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**IDEAL**

# Field Voices: Emerging Evidence & Lessons on Ultra-Poor Graduation

September 22, 2020 | 9:00-10:30am ET

Reminder: Please turn off video and mute your microphone



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**Funded by:** USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

**Duration:** 5 years (2018-2023)

**Consortium:** Save the Children, The Kaizen Company, Mercy Corps, TANGO International

**Goal:** Improved overall effectiveness of BHA-funded development and emergency food security activities



Capacity  
Strengthening



Small Grants



Stakeholder  
Consultations



Peer-to-Peer  
Learning



# Agenda

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## Opening Remarks

**Blake Stabler** | Market Specialist | USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

## Objectives

How is the ultra-poor graduation approach incorporated in USAID-funded food security and resilience programs in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Uganda?

What is the emerging evidence and lessons on effectiveness of ultra-poor graduation programming across the three contexts?

What challenges and opportunities are arising during COVID-19?

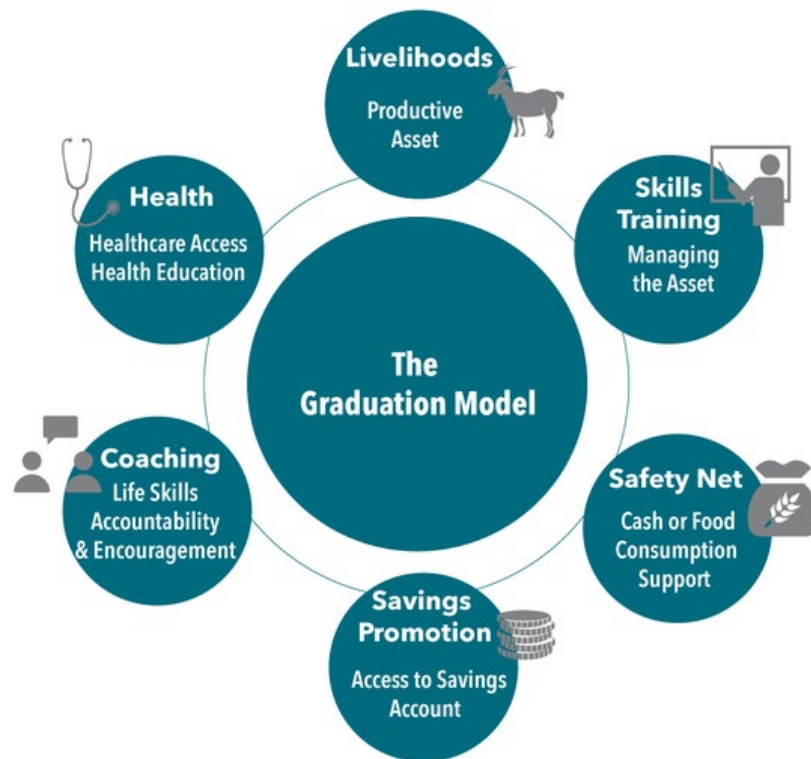


Keep your **microphone** on **mute** during the event.



Use the **chat box** to ask **questions**.

# The Ultra-Poor Graduation Approach





# Panel Discussion

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## Panelists

**Saeqah Kabir** | Senior Manager for Knowledge Management and Communications, Nobo Jatra Program | World Vision, Bangladesh

**Elisabeth Farmer** | Chief of Party, Livelihoods for Resilience (L4R) Activity | CARE, Ethiopia

**Rita Larok** | Chief of Party, Graduating to Resilience Activity | AVSI Foundation, Uganda

Speaker bios: <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/field-voices-emerging-evidence-lessons-ultra-poor-graduation>

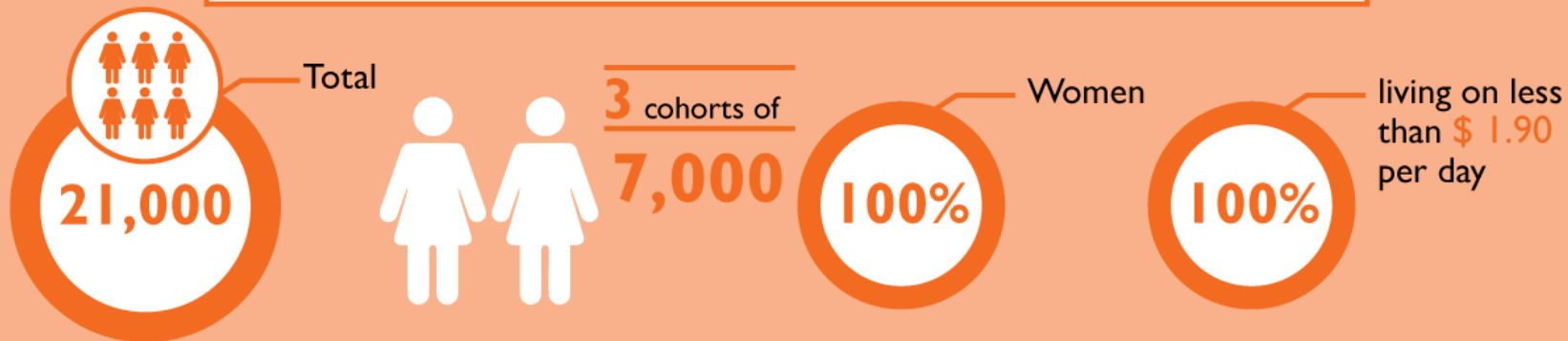
## Discussion Topics

- **Overview** of the programs
- **Emerging results and lessons** on the effectiveness of the Ultra-Poor Graduation Approach
- **Program adaptations** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic









# Nobo Jatra Ultra-Poor Graduation Goal

## ULTRA POOR GRADUATION GOAL:

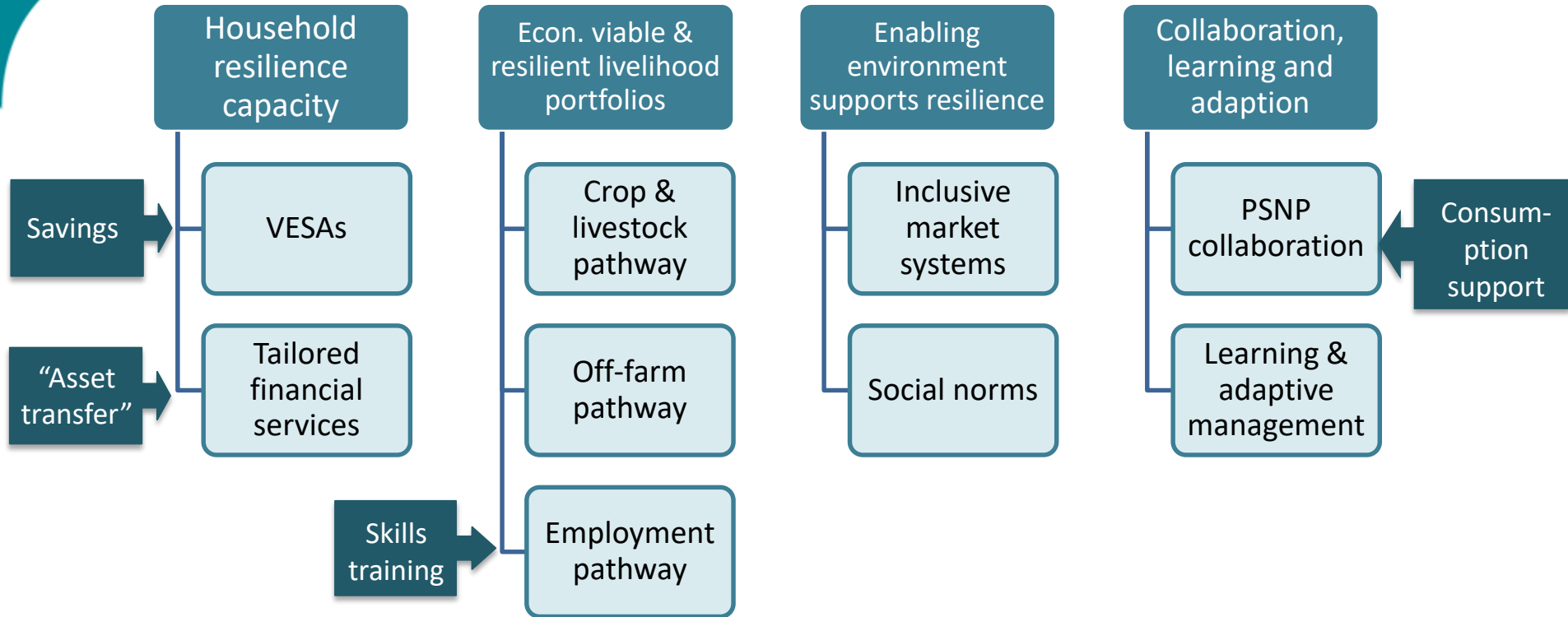
To create sustainable pathways out of poverty for 21,000 ultra-poor households



# Nobo Jatra Ultra-Poor Graduation Approaches

Interventions	Standard	Group	Empowerment
 Entrepreneurial literacy training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Consumption smoothing digital cash transfers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Financial inclusion (VSLA/ commercial banks)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Digital cash grant for business development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
 Layering and sequencing with nutrition resilience, Gender and WASH activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Market linkages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Individual coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
 Group coaching		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

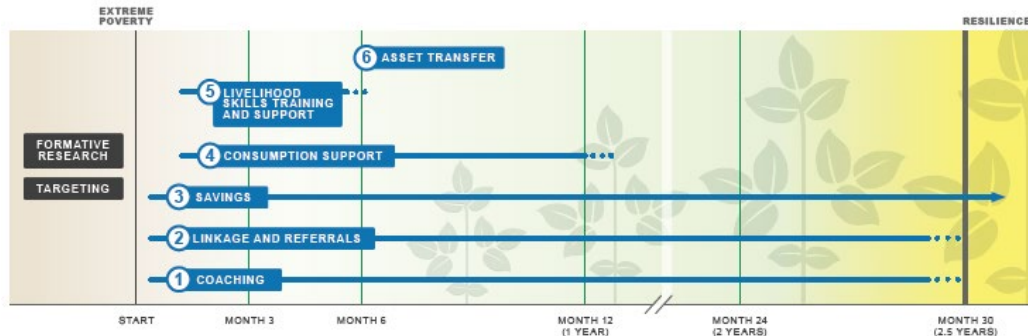
# Livelihoods for Resilience Activity Overview





# Graduating to Resilience Activity Overview

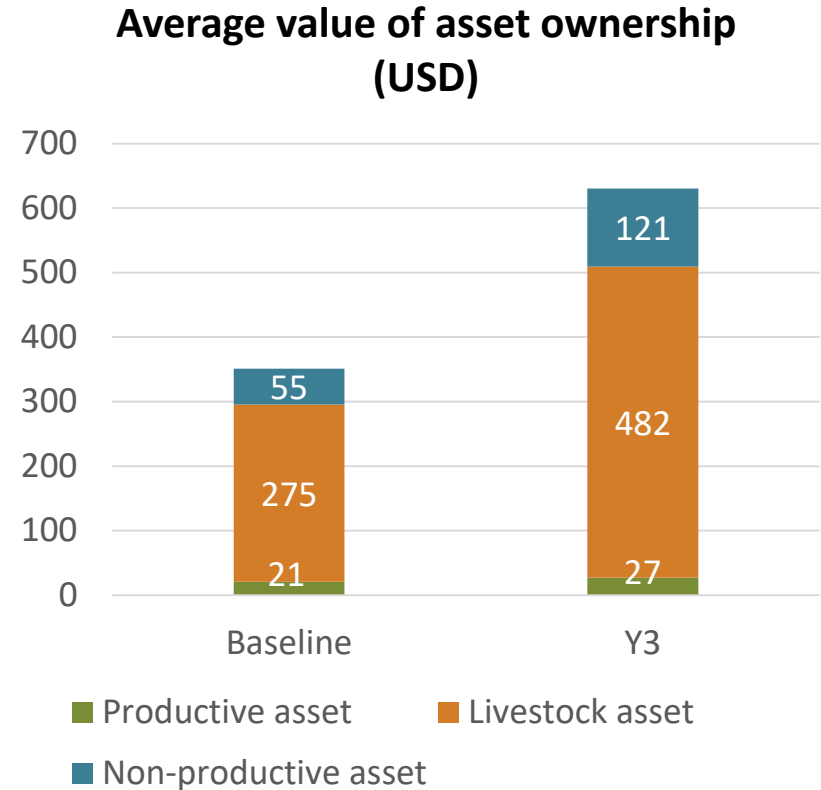
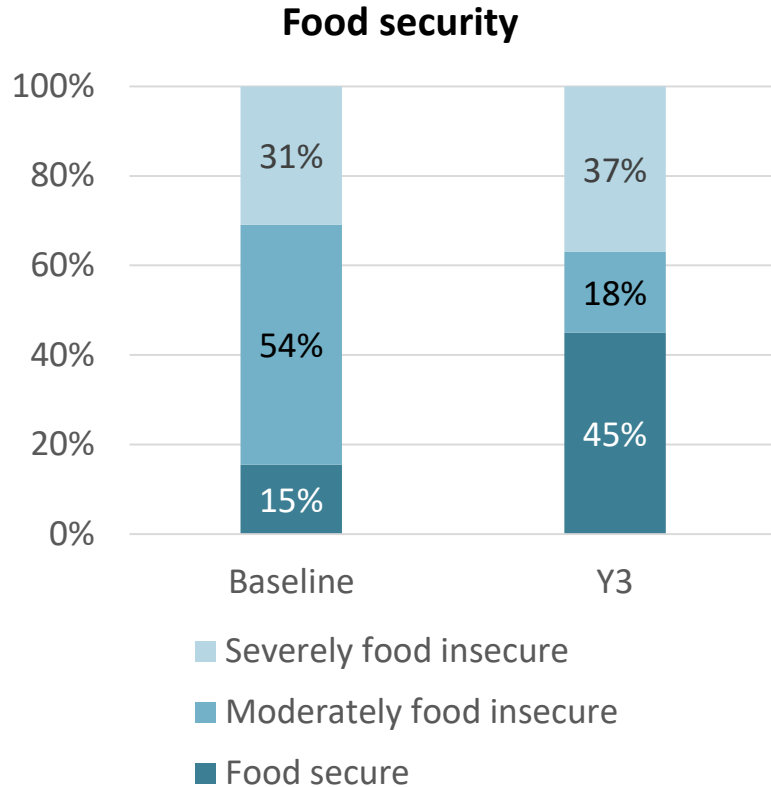
- **Goal:** Extremely poor refugee and Ugandan HHs in Kamwenge district graduate from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self reliance and resilience
- **Donor:** USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
- **Implementer:** AVSI with Trickle UP and IMPAQ International + External Evaluator –IPA for a RCT
- **Period:** Oct 01, 2017 to Sept 30, 2024 (7 Years) in 2 cohorts + 1 year refinement
- **Target:** 13,200 HHs (50% host / 50% refugee) – **Cohort 1:** 6,629 Participants and 37,585 members
- **Participants:** Women and youth as primary participants with their households



# Components Across Treatment Arms

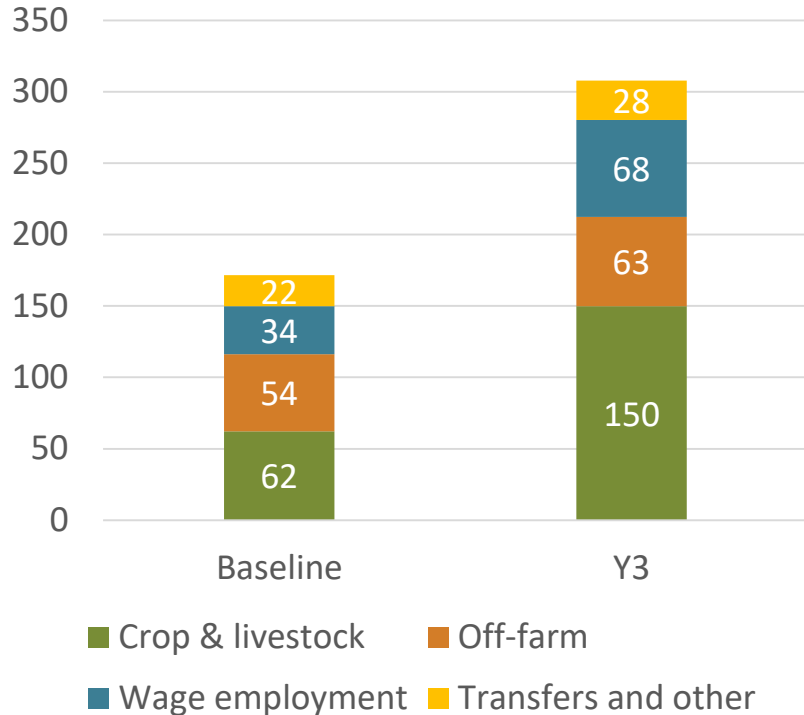
PROGRAM COMPONENT	ARM 1 STANDARD GRADUATION	ARM 2 GROUP COACHING	ARM 3 EMPOWERMENT MODEL
Consumption Support	●	●	●
Livelihood Skills Training and Support	●	●	●
Savings and Financial Inclusion	●	●	●
Asset Transfer	●	●	—
Coaching	INDIVIDUAL	GROUP	INDIVIDUAL
Linkage and Referrals	●	●	●

# Livelihoods for Resilience Activity Y3 Results

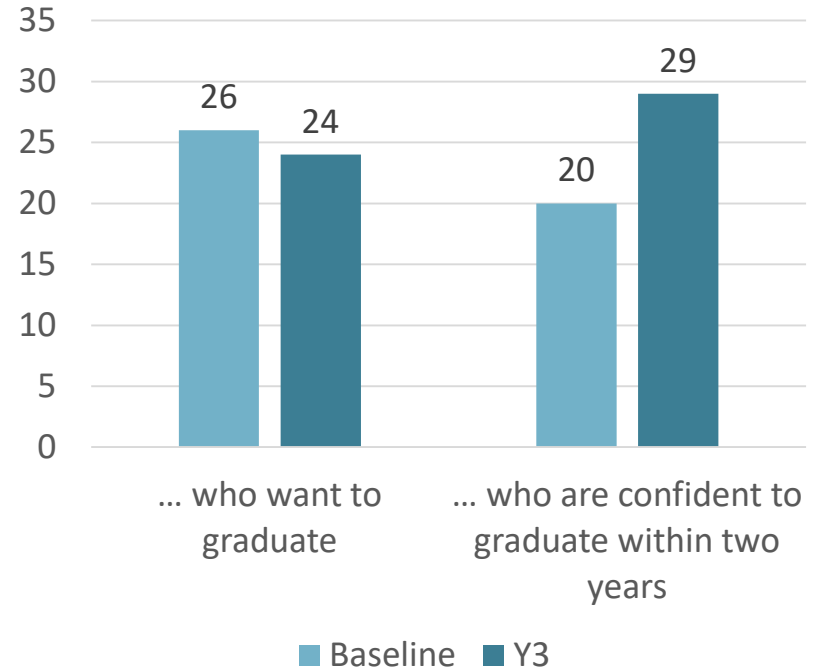


# Livelihoods for Resilience Activity Y3 Results

## Average annual income (USD)



## Graduation readiness – percentage of households

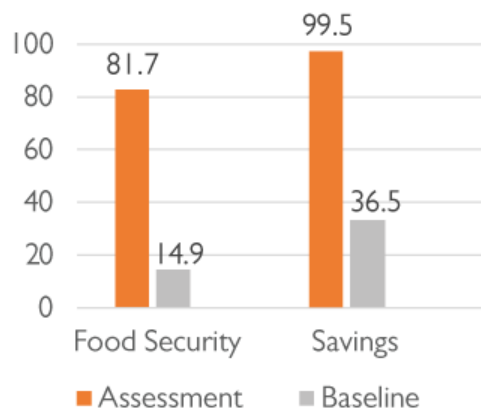


# Nobo Jatra Results

Results from first cohort of 7,000 households

**91.5% have graduated meeting the essential criteria.**

Graduation Assessment Results (%)



Average number of income sources is **3.2**, compared to **2.6** at baseline

Average monthly incomes are **\$94.2** in comparison to **\$82.2** at baseline

- **93%** had stored dry foods and clean drinking water for emergencies
- **88%** went to the nearest shelter during a cyclone



# Graduating to Resilience Activity Results

- 1. Graduation:** 52% (meal frequency, dietary diversity, livelihood diversification, health care access, water treatment, hand washing, savings - greater than 3 months)
- 2. Treatment Arms:** Group coaching arm 2 - Highest graduation at 14% VS Arm 1 at 12% and Arm 3 at 9% BUT highest retrogression at 1.2% VS Arm 1 at 0.7%, Arm 3 at 0.6%. **Arm 3 is slow but most progressive at 23% compared to arm 1 at 21% and arm 2 at 19% and has the lowest retrogression**
- 3. Increased self-efficacy and increased adaptive capacity - In front of a shock like COVID 19: 86.7% H/89.2%R HHs took steps to prepare: storing food (host 97.8%, refugee 98.1%); changed business/ diversified**
- 4. Promising interventions: Coaching, Asset transfer, Savings and Consumption support**
  - **Asset transfer** provided startup capital to start a business - **ALSO consistent RCT MIDLINE DATA - Productive asset ownership is \$254 higher in arm 1 than in arm 3 and Productive asset ownership is \$157 higher in arm 3 than in control**
  - **Savings** improved quality of life/ expanded businesses/basic needs - Midline RCT: Savings group contribution is **\$60 higher in arm 3 than in control and \$ 17 higher in arm 1 than 3.** 266 Saving groups: 6,465 members (93% women) cumulative saving of \$518,820 and \$80 average savings per person
  - **Consumption support** has relieved the stress of “running up and down looking for food.”
- 5. Nutrition outcomes:** 96% (R:97%, H:95%) minimum meal frequency for children 6-23 months (baseline 27%), 91% prevalence of EBF of children under six months (R: 96%, H: 84%) from 22% baseline)

# What's Next?

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- A recording of the event will be shared with all participants
- Visit [www.fsnnetwork.org](http://www.fsnnetwork.org) to subscribe to our newsletter and learn about upcoming events

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# Thank you!

Questions?

Please email us at [info@fsnnetwork.org](mailto:info@fsnnetwork.org)

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