

# PARTICIPANTS BASED SAMPLE SURVEY (PaBSS) 2019 FINAL REPORT



CARE BANGLADESH  
Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities  
(SHOUHARDO) III



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DMA Team

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ANC	:	Ante-Natal Care
COG	:	Core Operational Group
CSI	:	Coping Strategy Index
DMA	:	Data Management Aid
EKATA	:	Empowering Knowledge and Transformative Action
FFP	:	Food for Peace
FtF	:	Feed the Future
FY	:	Fiscal Year
GBV	:	Gender Base Violence
GoB	:	Government of Bangladesh
IGA	:	Income Generating Activity
M&E	:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCHN	:	Mother and Child Health and Nutrition
MDD	:	Minimum Dietary Diversity
MMF	:	Minimum Meal Frequency
MR	:	Measles and Rubella
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
PaBBSS	:	Participants Based Sample Survey
PEP	:	Poor and Extreme Poor
PLW	:	Pregnant and Lactating Women
SHOUHARDO III	:	Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities III
USG	:	United States Government

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a third-party firm, called Data Management Aid's (DMA) quantitative assessment of a five-year-long development food security activity named Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) III funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh. This project implemented by CARE, is designed to address problems in the areas of food security, agriculture, livelihoods, health, water and sanitation, resilience, and women's empowerment in eight of the most marginalized districts in Bangladesh.

The Participants Based Sample Survey (PaBSS) 2019 is supported by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system of the SHOUHARO III program. The survey was conducted in the program implementing areas in Char and Haor regions. It targeted Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP) households that are program participants. The PaBSS is crucial to gain an accumulated understanding of the progress and major outcomes, which eventually will help the overall program management.

Four major sampling frames were determined for mixed program interventions and indicators, which included i) Value chain beneficiaries, ii) Agriculture-other COG, iii) Off Farm IGA, and iv) Mothers of 6-23 months children (MCHN) in the PaBSS 2019. This year, the PaBSS collected data on the annual monitoring indicators, selected new indicators for FY19 and baseline/endline indicators, and indicators set for the program's extension period (FY21 and FY22). The total number of respondents for this year PaBSS was 1560, and the data was collected between 23 August and 15 September 2019.

From the findings, it was observed that the program achieved good progress in the majority of its outcome areas. However, there are few areas like hand washing, gender-based violence, dietary diversity, sanitation, and accessing public services where the program needs to strengthen its work. The p-value was used to examine whether statistically significant change (increase/decrease) was observed or not for an indicator in the current survey compared to the previous survey. The p-value $<0.05$  indicated that the change occurred at 5% level of significance, whereas the p-value $<0.10$  reveals the fact that the change was observed at 10% level of significance. The summary findings are presented in the Table 1 below:

Indicator Description	Result FY18	Target FY19	Result FY19 (Weighted)	% of Target Achieved	p-value	Remarks
% of poor & extreme poor (PEP) households accessing markets	77.1	80	82	102.50	0.014	increased significantly
Percent of mothers who feel it is important to wash hands at five critical times	12.1	25	15.7	62.80	0.018	increased significantly
% of pregnant and lactating women taking iron supplements in last 7 days	32.6	40	36.2	90.50	0.062	increased significantly at 10% level of significance
Prevalence of children 6–23 months receiving a minimum dietary diversity	66.1	50	59	118.00	0.002	Decreased significantly
Average Coping Strategy Index of the targeted households	57.56	95	67.03	141.73	0.007	increased significantly
Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG	75169 (48.7%)	70000	58907 (58.6%)	84.15	<0.001	increased significantly

<b>Indicator Description</b>	<b>Result FY18</b>	<b>Target FY19</b>	<b>Result FY19 (Weighted)</b>	<b>% of Target Achieved</b>	<b>p-value</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
assistance						
Percentage of households reporting understanding of elements of disaster preparedness in project defined criteria	32.9	40	35.2	88.00	0.042	increased significantly
Percentage of household reporting receiving risk and early warning information	70.3	70	84.2	120.29	<0.001	increased significantly
Percent of respondents who know a neighbor or friend who has experienced domestic violence (includes: child marriage, physical abuse, sexual harassment, emotional oppression) in the last month	36.1	35	39.2	112.00	0.04	increased significantly
Percentage of program participants aware of cost and consequences of Gender Based Violence	55.8	58	61.1	105.34	0.002	increased significantly
Percentage of respondents who are satisfied with overall services provided by local govt. (Union Parishad).	61.2	62	56.7	91.45	0.006	Decreased significantly
Percent of households using an improved sanitation facility (FFP 41)	74.9		68.2		<0.001	Decreased significantly
Percent of married women aged 15-49 whose husbands help with household tasks.	78.3		65.4		<0.001	Decreased significantly
Based on the climate information, did you make any changes to your agricultural practices	48.7		58.6		<0.001	increased significantly

Table 1 List of outcome indicators that significantly changed

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) III is a Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) funded by the USAID and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). The program is designed to address challenges related to poverty and vulnerability of the Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP) people in the northern part of Bangladesh. The main goal of the SHOUHARDO III program is to sustainably reduce food insecurity in PEP households. The program applies an integrated model for reducing child malnutrition while contributing to the household livelihood security and women's empowerment. The program is implemented in the Char and the Haor areas, reaching eight districts (Sirajganj, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Habiganj, and Sunamganj), 23 upazilas, and 115 unions of Bangladesh. Focused on the PEP, irrespective of their relative geographic inaccessibility, SHOUHARDO III places empowerment of these people at its foundation. Within its program areas of agriculture and livelihoods, health, hygiene, and nutrition, and disaster and climate risk management, the program delivers an integrated set of services - a holistic framework with an emphasis on women's empowerment, gender issues, and good governance.

The program is implemented through six national Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who receive technical and operational guidance from CARE. The program partnered with the GoB through Program Advisory and Coordinating Committees (PACC) at multiple levels as well as through the government's provision of technical training provided to field staff and participants on key topics related to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, health, and disaster risk management. The program focuses on ensuring the availability, access, utilization, and stability of food insecurity, as well as addressing the underlying causes that include social injustice, discrimination, lack of participation and voice, and heightened vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. To achieve this goal, the program has set five purposes:



**Purpose 1:** Increased equitable access to income for both women and men, and nutritious food for men, women, boys and girls



**Purpose 2:** Improved nutritional status of children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls



**Purpose 3:** Strengthened gender equitable ability of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from man-made and natural shocks



**Purpose 4:** Increased women's empowerment and gender equity at family and community level



**Purpose 5:** Increased provision and utilization of public services (i.e., Local Elected Bodies & Nation Building Departments) for communities especially for Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP)

In 2019, the SHOUHARDO III program outsourced Data Management Aid (DMA) to conduct the Participants Based Sample Survey (PaBSS) in the program implementing areas in Char and Haor regions. It targeted Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP) households that are program participants. PaBSS is typically used in the context of project monitoring to ensure that project implementation is rolling out as expected and that project interventions are on track for achieving their intended outcomes and targets in the participant population<sup>1</sup>. The results of this monitoring exercise are used to inform decisions about project strategies and, if monitoring data show that they are not on track, to make necessary corrections to project interventions. It collects data periodically in support of the annual monitoring indicators. This year, the PaBSS collected data on the annual monitoring indicators, selected new indicators for FY19, baseline/endline indicators, and indicators set for the program's extension period (FY21 and FY22). The total number of respondents for this year PaBSS was 1560, and the data was collected between 23 August and 15 September 2019.

It is important to note that this year, the monsoon season in Bangladesh officially started on June 17, 2019, and heavy rains began July 9, 2019 across the country, including the upstream neighbor of Nepal as well as

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fantaproject.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/sampling-guide-participant-based-survey-feed-the-future-annual-monitoring>, cited on 2 October 2019

two Indian states, Assam and Meghalaya. The massive rains triggered widespread flooding and landslides and affected the livelihood of 6 million people. Official primary estimates of crop damaged area were 78,803 hectares, and *Aus* rice, *Transplanted Aman* rice seedbed, jute, vegetables, sugarcane, banana, and chili are the most damaged crops. Heavy rainfall and flooding affected 28 districts out of 64 in Bangladesh<sup>2</sup>. These 28 districts included some of the SHOUHARDO III implementing areas.

## 1.2. Objective

The main objective of the PaBSS 2019 was to compare changes in indicators set by SHOUHARDO III over a period of 12 months (October 2018 to September 2019). This report provides progress on the impact and outcomes indicators of SHOUHARDO III basing on the annual performance survey. The data was collected to foster the monitoring of the project activities implemented in the last one year and evaluation of the project at various stages. The PaBSS results are intended to help the SHOUHARDO III program to assess the extent to which it met its outcomes in this given period. The survey will also help to identify areas of future emphasis for the program.

## 1.3. Participants Based Sample Survey Methodology

SHOUHARDO III developed a five-year Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan to track the progress and outcome of the program. Of the 79 Annual monitoring indicators, 28 annual monitoring indicators were measured by the PaBSS 2019. The Feed the Future (FtF) PaBSS sampling guideline<sup>3</sup> was used to develop the sampling strategy for PaBSS 2019 of the SHOUHARDO III program.

The survey used a structured questionnaire which was approved by Food For Peace (FFP) in 2017. The survey (PaBSS) was conducted by Data Management Aid (DMA), a renowned third party survey firm, coordinated by SHOUHARDO III M&E staff. The primary target audience of the survey report is SHOUHARDO III Program, as well as USAID and CARE program partners. This survey report is meant to be used to do operational planning, improvement, and decision making. Table 2 contains all the indicators that were measured in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

SL#	Ind. #	Indicator	Sampling frame population for FY19
<b>Food For Peace Indicators measured as <u>TOTAL</u> Values</b>			
1	FFP-16	Value of small-holder incremental sales generated with USG implementation	134,561 VC (25,824 Maize, 2,940 Chili, 3,269 Sweet Gourd, 94,687 Goat and 7,841 Duck)
2	FFP-8	Farmer's gross margin per hectare, per animal, per cage obtained with USG assistance	134,561 VC (25,824 Maize, 2,940 Chili, 3,269 Sweet Gourd, 94,687 Goat and 7,841 Duck)
3	FFP-15	Number of hectares of land under improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance	153644 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG)
4	FFP-9a	Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance	153644 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG)
5	FFP-53	Number of live births receiving at least four antenatal care (ANC) visits during pregnancy	28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 Month age
6	FFP-77	Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance	191,551 <sup>4</sup> (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
7	FFP-TBD29	Number of participants who reported increased access to targeted public services (RiA)	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
<b>Custom Indicators measured as <u>PERCENT</u> Values for COG Beneficiaries</b>			
8	Custom	Percentage (%) of beneficiary households with increased food production	153644 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG)

<sup>2</sup>[https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/report/downloadreportbyfilename?filename=Grain%20and%20Feed%20Update\\_Dhaka\\_Bangladesh\\_7-28-2019.pdf](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/report/downloadreportbyfilename?filename=Grain%20and%20Feed%20Update_Dhaka_Bangladesh_7-28-2019.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/Sampling-Guide-Participant-Based-Surveys-Sep2018\\_0.pdf](https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/Sampling-Guide-Participant-Based-Surveys-Sep2018_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Eliminated a total of 5,672 beneficiaries : 4.1% value chain beneficiaries (5,517), 0.5% other-agriculture (95) beneficiaries and 0.4% off-farm IGA beneficiaries (60) that are overlapped with MCHN sampling frame

9	Custom	% of poor & extreme poor (PEP) households accessing markets	153644 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG)
10	Custom	% of PEPs HHs received health and nutrition services from community-level health facilities	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
11	Custom	% of households reporting understanding of elements of disaster preparedness in project defined criteria	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
12	Custom	Percentage of household reporting receiving risk and early warning information	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
13	Custom	% of households that report that health, gender, and disaster preparedness by actors build on each other are well coordinated and focus on most critical needs.	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
14	Custom	Percentage of poor & extreme poor women accessing community level platforms for women empowerment	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
15	Custom	Percent of respondents who know a neighbor or friend who has experienced domestic violence (includes: child marriage, physical abuse, sexual harassment, emotional oppression) in the last month	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
16	Custom	Percentage of program participants aware of cost and consequences of Gender Based Violence	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
17	Custom	Percentage of program participants reporting the EKATA platform can resolve Gender Based Violence issues	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
18	Custom	Percentage of poor & extreme poor (PEP) women actively participating in community level organization	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
19	Custom	Percentage of respondents who are satisfied with overall services provided by local govt. (Union Parishad).	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )

#### Custom/FFP Indicator measured as PERCENT Values for MCHN

20	Custom	% of pregnant and lactating women taking iron supplements in last 7 days	28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 Month age
21	Custom	% prevalence of diarrhea for children between 6-23 months of age (Percentage of children under age two who had diarrhea in the prior two weeks)	28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 Month age
22	Custom	Prevalence of children 6–23 months receiving a minimum dietary diversity	28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 Month age
23	Custom	Prevalence of children 6–23 months receiving a minimum meal frequency	28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 Month age
24	Custom	Percent of mothers who feel it is important to wash hands at five critical times	28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 Month age
25	Custom	% of children immunized against 8 diseases under GoB protocol by 12 months of age	28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 Month age

#### Custom Indicators measured as MEAN Values for all Beneficiary Households

26	Custom	Average Coping Strategy Index of the targeted households	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
27	Custom	Mean decision making score (Index) for woman in household level	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )
28	FFP-TBD-27	Index of social capital at the household level (RiA)	191,551 (134,561 VC+19,083 Agri-Others COG +14,877 IGA-Off Farm+ 28,702 Mothers with children 6-23 month )

Table 2 The list of the Annual Monitoring Indicators measured in PaBSS 2019

Among the 28 annual monitoring indicators, a total of nine FFP indicators including - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 26, and 29, are perceived to be critical for FFP Annual Results Reporting. Similarly, these nine indicators are crucial for FtF annual monitoring. Therefore, the FtF PaBSS sampling guideline<sup>5</sup> was used to develop the PaBSS sampling strategy for SHOUHARDO III program annual monitoring survey, particularly for these indicators. Sample weighting and data analysis were done as it was stated in the FtF PaBSS guideline.

#### 1.3.1. Survey Design/Sampling Plan

The 28 annual monitoring indicators are representative of several individuals and combined sampling frames. Some of the indicators were measured as total values, and some were measured with percentage values (proportion of the sample), and some with the mean value. Hence, the sampling frame and sample size

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/Sampling-Guide-Participant-Based-Surveys-Sep2018\\_0.pdf](https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/Sampling-Guide-Participant-Based-Surveys-Sep2018_0.pdf)

estimation process considered the indicator type and representativeness.

### 1.3.2. Sampling Frame of the PaBSS

SHOUHARDO III has worked with 168,521 households from the Core Operational Group (COG) through program activities. The COG includes 134,561 value chain farmers; 19,083 farmers from other categories (IGA-on Farm, Comprehensive Homestead Development, Fisheries and Field Crop), and 14,877 IGA-Off Farm beneficiaries. There are five value chain commodities (i.e. Maize, Chili, Sweet gourd, Goat and Duck) that SHOUHARDO III has been promoting. The program targeted 25,824 beneficiaries for Maize; 2,940 for chili; 3,269 for sweet gourd; 94,687 for goat and 7,841 for duck in 2019. The SHOUHARDO III program also reached 28,702 mothers of children 6-23 months through the Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) interventions in 2019. The survey had five percent of the MCHN participants overlapped with the COG sample.

Given the mix of program activities and indicators selected to monitor program progress, four major sampling frames were determined that included: i) Value chain beneficiaries, ii) Agriculture-other COG, iii) Off-Farm IGA, and iv) mothers of 6-23 month children (MCHN). These were considered to be sufficient to capture the information necessary to track all annual monitoring indicators. Due to the disaggregation of value chain commodities, the value chain sample needed to be selected from five separate sub-sampling frames (Maize, chili, sweet gourd, goat, and duck) with representative sample size for each. Therefore, data on FFP-16 and FFP-8 indicators were collected exclusively from the value chain beneficiary sampling frames. Data collection on FFP-9a, FFP-15, and custom indicators 8 and 9 was done from the value chain and other farmers' sampling frame. For custom indicators 20 to 25 and FFP-53 and FFP-TBD19, data were collected through the MCHN beneficiary survey. Finally, data on custom indicators 10-19, 27, 28, and FFP-77, FFP-TBD-27 and FFP-TBD29 were collected from all four sampling frames.

### 1.3.3. Estimation of Sample Size

The number of indicators, including FFP-16, FFP-15, FFP-9a, FFP-53, and FFP-77 were estimated for totals. Data on FFP-16 and FFP-8 indicators were calculated with the same parameters. On the other hand, FFP-16 indicator was for the total, and FFP-8 indicator was for the unit of value chain commodities (mean). Therefore, the sample size estimated for FFP-16 indicator was adequate for FFP-8. Custom indicators 8 to 26 were measured to obtain percentage value (proportion). Custom indicators 27 and 28 and FFP-TBD27 indicator were calculated for mean values. Therefore, three different sample size estimation formulas were used to estimate minimum required samples for indicators with totals, proportions, and mean values. Table 3 details out the sampling cluster:

Survey	Sampling Frame	Population	Sample Size	Sample per cluster	No. of clusters
1. COG Beneficiary Survey	A. Value Chain Sampling Frame: 1. Maize 2. Chili 3. Sweet Gourd 4. Goat 5. Duck	25,824 2,940 3,269 94,687 7,841	156 ≈ 165 65 ≈ 75 100 ≈ 105 114 ≈ 120 120 ≈ 120	15 15 15 15 15	11 5 7 8 8
	<b>Total of VC</b>	<b>134,561</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>
	B. Other Agriculture	19,083	41 ≈ 45	15	3
	C. Off-farm IGAs	14,877	29 ≈ 30	15	2
<b>Total for COG</b>		<b>162,849</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>44</b>
2. MCHN Beneficiary Survey	D. MCHN (mother of children 6-23 months)	28,702	896 ≈ 900	15	60
<b>TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE</b>			<b>191,551</b>	<b>1,560</b>	

Table 3 Final sample size for SHOUHARDO III PaBSS 2019

### 1.3.4. Selection of Cluster

The survey selected 44 clusters for COG participants and 60 clusters for MCHN participants (mother of children within the age of 6-23 months) survey sampling frames, using Probability Proportional to the Size (PPS) procedure.

### 1.3.5. Selection of Survey respondent

Survey respondents were selected using the fractional interval systematic sampling method from a comprehensive list of participants using one of two variants of an equal probability method. In each selected cluster, 15 participants were drawn randomly from the respective sampling frame. The PaBSS 2019 sampling frame was constructed from the program's Management Information System (MIS) database system. The MIS database was designed to identify households by beneficiary types (COG, MCHN being the most dominant) with unique identifiers both for households and individuals. The DMA Data analyst with the help of SHOUHARDO III M&E team prepared the sampling plan and sampling frame.

### 1.3.6. Data Management and Analysis

The survey data were collected through smartphones and/or tablets. Data was updated to the central server through online and/or offline (with synchronization functionalities). The dataset was later converted into the SPSS database for data management and analysis. Sample weighting and data analysis were done following the FtF PaBSS guideline.

### 1.3.7. Sampling weights and Treatment of non-response

During the analysis, sampling weights were included in the data file. The formulae used to calculate the sampling weights were also included as part of a data dictionary document. DMA ensured that standard procedures in developing sampling weights followed the FANTA guideline. Besides, households' non-response adjustment was made to the sampling weights as part of the final weighting system. The description of how the outliers have been addressed is given in this report. In summary, below steps were followed for each of the sampling frames to select the survey cluster:

**Step 1:** Listed the primary sampling units and their population sizes (a).

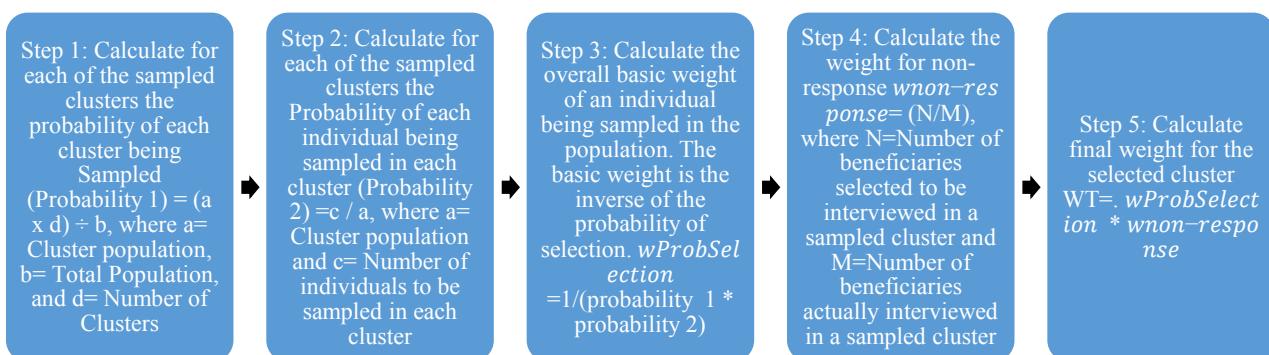
**Step 2:** Calculated the cumulative sum of the population sizes and Total Population (b).

**Step 3:** Divided the total population by the number of clusters (decided earlier for each of the sampling frame) to be sampled, to get the Sampling Interval (SI).

**Step 4:** Choose a random number between 1 and the SI for Random Start (RS) using excel command=rand()\*SI.

**Step 5:** Calculated the following series: RS; RS + SI; RS + 2SI; .... RS+(d-1)\*SI to get required number of clusters for each sapling frame.

Before analyzing the data, weighting factors for each of the clusters were generated as per the PaBSS sampling guide.<sup>6</sup> The summary of the steps followed is given below:



<sup>6</sup> Ibid

Data were analyzed using SPSS and the weighting factors were applied using SPSS syntax shown below.

```
Compute wt=1.  
if (frame=1 and cluster=3) wt=3.45.  
.....  
if (frame=5 and cluster=90) wt=226.13.  
WEIGHT BY wt.
```

### **1.3.8. Data Quality Assurance**

The supervisor/quality control officer and field supervisors of the data collection team were responsible for monitoring data collection and quality control of data. The data management expert of a third-party survey firm ensured correctness, completeness and validity of data on a daily basis. Besides third party quality control, SHOUHARDO III M&E team remotely monitored data consistency throughout the data collection process.

### **1.3.9. Review of the Survey Instruments**

DMA team reviewed the draft questionnaires supplied by the SHOUHARDO III program. The comments of the core members of the survey team on the survey instruments were discussed thoroughly with the SHOUHARDO III team. Then the survey questionnaires were revised and finalized. Later, the questionnaires were translated into Bangla (see attached Bangla and English questionnaires in **Annex 1 and 2**).

### **1.3.10. Study Design Limitations**

Despite ensuring data quality and maintaining an appropriate data management process, there were some limitations in the survey design that are mentioned below:

- Effects of other NGO programs in the study area
- The complexity of sample design and weighting
- Length and complexity of the survey questionnaire
- Validity and reliability of self-reported data
- Post-flood data collection may have instigated participants' grievance related to service

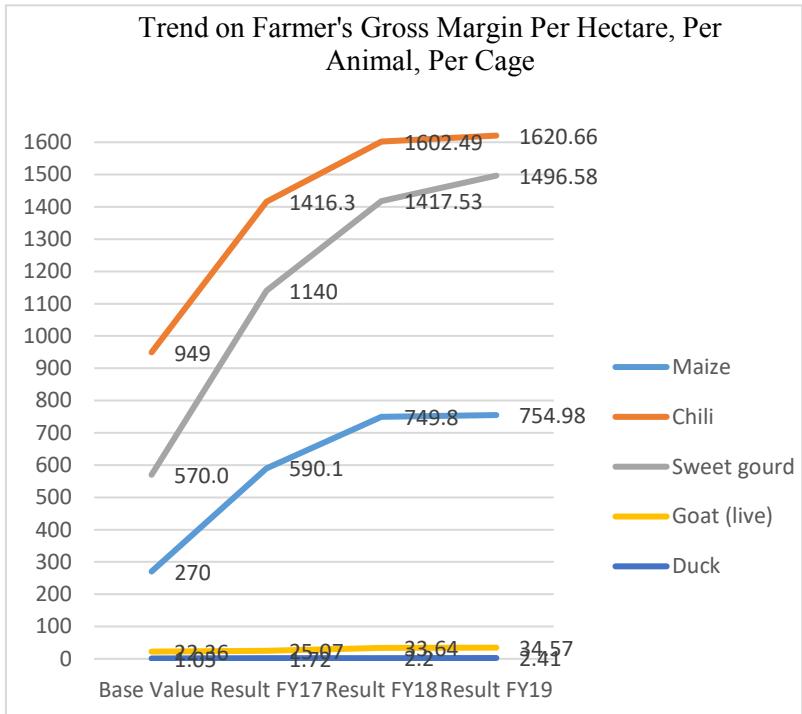
## **2. Findings**

The scope of the PaBSS 2019 was expanded to assess outcomes specifically for FY19 and selected baseline/endline indicators along with 28 annual monitoring indicators. This year's survey also collected baseline data for the program's two year extension period in FY2021 and FY2022. Altogether, the PaBSS 2019 collected data on 51 indicators, which were of five types including (1) 28 annual monitoring indicators, (2) three indicators specifically selected for FY19, (3) five Environment Monitoring and Mitigation Plan indicators, (4) three baseline/endline indicators on women empowerment, and (5) 12 indicators for SHOUHARDO III program's extension period. The following part explains the results of these four types of indicator.

### **2.1. Agriculture and Livelihood**

The program built capacities of targeted PEP households to increase their agricultural production and incomes, apply modern agricultural technologies, enhance purchasing capacities, and accessibility to market. It facilitated linkages between participants and relevant government offices and private sector service providers, to increase community access to services such as training and obtaining quality inputs. The survey results showed that the program made significant progress in achieving its target for FY19.

**2.1.1. Farmer's gross margin per hectare, per animal, per cage obtained with USG assistance:** Gross margin is obtained by deducting the total cost of agricultural production from total value of small-holder production, divided by the total number of production unit. The PaBSS 2019 results suggested that the



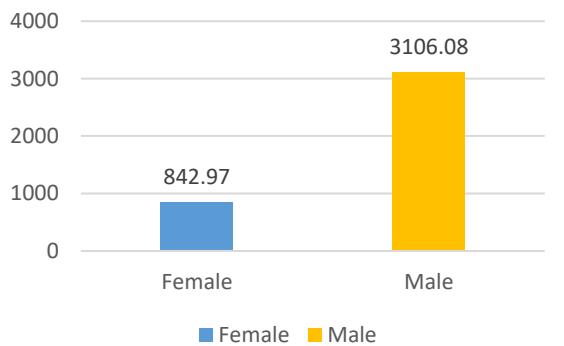
*Figure 1 Farmers' gross margin per hectare, per animal, per cage*

program nearly achieved its target for maize, chili, and goat; it exceeded its target for sweet gourd and duck. Figure 1 shows farmers' gross margin (per Hectare, per animal, per cage) obtained with US government assistance. It shows that farmers achieved the highest gross margin from chili which was about US\$1620 per hectare. A case study conducted in Gaibandha by Nahar, Akteruzzaman & Al-Amin (2016)<sup>7</sup> showed that the net return of sweet gourd production was US\$1663 per hectare which is one of the program's implementing areas. The gross margin for chili was US\$1496 which was the second-highest among other crops and livestock assets. Another case study in Bangladeshi context done by Ferdausi, Islam, Khatun, & Islam (2014)<sup>8</sup>, stated that the gross margin for maize farmers was about US\$853. For SHOUHARDO III program the gross margin on maize was US\$754 in FY19.

### **2.1.2. The number of hectares of land under improved technologies or management practices with United States Government (USG) assistance:**

Agriculture has remained a powerful driver of poverty reduction in Bangladesh. The Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016-20) of Bangladesh<sup>9</sup> aimed at ensuring food and nutritional security, sustainable intensification, and diversification of climate-resilient agricultural production with increased commercialization and livelihood improvement through technological innovations. PaBSS used this indicator to measure the area (in hectares) of land cultivated using USG-promoted improved technology and management practice. In this reporting year, the program achieved its target as farmers applied modern technologies and management practices in 3,949.05 hectares (Female 842.97: Male 3,106.08). Figure 2 presents the difference between hectares of land used by male and female farmers.

Gender disaggregation of hectares of land under improved technologies



*Figure 2 Gender disaggregation of land using improved technologies*

### **2.1.3. The number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance:** The development of high yielding varieties and technologies (e.g. pest management, irrigation, disease management) over the past one decade have significantly increased the

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311963561\\_Sweet\\_gourd\\_production\\_under\\_sandbar\\_cropping\\_practices\\_a\\_case\\_study\\_in\\_Sundorganj\\_of\\_Gaibandha\\_District\\_in\\_Bangladesh](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311963561_Sweet_gourd_production_under_sandbar_cropping_practices_a_case_study_in_Sundorganj_of_Gaibandha_District_in_Bangladesh)

<sup>8</sup><http://jsau.com.bd/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/14.-M-02.pdf>

<sup>9</sup>[https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/sites/unicef.org.bangladesh/files/2018-10/7th\\_FYP\\_18\\_02\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/sites/unicef.org.bangladesh/files/2018-10/7th_FYP_18_02_2016.pdf)

agricultural production in Bangladesh.<sup>10</sup> The exports of agricultural products in Bangladesh rose sharply in fiscal year 2017-18. Traders exported products worth US\$ 674 11million in 2018. The sector grew by 22 percent since 2017.<sup>12</sup>

This indicator assessed the absolute number of direct participants farmers, ranchers and other primary sector producers (of food and non-food crops, livestock products, wild fisheries, aquaculture, agroforestry, and natural resource-based products), just as individual processors (not firms), rural entrepreneurs, merchants, and natural resource managers who applied advanced technologies or management practices because of USG assistance during the reporting year. This year SHOUHARDO III program surpassed its target by assisting 139,873 farmers (Female 99,713: Male 40,160) in adopting improved technologies and management practices.

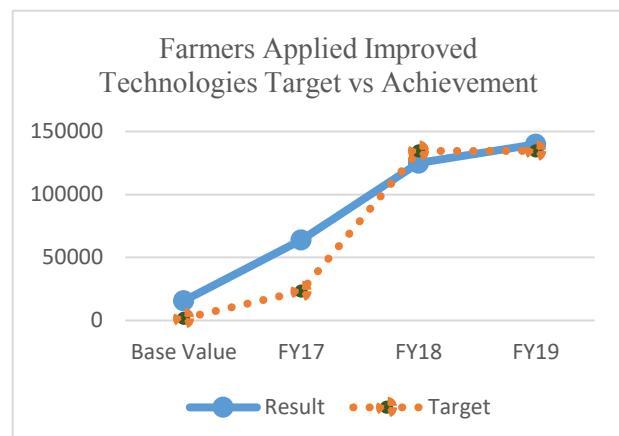


Figure 3 Farmers application of improved technologies

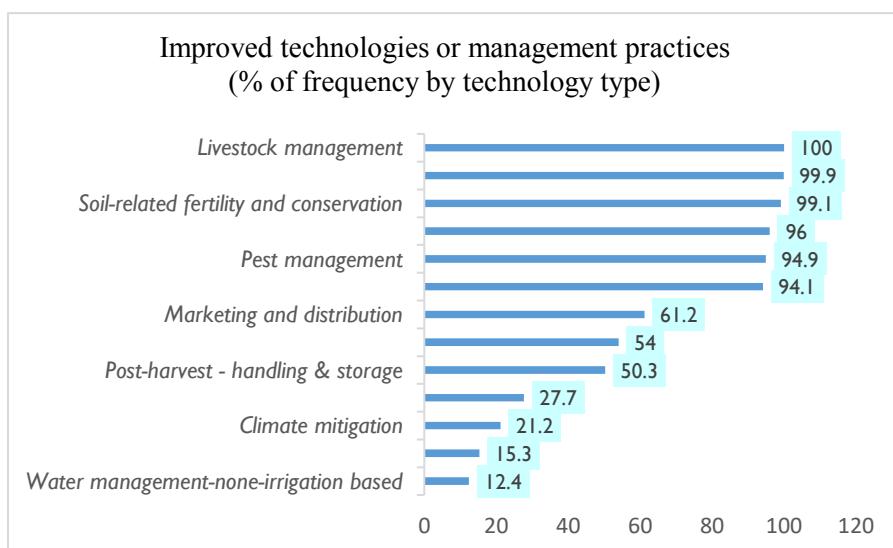


Figure 4 Percentage of frequency by technology type

value-added processing (27.7%), and post-harvest handling and storage (50.3%).

Figure 3 depicts the trend of technology adoption in FY19 compared to the base value. The adoption improved technology increased by 11 percent compared to 124,917 in FY18. Figure 4 shows the breakdown of improved technology adoption by program participants. The highest adoption rate was recorded for livestock management (100%) and irrigation (99.9%). The low adoption trend, however, was observed for non-irrigation based water management (12.4%), climate adaptation (15.3%), climate mitigation (21.2%),

**2.1.4. Value of small-holder incremental sales generated with USG assistance:** The value of incremental sales refers to the value of the total amount of selected agricultural products sold by small-holder (direct) participants compared to the base year. The results from the FY19 survey were somewhat similar to that of FY18 as it found that respondents who did goat farming generated the highest incremental sales which were worth US\$7,405,008 (120% achievement). The second

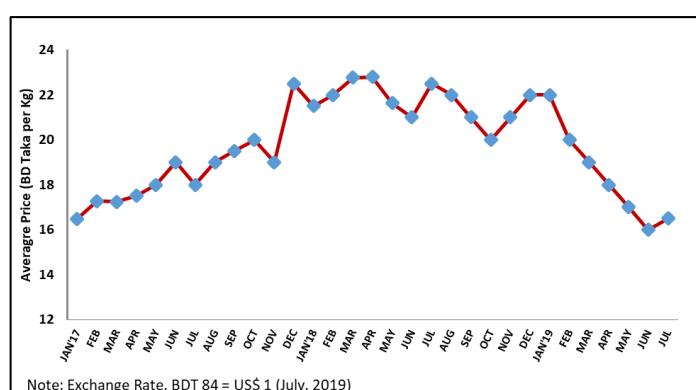


Figure 5 The trend of maize price from January 2017 to July 2019

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/agriculture/2019/02/10/simple-technologies-making-life-easier-for-farmers>, cited on 1 October 2019.

<sup>11</sup> <http://cri.org.bd/publication/Agriculture-bn/The-Bangladesh-Model-in-Agriculture-Growth.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/report/downloadreportbyfilename?filename=Grain%20and%20Feed%20Update\\_Dhaka\\_Bangladesh\\_7-28-2019.pdf](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/report/downloadreportbyfilename?filename=Grain%20and%20Feed%20Update_Dhaka_Bangladesh_7-28-2019.pdf)

and third highest incremental sales were made from maize at US\$1,221,485 (72% achievement) and chili at US\$812,775 (110% achievement). The growing pattern of maize sale from the baseline till FY18, however, was not reflected in this year's result. This is reflective of the report published by United States Agricultural Department (USDA) that stated that in July 2019, the wholesale price of corn was BDT16.5 (US\$0.20) per kilogram, which was 27.5 percent lower than last year's price due to higher domestic corn production. Figure 5 shows the trend of maize price in Bangladesh from January 2017 to July 2019.<sup>13</sup>

**2.1.5. Percentage of beneficiary households with increased food production:** This indicator measured the percentage of participating households that demonstrated an increased level of household food production through agriculture. The measurement covered homestead vegetable production, cereals, fish, poultry, and livestock production. SHOUHARDO III nearly achieved its target in this reporting year considering 78.7 (495 of 629) percent (Female 75.9: Male 83.9) of the participants had increased food production.

**2.1.6. Percentage of beneficiary households with increased accessing markets:** SHOUHARDO III works in hard-to-reach villages where accessing the market is difficult. The results of the survey confirmed that the program achieved its target in this regard as four in every five respondents (82% of 659) could access market (against a target of 80%) to sell products or purchases inputs (e.g. seed, fertilizer, raw materials). Among them, the female 75.8 percent was female and 94.6 was male respondents.

**2.1.7. Monthly income and expenditure:** According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016<sup>14</sup>, the average monthly expenditure of the rural population is BDT14,156, and monthly income is BDT13,353. According to the PaBSS findings, the monthly income of the SHOUHARDO III program participants was BDT12,337, whereas their expenditure was BDT9,510 each month. The data attained from the survey showed that 7.6 percent of the households depended on non-farm income. The survey also found that the percentage of households that relied on both on-farm and non-farm income was 92.4 in FY19.

**2.2 Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition:** SHOUHARDO III program works to improve access to and utilization of nutritious foods among program participants, to increase access to Health, Hygiene and Nutrition (HHN) services, and to improve WASH behaviors, and related services to reduce water-borne diseases. To achieve these outcomes, SHOUHARDO III facilitated social and behavioral change promotion activities among participants through Growth Monitoring Promotion (GMP), courtyard session with different groups, counseling with adolescent girls and PLW.

**2.2.1. Pregnant and lactating women (PLW) taking iron supplements and percentage of children under immunization:**  
 Iron deficiency anemia is most common during pregnancy and in infancy, when physiological iron requirements are the highest and the amount of iron absorbed from the diet is not sufficient to meet many individuals' requirement.<sup>15</sup> Anemia's effects include increased risk of premature delivery, increased risk of maternal and child mortality, negative impacts on the cognitive and physical development of children, and reduced physical stamina and productivity of people of all ages. Poor maternal malnutrition is highly prevalent among adolescent girls in Bangladesh, which

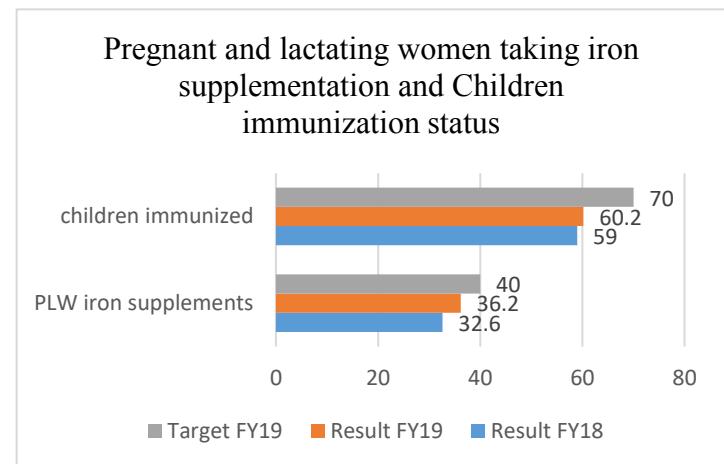


Figure 6 Percentage women taking iron supplementation and children under immunization

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> [http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4\\_956b\\_45ca\\_872f\\_4cf9b2f1a6e0/HIES%20Preliminary%20Report%202016.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/HIES%20Preliminary%20Report%202016.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/micronutrients/guidelines\\_for\\_Iron\\_supplementation.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/micronutrients/guidelines_for_Iron_supplementation.pdf?ua=1)

leads to an intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and poverty. One in two pregnant women in Bangladesh suffers from anemia.<sup>16</sup>

This indicator measured the proportion of pregnant women (who completed the first trimester of their pregnancy up to the childbirth) and lactating mothers (first three months after the childbirth) receiving an iron (including Folic Acid) supplements on a daily basis. Figure 6 shows that the program could not achieve its target, however, the number increased significantly compared to 32.6 percent in FY18 (increased significantly at 10% level of significance). In FY19, 36.2 percent (326 of 900) of the pregnant and lactating women took iron-folic supplementation.

The survey tracked access to child immunization services provided by the government health department including for the PEP households. Immunization is considered as a precondition for sound health and preventive measures to save children from major life-threatening diseases including tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis, HIV (against meningitis and severe pneumonia), and MR (Measles and Rubella). The Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) is a successful activity of GoB that aims to develop maternal, neonatal, and child health. Bangladesh has been successful in maintaining the national coverage of vaccination for 80 percent children by one year of age.<sup>17</sup>

SHOUHARDO III is yet to achieve progress in childhood immunization coverage. Figure 6 presents the percentage of children up to the age of 12 months who were immunized to prevent eight diseases as part of the government protocol. In FY19, 60 percent (542 of 900) of the mothers reported that their children were immunized in response to the target of 70 percent.

**2.2.2. Prevalence of children 6–23 months receiving a Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) and Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF):** In Bangladesh, 70 percent of the diet intake comprises cereals, and inadequate protein and micronutrient intake which intensifies undernutrition.<sup>18</sup> Poor sanitation and hygiene, which result in diarrhea and other infectious diseases, also contribute to undernutrition. Nevertheless, the country has made strides in reducing stunting, as the national prevalence of it fell from 41 percent in 2011 to 36 percent in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

MDD is defined as four or more, out of seven food groups including grains, legumes, dairy products (only for non-breast-fed children), fleshy foods, eggs, vitamin-A, fruits, and vegetables for children aged 6–23 months. Figure 7 illustrates that the program exceeded its target as 59 percent (516 of 874) of the mothers (of children aged 6–23 months) confirmed their children were receiving MDD; it significantly decreased compared to 66.1 percent in FY18 ( $p = 0.002$ ). The program almost achieved its target of ensuring MMF for children in targeted households. Figure 7 shows that 49.9 percent (436 of 874) children received MMF (against a target of 50%).

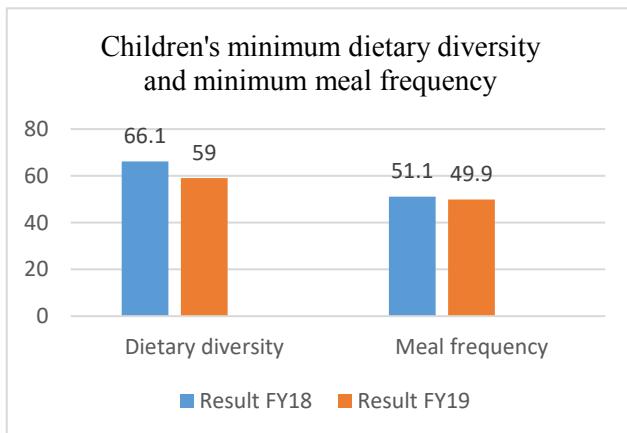


Figure 7 Children receiving minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency

**2.2.3. Percentage of live births receiving at least four antenatal care (ANC) visits during pregnancy:** Antenatal visits present opportunities for reaching pregnant women with interventions that may be vital to their health and well-being and that of their infants. WHO recommends a minimum of four antenatal visits,

<sup>16</sup> [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56424f6ce4b0552eb7fdc4e8/t/57490d3159827e39bd4d2314/1464405328062/Bangladesh\\_NM\\_S\\_final\\_report\\_2011-12.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56424f6ce4b0552eb7fdc4e8/t/57490d3159827e39bd4d2314/1464405328062/Bangladesh_NM_S_final_report_2011-12.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR311/FR311.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/Bangladesh-Nutrition-Profile-Mar2018-508.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

which allow women to be screened during their pregnancies for pre-existing conditions and potential complications, allow for initiation of timely and appropriate treatment, and provide a platform for women to receive counseling, which support them to protect their health and that of their baby throughout the antenatal, birth and postnatal periods. In Bangladesh, almost three in every four (71%)<sup>20</sup> women receive at least one antenatal care (ANC) visit from a medically trained provider in rural areas. A rise in receiving ANC for pregnant women was also noticed in SHOUHARDO III.

The results obtained from the PABSS showed that 64.3 percent (211 of 328) of the live births in the program implementing areas received at least four ANC in FY19. These ANC visits were performed by skilled health personnel such as doctors, nurses, midwives, skilled birth attendants, and clinical officers. Pregnant women's visits to either trained or untrained traditional birth attendants were excluded from this.

**2.2.4. Percentage of mothers who feel it is important to wash hands at five critical times:** Climbing the 'sanitation ladder' is still one of the major prevailing challenges for Bangladesh. The knowledge of key hygiene messages is high in Bangladesh, but the practice of effective handwashing, the most effective hygiene behavior, is very low.<sup>21</sup> National Hygiene Survey 2018<sup>22</sup> stated that the lowest prevalence of handwashing was after cleaning child's anus (9.1%) and feces (4.9%) and before feeding the baby (15%).

This indicator determined the proportion of the mothers or caregivers of 6-23 months children who could identify the five critical handwashing times that included (1) before eating, (2) before breastfeeding or feeding a child, (3) before cooking or preparing food, (4) after defecation/urination, and (5) after cleaning a child that has defecated. As it appears in Figure 8, SHOUHARDO III, over FY19, could only motivate 15.7 percent (141 of 900) of the mothers to wash hands in all five critical times, against a target of 25 percent (48.40% achievement). However, the handwashing practice significantly increased compared to 12.1 percent last year ( $p = 0.018$ ). Figure 9 provides a detailed picture of handwashing practice in survey respondents. It shows that in SHOUHARDO III implementing areas, the lowest handwashing tendency was noticed before breastfeeding/feeding a child (36.9%), followed by the second lowest before cooking (55.1%). There is a greater need to invest time in behavioral change programming in this aspect.

**2.2.5. Percentage of children under age two (U2) who had diarrhea in the prior two weeks:** Diarrhoeal disease kills around 500,000 children a year globally and is responsible for 6 percent of childhood deaths in Bangladesh.<sup>23</sup> Diarrheal illnesses affect weight as well as height gains

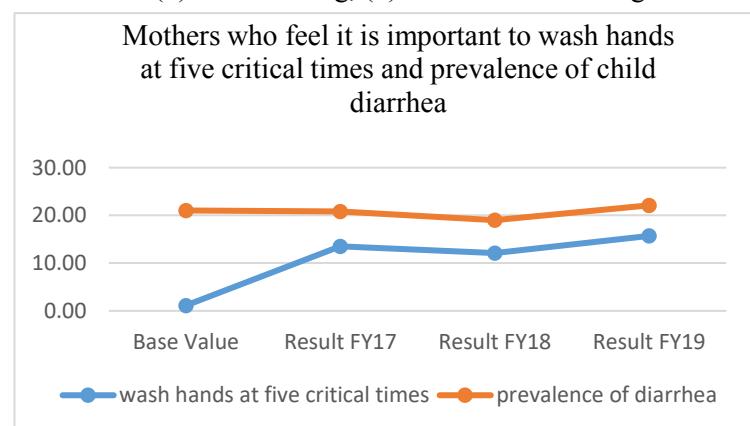


Figure 8 Handwashing in five critical times and prevalence of diarrhea

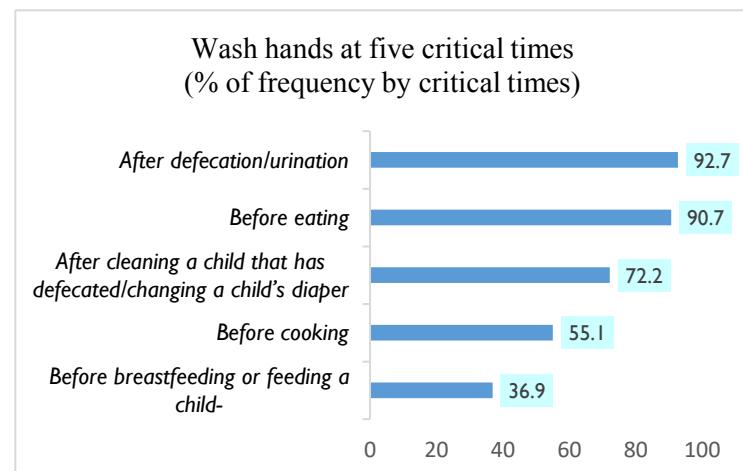


Figure 9 Percentage of frequency in handwashing by critical times

<sup>20</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/TR-17-218%20BMMS%202016%20Preliminary%20Report.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/better-access-safe-drinking-water/safer-sanitation-and-hygiene>, cited on 30 September 2019

<sup>22</sup> [http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4\\_956b\\_45ca\\_872f\\_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Hygiene%20Key%20Findings.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Hygiene%20Key%20Findings.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.icddrb.org/dmddocuments/icddrb\\_annual\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www.icddrb.org/dmddocuments/icddrb_annual_report_2017.pdf)

(leading to stunting) of children, with the most dramatic effects observed in cases of recurrent illnesses. The survey results revealed that in FY 2019, 6.4 percent (56 of 874) of the mothers of under two children stated that their children suffered from diarrhea over the past two weeks (against a target of 6 percent) in SHOUHARDO III implementing areas. Figure 8 shows that the prevalence of diarrhea remained almost at the same level since the baseline.

**2.2.6. Services received from government health department:** ‘Access to’ and ‘utilization of’ health and nutrition services from Health and Family Welfare Centers are crucial for PEP households to gain information that will help them reduce the prevalence of under-nutrition in pregnant women, lactating mothers, under five years of age children, and in adolescent girls. The survey results found that 41.3 percent (722 of 1559) of the respondents received health and nutrition services from community-level health facilities (91.78 percent achievement of the target).

**2.3 Resilience and Shocks:** SHOUHARDO III worked to provide technical support to participants for shock preparedness and resilience capacity building. Specific messages emphasized the risks to women, adolescents, elderly, children, and persons with disabilities during disasters, and how those risks can be reduced with a focus on household and community level preparedness.

**2.3.1. Average Coping Strategy Index (CSI) of targeted households:** The CSI determines a household’s ability to manage and cope with food shortages, and how consumption patterns change at these times. Examples of coping strategies can include reducing the quantity of food households consume, collecting wild food, and/or reducing the frequency of meals. The CSI of the sample households was calculated by multiplying the frequency of coping strategies used in the last 30 days with their respective severity weights. The sum of the scores was then used to determine the CSI. The higher the CSI, the more food insecure a household was. In FY 2019, the CSI was 67 (against a target of CSI 95), which increased significantly compared to 57.56 in the previous year ( $p = .007$ ). This year’s CSI is likely to be influenced by the heavy flood during the data collection period.

**2.3.2. Percentage of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions:** Under this component, SHOUHARDO III strengthens the resilience of beneficiaries to adapt/implement climate-smart improved management/technologies in agriculture, water, health, and in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Results from the survey as illustrated in Figure 10 indicated that in FY19, more than half of (58.7% of 977) the participants used climate information and implemented risk-reduction actions, which significantly increased from 43.6 percent in the previous year ( $p < .001$ ).

### 2.3.3. Percentage of households reporting their understanding of elements of disaster

**preparedness in the project defined criteria:** This indicator took into account the households with an understanding of the local hazards that may cause disasters, how to get prepared, and respond to disasters/shocks if they occur. In FY 2019, 35.2 percent (572 of 1559) of the households reported

People using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change

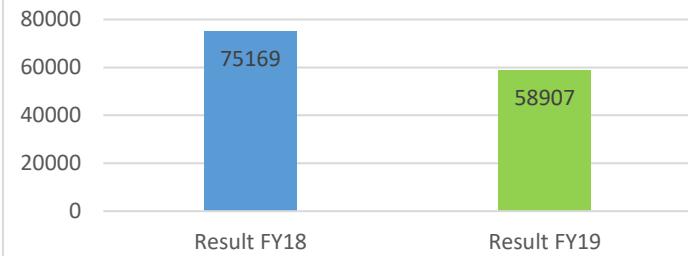


Figure 10 Use of climate information and implementation of risk-reducing actions

### Elements of disaster preparedness (% of frequency by Elements)

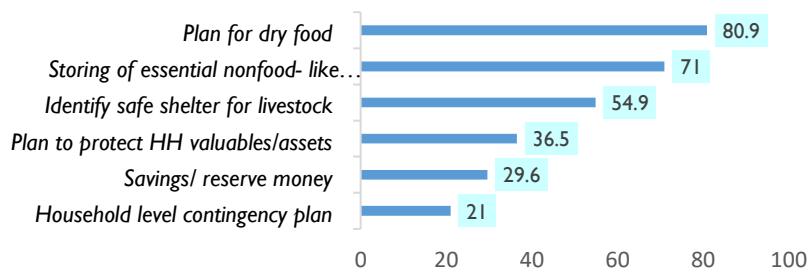


Figure 11 Percentage of frequency by elements of disaster preparedness

an improved understanding of disaster preparedness activities, where the target was 40 percent; it was a significant growth compared to 32.9 percent in FY18 ( $p = .042$ ). Figure 11 illustrates that the highest frequency was noticed for food (80.9%) and non-food items (71%). It was a disappointing reveal that savings as an element of disaster preparedness was adopted by 29.6% only.

**2.3.4. Percentage of households reporting receiving risk and early warning information:** This indicator monitored the percentage of households receiving risk and early warning information. SHOUHARDO III applies the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, and Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) generated indicators. The survey results revealed that in this reporting year 84.2 percent (1292 of 1559) of the households received early warning information against a target of 70 percent (an achievement of 120.29 percent). Program participants' access to early warning and climate risk information significantly increased compared to 70.3 percent in FY18 ( $p < .001$ ).

**2.3.5. Percentage of households reporting that health, gender, and disaster preparedness by actors build on each other, are well coordinated, and focus on most critical needs:** This indicator considered the beneficiaries who have an understanding of the coordination mechanism among actors (local and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), government departments such as health, youth and sports, social welfare, public health, and engineering, and relief and rehabilitation) on response or preparedness activities to local hazards. For this indicator, the survey found that 47.5 percent (54 of 125) households were in agreement that there was coordinated actions, exceeding the program's target of 40 percent (an achievement of 118.75%).

**2.4 Women Empowerment:** Women empowerment is at the core of SHOUHARDO III's interventions. It is a cross-cutting emphasis that the program aims to maintain in all of its purpose areas. The program mobilized girls and women through EKATA, couple's dialogues, and various lobbying with government agencies to End Violence against Women (EVAW).

**2.4.1. Mean decision-making score (index) for women at household level:** This indicator tracked women empowerment through their decision-making ability within the household. It included their level of participation in making decisions on household expenditures, use of income, savings and loans, and purchasing assets. Improvement in women's agency is likely to result in equitable roles for women and men within the household. The survey results, as depicted in Figure 12, found that the SHOUHARDO III program achieved a score of 35.88 against its target of 38 (94.42% achievement). A further breakdown showed that the decision making score was 36.6 for joint decision making of adult males and females. It was higher than the score of decisions made by either adult men or women.

**2.4.2. Percentage of PEP women accessing community level platforms for women empowerment:** This indicator measured the extent of women's access to community platforms, including Village Development Committees (VDC), Empowering Knowledge, and Transformative Action (EKATA) groups, and Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) forums. Women's participation in these platforms are indicators of how women's voice and rights are being strengthened. As shown in Figure 12, the program was unsuccessful in achieving its target (40%), as 36.7 percent (413 of 1125) women reported accessing community platforms. The program needs to reflect why greater progress has not been made in this indicator.

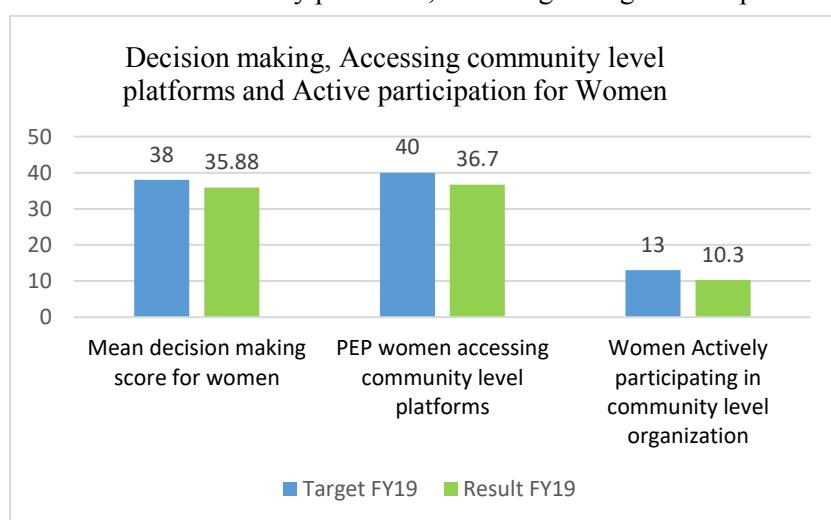


Figure 12 Mean decision making score, access to community level platforms and active participation of women

**2.4.3. Percentage of PEP women actively participating in community-level organization:** This indicator measured the number of women from PEP households participating in community-level organizations such as VDCs, EKATA groups, and other Community-Based Organizations that directly influenced their livelihoods and basic rights. Through greater engagement of women, SHOUHARDO III aims to strengthen a more equitable relationship between men and women within households and the broader community. The program made limited progress in this indicator and remained at a stagnant point. Figure 12 shows that around 10.3 percent (139 of 1559) of the PEP women could actively participate in community based organizations against a target of 13 percent in FY19.

#### 2.4.4. Percentage of respondents who know a neighbor or friend who has experienced domestic violence:

GBV is the most pervasive form of human rights violation that women and girls are regularly facing in Bangladesh. It persists largely due to deep-rooted patriarchal social norms. The frequency and severity of GBV vary across the country, but the negative impact it has on individuals and families is universal and has direct links to overall development as it impoverishes individuals, families, communities, and governments and reduces the economic development of a nation. Gender Statistics 2018 showed that the prevalence of women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their husbands in last 12 months is 27.8 percent in rural areas.<sup>24</sup> The situation, although not comparable, was worse in the SHOUHARDO III program areas.

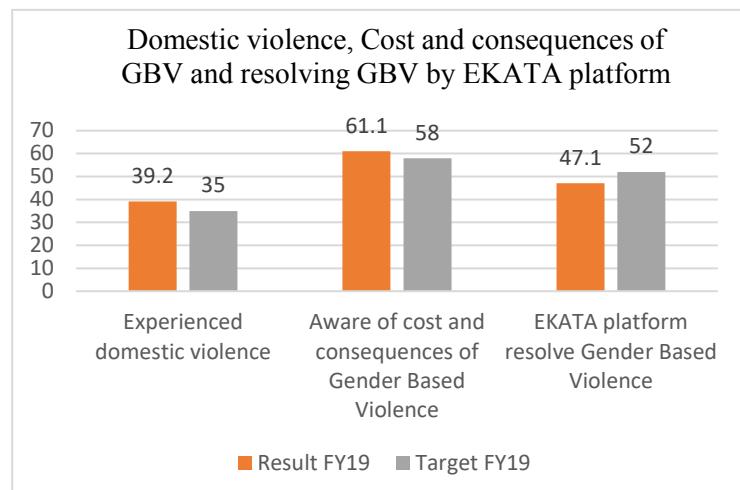


Figure 13 Prevalence of domestic violence, cost and consequences of GBV and resolving GBV by EKATA

This indicator measured the extent of Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the community level and the program's confrontation on this. Figure 13 indicates that in FY19, 39.2 percent (571 of 1559) of the participants reported that they were aware of a neighbor or friend who had experienced domestic violence whereas the program set a target of 35 percent. Compared to the last year's result (36.1%) the prevalence of GBV increased significantly ( $p=.04$ ). This could be either due to the increased awareness on reporting violence or an increase in the prevalence of violence.

**2.4.5. Percentage of program participants aware of cost and consequences of Gender Based Violence:** This indicator assessed community participants' knowledge on both the costs and consequences of violence against women. The cost of violence analyzed three categories: economic/financial costs, physical costs (such as temporary and permanent disability), and time costs (such as time spent at arbitration or for medical treatment and recovery). The ability of the community to relate costs to different kinds of physical, psychological and sexual violence helps them to understand the trauma a woman experiences from violence. The results obtained from the survey, given in Figure 13, showed that the program achieved its target in FY 2019, where 61.1 percent (854 of 1559) respondents (Female 59.1: Male 64.1) were aware of the cost associated to GBV, against a target of 58 percent (105.34% achievement). The level of awareness related to GBV increased significantly this year compared to 55.8 percent in FY18 ( $p=.002$ )

**2.4.6. Percentage of program participants reporting the EKATA platform can resolve Gender Based Violence issues:** This indicator measured the extent to which the EKATA platform was counteracting GBV across the community. The program was behind in reaching its target. As illustrated in Figure 13, 47.1 percent (565 of 1199) of the respondents reported that community-level platforms like EKATA could resolve GBV (against a target of 52 percent).

<sup>24</sup>[http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4\\_956b\\_45ca\\_872f\\_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Gender%20Statistics%20of%20Bangladesh%202018.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Gender%20Statistics%20of%20Bangladesh%202018.pdf)

**2.4.7. The percentage of respondent can identify and explain women's and girls' rights issues:** SHOUHARDO III intervened to increase understanding and awareness of women's and girls' rights issues in the targeted areas. This indicator assessed participants' (both male and female) ability to identify and explain women's and girls' rights in the areas of equal access to education, health care, food and nutrition, information, decent work, free from child marriage, freedom from violence, mobility, access to service, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes. The ability was measured based on their statement or account in these areas. The program successfully achieved its target of raising awareness among the participants. In FY19, 52.9 percent (390 of 705) of the respondents could explain women and girls rights issues (against a target of 25%).

**2.5. Governance:** SHOUHARDO III program mobilized participants to raise awareness of and methods of obtaining their rights. It engages with the main public service providers in the communities, to enhance the provision of public services in the program communities.

**2.5.1. Percentage of respondents who are satisfied with overall services provided by local govt. (Union Parishad):** The program's governance component plays an important role to strengthen systemic structures in the areas where SHOUHARDO III is implemented. This indicator tracked people's satisfaction with the services provided by the local government (Union Parishad). Services included construction/maintenance of small roads, culverts, tube wells, latrines, and safety nets.

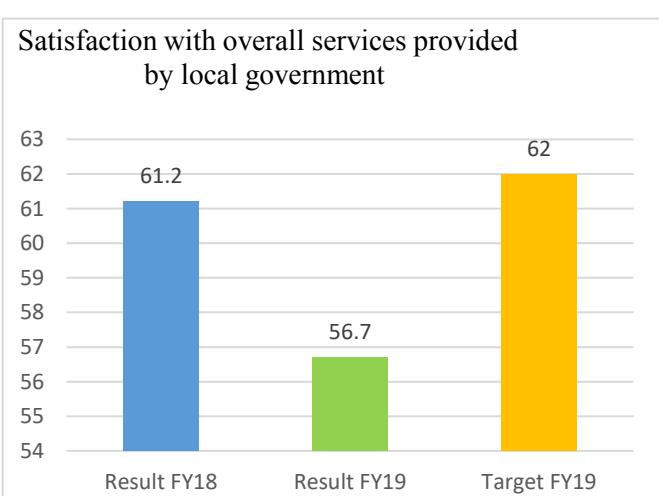


Figure 14 The level of satisfaction with overall services provided by local government

Figure 14 represents results from the FY19 survey on this. It shows that 56.7 percent (884 of 1559) of the respondents were satisfied with the local government services whereas the target was 62 percent. Community participants' satisfaction level decreased significantly compared to 61.2 percent in FY18 ( $p= .006$ ).

### 3. Other Indicators measured in PaBSS 2019

**3.1. New indicators for FY19:** SHOUHARDO III program started its transition towards a more sustainable phase. To ensure that the program captures results in areas where it chose to intervene to a deeper extent, it initiated new indicators for this reporting year.

**3.1.1. The number of full-time equivalent off-farm jobs created with USG assistance:** This indicator included all types of off-farm employment (i.e. self-employment and wage employment) created with the USG assistance during the reporting year, or in previous years and continued into the reporting year. Employment in agriculture or non-agricultural enterprises contributed to this measure. In FY19, the program created 17,323 full-time equivalent jobs against a target of 7,318 participants (a 236.73% achievement).

**3.1.2. Index of social capital at the household level:** Social capital can be defined as aggregate resources both actual and potential that are held in networks of kin and non-kin with mutual acquaintance.<sup>25</sup> The indicator measured the ability of participant households in the target area to draw on social networks to get support to reduce the impact of shocks and stresses on their households. It measured both the degree of bonding among households within their communities and the degree of bridging between households in the area to households outside their community.

It reflected the household responses indicating that they had reciprocal, mutually reinforcing, relationships

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/28183/wp040.pdf>

through which they could receive and provide support during times of need. The indicator was constructed from two sub-indices: one measuring bonding social capital and one measuring bridging social capital. The survey results, illustrated in Figure 15, showed that the program scored 55.17 in the social capital index against a target of 37 (149.11% achievement).

### **3.1.3. The number of participants who reported increased access to targeted public services:**

This indicator assessed the progress in participants' access to targeted public services. FFP activities with social accountability interventions typically work with both service providers and activity participants. This indicator did not track the usage of service because use would depend on the need of participants, which may vary every year. In FY19, total 69.8 percent (1069 of 1559) of participants reported increased access to public services. This year, the program successfully achieved 113 percent of its target.

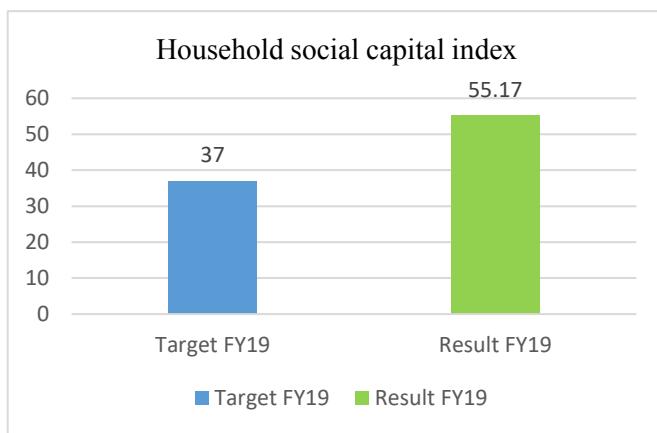


Figure 15 Household social capital index

## **3.2. Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP) Indicators**

**3.2.1. Percentage of physically improved sanitation facilities with feces visibly present on the floor, wall, or area immediately surrounding the facility:** Sanitation combines the most private human behaviors with the most public of impacts. Beyond the requirement for both individual and collective action to achieve progress, sanitation is hampered by tough challenges. The National Hygiene Survey 2018 revealed that 41 percent of the households had access to improved latrine where slab and floor appeared clean with no visible feces.<sup>26</sup> The situation in SHOUHARDO III implementing areas was worse. The survey results found that 62.2 percent (723 of 1163) of the sanitation facilities had feces visible on the floor, wall, and immediately surrounding facility. It decreased by 39.2 percent compared to the baseline (75.30%).

**3.2.2. Percentage of IGA participants practiced safe management of waste materials and pesticides using Mission/Bangladesh PERSUAP permitted pesticides:** This indicator measured the level of awareness received by IGA participants managing waste (from their selected IGA) and using pesticides. Waste management included cleaning and washing livestock rearing corner and its surrounding, discharging cow dung, a periodical checkup of common diseases with Government of Bangladesh, and Mission/Bangladesh PERSUAP permitted medicines. In this reporting year, 60 percent (18 of 30) of the IGA participants practiced safe management of waste materials and pesticides using Mission/Bangladesh PERSUAP permitted pesticides. The usage of such pesticides decreased from 77.7 percent in FY18 ( $p=.015$ ).

**3.2.3. Percentage of households using an improved sanitation facility (FFP 41):** Poor sanitation is heavily associated with a burden of disease. In order to enable adoption of improved sanitation behaviors, households need access to appropriate infrastructure and an adequate supply of products and services. Hardware, or infrastructure, includes both the latrine and the services that safely manage the fecal waste through the entire sanitation service chain. Most of the individuals living in rural areas in developing countries, especially in South and Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa still practice open defecation<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>26</sup>[http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4\\_956b\\_45ca\\_872f\\_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Hygiene%20Key%20Findings.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Hygiene%20Key%20Findings.pdf)

<sup>27</sup>[https://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_82419.html](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_82419.html), cited on 25 September 2019

Bangladesh is struggling to ensure improve sanitation coverage for all where 56 percent of the household has access to improved sanitation facilities (not shared).<sup>28</sup>

The PaBSS results, illustrated in Figure 16, found that 68.2 percent (1163 of 1559) of the households were using improved sanitation facilities, which was significantly decreased from 74.9 percent in FY18 ( $p < .001$ ).

### **3.2.4. Percentage of households using an improved drinking water source (FFP 40):**

Currently, the proportion of the population in Bangladesh using safely managed to drink water services stands at 87 percent (after making adjustments for arsenic contamination). Despite the remarkable progress, Bangladesh has the second-lowest water supply coverage figures among the South-Asian countries.<sup>29</sup> In the SHOUHARDO III working areas the prevalence of using improved drinking water source seemed to reach a total coverage. The percentage of households that were using an improved drinking water source was 99.9 percent (1558 of 1559) in this reporting year.

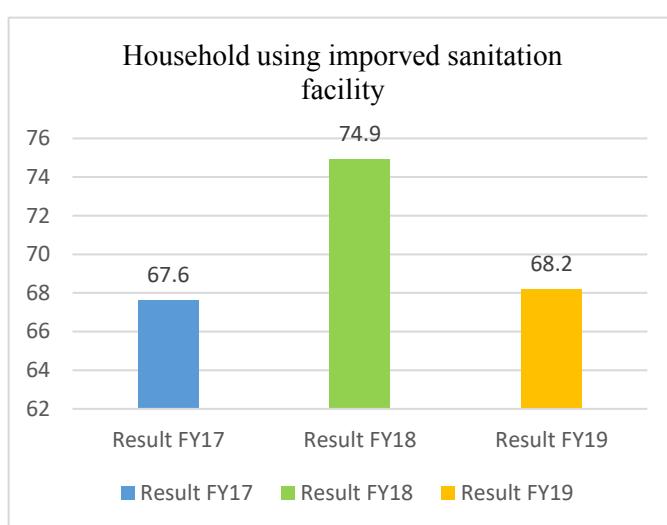


Figure 16 Percentage of household using improved sanitation facility

In the SHOUHARDO III working areas the prevalence of using improved drinking water source seemed to reach a total coverage. The percentage of households that were using an improved drinking water source was 99.9 percent (1558 of 1559) in this reporting year.

### **3.2.5. Percentage of mothers who did not report increased exposure to smoke because of preparing**

**USG donated commodities while preparing food:** This indicator assessed the extent of cooking of supplementary feeding commodities by the mothers using improved cooking stove through encouraging and awareness-building session with the mother groups. The survey results depicted that 4 percent (36 of 900) of the mothers prepared food in ways that did not cause increased exposure to smoke as a result of US government donated commodities compared to 1 percent in FY2017.

**3.3. Baseline/Endline Indicators:** Considering a limited number of women empowerment indicators under SHOUHARDO III annual monitoring indicator list, the program intended to measure some of the impact indicators from the FFP Baseline/Endline indicator list. It is important to note that due to the difference in methodology, results in the baseline and the PaBSS 2019 on these indicators cannot be compared. Although, the results provided an indicative trend on how far the program is progressing with its women empowerment initiatives.

**3.3.1. Percent of married women aged 15-49 who need to seek permission to visit certain locations:** In Bangladesh, social norms remained a great determinant of women's mobility and participation in income-earning activities. This indicator will measure the extent of women's mobility, a result of equitable gender norms and as a sign of increased empowerment. Gender equitable norms and women's empowerment can be defined as a function of relative physical mobility, ability to make various purchases on her own and economic security. Figure 17 shows that in FY19, 42 percent (731 of 1559) of the married women aged between 15 to 49 years needed to seek permission from their husbands to visit certain location.

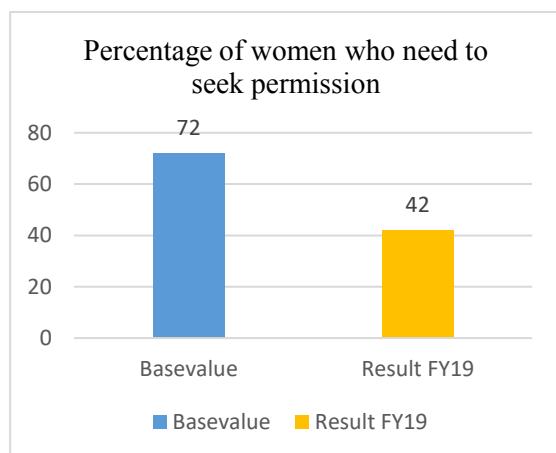


Figure 17 Percentage of women who need to seek permission from their husbands

<sup>28</sup>[http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4\\_956b\\_45ca\\_872f\\_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Hygiene%20Key%20Findings.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Hygiene%20Key%20Findings.pdf)

<sup>29</sup>[https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bangladesh/docs/Publications/Pub-2019/SDGs-Bangladesh\\_Progress\\_Report%202018%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bangladesh/docs/Publications/Pub-2019/SDGs-Bangladesh_Progress_Report%202018%20(1).pdf)

**3.3.2. Percent of married women aged 15-49 whose husbands help with household tasks:** This indicator will measure the degree to which women are empowered in their household and the degree of inequality between women and men within the household workload distribution. SHOUHARDO III will consider cooking, gathering of water/firewood for the house, cleaning, childcare, selling produce or going to market, homestead gardening, and homestead poultry rearing as essential household tasks where the husband can take part. In SHOUHARDO III implementing areas, the percentage of married women aged 15-49 who reported receiving assistance with household tasks was 65.4 percent (864 of 1336), as illustrated in Figure 18.

This percentage is a significant decrease from 78.3 percent in the previous year ( $p<.001$ ). A further analysis showed that the helping tendency from husbands was highest for childcare (49.7%) and homestead poultry rearing (44.5%) and lowest for homestead gardening (24.6%) and cleaning the house (26.2%).

**3.3.3. Changes made in agricultural practices based on the climate information:** The results obtained from the survey revealed that 58.6 percent of the respondents changed their agricultural practice based on the climate information in the reporting year. This practice significantly increased compared to 48.7 percent in the previous year ( $p<.001$ ).

**3.4. SHOUHARDO III Extension Indicators:** SHOUHARDO III is on the verge of receiving an extension from FFP which will let the program continue intervening in the targeted communities in FY21 and FY22. The program is now embarking on a more sustainable journey. To ensure that the results sustain in the long run, the program has reviewed its interventions. It also initiated new indicators to measure its progress during the extension period. Most of these indicators capture results at the system and institutional level.

**3.4.1. Percentage of farmers received support from GoB institutions/ public services:** This indicator collected the base value of the percentage of farmers under the SHOUHARDO III program who have received support on farming from public service providing agencies. This indicator covered the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the Department of Livestock (DLS), and the Department of Fisheries including research organizations, like, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA). In FY19, 14.8 percent (109 of 659) of the farmers stated that they received support from GoB institutions of who most received services from the DLS.

**3.4.2. Percentage of individuals whose income source increased than previous with project assistance:** This indicator referred to the number of individuals under the SHOUHARDO III program who have been engaged in new income activities or increased income sources compared to the previous period as a result of SHOUHARDO III initiatives. This indicator included all COG participants through FFP assistance. More than half of the surveyed participants (57.6% out of 1558) reported increased income source than before with the program assistance.

**3.4.3. Mean age of marriage among women aged 15-49:** Bangladesh ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 which sets a minimum age of marriage of 18, and acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1984, which obligates states to ensure free and full consent to marriage. However, parents wield major influence in the marriage of their children in South Asian cultures. Girls are usually burdened with maintaining their family's honor. When a girl child reaches puberty, parents worry about protecting her chastity. It is a major barricade to stopping child marriage. Because parents who decide to marry off girl children feel a real or perceived fear of sexual

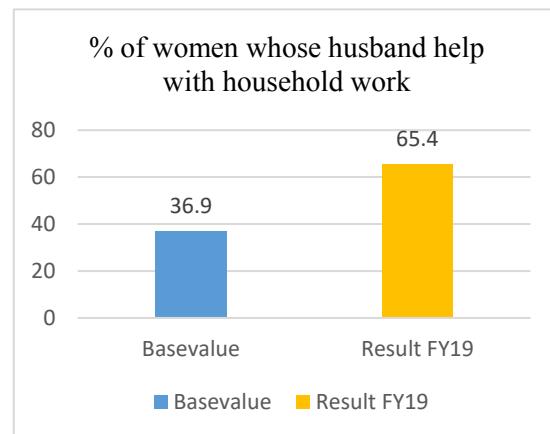


Figure 18 Percentage of women whose husband help with household work

violence at the onset of puberty.<sup>30</sup> Gender Statistics of Bangladesh 2018<sup>31</sup> states that the mean age at marriage for rural women is 19.8 years. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014 stated that the median age women aged 20 - 49 years increased by two years in between 1993-94 and 2014 from 14.4 to 16.1 years. This suggests that to increase the median age of marriage by two years took about a decade for the country.<sup>32</sup> Henceforth, it is critical for SHOUHARDO III to place importance on delaying the first age of marriage. In PaBSS 2019, this indicator was used to identify the first age of marriage for women aged 15-49 years. In SHOUHARDO III implementing areas, the mean age of marriage for women between the ages of was 15.53 (D-1549).

**3.4.4. Percentage of households who keep their cattle and poultry separately from children:** This indicator collected the base value of the percentage of households that were aware of the negative consequence on exposure of animal feces with young children and accordingly they: (1) kept their floor clean, and (2) courtyard through regular sweeping, and also (3) kept their cattle and poultry outside living room. The survey results found that 34.9 percent (491 of 1559) of the households kept their cattle and poultry separate from children.

**3.4.5. Percentage of pregnant women who received pregnancy care support (day-time rest, extra food) during pregnancy period:** SHOUHARDO III organized courtyard session, counselling with PLWs and their in-laws as well as worked with local government facilities under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ensure that they have access to health care services. This indicator included the proportion of pregnant women who took additional food and day-time rest during their pregnancy period. It considered extra food and day-time rest that was ensured either by themselves or other members of the households. Those who took more food or more day time rest during pregnancy than as usual was considered as receiving pregnancy care support. In FY19, more than half of the pregnant women (53.8% out of 900) stated that they received pregnancy care.

**3.4.6. Percentage of adolescent girls and female youth (15-25) who make decisions alone about the use of self-earned cash:** This indicator assessed the extent to which adolescent girls and female youths (aged 15-25) were making choice about their use of self-earned cash, for example, the ability to spending money that has earned by herself. (Income can be from any means, i.e. from business, poultry/livestock rearing, homestead gardening, handicrafts, tailoring). The results from the survey confirmed that 59.2 percent (106 of 184) of the adolescent girls and female youth made decisions about their self-earned income.

**3.4.7. Percentage of adolescent boys who report they do not support gender-based violence (including sexual harassment):** The indicator measured the level of support from the adolescent boys in addressing GBV. Here, GBV referred to child marriage, dowry, eve-teasing, physical abuse, sexual harassment, and emotional oppression. An adolescent boy was counted under this indicator given he did not support any of the mentioned forms of GBV. In this reporting year, more than one third (36.84% out of 38) of the adolescent boys refused to support gender-based violence. The survey could not draw any conclusive remark here as the number was too small for that. This data should be referred with carefully by the program.

**3.4.8. Number of participants who reported increased access to targeted public services (RiA):** This indicator, collected the base value on the progress in participants' access to targeted public services. FFP activities with social accountability interventions typically work with both service providers and activity participants. The survey results found that 69.8 percent (1069 of 1559) of the participants' access to public services increased.

**3.4.9. Percentage of eligible project participants who participate in government safety nets:** Social Safety Net Program (SSNP) is one of the widely practiced measures for alleviating poverty targeted to the

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/ending-child-marriage>, cited on 1 October 2019

<sup>31</sup> [http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4\\_956b\\_45ca\\_872f\\_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Gender%20Statistri.cs%20of%20Bangladesh%202018.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/Gender%20Statistri.cs%20of%20Bangladesh%202018.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR311/FR311.pdf>

poor. According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016,<sup>33</sup> 12.9% people in Bangladesh fall under the lower poverty line. They suffer from chronic poverty and live below subsistence level. Around 34.5% of these households from rural Bangladesh received benefits from government safety net programs. SHOUHARDO III facilitated the process of ensuring this support for the eligible PEP households, especially for Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), widow allowance, disable allowance, old age allowance, and maternity allowance. In FY19, 39.7 percent (541 of 1559) of the program participants (who were eligible) participated in government safety net programs.

**3.4.10. Percentage of households practicing water safety plan:** The program is intending to build the technical capacity of Local Service Providers (LSPs) on water safety planning. LSPs will then assist community people in developing the Water Safety Plan with the support of SHOUHARDO III. In this reporting year, no household (D- 111) was found to practicing water safety plan.

**3.4.11. Percentage of Lactating Mother practicing hygiene behavior practices:** This indicator measured the proportion of the lactating mother who identified and practiced the hygiene behaviors (defined by the SHOUHARDO III project). The project defined hygiene behaviors for females involved safely disposing the child's faces, washing hands after anal washing of children, washing hands before food preparation, after using latrines, using menstrual hygiene management kits during menstruation. The results gained from the survey found that 11 percent (99 of 900) of the lactating mothers practiced these hygiene behaviors.

## 4. An overview of Women Empowerment in SHOUAHRDO III

### 4.1. Women Empowerment Index (based on the results of PaBSS 2019)

This Women Empowerment (WE) Index intends to show the connections among women empowerment, food security, and agricultural growth. This was highly influenced by the Feed the Future WE in Agriculture Index.<sup>34</sup> However, the Feed the Future WE Index could not be applied entirely as that includes specific indicators and measurements. This WE index only adopted the five domains of women empowerment from the FtF WE in Agriculture Index. The five domains are agricultural production, resources, income, leadership, and time and they comprise of ten indicators. These indicators were adopted from the list of PaBSS 2019 indicators based on their association with the five domains of women empowerment. The definitions of these domains are given in Box 1 below:

- a. Production: Sole or joint decision making over food and cash-crop farming, livestock, and fisheries
- b. Resources: Access to productive resources (such as land, livestock, agricultural equipment, consumer durables) and services
- c. Income: Sole control over income and expenditures
- d. Leadership: Active in economic or social groups and comfort in speaking in public, and mobility
- e. Time: Allocation of time to productive and domestic tasks and satisfaction with the available time for rest

*Box 1 Definitions of five domains of WE Index*

Each domain was weighted applying two distinct types of agency, the first one is 'passive' agency in which action demonstrates little or no choice, and another one is 'active' agency in which behavior is purposeful.<sup>35</sup> The domains having a direct connection to the first type were weighted lower whereas domains referring to an active agency were weighted higher. The standardization process contemplated Kabeer's women empowerment framework, which comprises three domains, (1) agency, (2) resources, and (3) achievements<sup>36</sup> besides the Feed the Future WE Index. The highest weight was assigned to decision making related to production and income and leadership in the community, and the lowest weight was given to access to

<sup>33</sup> [http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4\\_956b\\_45ca\\_872f\\_4cf9b2f1a6e0/HIES%20Preliminary%20Report%202016.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/HIES%20Preliminary%20Report%202016.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/WEAI-Intervention\\_Guide\\_Final-8.2016.pdf](http://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/WEAI-Intervention_Guide_Final-8.2016.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/0589/Kabeer%25202005.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

resources and use of time. The value of these indicators was extracted from the PaBSS results and standardized to plot in one graph. It shows the extent of women empowerment in these five domains. The calculation of the WE Index based on PaBSS 2019 results is detailed out in Table 4 below:

<b>Domains weight</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator-wise score (based on PaBSS results)</b>	<b>Total score</b>
Production (10=1)	a. Increased food production b. Access to market	80.7/10 = 8.07 75.8/10 = 7.58	15.65
Resources (15=1)	a. Antenatal care b. Nutrition services from the community clinic	64.3/15 = 4.28 34/15 = 2.26	6.54
Income (10=1)	a. Decision on self-earned income	59.2/10 = 5.92	5.92
Leadership (10=1)	a. Active participation in community level platform b. Resolving GBV c. Do not need to seek permission	9.4/10 = .94 51.6/10 = 5.16 58/10 = 5.8	11.9
Time (15=1)	a. Husbands help with HH works b. Day-time rest	65.4/15 = 4.36 53.8/15 = 3.58	7.94

Table 4 WE Index score based on the PaBSS 2019 results

As we can see in Table 3, 10 indicators were extracted from the PaBSS 2019 to develop the WE Index. The highest scoring domain (15.65) in relation to women empowerment was in production which indicates that women were either taking solo or joint decisions associated with agricultural production. It also meant that they had increasing access to market. The second-highest score (11.9) was noted in demonstrating leadership for community development, addressing GBV, and determining their mobility. The program scored moderately in terms of resources (6.54) and time allocation (7.94). The lowest score was noticed for income at 5.92. These domain-specific scores have been illustrated in Figure 16 to portray a holistic picture of women empowerment situation in SHOUHARDO III.



Figure 19 SHOUHARDO III WE Index score 2019

This WE Index is not beyond limitations. Two specific limitations of this index are –

- Variations in sampling weight: The PaBSS 2019 used different sampling weights for different indicators. It was not possible to draw equally weighted indicators for this index.
- Appropriate WE indicator and measurement: The FtF WE Index could not be applied for this index. The FtF WE Index consists of specific indicators and measurement, which is more appropriate. The fact that this index only used indicators that were used in PaBSS 2019, made this WE Index less likely to be accurate.

Figure 19 illustrates program's current state in five domains of women empowerment and is based on the scores from Table 4. It shows that two strongest areas of women empowerment for the program were in production and leadership. It seems from this figure that SHOUHARDO III will require more efforts to make sure that women have better control over income, resources, and time.

#### 4.2. Association of Women Decision Making and Income

Figure 20 demonstrates the association between women decision making and household's monthly average income. Women decision making and their income were differentiated in three different clusters – below (decision making score 1-2), moderate (decision making score 2-3), and high (decision making score 3-4). Women decision making score was predefined in the survey tool based on a set of (women decision making) indicators; the dots in these three clusters show income variations and its affiliation with women decision making (i.e. women who have below decision making score mostly tend to have income between BDT 0 – 2000).

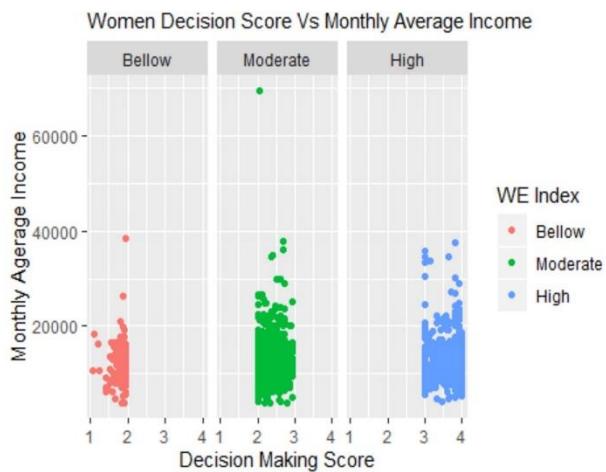


Figure 20 Association between women empowerment and household income

#### Analytical Process Adopted

- The PaBSS 2019 asked women about their involvement in 12 household decisions making areas.
- Response codes were re-coded by level of empowerment: 1 ‘not involved in decision’, 2 ‘husband makes decision after discussing with wife’, 3 ‘woman decides with husband or other adult male family member’, or 4 ‘woman can decide alone.’
- Categorization was done following an average score of ‘1-2’ as below women decision making , ‘2-3’ as moderate and ‘3-4’ as high decision making.
- Out of 1549 PaBSS sample, 509 (N) falls under high women decision making with monthly average income of BDT12,653, while moderate women decision making households’ income was BDT12,201 (N= 898), and BDT11,734 (N= 142) for households with low women decision making.

#### 5. Recommendation

The overall survey results identified a striking growth in most of the outcome areas of the program. However, the program can use the survey findings to review some of its intervention areas. Following are some specific recommendations that the program may consider going forward:

- a. It found that the farmers' adoption of new technologies and production grew extraordinarily, but the program fell short in ensuring that they were getting a fair price for their produce. Therefore, the program may review its work in the post-harvest management process, for example mobilizing participants to build storage collectively as well as by value addition to their produce.
- b. The program should compare the gross margin and the value of incremental sales of program promoted value chain commodities with FtF or other DFSA projects that are promoting similar commodities (if available/match with commodities), and may consider promoting other value chain commodity (if the context seems viable).
- c. In some of behavioral indicators, the program could not make notable progress in FY19. These included dietary diversity, using improved sanitation facilities, and husbands assisting their wives with household tasks. The program may carry on further programmatic inquiry as well as take adaptive management actions in these areas, for instance, reviewing program intervention targeted at behavioral change.

- d. To reduce the incidence of GBV, the program may focus on two specific areas – (1) emphasis on prevention by identifying and addressing the key risks, and (2) by engaging community <sup>37</sup>partners including local leaders, civil society organizations, and child advocates in program areas.
- e. Given that the program's progress was slow between FY18 and FY19 in some of the indicators, it may remain conservative while setting the target for FY20.
- f. Women's decision making seems one of the areas that is associated with seasonality. The program may consider doing an in-depth research in this area to find out enabling/hindering factors underlying the inconsistent decision making pattern and can refine/formulate its strategy in order to strengthen women empowerment initiatives to demonstrate lasting impact.

## **6. Conclusion**

The results attained from the PaBSS 2019 were evident that the SHOUHARDO III interventions already achieved its intended outcomes in the lives of the targeted participants. The findings showed that the gross margin and incremental sales for the PEP households increased significantly in FY19. Despite increased access to markets, farmers were struggling to obtain a fair price for their produce. In terms of the health and nutrition outcomes, a significant increase was seen in the number of women taking iron-folic supplementation and receiving ANC service in FY19. In addition, the survey results found that more participants had understanding of disaster preparedness and were using climate information in this reporting year.

The handwashing practice although did not achieve target in FY19 but increased significantly compared to the previous year. The program seemed to have decreases dietary diversity and deteriorated sanitation situation in this reporting year. SHOUAHRDO III program strengthened women's capacity in production and leadership. Moreover, increasing number of women reported taking decision-related to their mobility and income. Nonetheless, the scope of practicing these seemed to be limited as the prevalence of GBV was on the rise. This report recommends the program to act to strengthen its efforts in ensuring hygiene behaviors and addressing GBV to ensure better outcomes and impact in the remaining time.

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<sup>37</sup> <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/399881538336159607/Environment-and-Social-Framework-ESF-Good-Practice-Note-on-Gender-based-Violence-English.pdf>