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GRADUATING TO **RESILIENCE**

Transitioning from GRADUATION to RESILIENCE

Learning Event (Virtual)

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM EAT | THURSDAY, 13. APRIL 2023

trickleUP

AIR®
Advancing Evidence.
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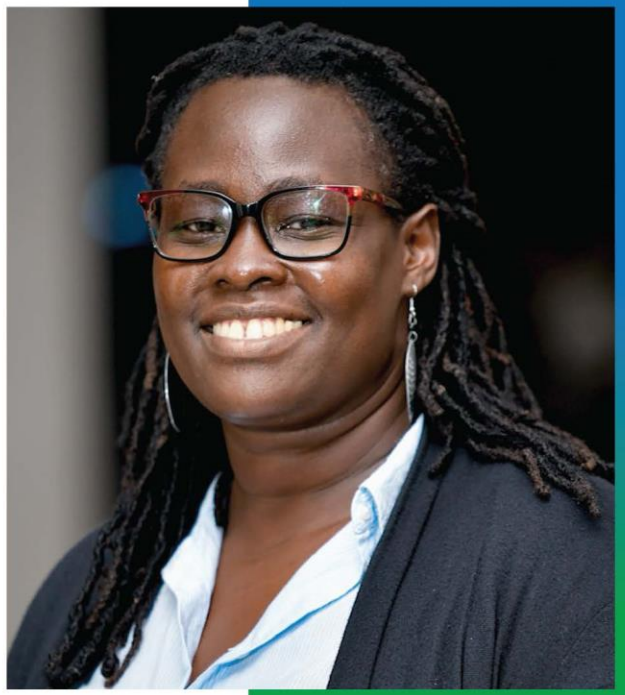
Presenters

RITA LAROK

Chief of Party,
Graduating to Resilience

Rita is the AVSI Foundation global thematic focal person for Graduation Approach/Economic Inclusion. She has 17 years of experience in development and humanitarian settings and is a member of the advisory group for the Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI). She is currently pursuing a doctorate in psychology.



JOHN PAUL NYEKO

Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, Graduating to Resilience

John Paul Nyeko has 11+ years of experience in development and humanitarian settings. He has a mixed background in computer science and project management and has expertise in graduation programs, orphans and vulnerable children, protection, and livelihoods.
John Paul holds a Bachelor's degree in computer science, a masters in project planning and management, and a postgraduate diploma in monitoring and evaluation.

Graduating to Resilience Activity Overview

Goal: Graduate extremely poor refugee and Ugandan households in Kamwenge District from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance and resilience

Period: 7 years (Oct 1, 2017 - Sept 30, 2024) in two cohorts

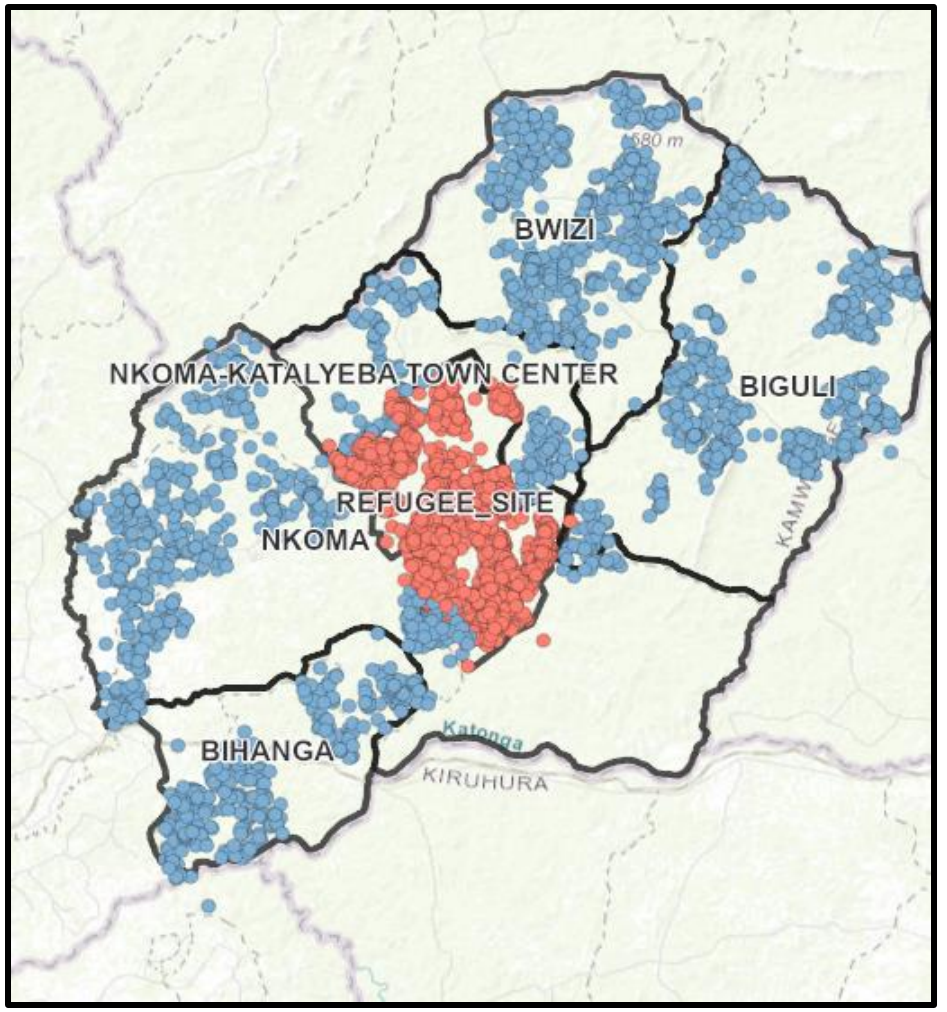
Participants: 13,829 women and youth as primary participants

- Cohort 1: 6,629 primary participants (Active 5,199)
- Cohort 2: 7,051 primary participants

Budget: $36.7 million

Implementer: AVSI Foundation in a consortium with Trickle Up and American Institutes for Research (AIR)

External evaluator: Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) conducting an RCT to measure impact and cost-effectiveness of the graduation model



Blue: Host Community Households
Red: Refugee Households

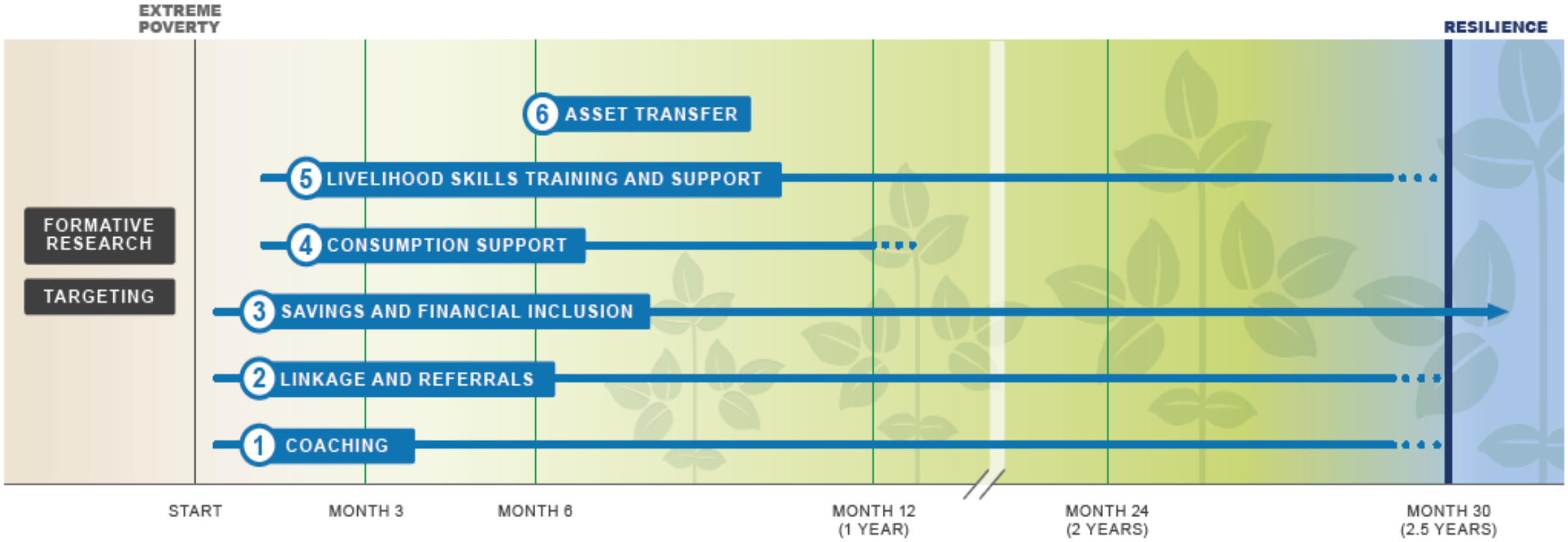
Graduation Approach

A **sequenced** and **time-bound** intervention that aims to help people living in **extreme poverty** build resilience and engage in **sustainable livelihoods**.

For more information on the Graduation Approach:

- https://refugees.trickleup.org/resources/graduation-approach-for-refugees-video/
- Check out our Two-Minute Explainer Video about Graduating to Resilience in Uganda
- Watch: Graduating to Resilience Animation Video - YouTube and: Graduating to Resilience Cohort One Video

Graduation Approach – Sequencing



Cohort 2 Feb 2022

Jan 2023

Jan 2024

Graduation Components and Structure – Cohort 1

PROGRAM COMPONENT	ARM 1 STANDARD GRADUATION	ARM 2 GROUP COACHING	ARM 3 EMPOWERMENT MODEL
Consumption Support	●	●	●
Livelihood Skills Training and Support	●	●	●
Savings and Financial Inclusion	●	●	●
Asset Transfer	●	●	—
Coaching	INDIVIDUAL	GROUP	INDIVIDUAL
Linkage and Referrals	●	●	●

Graduation Definition and Indicators

Graduation is defined as the status of a primary participant and her/his household who has been assessed to have met the necessary conditions of self-reliance, supported by sustainable livelihoods, awareness of and access to safety nets.

Graduation Indicator: Percent of households that graduate out of conditions of food insecurity and fragility

- Target for 30-month intervention period **75%**

Resilience Indicator: Percent of graduated households that remain resilient one-year post graduation

- Post evaluation (one year after completion of 30-month intervention period) **75%**

Graduation Criteria - Questions

#	Section / Question
	FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
Q1	In the last 1 month, was there a time when you (or a member of your household) reduced meal size or skipped a meal because of lack of money or other resources?
Q2	In the last week, did all your household's meals contain foods from the 3 food groups GO, GRO, and GLO?
	ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
Q3	How many sources of income does your HH have?
	BASIC NEEDS
Q4	Do you live in an improved structure?
Q5a.	Are your school-aged children are going to school?
Q5b.	If you answered your child has missed more than 12 days of school please explain.
Q6	In the last 3 months, were you able to get healthcare services for you and your household when you needed them?
Q7	Does your HH treat water prior to consumption?
Q8	Do you have access to a hand washing facility and is there soap and water at the hand washing facility?
	SAVINGS
Q9a.	How much do you have in savings?
Q9b.	What is the value of your current productive assets?
	SOCIAL CAPITAL
Q10	If you or a member of your household had a problem that your household cannot solve on its own, who could you turn to for support?
	SELF-EFFICACY
Q11	I can set goals to improve the well-being of my household and achieve them.

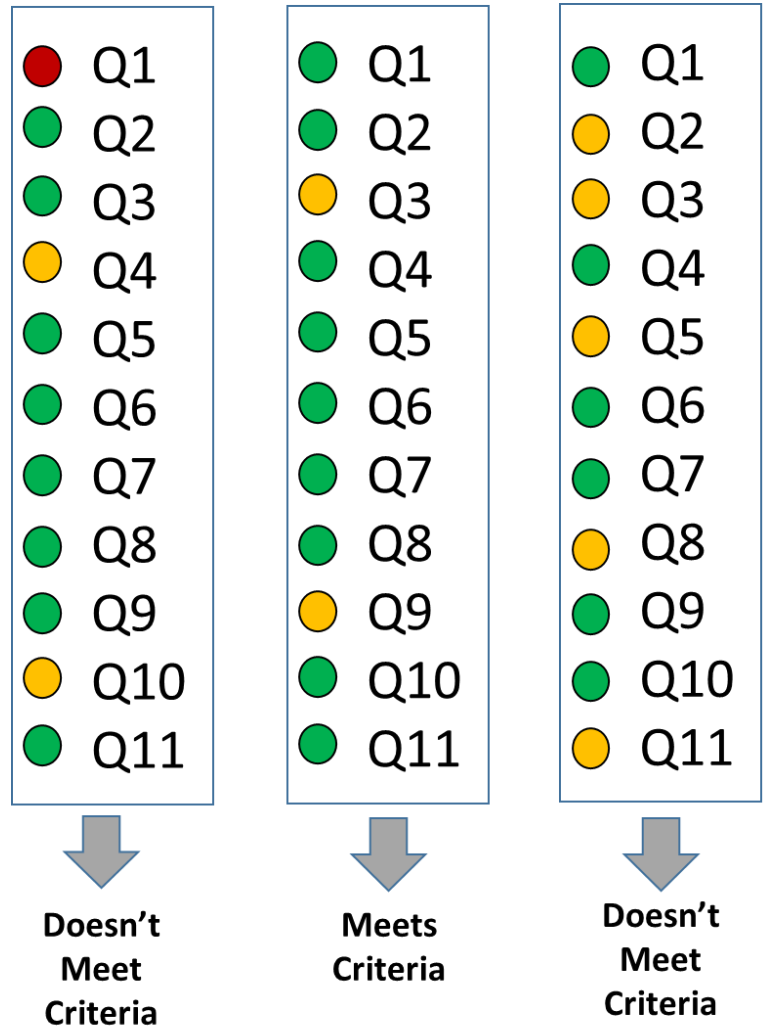
Graduation Criteria

Each graduation question is assigned one of 3 colors depending on the response provided:

- **Green** – good situation
- **Yellow** – fair situation
- **Red** – bad situation

To meet graduation Criteria, a household must have:

- No **red** answers
- At least 8 out of 11 answers must be **green**

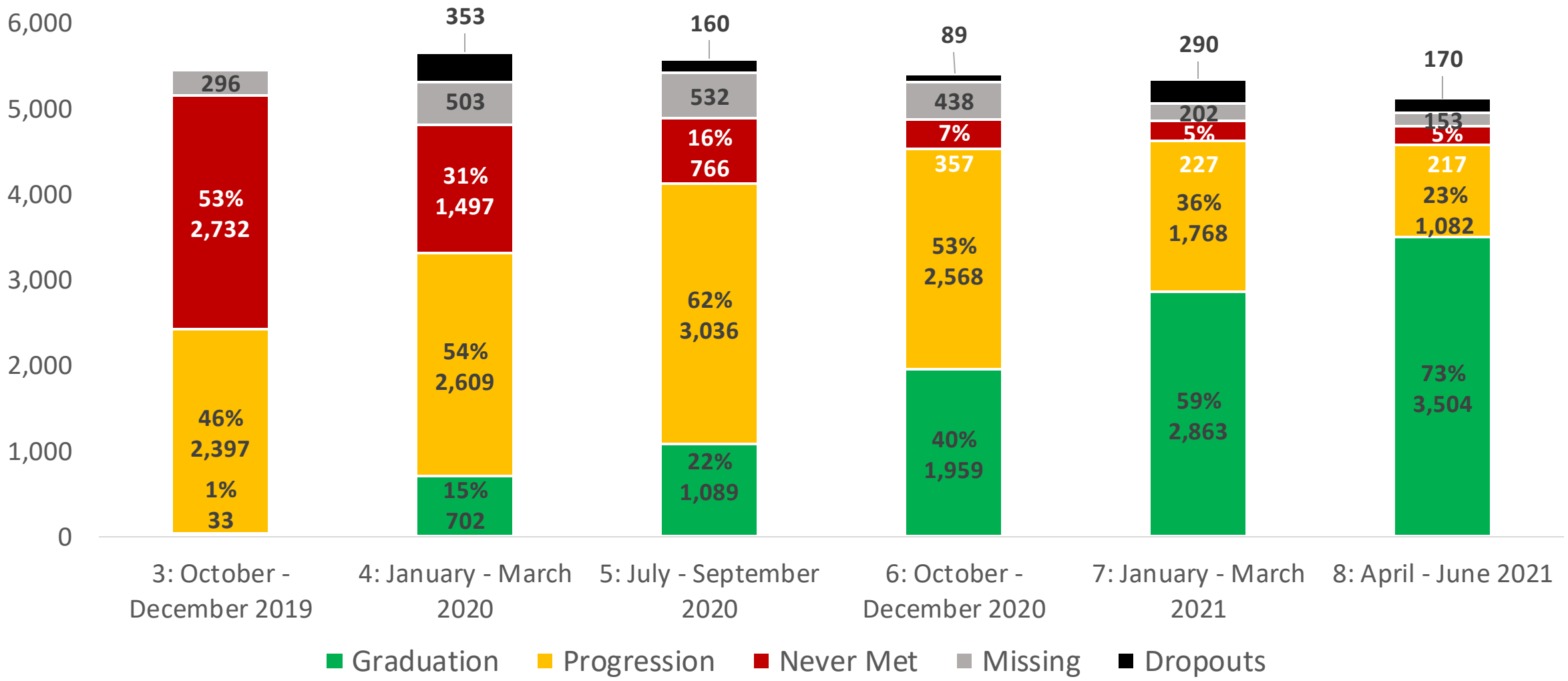


Graduation Criteria Across RFSAs in Uganda

	Graduation to Resilience	Nobo Jatra	Nuyok
Graduation Criteria	• No HH member reduced or skipped meal in last month • All HH's meals contained foods from three food groups GO, GRO, GLO in last week • More than one source of income by more than one HH member • Improved structure • School attendance • HH access to healthcare services in last three months • Drink safe water • Access to and use of hand washing facility and soap • Savings and productive assets amount • Social capital to solve HH problems • self-efficacy - Can set and achieve goals to improve well-being of HH	• Minimum two sources of income • Had three square meals in the last year • Household owns productive assets • Households have kitchen gardens • Cash savings in an active savings account with a formal financial institution • Use of a sanitary latrine and safe drinking water • Practicing knowledge on disaster preparedness • Conditional: 1. No child marriage in the household 2. School-aged children are going to school 3. Eligible couples adopt family planning method	• No child going to bed without an evening meal • Household members eat two meals a day • Productive asset base/ value of the REAP business is 25% higher than the total of original cash transfer • Participant can access multiple productive assets (i.e., a business, livestock) • Member of a savings group (with formal constitution and credit and loan protocols), has access to credit, and a minimum of US$80 in committed savings (as a proxy for sufficient savings to withstand missed or delayed rains) • All eligible primary school-aged girl children are enrolled in primary school
Graduation Terms	Must have **NONE** of the criteria not met (No RED) at least eight of eleven criteria (90%) marked as green and three as yellow, for **three** consecutive assessments in a row (Quarters)	Achieve 80% of the essential criteria	Meet all six criteria

Cohort 1 Graduation Results (June 2021)

Graduation Progress Over Time (Cohort 1)



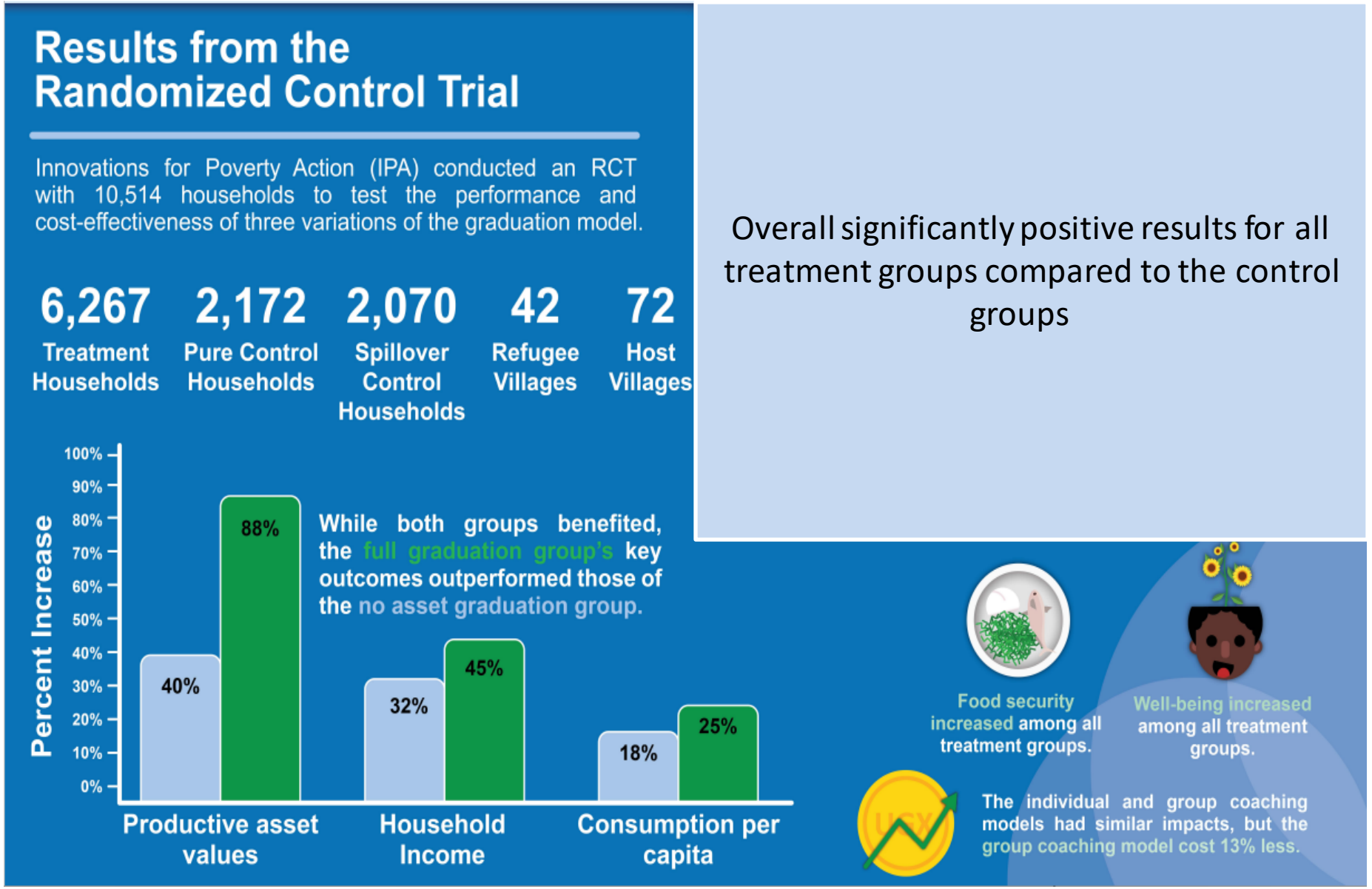
Graduation Results (Cohort 1)

Stage	Definition	Host		Refugee		Total	
		# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs
Graduation	Met the criteria at least three times consecutively	1758	73%	1746	73%	3504	**73%**
Progression	Household is working towards graduation but has yet to meet all criteria three times consecutively.	536	22%	546	23%	1082	23%
Never Met	Never met grad criteria	126	5%	91	4%	217	5%
Total		2420	100%	2383	100%	4803	100%

Summary of Cohort 1 Graduation Results

Sub-Stage	Definition	Arm 1		Arm 2		Arm 3		Total	
		# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs
Graduation	Met the criteria at least three times consecutively	1244	76%	1160	74%	1100	69%	3504	73%
Progression	Household is working towards graduation but has yet to meet all criteria three times consecutively.	309	19%	370	23%	403	25%	1082	23%
Never Met	Never met grad criteria	78	5%	46	3%	93	6%	217	5%
Total		1631	100%	1576	100%	1596	100%	4803	100%

External Evaluation Results – IPA



Overall significantly positive results for all treatment groups compared to the control groups

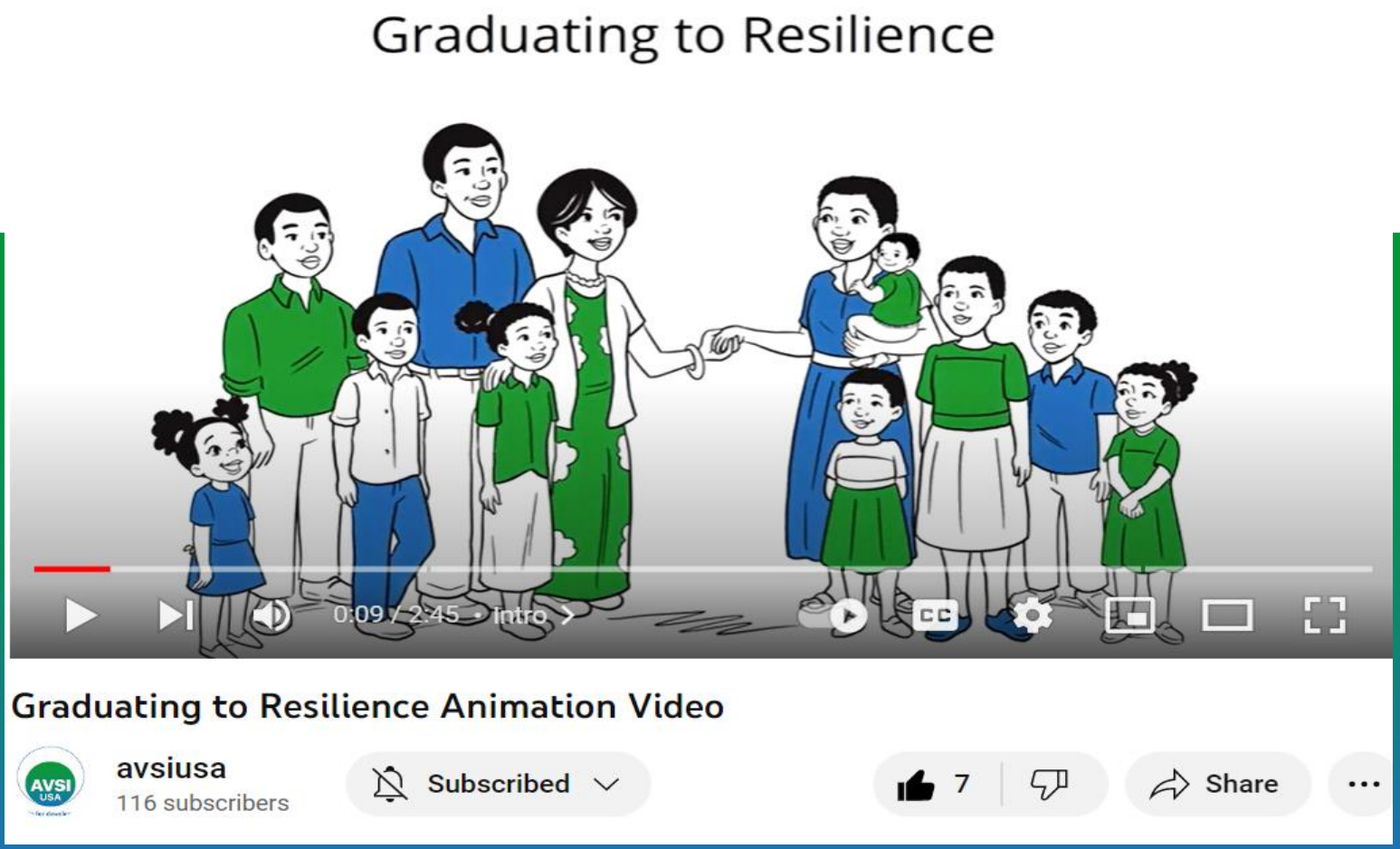
External Evaluation Results – IPA

The Impact of a Graduation Program on Livelihoods in Refugee and Host Communities in Uganda | Innovations for Poverty Action (poverty-action.org)

- Large positive impact of the program on several key outcomes - Increases in value of productive assets, income, consumption, food security, and subjective well-being, both in refugee and host communities
- Effects on economic activity larger in absolute terms for hosts (but refugees start from a lower base)
- All program versions have positive impact-Group coaching same impact as individual coaching
- Participants with the asset transfers performed better than without
- Additional positive effects on savings, nutrition, schooling, psychometrics
- No impacts on anthropometric measures of young children (height, weight)
- Some evidence of positive spillovers (consumption, food security, business activity); larger for hosts, at most moderate for refugees
- The group coaching arm (T2) has similar impacts to T1 in each of these metrics **but 13% lower costs and therefore performs best in the cost-benefit analysis.**

Animation

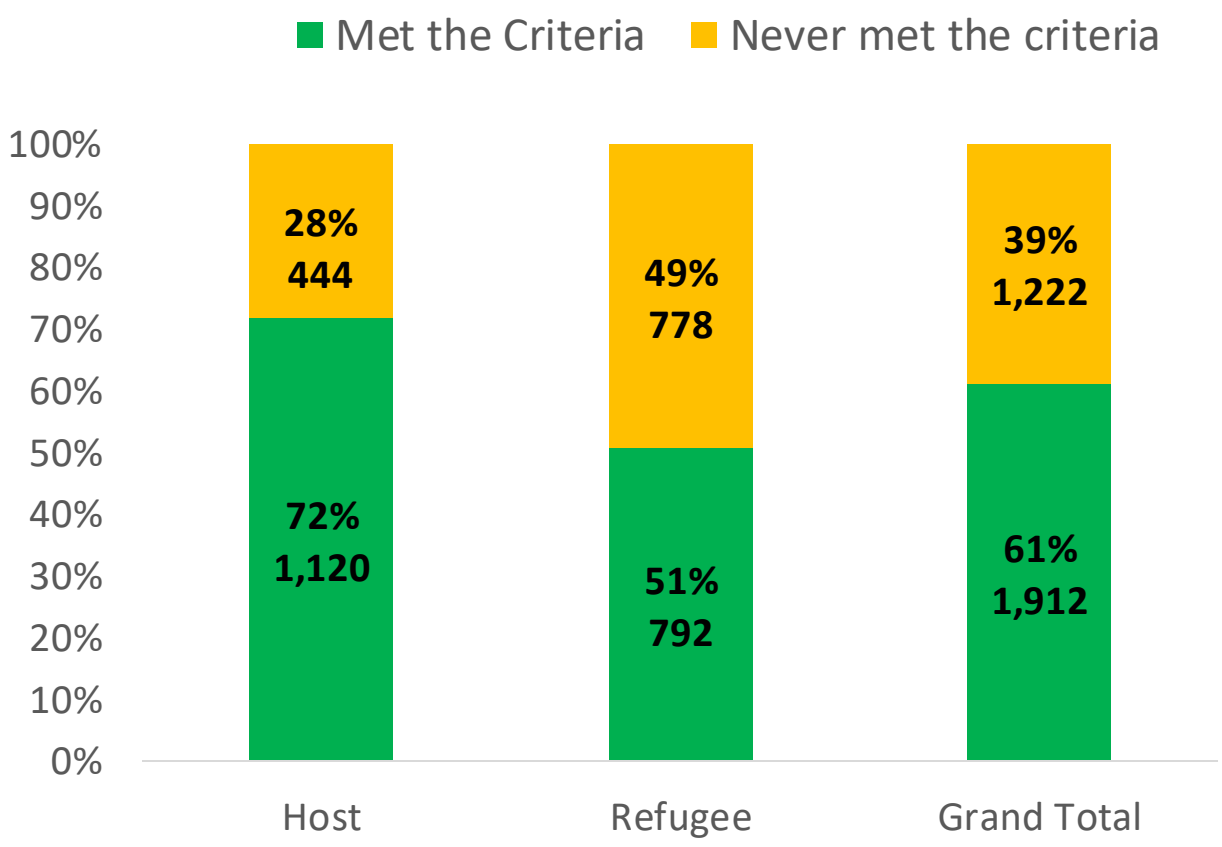
[(1406) Graduating to Resilience Animation Video - YouTube]



Cohort 1 Resilience Study Results

18-months post Activity

Post-Graduation Status
Graduated Households (73%)

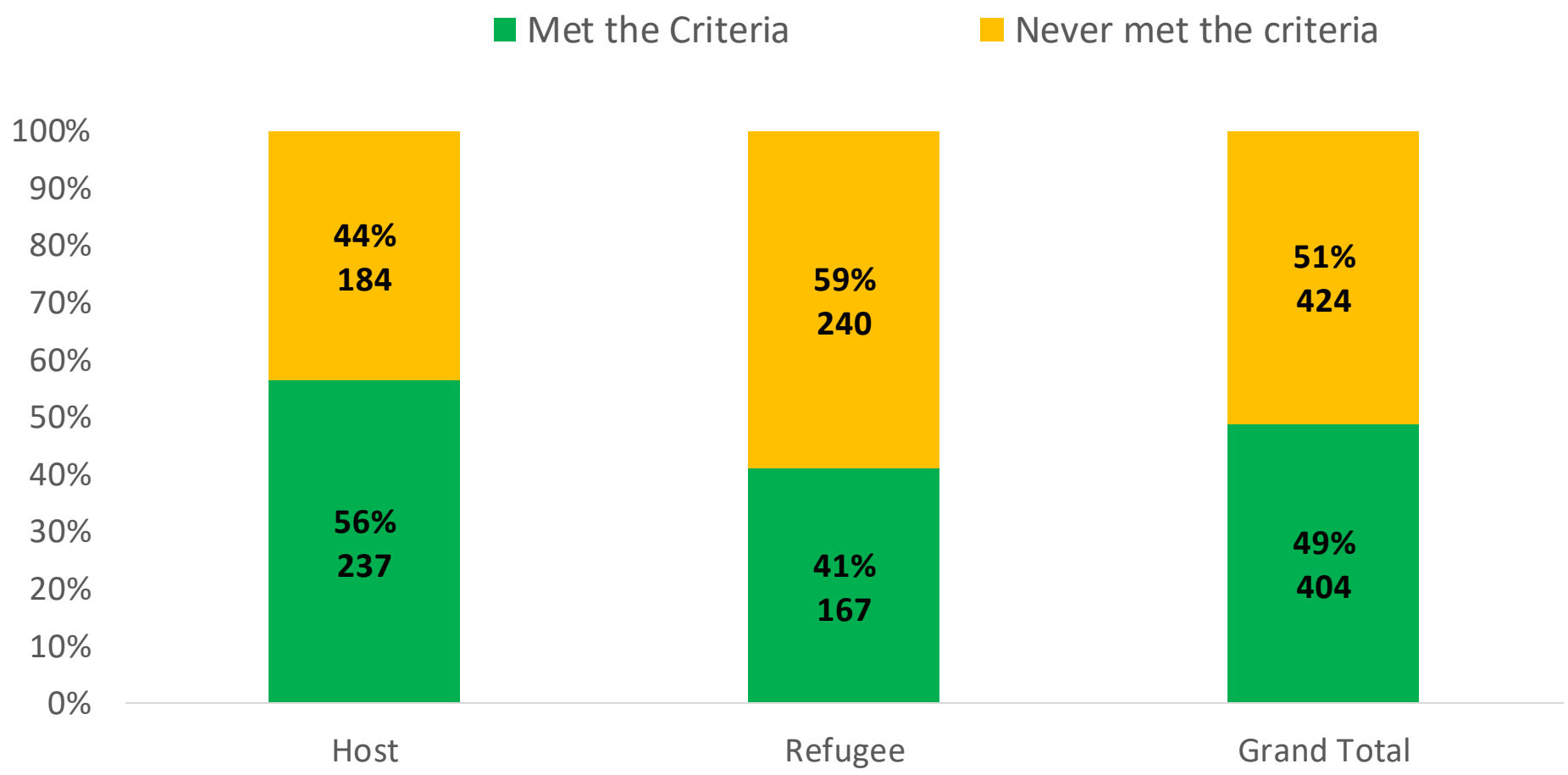


Summary of Post-Graduation Status

Graduated HHs (73%)

Category	Definition	Arm 1		Arm 2		Arm 3		Total	
		# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs
Graduation	Met the criteria post-graduation	700	63%	643	61%	569	58%	1912	61%
Never Met	Never met grad criteria post-graduation	407	37%	406	39%	409	42%	1222	39%
Total		1107	100%	1049	100%	978	100%	3134	100%

Post-Graduation Status
Pre-Graduated Households (23%)

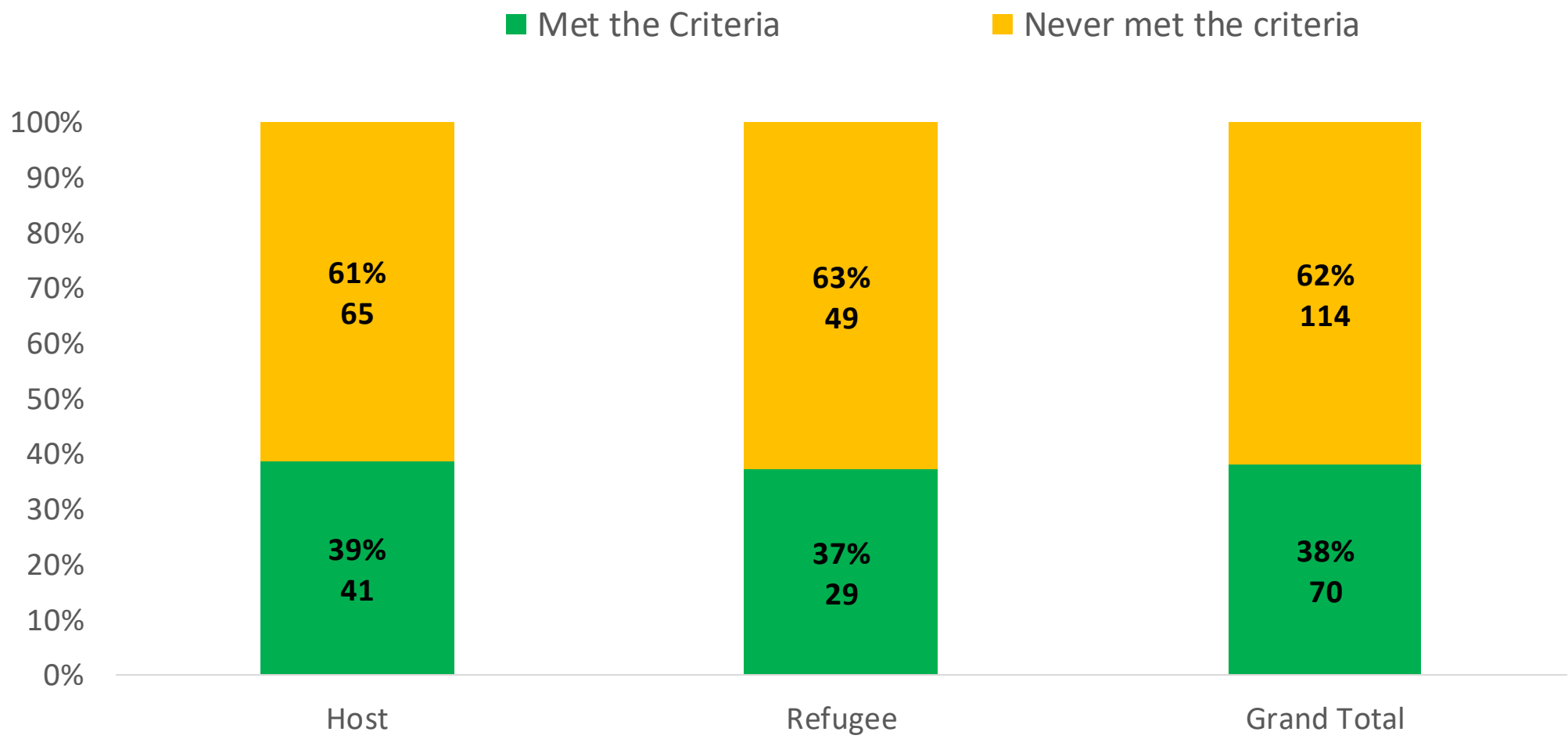


Summary of Post-Graduation Status
Pre-Graduated Households (23%)

Category	Definition	Arm 1		Arm 2		Arm 3		Total	
		# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs
Graduation	Met the criteria post-graduation	118	47%	143	52%	143	47%	404	49%
Never Met	Never met grad criteria post-graduation	133	53%	132	48%	159	53%	424	51%
Total		251	100%	275	100%	302	100%	828	100%

Post-Graduation Status

Never Graduated Households (5%)



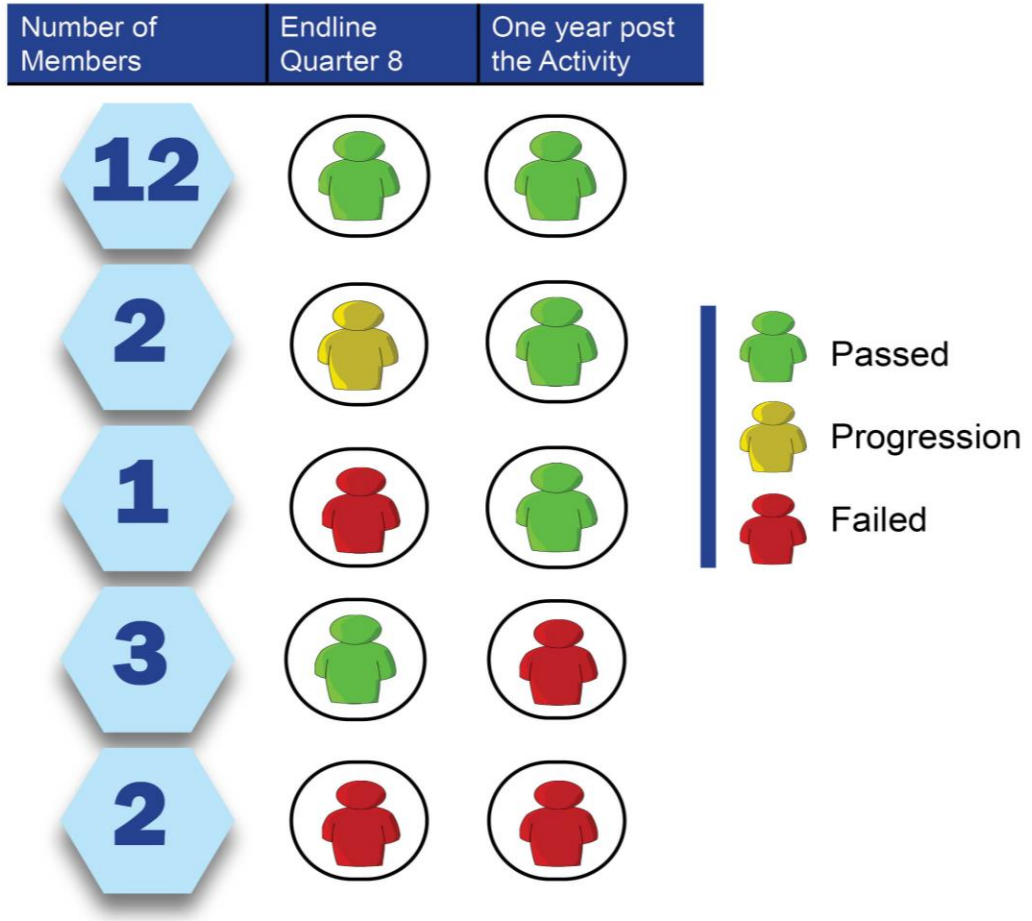
Summary of Post-Graduation Status
Never Graduated Households (5%)

Category	Definition	Arm 1		Arm 2		Arm 3		Total	
		# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs
Graduation	Met the criteria post-graduation	31	47%	14	36%	25	32%	70	38%
Never Met	Never met grad criteria post-graduation	35	53%	25	64%	54	68%	114	62%
Total		66	100%	39	100%	79	100%	184	100%

A Case of Resilience: The Ntonwa Family Group

At the end of cohort one, 3 out of the 20 members of the Ntonwa Family Group did not meet the graduation criteria.

18-months post Activity, 80% of those who graduated plus two members who were at the progression stage met the criteria portraying a good sense of resilience.



Why Households Retrogressed Post-Graduation

Question Number	Question Description	Total Number of Households (n=1,753)*	Host	Refugee
Question 1	Meal Frequency	725	238	487
Question 2	Food Diversity	860	290	569
Question 3	Income	67	40	27
Question 4	Structure	536	192	344
Question 5	Children Attending School	196	70	126
Question 6	Healthcare	30	24	6
Question 7	Safe water	133	30	103
Question 8	Hand-washing	572	197	375
Question 9	Savings	715	100	615
Question 10	Social Capital	9	1	8
Question 11	Self-Efficacy	10	3	7

**A Household can retrogress on one or multiple indicators*

Digital Literacy Enhancing Graduation Outcomes

Leveraging the G2R project, Trickle Up and AVSI tested and delivered two digital literacy skills training approaches as part of the Addressing the Gender Digital Divide through Context-specific Digital Skills Training Programs (EQUALS) project, supported by the World Bank.

Summary of Post-Graduation Status

Category	Definition	Arm 1		Arm 2		Arm 3		Total	
		# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs
Graduation	Met the criteria post-graduation	700	63%	643	61%	569	58%	1912	61%
Never Met	Never met grad criteria post-graduation	407	37%	406	39%	409	42%	1222	39%
Total		1107	100%	1049	100%	978	100%	3134	100%

Graduated EQUALS Participant Households (phone, video and coaching)

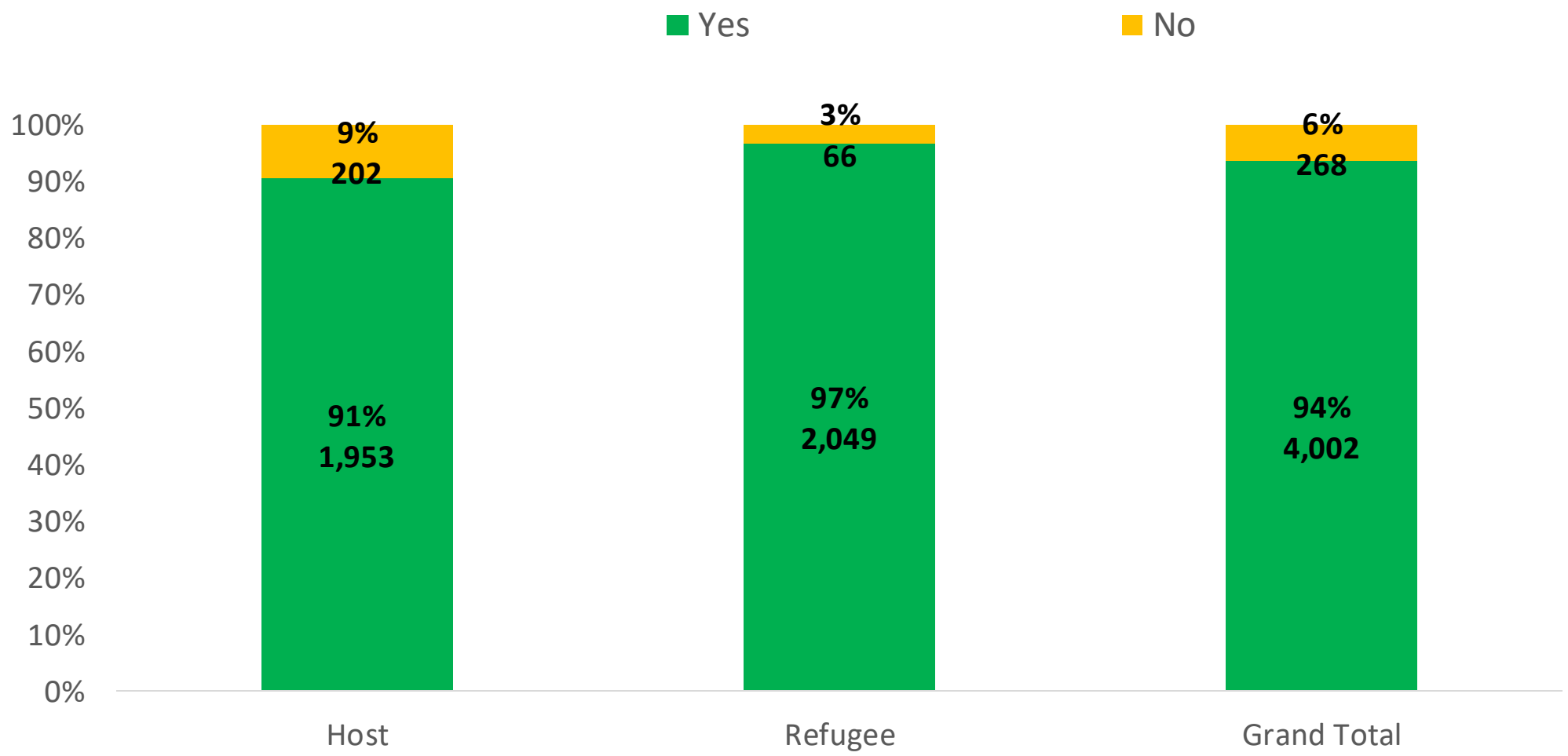
Category	Definition	Animated video		Animated Video +		Total	
		# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs	# HHs	% HHs
Graduation	Met the criteria post-graduation	48	59%	56	75%	104	66%
Never Met	Never met grad criteria post-graduation	34	41%	19	25%	53	34%
Total		82	100%	75	100%	157	100%

Household Planning and Shocks

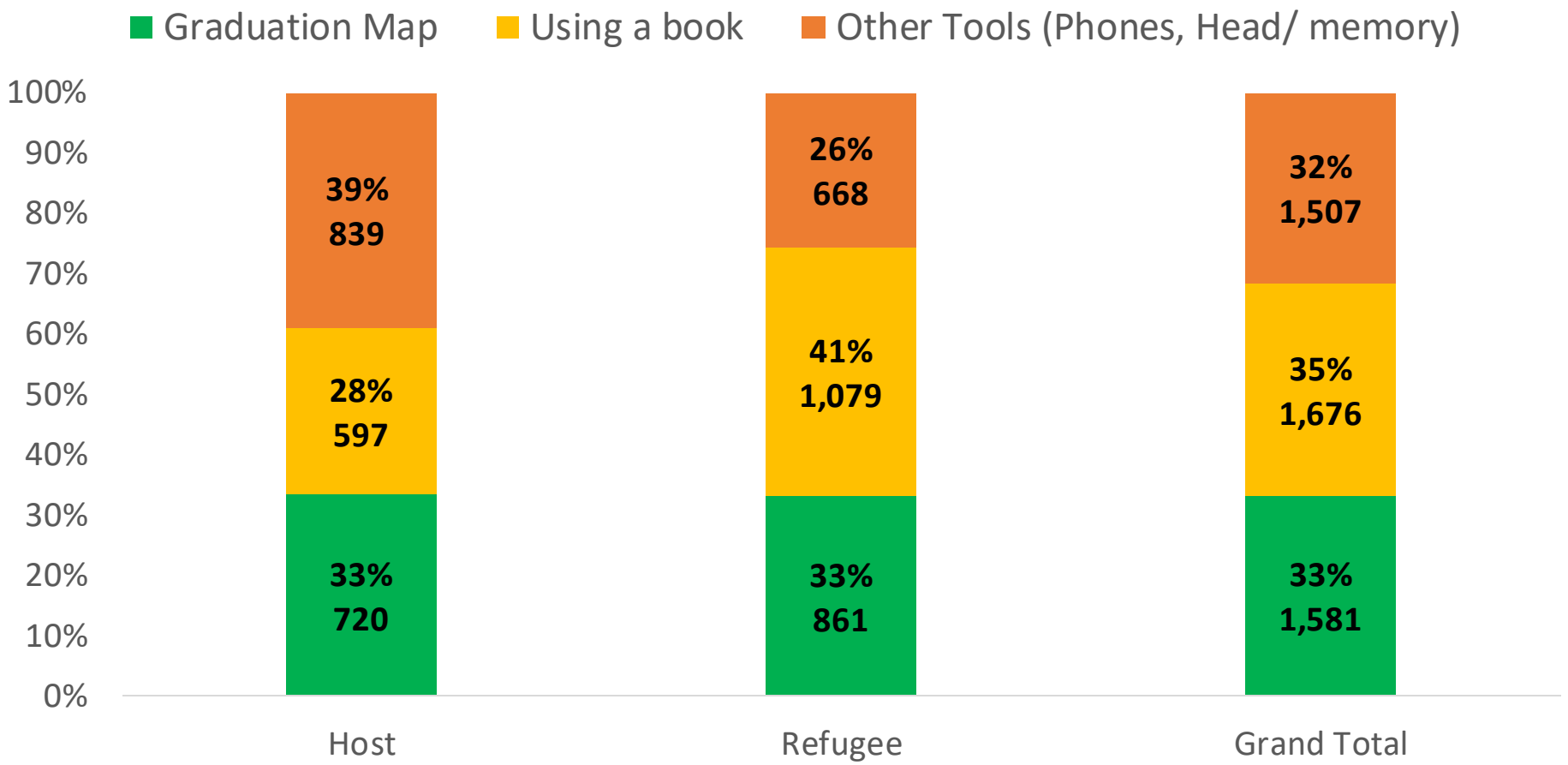
Findings from Cohort 1 Resilience FGDs:

- Extremely goal-oriented and have plans to improve their livelihoods
- Actively implementing skills learned including saving, boiling water, utilizing health services, kitchen gardens, and consumption of three meals
- Aware and knowledgeable to access relevant information including market prices, health and justice services, and other redress mechanisms
- Social networks and support through VSLA groups to secure loans

Post-Graduation Status – Household Planning

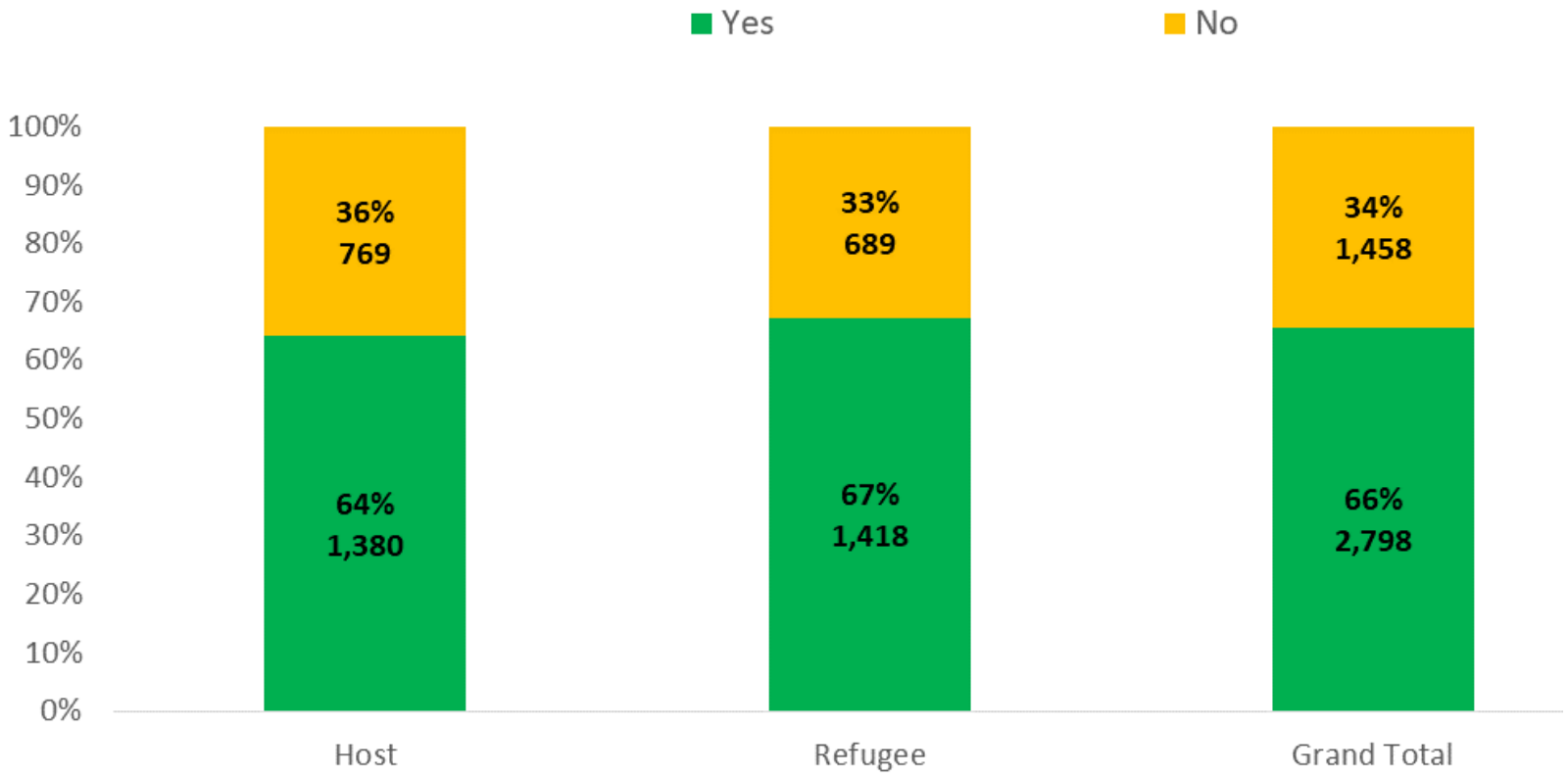


Post-Graduation Status – Households Planning Tools



Post-Graduation Status

Households experiencing Shocks

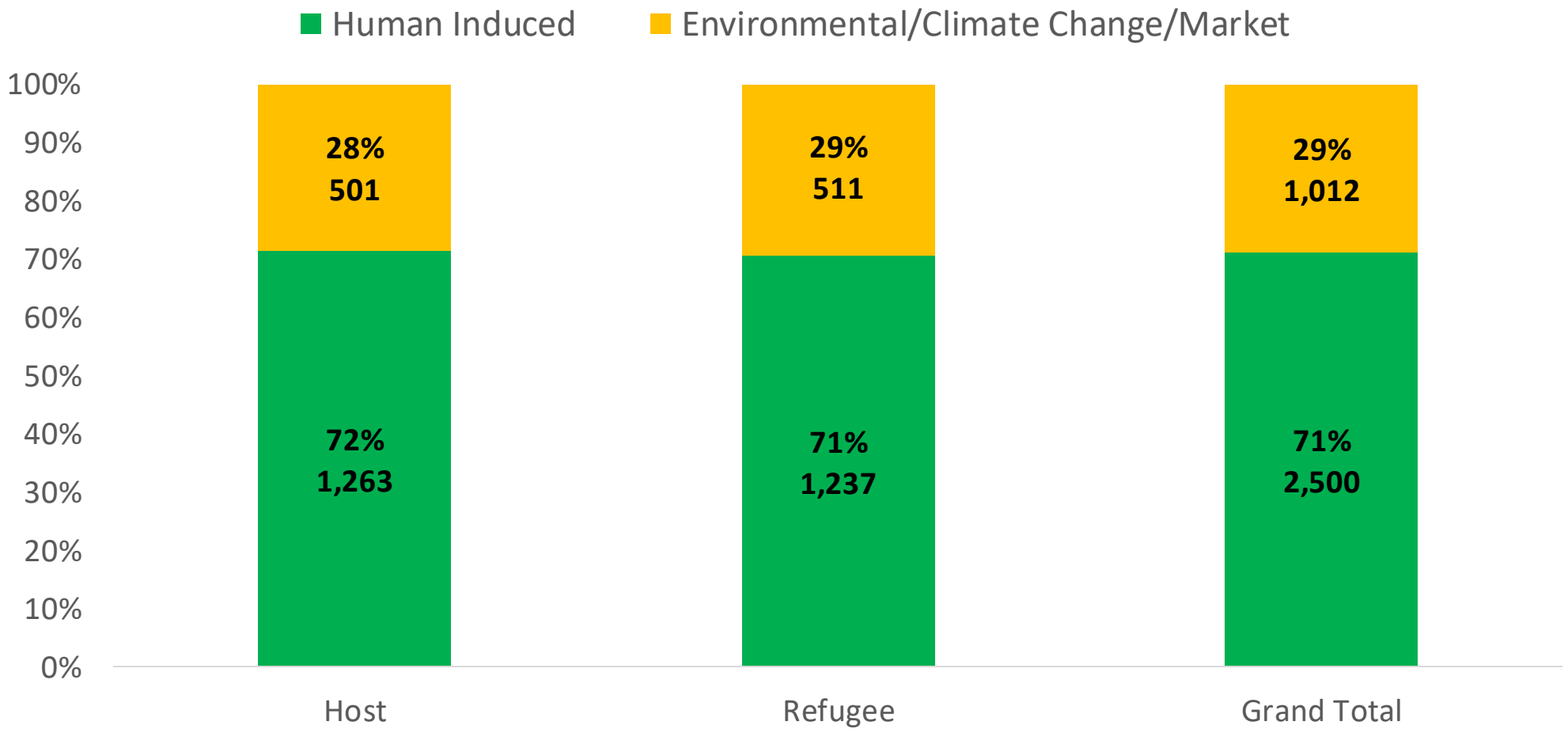


Findings from Cohort 1 Resilience FGDs:

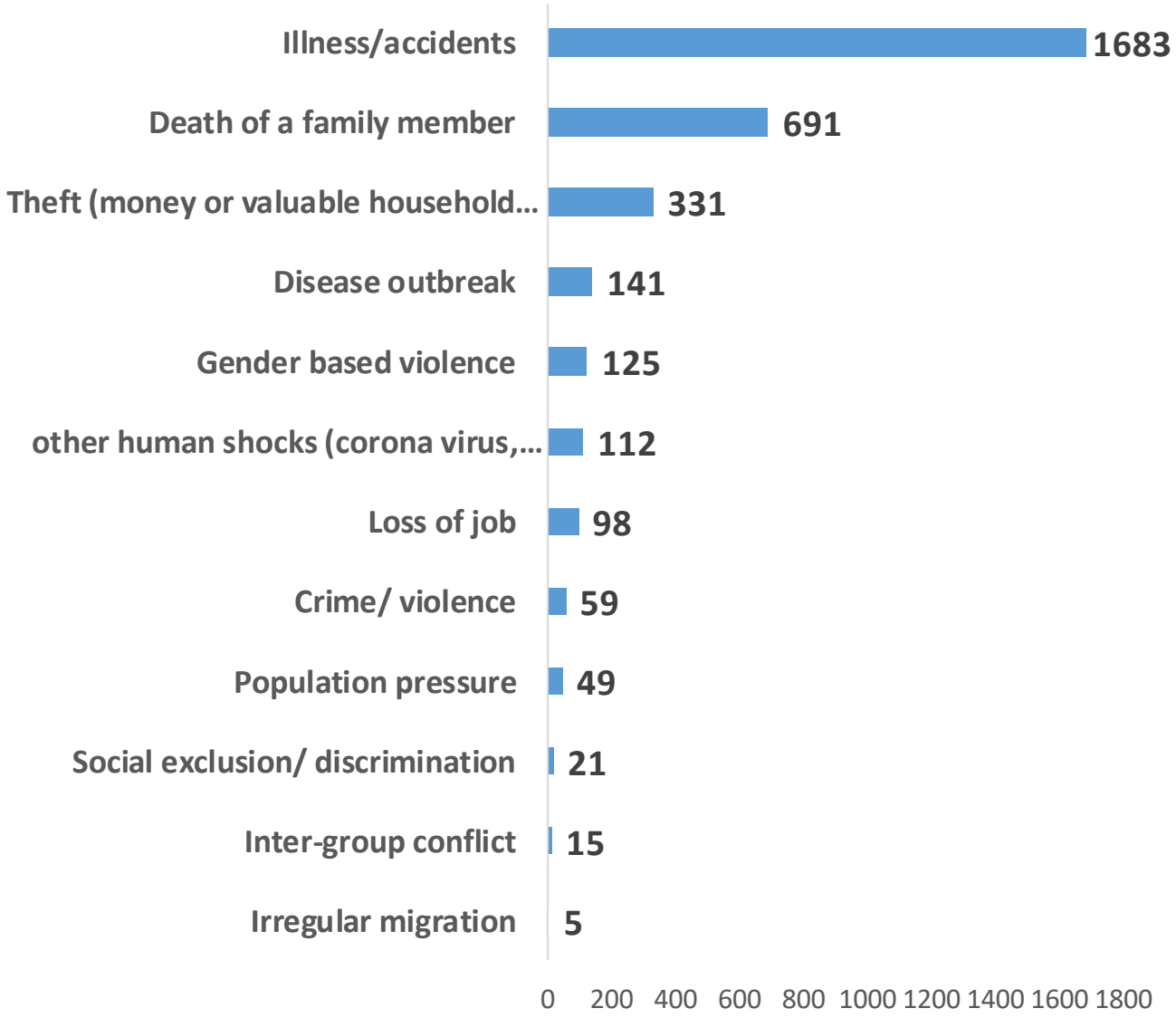
Majority of the respondents noted that they had faced shocks and setbacks in the previous year.

This included failure to recoup money given to farmers for their produce, loss of livestock, sick children, and death of a family member.

Post-Graduation Status
Type of Shocks HHs experienced



Type of Human-Induced Shocks Experienced

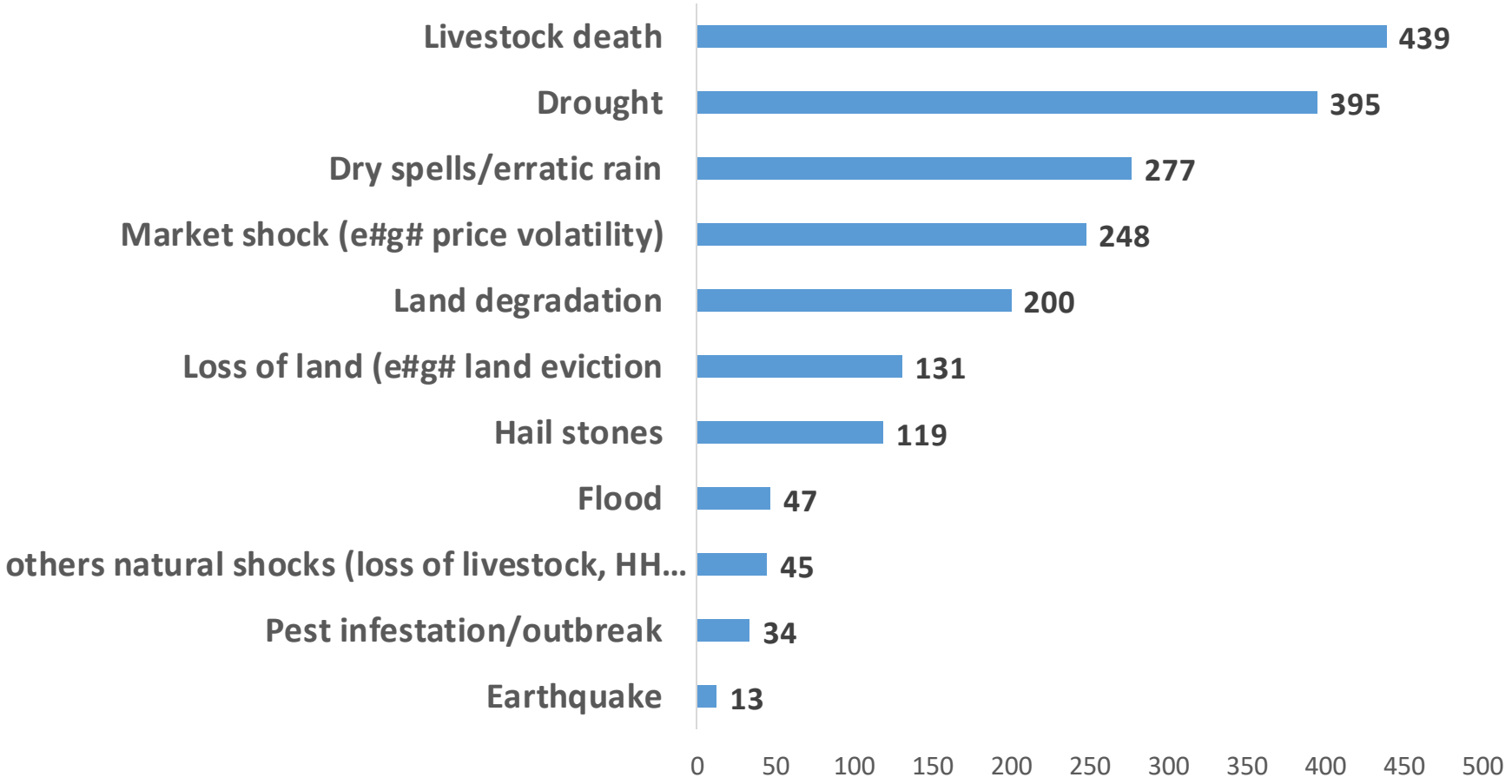


Findings from Cohort 1 Resilience FGDs:

Respondents were able to address and overcome shocks by:

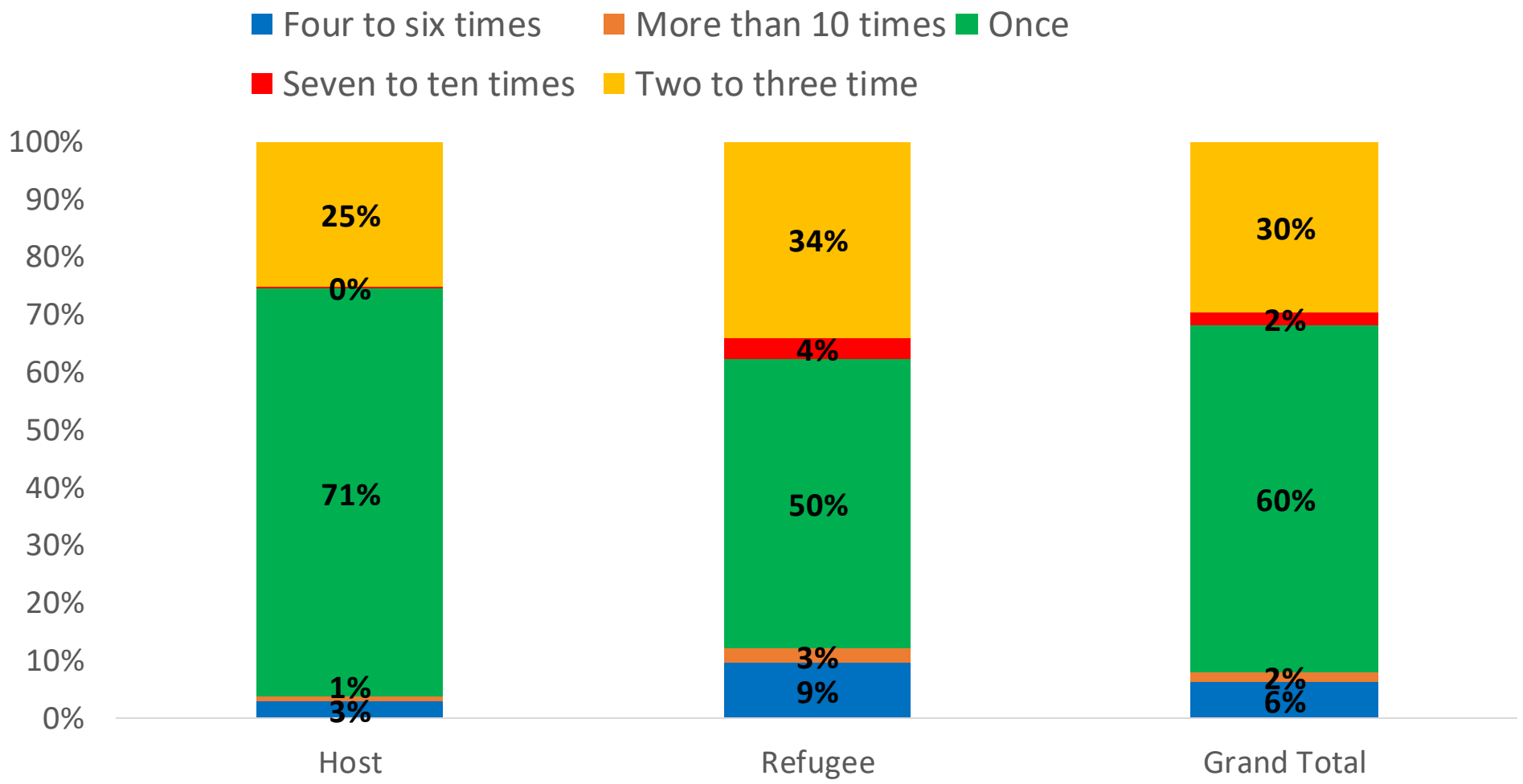
- Utilizing formal health care services
- Responding positively to referrals by shifting their sick to higher-level health centres for better medical care
- Coped with medical costs and expenses by selling their livestock and were provided with assistance from family and friends
- Contribution of other household members were instrumental during these trying times, as they cared for sick children, bought medicines, and delivered food to the hospital as the woman stayed by the sick child's bedside

Type of Environmental/Climate Change/Market Shocks Experienced

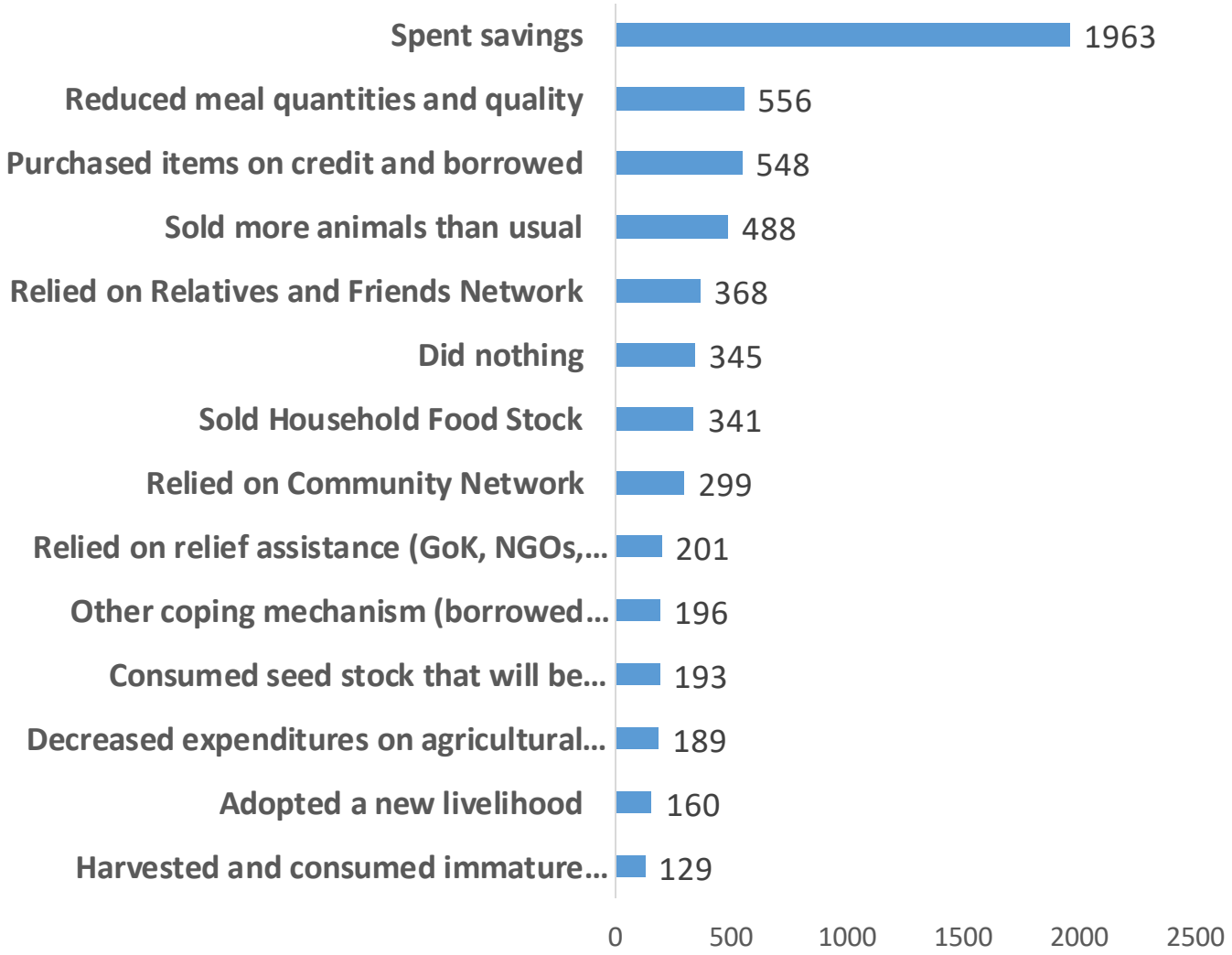


Post-Graduation Status

How often Households Experience Shocks



Main Copying Mechanisms Deployed



Findings from Cohort 1 Resilience FGDs:

- In cases of emergencies they can easily go to their VSLAs for loan
- Improved saving culture has enabled them increase their investments in livestock which they can sell in case of an emergency
- Despite some shocks lasting over 2 months, participants were able to cope and overcome without sliding backwards

Lessons and Cohort 2 Design

- **Group coaching** is effective – promotes social cohesion/peer support BUT an additional household level touch point is helpful for observation and tailored support
- Most Significant Activities identified by participants – **coaching, savings, asset transfer** in a graduation approach type program
- **Family/household approach** – an inclusive way of working with an entire family while addressing women and youth needs
- **Refugees** might take longer to graduate compared to Host (18-24 months might be enough for host but refugees might need 24-30 months)
- **Drop out** will happen! Plan for this (about 22%) **@Cohort 2 only 4% drop out at month 13/24**
- **Adaptive Learning** and the use of evidence for decision making is critical

Program Component	Treatment Arm 1 Standard Adapted Model (3,600 Households)	Treatment Arm 2 Standard Adapted Model + Mental Health (3,600 Households)
Consumption Support	●	●
Livelihoods Skills Training and Support	●	●
Savings and Financial Inclusion	●	●
Asset Transfer	●	●
Coaching	Group	Group
Linkages and Referrals	●	●
Inter-personal Therapy - Group	—	●

Next – Look out!

- IPA Study: Does adding a structured mental health component impact graduation and resilience?
- IPA Study: Longitudinal study on cost effectiveness and sustainability of graduation results
- Duke University Study: Coach characteristics and influence on graduation resilience
- LGIHE Study: Ethnographic study – Visual story – most significant changes in the participant journey to resilience using a River of life

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