

## Graduation: Results for cohorts 2.1 to 2.5

### Summary

CLP has been providing an integrated package of support to 78,026 extremely poor core participant households since 2010. This support ends in March 2016. The Programme aims for 85% of these households to 'graduate.'

The Programme finalised a set of ten graduation criteria and methodology to assess graduation during the first quarter of 2014. To graduate, a household must meet (any) six or more criteria within three 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 87.8% of cohorts 2.1 to 2.5 have graduated. The Programme is therefore on target in terms of graduation.

Criteria which high proportions of households meet:

- 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 being 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

A report documenting the sustainability of graduation rates was published in May 2015.

### Background



A CLP participant on course to graduate

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

The following table illustrates the schedule of support to each 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
			<b>78,026</b>

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

258,000 people. CLP has developed a set of ten criteria to define graduation, which relate to the multiple dimensions of poverty. Progress in meeting the ten criteria enable the Programme to assess whether a household is 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 was finally agreed. The criteria and thresholds are shown in the table below.

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

Criteria domain	Criteria and thresholds
<b>Income/ expenditure/ consumption</b>	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
<b>Nutrition</b>	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
<b>Asset base</b>	6. Productive assets worth more than Tk 30,000
<b>Status of females</b>	7. Participant is able to influence household decisions regarding sale/ purchase of large investments e.g. cattle
<b>Vulnerability</b>	8. Homestead is above known flood level
	9. Household has cash savings of more than Tk 3,000
<b>Access to services</b>	10. Household has membership of social group



Cash savings: a CLP graduation criterion

## Methodology

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

This brief offers graduation rates for Cohorts 2.1 to 2.5 only. CLP's support to Cohort 2.6 will continue up to February 2016 which is when graduation rates for this cohort will be assessed.

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 were the 18<sup>th</sup> and final months of support to Cohorts 2.1 and 2.2 respectively. The questionnaires administered during the last month of support had not yet fully incorporated questions directly related to the current graduation criteria.

For Cohort 2.1, graduation rates therefore had to be assessed using data from two different surveys taken six months before the end of support and ten months after the end of support – depending on the indicator. For a few of the graduation criteria we 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 18<sup>th</sup> month of Cohort 2.2, the M&E system had developed further and more questions related to the current 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 is an update to an earlier brief published in November 2014<sup>1</sup> that showed graduation rates for Cohorts 2.1 – 2.4. This brief includes graduation rates for Cohort 2.5.

**Figure 1: % of households graduated, by cohort**

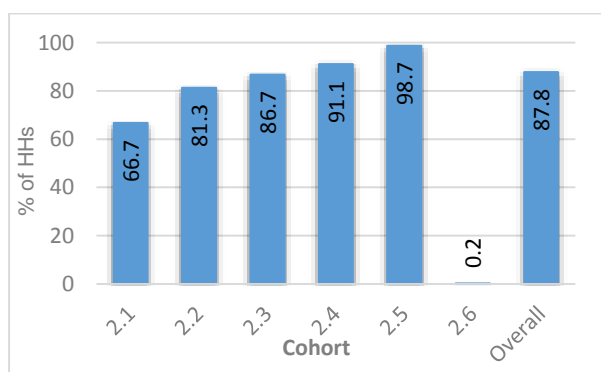


Figure 1 shows 87.8% of households from cohorts 2.1 to 2.5 have graduated. This is equivalent to 56,575 households and 220,642 people. The Programme is therefore on target in terms of graduation. CLP’s target is to graduate 85% of core participant households.

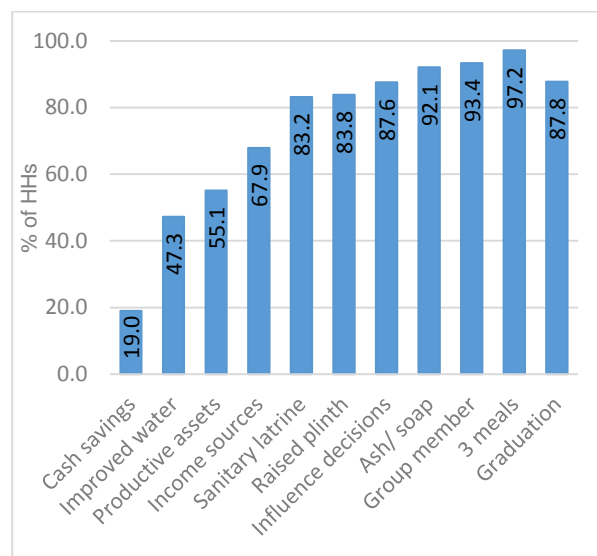
To provide context, the graduation rates for Cohort 2.6 are also shown but this is baseline data i.e. pre-CLP support. Predictably almost no households graduate (only 0.2%).

<sup>1</sup> Kenward S & Hannan M; CLP; Graduation: Results for Cohorts 2.1 to 2.4; November 2014

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 six months before the end of support; and one survey ten 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: % households meeting graduation criteria (cohorts 2.1 -2.5)**



\*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. At baseline, only 37% of Cohort 2.6 households ate three meals a day AND consumed five or more food 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 as a graduation criterion 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 criterion at the end of the 18 month cycle, the average value of cash savings held by Cohort 2.1 to 2.5 households was Tk 2,482 at the time of data collection: fairly close to the Tk 3,000 threshold. It's also



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

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 criterion, it should also be pointed out that at the start of CLP 2 not all core participant households were targeted to receive an improved water supply. This policy changed in 2012 when CLP's Infrastructure Unit initiated a 're-sweep', meaning households that had left CLP would be re-visited and provided with access to water. All CPHHs will now gain access to an improved water source.

As for the asset value criterion (productive assets of Tk 30,000+), whilst just over 50% are not achieving this criterion at the end of the 18 month cycle, the average value of productive assets held by cohort 2.1 to 2.5 households was Tk 38,545 at the time of data collection i.e. on average almost Tk 9,000 above the threshold. Some successful households are therefore clearly pushing up the mean values for productive assets.

Furthermore, data collected during the October 2014 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 62,413, which, at the time of the survey, was 34 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 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 2.5 data to Cohort 2.1-2.4 analysis

This brief provides an update to an earlier version which presented analysis for Cohorts 2.1 to 2.4. The addition of Cohort 2.5 data has a negligible effect on the results that were presented in the earlier version:

- There is a slight change in graduation rates: from 85% (Cohorts 2.1-2.4) to 87.8% (Cohorts 2.1-2.5)
- The inclusion of Cohort 2.5 data to the Cohort 2.1-2.4 data does not alter the list of criteria being met by relatively few CPHHs
- Ditto the criteria being met by vast majority of CPHHs

### Assessing sustainability of graduation

CLP continues to assess whether households continue to meet the graduation criteria after the 18 month cycle. Annual surveys during October / November each year collect this data. The most recent report documenting the sustainability of graduation rates was published in May 2015<sup>2</sup> (and drew on data collected in October/ November 2014). The report concluded that “graduation rates for

Cohorts 2.1 to 2.4 have not changed in the (weighted average) 16.7 months since the end of CLP support. Graduation rates were found to be 85% for Cohorts 2.1 to 2.4” (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Graduation rates at end of support and in October/ November '14 (Cohorts 2.1 – 2.4)**

Cohort	Graduation at 18 months	Graduation in Oct/ Nov '14	Months between surveys
2.1	66.7	75	34
2.2	81.3	74.5	28
2.3	86.7	90.4	16
2.4	91.1	91.2	4
Weighted average (2.1-2.4)	84.9	85.4	16.7

The forthcoming 2015 annual survey will also collect data on the sustainability of graduation rates. The results will be available in the first quarter of 2016.

If you wish to learn more about CLP, the process of how CLP developed its graduation criteria etc. please write to: [info@clp-bangladesh.org](mailto:info@clp-bangladesh.org) or visit CLP website: [www.clp-bangladesh.org](http://www.clp-bangladesh.org)

<sup>2</sup> Kenward et al; CLP; CLP Graduation Rates: How Sustainable are They? April 2015