Despite progress on poverty reduction and human development in Bangladesh, there is still an urgent need for more effective social safety nets and programmes targeted at the ultra poor. Constituting for the poorest 17 per cent of the population, people in this category suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. They have inadequate shelter, are highly prone to many types of diseases, deprived of education and are particularly vulnerable to recurring natural disasters.

Programme approach

Realising the heterogeneity even among the ultra poor segment, our two different approaches address these diversified needs. The grant-based approach serves the poorest among the group, about eight per cent of the population known as specially targeted ultra poor (STUP). The grant-plus-credit approach serves the segment within ultra poor who are marginally less deprived, amounting to about 10 per cent of the population known as other targeted ultra poor (OTUP). The OTUP support package is similar to that of the one for STUP, with the exception of not providing assets, but instead providing support with soft loans. The programmes’ graduation perspectives are:

1. Graduating from ultra poor to a better economic and social condition (indications: positive changes reflecting food security, diversified income sources, asset ownership, improved housing, school enrolment and social acceptance)

2. Graduating into the mainstream development programmes

Interventions to address climate change vulnerabilities

The coastal zone in Bangladesh constitutes 19 out of 64 districts accommodating 36 million people. During the natural disaster period people can hardly find alternative livelihood options.

In 2012 a special programme under grant based approach named CFPR-ACCD began implementing to those selected disaster prone areas targeting the ultra poor, which aims to enhance their coping capacity both pre and post disaster by providing secured livelihood options.

At a glance

45 districts
333 upazila
3 city corporations
1.6 million households
12,573 daridro bimochon committees are formed to support the ultra poor households
1,582,895 patients among the TUP households received financial support for morbidity
Urban intervention
Slums in Dhaka accommodate about five million people, which is almost 40 per cent of the total population of the city. Realising the dire need for addressing ultra poverty in urban slums, CFPR-TUP has expanded from Dhaka (2010) to Khulna and Chittagong (2013).

Replication
CFPR-TUP model has been replicated in 10 places of eight countries by governments and NGOs including Ethiopia, Honduras, Peru, Yemen, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Haiti. Currently the model is being replicated in South Sudan.

Programmes
STUP (specially targeted ultra poor) in rural and urban 2002-2015
- No of women received assets (full grant based approach) : 476,774
- No of women received enterprise development training : 479,877

ACCD (addressing climate change related destitution) 2012- 2015
- No of women received assets (full grant based approach) : 66,080
- No of women received enterprise development training : 69,247

OTUP (other targeted ultra poor) 2002- 2015
- No of women received soft loan : 1,084,347
- No of women received enterprise development training and agricultural input : 1,090,001