



Overview of Quarterly Change Reports and Self-Review Workshops November 2010-January 2011

What is this document?

This document collates information from the Quarterly Change Reports (submitted November-December 2010) and Self-Review Workshops (conducted December 2010-January 2011) of 10 Innovation Fund Round 1&2 partners. The Quarterly Change Reports are prepared using data from CMS4 and CMS5 activities.

What does it say?

First, the document picks out shared experiences of beneficiaries (BHHs) across the portfolio (from the Quarterly Change Reports).

Secondly, the document examines these shared experiences in more depth, taking NGO staff's own accounts from the Self-Review Workshops.

In some cases, wording has been adapted to keep project-specific issues private.

How should it be used?

The document (and the methodologies used to provide the information) simply report the accounts of BHHs and partner NGO staff. The document is not exhaustive, but picks out a few of the most common shared experiences. As it is based on perception, it should not be treated as pure fact.

That said, this process did very clearly flag up issues which were repeatedly experienced across the Innovation Fund portfolio. Further discussion on these issues with BHHs, NGO staff, and shiree PMs, will allow for further expansion of the issues raised.



Quarterly Change Reports

NB: This section only takes into account what was said in the Quarterly Change Reports. Nothing from Self-Review Workshops or other project knowledge is included here.

Overall Findings

4 main shared findings

- In many NGOs, incomes have not yet increased sufficiently to significantly change the income sources of BHHs, or graduate them from extreme poverty.
 - For those fattening livestock, sales periods have not yet arrived. Secondary interventions (such as homestead vegetables) have had marginal income impact.
 - Agricultural interventions have in many cases struggled due to problematic economic models (insufficient land available, market linkages not fully established etc).
- However, there have been notable changes in nutrition in some NGOs.
 - This tends to be from consumption of homestead vegetables or other agricultural produce.
 - While not necessarily significantly increasing the total food consumed, there has been some transfer of consumption from purchased goods to self-produced goods.
- Access to social protection (safety nets, VGD cards, VGF cards etc) is a problem for BHHs across the portfolio.
 - In some cases, BHHs have even had their VGD cards taken away since becoming involved in the project. Generally, the UPs prefer not to include people involved in NGO projects.
 - There are, however, some promising signs from service providers in a few projects (eg. Livestock offices in a couple of NGOs, and health clinics across many of the projects).
- Illness was generally seen by BHHs as the most significant hindrance to success with the project (and to graduation from poverty).
 - This includes both children getting ill and requiring medication, as well as the HH head getting ill so struggling to work.

Shared experiences in steps towards graduation

- BHHs tend to prefer building savings by investing in assets rather saving cash in banks or elsewhere.

Shared experiences in major barriers to graduation

- External problems still some of the most talked about problems.
 - Food costs are high.
 - Natural disasters cause problems.
- Repayment of informal loans is becoming a barrier to graduation for many BHHs.
 - The NGOs have been discouraging BHHs from working with microfinance institutions, but some have taken out informal loans (with high interest rates) to cover consumption, medication, dowry etc.

- Poor WATSAN facilities continue to be a major issue of concern for BHHs.

Comparison of individual points mentioned across portfolio (not exhaustive)

	NGO1	NGO2	NGO3	NGO4	NGO5	NGO6	NGO7	NGO8	NGO9	NGO10
Illness still major barrier	■		■		■		■	■	■	■
Buying new assets	■	■	■			■	■			■
Incomes not greatly increasing		■	■	■	■		■			
Natural disaster occurring causes hindrance	■		■		■				■	■
Struggle to pay back informal loans			■	■	■				■	■
Lack of hygienic facilities		■	■			■			■	■
Assets stolen/dying	■	■			■		■			
Savings in groups				■		■			■	■
Food prices high					■		■			■
Link of IGA to social status/asked advice etc	■				■			■		
Migration away from working area			■	■		■				
Particularly bad experience of UP	■			■	■					
Awareness of health and hygiene improving		■		■			■			
Changes in mentality – the way BHHs do things		■							■	■
Saving money by consuming own produce	■	■			■					
Empowerment, rights, and knowledge increased	■			■						
Problems for older age/physically challenged to make most of project	■		■							
Problems with gender remain		■								
Project takes time from day labour	■									
Savings in bank	■				■					
Beneficiaries migrating		■		■						
Women less empowered than men	■									
Day labour – more available					■					
Diversity needed round the year. No income in season.				■						
Would like to save in local bank		■								
Use of land		■								
Good help of UP in some cases			■							
In conclusion section: Social issues undervalued in project design			■							



NB: These accounts are reported by NGO staff at Self-Review Workshops. They build on field staff's experiences conducting CMS exercises with BHHs, but are not the accounts of BHHs directly. Relevant sections from the NGO's Self-Review Workshops are reported here (categorized by significant theme), and where applicable, NGO's recommendations for solution are highlighted.

Overall Findings

Minimal short-term income for BHHs.
"Beneficiary losing interest in rearing cattle for poor milk production." Lack of land for secondary produce.
"Single income earning opportunity is not enough to lift extremely poor out of poverty... Diversify IGAs (need based) with low investment."
"No regular income – unable to purchase meat to meet nutritional demand"
Cattle not producing sufficient income. Homestead vegetables produce little with no land access/insufficient capital. Keen to have secondary assets like ducks.
Lack of short-term income. Causes sale of labour in advance, migration, taking out of informal loans (as MFI discouraged)

Safety nets are insufficiently distributed.
"UP stopped supporting BHH" since becoming involved in project
6% receive safety nets. Claims that LGI prefers to give to those not working with NGOs. Hope to organise workshop/meeting with UP and BHHs to share opinion with each others.
"Union Parishad excluded households because they are getting support from the project"
"BHH are not getting any support from UP after becoming project beneficiaries (VGO, VGF, WATSAN, Cash for work) - More NGO involvement further reduces Gov involvement!" Hope to invite UP to discussion meetings.
"Access to safety net (BHHs are not getting state allowances which are allocated for them; only 7% BHHs included in the safety nets so far. staff members of the project working on it but LG representatives are avoiding them mentioning that the BHHs are getting support from NGO; other people who are not getting support from NGO needs this support"
"BHH are not preferred for saftyenet support from UP after becoming project beneficiaries (VGD, VGF, WATSAN, Cash for work)"
"BHH are not getting any support from UP after becoming project beneficiaries (VGD, VGF, WATSAN, Cash for work)"

Physically incapable/dependent struggling to make the most of projects.
"Old and weak beneficiary selected among the poorest is creating hindrance to project implementation." Proposal: "Discuss with senior management and Shiree authority to segregate Safety net beneficiaries and potential project beneficiaries."
"Most vulnerable HHs such as widow, old, disabled, minority people are unable to work with the land." No solutions proposed.
"Single member/single earning member BHHs... Can't regularly contribute to fallow land cultivation."
"Cattle health deteriorates day by day for poor feeding and management by physically handicapped and very old beneficiaries." Suggest using neighbours on share system.
"Aged, disables, lactating mothers are unable to work in the field"
"Widowed, physically weak and disabled are less able to carry out activities. Approximately 50 members."

Some important barriers to graduation identified which project is not currently addressing.

Illness a major factor and largely due to water and sanitation issues. More linkage with UP, other related projects is necessary.

Lack of social awareness.

“Many of BHHs do not have sanitary latrine and Tubewell”. Hope to make links with GOB, UP and other NGOs

“Lots of BHHs do not have sanitary latrine”. Hope to liaise with GOB, UP and other NGOs.

“Peoples are suffering from different kinds of diseases” because “Nutritional status of beneficiaries are inadequate” and because “Lots of BHHs do not have sanitary latrine and Tubewell”. Hope to liaise with GOB, UP and other NGOs.

- “Most of the people of (the) area are sick... Most of the sickness related to water and sanitation”. Hope to create links with UP.
- Many children not in school due to remoteness. Hopes to increase awareness and links to schools.

Natural disasters causing problems for projects and BHHs.

Flash flood. Most BHHs tried to save their resources, and there was some disaster management sessions, but not sufficient.

Planting was late and therefore damaged more by rain. Sowing/planting of seed needs to be done more timely.

Flood.

Programmatic problems, which could be avoided by more in-depth planning.

(Livestock) purchased under weight and do not give optimum growth rate, and lack of budget for sheds. “Marketing: there is no secure market linkages to buyers.”

Lack of suitable suppliers or buyers.

No money for packaging, weighing or collecting products, or for transport.

Land selected has inappropriate water levels.

“No place for keeping asset (cattle, poultry duck) including bi-products (cowdung).”

- Shortage of feed for (livestock).
- Low quality (livestock) purchased.
- (Livestock) vaccines not available in working area.
- Worm prone area.
- (Livestock) procurement process was rushed and under-funded.
- Artificial insemination of insufficient quality.
- Homestead vegetables produce little with no land access/insufficient capital.

Many challenges related to livestock maintenance, artificial insemination process, feeding, etc.

“Insufficient amount of land allocated to each BHHs - 6 decimal of is not enough for graduation.”

“Suitable land was not available close to the home of BHHs, as such 28 bighas of land for 154 BHHs were taken lease far away from their living place.”

“Owner of 92 bighas of land demanded more lease value for second year.”

Distance between BHH and intervention. Market linkage problems. Unreliable prices from export-oriented product.

- Market value of land wasn't accurately assessed, shortage of organic manure, land preparation was poor.
- BHHs in some cases are incapable of managing 45 decimals.
- Female BHHs are unable to continue regular day-jobs such as cleaning as they have to work on project land.

Long-term sustainability will be a challenge.

“Ownership has not yet been fully developed – BHHs assumed that the project will take care of everything – need to encourage independence.”

Project period short.

Some BHHs gave assets for dowry/loans. Strong groups and messages shared with other groups used to mitigate.

Social problems connected to interventions.

“Land lords are against the success of the BDC because they fear they won’t have labour.”

“Many people are still not invited to social activities. I.e. their status hasn’t been increased sufficiently from the intervention.”

Religious leaders warned BHHs against participation, suggesting that it would force them to become Christian.

“Competition between share cropper and (NGO) – Many sharecropper requested land lord not to lease land to (NGO).”

“Some BHHs are not willing to rear hogs because of social exclusion. Two out of five beneficiaries (CMS-5) also indicated that cow/goats should be given instead of pigs.”

Challenges continue in implementing innovative projects.

“Single income earning opportunity is not enough to lift extremely poor out of poverty.”

Many problems in implementation to do with salinity.

Lead BHH and Wage Labour BHH system does not work.

Migration continues.

Doesn’t provide enough food in Monga. Monopoly milk buyer (BRAC).

Insufficient land available and allocation.

Migration continues. Monsoon-season IGAs needed.

Creating new markets is difficult.