

Trickle Up's Approach to Graduation

Trickle Up uses an evidence-based approach, Graduation, to address the unique complexities of extreme poverty.

Since 1979, Trickle Up has focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, helping empower those who live in extreme poverty and face multiple levels of exclusion due to gender, ethnicity, religion, and disability. We have worked with over 250,000 households, helping to sustainably lift over one million people out of extreme poverty in India, Africa, and the Americas.

The sequenced and time-bound Graduation Approach combines careful participant selection, livelihood planning and market research, training and coaching, and savings to build a ladder of support for participants to move out of poverty. One of the first to test Graduation with CGAP/ Ford Foundation support, Trickle Up now uses and promotes the Graduation Approach globally, integrating participants into savings groups to promote both social and financial inclusion. Trickle Up incorporates learning objectives into all our programs in order to increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and scalability of anti-poverty programs.

Vulnerable Populations

Trickle Up has developed significant expertise in identifying and addressing the multiple levels of exclusion faced by vulnerable populations living in extreme poverty. These include:

Women

70% of the world's poorest people are women. Learn more at trickleup.org/women.

People with Disabilities

20% of people with disabilities live in extreme poverty. Learn more at trickleup.org/disability.

"Before, we did not have anything. Now I can stand on my own two feet."

Achiron Bibi, India

Indigenous Peoples

15% of people living in poverty are indigenous. Learn more at trickleup.org/indigenous-people.

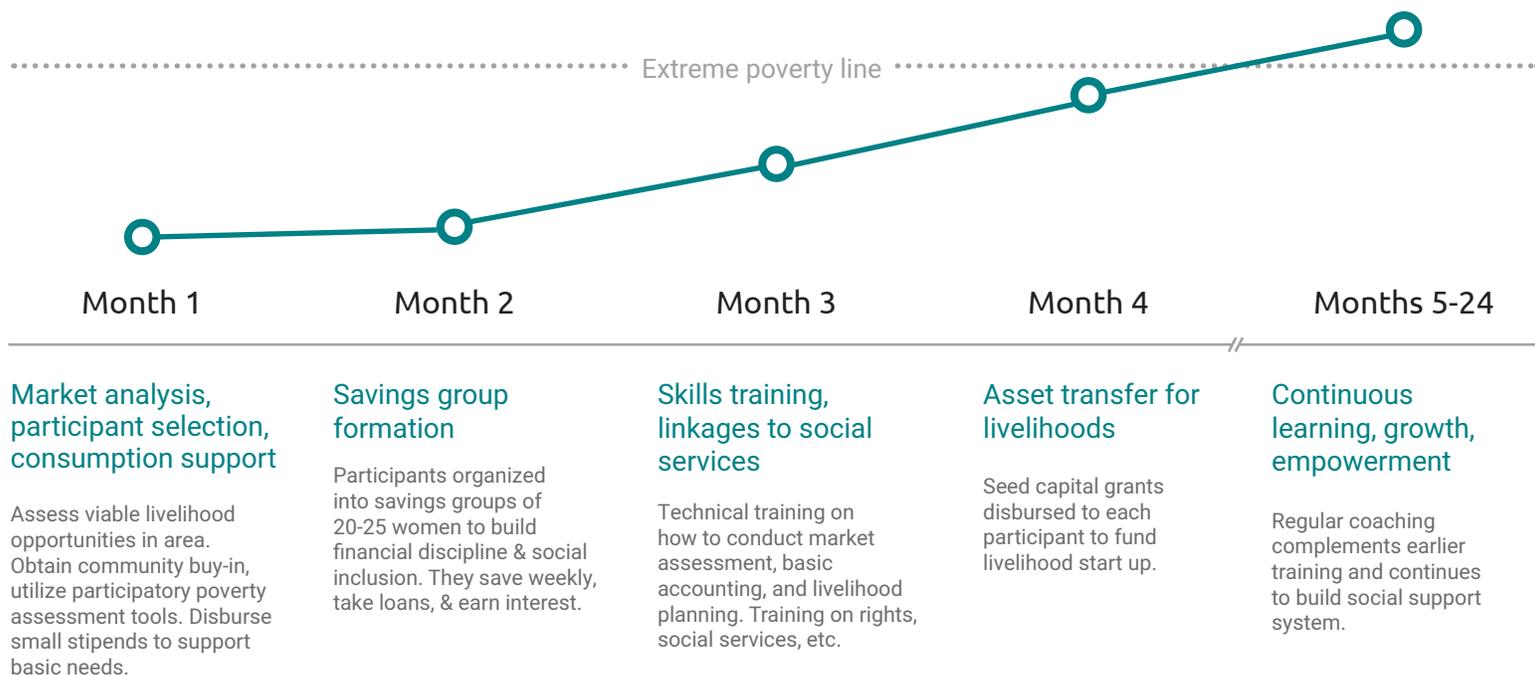
Refugees

86% of refugees live in developing countries. Learn more at trickleup.org/refugees.



Trickle Up's Graduation Approach

Trickle Up's core competencies are rooted in the Graduation Approach - a rigorously tested approach to economic inclusion that helps households sustainably move out of extreme poverty. Program components work together to increase the economic and social empowerment of participants:



Research Supports Graduation

Recently published studies show Graduation has significant, long-term positive impacts on people living in extreme poverty, including improving incomes, food security, mental health, and women's empowerment.

Randomized controlled trials conducted by Innovations for Poverty Action in 6 countries between 2006-2014 demonstrated that Graduation increased households' incomes, consumption, food security, assets, savings, physical health, mental health, political involvement, and women's empowerment – even three years later. Further research has supported these findings:

Evidence from BRAC in Bangladesh and Bandhan in India showed sustained, increased improvements in participants' lives seven years later.

- Bandhan participants' average monthly revenue from livestock was **307% higher** after 3 years, and **286% higher** after 7 years, than the control groups' revenue.

Research in Ghana showed Graduation is more effective than just asset transfers or savings in isolation.

- Graduation participants had an average of **\$5.16** in savings, while asset transfer recipients had just **\$0.16** in savings and participants in the savings program had **\$2.42** saved on average.

A three-year evaluation of Trickle Up's program in India showed similar results:

- Participant households had incomes **25%** higher than the comparison group at the end of the project, with a **\$527** increase in income.
- The number of participant households that engaged in group advocacy increased to **92%** from **1%**.