

Partnering with Governments

In order to reach marginalized populations, governments must scale and sustain holistic, pro-poor approaches like Graduation to help households lift themselves out of extreme poverty. BRAC UPGI is working to create strong and lasting partnerships in countries where we see the greatest potential for impact through partnerships with governments and international organizations to help lift 21 million people from extreme poverty by 2026.

History of Government Partnerships

BRAC launched the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI) in 2016 to partner with key governments and development institutions around the world to support the expansion and implementation of the Graduation approach. UPGI provides technical assistance and advisory services to government actors worldwide to adopt the Graduation approach, adapt it to local contexts, and integrate it into existing government social protection systems to maximize reach and sustainability.

Our partners have ranged from the Governments of Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Tanzania, Guinea, Zambia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and State Governments in India to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and UNICEF, among others. To date, BRAC has reached over 2.1 million households in Bangladesh while an additional 3.1 million families have 'graduated' from extreme poverty through adaptation of the approach by other organizations.

But this is only the beginning. Outside of Bangladesh, the majority of programs have been small-scale pilots and

programs. To successfully and sustainably address the rising numbers and urgency of extreme poverty globally, buy-in and support from national governments is crucial.

Collaborating with Governments

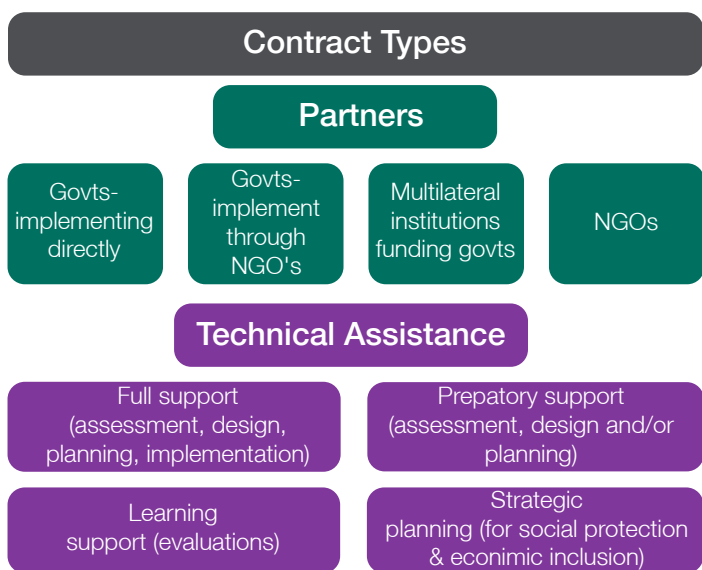
BRAC UPGI will partner with governments to help strengthen capacity and direct systems change through the scaling of Graduation by:

- Developing an in-country presence to provide local support and contextualized programming
- Establishing dynamic monitoring systems to ensure transparency and maximize benefits
- Boosting learning between local governments to facilitate coordination and cross-learning platforms for quick and practical knowledge-sharing
- Building effective communication strategies to create awareness and promote evidence and learnings for the adoption and scale of the Graduation approach.
- Forging partnerships directly between local governments, civil society, and the private sector to maximize reach
- Engaging in long-term research to support the global Graduation learning agenda

Reaching 21 Million More Through Partnerships

Many of the underlying resources needed to scale Graduation already exist. Existing government investments in poverty reduction and social protection programs such as cash transfers and inclusive livelihoods programs provide a base from which governments and partners can build from. Graduation provides the framework for this convergence and coordination of government services.

We believe that governments must lead the way for systems change and serve as the torchbearers in eradicating extreme poverty. Governments can drive radical, scalable, and lasting change to help people lift themselves out of extreme poverty and create pathways toward sustainable



BRAC UPGI Partners and Contracts

and resilient livelihoods. BRAC UPGI is striving to help lift 21 million more people out of extreme poverty by 2026 through these critical partnerships.

Cost-effective Program Implementation

Building on existing government programs and policies not only enhances program efficacy and reach but also can reduce the costs of implementing Graduation programs. By building or layering the holistic social and economic inclusion elements of Graduation on top of existing social protection programming, governments can maximize existing budgets and keep costs to a minimum while still generating sustainable impacts for those living in extreme poverty. These strategic investments provide long-term benefits while implementing evidence-backed and proven interventions.

“

I no longer work for anybody and now manage our home and businesses. I've started to put money into a savings account. This livelihood program has helped us change our lives.”

-Corazon Gaylon | DOLE Graduation project participant in the Philippines

How to Integrate Graduation into Existing Programming

Through our partnerships, BRAC UPGI has identified key lessons on integrating Graduation with social protection programming to most strategically use existing government investments:

1. Assessments of the local context to ensure Graduation is contextualized to meet the specific needs of extreme poor populations
2. Leveraging the expertise and resources of government ministries through inter-ministerial coordination
3. Partnering with civil society organizations and NGOs to increase access to resources and capacities for effective implementation
4. Testing innovative and novel approaches to program design to ensure Graduation programming consistently improves its reach and impact on those living in extreme poverty



Ntetekwa brings her produce to market as part of the Kenyan Government PROFIT Financial Graduation program in Samburu.



A coach reviews proper care of livestock with Corazon, a participant in the Philippines DOLE Graduation program.



ultra-poor
graduation initiative