

One Demand: The final eradication of extreme poverty from Bangladesh by 2022

Three actions to achieve the permanent eradication of extreme poverty

Five Process Principles: Partnerships, Participation, Action, Accountability, Inclusion



*“This is about deciding what is considered normal for the nation – and that in future the presence of extreme poverty will be deemed unacceptable.”*

Five Process Principles

It’s not just about what is done, it is about how it is done

1. PARTNERSHIPS  
(for leadership, planning and action)

The eradication of extreme poverty is a big challenge that will require the participation of multiple stakeholders and a strong collective leadership. The private sector will play a key role in job creation and service provision. NGOs will have to further scale up their successful approaches and public agencies will need to greatly improve the targeting of services. Think tanks and researchers will be needed to provide rapid feedback and learning loops, youth, faith-based organisations and the media are also central to the venture. The ambition is national in scope but most practical action needs to take place at local level and to involve local partnerships for planning and action.

2. PARTICIPATION (of the poor)

A programme to eradicate extreme poverty should include specific measures to address the 6 key challenges faced by the extreme poor.

3. ACTION (not words)

The first requirement is for those who support the ideas described in this manifesto to buy in to the objective and to establish a national movement for the eradication of extreme poverty. The movement should advance the triple strategy: a transformative national programme, a programme of systematic reform of public services and transfers and a national dialogue regarding the future dispensation of distributive justice. All should be managed according to contemporary standards of best practice, should engage all sections of Bangladesh society and be monitored and reported on through transparent processes. There are too many policy commitments that are not translated into action, a specific time-bound agenda for action with close monitoring of results is required.

4. ACCOUNTABILITY  
(through close monitoring and transparency)

For a pledge to eradicate extreme poverty to be meaningful requires a strong framework of monitoring and accountability that extends down to

5. INCLUSION (of all of the extreme poor)

There is a fundamental difference between the objective of halving extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1) and that of totally eradicating extreme poverty. The former objective could be achieved while still leaving behind the poorest of the poor. The chronically poor are necessarily the most difficult to graduate from poverty.

household level. A dynamic and frequently updated database of the extreme poor should be established and used for regular reporting on progress. The database of the poor should be independently managed and capable of providing real time information regarding who are the poor and where they live, allowing well targeted actions to address their poverty. Poverty monitoring reports should be widely publicised, used for progress reporting and progress chasing with local officials and political leaders who are held accountable for achievement within their zone of responsibility. Simple and comprehensible indicators of graduation from extreme poverty should be promoted for public monitoring and the extent to which poor households are able to access the range of public services should also be continuously monitored.

These people are often outside the mainstream, they may be living in remote locations, be members of traditionally marginalised groups or have very insecure lives on the streets or in the slums of Dhaka and other cities. Traditional public services are not good at reaching these groups, yet to achieve the eradication of extreme poverty requires that their needs are addressed.

The special experience of NGOs in accessing hard to reach groups should be fully utilised. Effective targeting and monitoring is critical to ensuring that all extreme poor people are included in the programme and that resources are not misdirected.

What should happen next?

The Manifesto is not essentially about creating institutional structures, it is about motivating people to act. Hence all those with access to power and resources can start to **do something right now** to help address extreme poverty. This includes: making the conditions of the poorest more visible in the press and public forums, demanding accountability from government officials and politicians with regard to their poverty reducing actions, for the corporate sector examining what more can be done to overcome barriers to employment, for youth using all means possible, including social media, to keep the issue on the agenda, for NGOs developing interventions to access the hardest to reach groups, for development partners helping to fund such interventions and using their considerable influence to promote a focus on extreme poverty reduction.

These are just some examples. The prize is taking a huge step towards a poverty free Bangladesh.

We have all the pieces of the jigsaw, let’s put them together!

Ask yourself:

Could you and will you do any of the following?

Steps to support the manifesto	Yes, I could do it	Yes, I will do it	YES! I have done it
1. Talk to some extreme poor people and find out more about the challenges they face and their hopes for the future			
2. Think about the type of future you want for Bangladesh, with a special focus on levels of poverty and inequality, and discuss this in any formal or informal networks to which you belong			
3. Spread the Manifesto messages so that they start to become a national movement - using whatever influence you have or networks you are part of Ask people in positions of power and influence if they are willing to support the objective of the eradication of extreme poverty			
4. Bring your own organisation on board and get your organisation to commit resources			
5. Articulate your support for this cause in any events that you attend			
6. Put some personal savings aside to contribute to an extreme poverty eradication fund			
7. Take direct action to help some extreme poor people to take steps out of poverty			
8. Contribute your ideas and knowledge to the further development of a plan of action to eradicate extreme poverty			
9. Pledge your support by logging on at <a href="http://www.ManifestoForTheExtremePoor.com">www.ManifestoForTheExtremePoor.com</a>			



Photo courtesy: Shazia Omar

Do you have access to any power, resources or influence? What can YOU do?