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**IDEAL**

# Fararano DFAP Final Performance Evaluation

TANGO International



# Meet our Presenters

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Vice President, TANGO International

# Fararano Context

## Project design stage 2014:

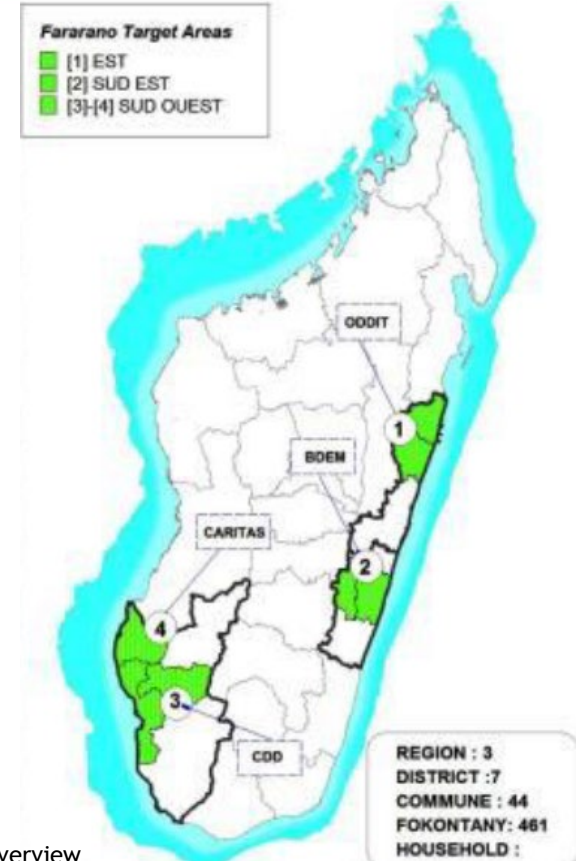
- Political crisis → degraded infrastructure, public services
- Three cyclones/year (average)
  - Cyclone Giovanna in 2012

## National estimates

- 78% of Malagasy population in poverty (2012)

## In the four target regions...

- >50% of households food insecure
- >80% living on less than \$2/day
- almost 50% of children chronically undernourished



# Main Findings

## **Gains evident in:**

- Child health and nutrition outcomes
- Per capita expenditures (as a proxy for income)
- Knowledge of improved agriculture practices
- Community capacity to manage shocks (i.e., cyclones)
- Community engagement for women and youth

## **Mixed results**

- WASH, NRM, DRR (drought), sustainability

# Main Findings: Targeting

## Targeting

- Geographic targeting approach was appropriate
- - but geographic dispersion and remote sites posed challenges for project implementers
- Only 40% of direct participants indicated they were involved in agriculture and nutrition interventions



# Main Findings:

## Program design and management

### Factors that contributed to outcomes

- Project's integrated approach
- The role of CRS's implementing partners
- The benefits of SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Community) membership, which cut across project purposes
- *Fokontany*-level governance work
  - More work needed to consolidate local governance structures and processes

### Constraints

- Highly ambitious and overly-complex design
- Varied contexts across project zones
- Difficult to integrate and sequence ~20 intervention models

# Methods

## Quantitative Survey

- 1,093 households in three regions in June 2019
- Population-based survey
- Multi-stage clustered sampling approach

## Qualitative Study

- 80 FGDs (625 participants: 399 F, 226 M) in 10 core sites
- 45 KIIs (19 F, 29 M)
- Observation of 12 infrastructure investments
  - Water, sanitation, irrigation, feeder roads
- Desk review



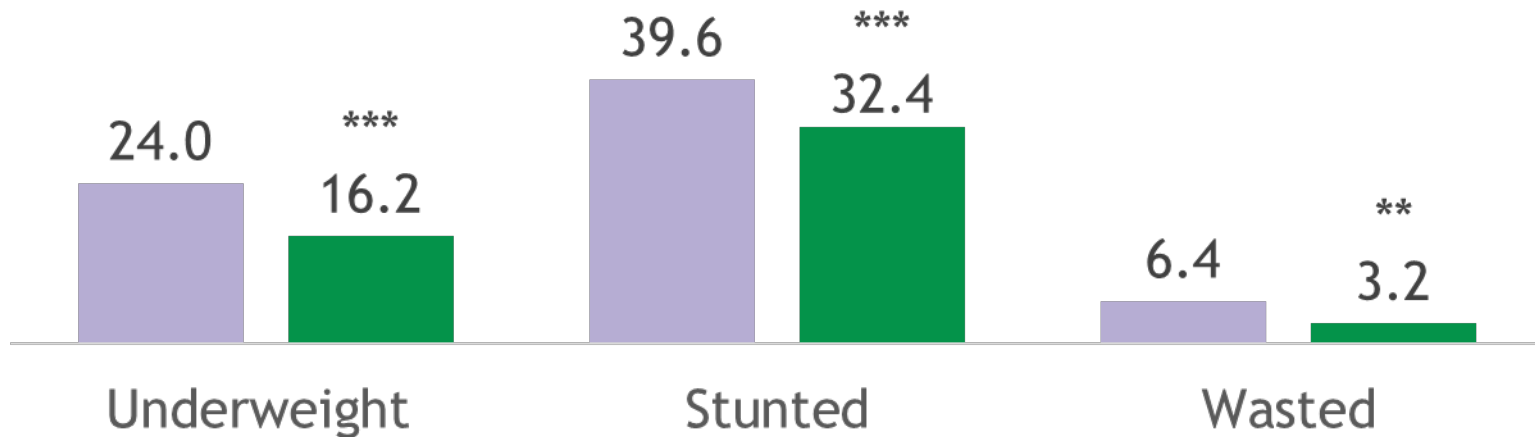
**Purpose 1:**  
Undernutrition is  
prevented among  
children under 2



# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

## Improvement:

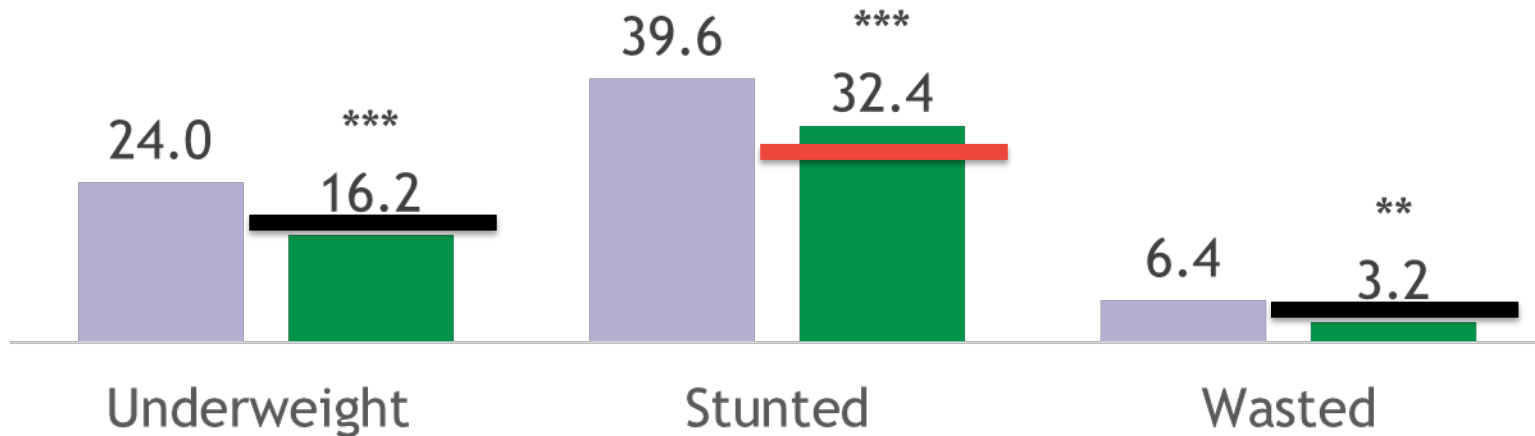
Prevalence of CU5 underweight, stunting, and wasting declined from **baseline** to **endline**



ns = not significant, + p<0.1, \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

- Fararano exceeded end-of-program **targets** for
  - Underweight (**17%**) and wasting (**4%**)
- Did NOT reach target for stunting (**31%**)

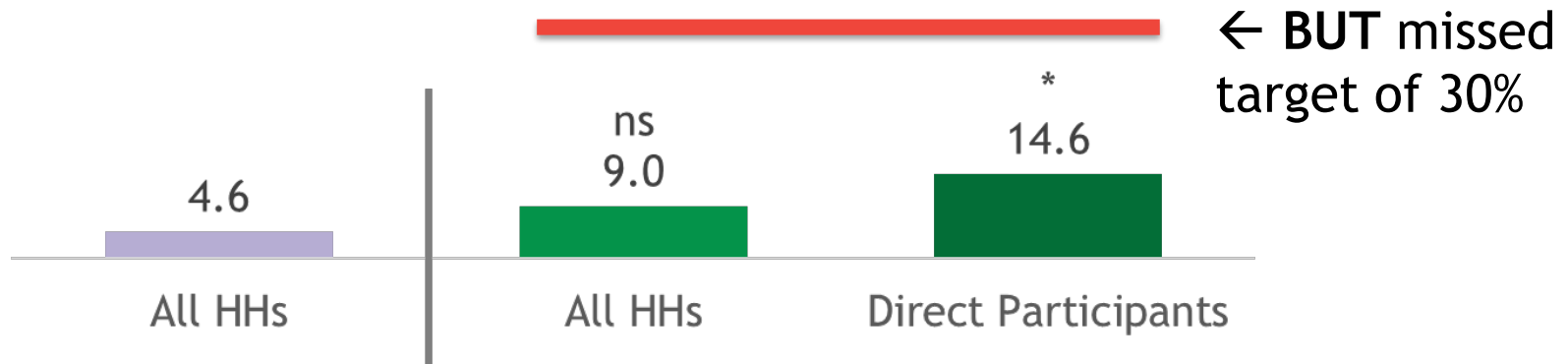


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# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

## Improvement:

- **Increase** from **baseline** to **endline** in % of CU2 receiving a Minimum Acceptable Diet among **direct participant households**
  - Significant increase among boys
- CU2—and HHs—are benefiting from greater dietary diversity and quality
  - a result of improved nutrition behaviors and access to nutritious food

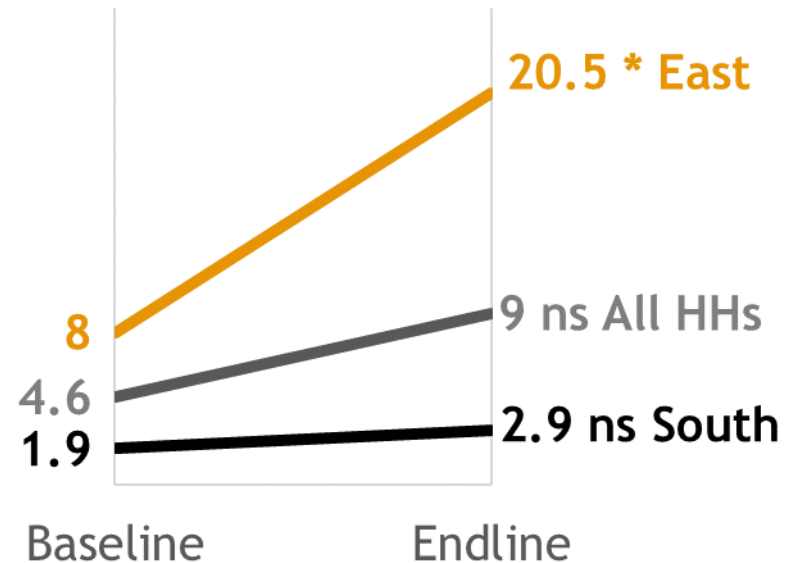
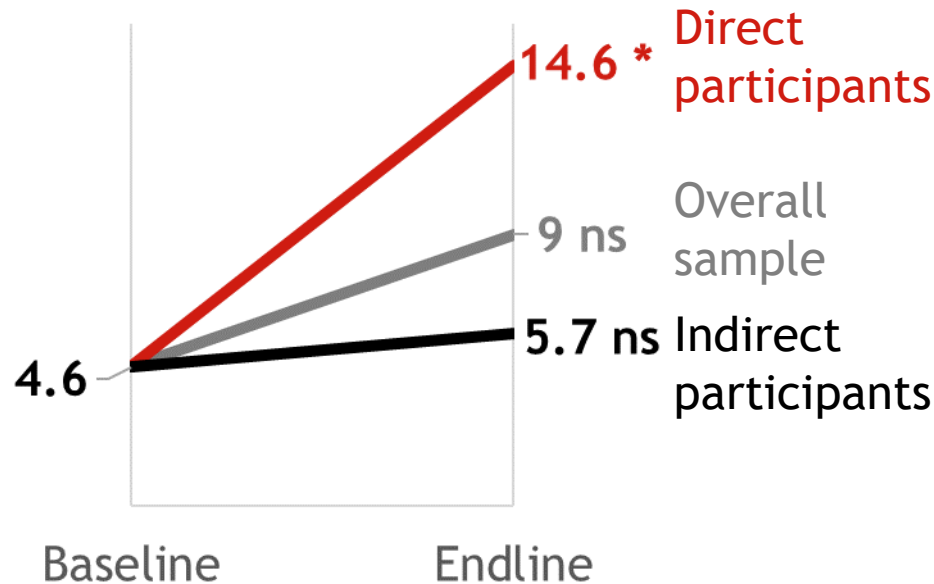


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# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

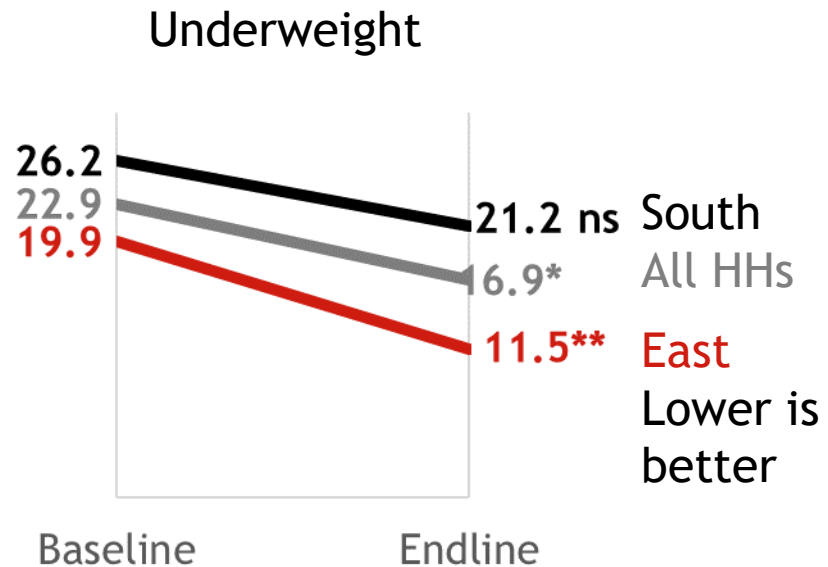
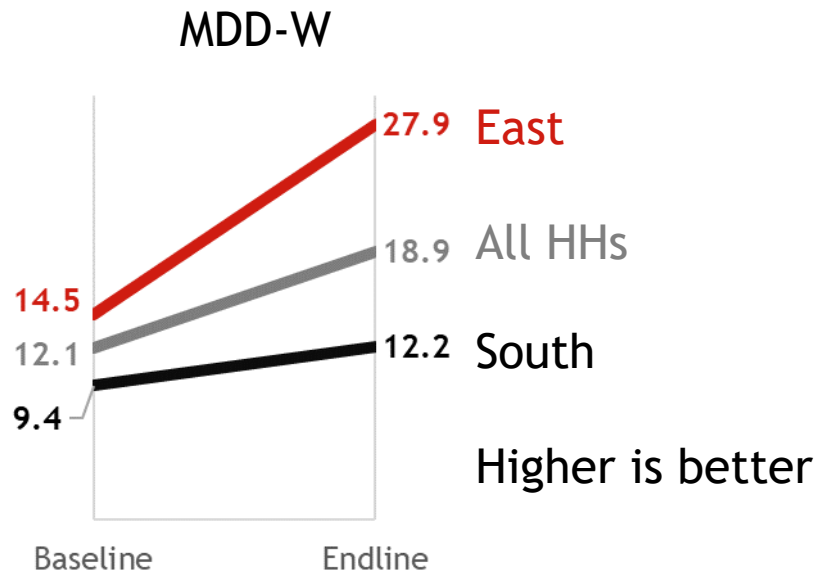
Prevalence of CU2 receiving a Minimum Acceptable Diet **improved** from baseline to endline among **direct participants** and in the **East**

- No change in the South
- Significant increase among boys



# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

- MDD-W, underweight women improved in the **East**
- No significant change in the **South**



# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

Women may benefit less than family members from increased access to diverse and nutritious foods

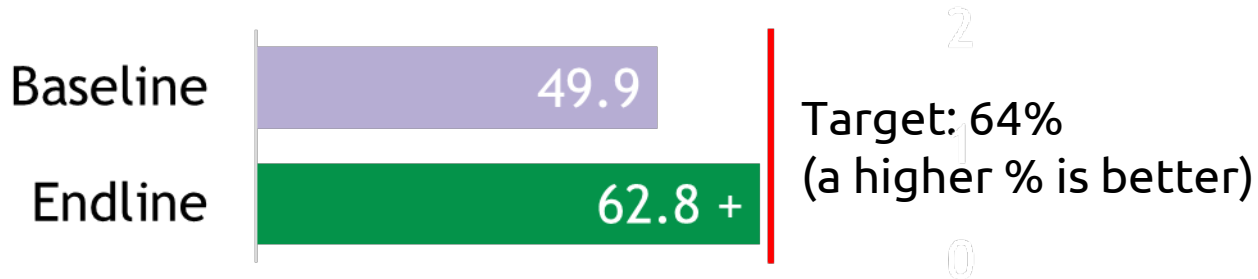
- No significant improvements for direct participant women in overall rates of underweight or minimum dietary diversity
- Results for maternal nutrition in East, however, were much better and statistically significant
- need more focus on gendered dimensions of food security
- highlights the importance of understanding the heterogeneity of circumstances within the project area



# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

## Improvement

Significant increase in the percentage of births receiving a minimum of four antenatal care visits



BUT FGDs suggest

- challenges persist - distance to clinics, cost of medicine
- some gains may be unsustainable - CHV coverage shrank post-USAID/Mikolo

ns = not significant, † p<0.1, \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

**Quantitative results on sanitation behaviors are mixed, with better results in East than South**

**Improvement in two indicators:**

(1) Increase in % of HHs with soap and water at handwashing station from **baseline** to **endline**

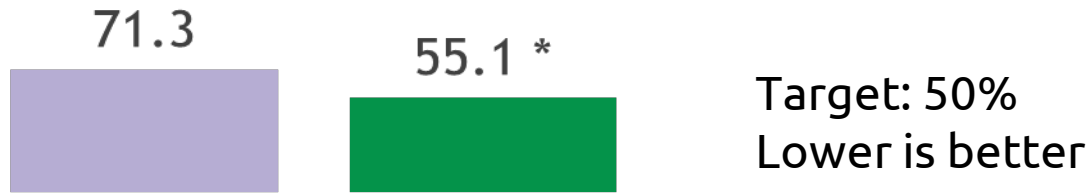


**Note: Overall results mask much better performance in East (from 5.3% to 14.0%) than in South (from 4.5% to 6.6%).**



# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

(2) % HHs in target areas practicing open defecation **decreased, BUT missed target**



**Note: Results were much better in East (57.7% to 29.8%) than South (86.6% to 75.6%).**

- Barriers to latrines: other HH infrastructure needs, stigma, small plot size.

# Purpose 1: Undernutrition is prevented among CU2

FGDs/KIIs suggest that the **effectiveness** of Purpose 1 interventions was **reduced** by

- Weak compliance with Care Group implementation standards at some sites
- Infrequent supervision/support to Lead Mothers
- External factor: Insufficient MCHN services from CHVs and local health centers to meet demand created by Fararano





Photo Credit: Kevin Henry

**Purpose 2:**  
Increased  
household incomes  
(monetary and non-  
monetary)

# Purpose 2: Increased household incomes

Fararano's interventions produced meaningful impacts during the activity, especially:

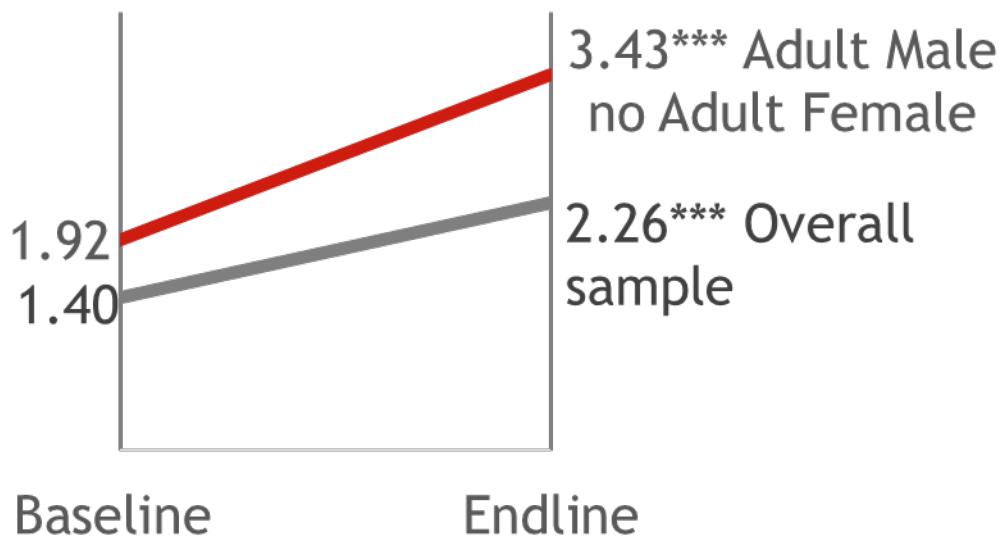
- SILC groups
- Farmer organizations
  - producer organizations
  - collection point organizations
  - cooperatives



Photo Credit: Jasmine Waheed on Unsplash

# Purpose 2: Increased household incomes

Per capita expenditures (as a proxy for income) increased from baseline to endline (\$)



← biggest increase

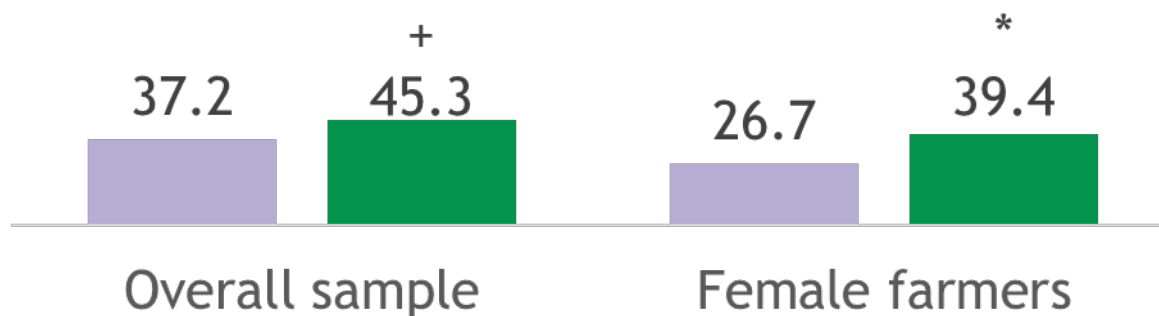
Income also increased for

- Overall sample
- HHs with M&F
- Female-headed HHs

# Purpose 2: Increased household incomes

## Improvement:

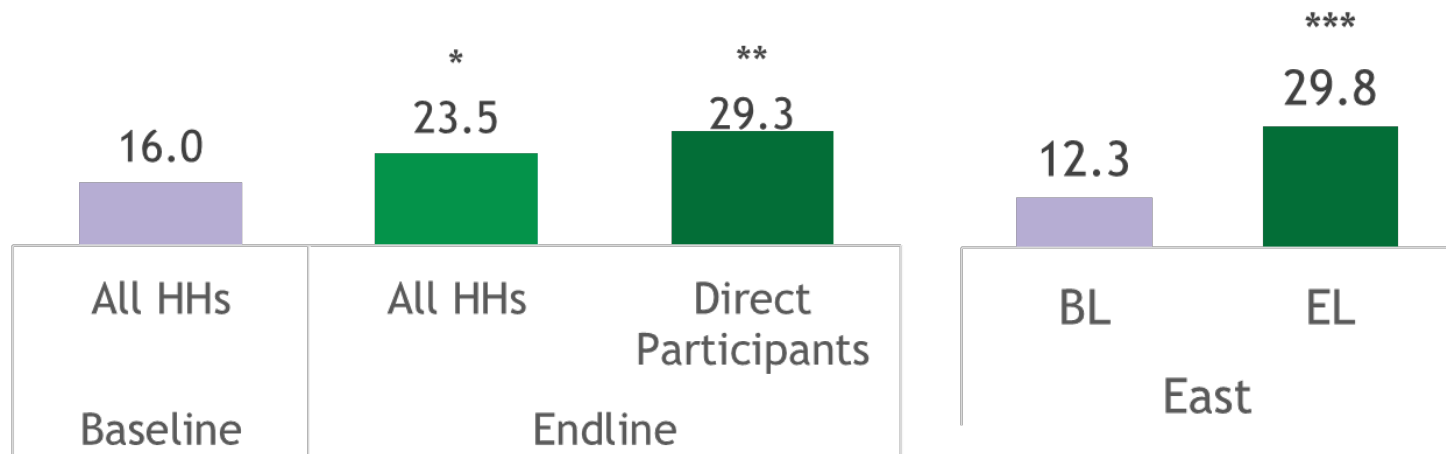
- **Increase** in % of farmers who used at least three sustainable agricultural (crop, livestock, or NRM) practices and/or technologies in the past 12 months, from **baseline** to **endline**
  - Improvement among female farmers, not male farmers



- BUT Lead Farmer model has low potential for sustainability: dependent on unpaid volunteers and absence of local gov't extension services

# Purpose 2: Increased household incomes

- SILC/Private Service Provider model was implemented with success and at scale
  - led to increased % of farmers using financial services in past 12 months
    - Biggest improvement among **direct participants** and in the **East**
      - Exceeded target of 25%
    - No significant change in the South



ns = not significant, + p<0.1, \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

# Purpose 2: Increased household incomes

## **Producer Organizations, collecting point organizations, and cooperatives**

- (+) have high potential to enhance income gains for farmers
- (-) started slowly and reached ~20% of P2 participants (<5,000 producers)
- (+) Some established groups have strong market linkages and can function without project support
- (-) BUT many of the 360 Producer Organizations may not, particularly those formed late in the project cycle



# Purpose 2: Increased household incomes

## Infrastructure investments

- rehabilitating irrigation systems and feeder roads



(+) injected food resources into target communities during the lean season

(+) beneficiaries highly satisfied with food but

(-) dissatisfied with the quality of infrastructure assets

(-) lasting benefits to communities remain to be seen





**Purpose 3:**  
Community  
capacity to manage  
shocks is improved

# Purpose 3: Community capacity to manage shocks is improved

- P3 relies heavily on collective action and good governance
  - Places more external constraints on performance
- When there was synergy between national capacity and community interests, results were positive
  - e.g., cyclone and bush fire management



Photo Credit: Kevin Henry

## Purpose 3: Community capacity to manage shocks is improved

Fararano created and worked with *fokontany* Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees to address cyclone risks

- Cooperated with the line ministry
- Focused on preparedness and response activities
- Gap: failed to adequately address risks of recurrent drought in the South

# Purpose 3: Community capacity to manage shocks is improved

## NRM activities

- Mainly Food for Assets and reforestation through newly created, but not well supported, NRM committees

## Results

- Generally weak in terms of scale and sustainability
- Project-driven and not well integrated with Purpose 2
  - Reforestation partially successful in the East; failed in the South
  - NRM committees reported decreased bush fires, tree cutting due to continuous sensitization and protection efforts
  - BUT visible abuses continue
  - Many NRM committees no longer operating, or demotivated by the lack of results
    - Understanding of NRM was limited to planting trees and reducing tree cutting and bush fires



## Gender and Youth

# Gender and Youth

**Community engagement** was the **most significant change** resulting from Fararano's gender/youth integration (FGDs/KIIs)

- Women and youth benefited from expanded roles and strengthened relationships with peers, in couples, and with other community members

## **Constraint:**

- Limited financial and human resources lowered coverage levels and quality of gender/youth activities, thus the effectiveness of gender/youth integration (KIIs)

# Gender and Youth

## Gender

- No evidence of increased risk of gender-based violence due to project participation
  - Indicates that gender/youth approach was implemented with sensitivity
- But direct participant female-headed HHs fared worse than others on FFP poverty indicators

## Youth

- Community authorities initially gave preference to older youth (including youth over 25 yrs) in Youth Group targeting
- **Lesson learned:** need an intentional strategy to target and engage the youngest youth





Photo Credit: 2photo photo on Unsplash

## Recommendations

# Recommendations: Overall

## Overall

- 1) For future integrated food security programs, take a more focused approach in terms of geographic scope and the number of intervention models.
- 2) Prioritize community intervention models with high inherent sustainability and with strong linkages to either the private sector or local government structures.
- 3) Maximize integration by engaging all households targeted for MCHN interventions with one or more livelihood activities to enhance their ability to sustain health and nutritional gains.

# Recommendations: Purpose 1

- 1) Provide sufficient supervision and coaching for Lead Mothers to ensure the success of the Care Group approach. Control the time expected of Lead Mother volunteers by limiting distances traveled and the ratio of mothers per Lead Mother.
- 2) At sites where food assistance is used, design and implement measures to avoid dependence and minimize negative impacts. Avoid relying on food distributions for attaining awareness-raising/ Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) targets.
- 3) Actively engage local authorities in the implementation of sanitation activities.

# Recommendations: Purpose 2

- 1) Integrate a systematic outreach mechanism into the Lead Farmer model to promote broader adoption of promoted practices. Involve more trained farmers in Producer Organizations and cooperatives to realize the benefits of collective purchasing and marketing and form such groups as early as possible.
- 2) CRS should continue to implement the SILC/PSP model, but seek to achieve the highest possible levels of group formation early in the project.
- 3) Take a more rigorous approach to ensuring the long-term impact and sustainability of any infrastructure assets put in place using the FFA approach.

# Recommendations: Purpose 3

- 1) Implement NRM approaches and activities primarily through the agriculture/livelihood component.
- 2) Make drought a more explicit and central focus of resilience-building efforts in drought-prone areas; coordinate with wider drought management strategies

# Recommendations: Gender and Youth

- 1) Consider waiting until SILC groups are operational before implementing SBCC on gender-equitable decision-making about use of household revenue.
- 2) Systematically mobilize traditional leaders as advocates for re-imagining rigid gender-based roles and identities.
- 3) Target local and traditional leaders, parents, and even project staff with SBCC designed to lift social and cultural barriers to youth empowerment. Consider approaches that promote youth-driven problem solving and learning to enable progress from youth mobilization to true youth engagement.
- 4) Create separate groups for older and younger youth, with approaches tailored to members' age- and gender-specific priorities and needs.



## Q&A Session



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