

## **BeadforLife Evaluation Data: Nsambya/Kataza Member Success**

BeadforLife believes in the value of rigorous and ongoing evaluation to measure the impact of our programs. The following information is a summary of the evaluation done of our second group of members, the Nsambya/Kataza group, comprised of 66 members. A majority of this group was HIV positive women, many of whom were widows caring for children.

The survey was done in the women's homes, in their language. In some cases, outcomes are compared to baseline data gathered when the women enrolled.

Some of the highlights include:

- *97% of members said life has improved since they joined BeadforLife*
- *92% of members opened a business, built a home, or both during their membership in BeadforLife. 49% accomplished both.*
- *91% of members' have improved their housing situation since joining BeadforLife, and 55% did this by building their own home.*
- *91% of members believe they can get out of poverty*

### **Demographics**

Beaders support a great number of people:

- 56% of respondents have four or more children under the age of 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
- Women report providing support to 2-3 more people since joining BFL, representing 164 beneficiaries. The number of people *living* with the women increased by 30%, between the time they joined and the time they graduated.

### **Quality of Life**

99% of members say their lives have gotten better since joining BeadforLife

- 96% report their diet has improved
- 89% report their health has improved
- 97% of respondents have iron sheets on their roof

### **Income Generation and Savings:**

The average monthly incomes of the Beaders steadily increased throughout the program.

- In 2006 the average earnings were 185,000 shillings per month (\$94)
- In 2007 the average earnings were 363,000 shillings per month (\$184)
- In 2008 the average earnings were 409,855 shillings per month (\$208)

At midterm, the average amount saved by each Beader was 38,428 shillings (\$20). When they graduated, the average was 411,366 (\$210). 9% of members had over 1,100,000 in savings (\$625+)

### **Assets**

92% of respondents opened a business, built a home, or both during their membership in BeadforLife. 49% accomplished both, while 5% purchased a home but did not start a

business, and 38% started a business but did not purchase a home. Of the 5 people who did neither, they reported spending their money on school fees or medical bills.

As a whole, members increased the number of assets owned by 233% since joining BFL. Ownership of modest value assets like radio/tape player, furniture and mattresses almost tripled. Ownership of medium value assets such as cell phones, livestock, and electricity increased by 150%. High values range from televisions to homes, and ownership of these saw a seven fold increase.

24% of members purchased land during their membership. About half of those intend to build a home, and a quarter will put a farm on it. 15% of respondents now own a home that they rent to others, generating an important source of income.

### **Housing**

88% said that their housing situation has improved since joining BFL.

- 55% of members purchased a home during their time with BFL. (86% in Friendship Village, and 14% elsewhere)
- 67% of participants who did not move reported that they made home improvements of at least 50,000 shillings (\$31).

Between midterm and final evaluations, the number of people who owned their own home increased from 26% to 55%.

100% of members at exit report using pit latrines, and only 5% of these share the facility with 10 or more families.

### **Businesses**

88% of the beaders have started at least one business since joining BFL, with an 85% success rate, which is more than double the success rate in the US.

- 41% of these members also opened at least a second business since joining, and 92% of these businesses are still open.
- 49% of the businesses still open were started less than 5 months before the evaluation was conducted, meaning that the total number of successful businesses in the long run may be lower.

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

- 13% report investing less than 100,000 shillings
- 24% invested between 100,000 and 200,000
- 24% invested between 250,000 and 450,000
- 38% invested more than 500,000 shillings

Of those businesses still open at the time of the evaluation, the average investment was 440,000 shillings (\$220). Unsuccessful businesses only received an average of 342,000 shillings (\$171) in start up investment.

**Health Statistics**

Only 3 members had unintended pregnancies during their membership.

The number of people sleeping under mosquito nets in member's homes increased from 2 people under nets at the midterm evaluation to 5 people under nets at the final evaluation.

The number of people on HIV drugs increased from 41% to 59% between midterm and final evaluations. While starting the drugs has to do with someone's health status, many people refuse to take the drugs if they are very poor as they caused increased appetite. Anecdotal evidence indicates that income generation leading to better nutrition may have contributed to women starting the drug treatment.

For those women who are HIV+, average CD4 cell counts increased from 32 to 46.