

Targeting the Ultra Poor Programme (TUP)

BRAC's groundbreaking ultra poor programme focuses on improving the socioeconomic situation of those at the base of the economic pyramid. To help this population at least get on the bottom rung of the economic ladder, our process includes a deliberate sequencing of interventions including asset grants, skills development and personalised healthcare support. The programme is now being adapted by other organisations in different countries around the world.

Disability inclusion

Persons with disabilities face a different extent of vulnerability. The majority of elderly people in Bangladesh cannot meet their most basic needs due to a loss of income and physical disability. Families remain the primary source of support for the elderly, but their contributions are undermined by poverty. Thus disability with implications on productivity and dependency ratio.

In a 2009 baseline survey compiled by BRAC's research and evaluation division, it was found that presence of disabled members is very high among households in both specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) I and II areas. Prevalence of disabled member was found to be higher for the TUP households in STUP II areas. It was also found that disability is more prevalent among the male members for various age groups. With the increase of age, proportion of disabled members increases for both male and female. Only less than 0.5 percent of

the children aged up to five years were found to be disabled indicating that disability by birth was not prevalent at any significant extent among the surveyed households.

It appears that approximately one-fifth of all disabled members were blind; however, no statistically significant difference was observed between the two groups of TUP members. Similarly, difference between non-targeted poor (NTP) and TUP households in both areas was found to be statistically insignificant. One of the most common disabilities reported by the surveyed household was inability to walk, ranging from 17 per cent for non-poor (NP) households in STUP I areas to 34 per cent in NTP households in STUP II areas. Mental disability was also found to be largely prevalent among all groups of members.

Population coverage at a glance

| | STUP I | | | STUP II | | |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| | Nonpoor | Nontargeted poor | Nontargeted poor | Nonpoor | Nontargeted poor | Nontargeted poor |
| Blind | 19% | 20% | 15% | 17% | 23% | 30% |
| Deaf | 9% | 10% | 10% | 4% | 3% | 7% |
| Mute | 10% | 10% | 7% | 20% | 6% | 7% |
| Cannot Walk | 17% | 19% | 24% | 26% | 34% | 20% |
| Cannot move hands | 9% | 6% | 8% | 8% | 9% | 13% |
| Mental disability | 29% | 28% | 29% | 22% | 18% | 30% |
| Paralysis | 2.5% | 1.1% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 1.6% | - |
| Others | 4.2% | 5.4% | 5.2% | 1.4% | 6.5% | 2.8% |

Reference: Pathways out of extreme poverty: Findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II (2009), BRAC RED.

For more information about BRAC Targeting the Ultra Poor Programme visit <http://tup.brac.net/>