



BRAC Graduation Approach

Eradication of Extreme Poverty: Worldwide Experience

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About BRAC

Foundation and reach

Founded in Bangladesh in 1972, BRAC has reached over 100 million population around the world

Forefront of poverty alleviation

BRAC has been at the forefront of **poverty alleviation, disaster recovery, health, education, microfinance etc.** in Bangladesh and 11 other countries

Sustainability and scale

BRAC develops, tests, and replicates some of the world's most innovative anti-poverty programmes, demonstrating **sustainability and scale**



We are a solution ecosystem
that creates opportunities for people to realise their potential

Graduation Approach

Graduation approach is a comprehensive, time-bound, integrated and sequenced set of services that enable ultra-poor households to achieve sustainable livelihoods and socioeconomic resilience, in order to progress along a pathway out of extreme poverty

Not a silver bullet - highly contextualised

Targeted to vulnerable populations

Post-programme linkages

Closely monitored and measured

In 2002 BRAC pioneered Graduation approach in Bangladesh. The Ultra-Poor Graduation programme has reached over 2.1 million ultra-poor households in 48 districts so far

Intervention expended for targeted population and in different contexts: urban, climate change, persons with disabilities, local host community in Cox's Bazar, etc

UPG Programme Intervention: A 24-Month Journey

Targeting — Programme Interventions — Graduation



Targeting Methodology

- Geographical
- Participatory Rural Appraisal (Social Mapping and Wealth Ranking)
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
- Questionnaire survey
- Verification

LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION



- Asset transfer (Grant plus credit)
- Cash transfer for productive assets
- Enterprise (IGA) development training
- Input support for enterprise

FINANCIAL INCLUSION



- Access to financial institution
- Financial literacy
- Savings

SOCIAL PROTECTION



- Access to healthcare services
- Access to government's social safety net programmes
- Linkage to wrap-around services

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT



- Hands-on coaching on life-skill development
- Community mobilisation



Socioeconomic resilience

- Increased assets
- Diversified livelihood
- Improved food security
- Improved access to financial services
- Increased access to market and services
- Improved access to government's services
- Increased social capital
- Improved positive behavioural change

0 months
Start of programme implementation

24 months
End of programme implementation

Evidence: Resilience Building & Shock Responsiveness

Randomized Control (RCT) Trial by LSE and BIGD: Findings from 4 & 7 years

37%
increase in annual income

10%
increase in consumption

9x
increase in savings

2x
increase in land access

Randomized Control (RCT) Trial by LSE: Findings from 10 years

A “big push” helps people in extreme poverty to escape the poverty trap

A relatively large asset transfer helps them to sustainably lift themselves out of poverty

One of the cost effective approaches in the long run

Study by LSE and BIGD on 2007 cohort to check the resilience of the participants during pandemic

More likely to have good jobs, including salaried, agricultural & non-agricultural work, and productive assets at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic

More likely to keep good jobs if they are younger (below 45 years), compared to older participants

Less likely to experience the agony of COVID-19 induced migration, a phenomenon which is happening worldwide

Global Adaptation and Evidence: RCT Findings

CGAP and Ford Foundation adapted and piloted Graduation approach in eight countries through 10 projects in 2006

The Graduation approach has been adapted by Governments, BRAC and other NGO's, development partners in nearly 50 countries through more than 100 projects, and reached approximately 14 million individuals.

Six Randomized Control Trials conducted in Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Pakistan, and Peru shows positive impact over the participants. (Banerjee et al. 2015)

Income

Self-employment

Savings

Consumption welfare

Psychological well-being

Learning and Way Forward

Learning

A “big push” in respect to asset which is not too small or incremental can help people to escape the poverty trap

Evidence shows the Graduation approach works for different context, for different targeted people and produce similar result

Government can complement Graduation approach in existing programmes. It can be built on the current system and also improve the targeting process

Adoption

BRAC and other NGO’s have took Graduation approach globally. Governments and other like-minded organisations has adopted the model

An estimated one third of Graduation programmes are already government-led in Africa, Asia and Latin America

BRAC has been selected as an **Audacious Project** grantee to scale Graduation approach through government adoption and help 21 million people globally lift themselves from extreme poverty

Way Forward

Strengthening government policies and transformation of social protection to productive inclusion to break the poverty trap in a sustainable way

Partnership to mainstream Graduation for scaling up, proper utilization of resources and leave no one behind to achieve Agenda 2030

“
When people realise they can
change their own lives, it is as
if a light gets switched on
”

- Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Founder BRAC



Thank you