



ENTREPRENEURS
du Monde

Poverty Assessment Tool Analysis

Sovann Phoum

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INTRODUCTION

The Poverty Assessment Tool was implemented in Sovann Phoum in 2010, in order to:

- appraise the partners' households' poverty level from a general point of view (the several indicators in the assessment are totaled into a maximum score of 100 for each household, with 0 representing extreme poverty and 100 representing people just coming out of poverty);
- provide information on the poverty of a household in six different aspects: demography, finance, housing, assets, nutrition and health;
- and assess the evolution of the poverty situation of households in time (by doing this assessment on the household every three loan cycles, i.e. approximately every year).

This is the first time that a complete **analysis** is being done on the PAT data collected in the past one and a half years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is interesting to note the **significant disparities between the different areas** where Sovann Phoum operates. Some areas such as *Svay Tchek Thmey* systematically register poorer scores for most questions. And the overall score of these places underlines **Sovann Phoum capability to serve areas of great poverty** and precariousness.

The main evolutions noted on partners' situation of poverty as they progress through loan cycles are on the **level of assets**, and more significantly **school attendance** of children. There were surprisingly no notable evolutions either on nutrition or on how they deal with health issues when they arise.

Such an analysis gives interesting insight on the level of poverty of the partners served by Sovann Phoum and can provide valuable input under the condition that the PAT data collected on the field is done in an accurate and consistent manner.

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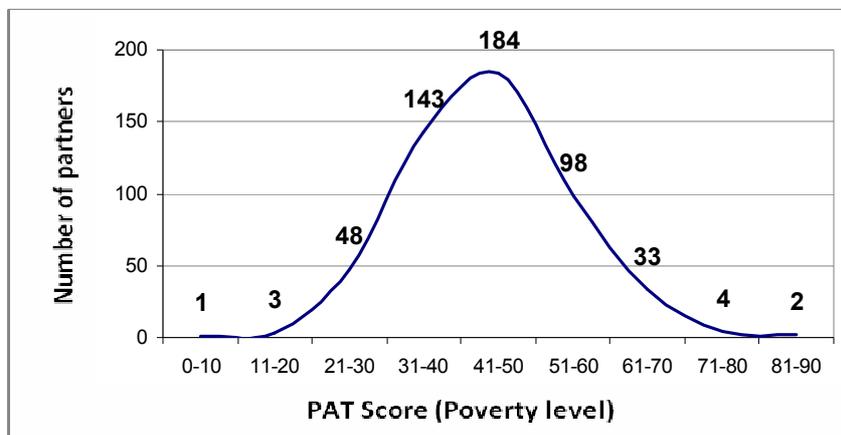
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Main characteristics of Sovann Phoum partners' households

The analysis is based the PAT questionnaires administered over the past 18 months: 516 questionnaires, of which 405 are for 1st cycle loans, 70 for 4th cycle and 24 for 7th cycle loans.

Poverty level of households

The average PAT Score for all households is 44.1, and scores are spread as follows:



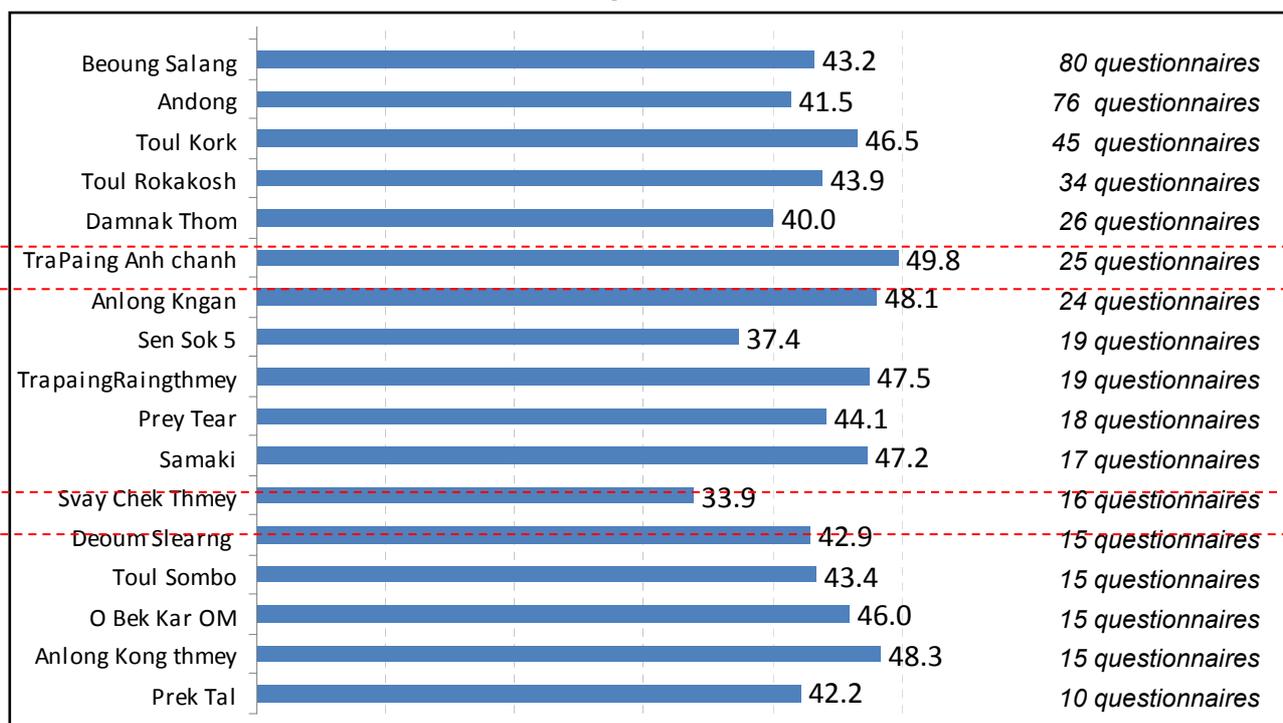
Average size of households

The average size of the households is 4.2 persons per home, which compares with a national average of 4.7. There seems to be no correlation between the size of the households and their total PAT score.

Analysis by area of operation

There is a noticeable disparity among the different geographical areas in which Sovann Phoum operates, with scores ranging from 33.9 to 54. However, some areas have a non significant number of questionnaires (less than 10), and are taken out of the analysis below:

Average PAT score



The differences between the areas with the highest and the lowest scores were noted on most criteria, as shown in the details of the analysis below.

Indicators of Poverty

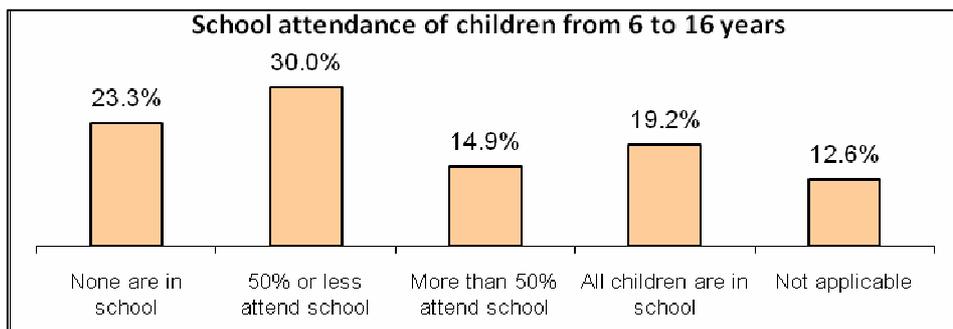
Education

In **less than half** of the households do most children attend school.

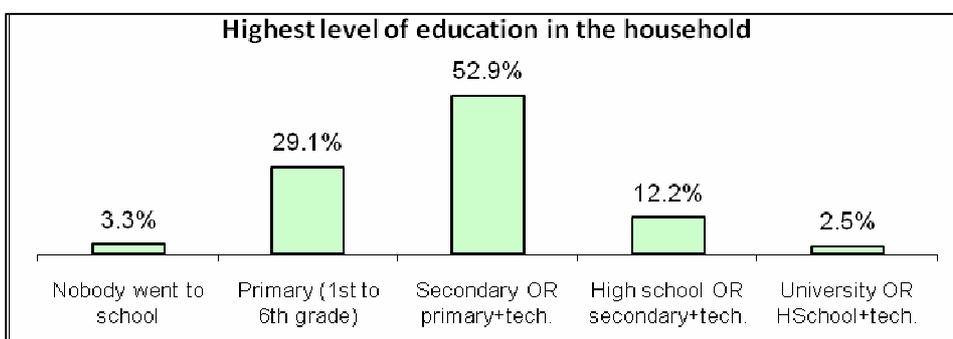
- The best score is in *Prey Tear*, where 39% of the households have *all* their children attending school.

Official statistics on 2008 data state that over 80% of the children between 6 and 16 attend school – Sovann Phoum’s partners are significantly below that average.

Significantly, in **23.3%** of households, none of the children of a school going age attend school. In *Toul Sombo*, *Deoum Slearng*, *Anlong Kong Thmey*, *Svay Tchek Thmey* approximately 40% of the households do not send any of their children to school.



In almost **one third** of the households, **primary school** is the highest education obtained. Another **53%** of the households assessed have accessed **secondary school** (or primary school with technical training).

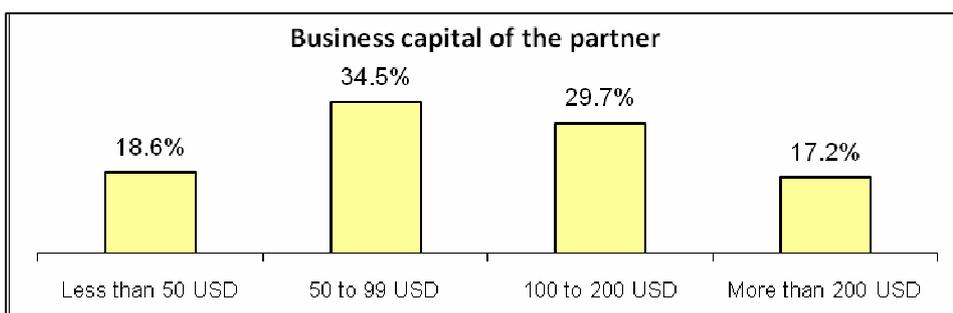


- *Deoum Slearng* and *Damnak Thom* are significantly lower than the other areas, as practically two thirds of the households have not gone beyond primary school.

Assets

Business capital

Approximately **half** of the partners assessed have a business capital of less than 100 US dollars – also almost 20% are actually below 50 USD.



- In *Sen Sok 5*, more than half of the partners' business capital is less than 50 USD; in *Toul Sombo*, *Samaki*, *Prey Tear* approximately 40% of the households fall in this range.

Household assets

Motorbike: On average, 68.3% of the partners have at least one motorbike. However this hides differences between the areas, the worst off being *Svay Tchek Thmey* where only 50% of the households have one, and *Prey Tear*, *Beoung Salang* and *Damnak Thom* where less than 60% do.

In very few cases (less than 10%) did the households own motorbikes worth more than \$500.

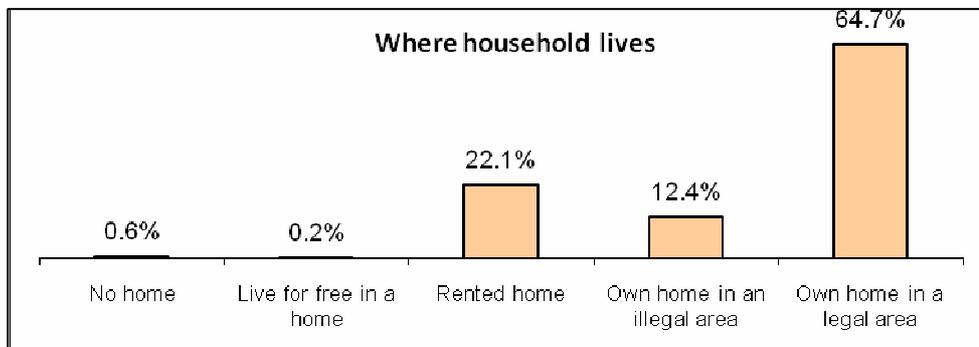
Mobile phone: 75.2% of partners assessed have at least one mobile phone; this again hides significant differences as only 12% of the households in *Svay Tchek Thmey* and 47% of the households in *Sen Sok 5* have one. Overall, almost none of the households had mobile phones worth \$60 or more.

Housing conditions

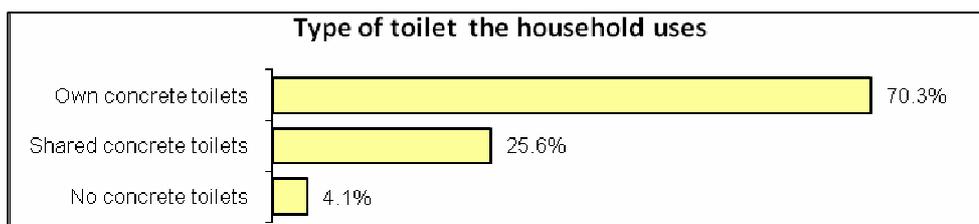
In most areas, all households lived in houses with roofs made from sturdy material (i.e. not leaves, thatch or tarpaulin). Only in *Svay Tchek Thmey*, *Andong* and *Toul Kork* did approximately 20% of the households live in houses with roofs made of non-sturdy material.

A majority of households assessed have their own home in legal areas, but again there are significant differences depending on the areas:

- Overall, **one-fifth** of households rent a place to live in, but more than 75% of the households in *Damnak Thom* and *Boeung Salang* do so.
- Overall, **one-tenth** of the families reside in illegal areas, but this concerns 84% of the households in *Sen Sok 5*!



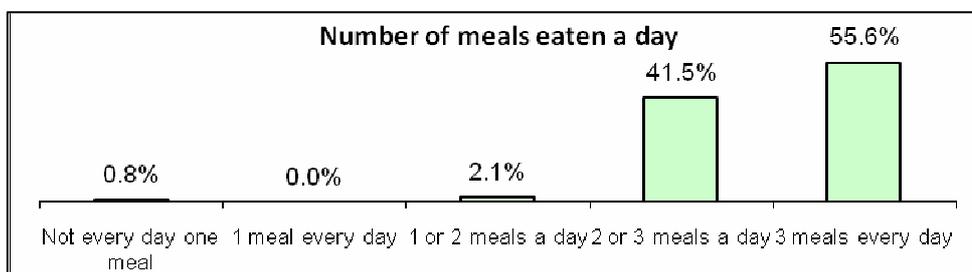
70% of households assessed own their own concrete toilets; in *Toul Sombo* however, 20% have **no** concrete toilets (vs. 4% on average), and in *Svay Tchek Thmey* more than 80% of the households **share** concrete toilets (vs. 26% on average).



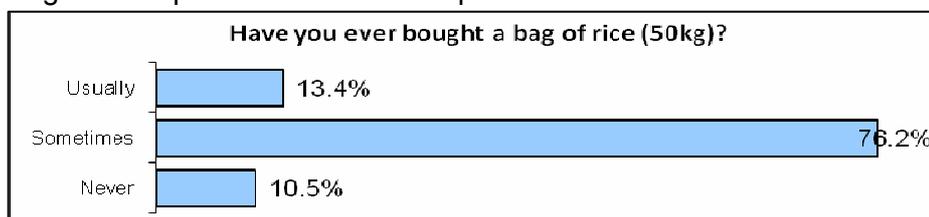
Nutrition

Almost every single household has at least 2 meals a day, with **more than half** of the households having **3 meals a day**.

- In *Svay Tchek Thmey*, *Toul Kork* and *Andong* very few households declare eating three meals a day (8% of the partners interviewed, vs. 56% on average).



A clear majority of partners assessed buy a 50kg bag of rice only once in awhile, indicating that their level of income does not enable them to benefit from economies of scale by purchasing their staple food at wholesale prices.

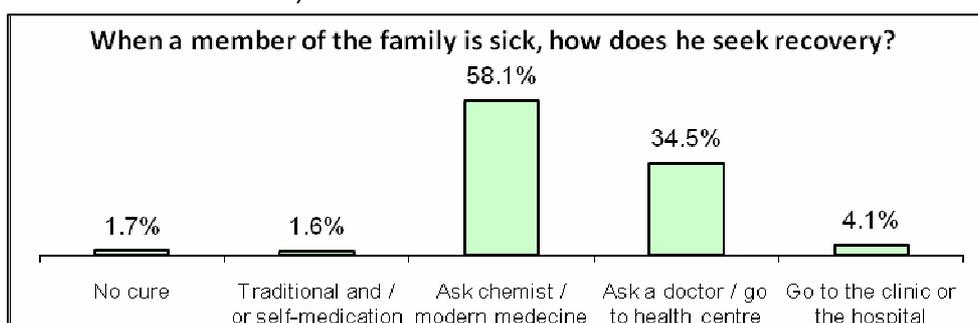


Access to health services

On average **only one third** of the households go to the **doctor or a health centre**; and in certain areas such as *Deoum Slearng*, *Damnak Thom*, *Prey Tear* and *O Bek Kar OM*, **none** of the families do. In those areas, it seems the only alternative is going to the chemist.

- In *Sen Sok 5* and *Samaki*, approximately 80% of the families go to a doctor or health centre; this is interesting as these areas had lower scores on most other questions.

Fortunately, only **3.3%** of partners' families do not seek any form of modern medical advice when ill (15% in *Toul Rokakosh*).



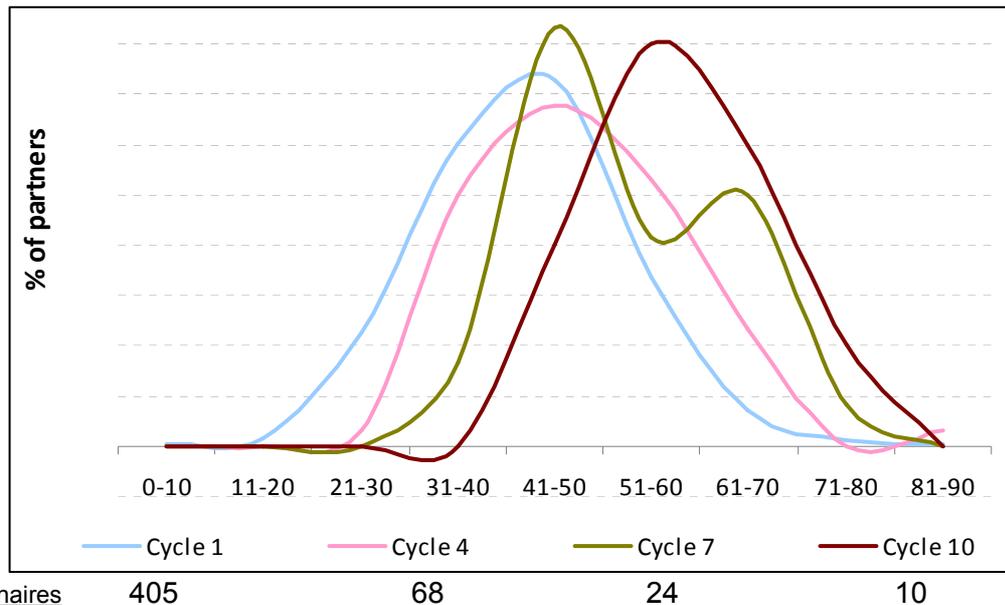
A clear majority of partners assessed do not have health insurance (**99%**).

Comparison between cycles 1, 4 and 7

This section helps us identify the indicators that change the most depending on the number of loans partners have had with Sovann Phoum.

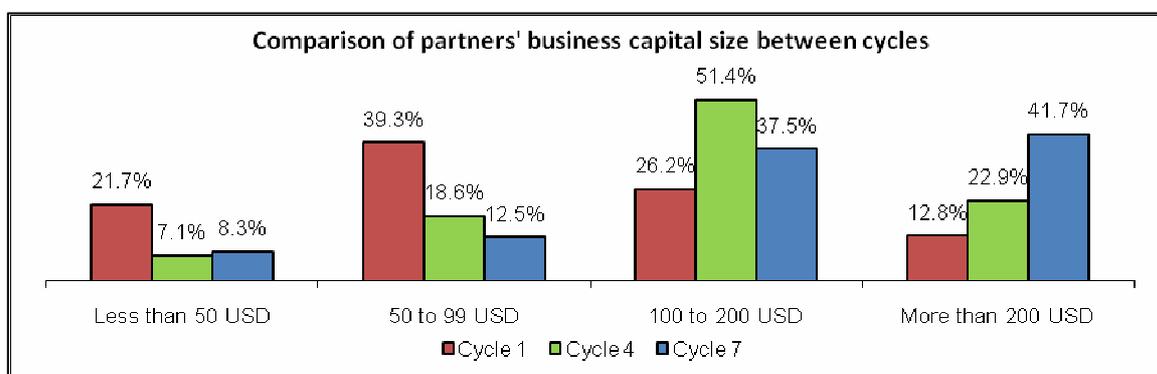
Please note that these figures do not represent the same group of partners who have moved from cycle 1 to 4 to 7, they can only show to what extent partners having had several loans in the course of time have a different situation to partners entering the programme.

A general trend of increasing PAT Scores is observed as partners progress from Cycle 1 to 4 to 7 or even to 10.



The analysis below does not consider the cycle 10 partners as there are only 10 questionnaires which is not considered a significant sample.

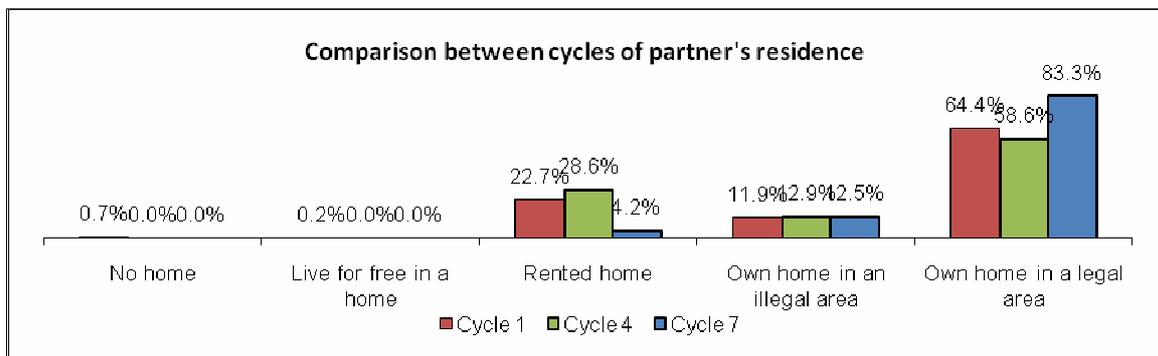
Of note, the **business capital of individual partners** increases from cycle 1 to 7. One can see this trend of increase by comparing the business capital amount that most partners in each cycle have. For cycle 1, the largest number of partners are found to have a business capital of between 50 and 99 USD. For cycle 4, the largest group is found in the range of 100 to 200 USD, and for cycle 7, partners who have business capital of more than 200 USD make up the largest numbers.



There are also progressively more households who own at least one **mobile phone** in higher cycles. The percentage increases from 72.3% in Cycle 1 to 81.4% in Cycle 4 to 91.7% in

Cycle 7. The same trend can be observed in the ownership of **motorbikes** as well (from 63.5% in Cycle 1 to 81.4% in Cycle 4 to 87.5% in Cycle 7).

With regard to **housing**, a vague trend of more people owning homes in legal areas can be observed, as seen below.



The last indicator of note is **health insurance subscription**: compared to cycles 1 and 4 where almost no partners had health insurance (0.5% in Cycle 1 and 0% in Cycle 4), a significant 12.5% of partners in Cycle 7 have health insurance.

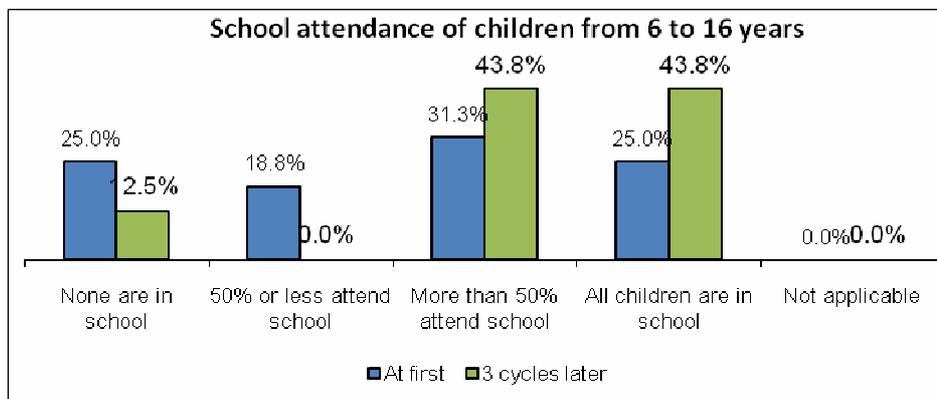
Poverty Situation Evolution

In this section, we analyse the figures for the 16 partners who were assessed with the PAT twice. This will hopefully give us a more accurate picture of the changes in poverty situation which partners experience. All partners were assessed in Cycles 1 and 4, except for one who was assessed in Cycle 7 and 10.

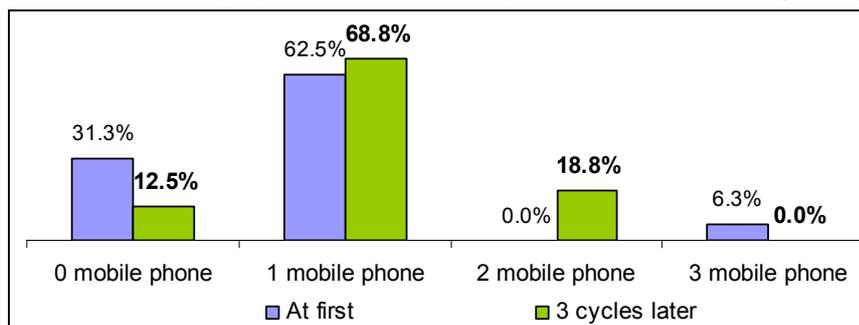
- On the one hand, **13 out of 16 of these partners** had an **increase** in PAT score after 3 cycles, averaging an increase of 7.2 points.
- On the other hand, **3 of them registered a decrease** in score, averaging a decrease of 9 points.

Improvements noted

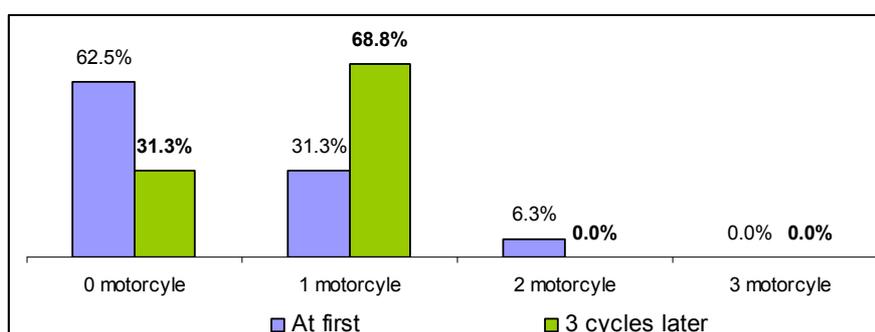
There is a clear increase in the **school attendance** of these partners' children. Seven families (44%) showed an improvement in the level of school attendance of their children.



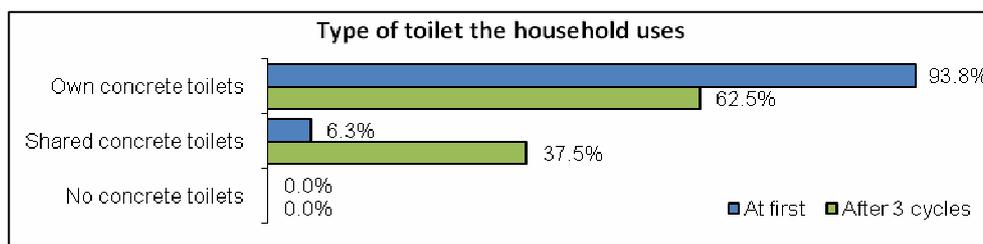
A clear increase was also noted in the percentage of the partners who own a **mobile phone**. 5 partners (31% of the sample) owned one more phone than when they first joined.



Similarly, 5 partners that had no motorcycle when they joined Sovann Phoum owned one at the time they took their 4th loans. The percentage of partners who own at least one **motorcycle** went from 37.5% to 68.7%.



Another clear improvement was noticed in the **type of toilets** that the partners' households use. There was a significant increase of 30% (5 families) in the number of households that now have their own concrete toilets.



Contrasted evolutions

With regard to the **number of meals eaten every day** only one family noted improvement, from having 2 to 3 meals a day, to having 3 meals every day; the rest remained the same.

Access to **health facilities** also did not improve significantly: most families did not change the way they seek medical treatment (most of them go the chemist), only two households noted improvement, while two others noted a degraded score.

The figures for the **business capital** of this group of partners show contrasted evolutions: for 25% of them, the business capital increased, for another 25%, it decreased – while it remained stable for the other 50%.

Partners with decreased PAT scores

The 3 partners who registered a drop in PAT score, had decreases in the following indicators:

- Partner A: decreased business capital, one less source of income, one less motorbike.
- Partner B: decreased business capital, one less source of income, one less bicycle.
- Partner C: move of house from legal to illegal area, buys a big bag of rice sometimes from usually buying it before, and one less source of income.