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September 2024



Photo credit: BOMA

NEWS FROM PEI

Accelerating Economic Inclusion of the Most Excluded convening

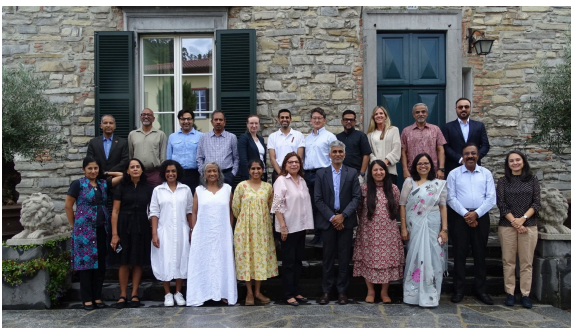


Photo credit: The/Nudge Institute

The Rockefeller Foundation and The/Nudge Institute convened stakeholders from 7 countries, including the Government of India, and from development banks, nonprofits, research institutions, the private sector, and PEI from September 2-6. Participants considered strategies to scale economic inclusion programs for the poorest that achieve global scale and build climate resilience, from mobilizing strategic investments to building a global coalition of champions.

Strengthening Alliances: USAID Joins PEI to advance economic inclusion



Photo credit: USAID

PEI is delighted to welcome the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security as a funding partner. USAID has strong investments in economic inclusion programs globally and they now join forces with PEI to advance work on evidence and capacity building to improve resilience outcomes for people living in extreme poverty.

PEI also welcomes USAID to our Steering Committee, where they join BRAC International, Co-Impact, GIZ, and Irish Aid to support PEI's future direction.

Graduating to Resilience DC Learning Summit 2024



Photo credit: AVSI USA

This three-day event organized by the AVSI Foundation brought together policymakers, government officials, multilaterals, and graduation program representatives to explore poverty alleviation strategies. The summit celebrated the success of the seven-year Graduating to Resilience Activity, highlighting the progress of two cohorts of participants. PEI's Program Manager, Victoria Strokova, moderated a session with experts from USAID, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Village Enterprise, and AVSI Foundation discussing the need for innovative funding and collaboration to scale up graduation programs for global impact.

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2024 Engagement Survey results help shape PEI's future

In FY24, PEI conducted its second survey to assess the engagement of governments, technical partners and funders, World Bank teams, and other key stakeholders, understand the relevance and usefulness of PEI's work, gain insight into priorities for the future of economic inclusion, and gauge shifts in economic inclusion policy and programming. Over 350 people responded, with a strong representation from governments and technical partners. Key findings include:

1. **Influence:** 89% percent of respondents indicated that PEI has been influential in their work, with research, evidence, or knowledge of economic inclusion being the most widely influenced aspect.
2. **Utility:** 69% of respondents report that PEI's activities are very or extremely helpful, with grant funding to governments, PEI's Data Portal, and technical support being the most helpful. However, 28% report that PEI's activities are only somewhat helpful and 9% of Affiliates report low or no utility.
3. **Satisfaction:** While 57% of respondents reported high satisfaction across activities, satisfaction was highest for the relevance of operational information (95%), and lowest for engagement of partners outside of PEI (69%).
4. **Scale:** 82% of respondents agree that PEI's learning activities respond to critical operational questions to achieving scale, slightly down from 88% in FY22.
5. **Future Priorities:** Climate resilience is the number one thematic priority indicated by respondents, followed by women's economic empowerment, food and nutrition security, and youth economic inclusion.

While most results are similar to what the previous survey revealed, PEI will continue to find ways to make its work very relevant for organizations working in the economic inclusion space. The PEI Management Team is grateful to all respondents, including this newsletter's subscribers, for taking the time to complete the survey and share their feedback.

NEWS AND RESOURCES FROM PEI PARTNERS

Women's economic activity: what the literature tells us about designing cash transfer and Graduation programs

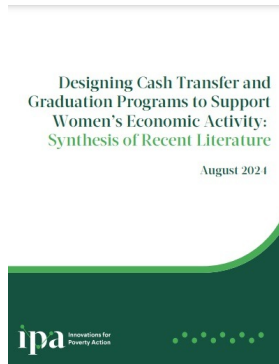


Photo credit: IPA

Women are particularly vulnerable to poverty, given inequitable gender dynamics that can limit ownership of productive assets, decision-making, control over money, and access to markets. To better understand how cash transfers and graduation programs can improve the lives of women, this review summarizes the impact of these programs, as well as variations in design and delivery, on economic and non-economic outcomes among female recipients.

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ICYMI: Better Together - Gender targeting, household cooperation and Graduation research brief



Photo credit: Concern Worldwide

What impacts do gender targeting and gender-transformative training have on households in economic inclusion programs? This research brief from Concern Worldwide presents lessons from its Graduation program in Malawi that combined livelihoods training, asset transfers, financial access, and gender-transformative dialogue sessions to tackle poverty and promote gender equality. While all households experienced higher incomes after 17 months, targeting women while engaging spouses in gender discussions resulted in the greatest gains in income and agency for women, among other findings.

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Innovation brief: Lessons from digitizing CARE's Livestock Farmer Field Business School



Photo credit: CARE

In this brief, CARE shares lessons from its collaboration with Kuza to digitize and expand agricultural training for vulnerable farmers, especially women and youth. The digital Livestock Farmer Field Business School can be accessed by program participants on mobile devices and includes micro-learning modules, instructional videos, infographics, and quizzes on topics like livestock management, gender inclusivity, market strategies, and nutrition. The initiative is part of CARE's USAID-funded flagship Shouhardo III program in Bangladesh and aims to improve participants' livestock practices and long-term productivity while fostering gender equity.

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Photo credit: BBC

BBC World Business Report: More funding needed for malnutrition crisis

Bill Gates made headlines with his call for an urgent increase in aid to Africa, and BBC News spoke with Taddeo Muriuki, Village Enterprise's Chief Government Relations Officer, about their work in the region. They revisited two refugees who have become business owners through Village Enterprise, Stella and Dawa. Their conversations highlight how the Graduation approach can break the cycle of poverty for the most vulnerable, and what government aid budget cuts mean for food security in Africa.

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Photo credit: BRAC

Getting back on track to end extreme poverty

“With the climate crisis and international instability disproportionately impacting those furthest behind, it is essential that the international development community supports governments in adopting evidence-based approaches like Graduation,” argue Dr. Syed Hashemi and Aude de Montesquiou. As conflict and climate change deepen global poverty, evidence-backed economic inclusion approaches like Graduation reduce poverty over the long-term and are cost-effective. This has led governments to incorporate them into existing systems with the potential to reach millions of vulnerable people.

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The [Partnership for Economic Inclusion](#) is a global platform that unites non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, research institutions, funding partners, and the World Bank to support government adoption and scale up of economic inclusion programs that empower vulnerable people to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.



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