

# Ultra-Poor Graduation in the Philippines

The Department of Labor and Employment in the Philippines in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and technical assistance of BRAC launched a Graduation pilot that targets 1,800 beneficiaries of Pantawid Familyang Pilipino in 29 barangays across five municipalities in Negros Occidental. The pilot aims to provide participant households with a comprehensive and sequenced set of interventions to place them on an upward trajectory into sustainable and resilient livelihoods. The pilot implementation is underpinned by a research agenda including a randomized control trial conducted by *Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)*. The impact evaluation measures variable impacts of group and individual livelihoods and coaching.

## Graduation & Kabuhayan Program

The Graduation pilot interventions include features such as the Kabuhayan (Livelihoods) Starter kit that combines a one-time asset transfer and training in business management; technical training on how to manage the asset; savings mechanisms; coaching by Graduation Community Facilitators; skills building on social and health issues; and linkages to community groups and cooperatives. Participant households also continue to receive social assistance benefits from the Pantawid program (4Ps).

The success rate of participants is measured against a set of Graduation criteria that examine multiple dimensions of poverty, including food security, income, health, and resilience.



Graduation Pilot in the Philippines	
Pilot Duration	2018-2020
Pilot Location	29 Barangays across 5 municipalities in Negros Occidental
Target Population	1,800 households
Funding Partner	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
	Government of the Philippines
Implementing partner	Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Technical Advisor	BRAC
Evaluation Partner	Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)



## Pilot Progress

Since the launch of the pilot, several key implementation activities have taken place:

- Graduation Community Facilitators (GCFs) conducted a Targeting Verification Survey to verify the eligibility of each participant.
- GCFs conducted a Household Readiness Assessment and Profiling Survey to match all participants with suitable livelihood options informed by a rigorous market assessment.
- All participants created a Family Development Plan and received training on Basic Business Management.
- By August 2019, roughly 50% of the participating households had received technical training on how to manage their asset followed by transfer of the productive asset.
- GCFs have begun monthly coaching sessions and life skills training and regularly collect monitoring data using Android tablets.

