



## Trickle Up and the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration partner to deliver high-quality, transformational livelihood support to thousands of refugees

The U.S. government, through the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, has awarded nearly US\$500,000 to Trickle Up to provide technical assistance to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This assistance will support 37,000 refugees worldwide to improve their livelihoods and overcome extreme poverty.

**NEW YORK, August 23, 2016** –Trickle Up, an international non-governmental organization (NGO), announced today a new cooperative agreement awarded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) that will increase the capacity of Trickle Up, UNHCR, and other NGO or government actors to improve livelihoods for refugees through the evidence-based Graduation Approach.

PRM's nearly \$500,000 award will expand Trickle Up's capacity to help UNHCR and other institutions provide improved livelihood services in 17 countries, building upon lessons learned in five existing projects. This initiative will positively impact the lives of an estimated 37,000 refugees. "We are honored to be selected by the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to help refugees around the world benefit from Trickle Up's time-tested poverty alleviation approach," says Bill Abrams, Trickle Up's President.

More than 65 million people are currently displaced by conflict and persecution – the largest number since World War II. The average length of displacement is now over 17 years, requiring institutions once focused on emergency response to broaden the scope of their services. UNHCR, with support from Trickle Up, has adapted the Graduation Approach to meet the long-term needs of refugees. The Graduation Approach has been rigorously tested and proven to empower vulnerable people to achieve self-sufficiency. UNHCR and Trickle Up are currently utilizing the model with refugees in five sites – Egypt, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, and Zambia – and plan to reach 17 more countries in the next three years.

The project will enable Trickle Up to expand its team of technical specialists to be deployed to countries seeking to use the Graduation Approach for refugee populations, train UNHCR staff, and create tools and resources to support the growth of Graduation among agencies serving refugees.

In addition, the grant helps to increase the capacity of UNHCR offices to design and implement the Graduation Approach to serve refugees in a wide variety of contexts. “This cooperative agreement is an exciting advance for the Trickle Up and UNHCR partnership. Together we’ll ensure many thousands more refugees can create brighter futures for their families through employment or launching enterprises,” says Janet Heisey, Director of Technical and Strategic Alliances. Through the program, refugees and host-country nationals living in extreme poverty will gain regular income, financial skills, and confidence, and build social connections with one another.

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**About Trickle Up**

Trickle Up has helped one million of the poorest, most vulnerable people achieve greater economic self-sufficiency and graduate out of extreme poverty. We work with local organizations, large institutions, and governments to provide seed capital, business training and financial education, integration into savings groups, and regular coaching to women and vulnerable populations to start or expand businesses. We measure and analyze impact guided by data that quantifies our results and shows that what we do works. Founded in 1979, Trickle Up works in India, Africa and Latin America. To learn more, visit [www.trickleup.org](http://www.trickleup.org).

**About The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration**

The mission of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration is to provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people around the world on behalf of the American people by providing life-sustaining assistance, working through multilateral systems to build global partnerships, promoting best practices in humanitarian response, and ensuring that humanitarian principles are thoroughly integrated into U.S. foreign and national security policy. To learn more about PRM, visit [www.state.gov/j/prm/](http://www.state.gov/j/prm/).