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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRAC UPGI Partners with Governments in India, the Philippines, and Tunisia to Lift People from Extreme Poverty

NEW YORK -- Today, [BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative](#) (UPGI), a global program committed to helping people lift themselves from extreme poverty, announced three new contracts to expand implementation of the [Ultra-Poor Graduation approach](#) with governments in Tamil Nadu, India, the Philippines, and Tunisia.

The Graduation approach is a multifaceted, [evidence-based](#) set of interventions based on a deep understanding of the challenges faced by those living at a severe level of extreme poverty. Through training in life skills, finance, and business skills, along with consumption stipends, an asset transfer, and regular coaching and monitoring, BRAC's Graduation approach addresses participants' complex needs and helps them create a pathway out of extreme poverty.

BRAC UPGI is partnering with governments in the aforementioned countries to help people build resilience, create sustainable livelihoods, and lift themselves out of extreme poverty long term:

- The Government of Tamil Nadu, India: The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB), with the support of the Asian Development Bank, (ADB) and World Vision India, are partnering with BRAC UPGI to relocate and rehabilitate households living in extremely vulnerable and high-risk urban areas through the Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Sector Project (IRSHUPSP). BRAC UPGI will provide guidance as the program adopts the Graduation approach to build social and economic resilience for newly relocated residents.
- The Government of Philippines: The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Government of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and BRAC UPGI as the technical assistance partner is launching the Padayon Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) project which aims to strengthen the productivity and resilience of 3,000 extreme poor and vulnerable households by providing them with a holistic set of interventions. The project will be implemented across the provinces of Bukidnon, Sultan Kudarat, and Iloilo and will officially launch its implementation in the field in March 2021.
- The Government of Tunisia: The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Fisheries, (MARHP) and The Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS) along with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP2) are partnering with BRAC UPGI to support the design and implementation of a Graduation pilot program in Kairouan entitled Insertion Économique, Sociale et Solidaire dans le Gouvernorat de Kairouan (IESS) with a particular emphasis on strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods. "As COVID-19 threatens to push up to 150 million more people into extreme poverty over the next year, BRAC urges governments, multilateral institutions, donors, NGOs, and policymakers to work together more effectively and commit significantly more resources to eliminate poverty in all its forms," said Lindsay Coates, BRAC UPGI Managing Director.

At this stage, BRAC UPGI is working to fill in-country roles for each program and ensure local communities are involved in the design, implementation, and measurement of the holistic anti-poverty programs.

BRAC UPGI works with country governments and local communities to promote the adoption and scale-up of Graduation through programming, policies, and systems to break the poverty trap for people in extreme poverty by meeting their multidimensional needs. This may include leading policy and design strategy sessions, hosting stakeholder workshops across ministries, capacity strengthening with government and partner staff, developing private sector partnerships, closely monitoring and refining operational systems, evaluating government programs, and more.

“Because governments can be agents of scale and sustainability, by integrating economic inclusion into existing social protection programs with governments at the helm, we can build resilience for the lowest-income people at a much larger scale,” said Shameran Abed, Senior Director of Microfinance and Graduation programs at BRAC.

BRAC UPGI aims to scale Graduation through governments worldwide to help 21 million more people escape extreme poverty by 2026, integrating with existing programs and supporting policy change to better meet the needs of the poorest people.

“BRAC UPGI’s goal to lift 21 million more people out of extreme poverty by 2026 is only the beginning,” said Lindsay Coates, Managing Director of BRAC UPGI. “To truly move the needle on ending extreme poverty, governments, nonprofits, multilateral institutions, and policymakers must work together more effectively to adapt shock-resistant social protection systems and comprehensive policies that integrate economic inclusion from the beginning.”

About BRAC’s Ultra Poor Graduation Initiative

BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI) was founded in 2016 to support the expansion and implementation of the Graduation approach. BRAC UPGI has been providing advisory services and technical support to governments of varying capacities across Africa and Asia on integrating Graduation with existing social protection systems. In the past, BRAC UPGI has worked with government partners in the Philippines, Kenya, Rwanda, Lesotho, Guinea, Zambia, India, and Pakistan, among others, adapting the approach in each country to fit the local context and effectively integrate into existing programming. BRAC UPGI is scaling the Graduation approach through programming and policies, and partnering with national governments, peer organizations, civil society actors, and donors to achieve the long-term benefits demonstrated by Graduation and lift millions more from extreme poverty. Learn more about our efforts by visiting [our website](#).

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