



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

The 20th session of the [2017 Summer Youth Assembly at the United Nations](#) presented both an opportunity and a challenge to stimulate and ensure youth engagement and participation in achieving an inclusive and sustainable future where no one is left behind.

Guided by the overarching principle of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), “leaving no one behind,” the conference explored issues and solutions for sustainable development in the social, economic, and environmental dimensions. While youth are among those subjected to exclusion and marginalization, they have the potential to accelerate and achieve sustainable development in their communities and beyond. With their unique sets of skills and perspectives in today’s ever-evolving world, they remain at the frontlines of innovation and change.

The event was 9-12 August 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY, United States.

Report submitted by Marnie Colborne, STTI United Nations Youth Representative

Power Differentials: How to Reach the Most Vulnerable

Presenters: Matt Kertman, Senior Communications Association, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) USA; Dristy Shrestha, Program Associate, Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative

This presentation introduced BRAC, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that pioneered a holistic approach to lifting people out of extreme poverty (known as Ultra-Poor Graduation: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2017/04/Lamia-Rashid-BRAC-Ultrapoorest-Graduation-Paper-for-UN-Expert-Group-Meeting-May-2017-25Apr17.pdf>) that incorporates an innovative targeting component to reach the most vulnerable people. BRAC and the World Bank identified the extreme poor (living on less than \$1.90) with focus on the lowest subset of those individuals being the most vulnerable and the ultra poor (living on less than \$0.70-\$0.80 a day). It was shown that through providing measures to combat issues of food insecurity, poor health, social stigma, limited skills, assets or savings, a long-term approach that was comprehensive and substantive was desperately needed. “Graduation” combines support to address immediate needs of participants with longer-term investments in life skills, technical skills training, asset transfers, enterprise development, savings, and planning for the future to transition ultra-poor families into sustainable livelihoods (BRAC, n.d.). By implementing the Ultra-Poor Graduation approach, there was a 4.9% increase in household consumption, 13.6% increase in asset value, 95.7% increase in savings, and 37.5% in livestock revenue. More information about BRAC can be found at <https://www.bracusa.org/our-impact/>. As implemented by the World Bank, the Graduation Program also has quantifiable results; see <http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2013/04/04/graduation-program-creating-pathways-out-of-extreme-poverty-into-sustainable-livelihoods>.

Community-based programs can be implemented at scale to improve the lives of civil society as a global strategy to eradicate extreme poverty. Evidence-based poverty innovations can be used as a holistic approach with problematic situations such as poverty, which it requires a multilevel and multidimensional approach. Community based programs should have social business models in place and consider all social determinants of health in order to address the problem at hand. Adequate health care and delivery is essential to graduate from the ultra poor. Providing the Graduation Model to others might help those already mobilized in the global health scene to make adjustments to their work and to achieve success.

You can watch [Power Differentials](#) on the United Nations Web TV.