

Trickle Up Appoints Jaya Sarkar as Vice President of Programs

New York, June 28, 2011: Jaya Sarkar, who has more than two decades' experience in global poverty alleviation, has been named Vice President of Programs for Trickle Up.

Ms. Sarkar has over 15 years' on-the-ground experience in the Americas and India, two of Trickle Up's three areas of work (West Africa being the third). She joins Trickle Up after having served from 2008-2010 as Regional Director for the Americas for ChildFund, an international nonprofit dedicated to overcoming child poverty. She worked at Plan International, another highly respected global poverty organization, for over 20 years. Her management positions at Plan included Deputy Regional Director for the Americas, Country Director for Bolivia, and National Program Support Manager for India. Her extensive experience with women and children, tribal and indigenous groups align with Trickle Up's mission of reaching these marginalized groups. She also worked at Plan's US headquarters in fundraising positions. As Plan's Deputy Regional Director for the Americas, she developed and won a multi-country initiative in the area of youth and governance.

Ms. Sarkar has a Master's degree in International Development Administration from World Learning (SIT) and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College.

She succeeds Susannah Hopkins Leisher, who has served Trickle Up for five years as Vice President, Programs and Strategic Planning. Susannah plans to spend the next year living in the Maine woods with her family.

"We are delighted to have someone with Jaya's experience and commitment to our mission joining Trickle Up," said Bill Abrams, President of Trickle Up. "She will enable us to continue building on Susannah's tremendous legacy, which includes working with her excellent team in New York, India, Mali and Guatemala to establish field offices in each of Trickle Up's three regions, implement improved methods for poverty targeting, savings and training for participants, and build a strong monitoring & evaluation capability; leading the organization's strategic planning; and inspiring us all with her commitment to serving people who live in extreme poverty."

Founded in 1979, Trickle Up empowers people living in extreme poverty to take the first steps out of poverty, providing them with resources to build sustainable livelihoods for a better quality of life. In partnership with local agencies, we provide training and seed capital grants to launch or expand a microenterprise and savings support to build assets. Trickle Up works in West Africa (Mali, Burkina Faso), India, and Central America (Guatemala, Nicaragua).

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