

**Enhancing Access and Control to Sustainable Livelihood Assets of
the Manobo Tribe through Improved and Strengthened Self-
governance of the Ancestral Territory – Effectiveness Review
*Summary Report***



**Oxfam GB
Women's Empowerment Outcome Indicator**

July 2012

Acknowledgments:

We would like to thank PBPF staff and the Oxfam Philippines team for being so supportive during the exercise. Particular thanks to Dante Dalabajan, Jessan Catre, Nasrullah Clido, and the Consultant, Wilson John Barbon.

Photo credit: PBPF

Executive Summary

Under Oxfam Great Britain's (OGB) Global Performance Framework (GPF), sufficiently mature projects are being randomly selected each year and their effectiveness rigorously assessed. The Philippines' Sustainable Livelihoods Mindanao Project (PHLB40) was randomly selected for an Effectiveness Review under the women's empowerment thematic area. However, this particular project was designed to complement and enhance the work of four other Oxfam projects. Only one of these projects – Enhancing Access and Control to Sustainable Livelihood Assets of the Manobo Tribe through Improved and Strengthened Self-governance of the Ancestral Territory – was considered to be sufficiently mature for an effectiveness review. This project is being implemented by Oxfam's partner, Paglilingkod Batas Pangkapatiran Foundation Incorporated (PBPF). It seeks to strengthen community governance, improve household food security, and empower women among a group of indigenous peoples (comprising of approximately 200 households) that reside in the Manobo-Mamanua Ancestral Domain of Mindanao.

To assess the effectiveness of the project in empowering women and improving household food security a quasi-experimental impact evaluation design was implemented. This involved administering surveys to 316 household in six villages – three targeted by the project and three neighbouring comparison villages. To reduce bias, propensity score matching (PSM) and multivariable regression (MVR) were used in the statistical comparison of the two groups. Progress of the project towards a number of key outcomes was assessed through this process. These outcomes include the extent to which women are involved in household-level decision-making and influencing affairs at the community level; women's self-efficacy; the attitudes of both men and women towards the economic roles of women; and various measures of household food security, agricultural production, and income.

There is evidence that the Enhancing Access and Control to Sustainable Livelihoods Assets of the Manobo Tribe Project successfully affected several of these outcomes but not others. In general, there is more evidence that it has contributed to empowering women than enhancing household food security. In particular, significant differences between respondents in the project and non-project villages were identified for several of the women empowerment measures. These include those related to women's perceived role in influencing community affairs, women's self-efficacy, and the attitudes of men towards the economic roles of women.

There is little evidence that the project was successful in improving household food security. For most of the food security measures, no significant differences were identified between the project and non-project groups. However, there were several exceptions. More households in the project villages, for instance, reported being in a position to meet household needs than in the non-project villages. Moreover and very interestingly, men in the project villages were more likely to report consuming a greater variety of food types during the previous day than men in the comparison villages.

Oxfam in general and the Philippines country team and PBPF in particular are encouraged to consider the following as a follow-up to this effectiveness review:

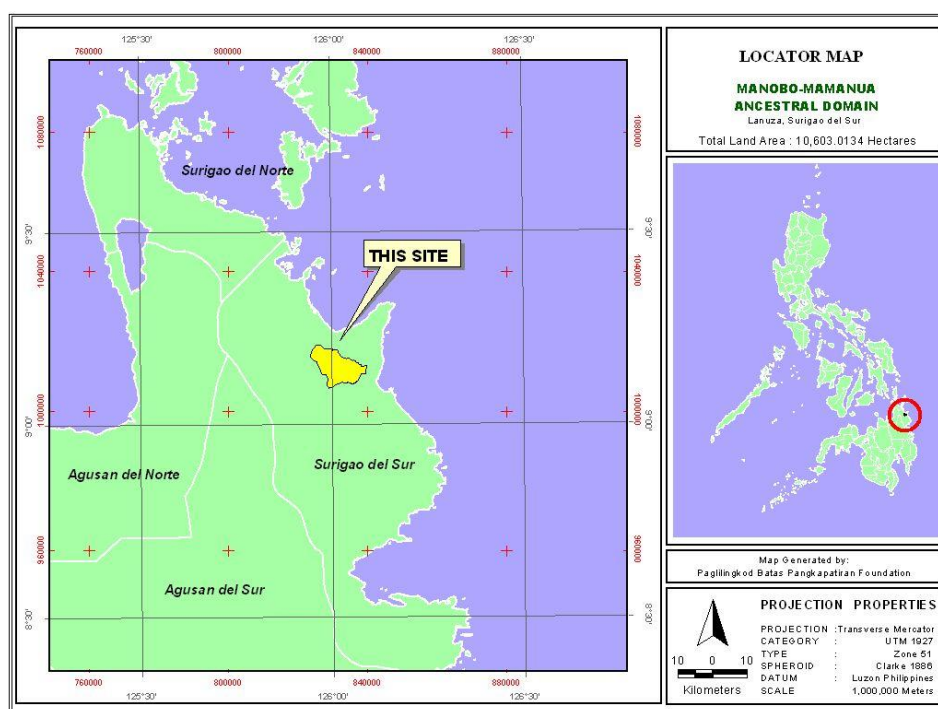
- Critically review and assess how the project can more effectively increase agricultural production and income
- Verify the extent women are actually involved in decision-making at the household level through qualitative methods
- Explore ways of more effectively promoting positive attitudes about the economic roles of women among both women and men

Introduction and Purpose

Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) has put in place a Global Performance Framework (GPF) as part of its effort to better understand and communicate its effectiveness, as well as enhance learning across the organisation. As part of this framework, modest samples of sufficiently mature projects (e.g. those closing during a given financial year) are being randomly selected each year and rigorously evaluated. One key focus is on the extent they have promoted change in relation to relevant OGB global outcome indicators.

One of the projects randomly selected for the effectiveness review under the women's empowerment thematic area is entitled the Sustainable Livelihoods Mindanao Project (PHLB40). However, this particular project is not a standalone project. Rather, it was designed to complement and enhance the work carried out by four other Oxfam projects. Upon reviewing each of these particular projects, only one was found to be sufficiently mature and conducive for the effectiveness review process, and it was, consequently, chosen as the focus of the review.

This particular project is entitled: Enhancing Access and Control to Sustainable Livelihood Assets of the Manobo Tribe through Improved and Strengthened Self-governance of the Ancestral Territory. It is being implemented by Oxfam's partner organisation, Paglilingkod Batas Pangkapatiran Foundation Incorporated (PBPF). Aside from its community governance strengthening objective, one of its key aims is to improve household food security among the targeted beneficiaries – a group of indigenous peoples (comprising of approximately 200 households) that reside in a mountainous area that make up the Manobo-Mamanua Ancestral Domain. This Ancestral Domain is located in the Municipality of Lanuza in the Province of Surigao del Sur located on the north-eastern side of Mindanao. (See map below.) A secondary aim of the project is to empower the women of these households, particularly in relation to farm-related decision-making and involvement in traditional leadership structures.



Evaluation Approach

The Enhancing Access and Control to Sustainable Livelihood Assets of the Manobo Tribe Project is attempting to bring about positive changes in the lives of over 1,000 people. From a rigorous impact

evaluation perspective, the best way to evaluate such an intervention would have been to restrict the project's implementation to randomly selected geographical areas, leaving others sites for comparative purposes, i.e. as controls. This impact evaluation design is known as a clustered randomised control trial. If it was successfully implemented, the impact of the project could have been assessed by directly comparing the households of the implementation and control sites in relation to relevant measures of outcome. This is specifically because the randomisation process would have made the women and men in the intervention and control sites comparable in every way, save their participation in the project.

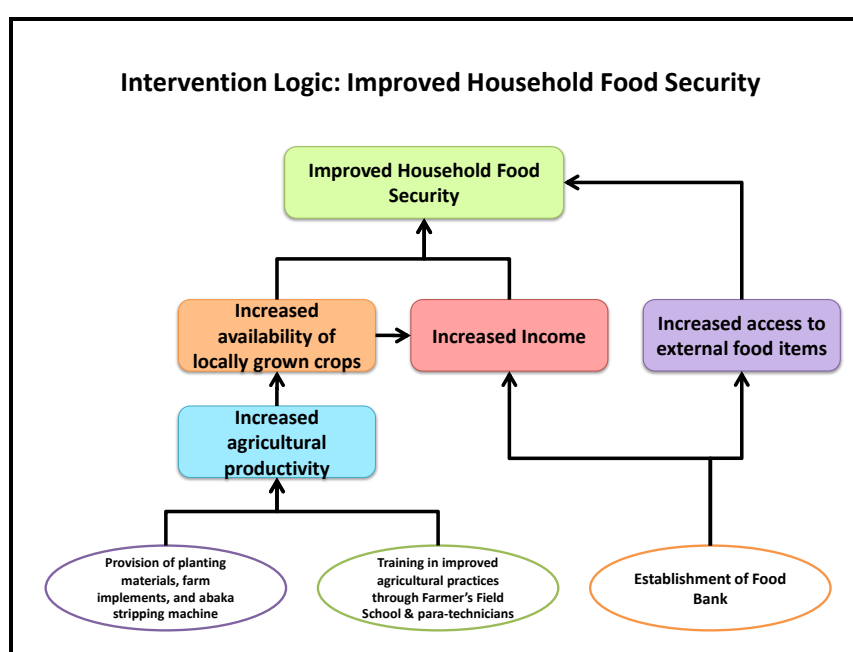
However, PBPF did not implement the project in randomly selected geographic areas; the villages were purposively chosen. An alternative impact assessment design was consequently pursued. This design is referred to as a quasi-experiment because it attempts to “mimic” what a randomised control trial does by purposively identifying comparison groups that are similar to the supported groups, and then statistically controlling for any measured differences between them.

To implement the design, villages where PBPF implemented and did not implement the project were mapped out. A total of three villages where the project was implemented and three comparison villages were selected for the data collection exercise. Given the relatively small numbers of households in these villages, attempts were made to interview *all* of them, rather than a representative sample. This resulted in the administration of questionnaires to a total of 316 households, 157 of which were from the project sites and 159 from the non-project sites. Pairs of male and female enumerators jointly interviewed respondents from each household. However, after the household specific modules were administered, the male and female enumerators separately interviewed the senior male and senior female of the household, respectively. During the statistical analysis of data obtained through the administration of these questionnaires, propensity score matching (PSM) and multi-variable regression (MVR) were used to control for measured differences between the women and men who were interviewed.

Intervention Logic of the Project

As mentioned above, one of the primary aims of the project assessed under the Effectiveness Review was to improve household food security among a relatively small group of households residing in the Manobo-Mamanua Ancestral Domain of Mindanao. The figure to the right presents the intervention logic of how the activities carried out under the project were to achieve this particular aim.

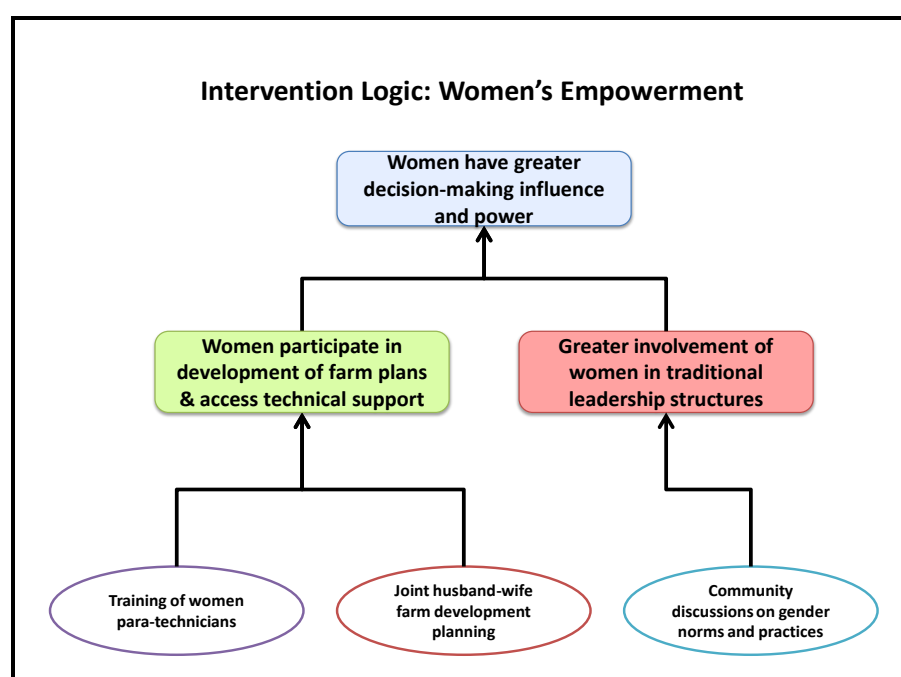
As is evident from the diagram, considerable training has been carried out by the project through farmer's field schools. Female “para-technicians” were also trained to further promote improved agricultural practices,



particularly among women farmers. This – coupled with the provision of planting materials, farm implements, and a community owned abaca stripping machine¹ – is intended to increase agricultural productivity. Increased agricultural productivity is then to both increase the availability of locally grown food crops and raise household income, ultimately improving household food security.

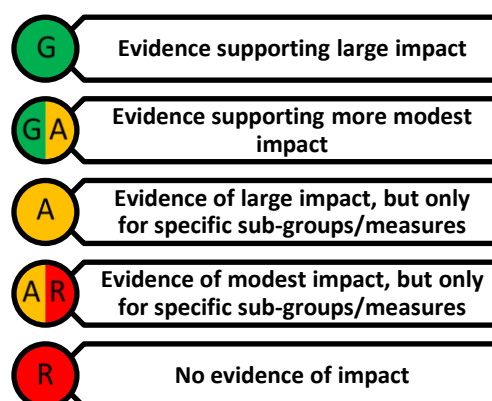
The project also established a food bank. Here, households exchange their crops for both cash and food supplies not easily accessible in the area, e.g. rice. This particular component of the project is, therefore, intended to both raise household income and increase access the non-local food items.

A secondary objective of the project is to bolster the decision-making influence and power of women residing in its catchment area. The project seeks to achieve this in three ways: First, it trained female para-technicians who are then to pass on their skills to fellow female farmers. Second, joint household-level farm development planning between husband and wife is a requirement for support. Both of these interventions, then, are intended to empower women, particularly in relation to household-related agricultural decision-making. The third way the project seeks to empower women is by periodically holding community discussions on gender norms and practices in the communities targeted by the project. This is intended to increase the involvement of women in traditional leadership structures, thereby, also increasing their decision-making and influence.



Impact Assessment Summary Table

The following summary table provides a snapshot of the key findings of the effectiveness review. A short narrative description related to each outcome then follows to unpack each key finding. A separate more technical report is also available that provides a more detailed and technical description of the evaluation design, process, and results. The table below summarises the extent to which there is evidence that the project realised its targeted outcomes in the form of a simple five-point 'traffic light' system. The key to the right presents what the various traffic lights represent.



¹ Abaca (*Musa textilis*) popularly known as Manila hemp is a tropical plant native to the Philippines that is used for cordage, fiber crafts, textiles and papermaking.

Outcome/Impact	Rating	Short Commentary
Outcome 1 – Oxfam GB’s global indicator for women’s empowerment	G	Evidence of impact on increased women’s involvement in influencing affairs at community level. Inconclusive results of impact on household-level decision-making.
Outcome 2 – Increased women’s self-efficacy	G	Strong evidence of impact; women in project sites demonstrate greater self-efficacy than those in non-project sites.
Outcome 3 – Improved attitudes about the economic roles of women	A	Evidence of impact on attitudes of men but not women; attitudes of men in project sites still poor, however.
Outcome 4 – Improved Household Food Security	A R	No evidence of impact for most food security indicators; some evidence of impact on diets of men, however.
Outcome 5 – Increased Agricultural Production	A	No evidence of impact on most production measures; however, more households in project sites reported increases in both production and income

Impact Assessment Findings

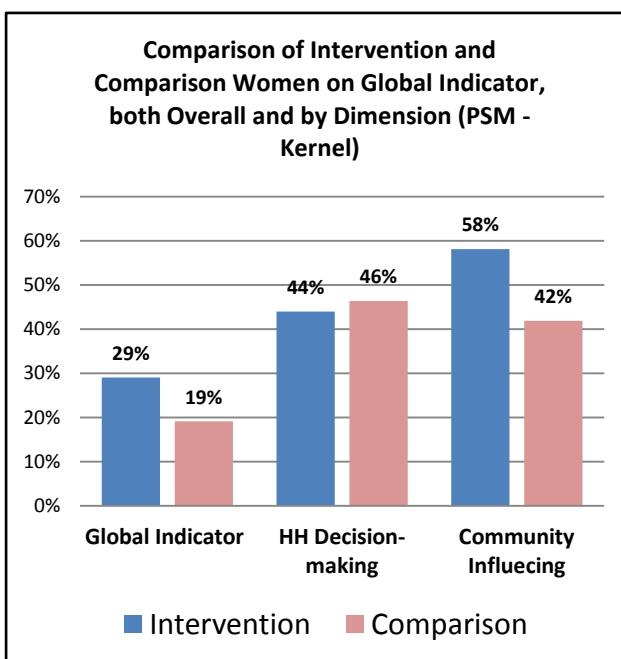
Outcome 1 – Oxfam GB’s global indicator for women’s empowerment



Oxfam GB’s global indicator focuses on two dimensions of women’s empowerment: the extent women a) are involved in various aspects of household decision-making and b) perceive they are able to influence governance processes in their communities. To measure the first dimension, the respondent is asked the extent to which she is involved in 24 areas of household decision-making, ranging from things such as deciding on the types of food that are prepared in the home to decisions about the procurement of agricultural inputs. For the second dimension, she is asked to state the extent she agrees or disagrees with various statements about her ability to influence how their communities are governed. A respondent scores positively on the global indicator if she is above the typical person (median) in the comparison group in relation to *both* of the indicator’s dimensions.

The results of the comparison of women residing in the project and comparison villages are presented in the graph to the right. A significant difference was found between the intervention and the comparison women for the overall indicator. However, the results are different when they are examined by

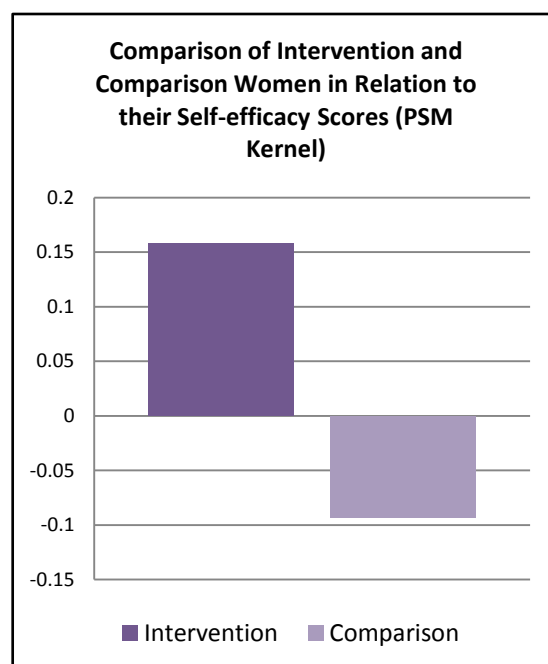
dimension: A significant difference was identified for the community influencing dimension but not for the household decision-making dimension. However, the results for this latter dimension are inconclusive, given that almost all the women in *both* the intervention and comparison villages reported that they are significantly involved in household decision-making.



Outcome 2 – Women’s Self-efficacy**G**

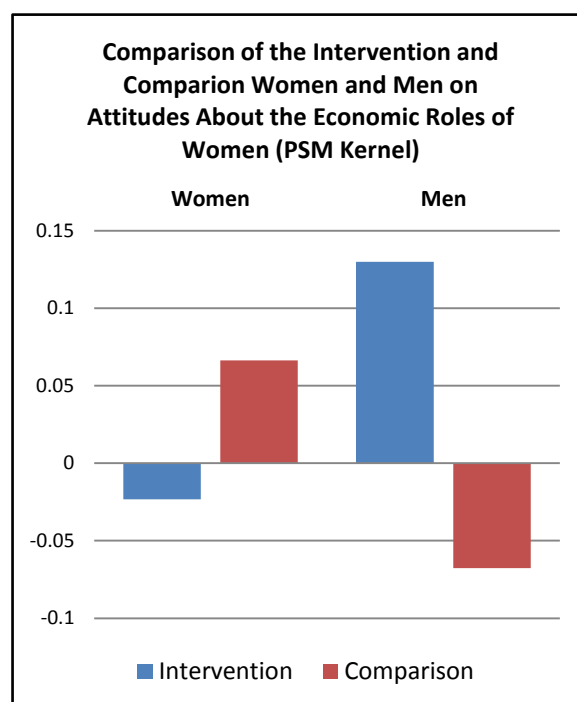
An adapted version of the Generalised Self Efficacy Scale was administered to the female respondents to measure their self confidence and belief in their personal ability to solve problems and address challenges. This scale comprises of eight statements about self-beliefs in coping with a variety of difficult demands in life, and the respondents were asked the extent each statement was true for them. An index score was generated for each respondent through principle factor analysis. This technique isolates the common variation in the data and, in so doing, cuts out statistical “noise”.

The average of the scores generated for both the intervention and comparison women is 0. Consequently, as can be seen from the graph, the women in the project villages are above this average, while the women from the comparison villages are below it. This difference would have been statistically significant if the data were based on a random sample.

**Outcome 3 – Attitudes about the Economic Roles of Women****A**

Both senior men and senior women of the households were asked to state the extent they agree with or disagree with 15 statements about the economic roles of women. Principle factor analysis was again used to aggregate these responses and produce an index score for each respondent. As the graph to the right reveals, a significant and positive difference between the men of the intervention and comparison was identified. While the attitudes of men in both groups were found to be generally poor, those in the project villages were found to be more positive. There is therefore evidence that the project has positively affected the attitudes of men.

On average, the women in the project villages were actually found to have slightly poorer attitudes than those in the comparison villages. However, the difference is small and would not be statistically significant if the analysis was based on a random sample.



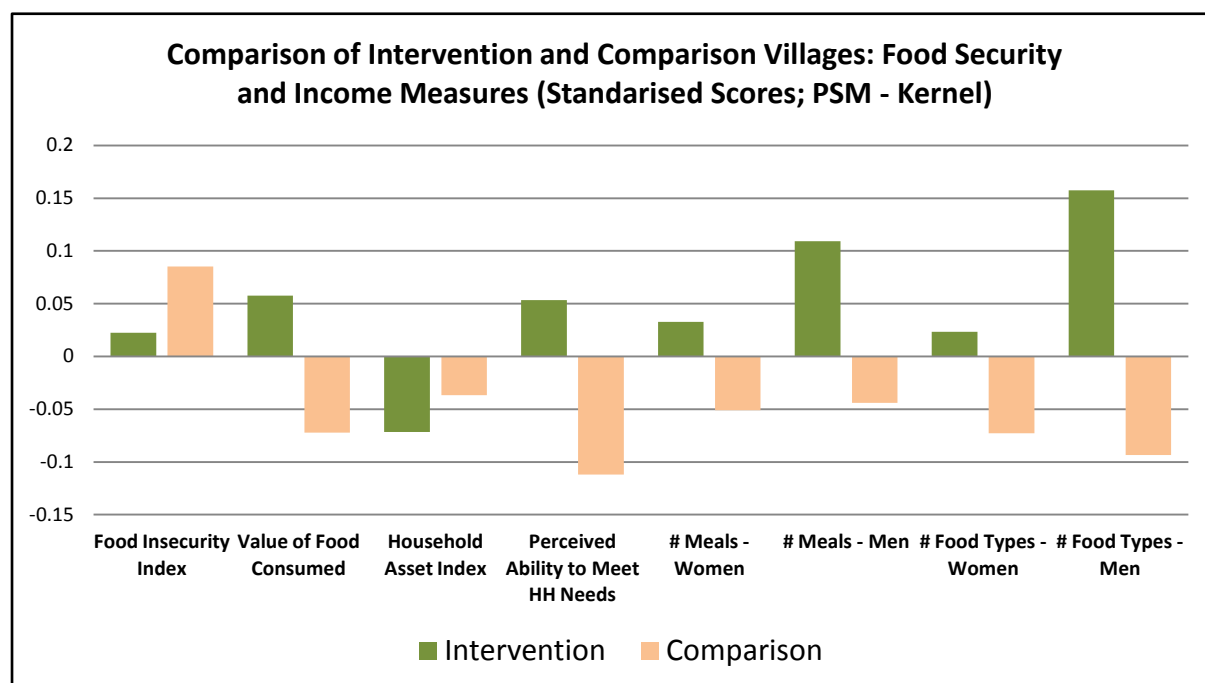
Outcome 4 – Improved Household Food Security



Data were also collected on a number of measures relating to household food security and income. These include the following:

- **The Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS)** developed by USAID’s Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Programme.² This scale involves asking the respondents six questions about various food security problems to which their household may have been subjected, including the severity of these issues.
- **Cash value of food consumed** by the household in last seven days. Here, the respondent is asked to recall the various food items their household consumed during this time period, as well as the particular quantities, to derive their total cash value.
- **Household Asset Index.** Data were additionally collected on household asset possession and other relevant wealth indicators to measure household wealth status. Principal component analysis (PCA) was then run on these variables to construct asset indices for the baseline and follow-up periods.
- **Perceptions of ability to meet household needs** were obtained by asking the respondents to state whether their households has been either: “doing well”, “breaking even”, “struggling” or “unable to meet household needs” over the previous 12 months.
- Both the senior male and senior female of the household were asked about **the number times they ate during the previous day, as well as the types of food they consumed.**

The results of comparing the intervention and comparison households in relation to standardised versions of these measures are presented in the graph below. While there are apparent differences between the groups, only the measure for the number of food types consumed by men would be statistically significant if the comparison had been based on a random sample. There is therefore minimal evidence that the project has significantly impacted household food security and income.



² http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/hfias_intro.shtml

Outcome 5 – Increased Agricultural Production

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Data pertaining to a number of other measures for agricultural production were also collected from the households of the intervention and comparison villages. These include:

- **Change in area cultivated since baseline**

One of the ways the partner organisation, PBPF, attempted to bolster agricultural production was simply by encouraging households to open up more land for cultivation. Is there evidence that these efforts were successful? To answer this question, the respondents were asked how many hectares of land their households cultivated in the previous 12 months as compared with 2008, i.e. the baseline period. The difference was then computed to estimate the change in area of land cultivated by the households over the life of the project.

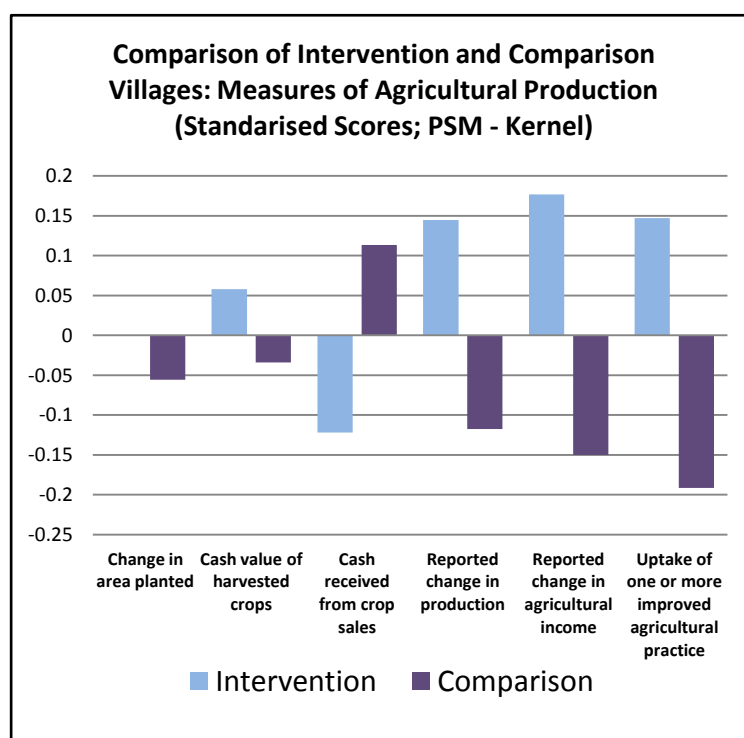
- **Cash value of harvested crops and cash received through crop sales**

Obtaining data on this measure involved first asking the respondents to recall all the varieties of crops their households grew in the last 12 months. They were then asked to recall the quantity of each crop grown, as well as how much they would have had to pay for what they harvested if it were purchased from the local market. If they sold any of the crops they harvested, the respondents were also asked how much cash they received.

- **Reported change in agricultural production and income**

The respondents were first asked whether their household's agricultural productivity and income had changed since the baseline period. In they reported in the affirmative, they were then asked to use stones to estimate the percentage of increase or decrease, with each stone representing 10 percentage points.

The graph to the right visually presents the results comparing the intervention and comparison households for each of the above measures on a standardised scale. No significant differences were identified for the change in area planted and cash value of the crops that were harvested. A significant difference was, however, identified for the crop sales measure. However, this difference is in favour of the comparison households and, therefore, negative. Positive differences favouring the intervention households were, nevertheless, identified for the last three measures presented on the graph. In particular, about 40 percent of households in the intervention villages reported positive changes in both agricultural production and income, as compared with sixteen percent in the comparison villages. More households in the intervention villages reported the adoption of one or more improved agricultural practices as well. However, the percentage that did so is very low at 11 percent. The perception based measures, then, are the only real source of evidence that the project has significantly improved agricultural production.



Programme Learning Considerations

While the results of this Effectiveness Review are not overwhelmingly positive, the project in question is currently in its second phase, so there is scope for strengthening it. Moreover, there are additional lessons that can be learned from this project that can be applied to other projects in the Philippines and elsewhere. Oxfam in general and the Philippines country team and PBPF in particular are encouraged to consider the following:

- *Critically review and assess how the project can more effectively increase agricultural production and income*

While more households in the project villages reported increases in agricultural production, on all the other agricultural production measures no positive and significant differences were found between the intervention and comparison households. However, there is a strong correlation between measures of agricultural production and household food security (p-value < 0.01), so it is likely that the former is an important determinant of the latter. Why have most households in the project site, for example, not increased the area of land they cultivate? Are there particular barriers preventing farm expansion and/or intensification and, if so, how can these be overcome?

- *Verify the extent women are actually involved in decision-making at the household level through qualitative methods*

Almost all the women in both the project and non-project villages reported being significantly involved in household level decision-making. To what extent is this really true? It may very well be true that women in other parts of the Philippines are not significantly involved in certain dimensions of household decision-making, but this may not necessarily apply to the particular ethnic group targeted by the project. If the women of the project site are actually found to be significantly empowered at the household level, it may be better for the project to continue to concentrate its efforts on empowering women at the community level.

- *Explore ways of more effectively promoting positive attitudes about the economic roles of women among both women and men*

The effectiveness review found the attitudes of women in the project and non-project areas to be about the same, indicating that the project has not positively affected such attitudes among women. While there is evidence that it has positively affected the attitudes of men, their attitudes are, on average, nevertheless poorer than those of women. There is therefore still room for improvement among both women and men.