

Design and Data Analysis of End-line Survey and Impact Evaluation

The Northeast Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (NRLPS), set up by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), is implementing the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) with technical and financial support from the World Bank. The NERLP project aims to “to improve rural livelihoods especially that of women, unemployed youth and the most disadvantaged, in four North Eastern States”. It aims at improving communities’ access to credit and other financial services by forming 26,000 SHGs and 1,645 VOs, sustainably increasing incomes of the poor by forming 275 producer organizations, improving natural resource management by local communities and converging with government programs by forming 1,645 Community Development Groups (CDGs), addressing unemployment by skilling 20,000 youth, and engaging in fruitful partnerships with expert organizations to focus on cluster development through value chains and natural resource management. NERLP aims to empower rural poor and improve livelihoods of about 300,000 rural households in 1,624 villages under 58 blocks across eight districts of four states – Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.

Sambodhi, in partnership with NEDFi, is conducting an impact evaluation study to assess the effects of the program in improving key outcomes of interest for those who participated in the program. The primary objective of the evaluation is to attribute the effects of the program on participants which necessitates the assessment of change in outcomes over the duration of the project, between groups who received the program and those who did not.

The study aims to address the following evaluation questions:

- i. What is the incremental effect of the program on the participants in improving key outcomes? Have the target outcomes been achieved?
- ii. What are the reasons for the attainment or non-attainment of outcome targets?
- iii. Did the program have differential impacts on different sub-samples of interest?

The evaluation approach adopts a comprehensive mix of quantitative and qualitative studies to estimate and elucidate whether project attained its objective or not. In the absence of a true baseline, the study will also aim to attempt to reconstruct a baseline for asset ownership of a household which will be used as a proxy of household well-being. The study findings will help inform practitioners and policy makers to take evidence-based decisions on adopting specific approaches or best practices to increase the livelihoods in rural parts of North-east India.