



Impact Evaluation of the Graduation of the Ultra-Poor Pilot in the Philippines

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**Asian Impact Webinar
26 May 2022**

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INNOVATIONS FOR
POVERTY ACTION

Evaluation Partners



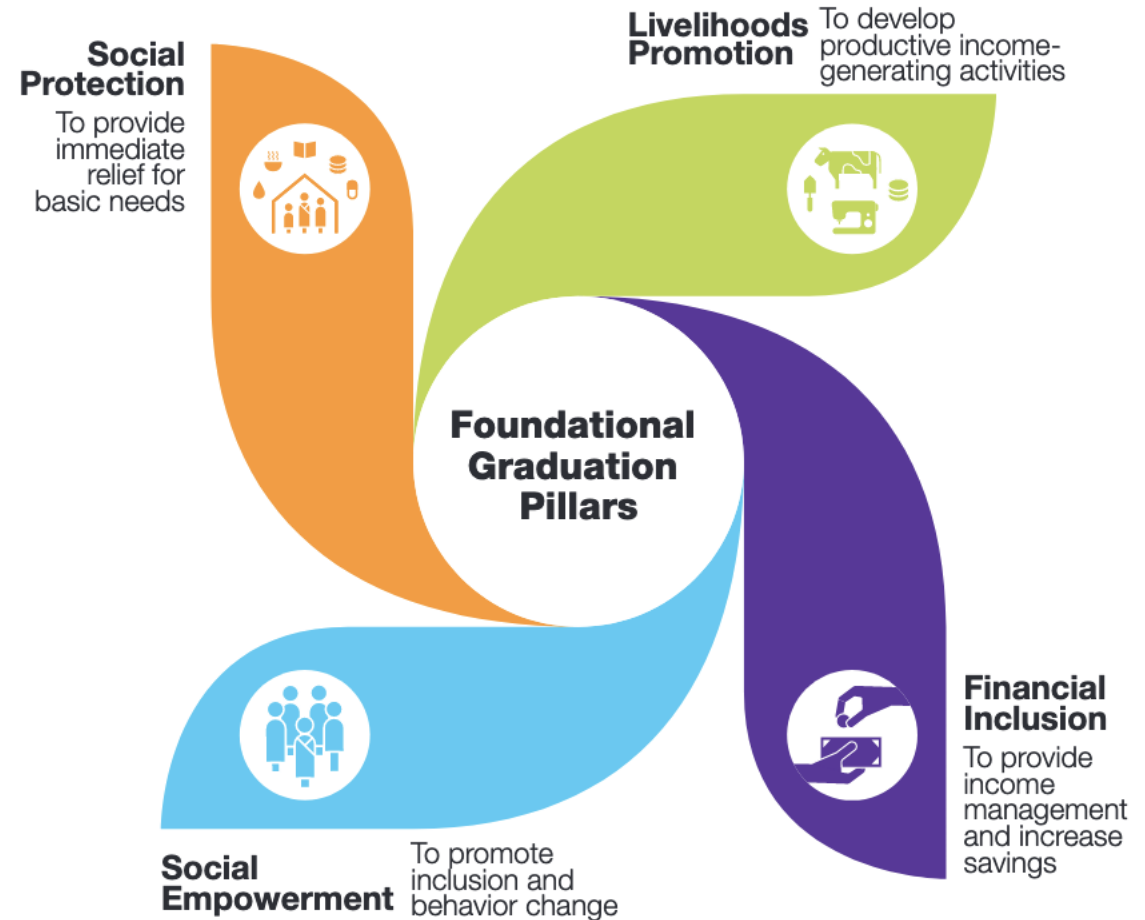
Project background

Multi-faceted support to promote economic inclusion

Graduation programs

- Transfer of productive asset + training
- Regular cash transfers
- Life coaching/skills training
- Health/financial inclusion components

Aim to help ultra-poor households facing an interrelated set of challenges that keep them in a poverty trap



Key research questions

- How does the classic graduation model affect welfare for 4Ps households?
- Are group livelihoods more profitable, sustainable, and resilient than individual livelihoods?
- What are the potential trade-offs between cost-effectiveness and impact through group coaching and/or livelihoods?

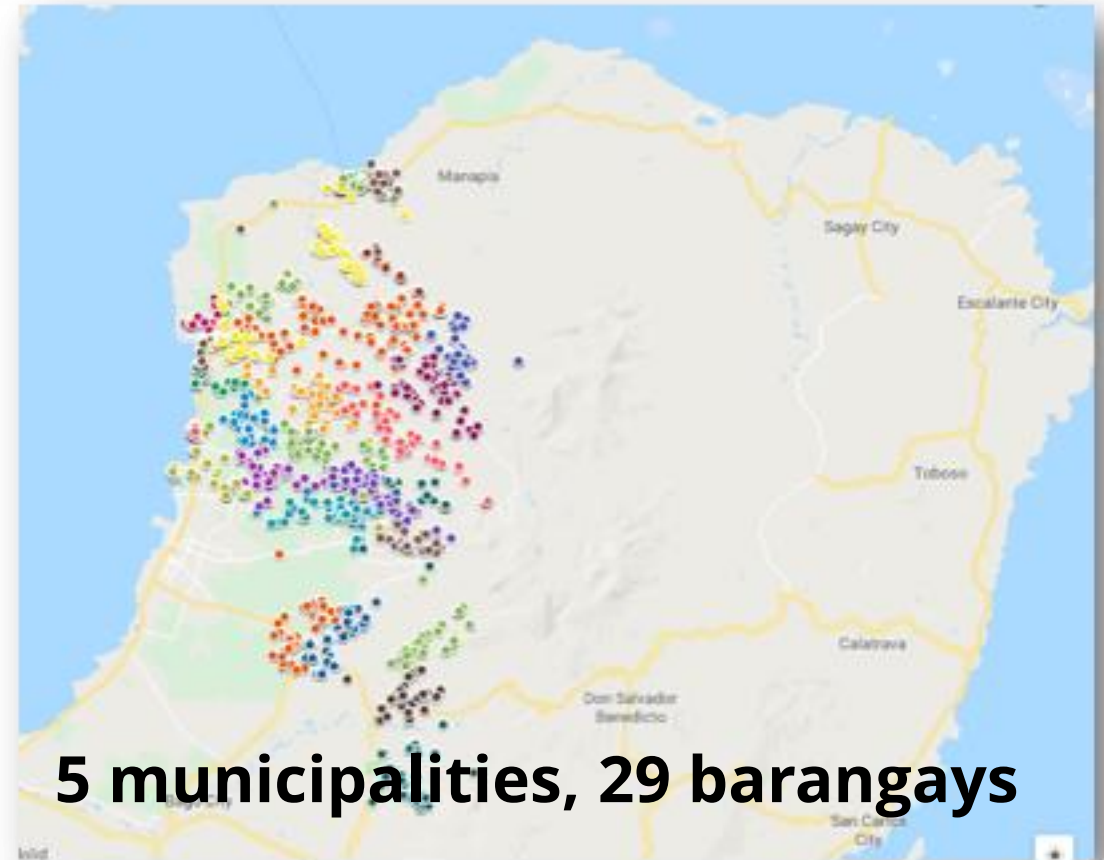


Study location and sample



Negros Occidental

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



5 municipalities, 29 barangays



RCT with 3 treatment arms + control group

Intervention	Control (N=586)	T1: Group livelihoods and group coaching (N=587)	T2: Individual Livelihoods and group coaching (N=583)	T3: Individual livelihoods and individual coaching (N=583)
4Ps	✓	✓	✓	✓
In-kind asset transfer	X	\$1,500 per group of 5	\$300 per individual	\$300 per individual
% received transfer	X	62%	73%	78%
Coaching (two-weekly)	X	Group	Group	Individual
Skills training	X	✓	✓	✓
Savings facilitation	X	✓	✓	✓
Community mobilization	X	✓	✓	✓

Sample: HHs from 29 barangays in Negros Occidental that were added to 4Ps between 2015 and 2017, not a beneficiary of a similar program (SLP)



Data collection

Endline survey data collection

- **Data Collection:** September–December 2021
- **Target sample:** 2,339 households across 29 barangays in 5 municipalities in the northern part of Negros Occidental
- **Response rate:** 2,288 households were interviewed (98% of baseline sample). Responses were balanced across experimental groups.

	Control	T1	T2	T3	Total
Baseline respondents	586	587	583	583	2,339
Endline respondents	575	574	571	568	2,288
Endline as % of baseline	98%	98%	98%	97%	98%



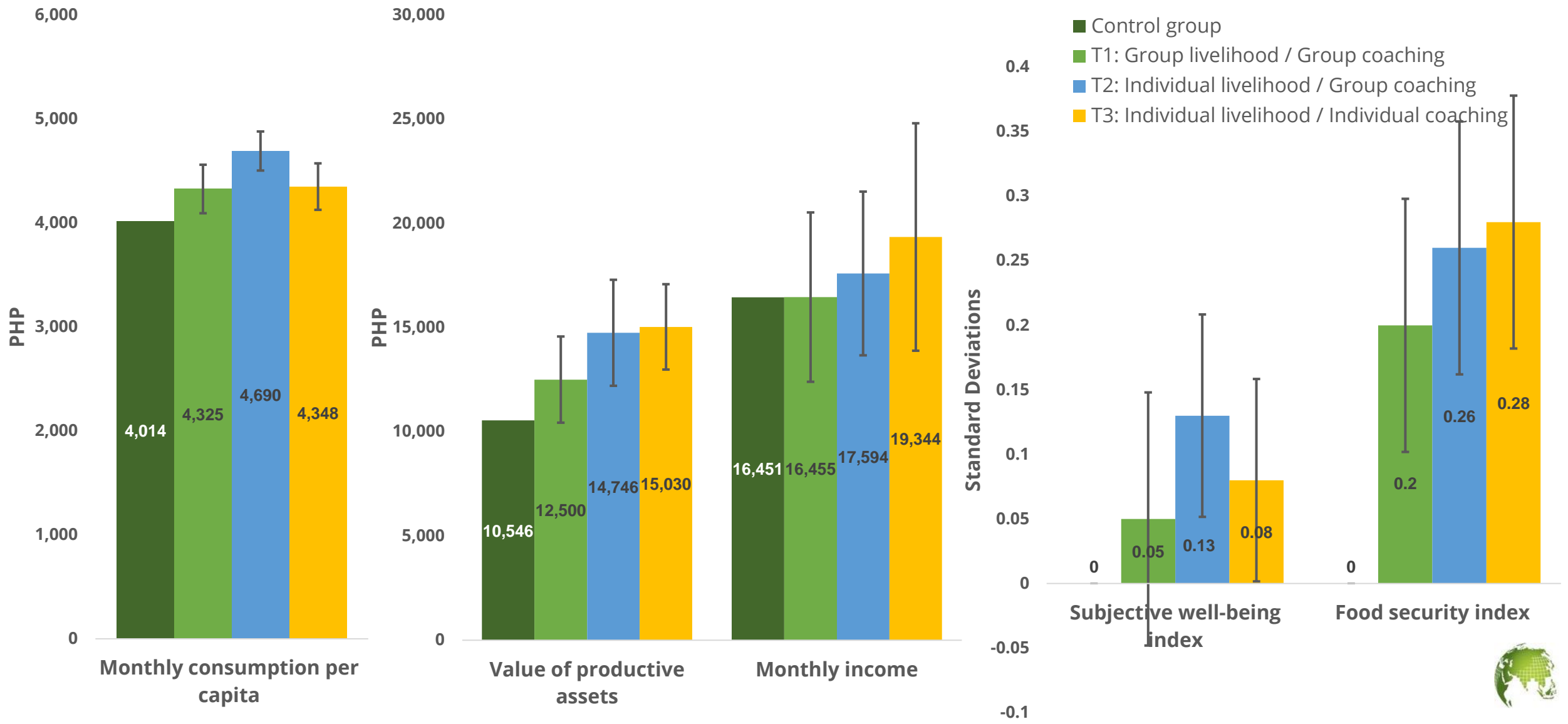
Results

Program participation

	Control	T1 (GrpLH/ GrpC)	T2 (IndLH/ GrpC)	T3 (IndLH/ IndC)	Any T
Household member attended livelihood trainings conducted through BRAC	4%	68%	76%	80%	75%
Household member managed a BRAC livelihood	1%	50%	62%	68%	60%
Currently has a livelihood set up by BRAC	0%	24%	29%	33%	29%
N	575	574	571	568	2288

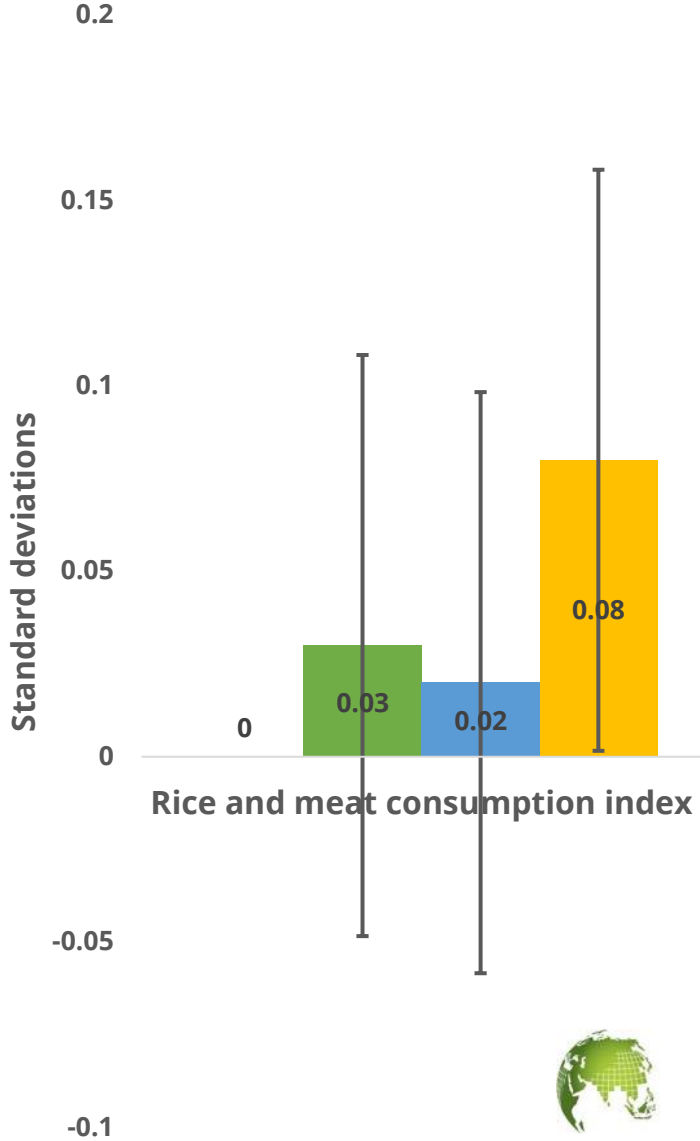
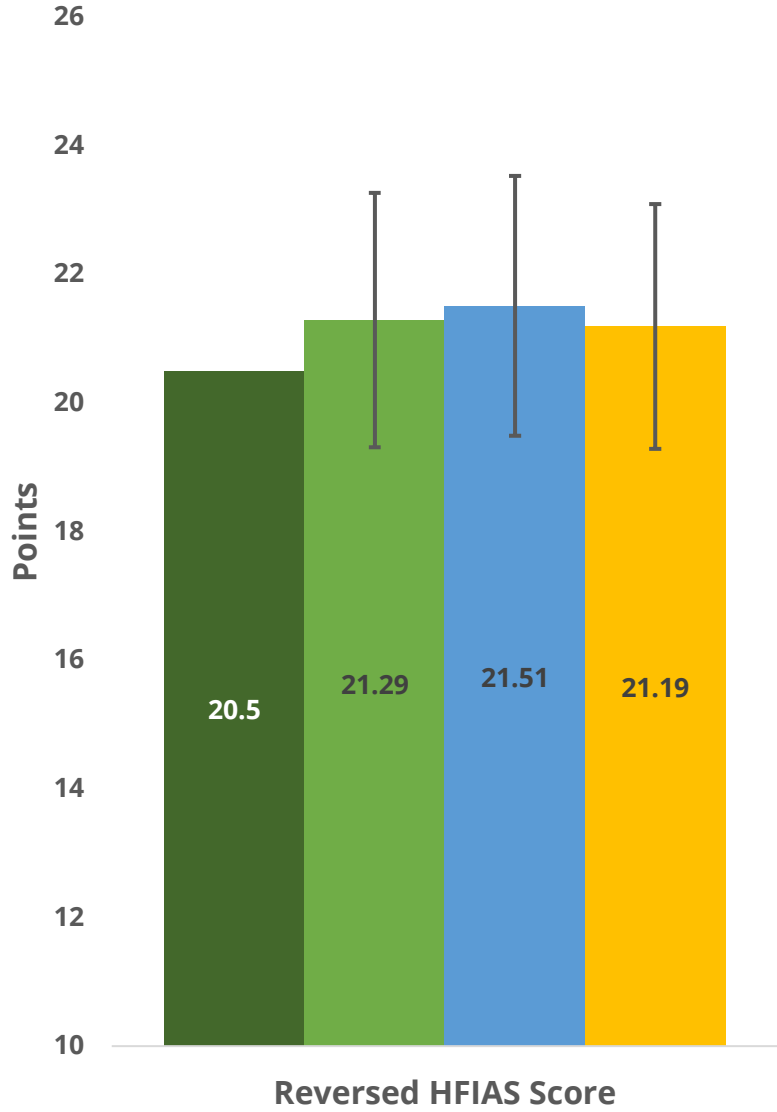
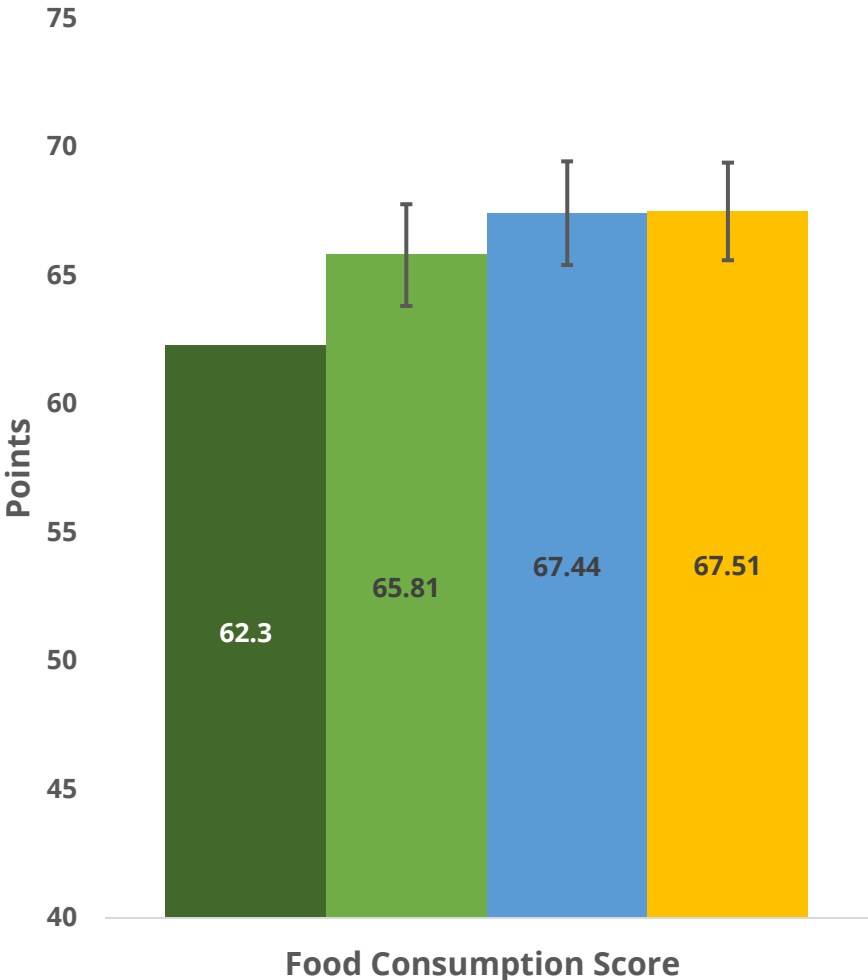


Improved household welfare across multiple measures

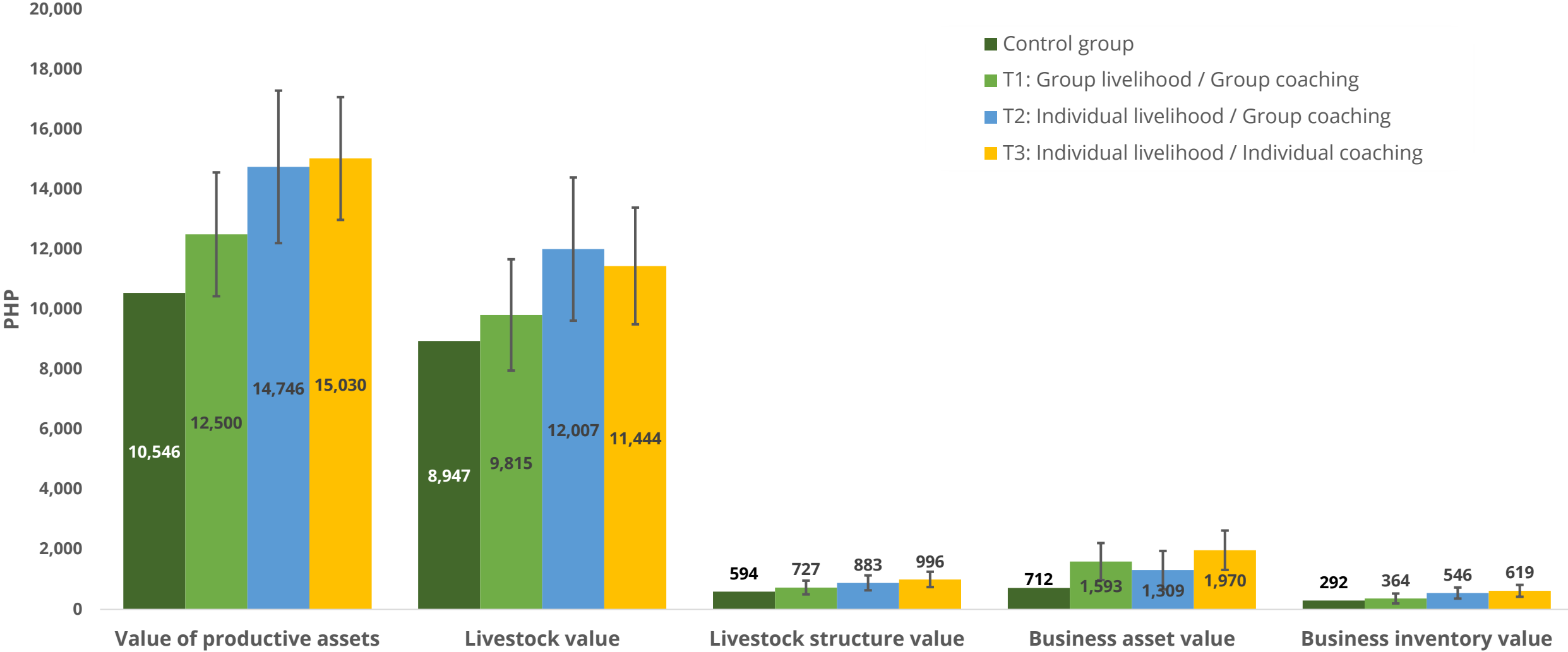


Increased food security, relatively similar impacts

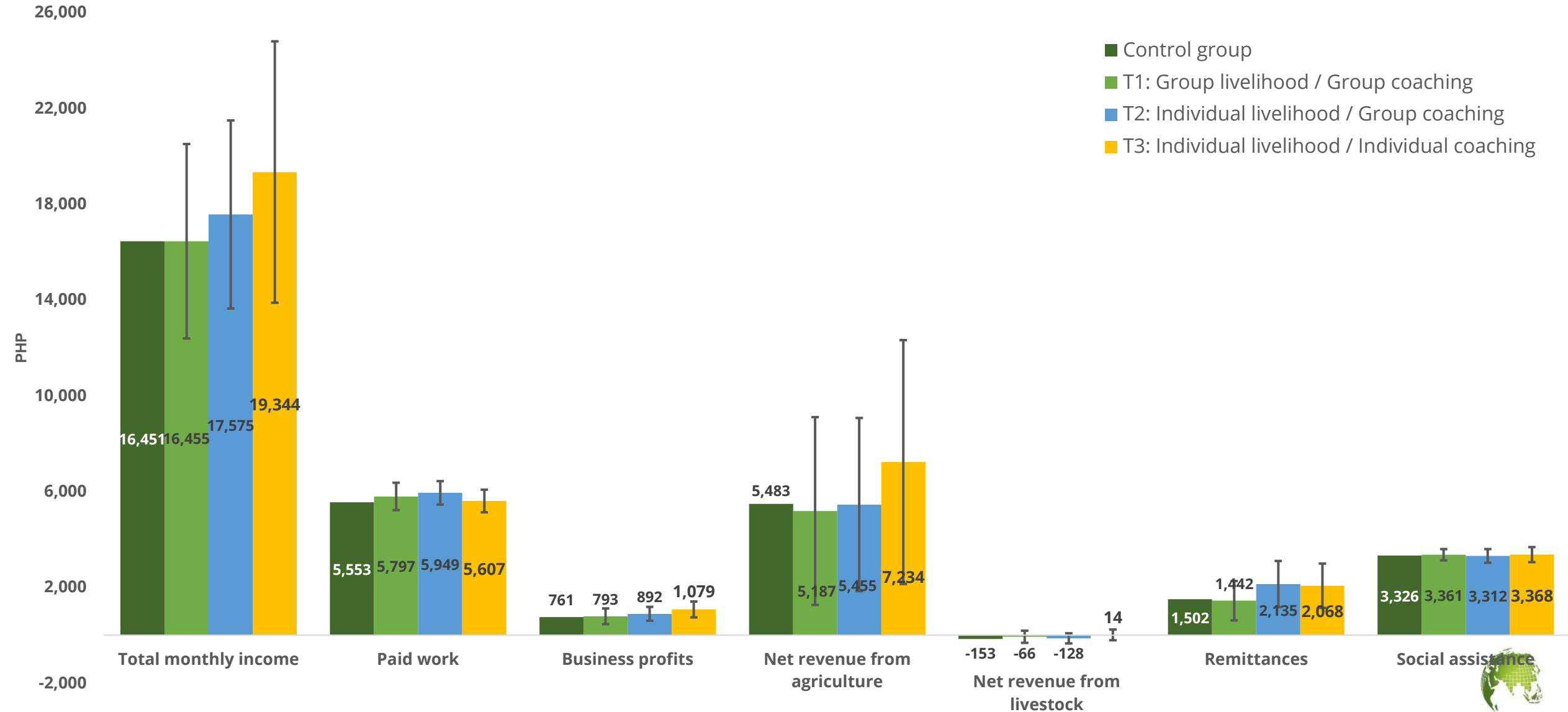
- Control group
- T1: Group livelihood / Group coaching
- T2: Individual livelihood / Group coaching
- T3: Individual livelihood / Individual coaching



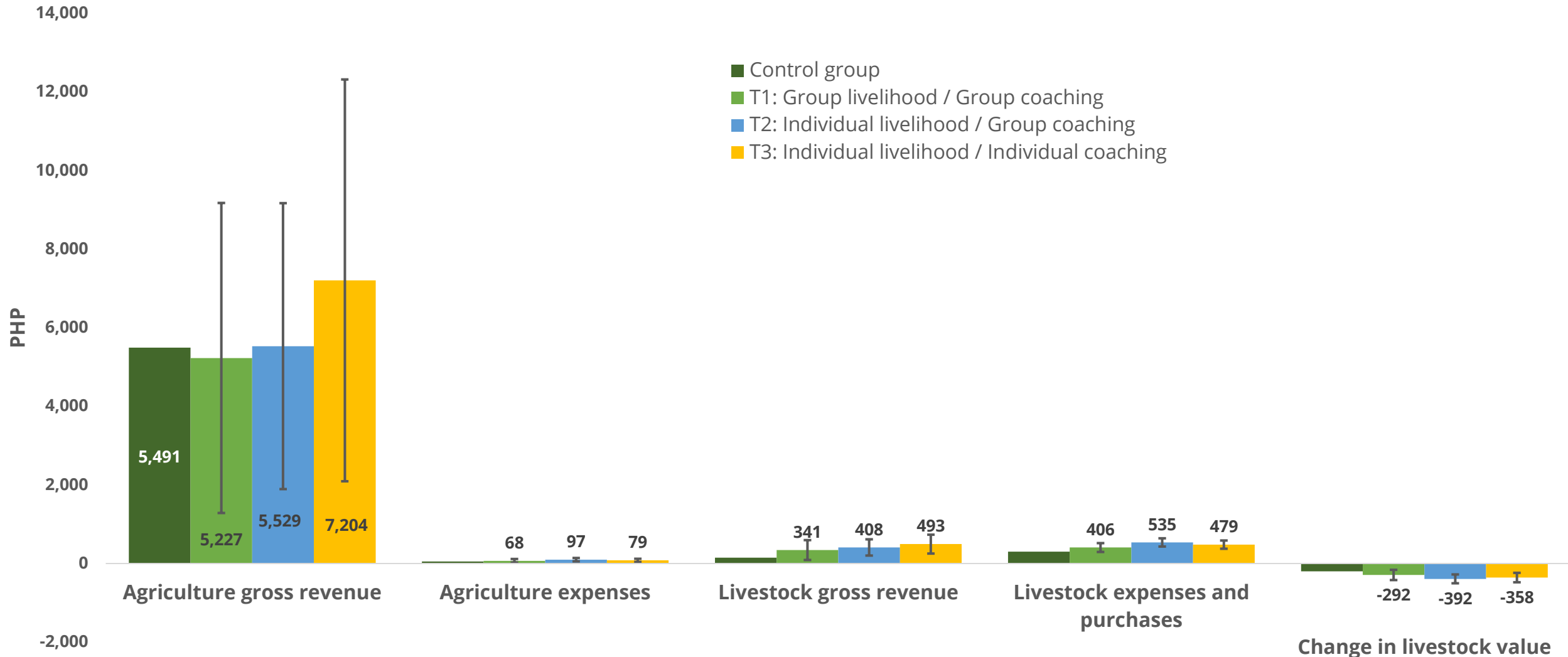
Productive asset value increases by 19–43%



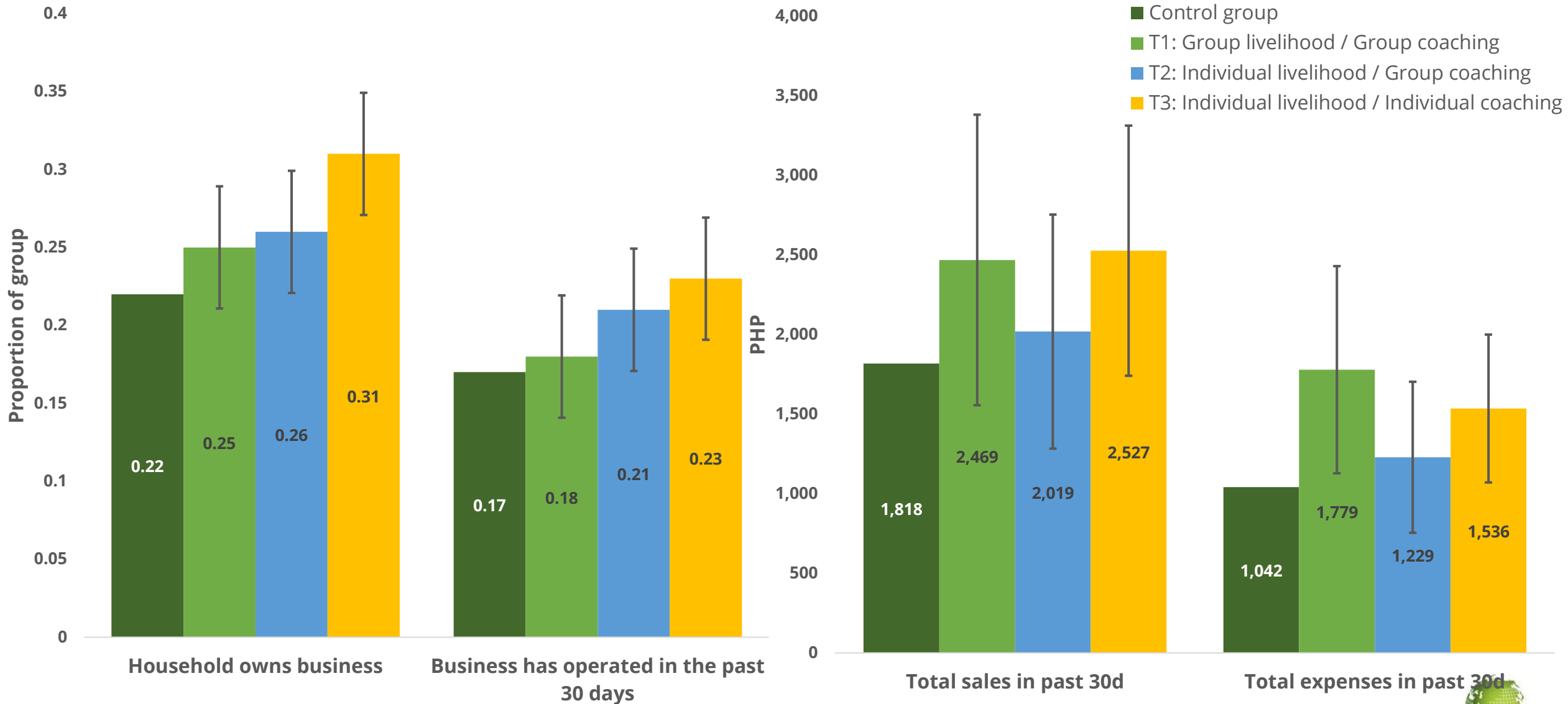
No detectable change in household income



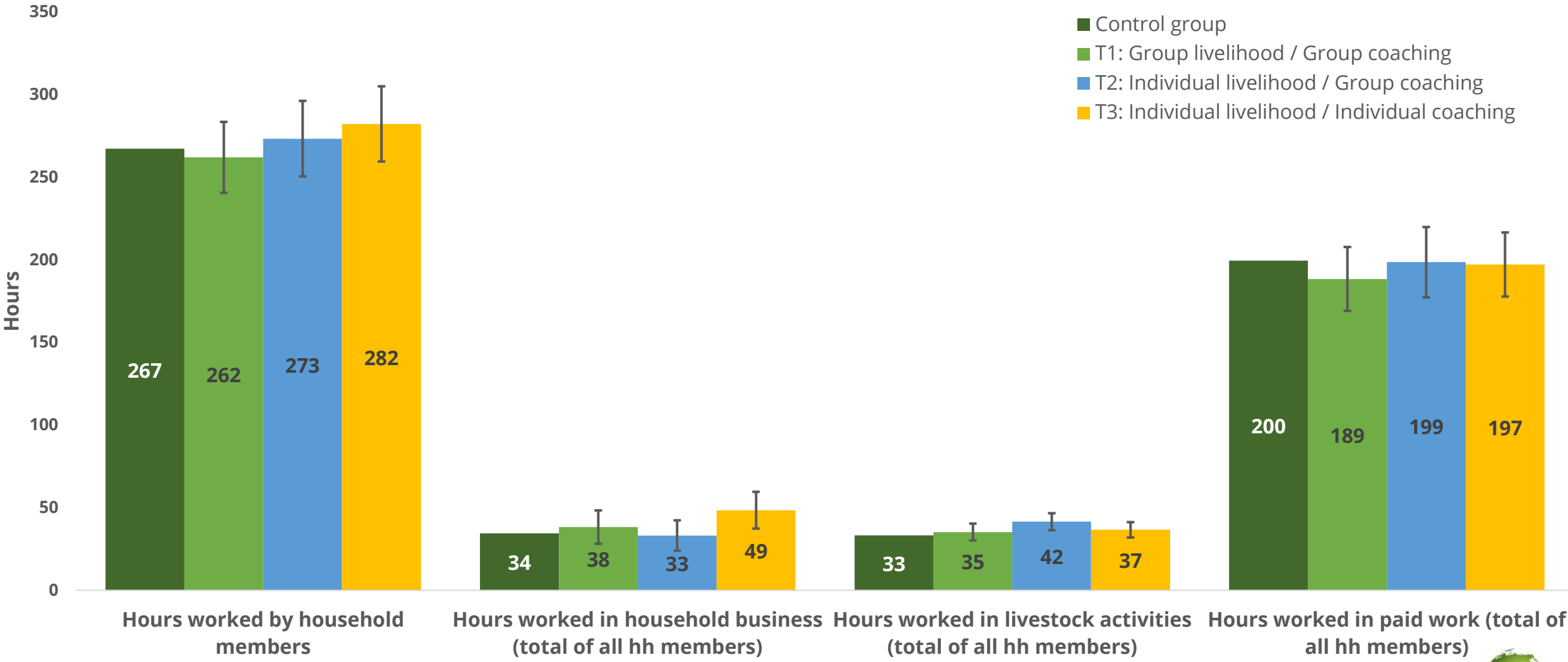
Household income components



Increased business ownership



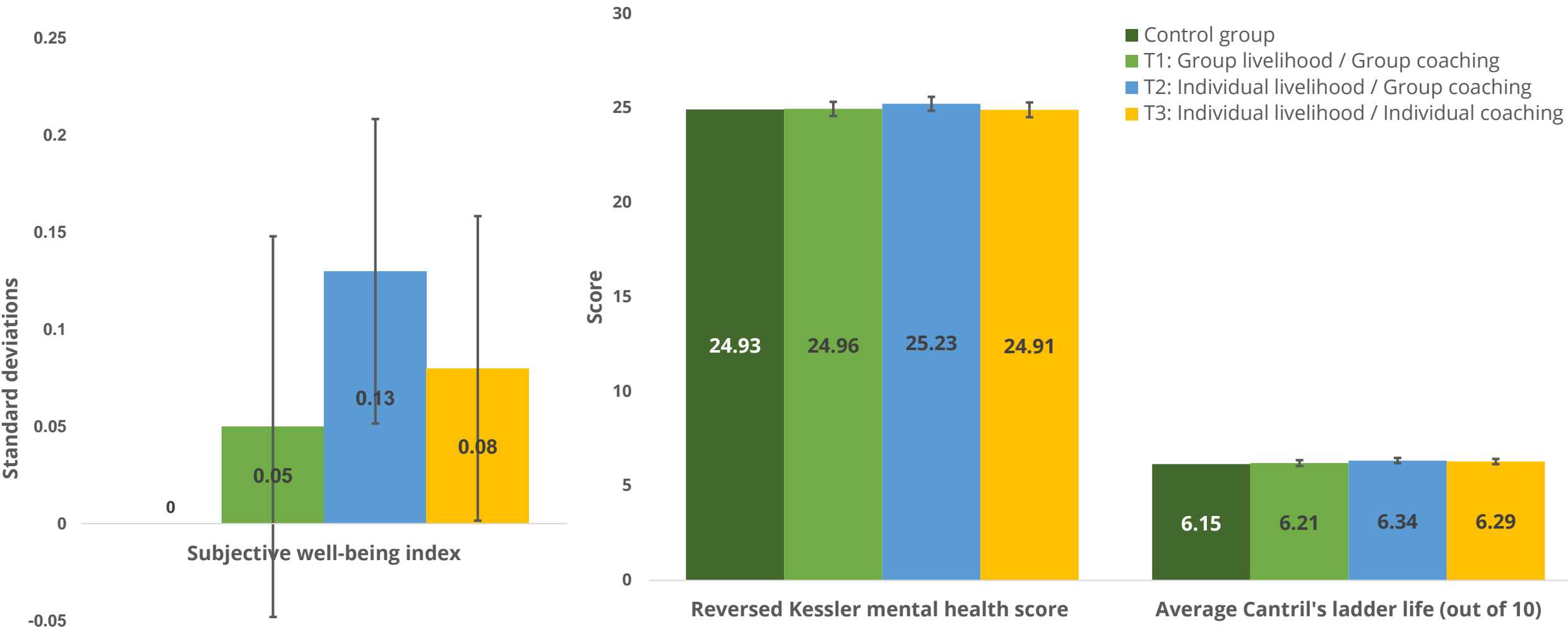
No change in labor supply



Hours worked over past month



Ind livelihood/group coaching improves well-being



Results summary

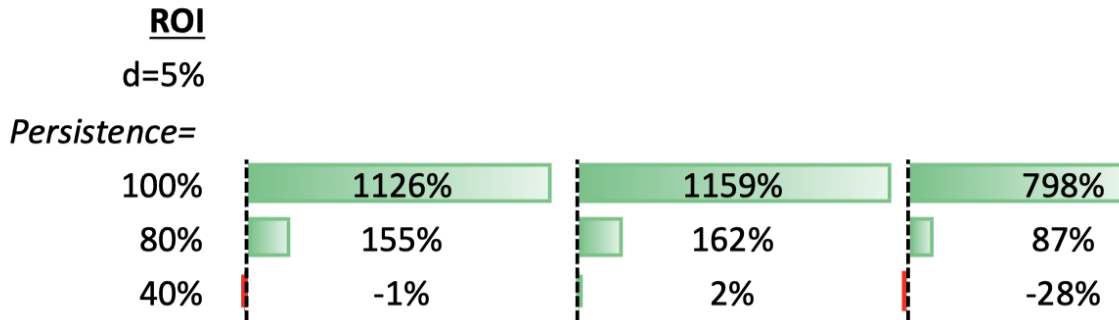
All program designs **increased household well-being on multiple dimensions:**

- 8–9% increase in monthly per-capita consumption (324–728 Php).
- 0.20–0.28 s.d. increase in household food security.
- 19–43% increase in productive asset value (1,954–4,484 Php).
- 0.13 s.d. increase subjective well-being for individual livelihood w/ group coaching

No evidence of income change, in part due to the high dispersion observed in income.

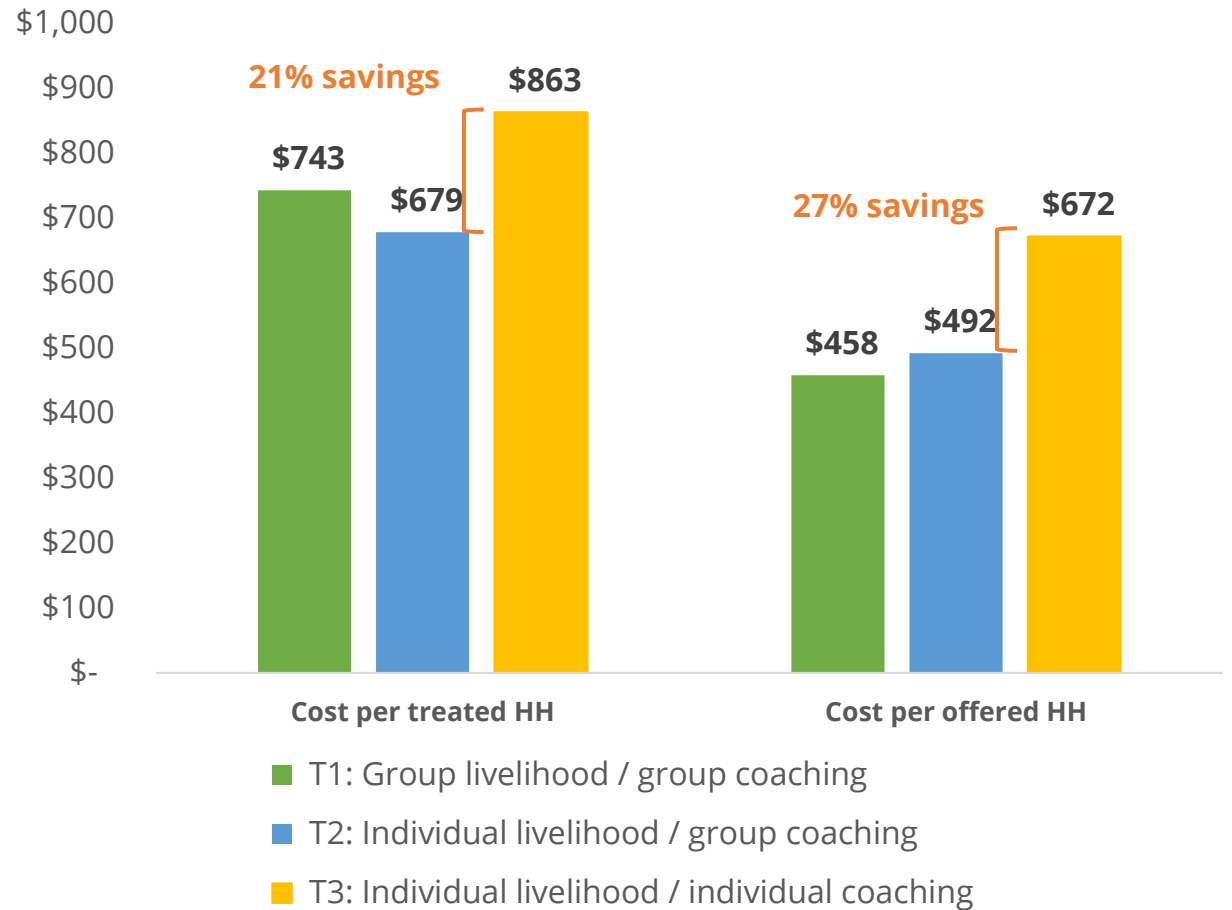


Cost-effectiveness



Persistence of effects will determine return on investment

Effects may even grow over time
(Banerjee et al. 2016)



Conclusions

Relatively similar impacts between group and individual coaching

- **Group coaching better on consumption *and* cheaper.**
- Caveat: **choice of livelihood also differs substantially!**

Individual livelihood arms generally outperform group arms.

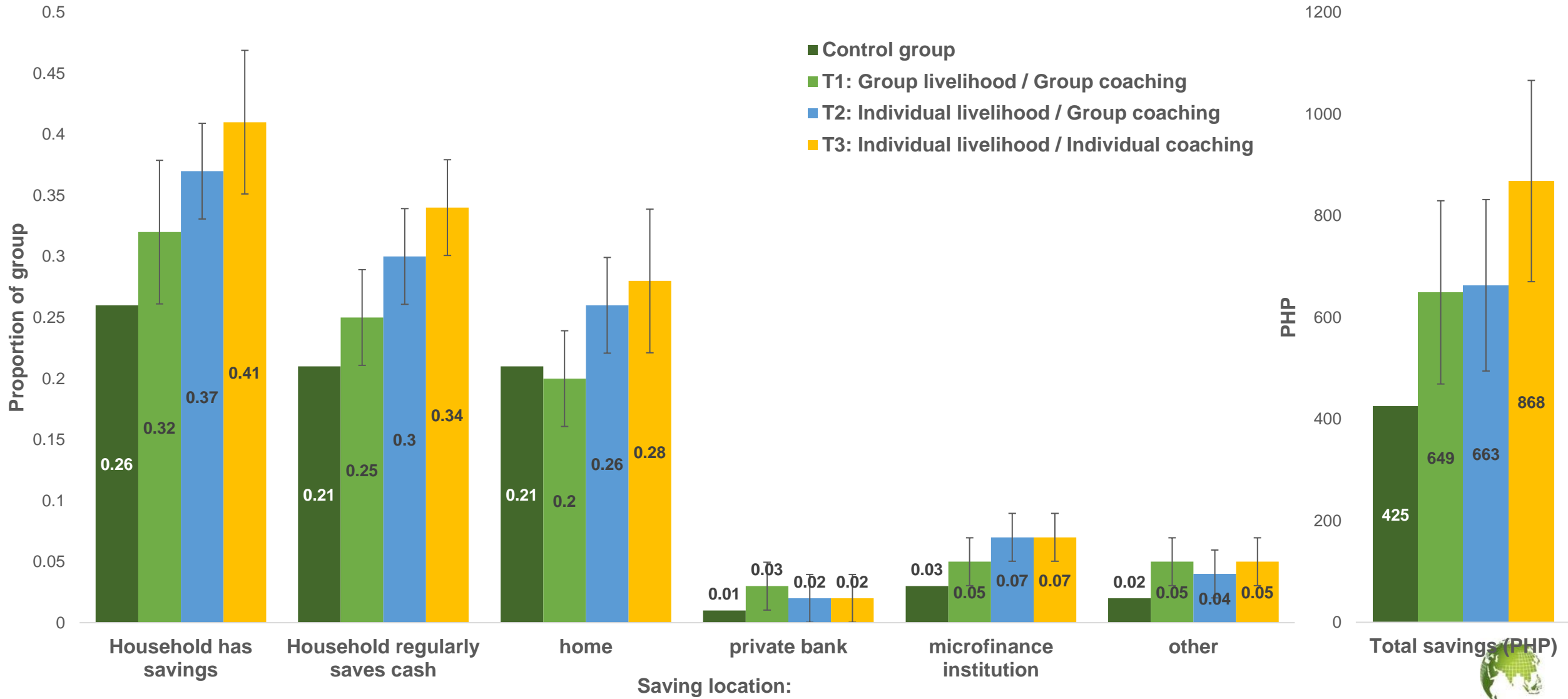
- Difference reflects program design, slower T1 implementation, and higher attrition.

Longer-run follow-up needed to measure how effects persist

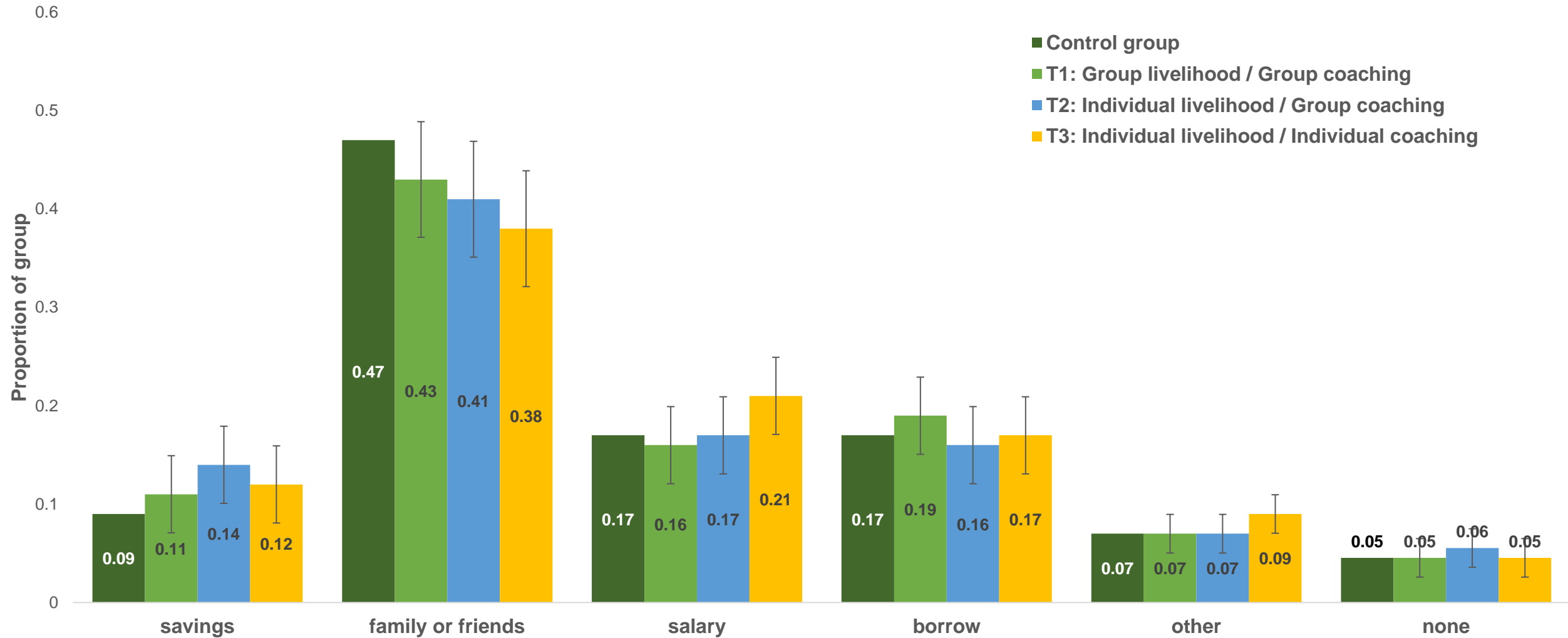


Annex: Secondary Outcomes

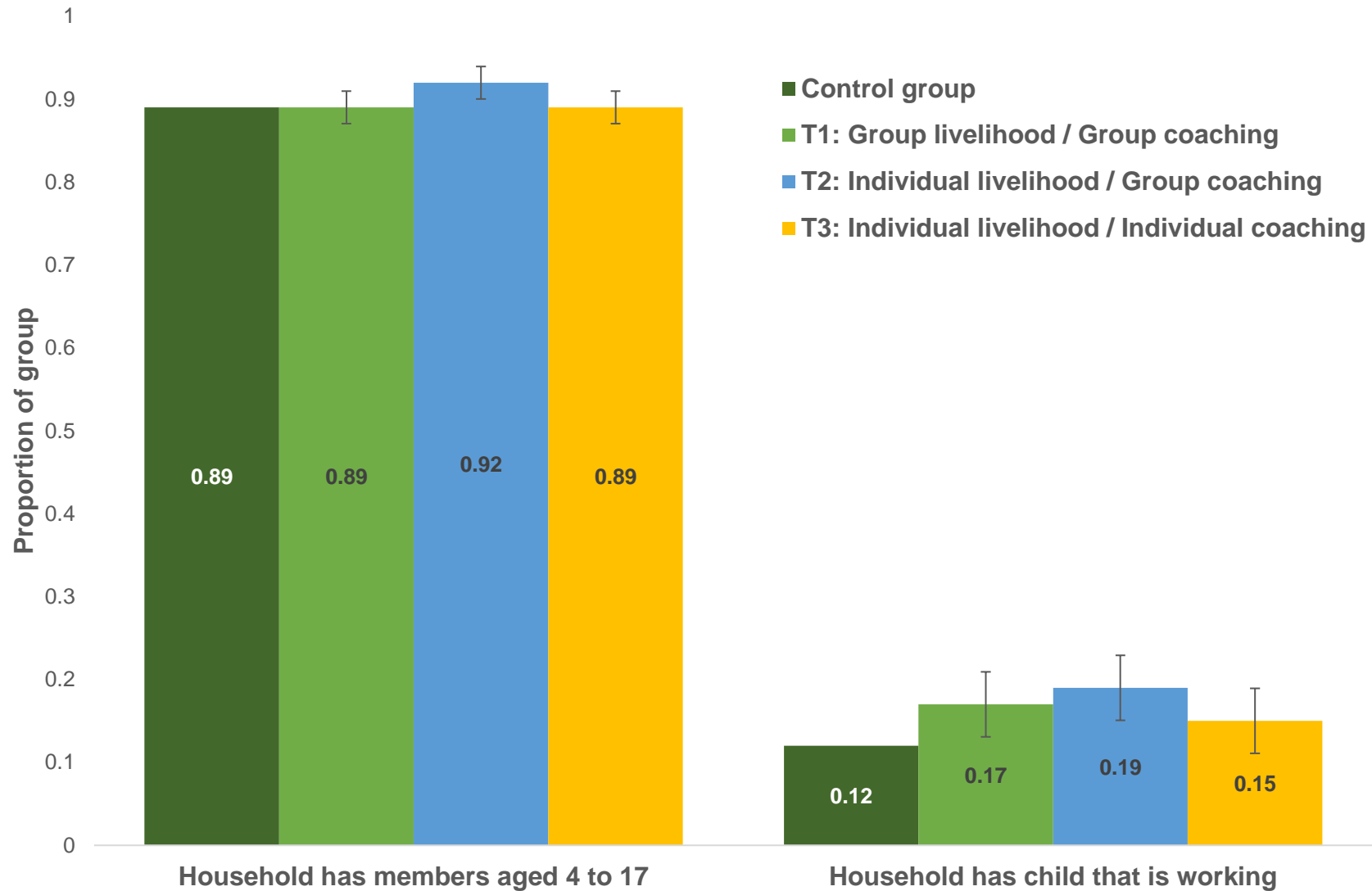
Savings and loans



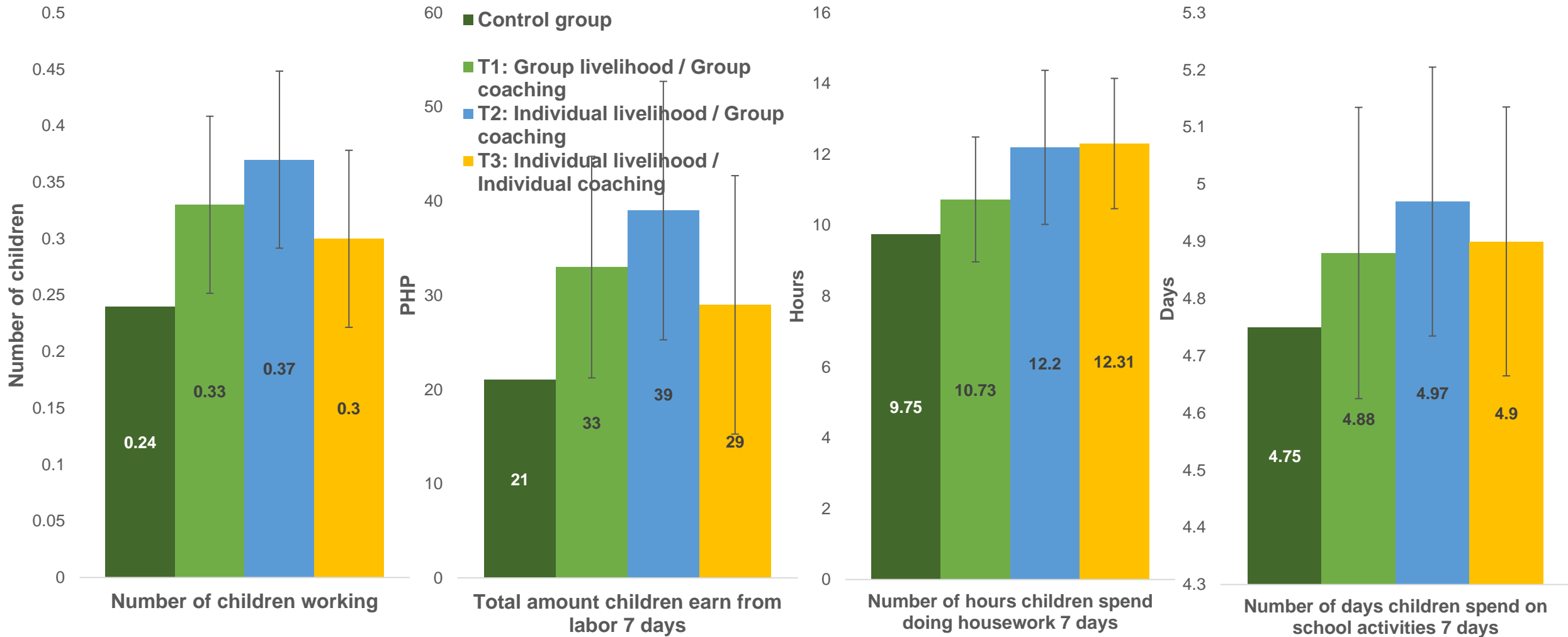
Financial health



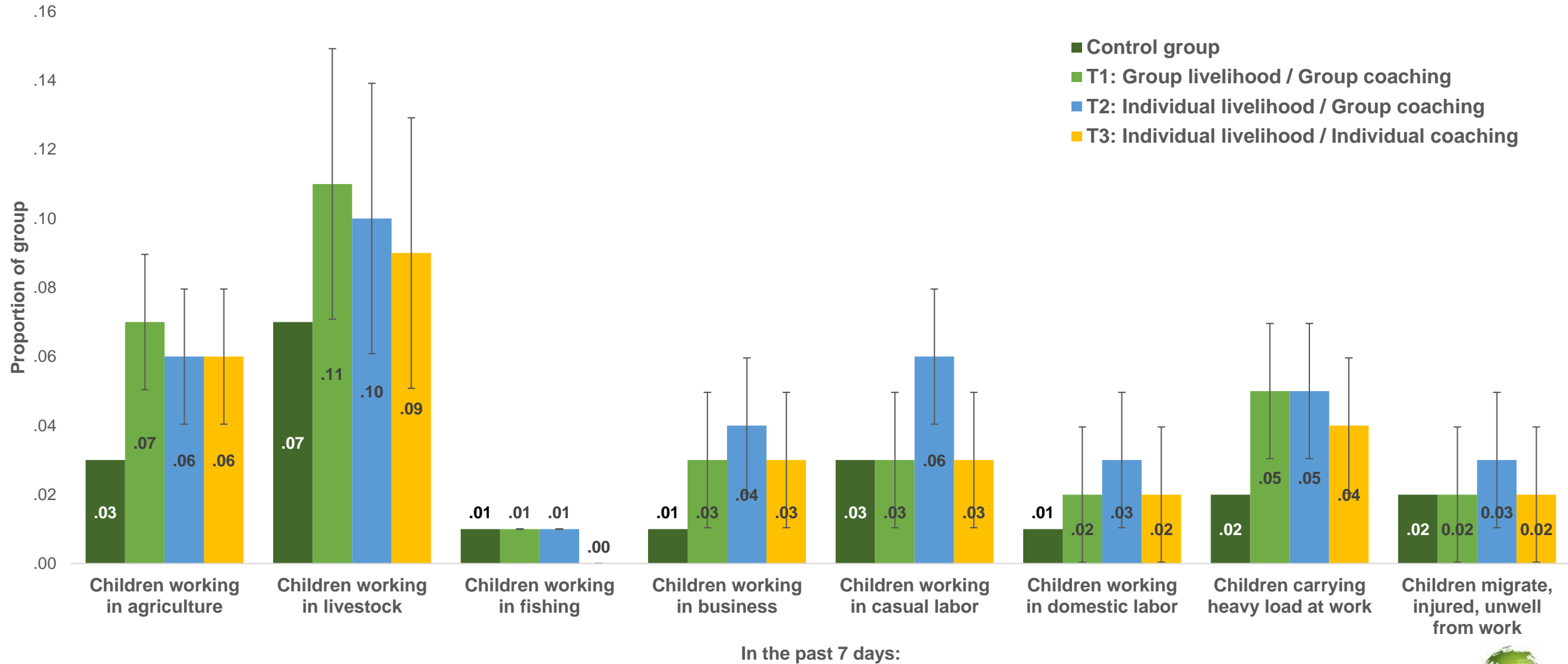
Child labor and time use



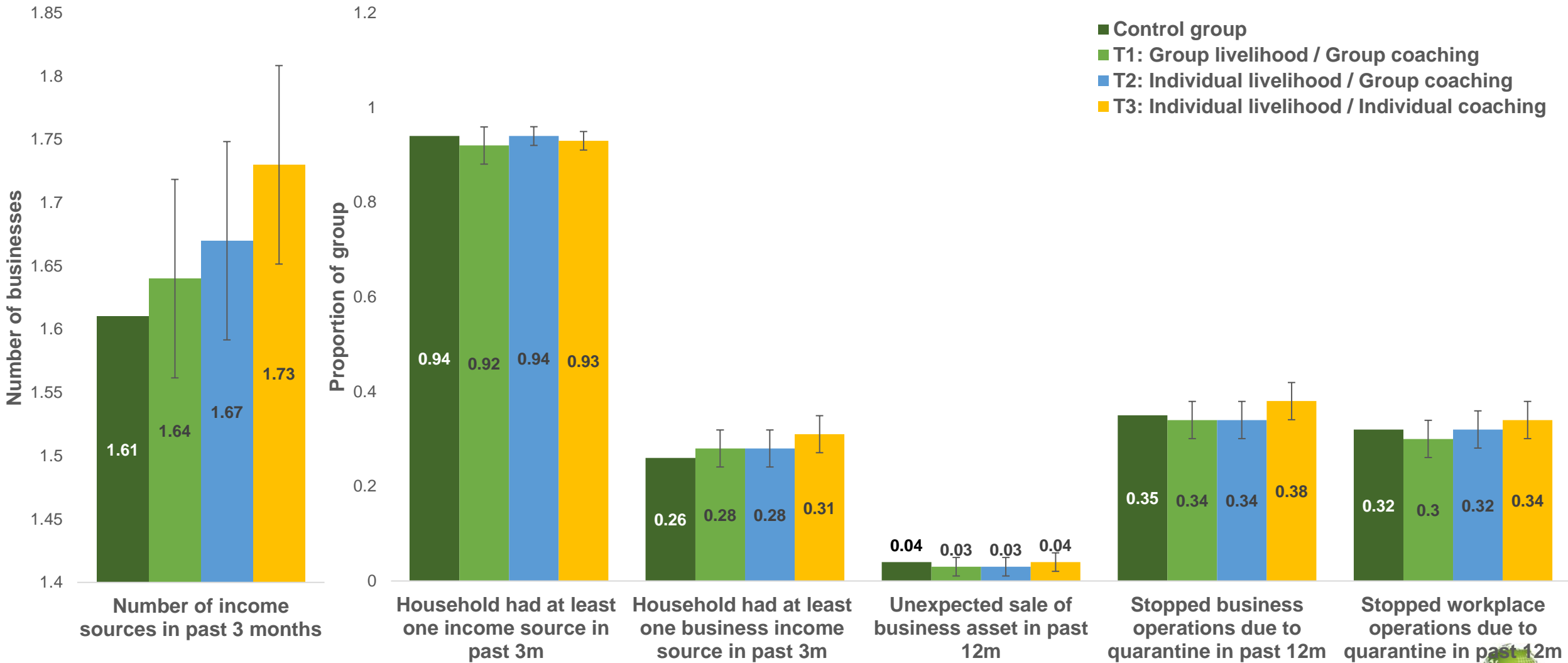
Child labor and time use



Child labor components

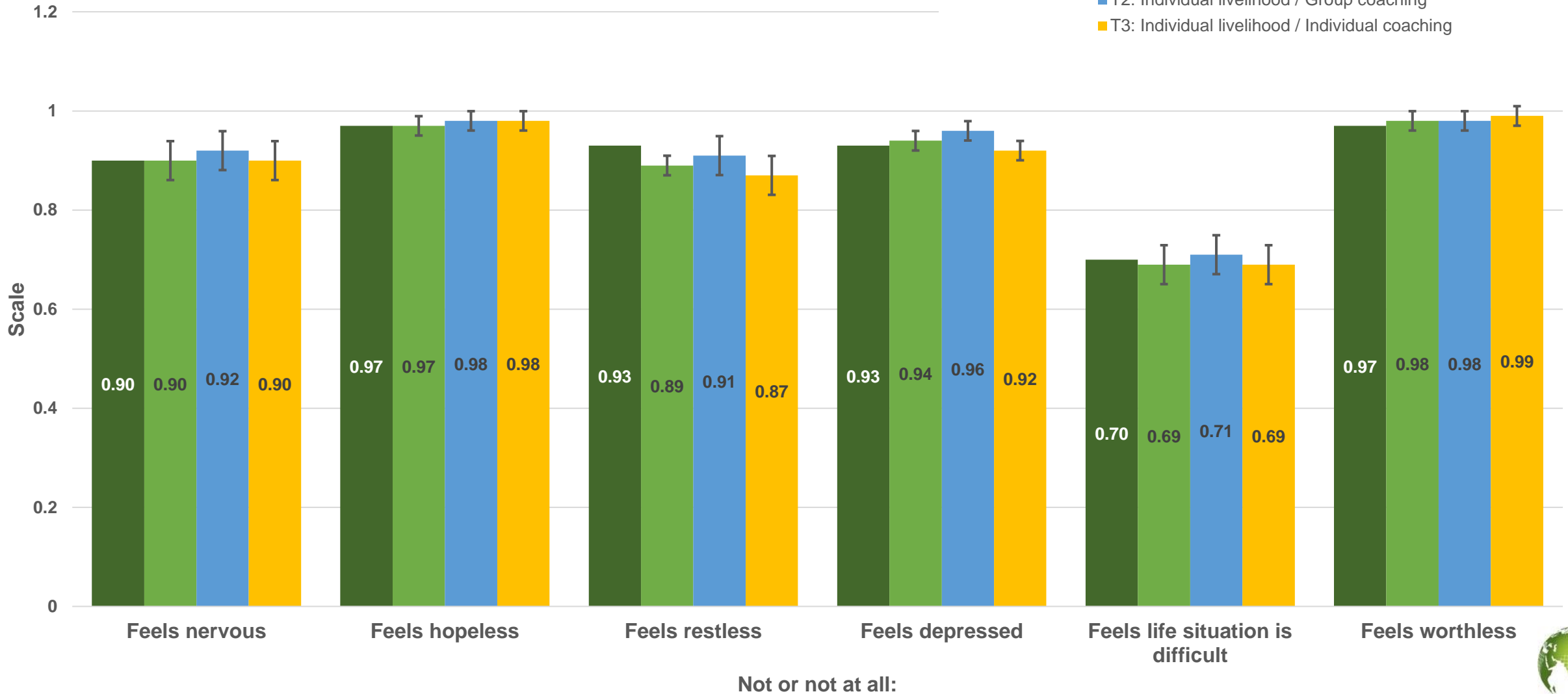


Income sources

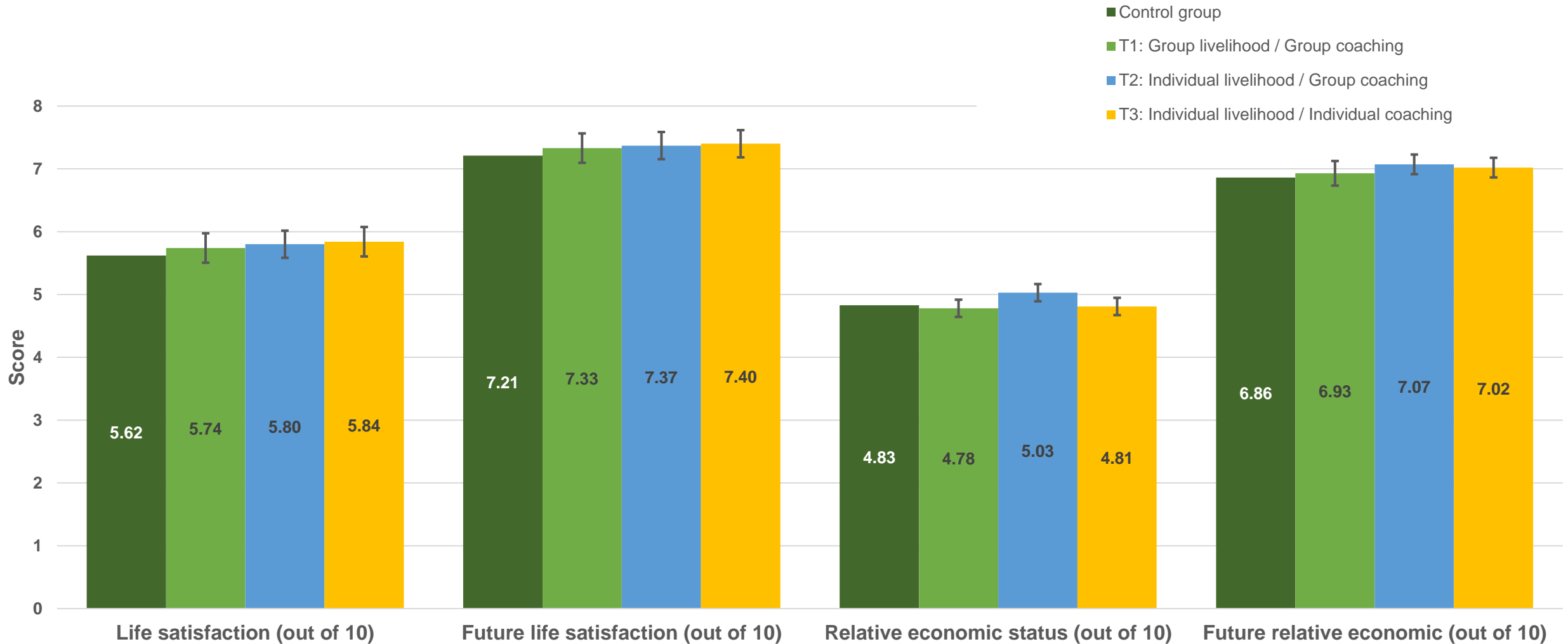


Kessler Psychological Distress Scale

- Mean in Control group
- T1: Group livelihood / Group coaching
- T2: Individual livelihood / Group coaching
- T3: Individual livelihood / Individual coaching



Cantril's Ladder relative life satisfaction



Financial health

