



Responsible Mica Initiative

Community Empowerment Program
Long-term Impact assessment report

December 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CEP's MAIN LONG-TERM IMPACTS

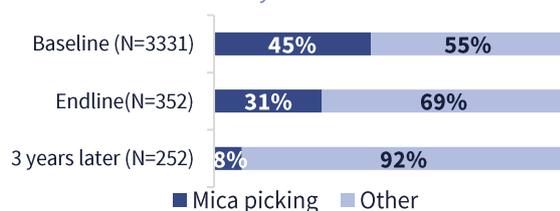
Social security

95% of households have been linked to at least one additional form of social security three years after the program, and 98% of them declare it has helped them reduce household expenses. The Jan Suvhida Kendras set up by the CEP to provide help with scheme access are still in use.

Livelihood

There is a steep **decrease of the proportion of households relying on mica picking as their primary source of income (8% three years after the end of the program compared to 31% at endline and 45% at the baseline).**

Primary means of livelihood at baseline, endline and three years later



Moreover, **32% of households** who benefited from CEP trainings reported that **at least one member of the household is still earning an income thanks to the training** three years after the program. Assets provided have also helped with improving farming yields and setting up local businesses and shops. Levels of income have increased greatly compared to 2022.

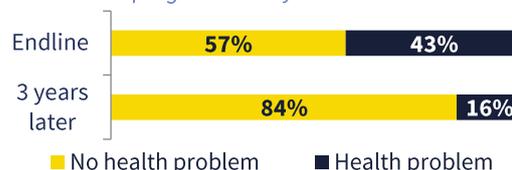
Health and nutrition

61% of households who were assisted by the CEP to grow their kitchen garden still maintain it today.

Preventive health behaviours have been widely sustained: **almost all households retained at least one habit, and most maintained three or more.** Participation in health-related camps during the CEP is still strongly associated with adopting a higher number of preventive practices three years later. Additionally, **households increasingly use multiple healthcare providers**, first ones being private hospitals and Jhola chaap practitioners, while attendance at public facilities

has declined. In the end, physical health has improved markedly since endline: the proportion of households reporting **health problems fell from 43% to 16%.**

Households that record health problem at the end of the program and 3 years later



Education

Engagement and school attendance have improved, with 95% of parents reporting that their children stay in school longer. The *Bal Manch* and sports or play activities and equipment appear to be important levers of success.

Furthermore, comparing literacy and numeracy levels in the CEP sample with the national average (ASER) **shows outstanding results for children in our study sample.**

The different pillars of the CEP contributed to enhancing households' resilience and life satisfaction on the long run. Parents do not show statistically significant differences in educational aspirations for their daughters and sons. **Child labour has decreased, from 4% to 2%, and the role of mica picking in child labour has sharply declined, from 58% to 18%.**

Local volunteers, teaching staff, village leaders and AWC workers reported in focus group discussions an overall shift in mentalities brought by the program, with a **stronger sense of community and cooperation towards improving lifestyles and maintaining program outcomes.** They also unanimously report a **shift in attitudes towards women**, who are more empowered by earning money thanks to trainings and assets provided by the CEP and who feel more confident to participate in community meetings and to speak up for their rights (domestic violence, menstrual health, etc.).