CLP CHARS LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

Chars Livelihoods Programme
Reducing Extreme Poverty on the Riverine Islands of North West Bangladesh

Graduation:
Results for cohorts 2.1 to 2.4

Summary:

The CLP will provide an integrated package of support to 78,000 extreme poor core participant households between 2010 and 2016. The Programme aims for 85% of these households to 'graduate.'

The Programme finalised a set of 10 graduation criteria and methodology during the first quarter of 2014. To graduate, a household must 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 85% of cohorts 2.1 to 2.4 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 will be published during the first quarter of 2015.

Background

A CLP participant on course to graduate

The Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) aims to provide 78,000 extreme 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) therefore receive 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	13,564
			78,000

* "2" denotes phase 2 of CLP. "1" denotes the first phase of CLP 2.

The Programme's target is for 85% of households to graduate, equivalent to 66,300

households and approximately 258,000 people. The CLP has developed a set of 10 criteria to define graduation, which relate to the multiple dimensions of poverty. Progress in meeting the 10 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 has taken time. In March 2014 the criteria and methodology was finally agreed. The criteria are shown in the table below.

Criteria domain	Criteria
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

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

Methodology

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

Graduation rates have been assessed only for cohorts 2.1[1] to 2.4 because cohorts 2.5 and 2.6 have not completed their 18 month cycles.

Data was collected from a sample of households for each of the four cohorts, 2.1 to 2.4. For cohorts 2.2 to 2.4 data was collected during the 18th month of support. For cohort 2.1 data was analysed from two surveys (six months before the end of support and 10 months after the end of support – depending on indicator). This is because when Cohort 2.1 support concluded the current graduation criteria had not been agreed and the M&E system had therefore not been developed to efficiently capture the information.

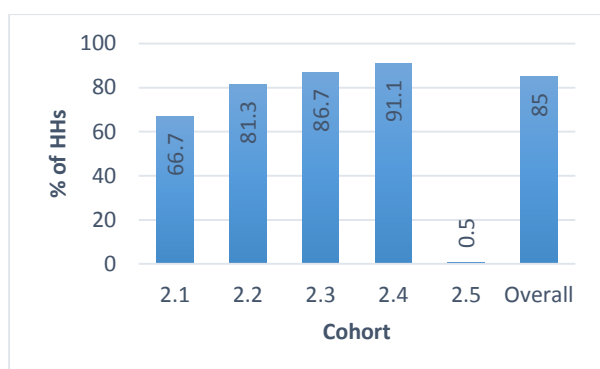*Cash savings, one of CLP's ten graduation criteria*

Graduation rates

Figure 1 shows 85% of households from cohorts 2.1 to 2.4 have graduated. This is equivalent to 43,156 households and 167,877

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[1] "2" denotes phase 2 of CLP. "1" denotes the first phase of CLP 2.

people. The Programme is therefore on target in terms of graduation.

To provide context, the graduation rates for cohort 2.5 are also shown but this is baseline data i.e. pre-CLP support. Predictably almost no households graduate.
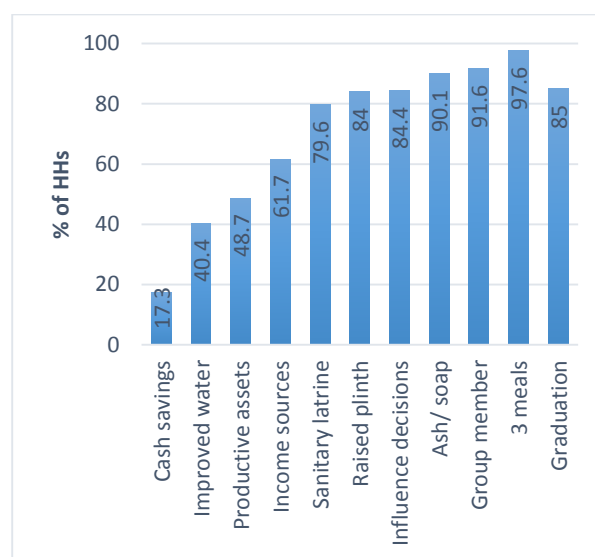
Figure 1: % of households graduated, by cohort

The lower graduation rate for Cohort 2.1 is likely due to methodology issues. The graduation criteria were only recently concluded (March 2014). Data came from two separate surveys, depending on indicator, one survey 6 months before the end of support and one survey 10 months after support ended. This was effectively looking at sustainability of graduation from some indicators. Graduation rates for Cohort 2.1 are therefore likely to be slightly underestimated.

Which criteria are being met, and which are not?

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

*NB Criteria have been paraphrased.

These results are impressive when considering the starting point, or baseline status of CPHHs. Only 26.3% of cohort 2.5 households ate three meals a day AND consumed five or more food groups in the previous week at baseline. Only 22.2% 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 logic behind the cash savings value of Tk 3,000 was that this was deemed to be an appropriate amount to cushion a household against the need to relocate the homestead as a result of erosion, a 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 2.4 households was Tk 2,467 at the time of data collection, actually not too far from the 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 2.5 at baseline was just Tk 129.

In terms of the access to improved water criteria, 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. 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. All CPHHs will now gain access to an improved water source.

Access to water, one of CLP's ten graduation criteria

As for the asset value criteria (productive assets of Tk 30,000+), whilst just over 50% 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 2.4 households was Tk 35,739 at the time of data collection i.e. on average almost Tk 6,000 above the threshold. Some successful households are therefore clearly pushing up the mean values for productive assets.

Furthermore, data collected during the October 2013 annual survey shows that CPHHs on average continue to accumulate their productive assets beyond the 18 month cycle. For example the mean value of productive assets held by CLP 1 HHs was Tk 65,238 which, at the time of the survey, was 3-7 years after support. Similarly the mean value of productive assets held by 2.1 households was Tk 47,747, which, at the time of the survey, was three years after support. This suggests the threshold of Tk 30,000+ for productive assets at the 18 month mark is possibly on the high side and could potentially be adjusted downward to be more realistic.

It's also important to note that, when selected for the CLP, CPHHs are extremely poor, and therefore starting from a very low productive asset base. For example the mean value of productive assets held by cohort 2.5 at baseline was just Tk 1,675.

The next steps

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. IMLC is currently managing the annual survey which includes collecting graduation data from cohorts 2.1 – 2.4. The sustainability of graduation results will be published during the first quarter 2015.

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