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Who are the ultra poor, and how should we find them?

The CGAP blog has a couple of updates from our staff managing evaluations of the UltraPoor Graduation Program, [Sana Khan in Ethiopia](#) and [Beth Rosen in Ghana](#).

Sana (pictured) has just finished analysing the baseline survey data in [Ethiopia](#) which reveals a picture of the households the project is targeting;



The average household has 5 members who share a 2-room house. Most are involved in their own agricultural work and also rely on government support. Access to water and latrines is pretty good, but a full 14 percent use unprotected water sources like rivers, ponds, canals and lakes. Only 1.6% has a bank or savings account.

The [Ghana project](#) is particularly interesting because it tests individual components of the package of support individually, and also adds savings accounts to the mix.



The project also uses a participatory wealth ranking process, asking community members who the poorest households are, a kind of approach recently highlighted in [Fast Company](#) magazine.

"Communities appear to apply a different concept of poverty," said the authors. "The community seems to have a widely shared objective function other than per-capita consumption, and implementing this objective is a source of widespread satisfaction in the community. In exchange for a slightly less effective method of determining who needs the most help, governments can gain significant amounts of credibility by empowering local citizens to help distribute aid."

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