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Happiness Up, Poverty Down

This blog was originally posted on the CGAP Microfinance Blog. Click here to see the full post.

There was plenty of encouraging information shared at the recent "Reaching the Poorest 2012" meeting, convened by CGAP and the Ford Foundation. Together with my fellow researchers, I was among the panelists who presented the findings of well over five years worth of randomized control trials evaluating the impact of the Graduation Model. The projects that were evaluated in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Honduras and India showed an impact on the livelihoods of the poorest that were targeted. The results were mostly heartening – they showed that Graduation Program participants typically improved their food security, stabilized and diversified income, and increased their assets.

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