

Graduation: Results for cohorts 2.1 to 2.6

Summary

The CLP provided an integrated package of support to 78,026 extreme poor core participant households. This support ended in February 2016. The Programme aimed for 85% of these households to 'graduate.'

The Programme finalised a set of 10 graduation criteria and methodology to assess graduation during the first quarter of 2014. To graduate, a household had to meet (any) six or more criteria within 3 months of completing the 18 month cycle. These criteria relate to 1) Income/ expenditure/ consumption 2) Nutrition 3) Asset base 4) Status of females 5) Vulnerability and 6) Access to services.

Panel sample surveys show that 89.7% of cohorts 2.1 to 2.6 have graduated. The Programme has therefore achieved its target in terms of graduation.

Criteria which high proportions of households met:

- Household eats three meals a day AND consumes five or more food groups in the past week
- Presence of ash/ soap near to water point or latrine
- Household has membership of social group

Criteria met by relatively fewer households:

- Household has cash savings of more than Tk 3,000
- Household has access to improved water
- Productive assets worth more than Tk 30,000

The sustainability of graduation rates has been documented in a separate report (see footnote 2).

Background



A CLP participant on course to graduate

The Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) provided 78,026 extremely poor core participant households (CPHHs) with an integrated package of support lasting 18 months. Because not all CPHHs could be supported at the same time, six groups (called cohorts) received the package through cohorts averaging 13,000 CPHHs.

Table 1 illustrates the schedule of support to each cohort.

Table 1: Schedule of support by Cohort

Cohort Number	Cohort Assistance Start Date	Cohort End Date	# of CPHHs
2.1	May '10	Dec. '11	5,004
2.2	Sept. '10	June '12	12,109
2.3	Sept. '11	June '13	17,435
2.4	Sept. '12	June '14	16,309
2.5	Sept. '13	June '15	13,579
2.6	Sept. '14	Feb. '16	13,590
			78,026

The Programme's logical framework target was to graduate 85% of households, equivalent to 66,300 households and

approximately 258,000 people. CLP developed a set of 10 criteria to define graduation, which relate to the multiple dimensions of poverty. Progress in meeting the 10 criteria enabled the Programme to assess whether a household was likely to be on the right trajectory out of extreme poverty.

The process of developing criteria to define graduation took time. In March 2014 the criteria, their thresholds and the methodology were finally agreed. The criteria and thresholds are shown in Table 2.

To graduate, a household had to meet any six of these ten criteria within three months of completing the 18 month cycle.

Table 2: CLP Graduation Criteria

Criteria domain	Criteria and thresholds
Income/ expenditure/ consumption	1. Household has had more than one source of income during the last 30 days
	2. Household eats three meals a day AND consumes five or more food groups in the past week
Nutrition	3. Household has access to improved water
	4. Household has access to a sanitary latrine with an unbroken water seal
	5. Presence of ash/ soap near to water point or latrine
Asset base	6. Productive assets worth more than Tk 30,000
Status of females	7. Participant is able to influence household decisions regarding sale/ purchase of large investments e.g. cattle
Vulnerability	8. Homestead is above known flood level
	9. Household has cash savings of more than Tk 3,000
Access to services	10. Household has membership of social group



Cash savings: a CLP graduation criteria

Methodology

The Innovation, Monitoring, Learning and Communications Division (IMLC) was responsible for monitoring outputs, outcomes and impacts. This included assessing progress against graduation targets.

The methodology for calculating graduation rates was not approved until early 2014 resulting in some problems with calculating graduation rates for earlier cohorts; in particular Cohorts 2.1 and 2.2. December 2011 and June 2012 was the 18th and final month of support to Cohorts 2.1 and 2.2 respectively. The questionnaires administered during the 18th month of support had not yet fully incorporated questions directly related to the graduation criteria.

For Cohort 2.1, graduation rates therefore had to be assessed using data from two different surveys (six months before the end of support and 10 months after the end of support – depending on the indicator). For a few of the graduation criteria CLP also had to rely on the findings from ‘close / related’ questions as opposed to data from the ‘correct / exact’ question that should have been asked i.e. proxy questions.

By the 18th month of Cohort 2.2, the M&E system had further developed and more questions related to the final graduation criteria had been incorporated within the 18

month survey questionnaire. Graduation rates could therefore be assessed using data from the 18 month survey but some proxies still had to be used.

Graduation rates

This brief offers an update to an earlier document published in September 2015¹ that showed graduation rates for Cohorts 2.1 – 2.5. This brief includes graduation rates for Cohort 2.6.

Figure 1: Proportion of households graduating, by cohort

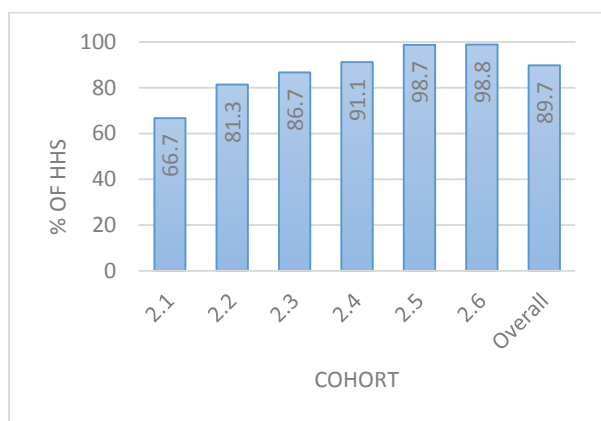


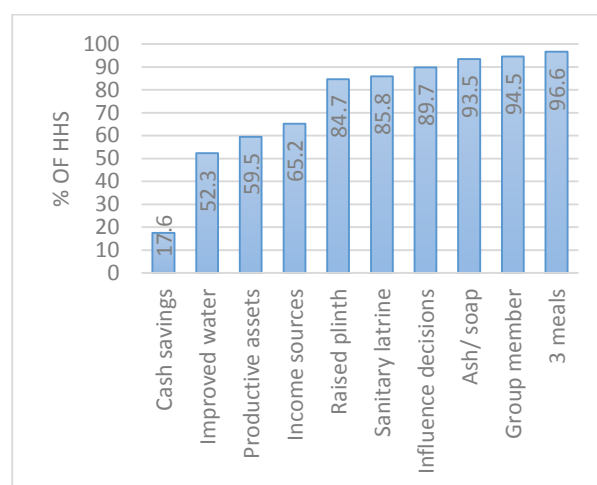
Figure 1 shows 89.7% of households from Cohorts 2.1 to 2.6 have graduated. This is equivalent to 69,989 households and 272,257 people. The Programme has therefore achieved its target in terms of graduation. CLP's target was that 85% of CPHHs should graduate.

The lower graduation rate for Cohort 2.1 is likely due to methodology issues (see methodology section above). Because the graduation criteria were only agreed at the start of 2014, data to assess graduation rates for Cohort 2.1 had to come from two separate surveys, depending on indicator: one survey 6 months before the end of support; and one

survey 10 months after support ended. The latter was effectively looking at sustainability of graduation for some indicators. The graduation rate for Cohort 2.1 is therefore likely to be an underestimation.

Which criteria are being met, and which are not?

Figure 2: Proportion of households meeting graduation criteria (Cohorts 2.1 - 2.6)



*NB Criteria have been paraphrased.

Figure 2 shows the graduation criteria being met by the vast majority of CPHHs:

- Household eats three meals a day AND consumes five or more food groups in the past week
- Household has membership of social group
- Presence of ash/ soap near to water point or latrine

These results are impressive when considering the starting point, or baseline status of CPHHs. For example, at baseline, only 37% of Cohort 2.6 households ate three meals a day AND consumed five or more food

¹ Kenward S & Hannan M; CLP; Graduation: Results for Cohorts 2.1 to 2.5; September 2015

groups in the previous week. Only 15% had ash / soap near to their water point or latrine.

Graduation criteria being met by relatively fewer households include:

- Household has cash savings of more than Tk 3,000
- Household has access to improved water
- Productive assets worth more than Tk 30,000

The cash savings value of Tk 3,000 was chosen because experience indicated it was enough to cushion the household should they need to relocate, e.g. due to erosion, which is a very common threat on the chars. At the time of preparing the graduation criteria this threshold of Tk 3,000 was above the value of the relocation grant offered by CLP (then Tk 2,000). In selecting the threshold of Tk 3,000 it was felt that the household would not only need cash savings to relocate but also to meet essential needs during the relocation period e.g. food.

On reflection, it is possible that this threshold is over-ambitious. Households might not actually wish to hold cash savings of this amount, rather choosing to invest the cash in productive assets.

Whilst just over 80% are not achieving this cash savings criteria at the end of the 18 month cycle, the average value of cash savings held by Cohort 2.1 to 2.6 households was Tk 2,557 at the 18 month mark: fairly close to the Tk 3,000 threshold. It's also important to note that CPHHs are starting from a very low cash savings base. For example the mean value of cash savings held by Cohort 2.6 at baseline was just Tk 49.

In terms of the access to improved water criteria, it should also be pointed out that at the start of CLP2 not all core participant

households were targeted to receive an improved water supply. This policy changed in 2013. CLP's Infrastructure Unit initiated a 're-sweep' meaning households that had left the CLP would be re-visited and provided with access to water. Whilst early cohorts benefitted from the re-sweep policy the official graduation rates have not been modified.

As for the asset value criteria (productive assets of Tk 30,000+), whilst 40% are not achieving this criteria at the end of the 18 month cycle, the average value of productive assets held by cohort 2.1 to 2.6 households was Tk 40,815 at the 18 month mark i.e. on average almost Tk 11,000 above the threshold. Some successful households are therefore clearly pushing up the mean values for productive assets.

Furthermore, data collected during the October 2015 annual survey shows that CPHHs on average continue to significantly accumulate their productive assets beyond the 18 month cycle. For example the mean value of productive assets held by Cohort 2.1 households was Tk 41,408, which, at the time of the survey, was 46 months after the end of support. This suggests the threshold of Tk 30,000+ for productive assets at the 18-month mark is possibly on the high side; it takes longer for households to reach this threshold than the time period CLP set for its graduation assessment.

Furthermore, when selected for the CLP, CPHHs are extremely poor and are starting from a very low productive asset base. For example the mean value of productive assets held by cohort 2.6 at baseline was just Tk 1,687.

The effect of adding Cohort 2.6 data to Cohort 2.1-2.5 analysis

This brief provides an update to an earlier version which presented analysis for Cohorts

2.1 to 2.5. The addition of Cohort 2.6 data has a negligible effect on the results that were presented in the earlier version:

- There is a slight change in graduation rates: from 87.8% (Cohorts 2.1-2.5) to 89.7% (Cohorts 2.1-2.6);
- The inclusion of Cohort 2.6 data to the Cohort 2.1-2.5 data does not alter the list of criteria being met by relatively few CPHHs at the 18 month point.
- Ditto the criteria being met by relatively many CPHHs.



HH members having 3 meals a day and consuming five or more food groups: one of the criteria that most HHs achieve

Assessing sustainability of graduation

CLP assessed whether households continued to meet the graduation criteria after the 18 month cycle. Annual surveys during October / November each year collected this data. The most recent report documenting the sustainability of graduation rates was published in March 2016² (and drew on data collected in October 2015). The report concluded graduation “rates sustain years after CLP support has ended (almost four years in the case of Cohort 2.1)”. Graduation rates were found to be 90% for Cohorts 2.1 to 2.5” (see Table 3).

Table 3: Graduation rates at end of support and in October 2015 (Cohorts 2.1 – 2.6)

Cohort	Graduation at 18 months	Graduation in Oct '15	Months between surveys
2.1	66.7	81.9	46
2.2	81.3	84.1	40
2.3	86.7	92.7	28
2.4	91.1	88.4	16
2.5	98.7	96.4	4
2.6	98.8	N.A.	N.A.
Weighted average	89.7*	90**	16.7**

*Cohorts 2.1-2.6

**Cohorts 2.1-2.5

If you wish to learn more about the CLP, the process of how CLP developed its graduation criteria etc. please visit the CLP website: www.clp-bangladesh.org

² Kenward S and Hannan M; CLP; Achieving Outcomes: Headline Results from the 2015 Annual Survey; March 2016