

Transforming the Ultra-Poor's Lives



Researchers conducted a seven-year study of BRAC's 'Targeting the Ultra-Poor' programme in 1309 villages across Bangladesh's poorest districts.



BRAC's programme provides livestock and hands-on support to the poorest women in the poorest Bangladesh villages.

This was a 'big push' to move the recipients into more profitable and stable self-employment. Women received livestock and two years of training to help them work with the livestock – worth a total of approximately \$280.



Researchers found that the poorest are unable – rather than unwilling or unfit – to do more productive work.

The ultra-poor are limited to irregular, poorly paid agricultural and domestic maid jobs. Their hourly earnings would be **twice as high** rearing livestock.

ULTRA-POOR

WEALTHIER CLASSES



Seven years after the start of the programme, beneficiaries continue to escape poverty at a steady rate.

After 4 years the women shifted to more steady and productive work. They worked **25%** more days and increased earnings by **37%**. After 7 years access to renting or owning land was **2 times** higher than in year 4.

AFTER 4 YEARS

AFTER 7 YEARS



The BRAC model has shown to be scalable and effective across a wide range of contexts and countries.

Since 2002, BRAC has reached over **1.6 million households** in Bangladesh via its Targeting the Ultra-Poor programme. Studies of this model applied **elsewhere** show similar impacts – more stable self-employment and increased savings.

1.6 MILLION

EVIDENCE

