



Household Selection in Inclusive Livelihoods Program

Process evaluation of the special projects in Assam & Tripura



Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India





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Executive summary

The Inclusive Livelihoods Programme (ILP) Special Project Pilots aim to identify and support households experiencing extreme poverty through a sequenced economic inclusion programme implemented by State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and community institutions. Household selection is an important component of programme implementation. If eligible households are missed, they do not receive the subsequent package of programme support. If relatively better-off households are selected, limited programme resources may not reach households facing the greatest deprivation. IDinsight conducted a mixed-methods process evaluation to assess how household selection was implemented in Assam and Tripura and whether it aligned with programme design.

The evaluation included an analysis of household-level Poverty Assessment Tool (PAT) data from the SARATHI application, quantitative surveys with 522 programme participants and 206 non-participants, a survey of 22 Village Organisation (VO) office bearers, and 86 qualitative interviews with program participants and stakeholders involved in implementation. Data collection was conducted in November and December 2024, approximately one year after the original selection exercise.

Key findings

Almost all selected households were classified as vulnerable during social wealth ranking.

Across both states, 85.7% of participant households attended the PRA and social wealth ranking exercise, compared with 48.0% of non-participants. Qualitative findings highlighted barriers to active

Overall assessment:

The selection system broadly distinguished participant households from non-participants based on measured PAT scores, but the final selection process depended on more than the PAT threshold alone. Household availability, data quality, verification practices, community judgement and operational pressures also shaped which household ultimately entered the programme.

participation, including unclear instructions, shyness, and, in one Tripura case, restrictions on women's participation by male household members. Mobilisation also varied across villages. In one block in Assam, public categorisation of households as rich, medium, or vulnerable created some community tension.

PAT scores were higher among participants than non-participants.

The mean PAT score among participants was 9.9 in Assam (threshold 8) and 8.7 in Tripura (PAT threshold 7), compared with 4.1 and 3.5 among non-participants, respectively. Most participants recalled that the PAT survey covered household assets and described the process as clear and straightforward.

Repeated PAT measurement showed some variation in classification across rounds.

When IDinsight re-administered the PAT survey nearly one year later, participant households continued to score higher than non-participants, although the difference was smaller. In Assam, 13.4% of sampled participants met at least one

exclusion criterion in the repeated survey, mainly due to monthly income of ₹5,000 or more from a stable livelihood. Differences between rounds may reflect changes in household circumstances, variation in survey administration or interpretation, difficulties verifying self-reported information, or possible underreporting of assets. They should not be interpreted as direct evidence of errors in the original selection process.

Household unavailability was a common reason for exclusion.

Across both states, 14.4% of households in the PAT database got excluded because they were unavailable for PAT assessment and therefore did not proceed further in the selection process. This included 12.7% of households in Assam and 16.2% in Tripura. Qualitative findings linked household absence to seasonal agricultural activities, migration, jhum cultivation, market visits, illness and household responsibilities. Many VO office bearers surveyed felt that additional households could have been considered for inclusion, often because households were unavailable during the PAT process.

VO endorsement and BPM approval introduced community and administrative judgement to the process.

Rejections at the VO and BPM stages were limited. In Assam, 1.3% of households were rejected at the VO stage and 3.3% at the BPM stage. In Tripura, these figures were 3.4% and 2.5%, respectively. In Assam, 203 households, equivalent to 1.8% of households assessed through the PAT, were re-endorsed and approved despite having scores of 6 or 7, below the state threshold of 8. According to TNI, these decisions considered case-specific operational factors, including the formation of viable UPCM clusters and achievement of block-level targets. However, available data do not allow the

reasons for individual overrides or waitlisting decisions to be fully understood.

BPC verification showed lower scores and the coverage was uneven.

BPC verification was completed for 6.5% of households in Assam and 16.0% in Tripura. CRP and BPC classifications matched in around 85% of verified cases. Among the 345 mismatched cases, BPC scores were lower than CRP scores in 343 cases. Qualitative findings suggest that discrepancies may have been higher in some locations. Household unavailability was one of the main reasons verification surveys could not be completed.

The process was generally seen as fair, and SARATHI provided a common basis for explaining selection decisions.

Most CRPs, (8 of 9 CRPs in Assam and 9 of 9 CRPs in Tripura) indicated that caste, religion, and tribal identity did not influence selection decisions. Implementers frequently referred to SARATHI as a neutral basis for explaining and justifying eligibility decisions, particularly when facing requests to include households they considered ineligible. However, respondents also described community and political pressures, including requests for inclusion and in one reported case political interference. Some non-selected households questioned their exclusion.

A supplementary analysis of the Consumption Support Grant (CSG) in Tripura found that all nine interviewed participants used the ration for household consumption. Rice was the most commonly identified useful item. Participants had mixed preferences between cash and in-kind support, with some valuing food security and others valuing the flexibility of cash. Recall of UPCM nutrition guidance varied, and some participants raised concerns about ration quality and quantity. These findings provide additional insights but do not constitute a full assessment of the CSG component.

Priority recommendations

1. Reduce exclusion caused by timing and temporary absence.

Conduct selection exercises during periods when households are more likely to be available. Consider more frequent selection cycles, where feasible, so that households missed during one round can be considered later.

2. Standardise PAT questions and field protocols.

Clarify reference periods and asset definitions. Review indicators that may be sensitive or difficult to measure reliably. Provide clearer guidance to CRPs on verification and cross-checking practices within SARATHI.

3. Strengthen verification through systematic and risk-based checks.

Enable SARATHI to automatically generate random samples for BPC verification that are representative across CRPs and VOs. Include buffer households selected through the same randomisation protocol to maintain verification coverage when selected households are unavailable.

4. Improve SARATHI data integrity and auditability.

Strengthen data validation processes to reduce discrepancies and missing data. Record missing PAT scores and responses as missing values rather than zeros.



Who did the selection process ultimately reach?

Across both states, the households ultimately selected were consistently more deprived on the programme's own targeting measures than households that were not selected.

Assam

- Almost all selected households were classified as vulnerable during social wealth ranking (4,043 of 4,050).
- Their average PAT score was 9.9, against a selection threshold of 8; 95% scored at or above the threshold.
- The average selected household had 3.6 members.
- Nearly half (49.8%) of selected households were female-headed.
- Among participant respondents, the average age was 41 years, and around one-quarter (24.9%) were widowed.

Tripura

- Almost all selected households were classified as vulnerable during social wealth ranking (4,658 of 4,660).
- Their average PAT score was 8.7, against a selection threshold of 7; 99% scored at or above the threshold.
- The average selected household had 4.4 members.
- Around 29% of selected households were female-headed.
- Among participant respondents, the average age was 38 years, and around 11% were widowed.

These patterns suggest that the selection process broadly reached the population it was intended to prioritise, while not ruling out individual inclusion or exclusion errors.



Background and Evaluation Objectives

1.1 Programme context

The Inclusive Livelihoods Programme (ILP) Special Project Pilots (Annex E and F for more details on special projects in Assam and Tripura respectively) are designed for households that face multiple challenges and are not adequately reached by conventional livelihoods programmes. These challenges include food insecurity, limited productive assets, weak social networks, and limited ability to engage with markets and institutions. The programme draws on the Graduation approach and combines consumption support, livelihood planning, asset transfer, regular coaching by Ultra-Poor Change Makers (UPCMs), and small-group engagement. At the time of the study, the model was implemented through special projects called SETU in Assam and TRUPTI in Tripura, which were part of the respective State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLM) and DAY-NRLM structures.

Household selection is a critical component of this model. The programme provides intensive support to a clearly defined group of households thus making accurate identification important for reaching households facing the greatest deprivation. The selection process therefore needs to balance three objectives: identifying households facing the deepest deprivation, minimising the exclusion of eligible households, and ensuring that the process is perceived as fair and acceptable by communities and implementing institutions.

1.2 Evaluation objectives and questions

The process evaluation was designed to support programme improvement and scale-up. This report examines whether selected households met the stated eligibility criteria and how the selection process worked in practice, including how local conditions shaped its implementation. The analysis addresses three questions:

- Which criteria were used to select most vulnerable households, and were there any inclusion or exclusion errors in the selection process? What factors contributed to these errors?
- How did CRPs and VOs engage in the household selection process?
- How did community dynamics influence household selection, and to what extent did the design of the selection drive account for local contexts and circumstances?

1.3 Scope of this report

This report focuses on household selection in Assam and Tripura and covers each stage of the selection process: social wealth ranking, poverty assessment tool (PAT) administration, VO endorsement, BPC verification, and BPM approval. It presents, in report form, the findings shared with TNI and NRLM in May 2025. The report also includes a limited section on CSG utilisation in Tripura, as the CSG distribution process was completed in the state during the process evaluation. This section draws on participant interviews that provide insights into experiences with the first programme transfer. Other programme components are outside the scope of this report.

Evaluation Approach

2.1 Mixed-methods design

The evaluation draws on three complementary sources of evidence. First, we analysed TNI's administrative PAT data from SARATHI to trace households through each stage of the selection process and examine how the characteristics and PAT scores of programme participants differed from those of non-participants. Second, we conducted quantitative surveys with programme participants, non-participants, and VO office bearers to assess participation in the selection

process, re-measured PAT indicators, and understand stakeholders' experiences. Third, we carried out semi-structured qualitative interviews with programme participants and stakeholders involved in implementation and verification to understand the processes, decisions, and contextual factors that shaped household selection.

Each source served a distinct purpose. The administrative data helped reconstruct the selection pathway, identify patterns in which households were selected or excluded, and assess

Evidence source	Achieved sample	Role in analysis
	522 respondents Assam 202 respondents; 20 VOs and 10 respondents per VO Tripura 320 respondents; 20 VOs and 15 respondents per VO	Participation in selection, repeated PAT indicators, and household characteristics
Non-participant household survey	206 (Assam 95; Tripura 111) 16 VOs, 6 respondents per VO	Comparison group for participation, and repeated PAT indicators
VO office-bearer quantitative survey	22 (11 per state, one interview per VO across 22 VOs)	VO orientation, participation, endorsement, and perceived exclusions
Participant qualitative interviews	18 (9 per state, purposively chosen from sampled VOs)	Experiences, understanding and comfort during PRA/PAT; supplementary CSG findings
VO office-bearer qualitative interviews	18 (9 per state, one interview per VO across 18 VOs)	Community mobilisation, endorsement, disputes, and local judgement
CRP qualitative interviews	18 (9 per state)	PRA/PAT implementation, data quality, verification, and field constraints
BPM qualitative interviews	7 (Assam 4; Tripura 3)	Block-level approval processes, criteria, pressure, and programme oversight
BPC qualitative interviews	7 (Assam 4; Tripura 3)	Verification, monitoring, and implementation support
UPCM qualitative interviews	18 (9 per state)	Used selectively for contextual learning on CSG where reliable coded material was available

Table 1 - Achieved sample sizes for the evaluation

the extent to which implementation followed the intended selection process. The survey data provided population-level estimates of participation, household characteristics, and changes in PAT indicators. The qualitative interviews helped interpret these patterns by examining the experiences, constraints, and local dynamics that shaped household decisions and programme implementation.

Annex A provides details on sample size assumptions, probability-proportional-to-size (PPS) sampling, clustering, weighting procedures, qualitative sampling approach, coding framework, and achieved precision.

2.2 Analysis and interpretation

In the analysis, we adjusted quantitative estimates for the survey design and applied weights where required to make the estimates representative of the study population. We present estimates with 95% confidence intervals. The state-level samples were designed to generate implementation-focused findings and identify key patterns to inform programme improvement, rather than to achieve the level of statistical precision typically associated with academic standards.

Qualitative interviews were coded against the evaluation research questions and learning objectives. The analysis examined findings across stakeholder groups and states, identified recurring themes, and considered cases that differed from broader patterns. Qualitative frequencies were reported selectively, given the small and purposively sampled respondent groups. Quotations were anonymised and lightly edited for readability without altering their meaning.

Interpretation of repeated PAT scores:

The PAT was re-administered by IDinsight nearly one year after the original selection exercise. Differences between the two rounds cannot be interpreted as direct evidence of targeting accuracy or error, as household circumstances, including food availability, income, household composition, and assets, may have changed over time. Respondents were also aware of the programme by the time of the second round, and the administration protocols differed across the two rounds. The repeated scores therefore provide insights into the stability and replicability of the classification process across time, rather than serving as a direct validation of the original selection decisions.



How Household Selection Was Intended to Work

The selection process involved community-based identification, a household survey, and multiple stages of review. Households were first identified through participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and social wealth ranking (SWR). Households classified as vulnerable were then assessed using the PAT. Households meeting the state-specific PAT threshold proceeded to VO endorsement and block-level approval. BPCs were expected to verify a sample of households that met the PAT threshold. Overall, the process combined a standardised tool with the local knowledge and judgement of community institutions and block-level teams.

The ILP programme was implemented across four districts and seven blocks in Assam and Tripura; two districts and four blocks in Assam, with two blocks in each district; and two districts and three blocks in Tripura, with two blocks in one district and one block in the other. In total, 8,745 households were selected from 178 VOs from a pool of 21,580 households that were assessed through the PAT.

The selection process was designed as a sequence of stages, and the final selection decisions were influenced by multiple factors. These included PAT thresholds, exclusion criteria, community endorsement, block-level judgement, verification processes, fixed targets, and clustering requirements. The findings below examine how these factors influenced selection at different stages of the process.

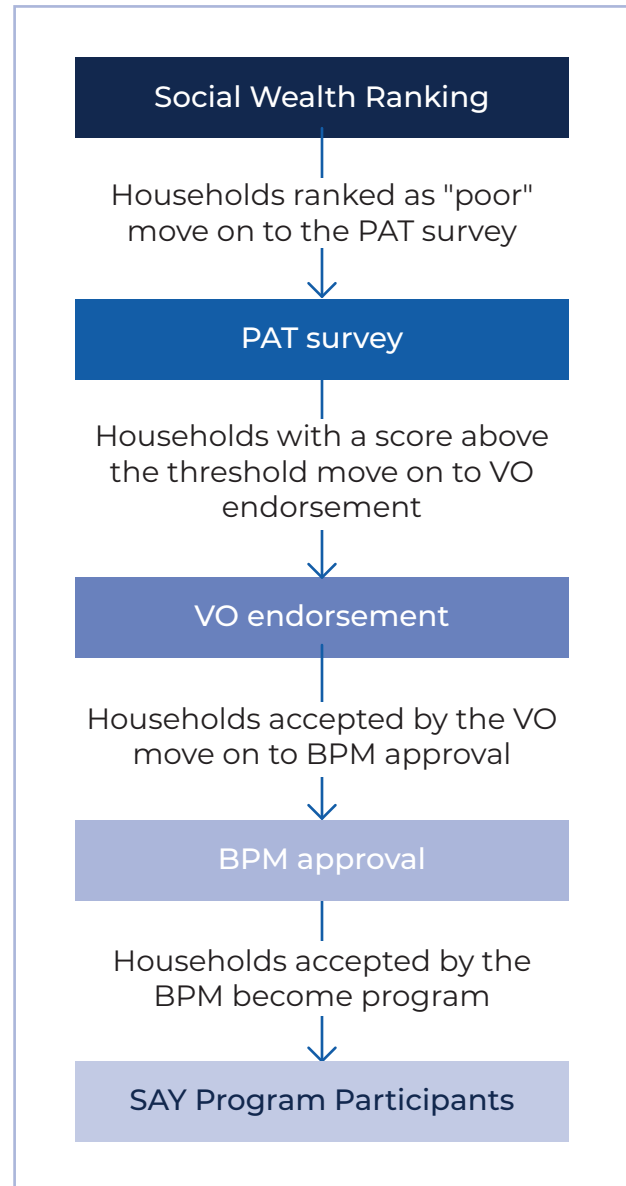
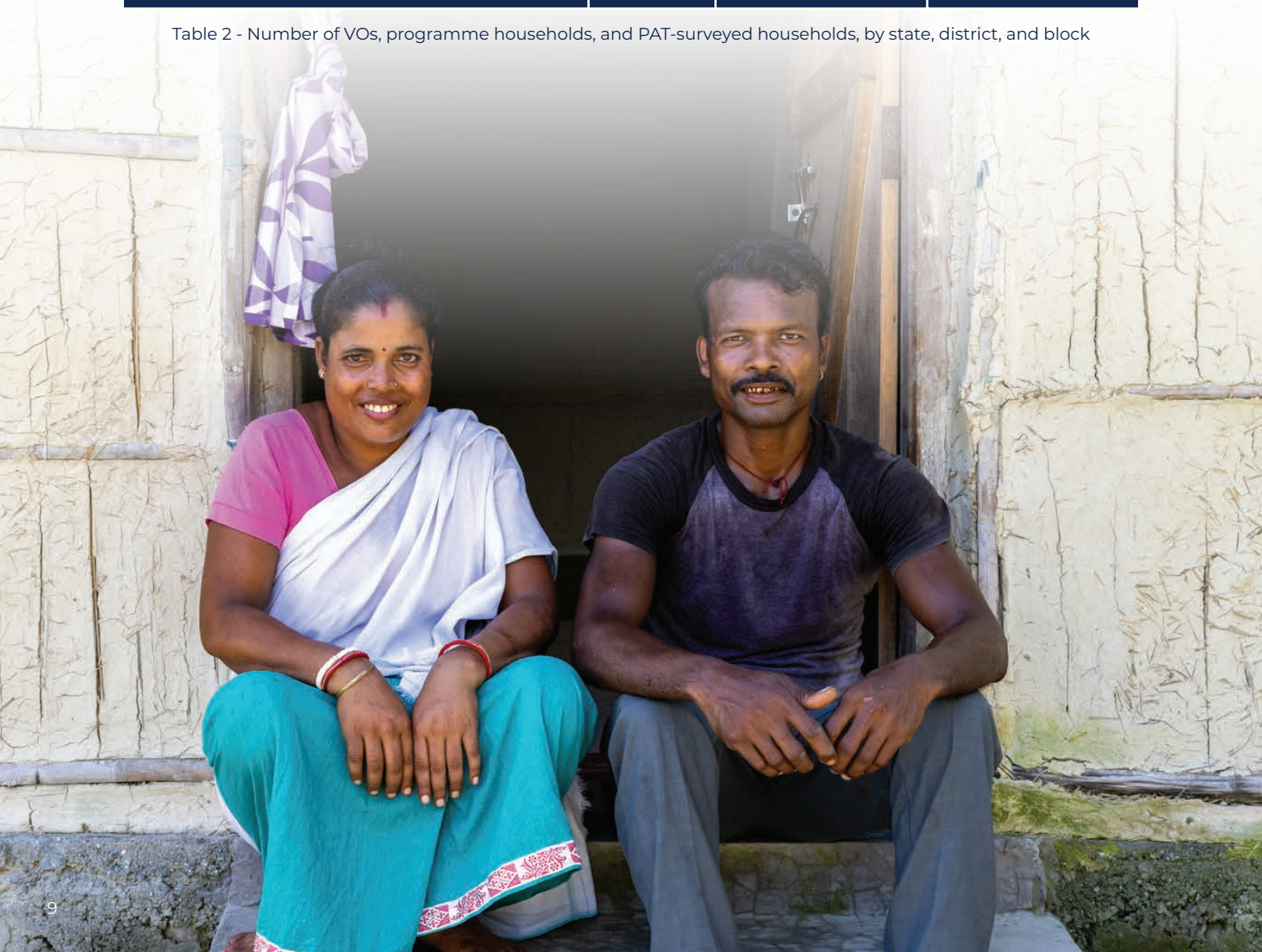


Figure 1 - Intended household selection process

State	District	Block	No. of VOs	No. of Programme HHs	No. of HHs surveyed for PAT
Assam	Bongaigaon	Boitamari	36	1,004	3,194
		Dangtol	31	1,021	2,662
		Total	67	2,025	5,856
	Chirang	Borobazar	26	1,016	2,720
		Sidli-Chirang	15	1,016	2,887
		Total	41	2,032	5,607
Total			109	4,057	11,463
Tripura	Dhalai	Ambassa	22	1,231	2,616
		Ganganagar	21	1,024	2,118
		Total	43	2,255	4,734
	North Tripura	Dasda	26	2,433	5,383
Total			69	4,688	10,117

Table 2 - Number of VOs, programme households, and PAT-surveyed households, by state, district, and block



Findings

4.1 Almost all selected households were classified as vulnerable during social wealth ranking

Social wealth ranking was intended to identify the initial pool of households for PAT assessment. In the SARATHI data, almost all programme participants were recorded as vulnerable: 4,043 of 4,050 participants in Assam and 4,658 of 4,660 in Tripura. According to TNI, the small number of participants classified as non-vulnerable was due to data loss and mismatches between paper forms and the SARATHI application.

Across the two states, 85.7% of participant households attended the PRA and social wealth ranking exercise. As shown in Figure 2, participant attendance was 83.5% in Assam and 90.3% in Tripura. Attendance was lower among non-participant households: 42.3% in Assam, 59.9% in Tripura, and 48.0% overall (Figure 3).

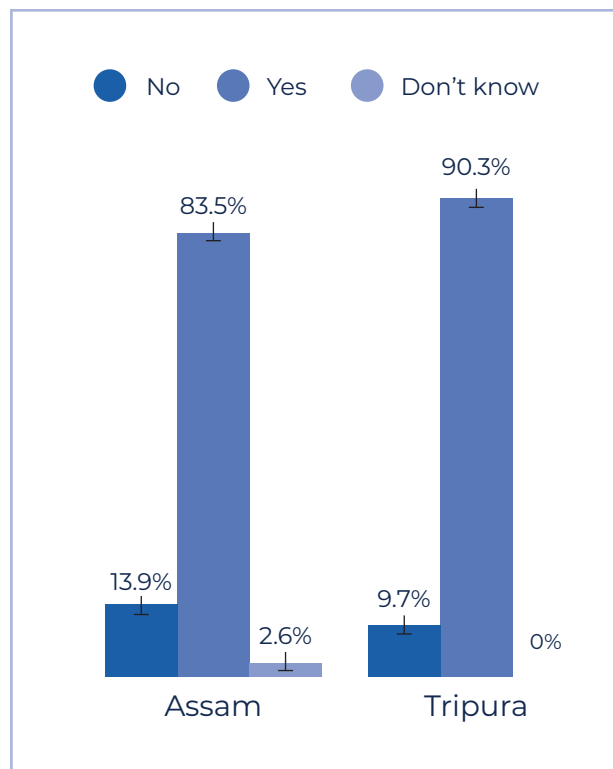


Figure 2 - PRA and social wealth ranking participation among programme participants

Note: N=522 (Assam 202; Tripura 320). Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals



The qualitative findings highlight three additional observations. First, attendance did not necessarily translate into active participation. One participant in Tripura reported that she did not speak during the social wealth ranking exercise due to shyness, while another reported that unclear instructions limited her participation. One CRP in Tripura also noted that women's participation was restricted by male household members in some cases, requiring follow-up household visits to ensure their inclusion.

Second, mobilisation varied considerably across villages. Some CRPs (2 of 5) observed meetings with 100–150 attendees in some villages, while one CRP reported attendance of only five participants in another village, requiring the exercise to be repeated the following day. However, all 22 VO office bearers surveyed felt that there was sufficient representation from all communities and hamlets.

Third, wealth-ranking exercises required careful communication to manage community sensitivities. One BPC in Assam described tension during the exercise, with individuals expressing discomfort about being publicly categorised as vulnerable. CRPs used posters and placards to explain the classification criteria more clearly.

These findings suggest that PRA and social wealth ranking provided a useful entry point for engaging communities and identifying households for further assessment. However, attendance alone did not capture the quality of participation. The extent to which participants could understand and contribute to the exercise depended on communication, timing, and facilitation. Future rounds should assess not only whether households attended the exercise, but also whether vulnerable households understood the process and had an opportunity to contribute meaningfully.

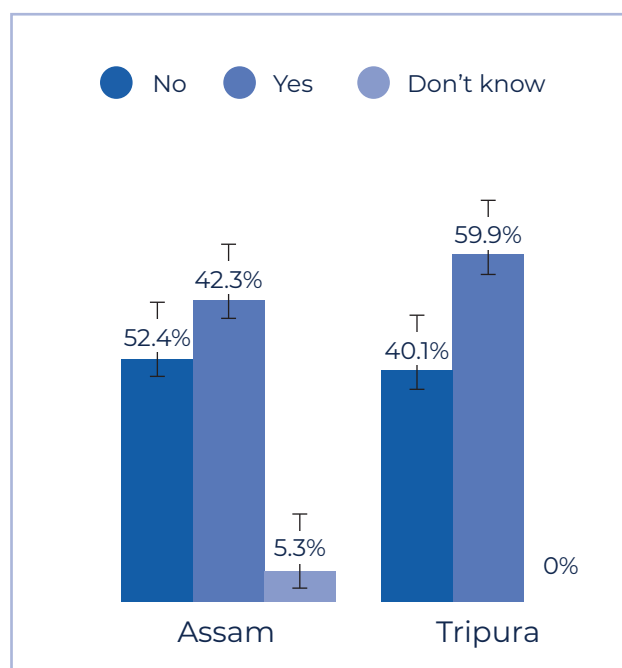


Figure 3 - PRA and social wealth ranking participation among non-participants

Note: N=206 (Assam 95; Tripura 111). Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

4.2 PAT scores were higher among participants than non-participants

The PAT served as the central standardised poverty assessment tool in the household selection process. Assam used a threshold score of 8, while Tripura used a threshold of 7. As shown in Table 3, participant households had higher

average PAT scores than non-participant households in both states. The mean PAT score among participants was 9.9 in Assam and 8.7 in Tripura, compared with 4.1 and 3.5 among non-participants, respectively. Similarly, 95% of participants in Assam and 99% in Tripura scored at or above the state-specific threshold, compared with 18% of non-participants in each state.

State	Household type	Mean PAT score	Median PAT score	Proportion of HHs above the threshold	N
Assam	Participants	9.9	10	95%	4,057
Assam	Non-participants	4.1	5	18%	4,694
Tripura	Participants	8.7	9	99%	4,672
Tripura	Non-participants	3.5	4	18%	3,664

Table 3 - PAT scores and threshold status by state and household type (TNI administrative data)

The distribution of PAT scores shows that selection was closely aligned with the state-specific thresholds. Most households with scores below the threshold were not selected, while most households scoring at or above the threshold were selected. This pattern was

more pronounced in Tripura, where nearly all selected households scored 7 or above. In Assam, some households with scores of 6 and 7 were selected through subsequent endorsement and approval stages, as discussed in Section 4.5.



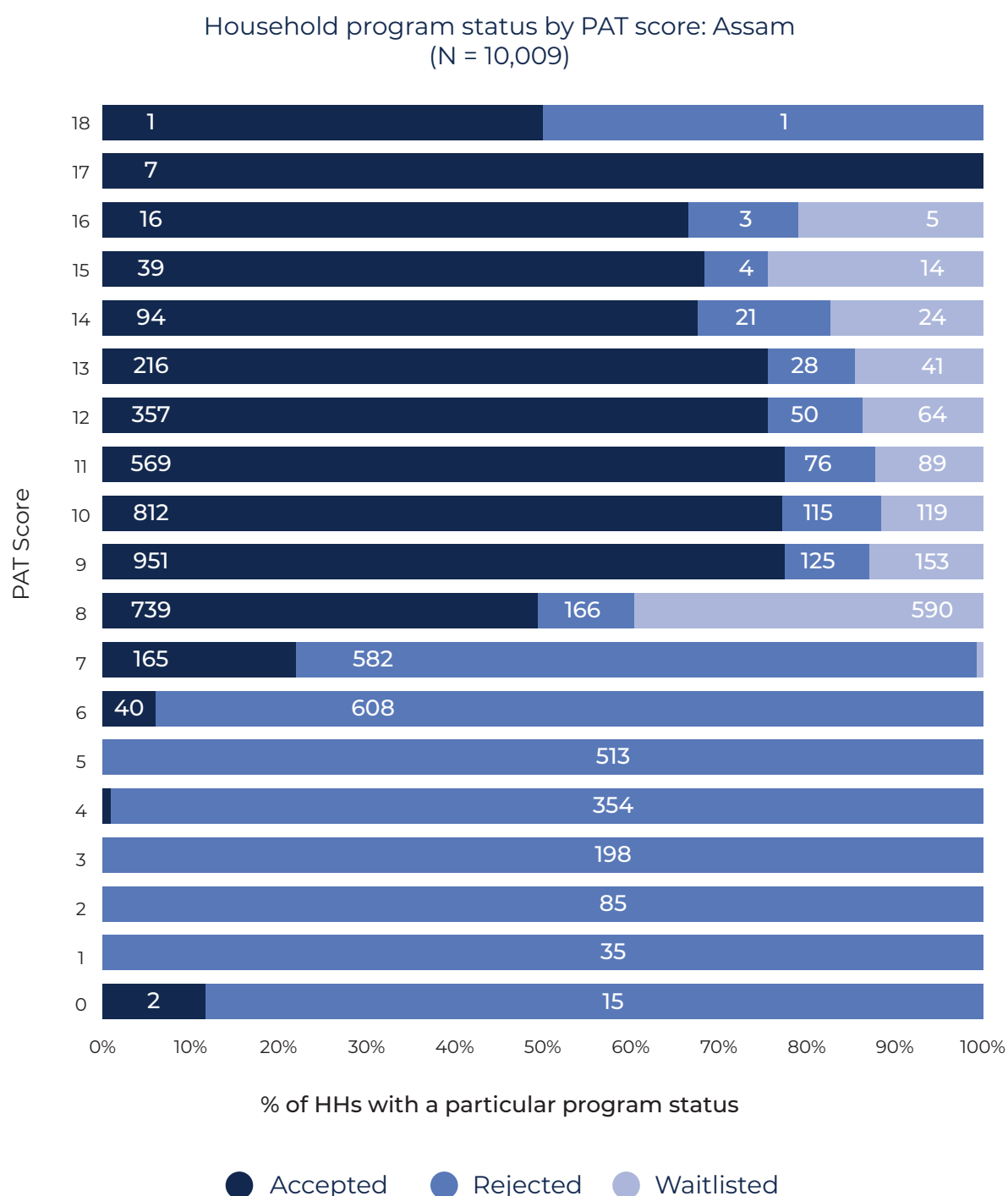


Figure 4 - Household programme status by PAT score in TNI administrative data

Source: SARATHI PAT data. Charts exclude households unavailable for PAT, records with a score of 20 due to data loss, and households excluded based on eligibility criteria.

Qualitative interviews provided additional insights into participants' experiences with the PAT process. Most participants in Assam (8 of 9) and many in Tripura (6 of 9) recalled that the survey included questions on household assets, such as land and livestock. In Assam, many participants (6 of 9) described the interaction as straightforward, most (7 of 9) reported answering the questions themselves, and many (6 of 9) found the questions clear. In Tripura, many participants (5 of 9) reported answering the questions themselves. One participant in Assam said that her daughter responded to the survey on behalf of the household. In contrast, one participant in Tripura said that the PAT

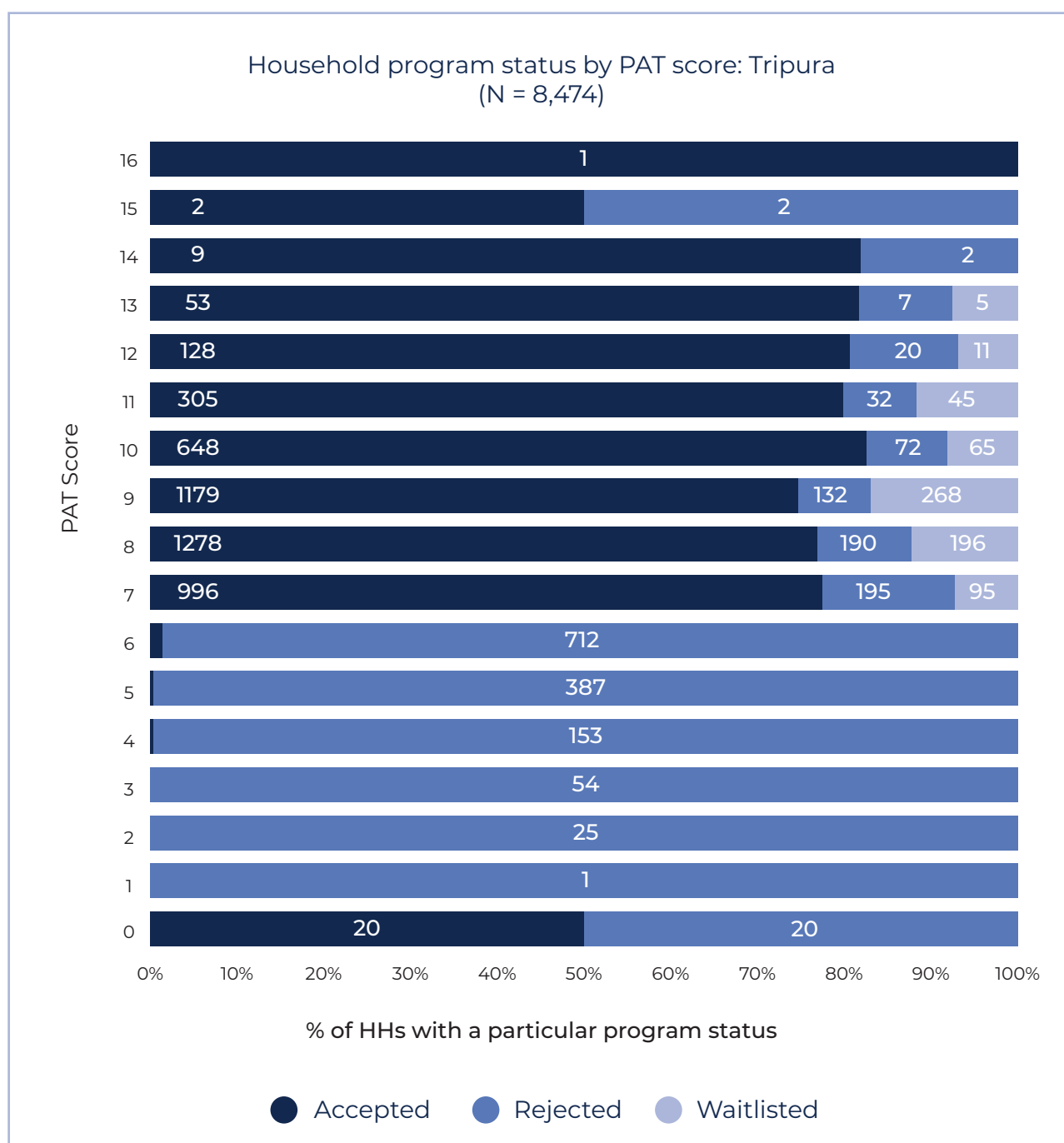


Figure 4 - Household programme status by PAT score in TNI administrative data

Source: SARATHI PAT data. Charts exclude households unavailable for PAT, records with a score of 20 due to data loss, and households excluded based on eligibility criteria.

Tripura said that the PAT survey did not take place because she was not at home and no other family member was available to respond. A few participants in Assam (3 of 9) suggested that the PAT could include additional indicators, such as poultry ownership, pig rearing, and housing conditions, to better capture household circumstances.

4.3 Repeated PAT measurement showed some variation in classification across rounds

IDinsight re-administered the PAT to sampled participant and non-participant

households during the evaluation. As shown in Table 4, participant households had higher average PAT scores in the evaluation round than non-participant households in both states, although the gap between the two groups was smaller than in the administrative data. In Assam, the average PAT score was 8.6 among participants and 7.3 among non-participants. Among these households, 65% of participants and 42% of non-participants scored at or above the threshold. In Tripura, the average scores were 7.7 and 6.8, respectively, with 76% of participants and 58% of non-participants scoring at or above the threshold. Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the PAT score distributions for participants and non-participants for Assam and Tripura, respectively.

State	Household type	Mean repeated PAT score	Median	At/above threshold	N
Assam	Participants	8.6	9	65%	168
Assam	Non-participants	7.3	7	42%	64
Tripura	Participants	7.7	8	76%	283
Tripura	Non-participants	6.8	7	58%	79

Table 4 - PAT scores and threshold status by state and household type (IDinsight collected data)



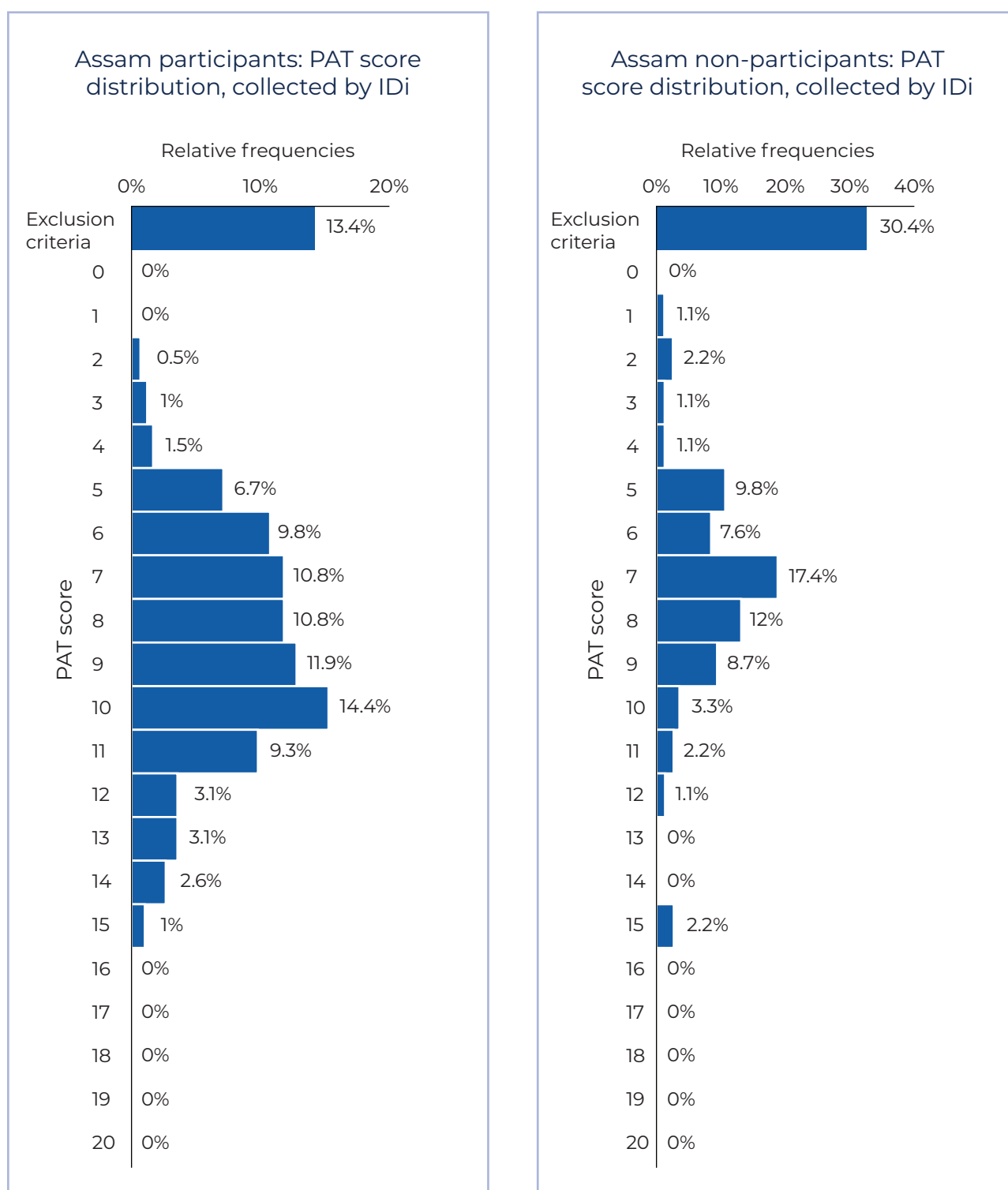


Figure 5 - Repeated PAT score distributions in Assam (participants N=168; non-participants N=64)

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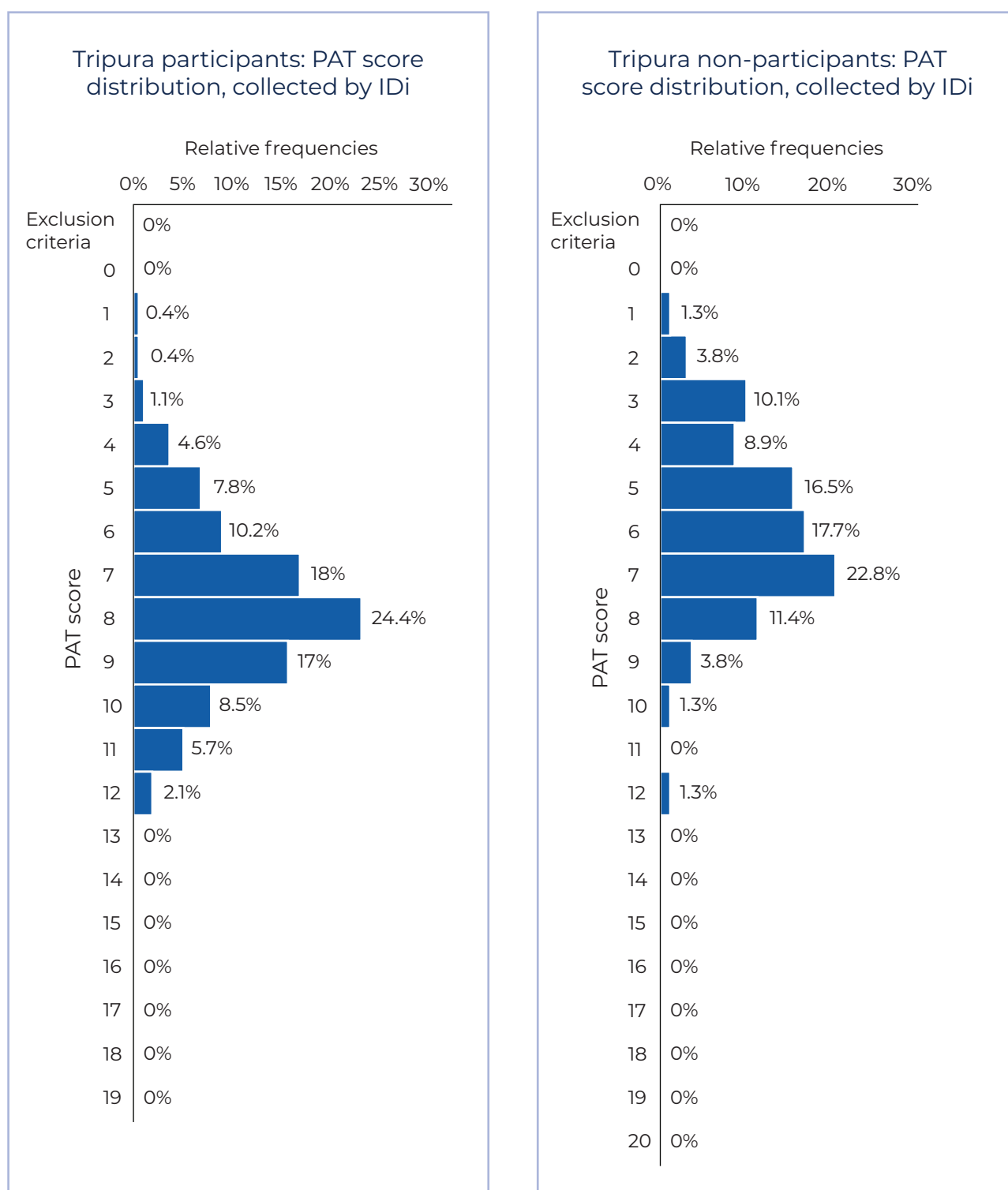


Figure 6 - Repeated PAT score distributions in Tripura (participants N=283; non-participants N=79)

The repeated PAT results differed from those recorded in TNI's administrative data. In Assam, 95% of participant households met the threshold in TNI's administrative data, compared with 65% when the PAT was re-administered by IDinsight. In Tripura, the corresponding proportion declined from 99% to 76%. The pattern moved in the opposite direction among non-participants. While 18% of non-participants in each state met the threshold in TNI's data, 42% in Assam and 58% in Tripura met the threshold in the IDinsight survey.

The repeated survey also identified participant households that met one or more PAT

exclusion criteria. In Assam, 13.4% of sampled participants met at least one exclusion criterion. This included 24 of 200 households that reported income of at least ₹5,000 per month from a stable livelihood and three households that reported that a family member was or had been a Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, or Zilla Parishad member.

Qualitative interviews also highlighted some of these potential challenges. Many CRPs in Assam (6 of 9) reported observing cases where households may have underreported assets during the PAT survey, based on community cross-checking or direct observation. One CRP in Tripura also described a case where a household perceived as vulnerable was excluded from the programme. The CRP attributed this to a possible technical issue rather than the household's failing to meet the PAT threshold.

These differences do not, by themselves, establish inclusion or exclusion errors in the original selection process. Some PAT indicators, including food availability and income, can change over time and may be affected by agricultural seasons and harvest cycles. Differences may also arise from changes in reference periods, corrected information, difficulties in verifying self-reported income and assets, and variation in how enumerators administered or respondents interpreted individual questions. In addition, final selection decisions may have considered household characteristics and operational factors, such as the availability of an able-bodied household member, that were not fully captured by the PAT score alone. The available data do not allow these explanations to be distinguished.



4.4 Household unavailability was a common reason for exclusion

Household unavailability was an important reason households were not assessed through the PAT and therefore did not proceed further in the selection process. As shown in Table 5, the share of households not assessed due to unavailability was higher in Tripura (16.2%) than in Assam (12.7%). The proportion also varied across blocks, with the highest level observed in Ambassa (23.9%).

Name of the state and block	% of HHs rejected due to unavailability
Boitamari	16.6%
Dangtol	10%
Borobazar	15.9%
Sidli-Chirang	7.8%
Assam	12.7%
Ambassa	23.9%
Dasda	12.5%
Ganganagar	16.2%
Tripura	16.2%

Table 5 - Households excluded due to unavailability during the PAT drive, by state and block (Assam: N=11,463; Tripura: N=10,117; Total: N=21,580)

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Many surveyed VO office bearers (15 of 22) felt that additional households could have been considered for programme inclusion. Among these, 5 identified household unavailability during the PAT process as one factor contributing to their exclusion. Qualitative interviews linked household absence to seasonal



agricultural activities, migration, market visits, illness, and household responsibilities. In Tripura, respondents identified jhum cultivation as one reason some households were away from their hamlets for extended periods. One participant in Tripura similarly described missing the PAT survey because she was away from home and no other household member was available to respond on her behalf.

The findings suggest that household availability was an important consideration during the selection process. A single attempt may not capture households that are temporarily unavailable during the selection period. Providing advance notice may help improve participation, although its effectiveness may depend on factors such as seasonal migration, connectivity, and household availability. Follow-up selection rounds or more frequent selection cycles could help include households that are unavailable during the initial selection process.



“Because during the selection drive, some were not in their hamlet and had migrated somewhere else. But after the drive, they came back. So, I think that household - if it could have been included, it would be better.”

- Block Program Coordinator, Tripura



4.5 VO endorsement and BPM approval introduced community and administrative judgement to the process

Following the PAT assessment, VOs reviewed and endorsed the tentative list of eligible households, after which BPMs provided final approval. This stage enabled community and block-level actors to consider additional information that may not have been captured by the PAT assessment. Many VO members (11 of 18) across the two states reported accompanying CRPs during household visits to verify PAT responses and household circumstances. One VO member in Assam also described validating information provided by households and sharing her assessment of the households' poverty status with CRPs.

The endorsement process also involved addressing community concerns about selection decisions. One VO office-bearer in Assam described being accused of favouritism by villagers but she reported explaining that household selection was determined by the SARATHI application and the selection was not determined by VOs. A VO office-bearer in Tripura described a similar concern, which was addressed by explaining the selection process during a community meeting. Many CRPs in Assam (6 of 9) reported cross-checking information through household visits, direct observation, and discussions with neighbours, particularly where there was uncertainty about assets, land ownership, livestock, vehicles, or income sources. BPMs also described using participant photographs and consultations with Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) to verify eligibility criteria, including the presence of an able-bodied adult woman in the household who could participate in the program.

Administrative data show that 146 households in Assam (1.3% of PAT assessed households) and 345

households in Tripura (3.4%) were not endorsed at the VO stage. A further 381 households in Assam (3.3%) and 251 households in Tripura (2.5%) were not approved at the BPM stage. 14 of 22 VO members surveyed reported that their committees had rejected at least one household during endorsement. Among these, low PAT scores and failure to meet other programme eligibility criteria were the most commonly reported reasons. Among BPMs, the most frequently reported reason for rejection was the absence of an able-bodied adult woman who could participate in the programme. They described assessing whether households had an able-bodied adult woman by reviewing participant photographs and speaking to Cluster Level Federations (CLFs). They considered factors such as age, visible signs of old age or weakness, and physical disability. In the PAT data, CRPs had classified 18.5% of women in Assam and 28.1% in Tripura as not able-bodied. However, CRP-recorded able-bodied status did not clearly correspond with subsequent BPM approval decisions.

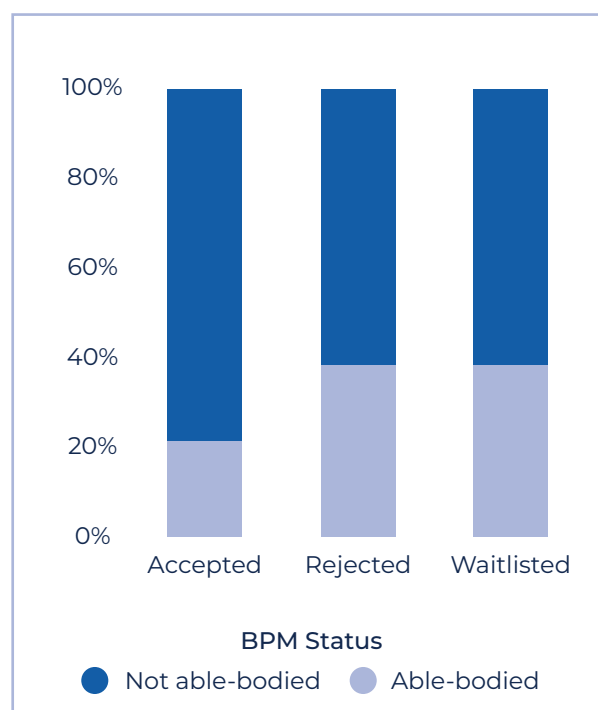


Figure 7 - HH's able bodied status as marked by CRPs and BPM's selection status

Some non-selected households questioned their selection outcomes. Two VO office-bearers in Assam described households raising concerns about their non-selection during endorsement meetings, while one VO office-bearer in Tripura reported that some non-selected households suspected political influence in the process.

The endorsement process also resulted in the inclusion of some households below the PAT threshold. In Assam, 203 households (1.8% of all households assessed through the PAT in the state) with PAT scores of 6 or 7 were re-endorsed by VOs despite falling below the threshold and subsequently approved by BPMs (Figure 7). Of these households, 81.3% had a score of 7 and 18.7% had a score of 6. According to TNI, these decisions were made on a case-by-case basis and considered operational factors, including the formation of viable UPCM clusters and achievement of block-level household targets. These households were spread across 32 of the 67 VOs in Bongaigaon. Within the same VOs, 109 households with scores above the threshold were not selected (Figure 7).

These findings suggest that the endorsement and approval stages incorporated information beyond the PAT score. According to TNI, re-endorsement related exception decisions considered corrected household information, implementation requirements, and block-level household targets. However, the available administrative data do not distinguish between these factors, limiting our ability to determine the basis for specific selection overrides.

Waitlisting also formed part of the final selection process. At the BPM level, 1,151 households in Assam (10.0%) and 693 households in Tripura (6.8%) were waitlisted according to SARATHI PAT data. Most waitlisted households in Assam had a PAT score of 8, the state

threshold, while in Tripura most had scores of 7, 8, or 9. The available data do not indicate whether households were waitlisted because programme capacity had been reached or because further verification or eligibility decisions were pending. This limits interpretation of the reasons for final exclusion.



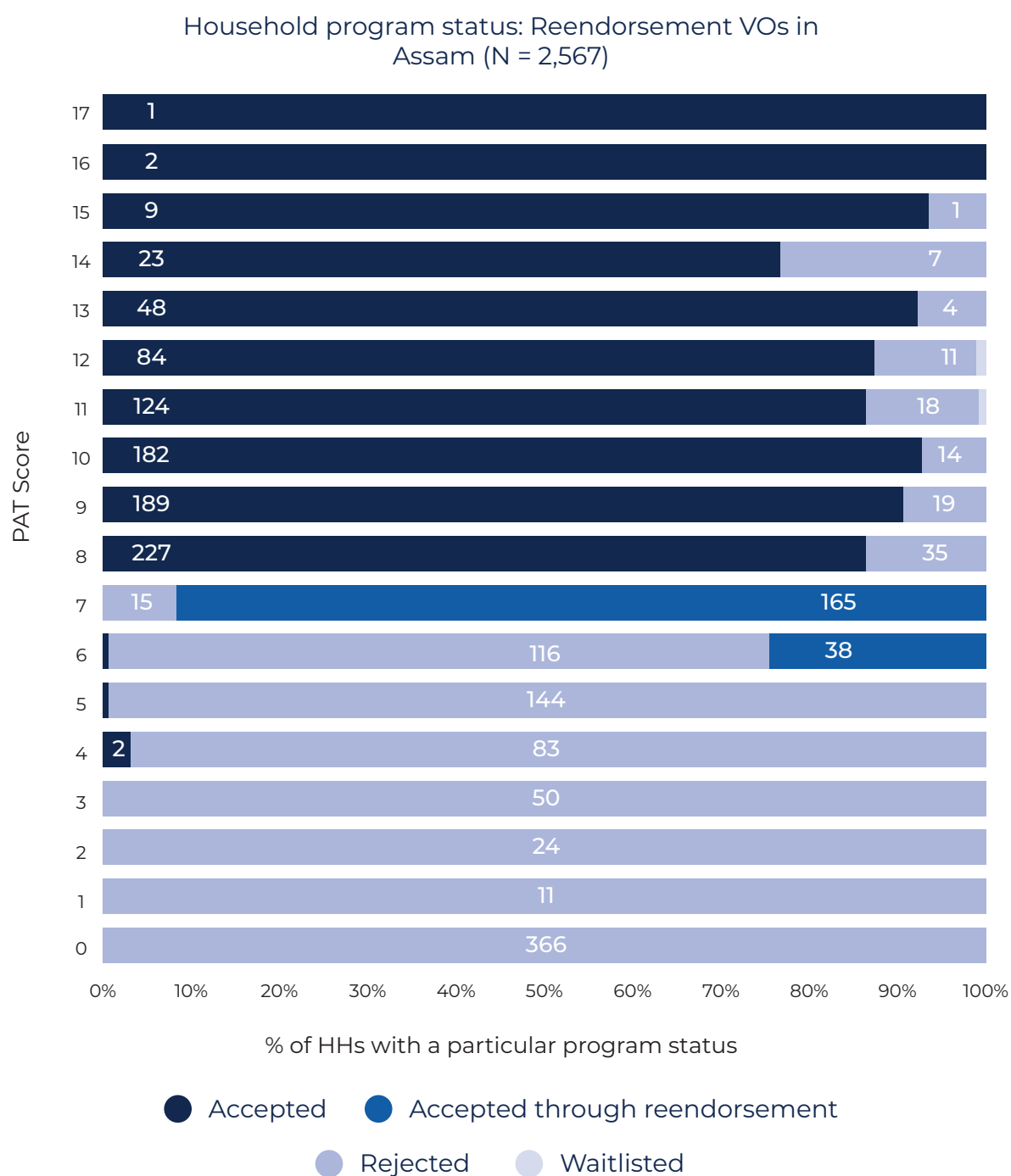


Figure 8 - Programme status by PAT score in re-endorsement VOs, Assam

Source: SARATHI PAT data. Charts exclude households unavailable for PAT, records with a score of 20 due to data loss, and households excluded based on eligibility criteria.

4.6 BPC verification showed lower scores and the coverage was uneven

BPC verification was intended to independently verify a random sample

of households that had scored above the PAT threshold. As shown in Table 6, BPCs attempted to verify 12.2% of households in Assam and completed verification for 6.5%. In Tripura, they attempted to verify 19.2% of households and completed verification for 16.0%. Verification

coverage also varied across blocks. Household unavailability was one of the main reasons verification surveys could not be completed.

The CRP and BPC classifications were consistent in approximately 85% of

verified cases in both states. Among the remaining cases, BPC scores were lower than CRP scores in 343 of the 345 mismatched cases. Figure 8 compares the BPC and CRP verification results and shows the distribution of differences between their PAT scores.

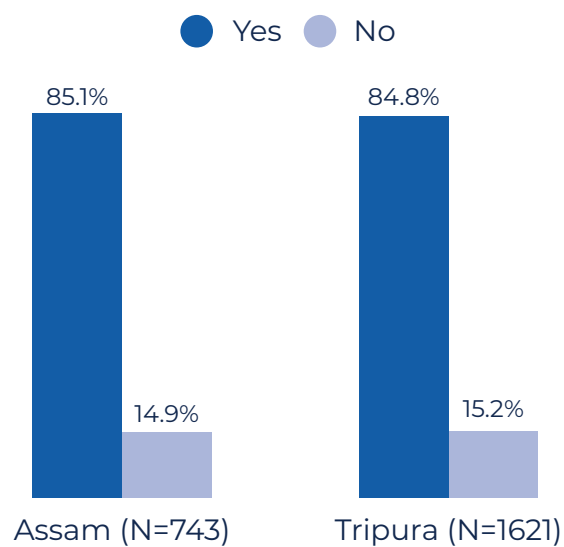
State / block	Attempted by BPC	Verified by BPC	VOs covered
Assam	12.2%	6.5%	38 / 128
Boitamari	13.7%	7.9%	13 / 39
Dangtol	12.5%	7.0%	11 / 40
Borobazar	6.3%	4.0%	9 / 31
Sidli-Chirang	15.8%	6.7%	5 / 18
Tripura	19.2%	16.0%	55 / 73
Ambassa	18.3%	14.0%	15 / 22
Dasda	18.0%	15.8%	27 / 30
Ganganagar	23.2%	18.9	13 / 21

Table 6 - BPC verification attempts and completion, by state and block

Note: Percentages are of households scoring at or above the PAT threshold within each block. Total households surveyed for PAT: Assam N=11,463; Tripura N=10,117 (see Table 2).



% of surveys where the CRP and BPC PAT threshold status match



Difference between CRP & BPC scores in case of status mismatch (N = 345)

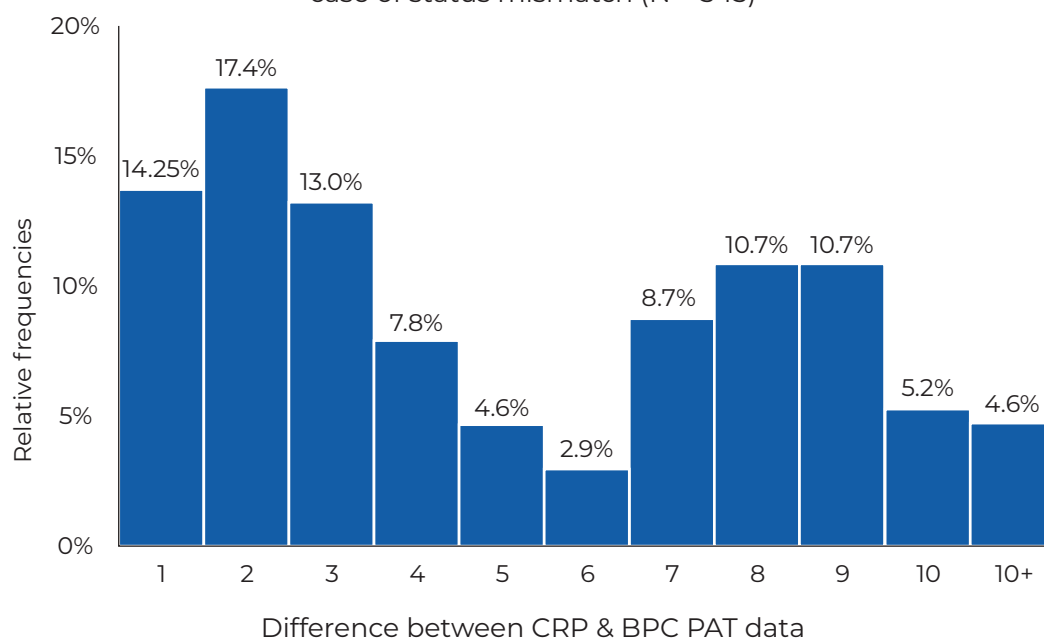


Figure 9 - BPC verification results and score differences

Source: SARATHI CRP and BPC PAT data

The differences between CRP and BPC scores may reflect several factors. These include differences in how household information was assessed or changes in household responses. The available administrative data do not allow these explanations to be separated.

Separately, one BPC interviewed in Tripura reported identifying discrepancies in approximately 30% of verified households. One BPC in Assam similarly described a two-round verification process under which all households in a village were reverified if the initial discrepancy rate exceeded 10%. In such cases, the team reverified all households in the affected village.

Qualitative interviews also highlighted the role of verification in reviewing household information. Many CRPs in Assam (6 of 9) described verifying household assets through direct observation or by cross-checking with neighbours.

The findings suggest that verification added an additional review of household information, although verification coverage varied across locations. The interviews also indicate that operational

interviews also indicate that operational challenges affected the verification process. Strengthening verification coverage and improving the recording of verification decisions could make it easier to interpret differences between the original and verified assessments.

4.7 The process was generally seen as fair, and SARATHI provided a common basis for explaining selection decisions

Across stakeholder groups, most respondents indicated that caste, religion, and tribal identity did not influence household selection, including 8 of 9 CRPs in Assam and 9 of 9 CRPs in Tripura. A few CRPs (3 of 18 across both states) described receiving requests from households they perceived as better-off seeking inclusion in the programme. They responded by referring to the SARATHI application as the basis for determining eligibility, rather than their individual discretion. This framing was consistent across respondent groups.



**“We did not make the selections - the mobile phone did.”
- VO office bearer explaining the decision to excluded households**



Despite this reliance on the application, political and community pressure was also described during implementation. The same three CRPs described resistance from community members seeking the inclusion of households that CRPs considered ineligible. In Assam, one BPM described receiving inclusion requests from spouses of VO leaders. In Tripura, one of three BPCs described an instance of political interference that resulted in the inclusion of an ineligible household. Another BPC described how high expectations of programme benefits created significant pressure, with field staff receiving an estimated 200 - 300 program support requests per day during the selection drive.

Pressure was not limited to requests for inclusion. One BPC in Assam described instances where community members wrote on paper requesting the exclusion of specific households, often to avoid disputes within the community. However, programme rules did not allow such requests to determine selection decisions.

These findings suggest that the SARATHI application provided a common reference point for explaining and justifying selection decisions, particularly when implementers faced pressure from communities. It also reduced the extent to which individual implementers could be held solely responsible for selection outcomes. At the same time, the basis for some application-generated outcomes was not always clearly understood by households or implementers. A few VO office-bearers in Assam (2 of 9) described non-selected households questioning their selection decision during endorsement meetings, while one VO office-bearer in Tripura described non-selected households suspecting political influence or manipulation in the process. This should not be interpreted as a limitation of the SARATHI application. Rather, some CRPs and VO members may not have fully understood

or utilised the available PAT information to explain and discuss selection outcomes when disagreements arose. Greater emphasis in training on how to use information within Sarathi to engage objectively with community concerns could help address this gap.

Participant interviews provide additional insights into household experiences of the process. Interactions during the PAT survey were generally described as respectful and straightforward. Most participants in Assam (7 of 9) indicated that they answered the PAT questions themselves, and many (6 of 9) found the questions clear. However, some participants were unable to distinguish between the PRA, PAT, and later programme meetings when interviewed nearly a year after the selection process.

Overall, the findings suggest that while the selection process was generally perceived as fair, clearer communication with households could improve understanding of the selection criteria, the role of the SARATHI application, and the reasons behind final selection outcomes.



4.8 Supplementary learning from Tripura: participants used the CSG for immediate household consumption

The process evaluation did not include a detailed assessment of the CSG. However, qualitative interviews with Tripura participants explored how the in-kind consumption package was received and used. All nine interviewed participants indicated that they used the ration for household consumption. Three participants clearly stated that they did not sell any of the items received. Many participants (6 of 9) identified rice as the most useful item, noting that it helped reduce household food expenses. A few participants (2 of 9) mentioned that the ration lasted approximately two to three weeks, depending on household size and the quantity received.

Participants had different preferences regarding the mode of transfer. Some participants (4 of 9) preferred ration because it ensured food availability even when cash was limited. Others (3 of 9) preferred cash because it provided greater flexibility to meet other needs, such as medical expenses or livestock purchases. A few participants (2 of 9) were comfortable with either option. These perspectives suggest that households valued both the security provided by food transfers and the flexibility offered by cash transfers.



“Cash can finish quickly. If rice is in the house, at least there is a meal. Rice at home is like Lakshmi.”

- Programme participant, Tripura



Participants had mixed recall of guidance provided by UPCMs. Many (6 of 9) remembered receiving some advice, mainly to avoid selling the ration, use it for household consumption, or follow the “Tiranga Bhojan” approach. A few participants (3 of 9) did not recall receiving any specific guidance.

A few implementation challenges were also identified. One participant raised concerns about rice quality and a discrepancy between the stated and actual quantity received. Another

mentioned that poultry provided through the package died due to illness. These issues could be examined further through a broader assessment of CSG delivery, input quality, and nutrition counselling.

Overall, the findings suggest that the CSG supported immediate household consumption among interviewed participants. However, its contribution to longer-term outcomes, such as improved nutrition practices or sustained programme engagement is outside the scope of this evaluation.



Recommendations

We recommend retaining the current household selection architecture. The combination of community identification, a standardised PAT, and institutional review provides a sound basis for identifying households experiencing extreme poverty. The focus should be on making the process more inclusive, consistent, transparent, and easier to implement.

5.1 Reduce exclusion caused by timing and temporary absence

- Schedule household selection during periods when household availability is typically highest in each region and avoid periods when household presence is likely to be affected by seasonal migration, agricultural activities, or other predictable factors.
- Conduct selection cycles more frequently, where feasible, instead of relying on a single selection drive. This would allow households that become eligible or were unavailable during an earlier round to be considered in subsequent cycles.

5.2 Standardise PAT questions and field protocols

- Standardise PAT questions further to reduce differences in how respondents interpret them. For example, specify the reference period for questions on food security and household income, and clarify asset definitions, such as whether poultry includes ducks.
- Review indicators that are sensitive or difficult to measure reliably. For example, the question related to witch hunting in Assam had a “yes” response

rate of only 0.8% in TNI's PAT data (N=3,158), suggesting that it may not generate reliable information through a household survey.

- Provide CRPs with clear instructions and field protocols to improve data quality across teams. For example, include CRP prompts in the SARATHI application on how to cross-check responses to asset-related questions. This would help ensure data quality as CRPs may not remember all protocol details from training.

5.3 Strengthen verification through randomisation and risk-based checks

- Randomise the selection of households for verification within the SARATHI app. The application could automatically generate a stratified



random sample of households for BPC verification that is representative across CRPs and VOs.

- Include a list of buffer households using the same randomisation protocol, alongside the main verification list. These households could be used when initially selected households are unavailable. This would help maintain verification coverage, as BPCs were only able to complete a subset of PAT verification surveys due to household unavailability.

5.4 Improve SARATHI data integrity and auditability

- Improve data validation checks in the SARATHI application to reduce data discrepancies and missing data.
- Update data collection protocols so that missing PAT scores or missing responses (for example, due to household unavailability) are stored as missing values in the backend rather than assigned a value of 0. This would allow these cases to be analysed separately and reduce errors in the calculation and interpretation of PAT indicators.



Conclusion

The household selection process in Assam and Tripura largely succeeded in selecting households with higher average PAT scores than non-participants, while embedding selection within existing community and NRLM structures. A key strength of the model is the combination of a standardised assessment tool with local verification and community-level review. However, the evaluation also identified several implementation risks. Temporary household absence can prevent assessment, self-reported information may be measured inconsistently, and operationally necessary adaptations may be difficult to distinguish from discretionary overrides when the basis for decisions is not adequately documented.

The next phase of scale-up should therefore continue to focus on strengthening the broader selection system around the PAT. Key priorities include providing opportunities for temporarily unavailable households to be assessed, ensuring that selection overrides are documented and traceable, conducting consistent and sufficiently comprehensive verification checks, maintaining accurate and interpretable data, and improving communication about selection criteria and decisions with households and community institutions. These improvements would help preserve the efficiency and neutrality of the PAT while making the overall process more inclusive, transparent, and adaptable across diverse contexts.



Annex A. Detailed Methodology and Sampling

A.1 Quantitative sampling

The quantitative design treated VOs as clusters. The initial sampling note considered alternative combinations of cluster size and number of VOs, balancing state-level precision with data-collection feasibility. The selected design yielded 202 participant interviews in Assam and 320 in Tripura, alongside 95 and 111 non-participant interviews. Participant households were sampled from programme lists, while non-participants were drawn from households that entered the selection process but were not finally selected.

Probability-proportional-to-size (PPS) sampling was used to select VOs based on their share of programme

participants, followed by the selection of a fixed number of households within each selected VO. Sampling weights and non-response adjustments were applied during analysis. The design assumed substantial within-VO correlation, reflecting the clustering of household conditions and programme implementation. The planned state-level margin of error was approximately ± 15 percentage points for participant binary indicators, ± 19 percentage points for non-participant indicators, and ± 25 percentage points for VO binary indicators. The original five-state evaluation design anticipated higher precision for aggregate estimates; however, this report covers only the first round of data collection in Assam and Tripura.

Stakeholder	Sampling approach	Achieved sample in this report
Participant households	Clustered PPS selection of VOs; random selection within VOs	Assam 202; Tripura 320
Non-participant households	Sample of short-listed but non-selected households across selected VOs	Assam 95; Tripura 111
VO office bearers - quantitative	One office bearer from 11 VOs per state	Assam 11; Tripura 11
Administrative PAT data	All available household records in implementation blocks	Assam 11,463 PAT households; Tripura 10,117

Table 7 - Quantitative sample sizes by stakeholder group

A.2 Qualitative sampling

Qualitative respondents were selected purposively to capture variation in implementation experiences. The sampling plan targeted approximately nine interviews per homogeneous stakeholder group, consistent with evidence that this is often sufficient to

identify recurring themes in semi-structured interviews and reach thematic saturation. Selection characteristics included VO grading, CRP locality and performance, participant distance from markets and VO offices, household headship, caste or tribe, and geographic variation. BPMs and BPCs were sampled at one per implementation block.

Stakeholder	Assam	Tripura	Total
Participant households	9	9	18
VO office bearers	9	9	18
CRPs	9	9	18
UPCMs / Changemakers	9	9	18
BPMs	4	3	7
BPCs	4	3	7

Table 8 - Qualitative sample sizes by stakeholder group and state

A.3 Data analysis

Administrative and survey data were cleaned and analysed in Stata. Descriptive statistics included frequencies, means, medians and proportions, with subgroup comparisons by state and programme status. Where appropriate, estimates were accompanied by 95% confidence intervals. The analysis accounted for clustering and sampling weights. The evaluation was designed as a process evaluation and does not estimate causal programme impacts.

Qualitative transcripts were mapped to questionnaire items and research questions, paraphrased, and coded thematically. Coding followed a predominantly deductive approach based on the evaluation framework, while allowing new themes to emerge

from the interviews. The analysis triangulated findings across respondent groups and geographies and retained deviant cases where they qualified the dominant pattern. Later detailed coding was used to update the preliminary themes presented to the client.

A.4 Convention for Qualitative Frequency Descriptors

Given the small and purposively selected nature of the qualitative sample, findings from interviews are presented using proportional qualitative descriptors rather than precise percentages. The convention below is applied consistently throughout Section 4 to describe the prevalence of themes across respondents.

These descriptors are applied separately

Descriptor	Approximate share of respondents
A few	less than 25%
Some / several	Around 25–50%
Many	Around 50–75%
Most	Around 75–90%
Almost all / all	Around 90–100%

Table 9 - Convention for qualitative frequency descriptors

within each stakeholder group and should be interpreted as indicative of the distribution of views within that group, rather than as population estimates. For quantitative survey findings (participant, non-participant, and VO office-bearer surveys), results are reported as percentages with corresponding 95% confidence intervals.

implementation arrangements or poverty profiles in other ILP states.

A.5 Limitations

- The evaluation data were collected almost one year after household selection. Recall error is therefore likely, especially for PRA attendance, the sequence of selection stages, and the content of orientation sessions.
- TNI and IDinsight PAT scores are not directly comparable because household conditions and food availability may have changed, data collectors and protocols differed, and the original selection incorporated considerations outside the numeric score.
- Households were aware by the follow-up survey that PAT questions were linked to programme benefits, which may have created implicit incentives to understate assets or income.
- Qualitative samples were purposive and small. They provide depth and explanation rather than population-representative estimates.
- Some qualitative coding and frequency workbooks contained incomplete or broken frequency formulas. The updated report uses source transcripts and paraphrases to verify themes and applies manually reconstructed frequencies only where clearly identifiable. These derivations are documented separately for review.
- The analysis is limited to Assam and Tripura and may not reflect

Annex B. Research Questions

Domain	Research questions
Selection parameters	Did the selection process use the right indicators? Were there inclusion or exclusion errors, and what contributed to them?
Community involvement	How effectively did CRPs and VOs engage? Was adequate information provided? Did community dynamics influence selection?
Selection design	Was the drive suited to local conditions? What risk-management and feedback mechanisms were in place?
Stakeholder dynamics	How did community institutions, block teams, SRLM staff and TNI interact? What roles and influences shaped implementation?
Learning and development	Were CRPs and VOs adequately oriented and trained? What support was required during implementation?
Challenges and improvement	What implementation challenges emerged, and what changes would improve effectiveness, efficiency and scale-up?
Supplementary CSG questions	How did households use the CSG? Was it adequate for immediate needs? What did households prefer between cash and in-kind transfers?

Table 10 - Evaluation research questions by domain

Annex C. Additional Data Tables

C.1 Social wealth ranking of households

	Assam		Tripura	
Wealth Ranking	Participants	Non-participant	Participants	Non-participant
Rich	3	25	0	25
Medium	3	99	1	74
Vulnerable	4,043	6,013	4,658	4,593
Others (data errors etc.)	1	68	1	40
Total	4,050	6,205	4,660	4,732

Table 11 - Social wealth ranking status by state and participation status

C.2 BPC verification of PAT surveys

	BPM Status		
Score difference	Accepted	Rejected	Waitlisted
1	15	28	5
2	14	42	3
3	8	34	3
4	3	24	0
5	4	12	0
6	4	6	0
7	5	24	1
8	5	32	0
9	2	34	1
10	1	17	0
11	0	8	0
12	0	4	0
13	0	2	0
14	0	1	0
15	1	0	0

Table 12 - BPM decisions for households with CRP-BPC score mismatches, by score difference

C.3 Demographics of the IDinsight study population

1. Age: The average age of program participants is ~40 years, and it is similar for non-participant didis as well.

	Participants					Non-participants				
State	Meanage	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	N	Meanage	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	N
Assam	41.3	39.1	43.5	40	201	39.4	36.6	42.1	37	95
Tripura	38	36.5	39.4	36	320	40.4	37.5	43.3	37	111

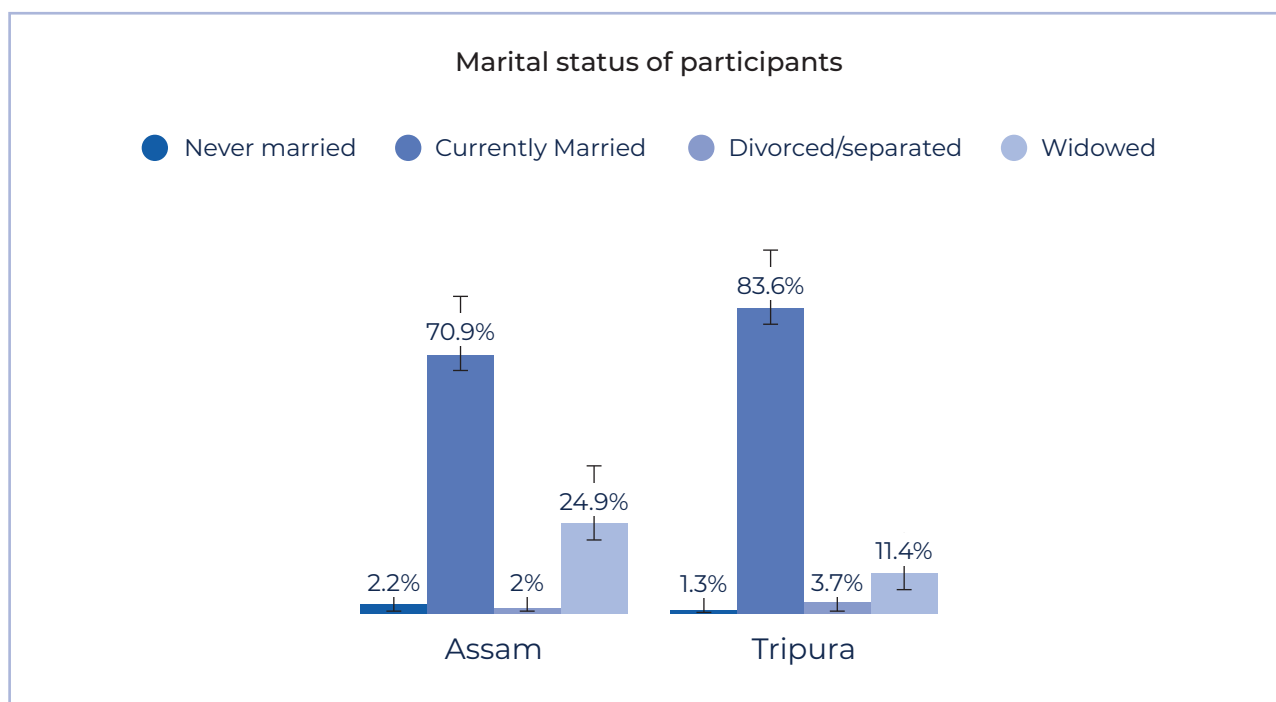
Table 13 - Age of participants and non-participants by state

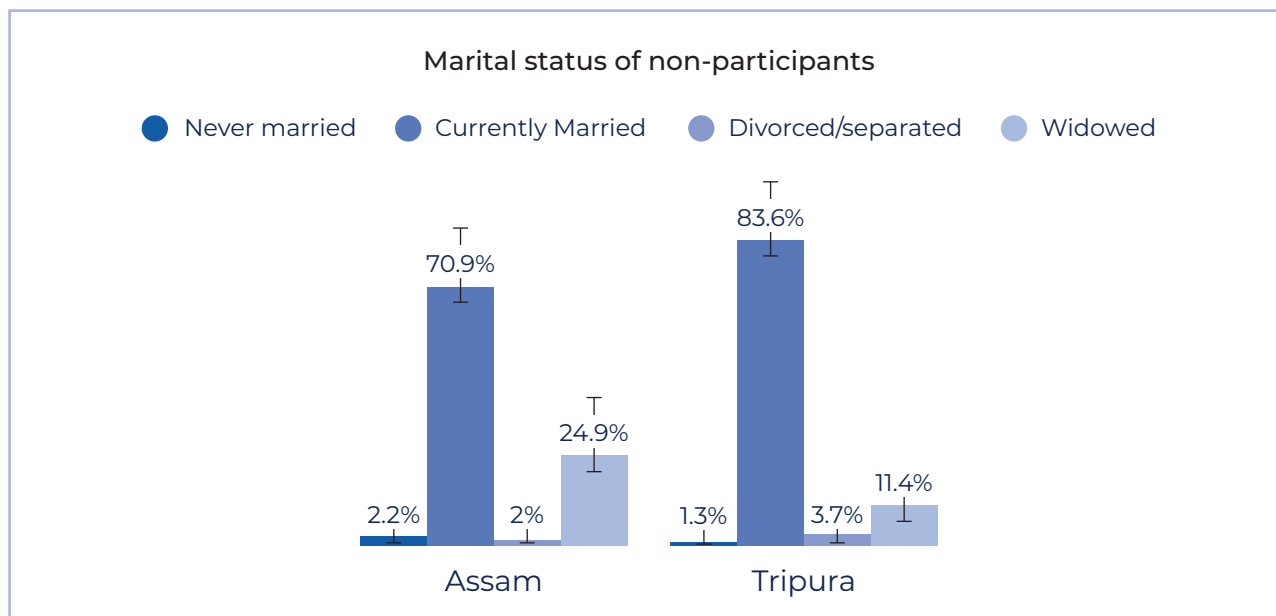
2. Household size: The average household size of both participant and non-participant households was ~4 members.

	Participants					Non-participants				
State	Mean HH size	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	N	Mean HH size	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	N
Assam	3.6	3.4	3.8	4	202	3.9	3.6	4.2	4	95
Tripura	4.4	4.2	4.7	4	320	4.5	4.2	4.9	4	111

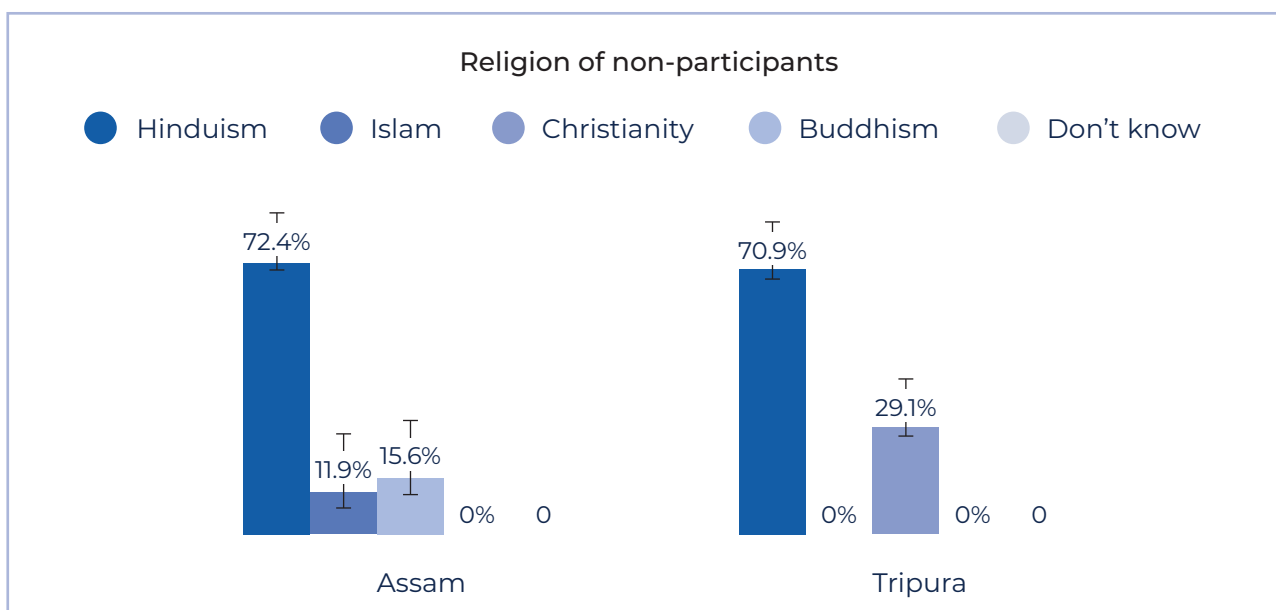
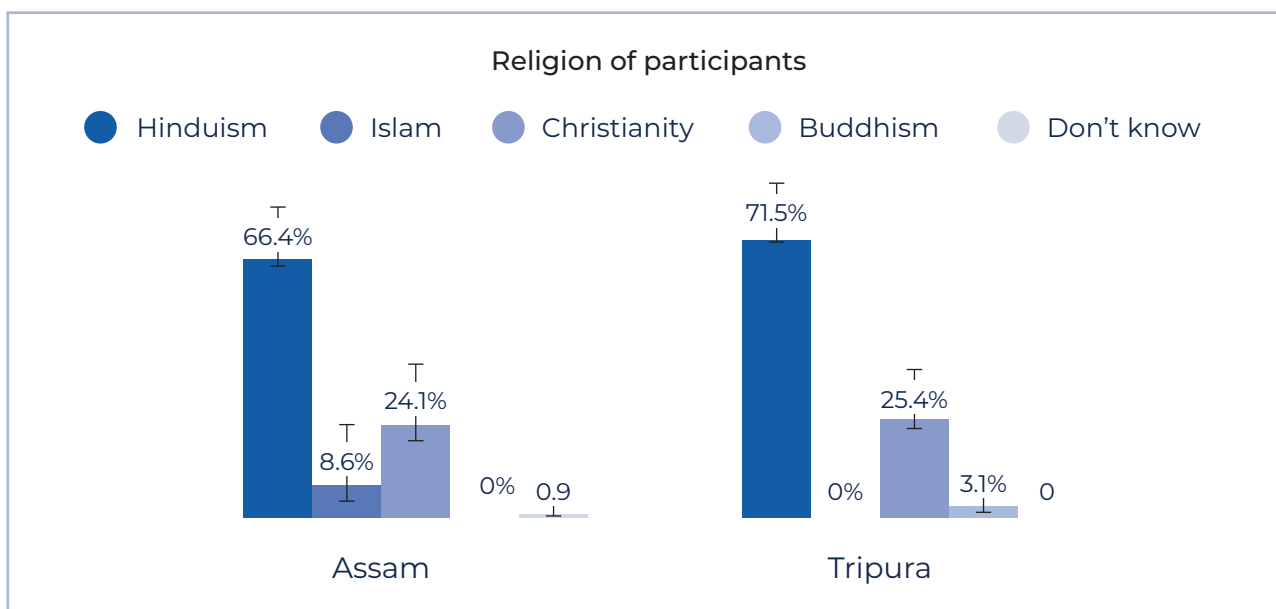
Table 14 - Household size of participants and non-participants by state

3. Marital status of the study population

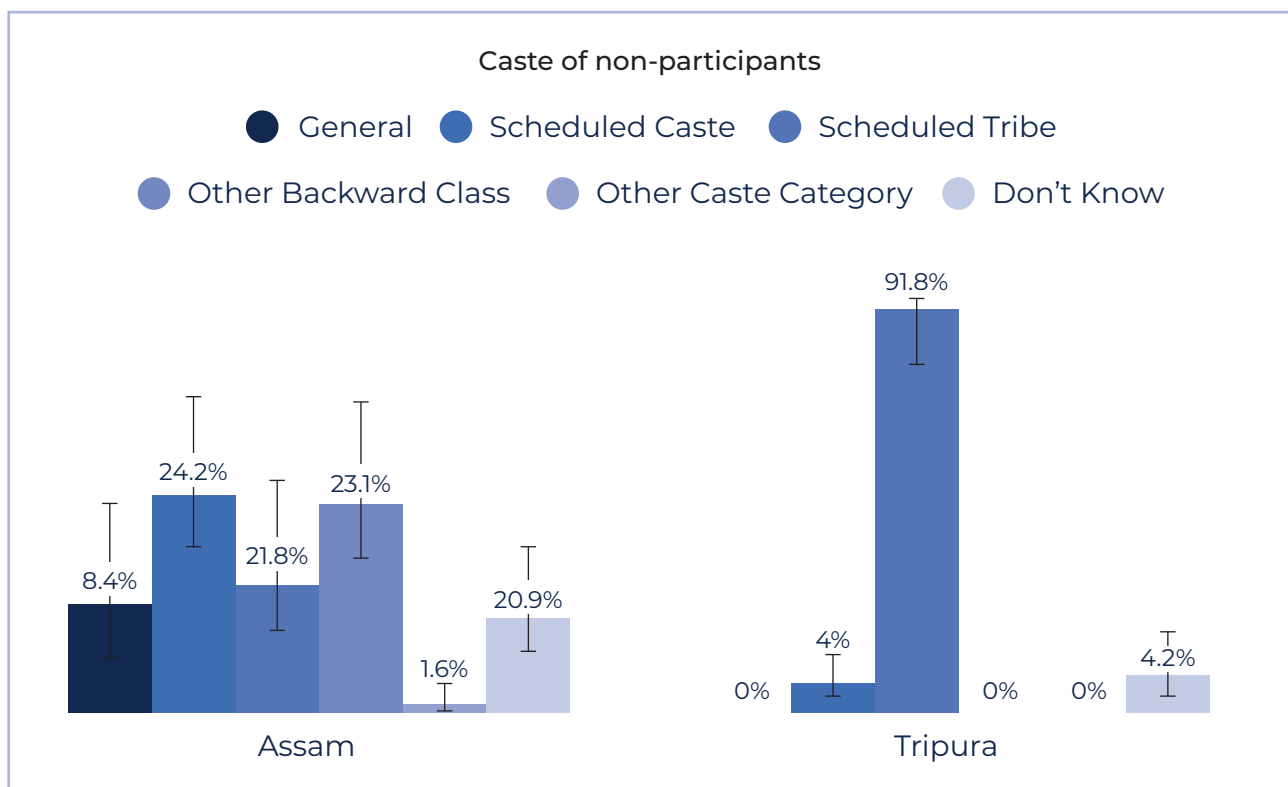
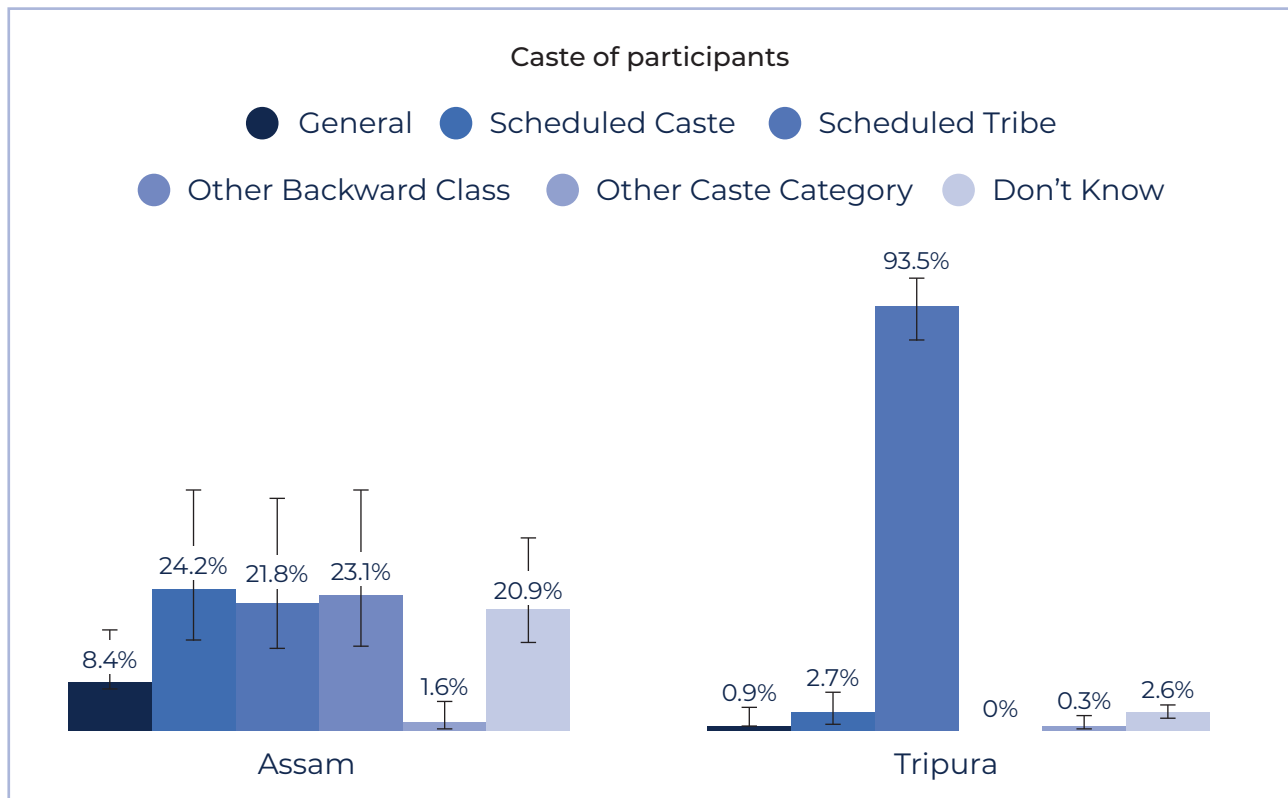




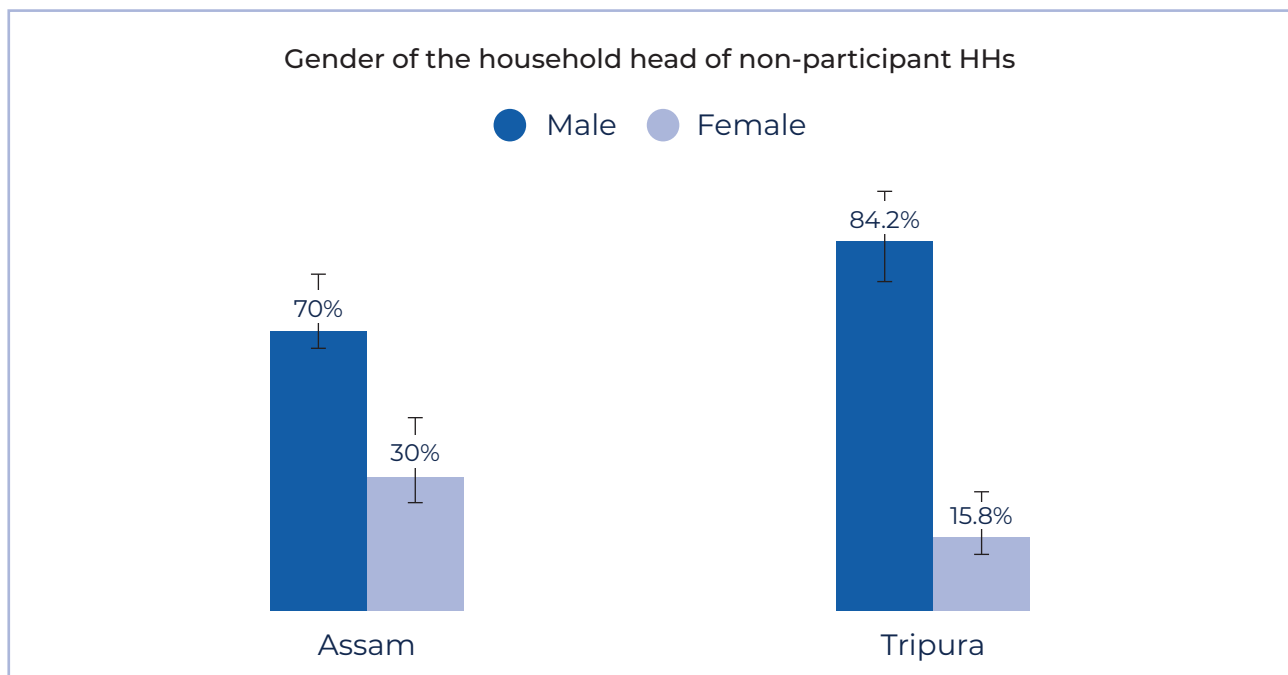
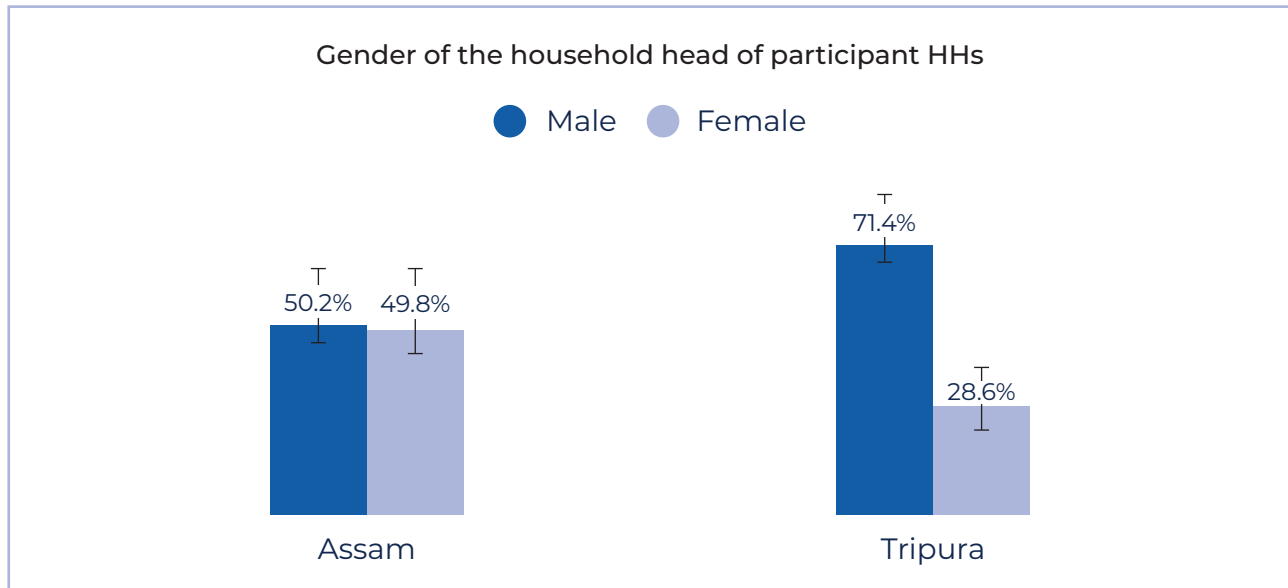
4. Religion followed by the study population



5. Caste category of the study population



6. Gender of the household head



Annex D. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
BPC	Block Project Coordinator
BPM	Block Project Manager
CI	Confidence Interval
CLF	Cluster Level Federation
CRP	Community Resource Person
CSG	Consumption Support Grant
DAY-NRLM	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission
HH	Household
ILP	Inclusive Livelihoods Programme
NRLM	National Rural Livelihoods Mission
PAT	Poverty Assessment Tool
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SARATHI	Name of the mobile application used for household selection and data collection
SETU	Sustainable Empowerment through Transforming Ultra Poor
SRLM	State Rural Livelihood Mission
SWR	Social Wealth Ranking
TNI	The/Nudge Institute
TRUPTI	Tripura End Ultra Poverty Initiative
UPCM	Ultra-Poor Change Maker
VO	Village Organisation

Table 15 - List of abbreviations and full forms

Annex E. SETU (Assam)

Project Overview

SETU (Sustainable Empowerment through Transforming Ultra Poor in Assam) was designed as a 36-month project under the DAY-NRLM Innovation Fund. It aimed to support 4,000 vulnerable households across four blocks in two districts of Assam to graduate from extreme poverty through the Graduation Approach. The project was led by the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM), with The/Nudge Institute providing technical and project management support at the state, district, and block levels.

The project was presented for review by the Empowered Committee (EC) on 4 September 2023, with a proposed total budget of ₹14.99 crore over three years.

Geography and Target Population

The table below presents the geographic coverage and socio-demographic profile of the four blocks covered under SETU.

Name of the District	Bongaigaon		Chirang	
Name of the Block	Dangtol	Boitamari	Sidli-Chirang	Borobazar
Target group (SC/ST/PVTG)	SC/ST/OBC	SC/ST/GN	SC/ST/OBC	SC/ST/GN
Total GPs	16	13	30	25
Total Villages	97	144	231	212
Total SHGs formed	1,632	1,876	2,853	2,786
Total SHG members	17,202	21,470	32,649	31,865
Total ST members (%)	5.2%	4%	54%	49%
Total SC Members (%)	6.1%	17%	3.2%	13%
Total VOs formed	105	102	133	172
Total CLFs formed	4	4	4	4
Total Rural households	23,642	26,392	40,622	51,096

Table 16 - Profile of SETU blocks and target households

Across the four blocks, there were 1,41,752 rural households, including 1,02,069 SECC-deprived households and 11,929 households with three or more deprivations. SETU was designed to focus on the most severely deprived households within this wider population.

Selection and Programme Approach

Vulnerable households were identified through social wealth ranking, PAT assessment, and community validation. The programme combined consumption support, household coaching, entitlement linkages, productive asset transfers, and livelihood support through SETU-Sarathis. The Graduation Approach was designed to be implemented over 36 months, with coaching provided throughout the programme period.

Expected Outcomes

By Year 3, the project aimed for 80% of the selected households to earn an additional ₹35,000 annually, consume at least two meals a day, access financial inclusion services, and receive at least one government entitlement.

Proposed Livelihood Options

The project identified pig rearing, goat rearing, handloom/weaving, and backyard poultry as potential livelihood options based on the local context. The proposed livelihood support included productive asset transfers and household-level livelihood planning.

Budget and Sustainability

The proposed project cost was ₹14.99 crore over three years, with 93.5% allocated to programme and cadre costs. The project envisaged sustainability through inter-departmental convergence, continued engagement of community cadres, and existing SHGs/VOs/CLFs structures. ASRLM community cadres were expected to continue supporting households beyond the project period.

Annex F. TRUPTI (Tripura)

Project Overview

TRUPTI (Tripura End Ultra Poverty Initiative) was designed as a 36-month project under the DAY-NRLM Innovation Fund Guidelines. It aimed to support 4,000 vulnerable households across three blocks in two districts of Tripura to graduate from ultra-poverty through the Graduation Approach. The project was led by the Tripura Rural Livelihoods Mission (TRLM) under the SISD vertical, with The/Nudge Institute providing technical and project management support at the state, district, and block levels.

The project had been approved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura and submitted to DAY-NRLM. A Pre-EC review had also been conducted by DAY-NRLM, with the EC review subsequently scheduled for November 2023.

Geography and Target Population

The table below presents the geographic coverage and socio-demographic profile of the three blocks covered under TRUPTI.

Name of the District	North Tripura	Dhalai	
Name of the Block	Dasda	Ganganagar	Ambassa
Block Type	Aspirational	Aspirational	Resource Block
Target Group (SC/ST/PVTG)	PVTG, ST, SC	PVTG & ST	PVTG & ST
Total GPs/VCs	20	07	22
Total Villages	115	50	133
Total Households	14,682	4,054	12,387
Total PVTG Households	9,020 (61%)	1,615 (40%)	2,550 (21%)
Total ST Households	975 (7%)	1,755 (43%)	7,715 (62%)
Total SC Households	1444 (10%)	04 (0.1%)	999 (8%)
Total No. of Bru resettlement Camps	03	N/A	01
Total HH residing in Bru resettlement camps	2371 HH in 3 VCs	N/A	441 HH in 1 VC
Total HH with at least three deprivations	2,238	890	1,523
Total SHG members	4,175 (43%)	1,874 (70%)	7,146 (87%)
Percentage of HHs	43%	70%	87%

Table 17 - Profile of TRUPTI blocks and target households

The project covered two distinct contexts: Bru resettlement camps, which generally had better access to basic infrastructure and government support, and most vulnerable hamlets, which typically had limited infrastructure and productive assets.

Selection and Programme Approach

Vulnerable households were identified through a VO-led process using social wealth ranking, PAT assessment, community validation, and BMMU approval. The programme combined household coaching, entitlement support, consumption support, productive asset transfers, and livelihood support through UPCMs/Paribartan Sakhis.

Expected Outcomes

By Year 3, the project was designed to achieve 100% coverage in DAY-NRLM institutions, 80% access to financial inclusion services, annual additional income of ₹20,000–25,000 for 70% of households, improved food intake for all households, and access to at least two government entitlements for all households.

Budget and Sustainability

The proposed project cost was ₹15 crore over three years, with 92.5% allocated to direct programme costs. The project design envisaged sustainability through inter-departmental convergence, continued engagement of community cadres, and existing SHGs/VOs/CLFs, and hamlet-level group groups. Trained CRPs and UPCMs were expected to support future scale-up.

This study was conducted by IDinsight, commissioned by The/Nudge. The/Nudge is a technical partner to the Ministry of Rural Development and is working towards a poverty-free India within our lifetime, partnering with governments, markets, and civil society.

