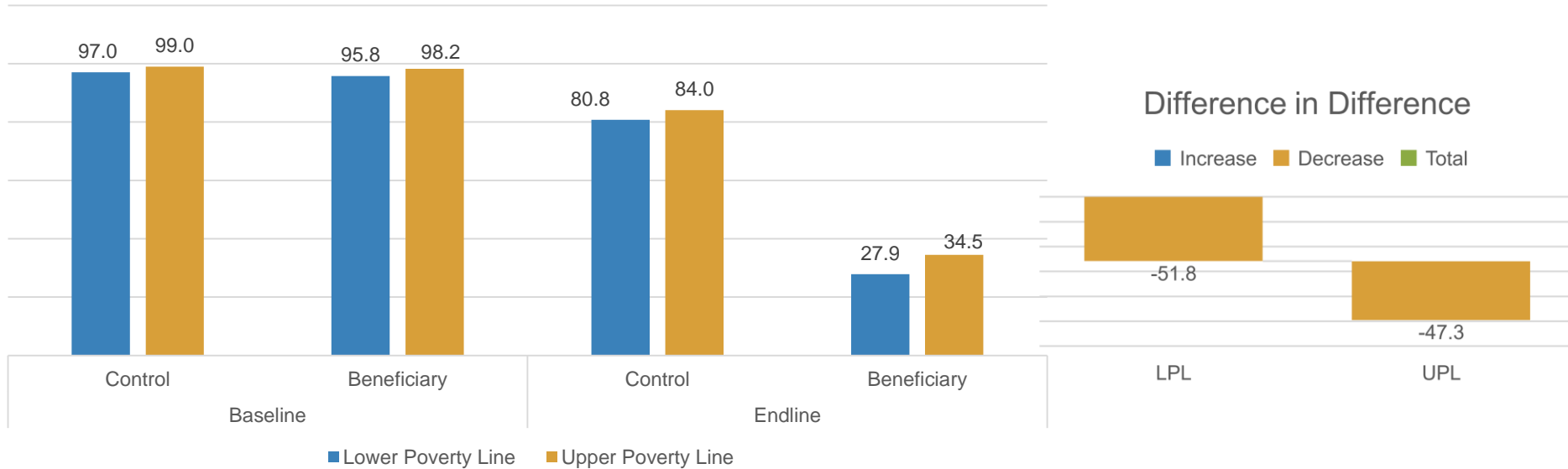
Swapno' contributes about 25 thousand taka increase in asset

livestock constitutes about 53% of total asset which was only 31% before SWAPNO



Impact on Incidence of Poverty

Head Count Poverty





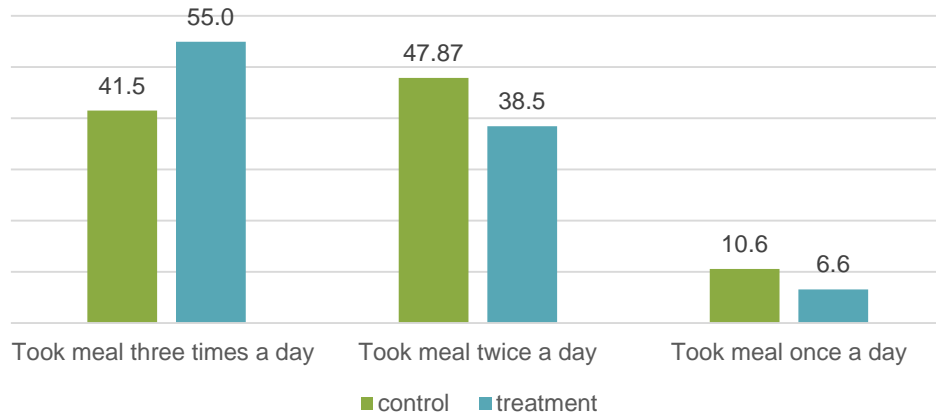
Other impacts

- ❑ *The beneficiaries did not purchase agricultural land*
- ❑ *The housing condition also remained same, though the access to electricity has increased*



Impact on Food security

☒ **Share of households taking meal only once or twice a day is lower for the treatment group in any month for a prolong period**

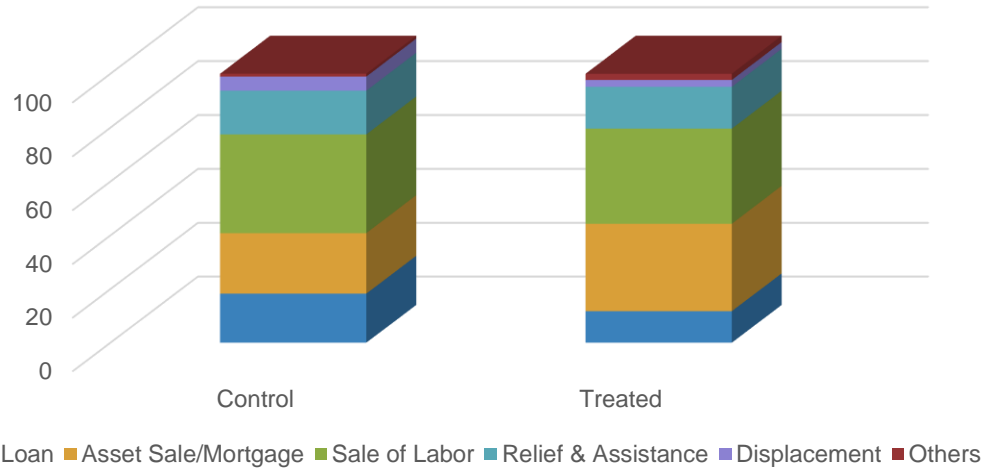


☒ **Srabon is the month of food shortage for both control and beneficiaries**

☒ **Number of days with acute food shortage is significantly lower for the beneficiaries**



Impact on coping with disaster



- ☒ **Beneficiaries rely more on own asset for coping than borrowing from others during shock**
- ☒ **Incidence of displacement or migration is lower for the beneficiary group**



Impact on Education, Health and Nutrition

- ❑ ***Education outcome of the children has not changed much***
- ❑ ***Beneficiaries now perceive to have better health despite little change in scientific measures (BMI)***
- ❑ ***SWAPNO has been found to have impact on use of hygiene latrine but not safer water***
- ❑ ***Average height and weight of children have not changed significantly due to SWAPNO.***



Women Empowerment and Aspiration

The beneficiary women have higher control over personal and household assets than their non-participant counterpart

	Baseline			End line		
	Control	Treated	Diff	Control	Treated	Diff
Control over personal income and asset						
I myself can decide to use my personal income				89.78	95.38	5.599**
I myself can decide to use my own savings				89.28	95.25	5.973**
I have full control over my immovable/movable property				80.05	90.63	10.58***
Control over household asset						
I have influence over the use of family income and savings				81.80	90.75	8.954**
I have influence over family land				75.31	86.75	11.44**
I have influence over family immovable/movable assets				75.31	87.25	11.94***
Decision making new income earning activities						
Decision of income generating activity was taken by women	0.80	0.84	0.04	0.71	0.83	0.12
Decision of income generating activity was taken Jointly with a male	0.06	0.03	-0.02	0.28	0.17	-0.11



**Beneficiaries are found to be more optimistic about their future
The self-esteem of the beneficiaries are also found to be significantly higher**

Table: Women empowerment through enhancing self- confidence and self esteem

	Two years ago			Currently			Diff-in- Diff
	Control	Treated	Diff	Control	Treated	Diff	
Have future plan for life?	46.88	34.75	-12.13	64.84	87.13	22.29	34.42***
How optimistic are you in implementing your future plan?							
Not quite optimistic	9.574	13.31	3.735	1.247	0	-1.247	-4.982**
Somewhat optimistic	25	29.14	4.137	25.44	12.88	-12.56	-16.70***
Fairly optimistic	45.21	39.93	-5.285	69.83	70.13	0.300	5.584
Very optimistic	20.21	17.63	-2.587	3.491	17	13.51	16.10***
In retrospect do you think the goal you set in two years ago are accomplished?							
Accomplished				5.319	8.273	2.954	
Somewhat accomplished				45.21	79.14	33.92	
Nothing accomplished				49.47	12.59	-36.88	
Self-esteem indicator (Z Score)	0.153	-0.0769	-0.230	-0.650	0.326	0.976	1.206***
Are you willing to make new friends?	12.97	12.25	-0.718	21.20	31.13	9.928	10.65***



Impact on Training: What did they learn?

- ☒ **Participation rate**
 - ☒ **Perception of the beneficiaries about the quality and usefulness of the training**
 - ☒ **Module specific questions**
-
- ☒ *The participation rate was high in all courses (70%-80%)*
 - ☒ *Usefulness ranking (1-7): Livelihood trainings were more useful*
 - ☒ *Beneficiaries are more aware of their rights than the control group.*
 - ☒ *The beneficiaries are more aware of the punishments in laws for polygamy, child marriage, dowry and divorce than the control groups*



Is the impact sustainable after SWAPNO?

There are 3 indications:

- ☒ Most of the graduation bonus was invested in productive purpose
- ☒ The beneficiaries have learnt some basics of running a business and basic arithmetic
- ☒ Their self-confidence, self-esteem and aspiration have also been boosted up.
- ☒ **The combined effect is likely to result in sustainability of the project outcomes**



Conclusion: Some recommendations on project design

☒ **Addressing dual objectives of wellbeing of the beneficiaries and public works**

- Beneficiaries can sit idle and draw salaries – all the project outcomes can be achieved
- If public works are not properly done, its value for money may not be justified
- Better monitoring of public works

☒ **Is 18-month work-fare long enough?**

- FGD: 2 years
- Trade-off between length of program and coverage
- Gradual withdrawal of the program





Conclusion: Some recommendations on project design

Asset monitoring and early payment of bonus

- Assets are built at the end of the project
- Project staff don't get much time to monitor the asset
- Disburse graduation bonus in the middle of the project, for example, after six months.

Union Worker: key to efficient delivery and monitoring

- Overloaded with works
- Number of Union Worker per union can be increased
- Increase in salary



Recommendations

☒ **Livelihood trainings: Require revisiting**

It is all about class-room teaching

-Class-room training can be complemented by the hands-on training on various business options such as cow-fattening, poultry, wood-work, etc.

☒ ***Involvement of Union Digital Center (UDC)***

-UDCs are under-utilized

-Involved in several stages of the project implementation from beneficiary selection to project monitoring.



THANK YOU