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IDEAL

ENSURE DFAP Final Performance Evaluation Presentation

TANGO International



Meet our Presenters

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Agenda

- Main Findings
- Methods
- Findings and Conclusions
- Recommendations
- Q&A Session

ENSURE Context

- **Nationally:** 28% of rural population food insecure (ZimVac 2018, 2019)
- **Nationally:** # severely food insecure expected to increase 200% from 567,000 in April/June 2018 to 2.4M between Jul 2018 - Mar 2019
- **2015, 2016, 2017:** Widespread drought, erratic rainfall, and dry spells had a significant negative impact on food security
- **2016 - 2017:** Emergency food assistance response in Manicaland and Masvingo
- Fall armyworm infestations
- Cyclone Idai March 2019 affected over a quarter million people in five ENSURE districts
- Devaluation of local currency and hyperinflation
- By Dec 2018, food prices >50% higher than 2017

Main Findings

ENSURE participants have been successful in a very challenging economic and environmental context

Gains evident in:

- Health and child nutrition
- Agricultural and livestock production, incomes
- Community assets
- Community disaster preparedness and early warning
- Linkages with local government
- Increased access for women to savings, loans, income, community participation

Mixed results at the population level



Methods

Quantitative Survey

- Population-based survey of 1,360 households (HHs)

Qualitative Study

- 46 FGDs with 498 participants (355 F, 143 M)
- 80 KIIs with project participants (35 F, 45 M)
- Four project districts
- Desk review

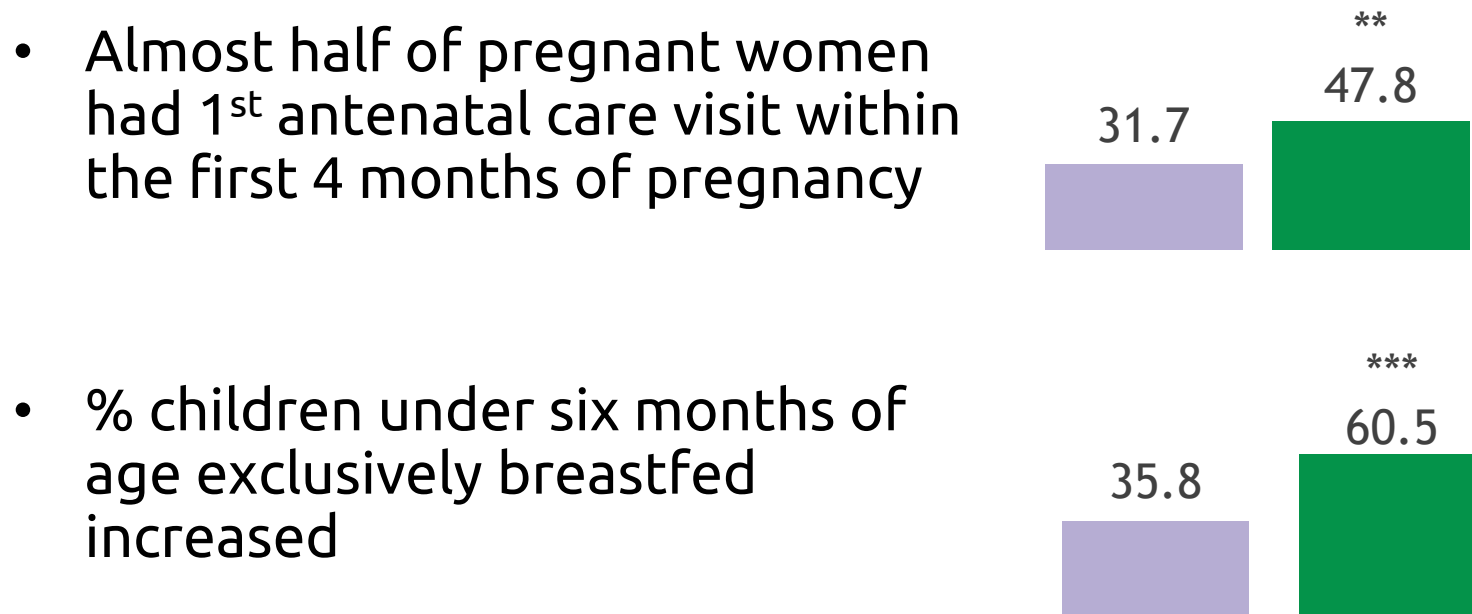




SO1:
Nutrition among
women of
reproductive age
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SO1: Nutrition among women of reproductive age and CU5 improved

Improvements from **baseline** to **endline**:

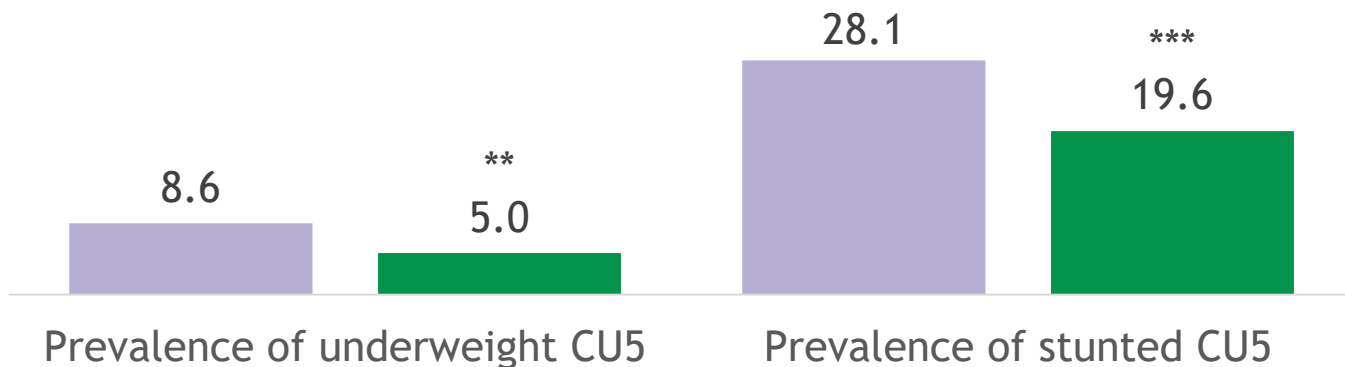


SO1: Nutrition among women of reproductive age and CU5 improved

Improvements:

Lower prevalence of underweight, stunted CU5 at **endline** than **baseline**

- No change in other nutritional indicators – reflect difficult environment



SO1: Nutrition among women of reproductive age and CU5 improved

- HH Dietary Diversity Score decreased slightly; no change in Women's DDS
- But participants perceived improvements in health and nutrition of mothers and children under two
- Improvements attributed to more nutritious foods due to dams and community gardens, village savings and lending groups, small enterprise activities, income from value chains



SO1: Nutrition among women of reproductive age and CU5 improved

Strengths

- Care Group model created effective peer networks
- Highly effective BCC materials and interpersonal communication
- Barrier analysis helped to ID barriers and facilitators to behavior change
- Early engagement of community leaders, elders and male advocates through dialogue and counselling
- Engagement of other influential people in the HH (mothers-in-law, men)
- High stakeholder engagement (MoHCC, Ministry of Gender) esp. at district level in barrier analysis, IEC materials, training and monitoring

SO1: Nutrition among women of reproductive age and CU5 improved

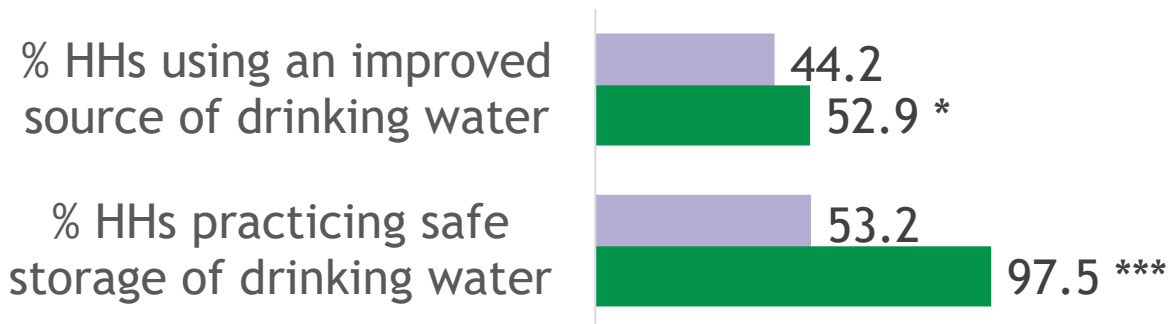
Challenges

- Sharing of supplementary feeding rations in HHs with other children
- Inadequate supervision of monthly CG sessions for the CGL and male advocates by the VHWs using a standardized quality improvement checklist
- Limited coverage in districts
- Relies on volunteers

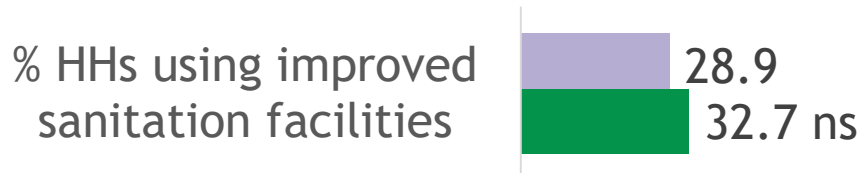
SO1: Nutrition among women of reproductive age and CU5 improved

WASH activities to support improved health & nutrition

Improvements from **baseline** to **endline**:



No change:



SO1: Nutrition among women of reproductive age and CU5 improved

WASH Qualitative Data:

- Community Health Clubs instrumental in helping members identify, analyze, and improve health/hygiene
- Perceived decline in diarrhea among CU5 (quant survey: no significant difference)
- Community water management groups are ensuring that water points function; water access still a major concern
- VS&Ls supported latrine construction and water points repairs
- Integration of nutrition and agriculture contributed to improvements in MCHN and adoption of health practices



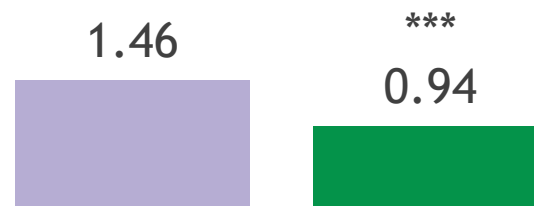
SO₂:
Vulnerable
households'
income increased

SO2: Vulnerable Households' Income Increased

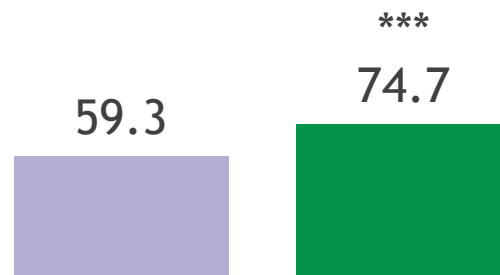
No change in poverty

Other indicators **worsened** from **baseline** to **endline**

Per capita daily expenditures
(Zim 2019\$) decreased



Mean depth of poverty
(using TPCPDL) increased



SO2: Vulnerable Households' Income Increased

- Strengthen knowledge and skills in dryland crop production
- Create Food for Assets-supported irrigation works
- Support 5 value chains centered around formation of producer and marketing groups
- Form VS&L groups



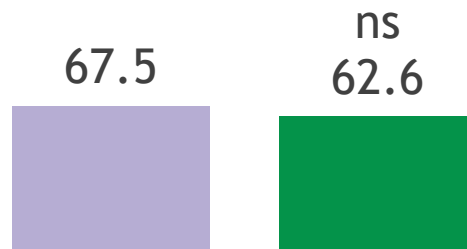
SO2: Vulnerable Households' Income Increased

From **baseline** to **endline**:

Improvement: increase in % of farmers using financial services



No change in % of farmers who used 5 sustainable ag practices in last 12 months



SO2: Vulnerable Households' Income Increased

Challenges:

Successive years of drought; Cyclone Idai March 2019

Farmers shifted focus from production to recovery

No statistically significant change in:

- Percentage of farmers using value chain activities promoted by ENSURE in past 12 months
- Percentage of farmers using at least 5 sustainable ag practices/technologies in past 12 months
- Declines in NRM, improved storage practices



SO2: Vulnerable Households' Income Increased

FGDs, KIs present more positive perceptions

Agricultural productivity improved due to skills and resources acquired under ENSURE (FGDs)

- Sorghum value chain promotion improved production and increased sales
- Women say participating in poultry and goat value chains increased their income

When drought made some value chains less viable, ENSURE shifted to market-systems approach

- Supported efforts to diversify into non-farm enterprises and promote resilience



SO2: Vulnerable households' income increased

VS&L

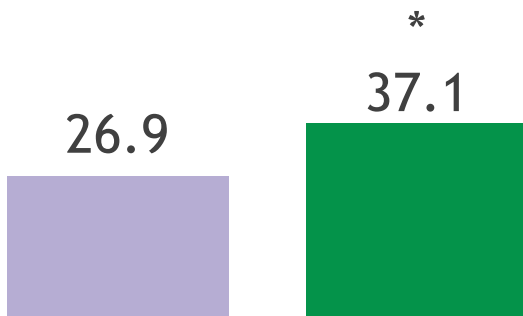
- Highly successful; gave women access to interest on savings and to loans, many for the first time
- Contributed financially to activities across all 3 SOs
- Financial literacy increased
- Over 1 in 4 farmers using financial services by endline
- Inflation creating a challenge for VS&Ls
 - Some banks have stopped lending (e.g., poultry)
 - Some VS&Ls converting cash to goods or to foreign currency to preserve value



SO3:
Resilience to food
insecurity of
communities
improved

SO3: Resilience to food insecurity of communities improved

The prevalence of moderate or severe hunger increased from **baseline** to **endline**



Consistent with Zimbabwe's economic decline

- High prices and inflation
- Several years of drought, disasters, rising cost of goods

SO3: Resilience to food insecurity of communities improved

Most ENSURE FGDs said they are more food secure, despite shocks

- Especially HHs with access to irrigated community gardens and water for livestock
- Due to drought, farmers harvested half their normal crop; before ENSURE they would have harvested nothing





SO3: Resilience to food insecurity of communities improved

Collaborative management of community assets

- Dams, natural resources, local watersheds
- Contributed to increased crop and livestock production

Reactivating, strengthening Disaster Management Committees was successful

- Value demonstrated during/after Cyclone Idai



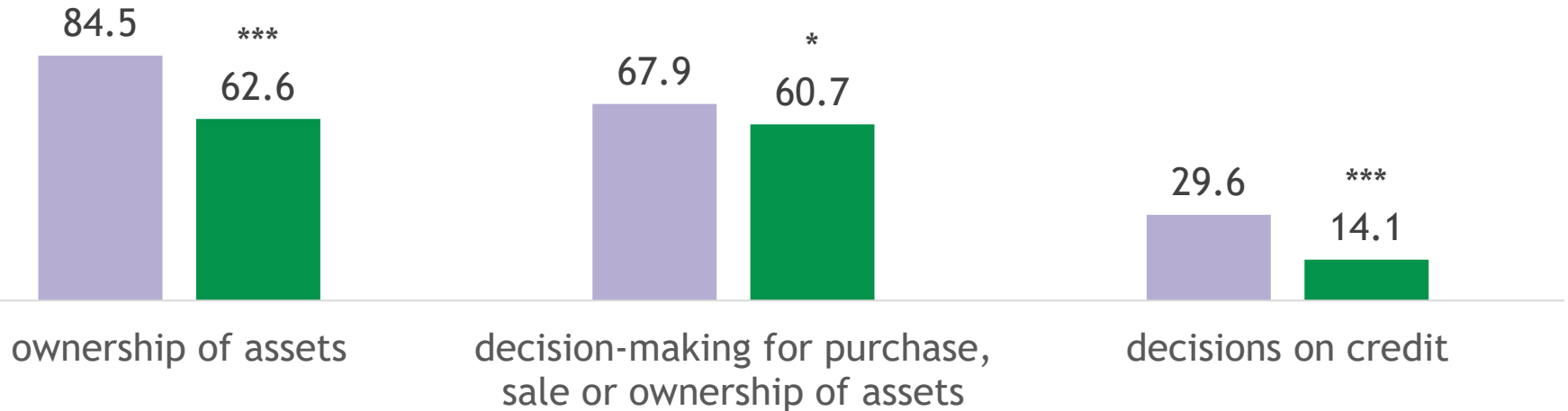
Gender

- Promote gender equity messages across all activities
- Facilitate creation of VS&Ls and productive IGAs for women
- Women in leadership roles in community committees

Gender

All three women's gender indicators decreased between the **2014 baseline** and the **2019 endline**

The % of women with agency in:



Gender

FGDs report improvements in self-perception among women

Result: Increased women's participation in their communities

- Women have committee leadership roles
- Women see themselves as leaders (as do more men)
- Women and men report behavior changes (more gender equity in HH labor and decision-making; reduced GBV)
- Men's fora a safe space for men to learn behaviors that benefit the family (not all men accept the changes, but HHs that see benefits from shared decision-making more likely to sustain changes)

Sustainability



- Individual HHs saw benefits from improved knowledge and complementary practices
- VS&Ls motivated but challenged by environment
- Local government support, especially at ward level
- Limited government capacity/resources for continued support
- Challenge of meeting maintenance costs for dams
- Drought, disaster, economic context limiting factors



Recommendations

Recommendations

R1: Maximize integration of program activities to enhance health and nutrition gains and strengthen community resilience

R2: Make longer-term investments

- Allow sufficient time for behavior change
- Coincide with agricultural cycles
- Longer timeframe for wider effect

R3: Design M&E systems to better capture impact

- An IE with a control group to give the best measure of results attributable to the program
- Better capture results reflected in qualitative study

Recommendations

R4: Ensure that the Care Group model cascade strategy is adequately supported and monitored

R5: Use social behavior change communication to enhance project integration

- Understanding barriers, motivations

R6: Use formative research to identify the barriers and facilitators to improved practices

Recommendations

R7: Link community-based committees to government agencies to strengthen sustainability

R8: Use a responsive and flexible approach to adapt to contextual changes

- Make drought, disaster, economic challenges a focus of resilience-building efforts



Q&A Session



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