



MICROCREDIT SUMMIT CAMPAIGN

A Project of RESULTS Educational Fund

January 2016

Dear Microcredit Summit Campaign and fellow partners in the global movement to help 100 million families lift themselves out of extreme poverty,

With this letter BRAC updates our commitment to take specific, measureable, and time-bound action to *help 100 million families lift themselves out of extreme poverty* – and therewith make a major step forward in ending extreme poverty entirely.

We know that this bold goal will require global partnerships that enable organizations to work together in new and innovative ways across a broad range of financial and non-financial sectors to reach goals and benchmarks that could not be obtained working apart. We are eager to join this global movement to demonstrate with others the power of partnerships against poverty and also to inspire new collaborations with those committed to supporting the movement of millions out of extreme poverty.

We know too that a goal means little without a concerted effort to honestly and accurately measure progress made towards the goal and therefore we commit to measuring our progress toward our goals through a consistent and reliable system. We also know that movement out of extreme poverty will require dedicated efforts to support those journeying out of poverty and we commit to developing and implementing products and services that facilitate this type of movement.

In support of the mission BRAC updates and announces the following Commitments related to its efforts to *graduate families out of ultra-poverty*:

- In 2014, BRAC committed to graduating 250,000 households out of ultra-poverty by the end of 2016. This was in addition to 1.4m households already graduated in Bangladesh since 2002. BRAC is on track to meet this commitment by the end of this year.
- BRAC committed to publishing an in-depth implementation guide to help governments, microfinance institutions and NGOs execute their own ultra-poor graduation programs. Additionally, BRAC committed to providing technical assistance and consultation where requested to governments, NGOs and MFIs looking to implement the graduation approach. In 2015 BRAC launched [PROPEL, an implementation guide](#) for graduation practitioners. In addition to being a public resource, BRAC intends to utilize this guide in all future technical advisory work with governments, NGOs and MFIs. BRAC intends to disseminate the resource widely among these audiences.
- BRAC committed to hosting a national conference on graduation to tackle the question of where graduation approaches and policy environments intersect and can reinforce sustainable graduation outcomes for ultra-poor families. In December 2015 BRAC, in partnership with the International Growth Centre at London School of Economics, hosted a conference on graduation approaches, looking at both short and long term effects of graduation programs. In cooperation with leading economists the conference presented data from



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the longest term Randomized Control Trial study of graduation outcomes from BRAC's program in Bangladesh.

- BRAC committed to hosting annual Immersion and Training Visits in Bangladesh for interested parties including policy makers, microfinance institutions, multilateral funders, and donors to witness the graduation program in action. BRAC now hosts annual Immersion Visits and has hosted governments, MFIs and NGOs interested in implementing the approach. BRAC commits to hosting 5 groups annually beginning in calendar year 2016. During these visits, participants get an in-depth look at the program, from field staff training ultra-poor women on how to realize a return on their new assets, to the healthcare, savings, and social integration elements of the approach. The next round of these Immersion and Training Visits are on the weeks of March 28th- April 8th.2016 Please contact Sadna Samaranayake at sadna@bracusa.org to register.

We look forward to presenting the progress we have made to reach these benchmarks at the next Microcredit Summit and to then renewing our commitment with new benchmarks for specific, measureable, and time-bound actions to help 100 million families lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

Sincerely,

Asif Saleh

**Asif Saleh, Senior Director
Strategy, Communications and Empowerment
BRAC and BRAC International**