

Welcome to the ***Social Protection for Economic Inclusion: Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific***

Breaking the Poverty Trap:

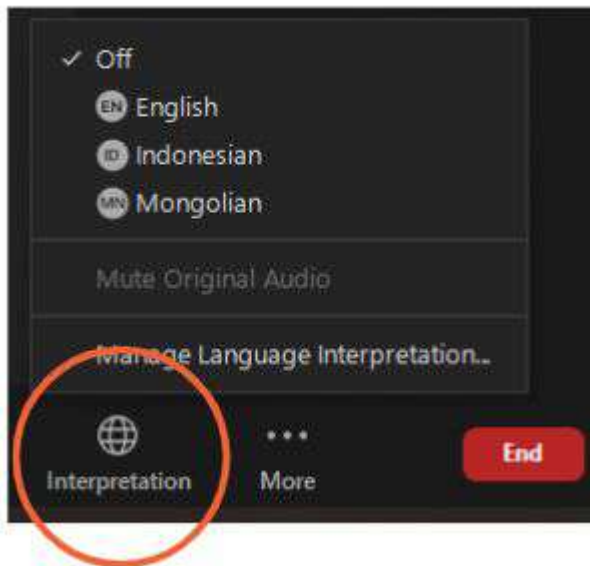
Learning from Graduation Programs in the Philippines and Across Asia

ADB

 **brac** | ultra-poor graduation



Simultaneous translation is available!



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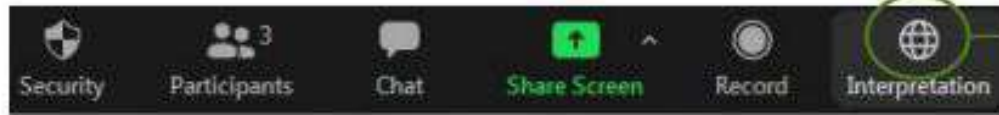
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For PC/Laptop Users

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Bambang Susantono

Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB

Dr. Susantono is responsible for managing knowledge in ADB, and coordinating researches and studies on various topics such as energy, transport, education, health, finance, urban; and also crosscutting nexus themes such as climate change, governance, gender, social development, environment, rural development and food security, and regional cooperation. He also coordinates ADB annual flagship publications such as the Asian Development Outlook, Key Indicators of Asia Pacific, and Asian Regional Economic Integration Report. Prior to this, Dr. Susantono was the Acting Minister, and Vice-Minister of Transportation of Indonesia, and Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development at the Office of Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs. He was also Member of the Board for airline, port, telecommunications, and media companies.

He holds a PhD in Infrastructure Planning, and has 2 Master's degrees in Transportation Engineering, and City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated from Bachelor of Engineering from Civil Engineering Department, the Bandung Institute of Technology.





Keynote Address

Dr. Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee

Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Director of The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

2019 Nobel Prize for Economics (the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel)

Abhijit is the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2003 he co-founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) with Esther Duflo and Sendhil Mullainathan, and he remains one of the Lab's Directors. Banerjee is a past president of the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development, a Research Associate of the NBER, a CEPR research fellow, International Research Fellow of the Kiel Institute, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow and a winner of the Infosys Prize.

Abhijit is the author of a large number of articles and four books, including *Poor Economics*, which won the Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year, and *Good Economics for Hard Times*, both co-authored with Esther Duflo. He is the editor of three more books and has directed two documentary films. Banerjee has served on the U.N. Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He is a co-recipient of the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for his groundbreaking work in development economics research.



Road to Resilience: The Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific

Experts:



Dean Karlan
Founder and President,
Innovations for Poverty Action
(IPA)



Shameran Abed
Senior Director, Microfinance
and Ultra-Poor Graduation
Programs, BRAC



Yasuyuki Sawada
Chief Economist and
Director General, ADB



Karin Schelzig
Principal Social Sector
Specialist, ADB

Moderator



Wendy Walker
Chief of Social Development Thematic
Group, ADB

Wendy Walker

Chief of Social Development Thematic Group, ADB

Wendy Walker is the Chief of the Social Development Thematic Group at the Asian Development Bank. She has led multi-sector teams for designing and implementing complex and innovative projects and has worked across diverse sectors such as transport, urban, health, education and social protection. She is the team leader for a technical assistance program on Strengthening Capacity for Developing Members Capacity in Elderly Care in six countries in the region. Wendy has an M.Phil from University of Oxford and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University.



Dean Karlan

Founder and President, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

Dean Karlan is the Frederic Esser Nemmers Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at Northwestern University. His research focuses on development and behavioral economics, typically using experimental methods to examine questions about poverty and behavior modification. Previously he was a professor at Yale University and Princeton University. He is President and Founder of Innovations for Poverty Action, co-founder of stickK.com, co-founder of ImpactMatters, and a board member of the M.I.T. Jameel Poverty Action Lab. He has co-authored four books: *More Than Good Intentions*, *Economics, Failing in the Field*, and *The Goldilocks Challenge*. He received a Ph.D. in Economics from M.I.T., an M.B.A. and an M.P.P. from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. in International Affairs from the University of Virginia.



Shameran Abed

Senior Director, Microfinance and Ultra-Poor Graduation Programs, BRAC

Shameran Abed is Senior Director of BRAC's Microfinance and Ultra-Poor Graduation programs. BRAC's microfinance program serves more than 8 million clients in seven countries in Asia and Africa, with total assets exceeding USD 3.5 billion. BRAC's ground-breaking Ultra-Poor Graduation program has helped more than 2 million households pull themselves out of the direct forms of poverty and social deprivation, inspiring BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative to scale the Graduation approach and help 21 million more people lift themselves from extreme poverty. Abed chairs the board of bKash, BRAC Bank's mobile financial services subsidiary and one of the world's largest mobile money providers, and serves on the boards of several institutions including BRAC Bank and the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV). He is also a member of the Partnership for Responsible Financial Inclusion (PRFI). Abed is a lawyer by training, having been called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in the UK.



Yasuyuki Sawada

Chief Economist and Director General, ADB

Dr. Sawada was appointed as ADB's Chief Economist in November 2016, and is the chief spokesperson for ADB on economic and development trends. Previously he was a Professor in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo, Japan. He previously worked at the ADB Institute in Tokyo and served as a consultant for various projects at the World Bank Group. Dr. Sawada earned a Ph.D. in Economics and a Master's degree in International Development Policy at Stanford University.



Road to Resilience: The Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific

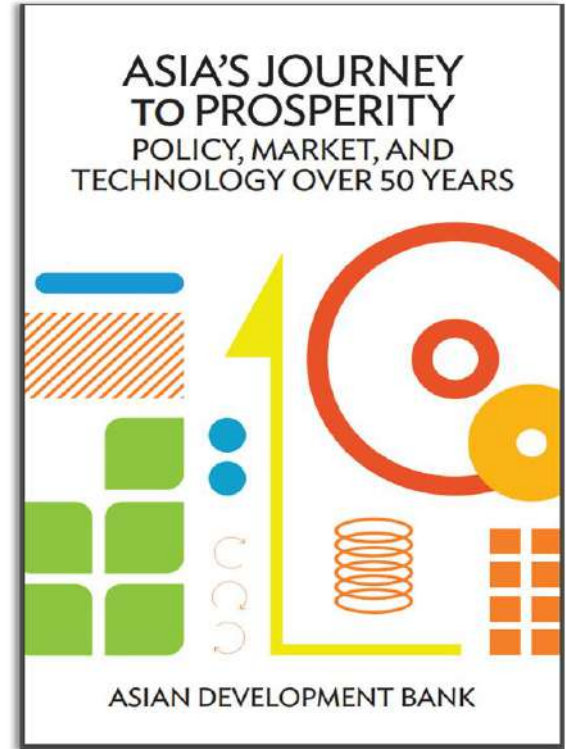
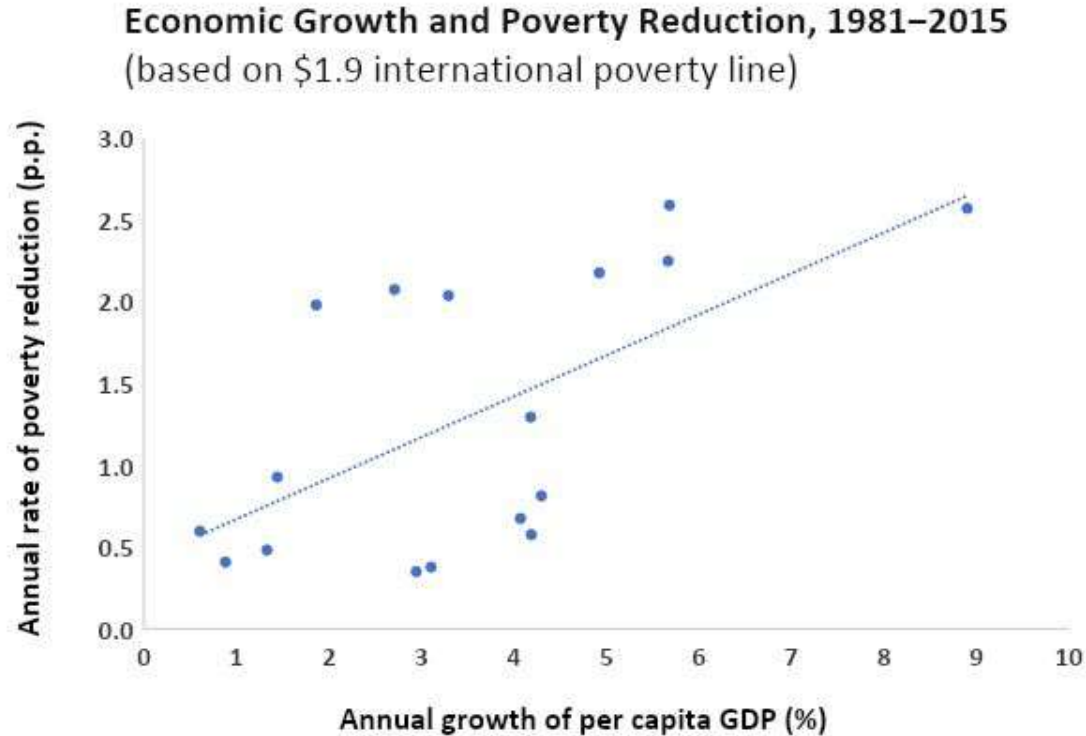
Yasuyuki Sawada
Asian Development Bank

Social Protection for Economic Inclusion

Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific
16 March 2021

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) or its Board of Governors or the governments they represent.

A bird's eye view

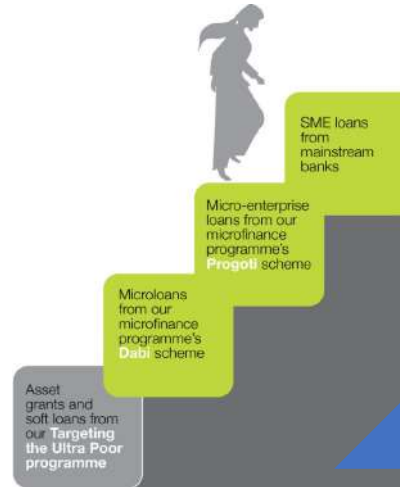


<https://www.adb.org/publications/asias-journey-to-prosperity>

BRAC's TUP and “graduation” model



TUP



General Loan (Dabi)

VO based,
Both weekly & monthly
installment system
Disbursed through
branch offices only



Enterprise Loan (Progoti)

Individual,
Only monthly collection
Disbursed through
branch & market offices

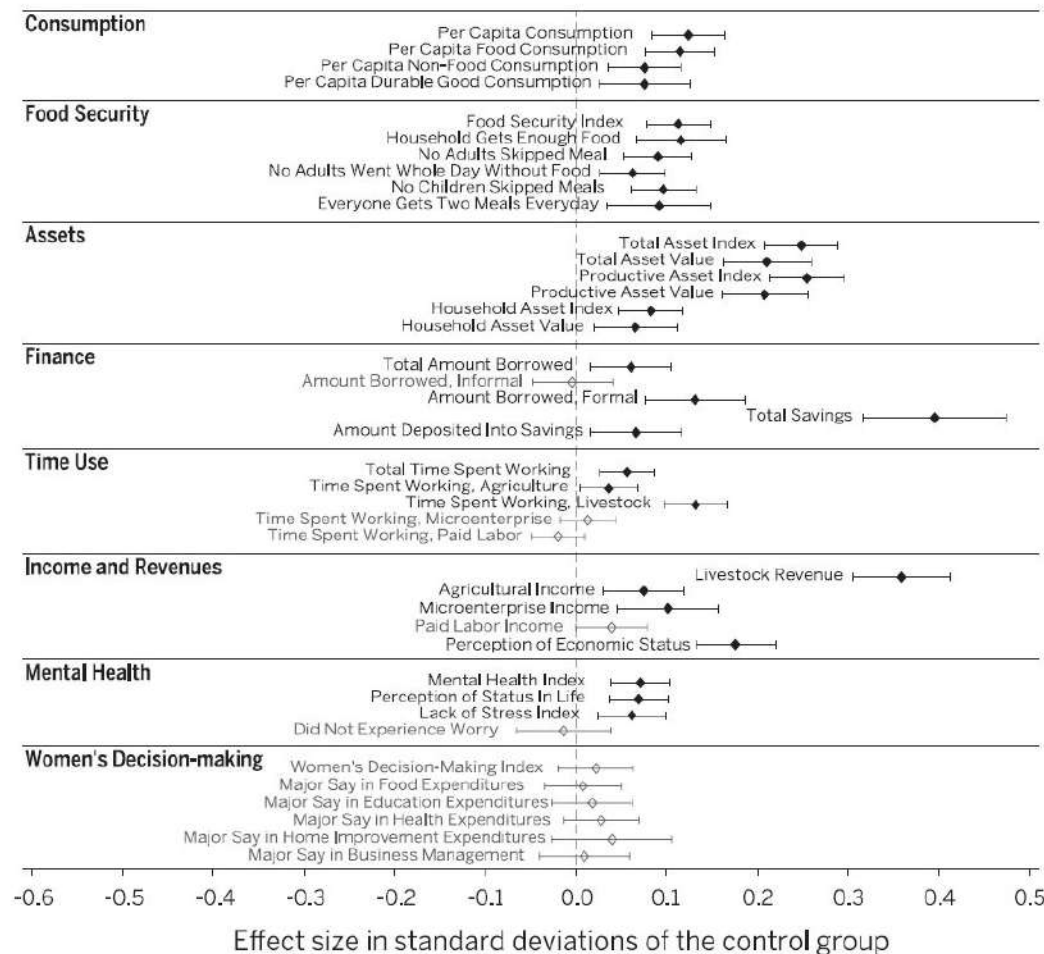
A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries

Abhijit Banerjee,^{1,2,3,4} Esther Duflo,^{1,2,3,4} Nathanael Goldberg,⁵ Dean Karlan,^{2,3,4,5,6*} Robert Osei,⁷ William Parienté,^{4,8} Jeremy Shapiro,⁹ Bram Thuysbaert,^{5,10} Christopher Udry^{2,3,4,6}

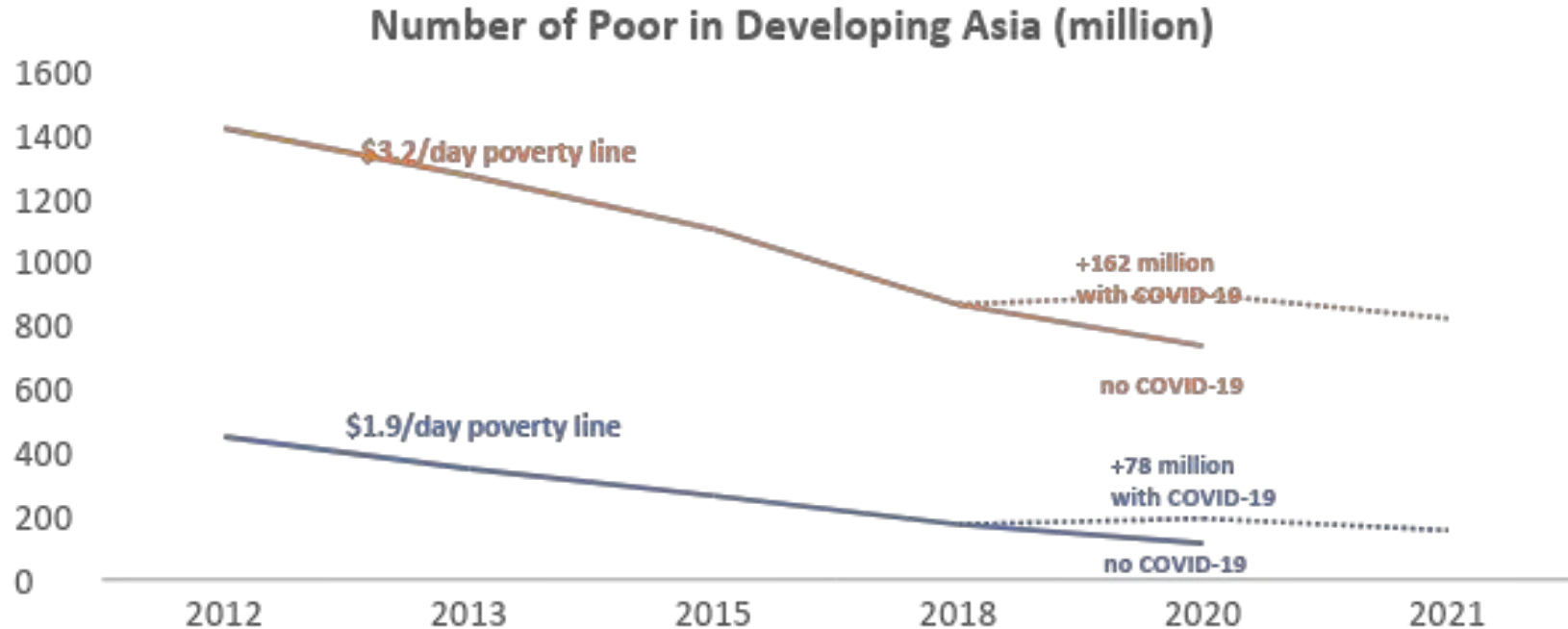
Science 2015

Pooled average intent-to-treat effects, endline 2 at a glance

This figure summarizes the average treatment effects in each country for the 10 primary outcomes. All treatment effects are presented as standardized z-score indices and 95% confidence intervals.



COVID-19 reversed gains in poverty reduction

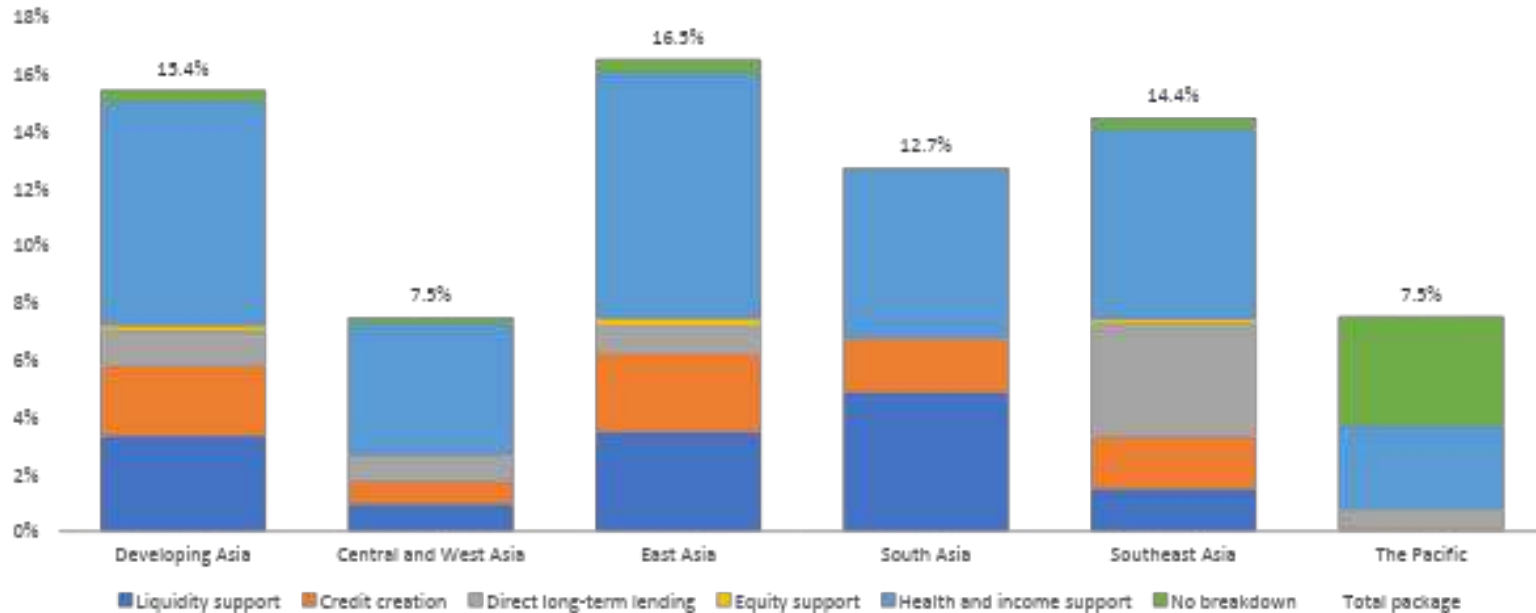


Notes: Developing Asia refers to the average of 34 developing member countries.

Sources: Martinez, A., I. Sebastian, and J. Bulan (2020). [How much has COVID-19 turned back Asia's poverty clock?](#) Asian Development Blog. Asian Development Bank. Manila. 3 November. 15

Governments have taken steps to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19

**Packages announced in response to COVID-19
(% of GDP)**



Note: Data as of 22 February 2021. One out of ADB's 46 developing members has zero amount, i.e., Niue.

Source: : [ADB COVID-19 Policy Database](#), accessed on 26 February 2021. For the database, see Felipe, J., and S. Fullwiler. 2020. "ADB COVID-19 Policy Database: A Guide." *Asian Development Review* 37(2): 1–20.

COVID-19 induced psychological poverty trap?

Bloomberg

Prognosis

Suicide Spike in Japan Shows Mental Health Toll of Covid-19

By [Ayai Tomisawa](#) and [Marika Katanuma](#)

October 9, 2020, 5:00 AM GMT+8

- ▶ Number of suicide deaths rose 15% in August in Japan
- ▶ Suicides among women, school-aged children saw higher increase

INQUIRER.NET

86% of adult Filipinos stressed over COVID-19 — SWS

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / @GabrielLaluINQ INQUIRER.net / 09:29 PM October 08, 2020

Innovative data helps better policies

- After the outbreak of **COVID-19**, ADB supported Philippines Government's Food transfer program, **Bayan Bayanihan** program.
- To identify the **targeted communities**, we used the granular poverty map made by innovative data sets.
- Useful for poverty impact assessments of COVID-19 in the future.



Looking ahead



Make the graduation program and other SP programs sustainable for individuals to climb up the ladder by, for example, creating **quality jobs and businesses**



Make **fiscal policy** for the SP programs effective and sustainable:

- ❖ On the **expenditure side**, increase spending on the programs with more efficient and effective program design as well as other complementary investments
- ❖ On the **revenue side**, policy options include broadening the **tax base**



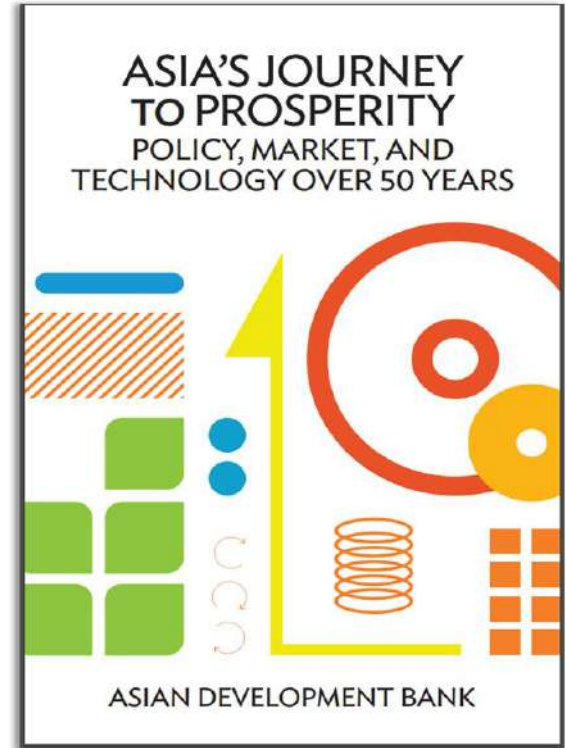
Continue **governance reforms** to ensure the entire population enjoys adequate public services



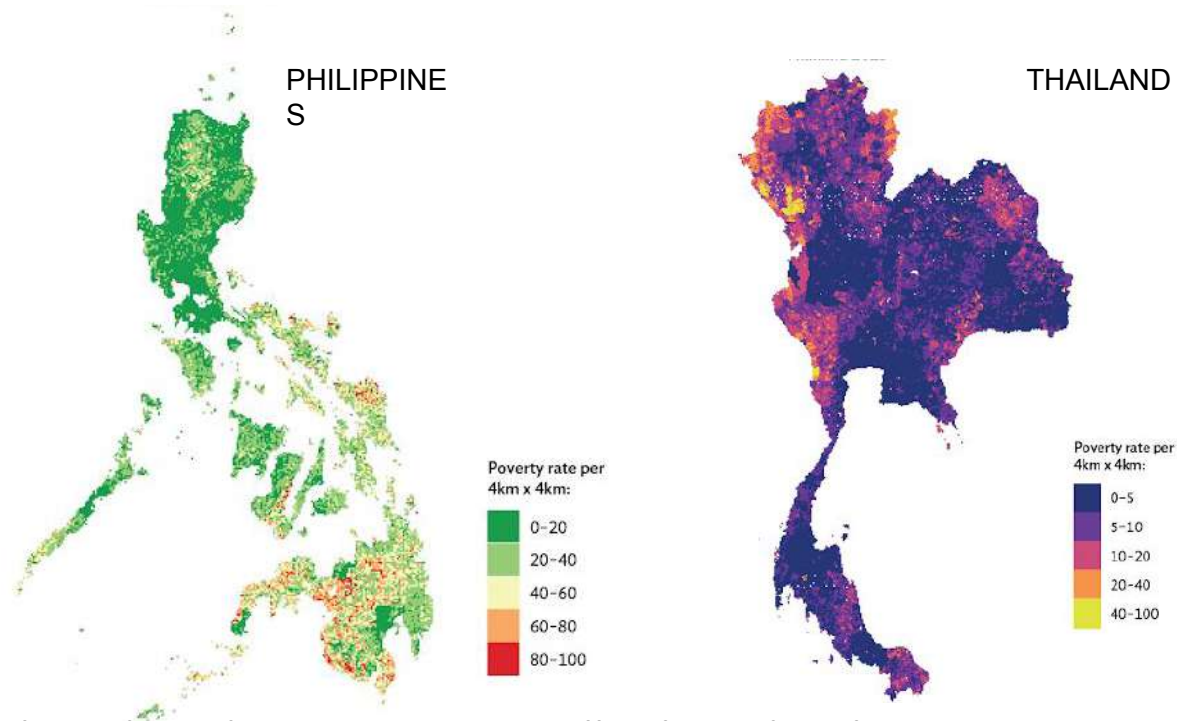
THANK YOU!

Yasuyuki Sawada

ysawada@adb.org



Granular Poverty Maps



- AI-based predictions are generally aligned with government-published poverty numbers, but the former are more granular!

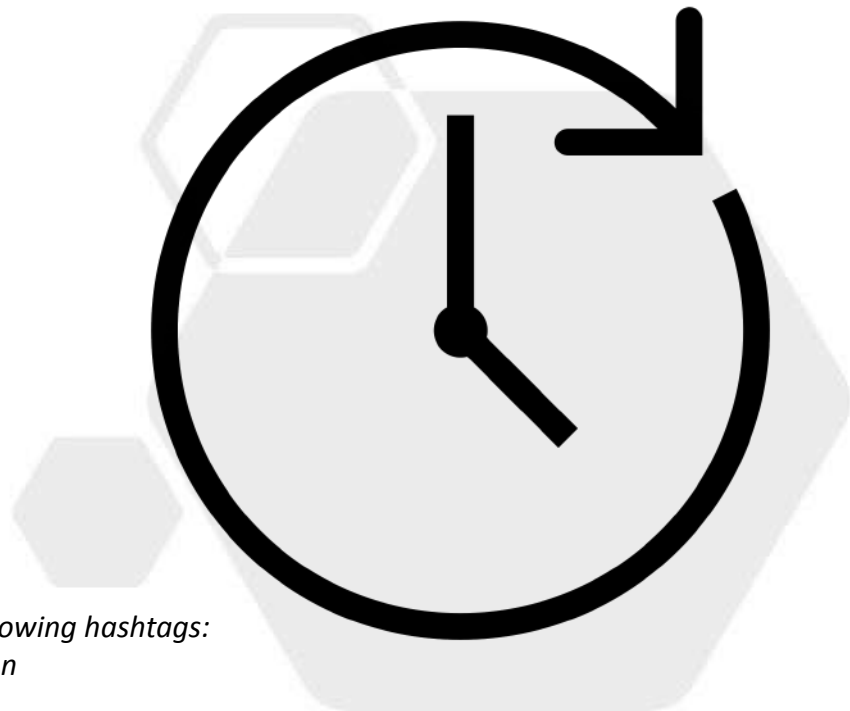


Social Protection for Economic Inclusion: Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific

Breaking the Poverty Trap: Learning from Graduation Programs in the Philippines and Across Asia

Break

5 minutes




Please share your experience on social media using the following hashtags:
#Socialprotection #graduationapproach #economicinclusion

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Engaging Governments on Graduation and Economic Inclusion

Graduation Approach: Building Blocks of Success

Karin Schelzig

Principal Social Sector Specialist, East Asia Department, ADB

Ms. Karin Schelzig, Principal Social Sector Specialist at the Asian Development Bank has more than 20 years of experience leading development policy dialogue and program design, management, and evaluation in East and Southeast Asia. Areas of expertise include social assistance and cash transfers, the graduation approach and economic inclusion/cash plus programming, multidimensional poverty analysis and poverty targeting systems, early childhood and basic education, technical and vocational education and training, community-driven development, and gender analysis and women's economic empowerment.



Engaging Governments on Graduation and Economic Inclusion

Graduation Approach: Building Blocks of Success

Lauren Whitehead

Director of Technical Assistance, BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI)

As Director of Technical Assistance for the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, Lauren manages a talented technical team to design and deliver high quality technical assistance, advisory services, and policy advocacy to governments and an array of partners including development banks, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral institutions, and international NGOs. Lauren's expertise includes the intersection of social protection and economic inclusion for extreme poor populations and other vulnerable groups. With her team, Lauren oversees partnerships with a range of governments including the Governments of the Philippines, Rwanda, Lesotho, Tanzania, Kenya, Guinea, Zambia, Tunisia, and state governments in India. Previously Lauren worked with the UN's Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and several organizations in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa including various non-profits, the Inter-American Development Bank, and Asian Development Bank. She holds a Master's degree from Georgetown University and a Bachelor's degree from Princeton University.





The Graduation Approach: Building Blocks of Success

Karin Schelzig

Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB

Lauren Whitehead

Director of Technical Assistance, BRAC UPGI

16th March 2021



Agenda

1. Building Blocks of the Graduation Methodology
2. ADB Support for the Graduation Approach
3. Designing Graduation for Scale
4. Questions & Answers



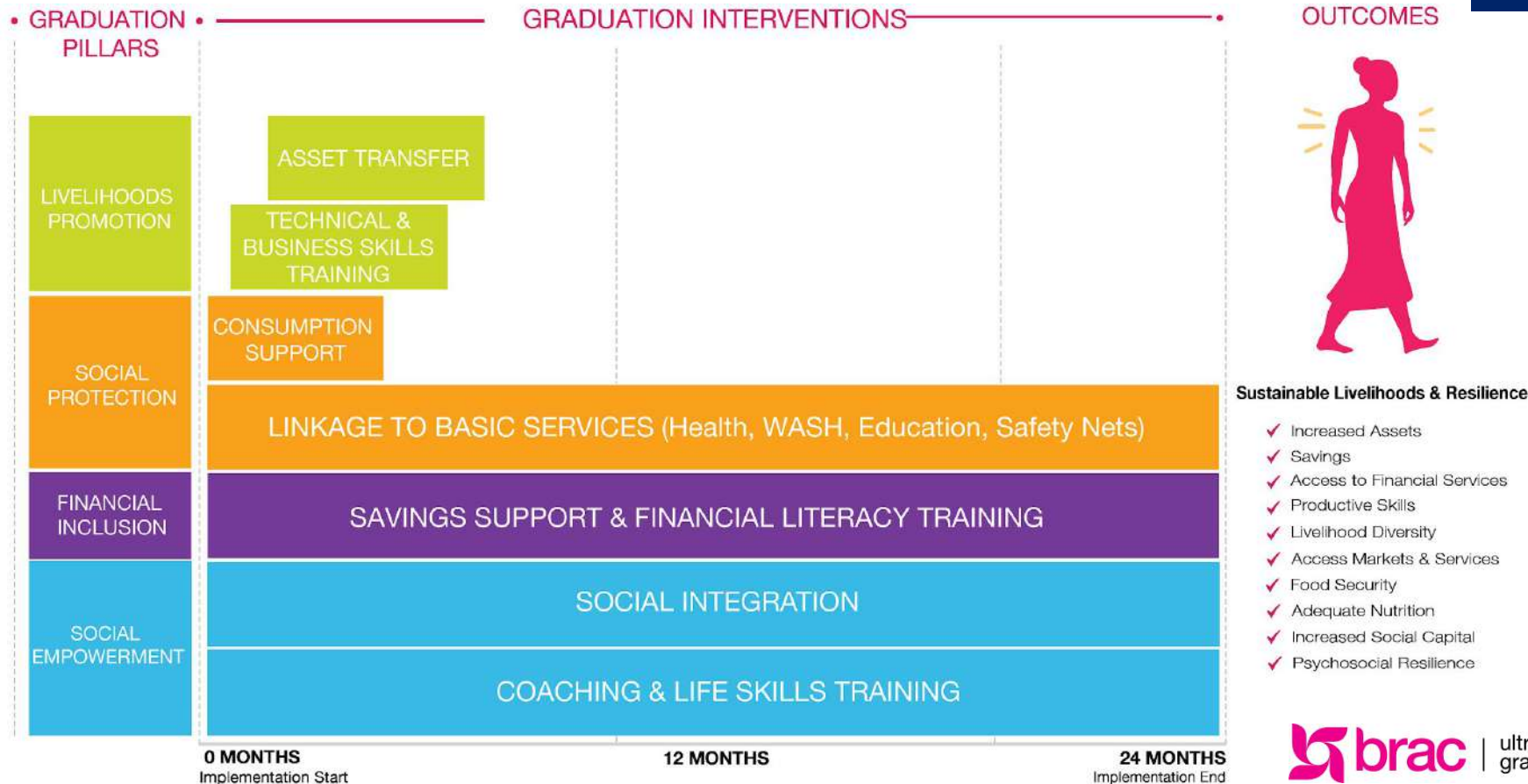
Building Blocks of Graduation Methodology

A combination of interconnected support services addressing the multidimensionality of poverty for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Often referred to variously as economic inclusion, productive inclusion, or 'cash plus.'



Building Blocks of Graduation Methodology



ADB Support for the Graduation Approach



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Overview of ADB Graduation Initiatives in 2020



New graduation programs initiated
India, Mongolia, and the Philippines



First ADB graduation pilot successfully completed
in the Philippines



Knowledge products produced
policy briefs, blog posts, ADB intranet site



Government of the Philippines



1. Evaluating the pilot with the Department of Labor and Employment (2018-2020)

Built on the national cash transfer program, 1,800 beneficiaries, 29 barangays, 5 municipalities in 1 province, tested 3 variations over 18 months: group assets + group coaching, individual assets + group coaching, and individual assets + individual coaching.



Department
Of
Labor and
Employment



ultra-poor
graduation



2. Initiating a new program with the Department of Social Welfare and Development

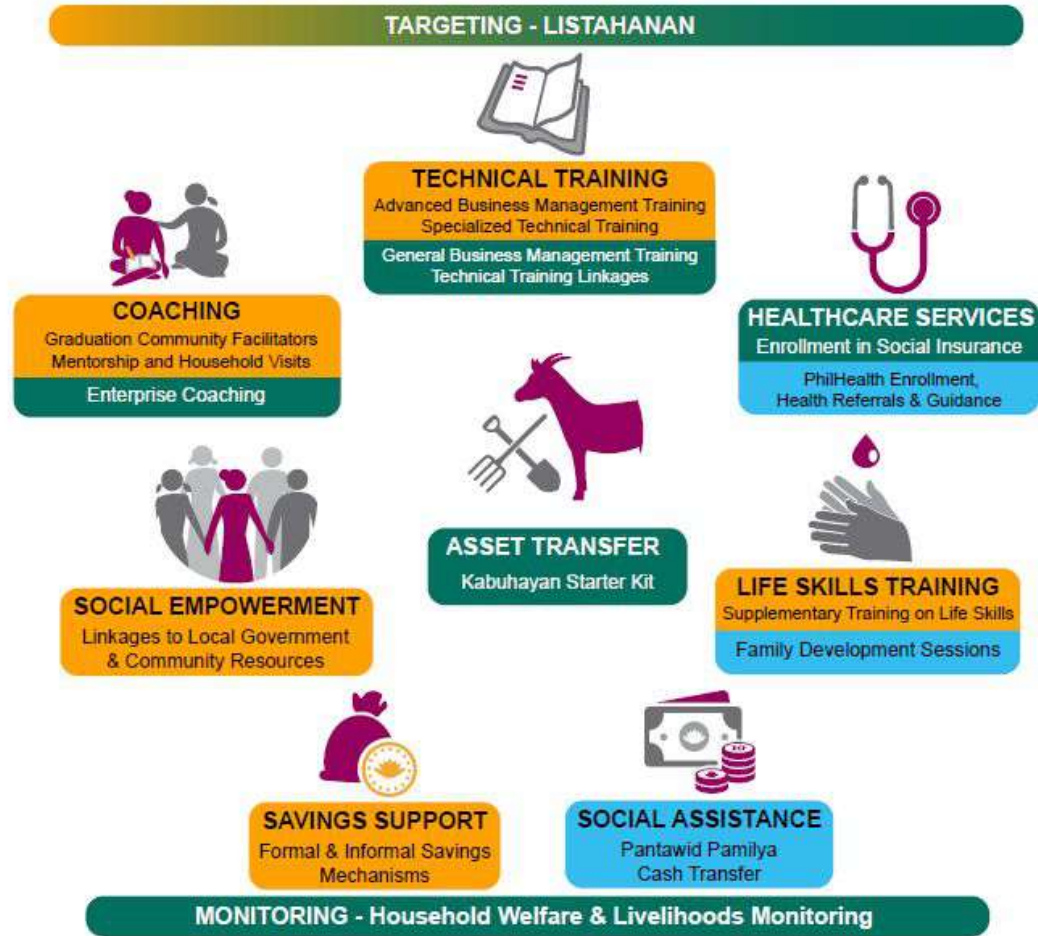
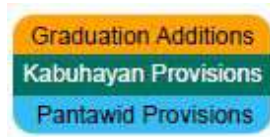
Built on the national sustainable livelihood program, 3,000 beneficiaries, 82 barangays, 5 municipalities, 3 provinces, comprehensive package of interventions over 18 months. Group formation and group coaching, individual livelihood assets.



Government Building Blocks of Graduation

Graduation elements layered onto two existing national programs in the Philippines:

- ❑ **Income generation** through the DOLE Kabuhayan program (livelihoods support)
- ❑ **Social assistance** through the DSWD Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (conditional cash transfers)
- ❑ **Graduation interventions:** training, coaching & mentoring, life skills and psycho-social support





Government of the Philippines



3. Adapting the approach to involuntary resettlement with the Department of Transportation

Beneficiaries: 1,250 households affected by a railway project (Malolos-Clark). The program will support livelihood restoration in resettled communities through training, coaching, and other support services



State Government of Tamil Nadu, India

4. Supplementing resettlement activities in Tamil Nadu

Beneficiaries: about 1,300 affected by an ADB financed affordable housing project. Goal: to restore poor urban households' economic and social welfare post-resettlement. Assistance includes social protection, livelihoods promotion, financial inclusion, and social empowerment, including coaching and mentoring for resettled communities.





Government of Mongolia



5. Initiating a pilot with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection

Beneficiaries: 1,500 current recipients social welfare cash benefits in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar. Goal: to demonstrate how to build on social welfare by combining livelihood support and coaching for productive employment and sustainable poverty reduction



MINISTRY OF LABOUR
AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION



Photo credit: ADB Photo Library

Integrating Graduation into Social Protection

Graduation **leverages existing systems and investments** using the basic building blocks of social assistance (social transfers, cash or food) and other government programs such as livelihood support, agriculture, nutrition, health.

ADB can support governments to incorporate economic inclusion into social protection or other programs that aim at poverty reduction through technical assistance, lending, and knowledge generation and sharing.



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Designing Graduation for Scale with Governments



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Key Considerations in Graduation Design



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Who to **target** and how?

Graduation programs draw on various resources to identify households that would benefit most from a **comprehensive and holistic approach** targeting populations living in conditions of poverty. This is a crucial first step.

Key Considerations in Graduation Design



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Which **needs** to address?

A critical initial step is assessing the core **barriers and vulnerabilities** preventing households from achieving resilience to shocks and sustainable livelihoods. This forms the basis of key interventions.

Key Considerations in Graduation Design



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Which **programs** to leverage?

Graduation programs address coverage gaps to households in need and complement **existing government programs** by building on and linking households to investments in cash transfers, livelihoods, urban development, agriculture, and so forth.

Key Considerations in Graduation Design



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

What **human resources** are required?

Coaches are the linchpins of **mentoring and monitoring** household progress, though the model looks different in many contexts including individual, group, remote, volunteers, and digital methodologies.

Key Considerations in Graduation Design



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Which **impacts** to monitor?

To best gauge long-term impact, **graduation criteria** are used to determine a household's progress against social and economic welfare indicators that predict resilience and a sustainable trajectory from poverty.

BRAC Technical Assistance in Asia & Pacific



Bangladesh Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme



Tamil Nadu Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Sector Project



Government of the Philippines



Department
Of
Labor and
Employment

Government of Pakistan, Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA)



WORLD BANK GROUP



Investment in Economic Resilience

Graduation is an effective pathway to build resilience before shocks:

- Targeted **household segmentation**
- Resourced and trained **frontline staff**
- Iterative **rapid monitoring** for adaptation
- Localized **market assessments**
- Partnerships with **financial service providers**
- Established **government resource** linkages
- Developed **community resource** linkages



Photo credit: BRAC UPGI

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY 	Graduation scaled within national social protection programs aim to end extreme poverty by 2030.
2 ZERO HUNGER 	Productive Asset Transfer and Technical Training to promote sustainable livelihoods and access to food.
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	Life-Skills Training and Access to Health Services encourages behavior change and builds resilience against sudden health-related shocks.
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	Savings, Mentoring and Social-Inclusive Activities to promote gender equality and empowerment.
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	Cross-Sectoral Linkages to increase the productivity of the extreme poor, contributing to economic growth.
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	Multidimensional Targeting and Graduation Criteria to progressively realize basic rights for the extreme poor.

Graduation addresses multiple drivers of exclusion and deprivation to ensure **no one is left behind.**

Questions from Audience

Thank You!

Karin Schelzig
Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB
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Lauren Whitehead
Director of Technical Assistance, BRAC UPGI
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Engaging Governments on Graduation and Economic Inclusion

Lessons from adapting Graduation in the Philippines

Alex Avila

Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Government of the Philippines

Mr. Avila is Assistant Secretary for Labor Relations, Social Protection and Policy Support of the Department of Labor and Employment, Government of the Philippines. He co-chairs the Management Team which supervised the pilot implementation of the Graduation Approach in the Philippines in six municipalities in the province of Negros Occidental. This project is part of ADB's technical assistance aimed at promoting innovations for development. As former director of the Department of Labor and Employment regional offices in Calabarzon and Metro Manila, Mr. Avila has had direct experience in the implementation of the Department's livelihood program targeting vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population.





DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

LESSONS FROM ADAPTING GRADUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

**Social Protection for Economic Inclusion:
Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific**

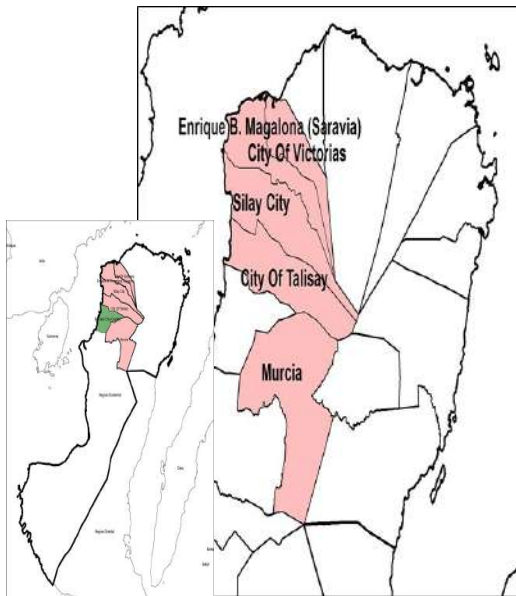
16 March 2021

Presented by:
Alex V. Avila
Assistant Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment



Graduation Pilot Implementation In the Philippines

Negros Occidental



**Slide courtesy of BRAC*

The Project at a Glance



Implementer:

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)



Research:

Group vs Individual Livelihoods and Group vs. Individual Coaching



Timeline:

2018-2019, with possible extension to 2020



Graduation Community Facilitators

Caseload: approx. 135 per GCF



Target Population:

1,800 households



Partners:

- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
- Local Government Units of EB Magalona, City of Victorias, Silay City, Murcia, and City of Talisay



Location:

29 Barangays across 3 Cities & 2 Municipalities in Negros Occidental (Western Visayas)

Initial Key Findings of the Pilot Project



On average, **71% of the pilot households met all of the contextually-specific graduation criteria**, and thus were considered graduated



Participants reported knowledge retention on life skills training topics, leading to positive behavior change in health, nutrition, and hygiene practices



Participants were able to launch sustainable livelihoods, generate income, even during the quarantine period imposed due to COVID-19



Participants demonstrated increased savings and positive behavior change in financial management



The combination of individual livelihoods and group coaching appears to be the optimal configuration of Graduation programming for government implementation.

Key Success Factors



Integration of experienced Graduation facilitators into the implementation team



Institutionalization of the family development plan, solidly built on mentoring and coaching



The use of internet-based tools which ensured real-time monitoring of the livelihood projects



Constitution of the oversight, management and implementation structures at the central and operations levels, ensuring unity of command and providing an open space for joint planning, joint problem-solving and decision-making

Main Constraints and Challenges

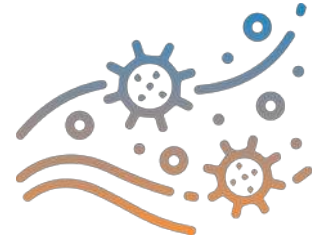


**Navigating bureaucratic mindset,
processes and practices**

(fund disbursements; asset acquisition)



**High
attrition rate**



COVID-19 pandemic and
the community restrictions

Windows of Opportunities for Graduation Adaptation



Chapter 8

Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and Ensuring Food Security



Chapter 10

Human Capital Development Towards Greater Agility



Chapter 20

Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment (Resilience of communities and their livelihood increased)



Chapter 9B

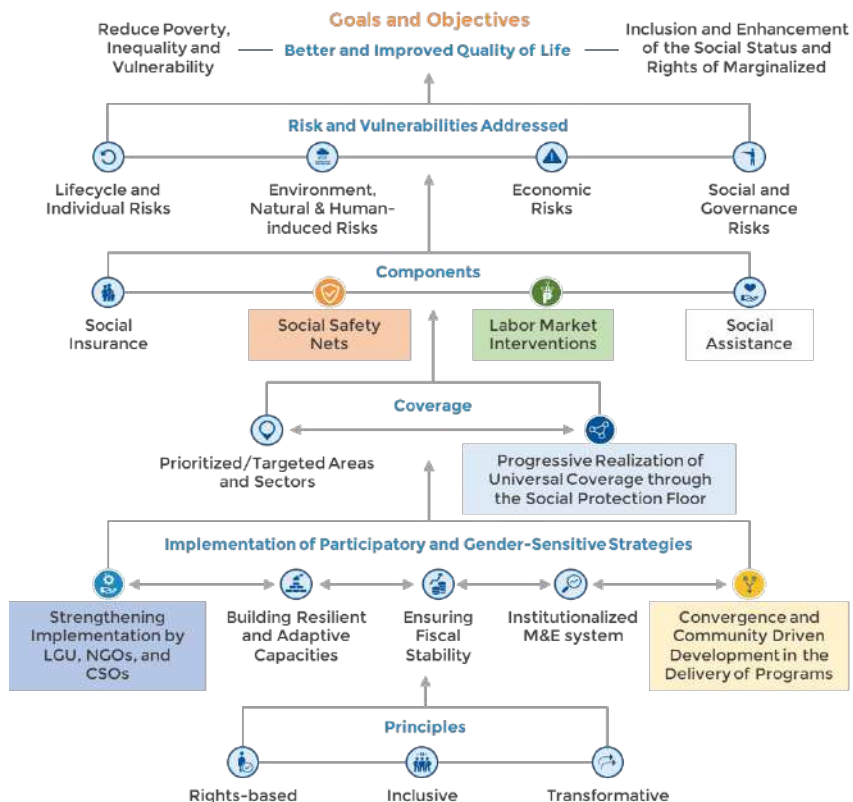
Expanding Economic Opportunities in Services



Chapter 1: Overview and Introduction, p. 16

A major initiative to decongest urban areas is the *Balik Probinsya Bagong Pag-asa* Program (BP2). The program encourages Metro Manila residents, especially informal settlers, to return to their home provinces. BP2 will provide assistance for transportation expenses, livelihood, housing, and education, among others.

Enhanced Social Protection Operational Framework of the Philippines



Windows of Opportunities for Graduation Adaptation

Social Protection Plan 2020-2022



Align, organize and harmonize all existing and future policies and programs relating to social protection across governance levels



Provide guidance to national government agencies, local governments and civil society **in SP program and project development, implementation and evaluation**



Propose reforms in existing policies and programs relating to social protection



Lay the foundations for a universal and integrated social protection system in terms of data, policies and governance structure

Windows of Opportunities for Graduation Adaptation

Supreme Court Decision on the *Mandanas Case* (G.R. Nos. 199802 and 208488)



Widens the fiscal space of the LGUs since their just share of taxes shall be derived from all national taxes starting FY 2022.



From FY 2021 to 2022, the year-on-year **increase in the shares of the LGUs is estimated to be around 56% of national taxes**, or around 1.0% of the GDP.



Full devolution of certain functions (which could include livelihood) of the executive branch to the LGUs seen to contribute in economic growth, jobs creation, and promotion of the welfare and development of local communities.



The Negros pilot project can provide insights and real-life examples for other LGUs on how resilient and sustainable livelihood programs should be designed, implemented, managed, and evaluated.



Key Lessons Learned

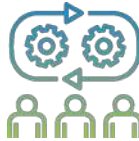
Adaptation is key, but with fidelity to the core principles of the Graduation Approach



Graduation is interdisciplinary; who has the mandate is often unclear



Inter-ministerial/departmental coordination is difficult, but necessary



Ideally, it is best to integrate into existing social protection programs and leverage current investments e.g., cash transfer programs



Navigating changing political currents could be especially hard



Getting onboard multiple champions is critical to ensure sustainability



Alex Avila.25March2019.Murcia.NegrosOccidental.Philippines





DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

End of Presentation

LESSONS FROM ADAPTING GRADUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Social Protection for Economic Inclusion:

Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific

16 March 2021

Presented by:

Alex V. Avila

Assistant Secretary

Department of Labor and Employment



Engaging Governments on Graduation and Economic Inclusion

Implementation insights from Graduation in the Philippines

Marlowe Popes

Principal Social Sector Specialist, East Asia Department, ADB

Marlowe has been serving as the Project Coordinator of BRAC USA most recently for the Graduation Approach Project with the Philippine government. He serves as a field-based direct liaison to the Department of Labor and Employment, Asian Development Bank, and Innovations for Poverty Action in Manila, during the design and implementation of the Graduation Project. Overall, he supports the management of BRAC's technical assistance engagement in the Philippines, including program design, oversight and management, and knowledge management. Prior to joining BRAC USA, he worked with the Asian Development Bank for the implementation of the Emergency Assistance and Early Recovery Project for Poor Municipalities Affected by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) Affected Areas in the Philippines.

Marlowe spent most of his early working years working with the Pantawid Pamilya

Program – Philippine Conditional Cash Transfer Program as the Monitoring and Evaluation

Specialist.



Engaging Governments on Graduation and Economic Inclusion

Implementation insights from Graduation in the Philippines

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As a Technical Advisor for BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, Dristy provides technical assistance to governments, multilateral institutions, and NGOs in contextualizing and adopting the Graduation approach and economic inclusion programs worldwide. She specializes in program design, staff capacity building, implementation oversight, project management, and monitoring and learning. Her key areas of expertise include social protection, financial inclusion, and gender empowerment through sustainable livelihoods. She has provided technical guidance on designing and implementing economic inclusion initiatives, mostly in partnership with governments, in the Philippines, Zambia, Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania, and Nepal.





Implementation Insights from Graduation in the Philippines

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Department
Of
Labor and
Employment



brac | ultra-poor
graduation

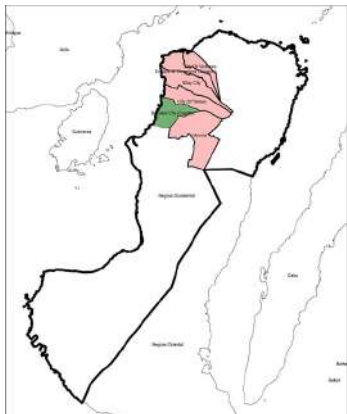
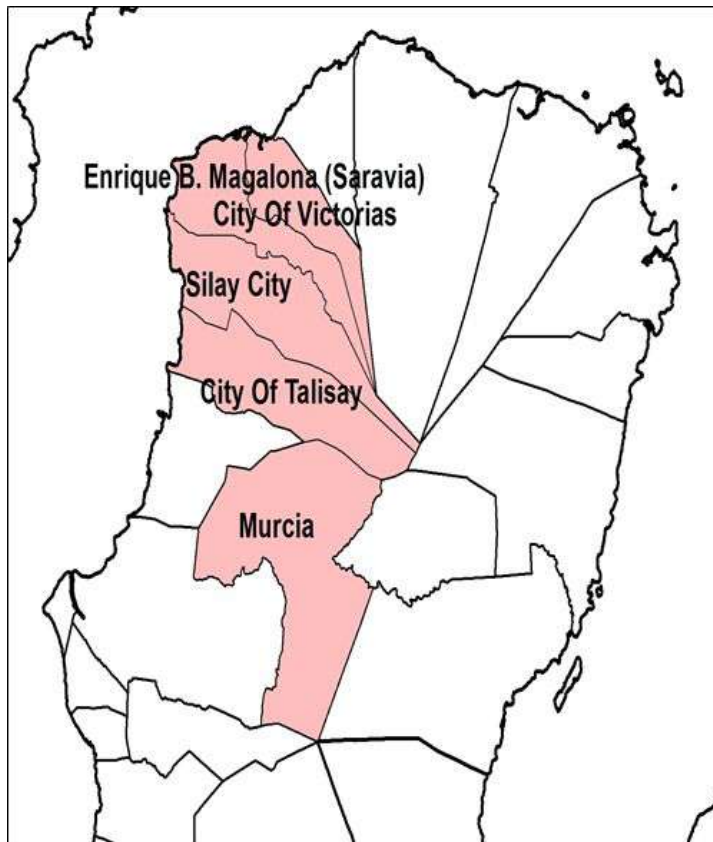
Agenda

1. Overview of the Department of Labour & Employment (DOLE) Graduation Project
2. Key Findings from Monitoring Data
 - a. Summary Findings
 - b. Individual vs Group Livelihoods
 - c. Individual vs Group Coaching
3. Household Graduation Rates
4. Key Lessons Learned
5. Questions & Answers

Overview of the DOLE Graduation Project

DOLE Graduation Pilot

Negros
Occidental



Implementer : Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

Timeline : 2018-2020

Location : 29 Barangays across 5 Municipalities in Negros Occidental

Target Population: 1,800 households

GCF Caseload: approx. 135 per GCF

Research: Group vs Individual Livelihoods and Group vs Individual Coaching

Partners:

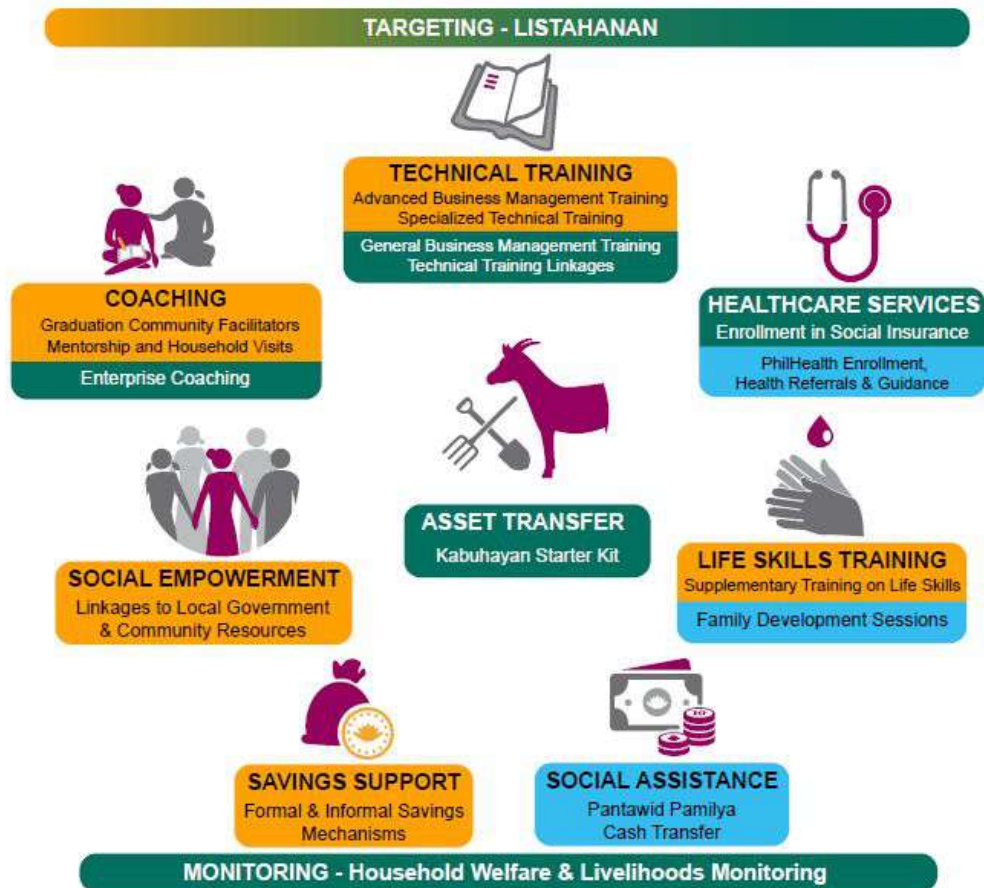
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
- Local Government Units

DOLE Graduation Interventions

Graduation Additions
Kabuhayan Provisions
Pantawid Provisions

The program combined inputs from:

- ❑ The **income-generating activities** of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Kabuhayan livelihoods program,
- ❑ **Social assistance** provided through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Pantawid Familyang Pilipino program, and
- ❑ Additional interventions and enhancements of the **Graduation Approach** methodology.



Impact Evaluation Design

To identify potential cost efficiencies for scale, **Innovations for Poverty Action** conducted an RCT to determine if group or individual livelihoods and coaching produce differential impacts on extreme poor households.

Treatment Arms	
Treatment Arm 1	Group Livelihoods, Group Coaching
Treatment Arm 2	Individual Livelihoods, Group Coaching
Treatment Arm 3	Individual Livelihoods, Individual Coaching

This evaluation was **supplemented by robust monitoring** by project staff to determine how the project affected different types of households based on profile.



DOLE Graduation Pilot Activities



Targeting Verification Survey



Barangay Assembly



Family Development Plan



Livelihoods Training



Business Management Training



Group Life Skills Training

DOLE Graduation Pilot Activities



Asset Transfer



Monitoring Data Collection



Group Livelihoods Monitoring



Group Coaching



Individual Coaching



Training of Trainers & Workshops

Life Skills Training Topics

- Vision for the Future / Family Development Plan (BRAC, FDS)
- Risk Management (BRAC)
- Food & Nutrition (FDS); WASH (BRAC)
- Disaster Risk Reduction & Management (FDS)
- Household Decision Making (BRAC)
- Wealth Management & Savings (NWTF)
- Marketing (NWTF)
- Violence against Women & Children (FDS)
- Family Planning (BRAC)
- Maternal & Child Health (BRAC)
- Communicable Diseases (focus on COVID-19 and Dengue) & Livelihoods Risk Management
- Business Sustainability & Solid Waste Management

Life Skills Training reinforced and supplemented the knowledge and skills gained during Family Development Sessions (FDS) that Pantawid beneficiaries are required to attend monthly.

DOLE Graduation Pilot: Monitoring

- Used digital monitoring on Android tablets
- Used twice a month to collect data by GCFs
- Allowed real-time data analysis
- Enabled responsiveness to participant needs
- Empowered facilitators and households to use data for program improvement
- Phone Surveys and Rapid Diagnostic Survey conducted during COVID-19



Key Findings from Monitoring Data

Five Key Highlights

1. On average, **71% of the pilot households** met all 9 of the contextually-specific graduation criteria.
2. Knowledge retention on life skills training led to **positive behavior change in health, nutrition, and hygiene practices**.
3. Launched **sustainable livelihoods, generated income**, even during the quarantine period imposed due to COVID-19.
4. Demonstrated **increased savings and positive behavior change in financial management**.
5. **Individual livelihoods and Group Coaching** (Treatment 2) was the optimal configuration of Graduation to balance cost and impact.

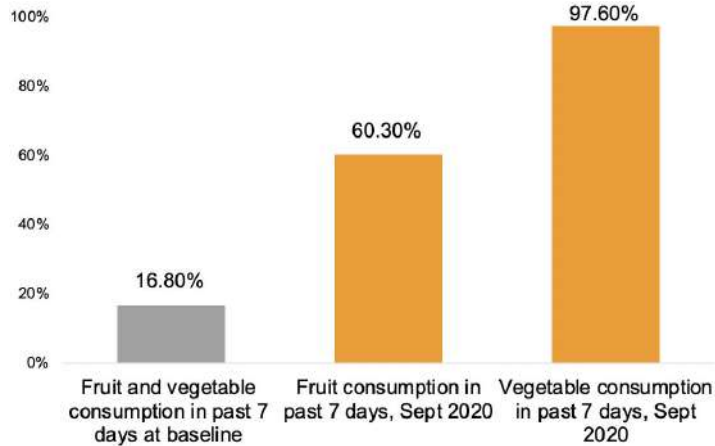


Five Key Challenges

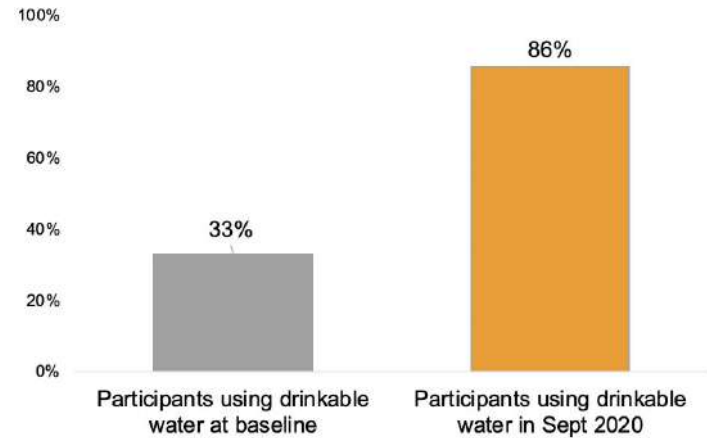
1. **Participant Attrition** (33.66%) due to relocation, outside engagements, and ineligibility.
2. **Long delays in Asset Delivery** due to bureaucratic hurdles, in-kind asset transfers, and market price fluctuations.
3. **Coryza Avian Flu** Outbreak affecting T3 households.
4. Challenges associated with **Group Livelihoods** including inactive group members, complex bookkeeping, and challenges surrounding managing group dynamics among the members.
5. **COVID-19 Crisis**



Health & Sanitation



Participants increased their **consumption of vegetables and fruits** to have a more balanced meal as emphasized by the life skills training on Food and Nutrition.

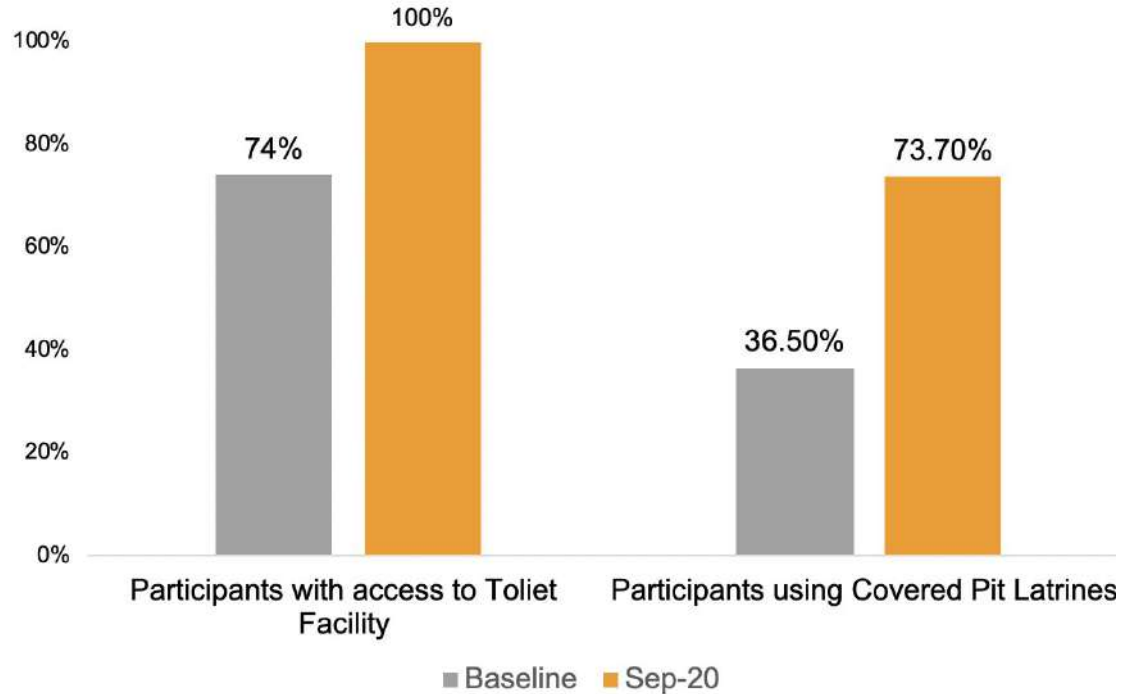


More households reported **treating water before drinking or buying drinking water** as emphasized by life skills training on WASH.

Health & Sanitation

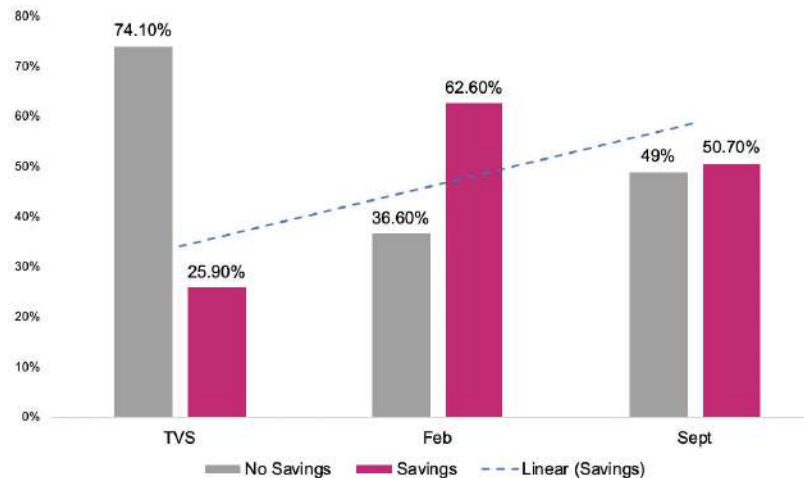
Increased access to toilet facilities and covered pit latrines for proper sanitation and hygiene practice.

- 99% of the respondents also provided **correct and partially correct responses on hygiene practice** during COVID-19.
- **Low reported illness** during the pilot, including COVID-19, an encouraging finding given health messaging and behavior change support.

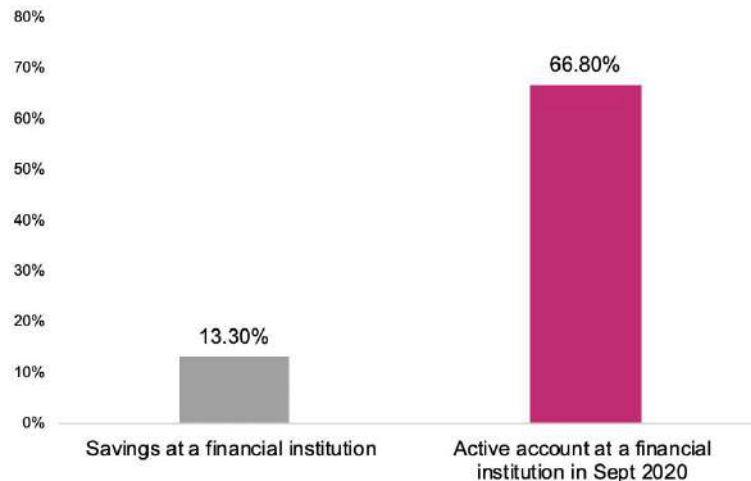


Savings & Financial Management

More households demonstrated positive savings and financial management behavior.



At the end of the pilot, **50.7% of participants reported being able to save** in the last 30 days compared to 25.9% at TVS.

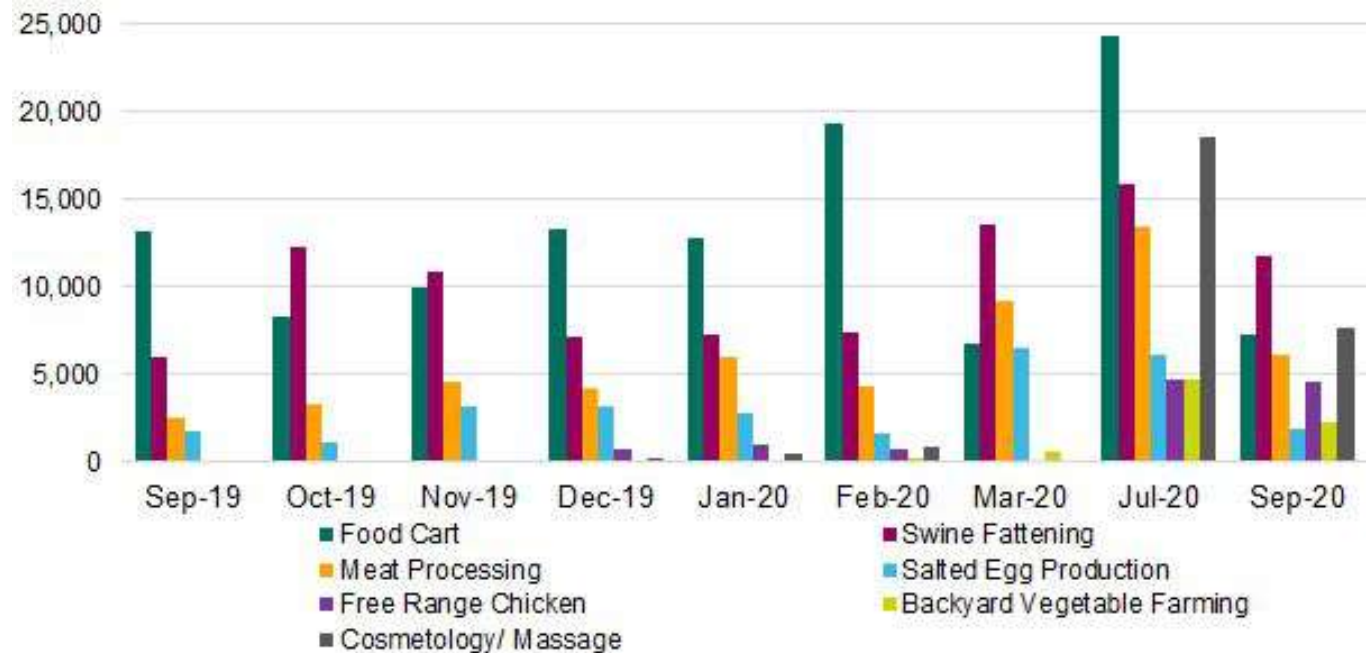


Increase in the number of households with active account at a financial institution such as a bank or microfinance institution (MFI).

Though **indebtedness rose marginally due to the pandemic**, of those who reported having an existing or unpaid loan in Sept 2020, **over 69% reported** having paid back all or part of their loans in the last 30 days.

Livelihoods - Individual

- **Food cart had the highest average income** among the different livelihood options selected by participants in individual livelihoods (T2 and T3).
- Swine Fattening, though less profitable on its own, **retained steady profits throughout quarantine period** because they were not subject to closure.

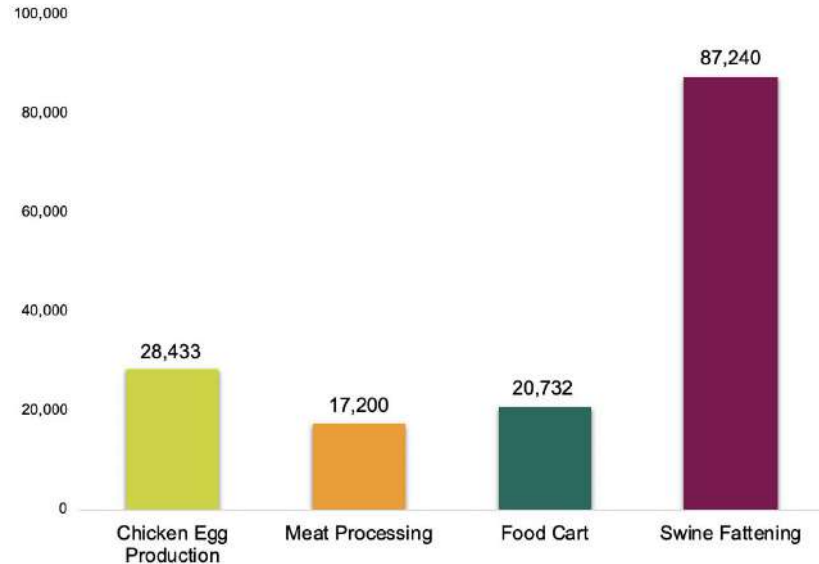


Average Income by Livelihood among Individual Livelihoods (T2 & T3)


Livelihoods - Group

Swine fattening had the highest average income among the different livelihood options selected by participants in group livelihoods (T1).

- **Swine fattening is more individualized** compared to other group livelihoods that require group members to congregate and work together. This was beneficial during COVID-19 and quarantine.
- It is very possible that **food carts would have yielded similarly high or higher income** if it were not for the COVID-19 crisis and quarantine.

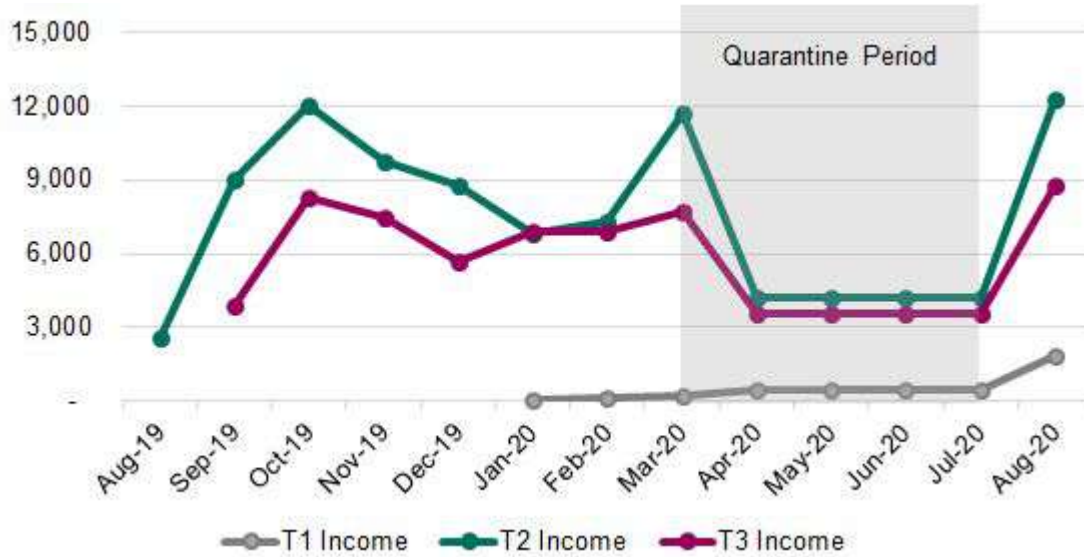


Average Income by Livelihood among Group Livelihoods (T1)



Individual vs. Group Livelihoods and Coaching

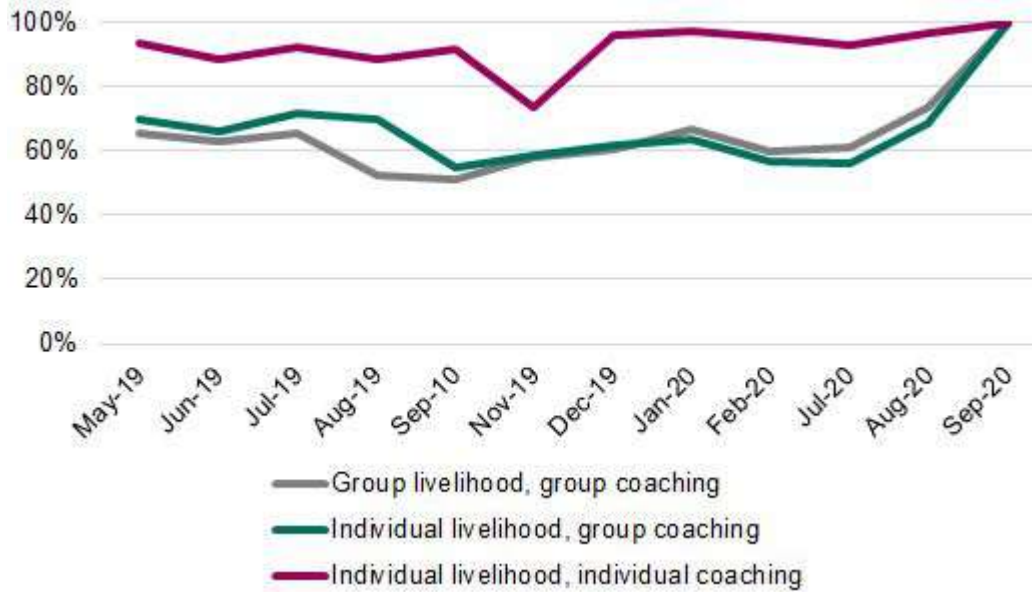
Average Monthly Income



Average Income per participant by Treatment Arms

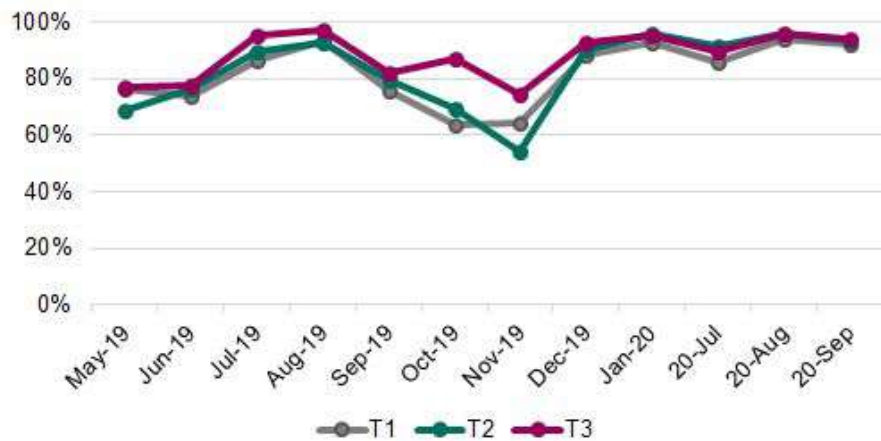
- Participants who had individual livelihoods had **higher average income per participant** likely due to having assets longer before the pandemic and greater control over managing the enterprise.
- Household **incomes appeared to slowly rise back to pre-lockdown** levels after four months of quarantine, indicating resilience and a general upward trend continuing.

Coaching - Attendance

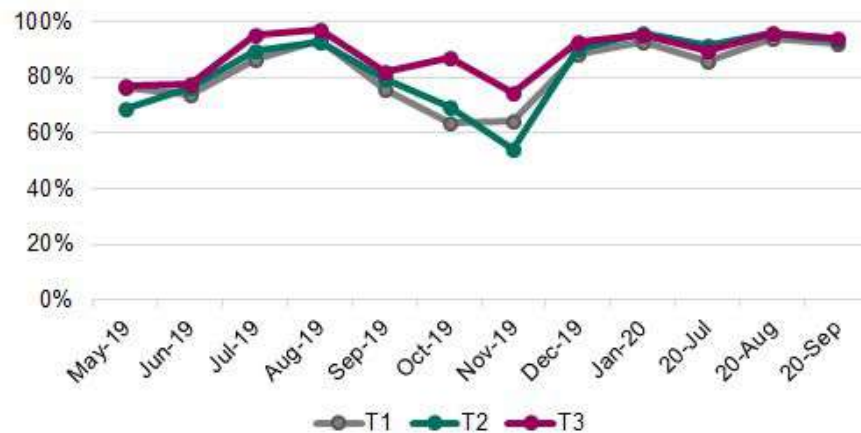


Attendance of participants who received individual coaching was higher than those who received group coaching. Average attendance rate among T3 participants was 92% compared to 65% among T1 and 67% among T2 participants.

Knowledge & Behavior Change



Participants who were able to recall at least partially correct information by treatment arm, quizzed by GCF



Participants who were able to demonstrate at least partially correct behavior change by treatment arm, self-reported

Knowledge retention and behavior change were roughly the same across all treatment arms despite the variation in coaching modality.

Individual Livelihoods + Group Coaching

As of 2020, T2 (individual livelihoods, group coaching) found to be the optimal cost-effective configuration of Graduation for government implementation because it reduces the challenges of group livelihoods while maximizing on the benefits of group coaching.



Key Lessons Learned

Key Lessons Learned

Livelihoods

- **Localized market assessment** tailors livelihoods to target HHs
- Strong **preference for familiar, homebound livelihoods** and **individual livelihoods** for autonomy of management
- **Alternative asset distribution mechanisms** (e.g. assisted cash, vouchers) could address asset procurement issues
- Strong guidance on **livelihood management strategies and diversification** are key to cope with shocks like COVID-19
- **Record books** to keep track of finances should be **simple, easy**
- **Linkages with local resources** from national government agencies (TESDA, DTI, DA), LGUs, etc. to sustain impacts



Key Lessons Learned

Training & Coaching

- **Coaching** was the most important intervention using engaging, practical, and **hands-on coaching techniques**
- **Core participant training in small groups** more effective than large mass trainings; COVID-19 benefits also
- Tailored technical training adapted to **context, market assessment, and participant skills/knowledge**
- **Incorporate frontline staff costs of local transport and communications**; role is deeply embedded in community
- **Adaptation of coaching methodologies** to continue to provide support to the participants during COVID-19 crisis
- **Digital monitoring and management information system (MIS)** allows transmission and analysis of real-time data and response to urgent needs; critical during COVID-19 response period



Questions & Answers

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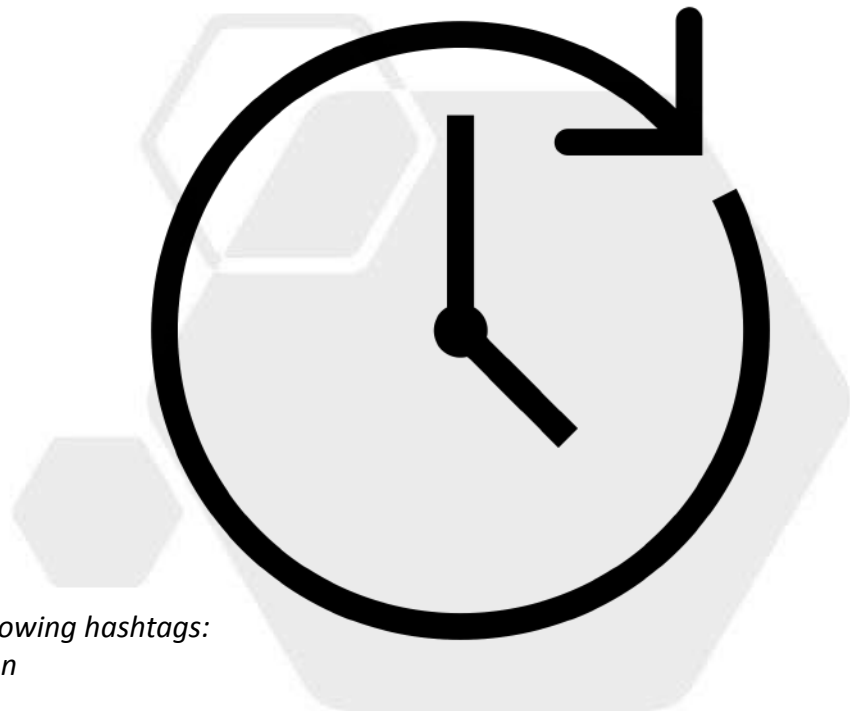


Social Protection for Economic Inclusion: Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific

Breaking the Poverty Trap: Learning from Graduation Programs in the Philippines and Across Asia

Break

5 minutes




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Engaging Governments on Graduation and Economic Inclusion

Preliminary Evidence from Impact Evaluation of Graduation in the Philippines

Emily Beam
Researcher, IPA

Dr. Emily Beam is an assistant professor at the University of Vermont and research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). She was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore from 2013 until 2016. She received her PhD in economics and public policy from the University of Michigan in 2013. Her research interests center on education and employment policy, with a particular focus on strengthening learning and facilitating school-to-work transitions among low-income youth.



Moderator: Yasuyuki Sawada
Chief Economist and Director General, ADB

Dr. Sawada was appointed as ADB's Chief Economist in November 2016, and is the chief spokesperson for ADB on economic and development trends. Previously he was a Professor in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo, Japan. He previously worked at the ADB Institute in Tokyo and served as a consultant for various projects at the World Bank Group. Dr. Sawada earned a Ph.D. in Economics and a Master's degree in International Development Policy at Stanford University.



Group vs Individual Livelihoods and Coaching:

Testing Alternative Government-Led Social Protection Strategies in the Philippines

Emily Beam (U Vermont)

Social Protection for Economic Inclusion: Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific

16 March 2021



Evaluation Partners



Graduation programs successful, but questions remain

- Increases income, net worth, consumption (Banerjee et al. 2015, Bandiera et al. 2017), persisting into long run (7 years) (Banerjee et al., 2016, Bandiera et al. 2017)
- Multi-faceted approach important: only assets or only savings assistance do not yield same effects (Banerjee et al. 2017)
- **Would group livelihoods leverage (or dilute) impacts?**
- **How can we increase cost effectiveness?**

Variation 1: Group livelihoods

- Group of ~20 individuals in village, form groups of 3-5 people
- **More effective:** efficiencies from pooling, expanded choice of higher-return assets
- **Less effective:** difficulty in coordination, free-riding



Variation 2: Group coaching

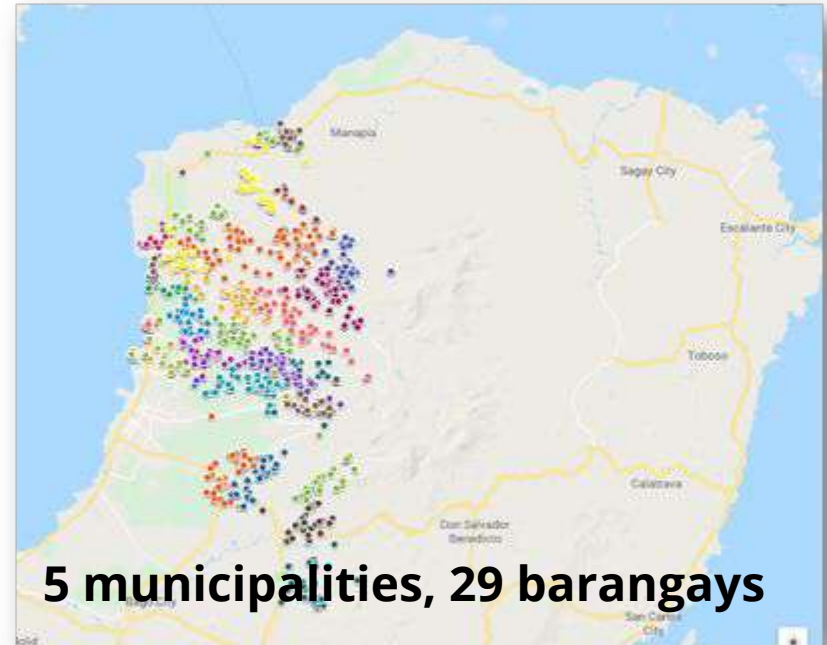
- Group of 20 meets together for life skills modules, training, business management
- **More effective:** Greater information sharing, building social ties
- **Less effective:** less personalized attention, less accountability



Study location and sample



Sample: Poor HHs from 29 barangays that were added to CCT program from 2015-2017, not beneficiary of similar program



Randomized design

	T1: Group livelihoods and group coaching (N=600)	T2: Individual livelihoods and group coaching (N=600)	T3 Individual livelihoods and individual coaching (N=600)	Control (N=600)
4Ps	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asset transfer	Asset worth \$6,000 per group of 20 individuals	Asset worth \$300 USD per individual	Asset worth \$300 USD per individual	✗
Coaching	Group coaching every month	Group coaching every month	Personal coaching every month	✗
Skills training	✓	✓	✓	✗
Savings facilitation	✓	✓	✓	✗
Community mobilization	✓	✓	✓	✗

Project timeline

Endline data collection tentatively
scheduled for February 2021

**Group and individual life-skills coaching
started** October 2018 – August 2020

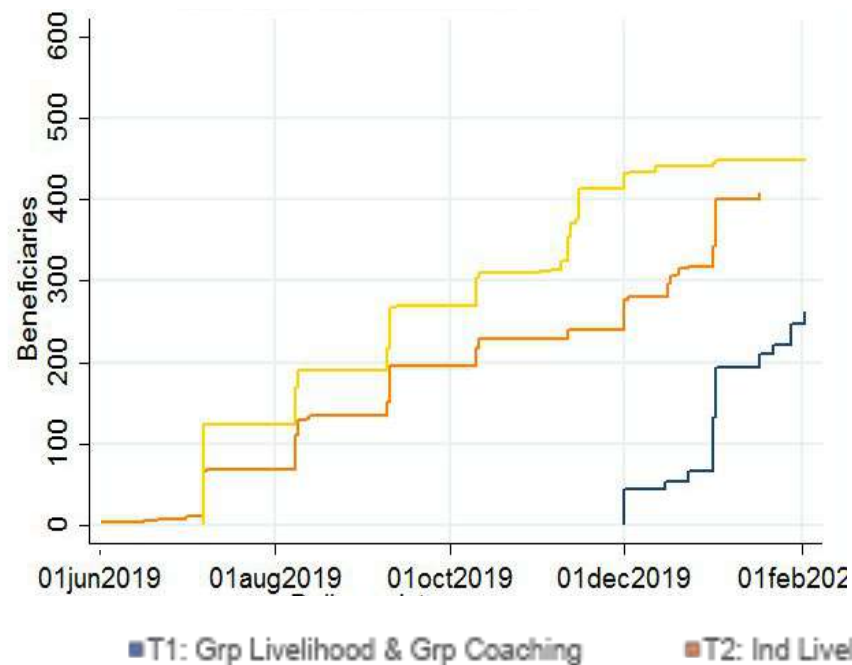
**Asset deliveries for individual livelihood
ended** June 2019 – January 2020

Asset deliveries for grouped livelihood ended
October 2019 – March 2020

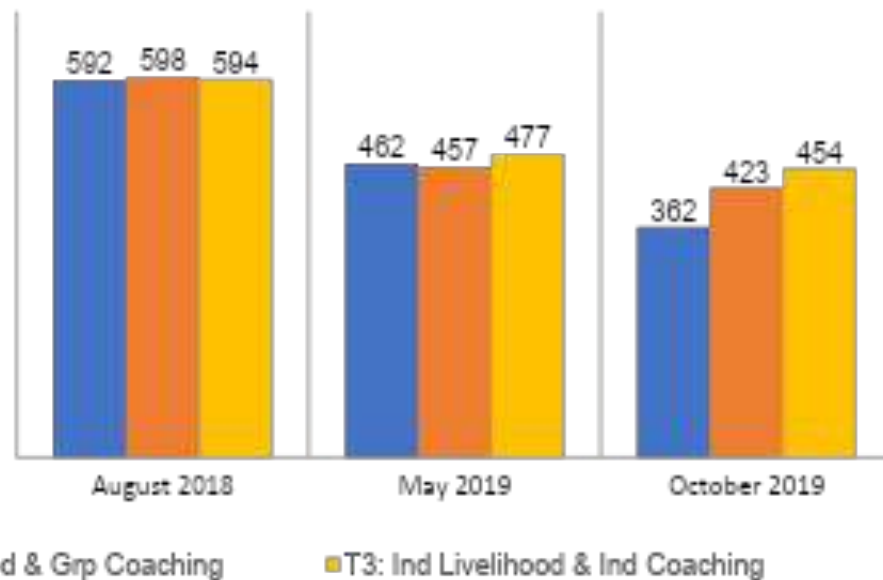


Implementation timeline

● Livelihood asset delivery



Decline in beneficiaries



Phone survey data collection

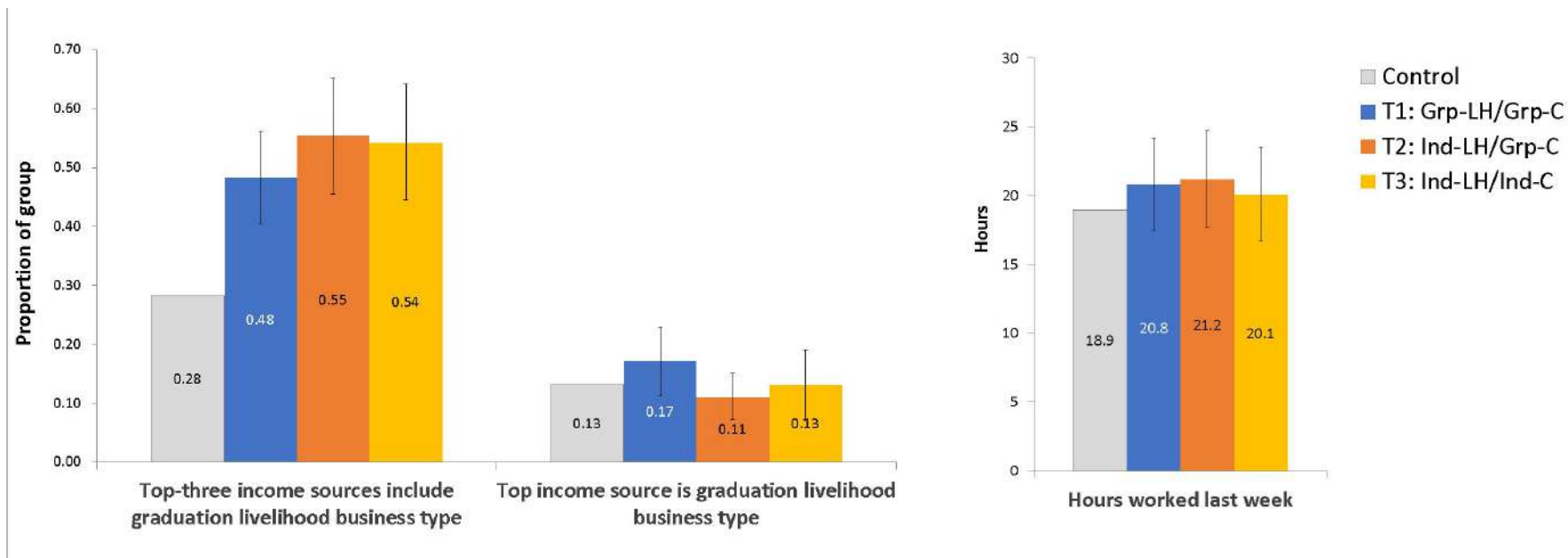
- Target sample: 77% of sample who have phone contact info from baseline, N=1972
- Response rate: 63% of targeted
- Overall, response not correlated with treatment status, and baseline characteristics do not differentially predict attrition across arms

Results

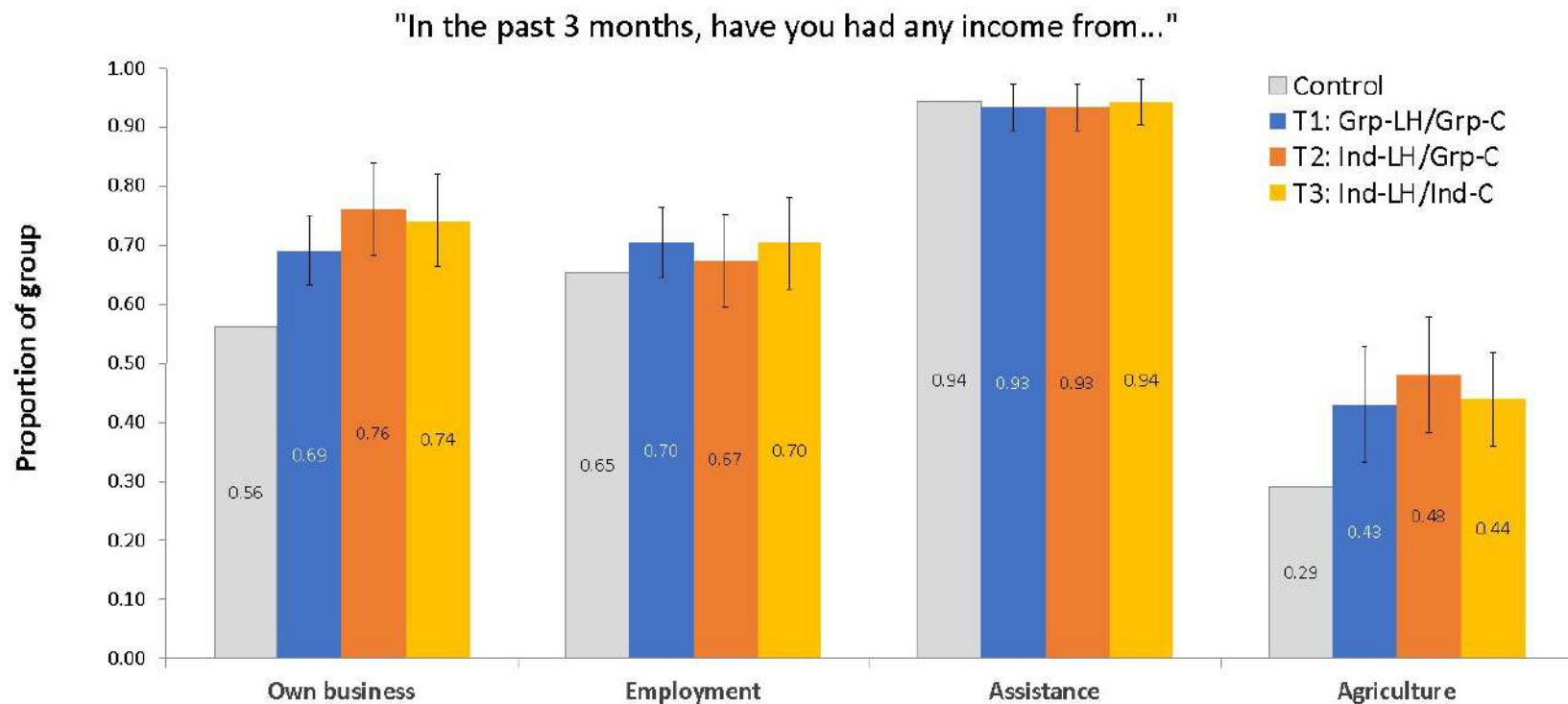
Program participation

	T1 (GrpLH/GrpC)	T2 (IndLH/GrpC)	T3 (IndLH/IndC)
Got livelihood (LH) from BRAC	62%	75%	81%
Currently has LH	44%	53%	59%
LH is currently a main income source	30%	42%	43%
Worked on LH in past 7 days	34%	42%	47%
Earned from LH in past 30 days	38%	51%	51%
Avg hours worked on LH in past 7 days	9.4	12.4	11.8

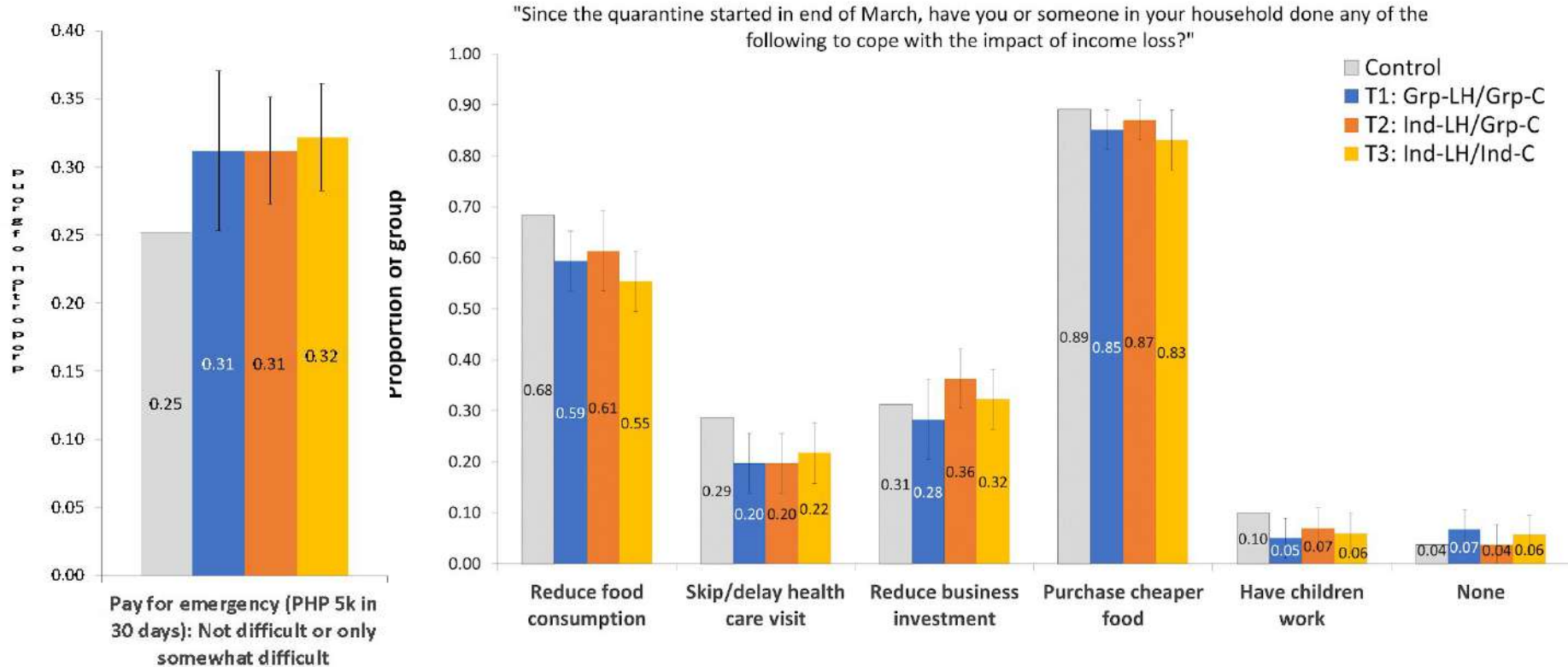
Livelihood



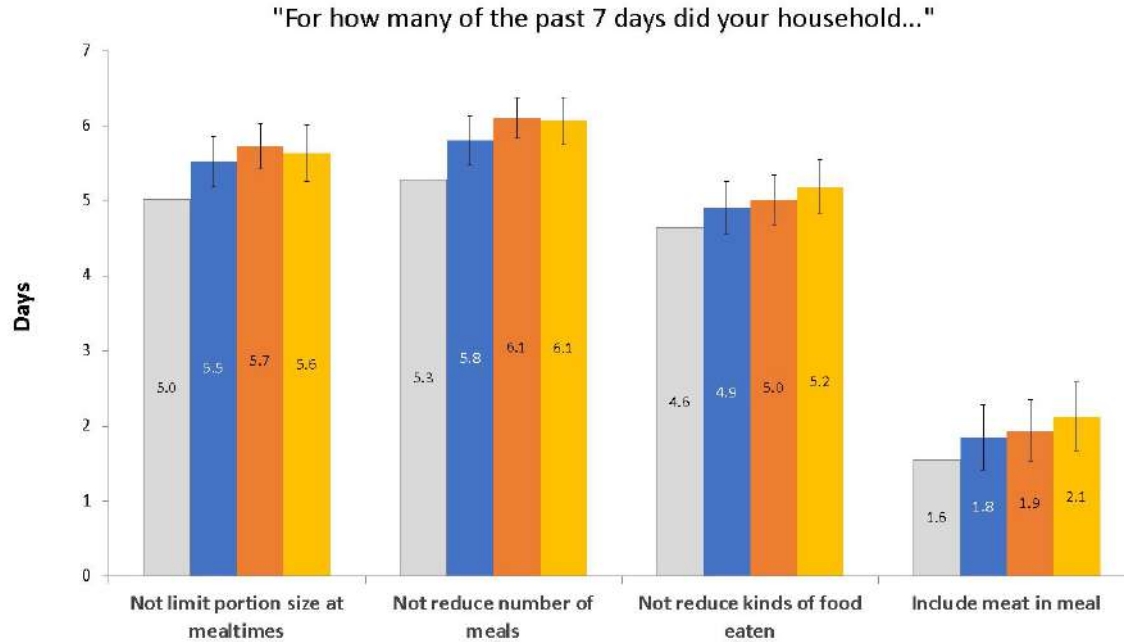
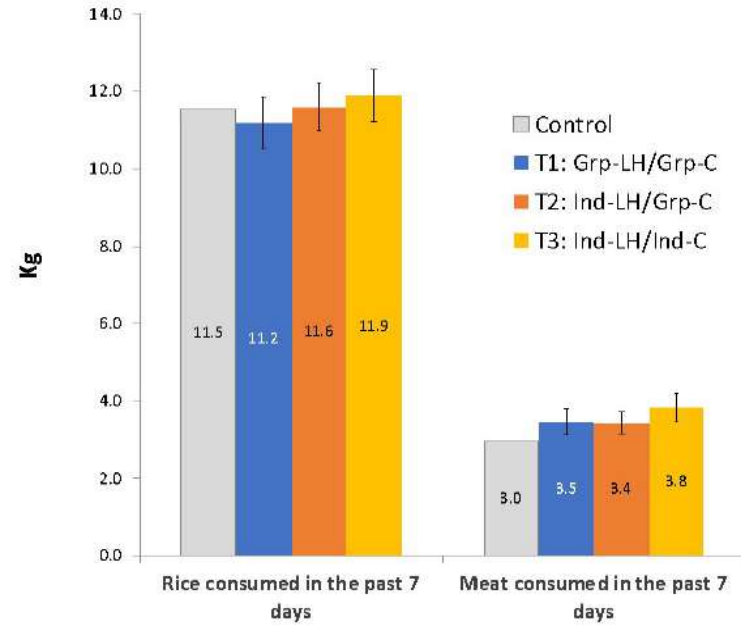
Income sources



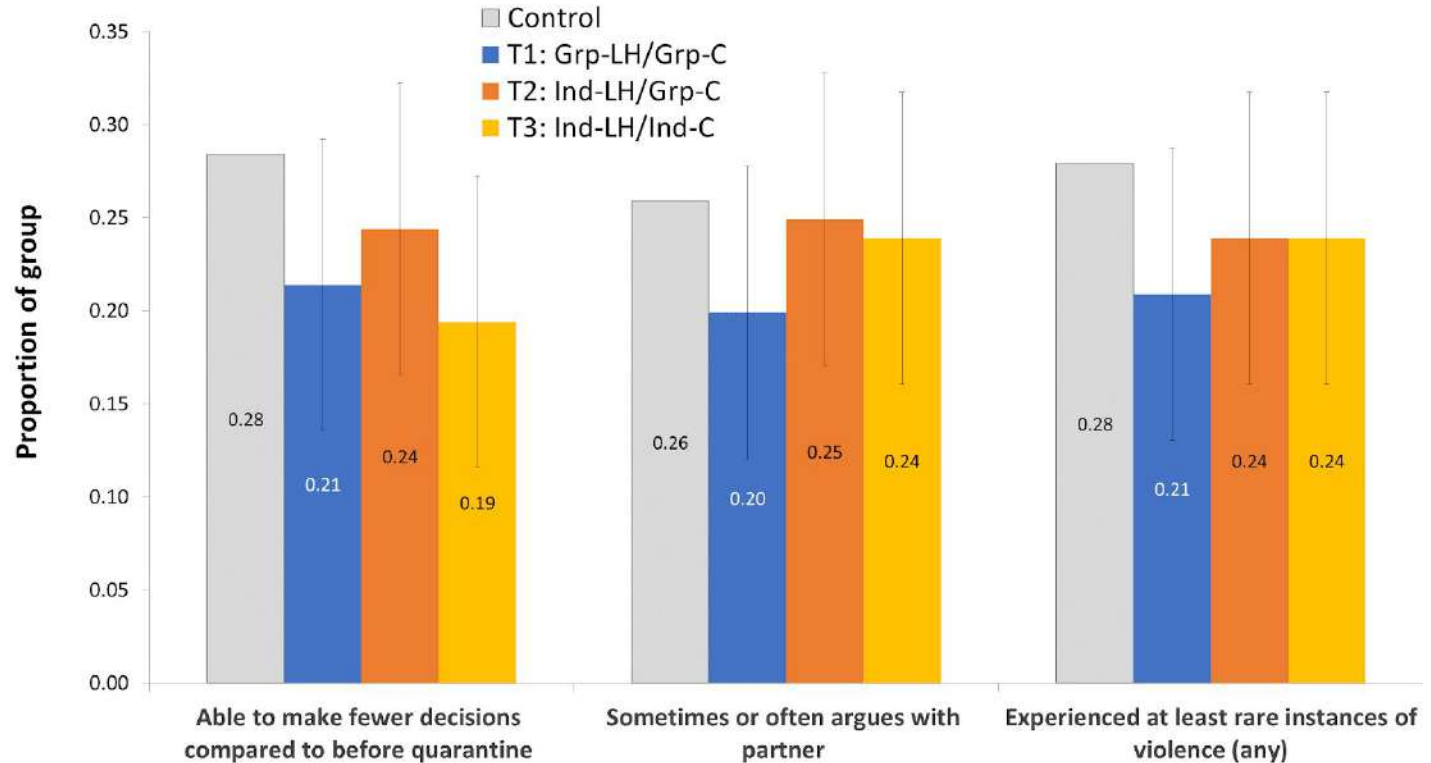
Coping with impact of income loss



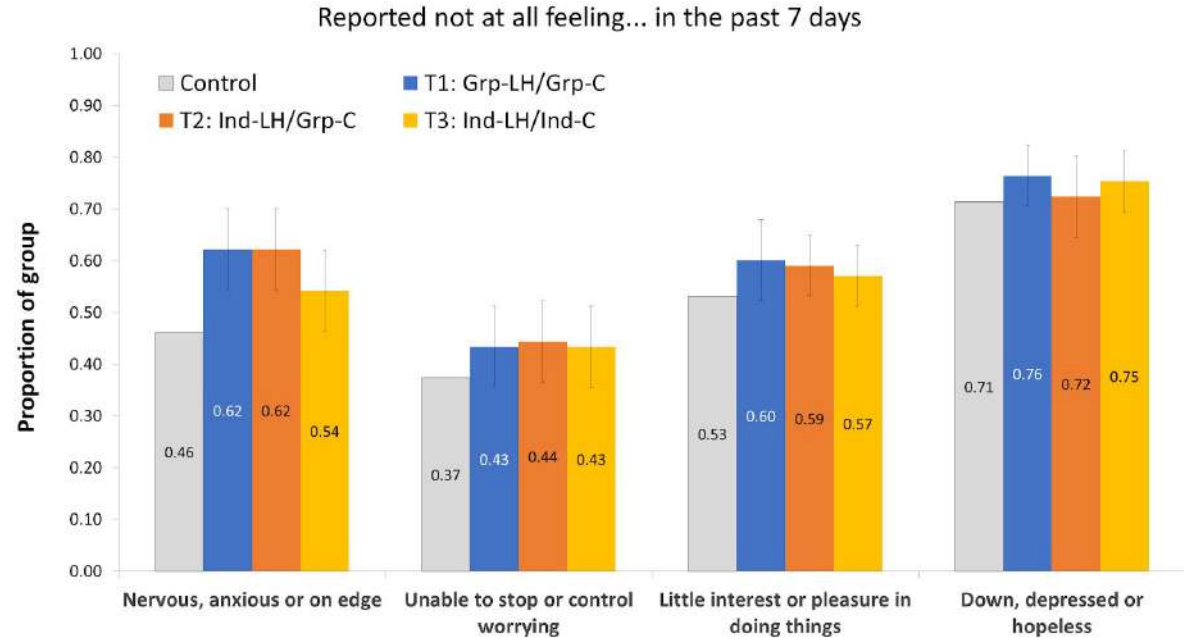
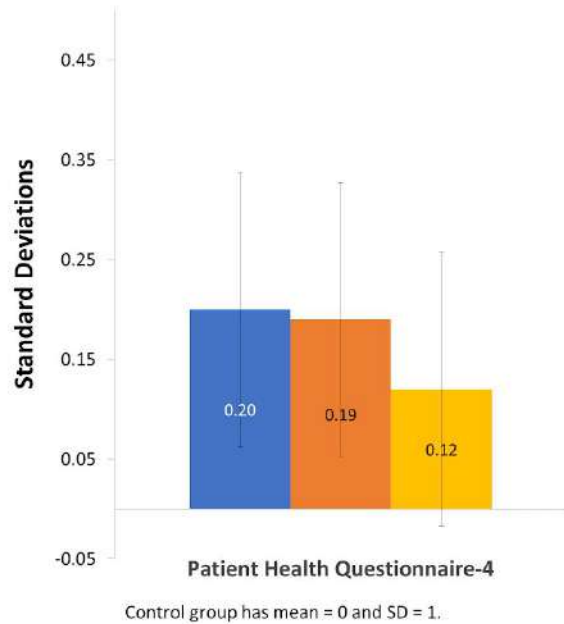
Food security



Bargaining and IPV



Mental health



COVID19 Pandemic statistics

	Mean	SD	N
In past 7 days, days spent home all day without receiving visits	1.82	1.72	158
Has access to soap and clean water to allow frequent handwashing	0.99	0.08	158
Washed hands more often as compared to before quarantine	0.77	0.42	159
Washed hands more often or the same as compared to before quarantine	0.97	0.18	159
In the last 7 days, has always worn nose/mouth covering when going out	0.96	0.21	91
Feels that anyone in household is at risk of contracting COVID19	0.34	0.48	155
Experienced increase in healthcare costs since start of quarantine	0.58	0.50	158
Has health insurance in case household member becomes sick	0.93	0.26	158

Conclusions and next steps

- Despite implementation challenges, positive impacts across multiple measures – promoting resilience during Covid-19 pandemic
- Lack of evidence that lower-cost group coaching reduces effectiveness (preliminary)
- Endline scheduled for May 2021; in-person to raise response rates, expand modules

Thank you



Closing Remarks

Mr. Bruno Carrasco

Director General, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

Bruno Carrasco leads ADB-wide knowledge and innovation work in all thematic and sector operation areas, establishes sector and thematic policies and strategies, and ensures compliance with environment and social safeguards policies. He also oversees the administration of trust funds and global funding initiatives. He provides advice to Management on various ADB-wide strategic and policy matters, annual and medium-term work plans, and major operational matters. He has worked at ADB for more than 23 years and has served in countries across all of its regional departments.

An expert in public sector management, and applied economic policy, he was most recently Chief of ADB's Governance Thematic Group, where he defined and sharpened ADB's work on domestic resource mobilization, infrastructure governance, state-owned enterprise reforms, and fiscal decentralization. He was appointed Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer on 22 February 2021. He has also worked at the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Development Program, and the European Central Bank.



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→ [Link on the chat!](#)