

## 2008 BeadforLife Evaluation Summary

BeadforLife (BFL) believes in the value of rigorous and ongoing evaluation to measure the impact of our programs. Surveys are conducted in the local language, and supplemented by focus groups to gain qualitative data.

This survey was conducted in Feb 2008, with 82 members of the Acholi Quarter group. This is the very first group BFL enrolled into the project, and the first to graduate in March 2008. BeadforLife currently works with almost 300 members in 6 different groups. The graduation of these members will allow 90 - 100 new impoverished women to join the project.

Membership in BFL generally lasts 27 months, however the members of the Acholi Quarter group were enrolled for over three years as the program developed and the amount of income earned by members increased. The Acholi Quarter group is the only group we did not collect baseline data on, but we did conduct a mid-term evaluation in 2005, which we use to compare some of this data to.

Some of the highlights include:

- *99% of members said life has improved since they joined BeadforLife*
- *The members' average monthly income more than doubled and their savings amount increased more than seven times over the past two years*
- *85% of members opened a business, built a home, or both during their membership in BeadforLife*
- *91% of members' have improved their housing situation since joining BeadforLife*
- *88% of members believe they can get out of poverty*

### Demographics

Beaders support a great number of people:

- 75% of respondents have four or more children under age 18 living in their home and sharing food with the family
- 23.5% have five or more adults living in their home and sharing food with the family
- The total number of people beaderees report living in their homes increased by 48%, from 455 in 2005 to 672 in 2008.

38% of members' marital relationships changed between midterm and final evaluations, including 11% who got divorced (and some then remarried) and 8.5% who were widowed during this time.

### Quality of Life

99% of members say their lives have gotten better since joining BeadforLife (46% report extreme improvement),

- 96% report their diet has improved
- 98% report their health has improved
- 96% report they have been able to buy new possessions
- 96% of respondents have iron sheets on their roof

### Income Generation and Savings:

The average monthly incomes of the Beaders more than doubled over the past two years.

- In 2005 the average earnings were 160,000 shillings per month (\$100)

- In 2006 the average earnings were 185,000 shillings per month (\$115)
- In 2007 the average earnings were 363,000 shillings per month (\$227)

When including income from new businesses, other family members and other sources, 51% of respondents report having total monthly income over 400,000 (\$250) shillings, and 20% report incomes above 500,000 shillings (\$312) each month.

When asked how much they needed to meet their basic needs each month, 60% of members said they needed less than 150,000 shillings (\$91.71), and only 1 person said they needed more than 300,000.

At midterm, the average amount saved by each Beader was 83,029 shillings (\$52). When they graduated, the average was 698,788 (\$436).

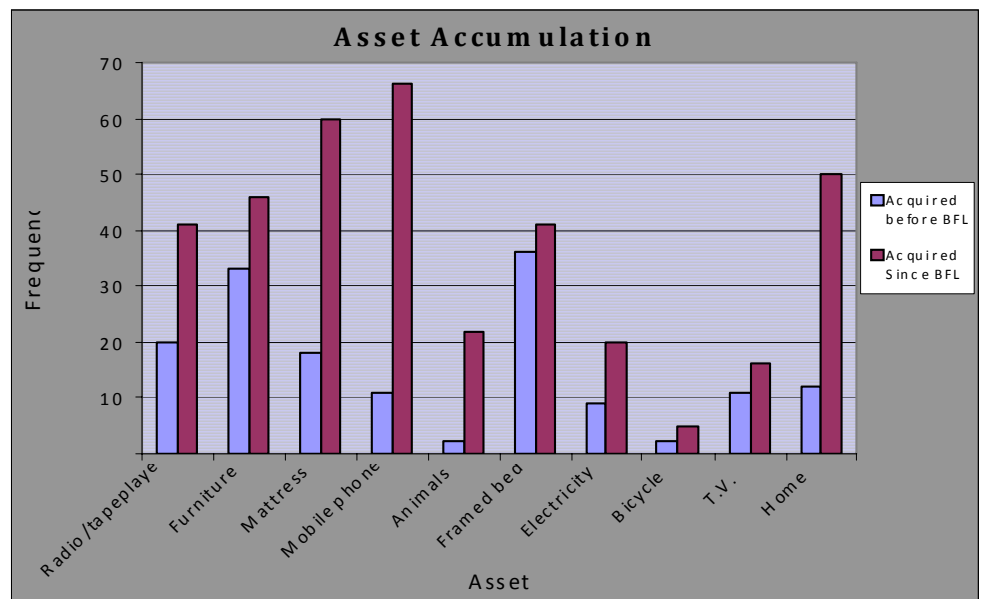
### Assets

85% of respondents opened a business, built a home, or both during their membership in BeadforLife. 42% accomplished both, while 18% purchased a home but did not start a business, and 25% started a business but did not purchase a home. Of the 15% who did neither, 4% said they intended to do one or the other soon.

As a whole, members increased the number of assets owned by 353% since joining BFL. The following are the most popular items purchased in rank order.

1. Cell Phones
2. Mattresses
3. Homes

16% of members purchased land between the midterm and final evaluations. About half of those intend to build a home, and a quarter will put a farm on it.



32% of respondents now own a home that they rent to others, generating an important source of income.

### Housing

91% (74) said that their housing situation has improved since joining BFL.

80% of respondents have purchased new homes or made home improvements since starting with BFL.

- 62% (50) of all members purchased a home during their time with BFL. (29 in the Friendship Village, and 21 elsewhere)
- 22% reported that they made home improvements of at least 50,000 shillings (\$31).

Between midterm and final, the number of people who owned their own home increased from 29% to 75%.

The percent of families who shared their latrine with more than 10 other families dropped from 50% at the midterm evaluation, to 6% in the final. Those who have a latrine for use only by their family increased from 1% to 48%.

### **Businesses**

67% of the beaders have started at least one business since joining BFL, with a 62.5% success rate, which is almost double the success rate in the US.

- 87.5% of those who started a business said that they used their income from BFL to pay for their start-up costs
- 82.6% of business owners say that they plan to expand their business

The most popular type of business started by the Beaders was food stands (22%).

Of members who did open a business, 75% of them report making less than 100,000 shillings in monthly profit, while 25% report making between 100,000 and 900,000 shillings. 27% of respondents reported opening a second business as well.

Business owners reported a wide range in the amount of capital used to start their business:

- 32% report investing less than 100,000 shillings
- 39% invested between 100,000 and 200,000
- 15% invested between 250,000 and 450,000
- 14% invested between 500,000 and 800,000 shillings

Of the 28% of members who did not start businesses, the following are areas they reported spending their income from bead sales: (could list up to three categories)

- School fees - 83%
- Purchasing food - 52%
- Buying or building a home - 43%
- Supporting family members (paying school fees, for example) - 30%

### **Health Statistics**

The following are the percentages of Beaders who traded beads for each of the following supplies from BFL:

1. Mosquito Nets – 96%
2. Malaria Treatment – 82%
3. Condoms – 55%
4. Family Planning Coupons – 36%