



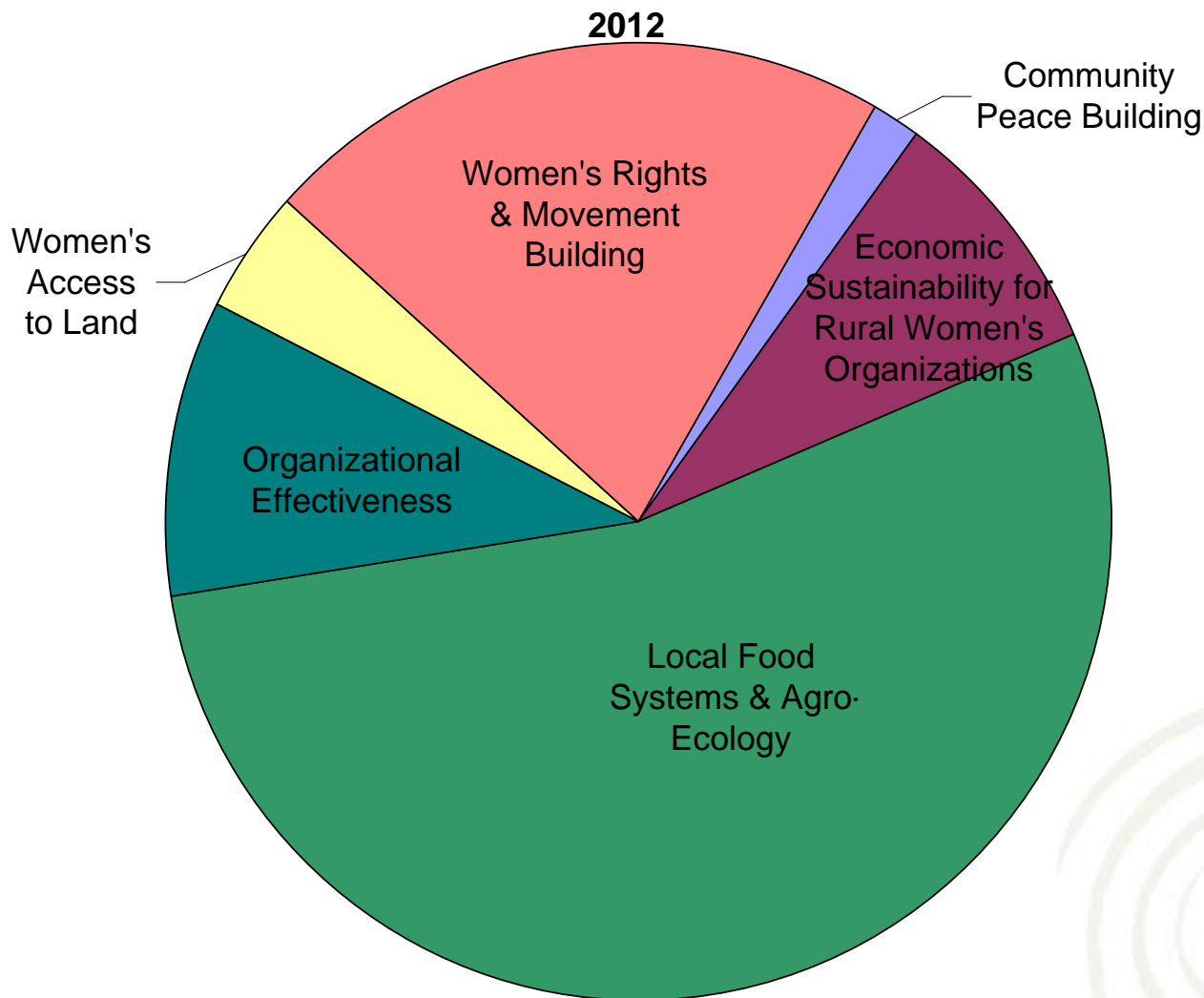
# **Funding Rural Women's Organizations in Senegal**

**Key Findings on Women's Leadership and Food Security**

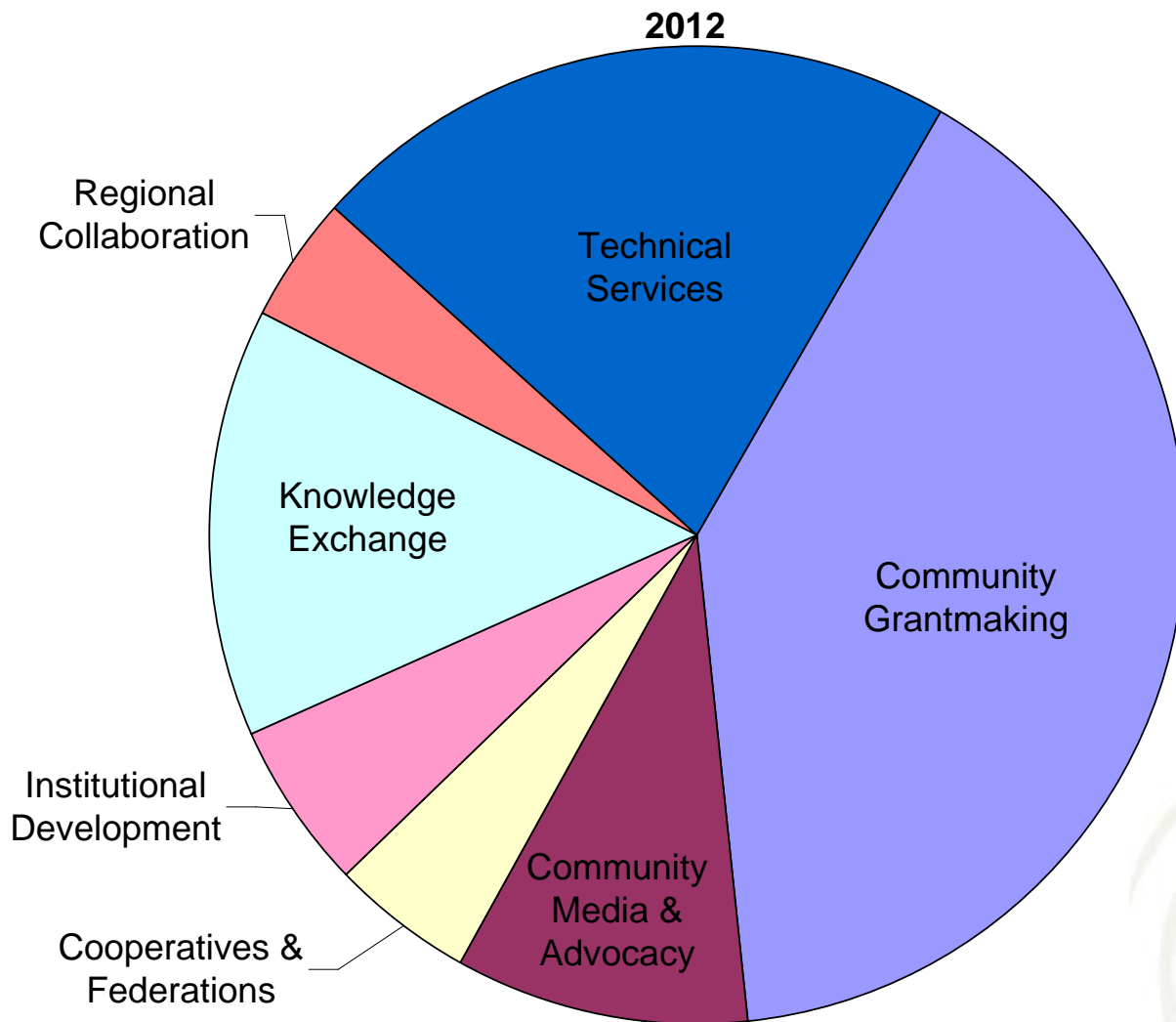
**October 2014**



# Allocation of 2012 grants according to issue area (New Field's 'Rural Women Creating Change' Program)



# Allocation of 2012 grants according to approach (New Field's 'Rural Women Creating Change' Program)



# Casamance Focus Area 2006-2013

\$3.5 million awarded to 20 organizations, with  
\$1.4 regranting to 116 rural women's groups in community grants



# 2013 Evaluation

## Key Questions

- What changes have taken place for rural women's groups and their members as a result of the community grants?
- What were the unintended consequences (positive and negative) on rural women, their families, organizations and communities?
- To what extent do women's groups have control over their activities and the resources at their disposal?

## Key Challenges

- Post conflict environment
- Limited written information and data
- Large number of community grantees
- Low status of rural women
- Lack of direct funding to rural women's organizations



# Methodology

## Track 1: Rapid Rural Evaluation (ACA, Dakar)

1, 843 people interviewed in 63 focus groups

In-depth study of 8 rural women's groups with at least 2 community grants



# Methodology

## Track 2: Exchange Learning (World Education, Ziguinchor)

- 24 rural women animators trained to conduct surveys
- 15 rural women trained as reporters to create 30 media reports
- 79 women from 35 women's groups interviewed
- 41 programs broadcast from five community radio stations in local languages





# Changes in Women's Leadership



- 65 of the 379 women interviewed were elected as district counselors
- 45 became members of advisory committees for the implementation of regional development projects
- 26 became members of parent-teacher associations and mutual credit societies



100% of women who received training said they were better able to express themselves during meetings



# Personal Development and Family Authority

63% stated that they are now recognized by their husbands as active, autonomous providers for their families.

Consequently, women reported that they were now consulted by their husbands in decisions relating to:

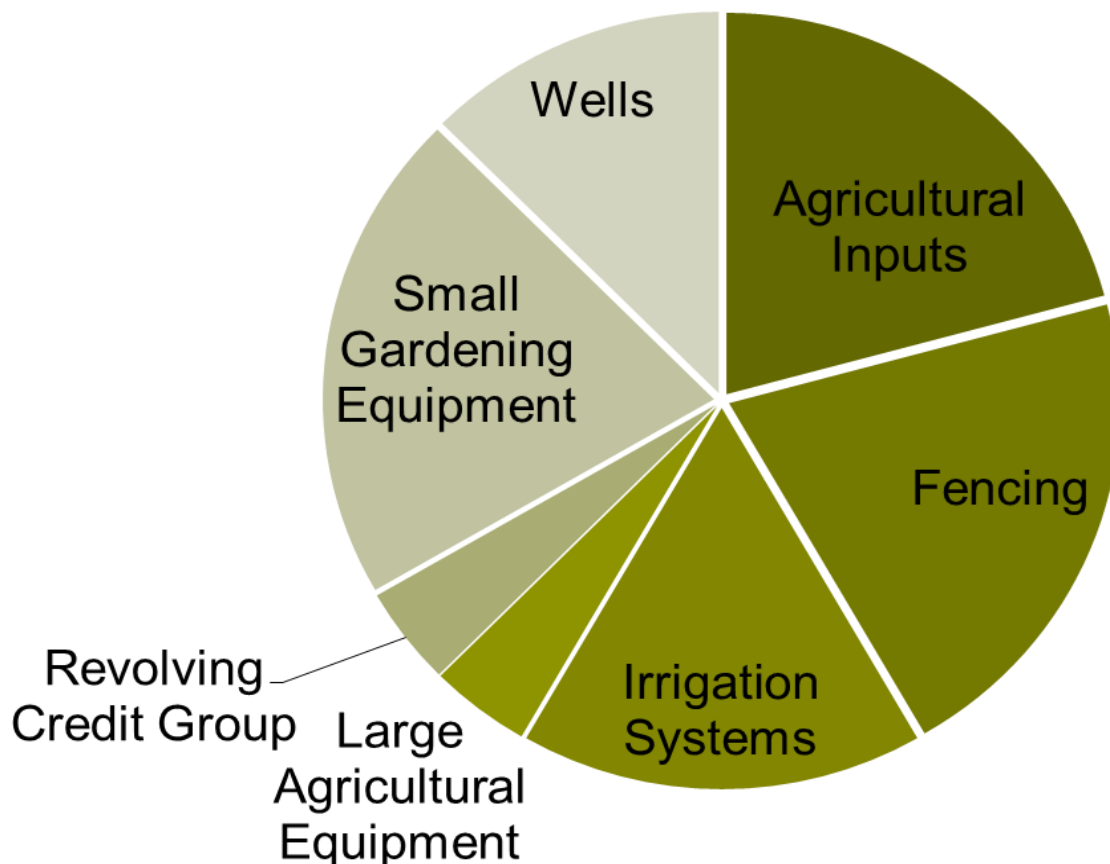
- ❖ Their children's education
- ❖ The family budget
- ❖ Health and safety
- ❖ Family marriages
- ❖ Family ceremonies
- ❖ Important life events



# An In-Depth Look at Asset Management

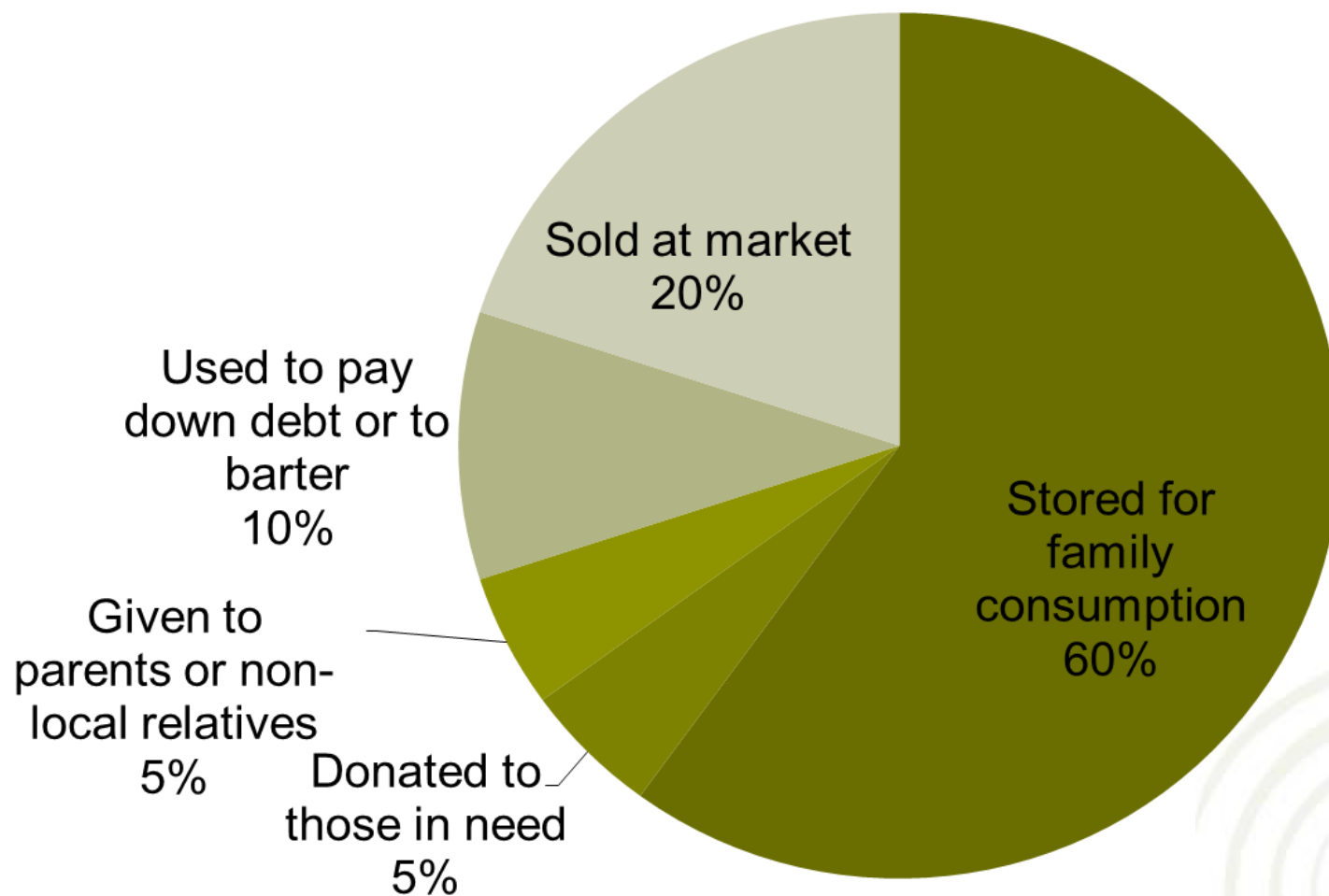


## What Was Purchased With Grants



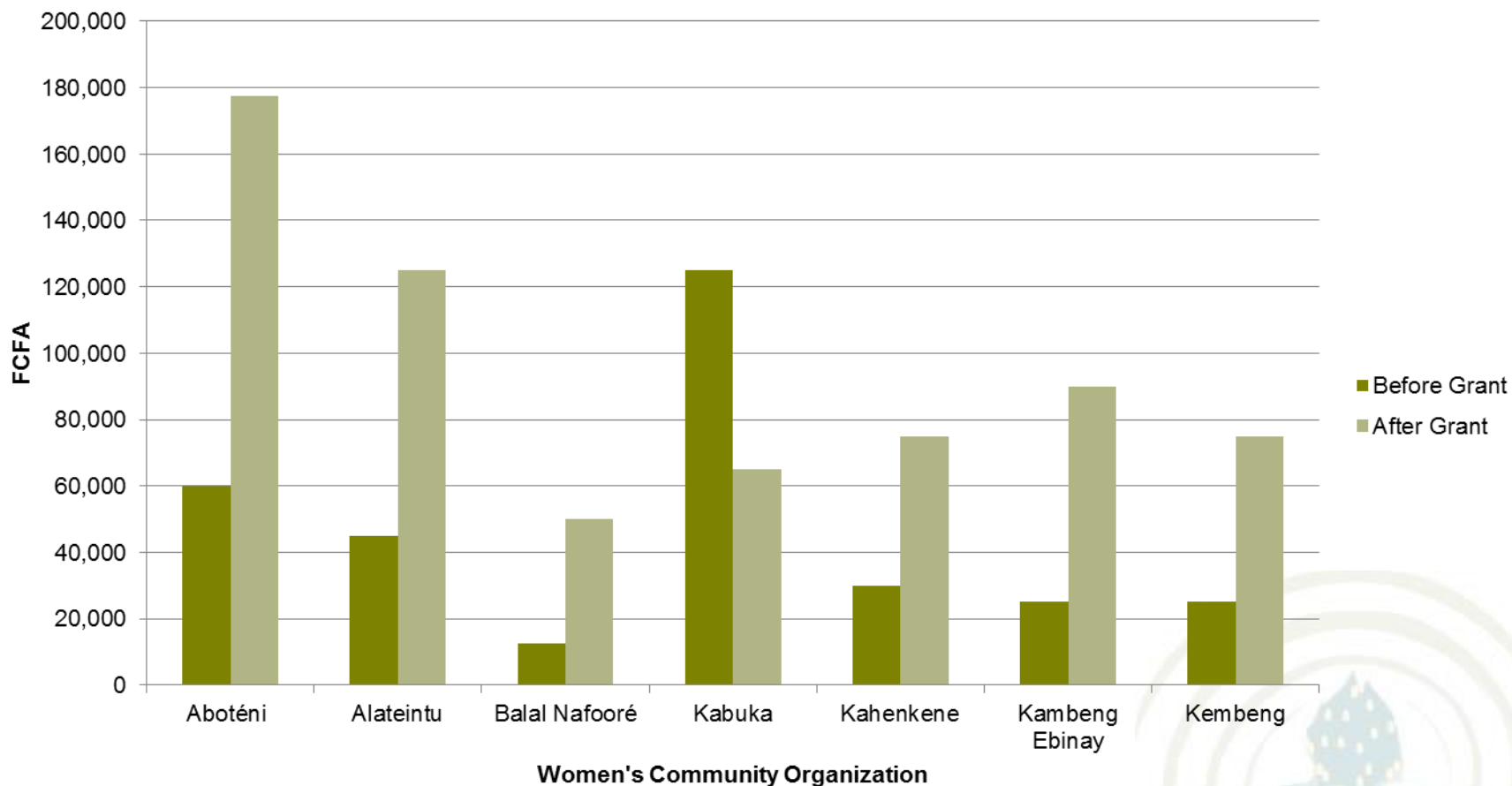
\*Based on evaluation of 7 rural women's organizations with a total membership of 604 (253 were interviewed).

# How Women Divide Their Harvest



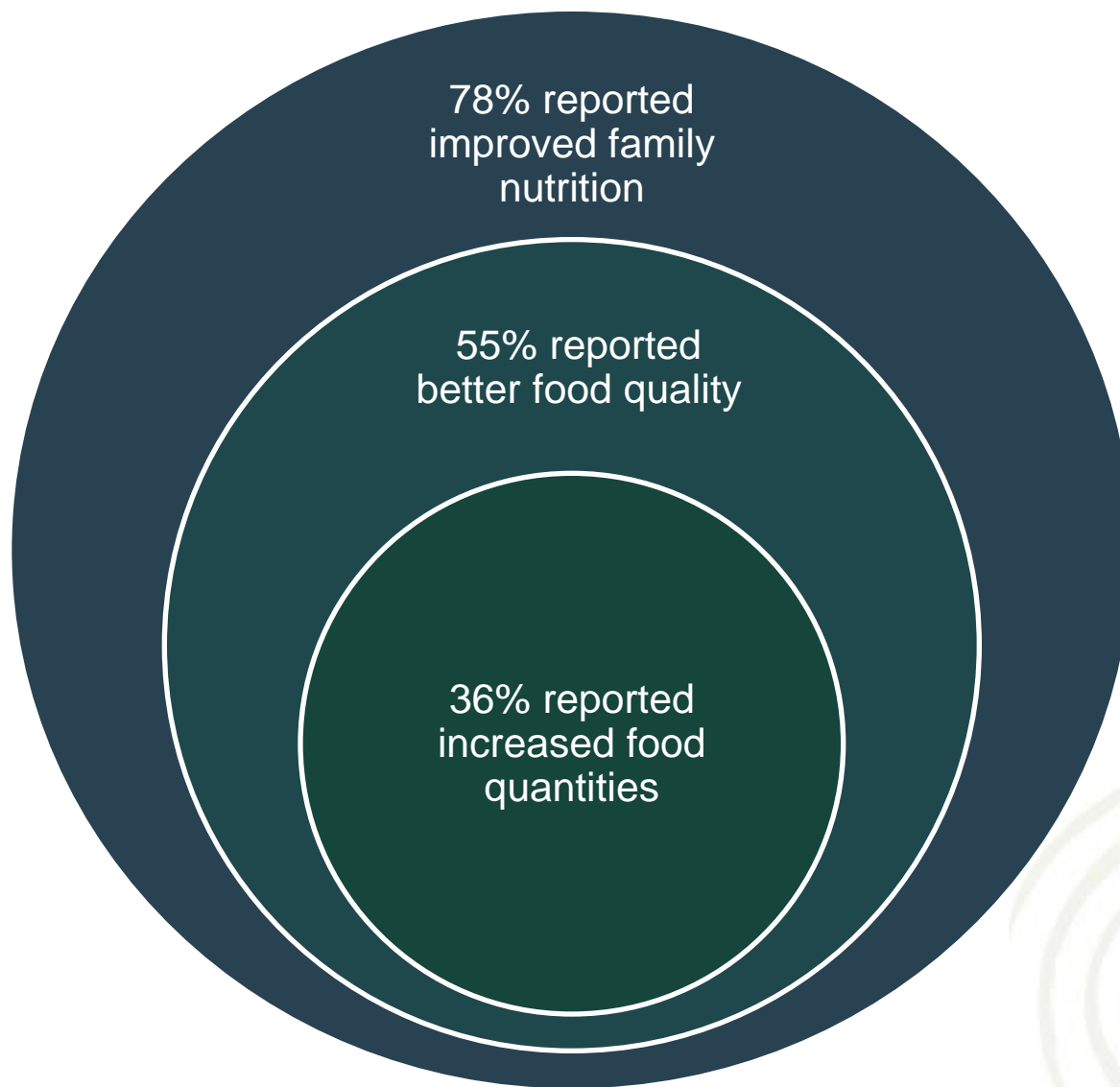
# Changes in Individual Income

**Average Change in Individual Members' Income  
Before and After Grants**





# Impact on Family Nutrition



# Impact on Family Health



72% of women surveyed said they were better able to respond to their families' health needs.

Specific key changes included:

- ❖ Fewer illnesses due to reduction in heavy field work
- ❖ Increased use of maternal and reproductive health services
- ❖ Improved access to timely consultations and treatment
- ❖ Adoption of recommended preventative health practices
- ❖ Changes in the prevalence and practice of FGM



# Impact on Children's Education

- 73% of respondents said they were better able to cover the costs associated with their children's education
- 53% said they were able to keep their children in school beyond early education





Full reports available at  
[www.newfieldfound.org](http://www.newfieldfound.org)