

Roles of the Graduation Approach in Resilience Building



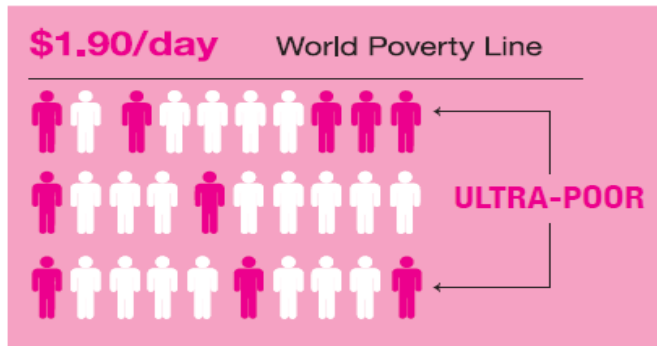
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Panelist title: Programme Head, Ultra-Poor Graduation programme

Panelist organization: BRAC



Who are Ultra-Poor?



Chronically food insecure

Lack access to financial services

Disproportionately female-headed households

Geographically isolated and lack community acceptance

Disconnected from mainstream government services and underserved by markets



Background of BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation programme

1972

BRAC started its operation with relief and rehabilitation

1980's

Forefront of poverty alleviation disaster recovery, health, education, microfinance etc. in Bangladesh and 11 other countries

Late 90's

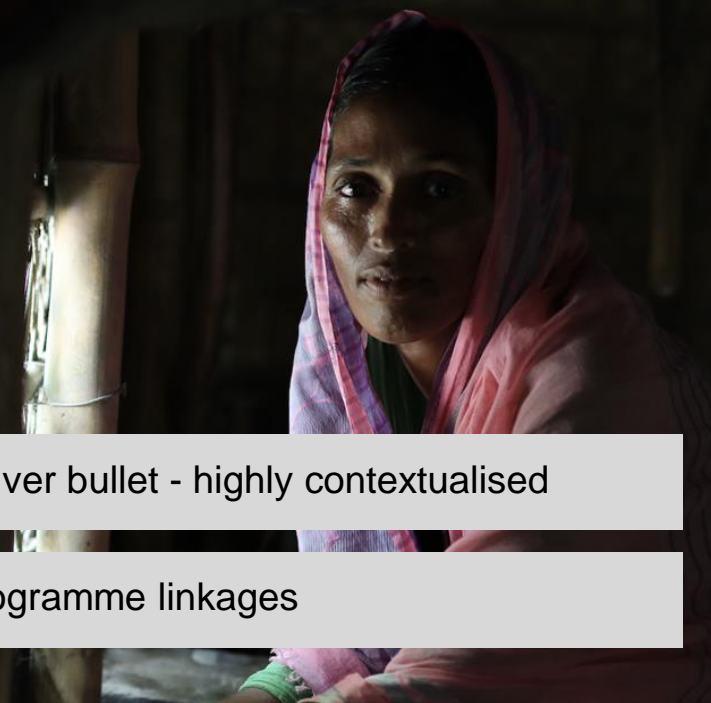
BRAC realized the existing poverty alleviation programmes were not adequately reaching the people experiencing the worst forms of poverty

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

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.

A woman wearing a pink headscarf and a green top is looking directly at the camera. She is holding a wooden stick or pole. The background is dark and out of focus.

Not a silver bullet - highly contextualised

Post-programme linkages

Ultra-Poor Graduation programme

Targeting

Programme Interventions

Graduation



Targeting Methodology

- Geographical
- Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) (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

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

Global adaptation and result

Income

Self-employment

Savings

Consumption welfare

Psychological well-being



Graduation approach is shock responsive to socio-economic risks, climate vulnerabilities and pandemic situation

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

Productive assets at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic

Less likely to experience the agony of COVID-19 induced migration

Climate adaptive programming



- UPG programme launched a climate adaptive pilot titled Addressing Climate Change Related Destitutions (ACCD) in 8 district from 2012-2015
- The learnings from pilot was incorporated to mainstream Climate Adaptive programming in 2015 and currently working in 34 climate vulnerable districts

Climate adaptive programming

Climate adaptive contextualization in terms of:

- i. **Targeting:** Selection of vulnerable geography and poverty prone areas
- ii. **Planning:** Contingency planning for alternative livelihoods and SWOT analysis
- iii. **Livelihood:** Suitable livelihood selection and management practice to tackle climate shocks
- iv. **Asset management:** Disaster resilient housing and area specific fodder cultivation
- v. **Financial inclusion:** Instigate savings behavior and enhance financial literacy
- vi. **Hands-on coaching:** Build awareness and resilience through information sharing
- vii. **Community resilience:** Connect community with participants for social protection, timely warnings and support

Thank you



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