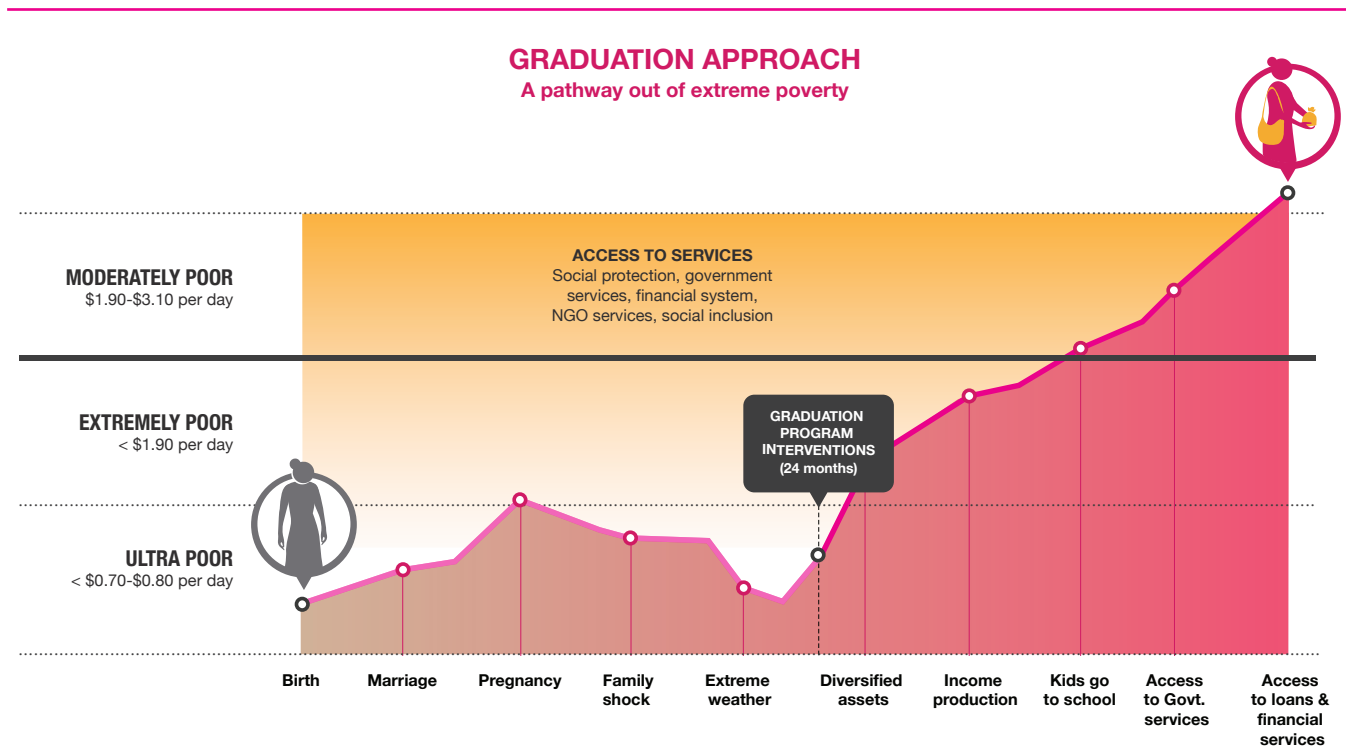


# PROPEL Toolkit: An Implementation Guide to the Ultra-Poor Graduation Approach

With the recent launch of the highly anticipated Sustainable Development Goals, it is clearer than ever that ending extreme poverty in our lifetime is a widely-shared objective within our reach.

**MOMENTUM IS GATHERING.** Numerous global actors ranging from NGOs to governments, financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral entities have committed to eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. The time is now to adopt highly successful programming designed to uplift the poorest. Pioneered by the Bangladesh-born NGO BRAC, the Graduation approach is a proven, replicable, and scalable strategy capable of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable of the global poor. **By propelling participants on an upward trajectory from extreme poverty and into sustainable livelihoods, Graduation transforms lives.**



BRAC recognises that ending extreme poverty must start with the Ultra Poor. By building secure, sustainable and resilient livelihoods, Graduation aims to propel the Ultra Poor onto a sustainable pathway out of extreme poverty.

**THE EVIDENCE IS COMPELLING.** Recent studies demonstrate that Graduation is highly feasible and effective in combating extreme poverty among diverse marginalised populations, even in the most resource-constrained contexts. Since its inception in 2002, BRAC’s flagship *Targeting the Ultra Poor* programme alone has graduated 1.6 million households, unlocking the vast under-tapped social and economic potential of participants to create better futures for themselves and their families. Using a carefully sequenced and time-bound methodology combining asset/cash transfers, consumption stipends, technical skills and life skills training, financial education, and psycho-social support, **Graduation has the potential to break the cycle of extreme poverty as we know it.**



**ADVANCING GRADUATION.** To help further efforts to expand Graduation globally, BRAC is launching the ‘PROPEL Toolkit,’ a comprehensive nuts-and-bolts guide to Graduation programming that outlines how to design and run a programme among your target population. The guide provides a clear understanding of the BRAC model, critical elements of success, and lessons learned by BRAC and implementing partners to support adaption and adoption. For NGOs, MFIs, donors, governments, or others, PROPEL is a potent tool to develop, design, and execute a Graduation programme, including integrating the approach into your existing programming. In a step-by-step fashion, the Toolkit guides implementers through the main programme components and phases in the planning and design process.

**PROPEL is comprised of six key chapters, each with a specific purpose:**

- P Programme Planning:** Assesses organisational capacity, key stakeholders, and potential avenues for collaboration to implement a Graduation programme for funders, governments, NGOs, and MFIs. Emphasis is given to the importance of rigorous context and landscape analysis to gauge feasibility of the approach in your context.
- R Ramping Up Programme Design:** Demonstrates how best to design programme roll-out to serve your target population. The design stage involves thorough market analysis, staff recruitment, development of training materials, and establishing an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework.
- O On the Ground Implementation:** Supports implementers to adapt the specific components needed to implement a targeted, holistic, and time-bound Graduation programme. Components include targeting/participant selection, consumption stipends, enterprise selection, asset/cash transfers, home visits/life skills training, technical skills training, saving and financial education, health services, and social integration.
- P Preparing for Graduation:** Equips implementers to reinforce training, linkages and support systems to mitigate potential setbacks and secure long-lasting gains for participants post-Graduation. Emphasis is given on the importance of home visits/life skills training, technical skills training and refreshers, and linkages to health services and wider social integration within the community.
- E Evaluation of Outcomes:** Outlines options for gauging the effectiveness and impact of the programme in achieving intended outcomes, through instituting robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks including performance/process and impact evaluations.
- L Learning and Innovating for Scale:** Explores how to scale programmes nationally and globally to fulfil the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, and to better connect with social protection systems as well as global and national strategies.

The PROPEL Toolkit is an essential guide for all those interested in harnessing the power of human enterprise to drive meaningful and lasting change in the global effort to end extreme poverty, and radically transform the lives of millions of poor households for the better.

For more information or to **download the PROPEL Toolkit**, visit [www.ultrapoorgraduation.com](http://www.ultrapoorgraduation.com) or contact [ultrapoorgraduation@bracusa.org](mailto:ultrapoorgraduation@bracusa.org)