

PROGRAM DATA HIGHLIGHTS: Group Cohesion

By Kristin Magee, Program Data Manager

Zoe Kenya group members, mentors, and program facilitators have been incredibly resourceful in finding ways to stay connected. They identified and supported groups and households that were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and took new approaches to continue their progress toward empowerment.

Throughout their time in the program, the young people work to foster group cohesion. They do this in the first year to help form bonds between group members so they will support each other on their journey out of extreme poverty. As they near the end of the three-year program, the focus becomes trying to ensure that the members will stay connected long after their Zoe graduation. The networks they built must remain in place. Continuing activities related to savings, loans, or group income projects after graduation help accomplish this, as do the friendships and business partnerships that have formed.

The chart below shows the survey responses of 184 households of recent graduates of the Zoe program in Kenya. The survey asked them to indicate all the benefits they received from their group in the last year. The possible responses included benefits in the form of financial assistance, services, and psychosocial support.

"In the last 12 months, what benefits have you received from your group?"

