### Supplementary material: Descriptive statistics

Quantitative data on beneficiary characteristics was analyzed in Microsoft Excel. The data were analyzed to provide a description of the study sample, to facilitate comparisons between the small numbers of households consulted during this study. No statistical analysis was performed, due in part to small sample sizes of sub-groups (i.e. defaulter, recovered, and defaulters experiencing specific barriers) in each country.

Supplemental Table 1 presents data on beneficiary characteristics. Defaulters had several expected characteristics. On average, they spent less time in the program and traveled longer distances to attend. There were fewer female children among defaulters than among cured cases. Parents of defaulted children were slightly less educated than parents of cured children, although education levels were low overall. Households of defaulters did not appear to be poorer than households of cured children in terms of land ownership or productive resources. However, fewer households of defaulting children had electricity than households of cured children.

Mother's work is not reported in Supplemental Table 1. It was very rare for women to engage in the labor force, particularly in Ethiopia. Women in the sample were mainly responsible for taking care of domestic tasks and assisting their husbands with their work on the farm or tending cattle. In a few rare cases in Ethiopia, women were engaged as merchants or shopkeepers, but this was a minority (n=6).

In Ethiopia, more households of defaulting children had natural roofs compared to households with cured children. In Pakistan, defaulters had younger parents than cured children, and these children had attended a doctor's visit more often while enrolled in the SAM treatment services. Religion and ethnicity had important implications for defaulters in Pakistan. Defaulters more often came from households of minority status in terms of religion (Hindu) and ethnicity (Gujarati), compared to cured children (data not shown).

Supplemental Table 1. Beneficiary characteristics

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Ethiopia** | **Pakistan** |
| **Overall***N*=38 | **Defaulter***n*=21 | **Cured***n*=38 | **Overall***N*=21 | **Defaulter***n*=10 | **Cured***n*=11 |
|  | Mean (Range) / % | Mean (Range) / % |
| Length of Stay (weeks) ¥ | 5.9 (0, 28) | 3.7 (1, 8) | 9.3 (4, 28) | 6.3 (2, 16) | 4.9 (2,12) | 7.9 (4,16) |
| Distance (minutes) | 61 (4, 240) | 79 (4, 240) | 34 (5, 120) | 75 (10,180) | 92 (30, 180) | 58 (10, 180) |
| Doctor's visit (% yes) ‡ | 18.4% | 4.8% | 37.5% | 47.6% | 60.0% | 36.4% |
| Child age (months) ǂ | 26 (9, 60) | 27 (12, 60) | 26 (12, 60) | 19 (8, 36) | 19 (11, 36) | 19 (8, 36) |
| Child sex (% female) | 71.1% | 61.9% | 87.5% | 71.4% | 60.0% | 81.8% |
| Household head (% father) | 89.5% | 95.2% | 81.3% | 90.5% | 80.0% | 100% |
| Caretaker (% mother) | 100% | 100% | 100% | 81% | 80.0% | 81.8% |
| Father's age (years) € | 38.2 (24, 60) | 38.2 (24, 60) | 36.6 (27, 48) | 29.9 (17, 50) | 26.8 (17, 41) | 32.5 (24, 50) |
| Mother's age (years) € | 29.6 (18, 45) | 29.1 (18, 44) | 29.3 (20, 45) | 28.4 (18, 47) | 26.1 (18, 45) | 30.2 (19, 47) |
| Father's education (years) | 1.7 (0, 8) | 1.4 (0, 5) | 2.2 (0, 8) | 1.4 (0, 10) | 0.9 (0, 5) | 1.8 (0, 10) |
| Mother's education (years) | 2.2 (0, 10) | 1.8 (0, 10) | 2.9 (1, 10) | 0.1 (0, 3) | 0 (0, 0) | 0.3 (0, 3) |
| Father's work (% farmer) | 73.7% | 81.0% | 62.5% | 33.3% | 30.0% | 36.4% |
| Migration (% yes) | 15.8% | 4.8% | 31.3% | 47.6% | 60% | 36.4% |
| Household size (#) | 5.2 (2, 8) | 5.3 (2, 8) | 4.9 (3, 8) | 8.3 (2, 18) | 8.0 (2, 18) | 8.5 (3, 17) |
| Children under 5 (#) | 1.4 (0, 2) | 1.4 (1, 2) | 1.4 (0, 2) | 1.9 (0, 5) | 2.1 (0, 5) | 1.7 (1, 3) |
| Religion (%majority) ◊ | 100% | 100% | 100% | 61.9% | 40.0% | 81.8% |
| Ethnic group (%majority) ◊ | 100% | 100% | 100% | 81.0% | 60.0% | 100% |
| Household owns land (% yes) | 86.8% | 90.5% | 81.3% | 28.6% | 40.0% | 18.2% |
| Household assets (% none) † | 13.2% | 4.8% | 25.0% | 52.4% | 60.0% | 45.5% |
| Electricity in house (% yes) | 28.9% | 14.3% | 50.0% | 47.6% | 30.0% | 63.6% |
| Roof material (% natural) | 55.3% | 81.0% | 25.0% | 95.2% | 90.0% | 100% |

Results are reported either as percentages, or as mean (range).

¥ Self-reported in Ethiopia, confirmed with program records in Pakistan.

‡ Caretakers reporting that children attended a doctor's visit while enrolled in program.

ǂ Age at time of interview. In some cases, this was a few months and, very rarely, a few years after discharge from the program.

€ Self-reported, in some cases as best-guess estimates.

◊ Local majority religion: Ethiopia: Christian Orthodox; Pakistan: Islam. Local majority ethnic group: Ethiopia: Tigray; Pakistan: Sindhi.

† Includes cow, ox, donkey, hens and other farm animals, and in some cases pieces of equipment or machinery, especially those used for work.