

The BOMA Project and the Government of Kenya

Key Findings of the Midline Evaluation on BOMA's Poverty Graduation Pilot with the Government of Kenya's *Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies (PROFIT)*

December 2018



PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2017, the BOMA Project launched a pilot program in Samburu County in partnership with the Government of Kenya's (GoK) Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies (PROFIT), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), and BRAC USA. The program's overall goal is to reduce the poverty rate in rural Kenya. The PROFIT Graduation pilot is designed to test the effectiveness of the Graduation Approach in lifting ultra-poor households out of extreme poverty and the viability of integrating the poverty graduation approach into the government's social protection systems.

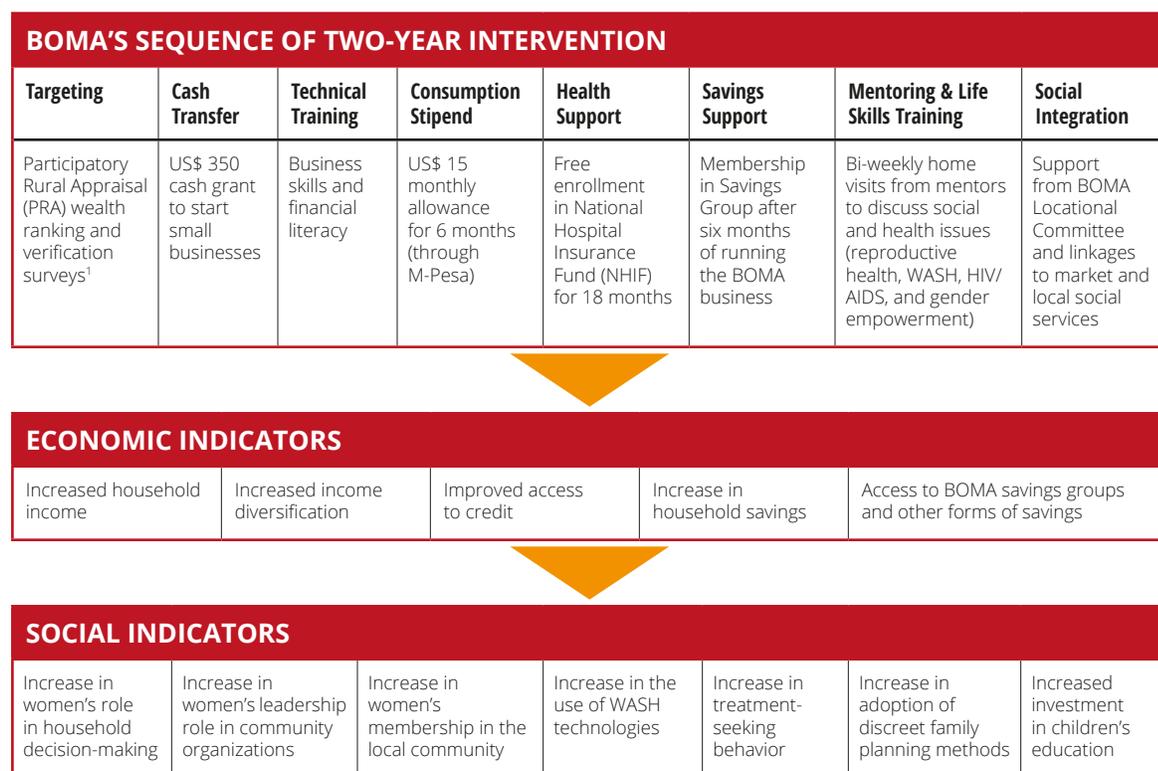
PROJECT SCOPE

This project is taking place in seven wards of Samburu County (Loosuk, Maralal, Porro, Lodokejek, Suguta, Wamba West and Wamba North). BOMA implemented the program with two different iterations (group and individual), providing GoK with the research and impact data needed to adopt the poverty graduation approach as an integral part of the country's national social protection system.

The pilot has enrolled 1,600 ultra-poor women, supporting more than 8,000 children in 27 village clusters in Samburu County, one of the four poorest counties in Kenya, with an overall poverty rate of 76% in 2015-16. Samburu is also one of the six counties with a registered food poverty rate of 60.1%. Livestock management is the primary source of income in Samburu, partly due to the region's aridity and conditions unfavorable to agricultural livelihoods.

INTERVENTION

The PROFIT Graduation interventions, sequenced from March 2017 through March 2019, include targeting, cash transfer, and social integration, as summarized in the table. In a year, PROFIT has drastically improved the lives of women respondents in Samburu. Baseline levels of economic indicators significantly improved at midline. These results indicate that the increase in income, savings, and access to credit has increased women's confidence that led to improvements in social indicators, including leadership role in community organizations and increased role in household decision-making. Please refer to the table for details:



GRADUATION CRITERIA FOR THE COHORT

The following graduation criteria have been established to measure progress out of poverty for this cohort: **(1)** household members had two meals a day in the past week; **(2)** no child goes to bed without an evening meal in the past week; **(3)** value of business is 25% higher than total conditional cash transfer; **(4)** participant can access two sources of income; **(5)** participant is a member of a savings group (with a formal constitution, credit, and loan protocols), has access to credit, and has a minimum of KES 8000 in savings; and **(6)** participant has greater awareness of family planning. Graduation is defined as reaching a certain level of human, social, physical, and productive assets that allow households to become self-sufficient and build the necessary capacity to cope with shocks without falling back into extreme poverty.

THE MIDLINE EVALUATION AND KEY FINDINGS

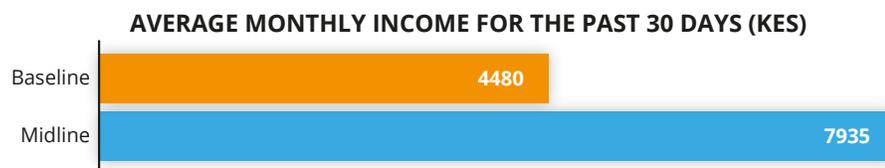
From July to September 2018, Expanding Opportunities, an international nongovernment organization focused on creating self-sufficiency, conducted external evaluation of the cohort using mix-methods. The evaluation included quantitative surveys, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KII) to assess the first year of implementation. This midline

¹ In the PRA process, community members, including women, men, youth, people with disability, and their leaders, map their community and define socio-economic categories to rank households from richest to poorest.

evaluation included a comparative analysis between BOMA's unique three-person group-based graduation model and the standard one-person-per-business graduation model. Below are the key findings:

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- 77% increase in average household income from US\$ 45 (4480 KES) to US\$ 79 (7935 KES)



"We started with nothing, and now we are businesswomen!"

PROFIT FINANCIAL GRADUATION PARTICIPANTS

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

- 95% of businesses still in operation
- 47.44% increase in average business value from US\$350 (35,000 KES) to US\$516 (51,604 KES)

HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE

- The three-person group business model provided more income diversity than the standard one-person-per-business graduation model, with an average of 4.5 income generating activities (IGA) at midline, therefore providing more diversified household income and increased resilience to market- and climate-induced shocks such as drought

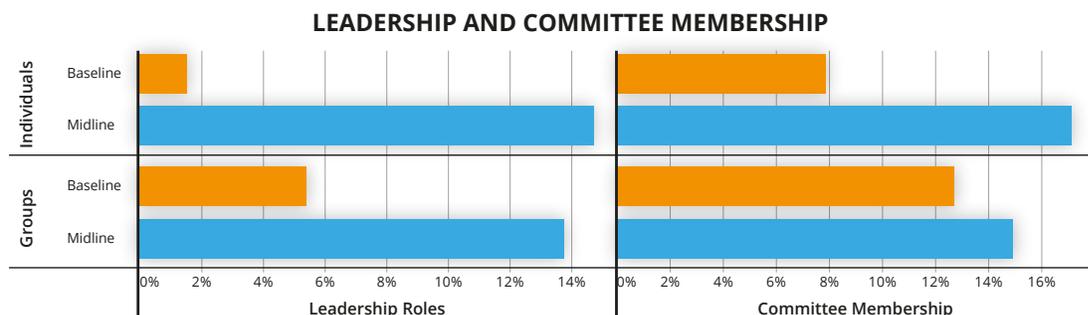
SAVINGS

- 1055% increase in savings from US\$ 6.82 (682 KES) at baseline to US\$ 78.76 (7876 KES) at midline



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

- 7 percentage point (p.p.) increase in household decision-making
- 10 p.p. increase in leadership roles
- 3 p.p. increase in local committee membership



HEALTH

- 26% increase in households treating drinking water
- Increase from 2% at baseline to 97% at midline in National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) enrollment
- 33% used NHIF while seeking treatment
- Of the family planning methods, injectable contraceptives were the most common type. In FGDs, participants said they used family planning methods for limiting, delaying, and spacing births.

EDUCATION

- 86% of participants' primary school-aged children (6 to 15 years old) were enrolled in school
- 88% of participants' secondary school-aged children were enrolled in school

LESSONS LEARNED

INCOME AND SAVINGS

- ▶ Business skills training was integral to the program's success, given the participants' low literacy rate and limited knowledge of business management at baseline.

EMPOWERMENT

- ▶ Involvement of men, local community members, and leaders across BOMA's sequence of interventions was essential in improving participants' sense of empowerment and increasing their decision-making power.

SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ Facilitation of key market linkages and building women's capacity to pursue new market opportunities has created a strong foundation for sustainability of program impact.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL EVALUATION REPORT](#)

NEXT STEPS:

The final endline evaluation of this project will also be conducted by researchers from Expanding Opportunities in May 2019

PARTNERS



Investing in rural people

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a special agency of the United Nations, established to finance agricultural development projects. The Fund provides financing for projects and programs specifically designed to introduce, expand or improve food production systems and to strengthen related policies and institutions.



REPUBLIC
OF
KENYA

Government of Kenya's Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies (PROFIT), is an initiative that promotes economic development among the poor in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya.



BRAC was founded in Bangladesh, with nearly five decades of experience in designing and implementing large-scale poverty alleviation programs, BRAC reaches more than 130 million of the global poor across 11 countries. BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative provides technical assistance to governments and NGOs implementing the Graduation approach.