

Refugee Affairs

In 2017, the number of refugees worldwide reached a record high of 22.5 million people while the amount of humanitarian funding and aid available paled in comparison to the need. We must do more to promote self-reliance among refugees in emergent and protracted situations. Trickle Up works with partners to help refugees become more independent and resilient.



Vulnerabilities

Because vulnerabilities and poverty are inextricably linked, understanding the specific challenges faced by refugees is key. While the majority of refugees are women and children, most lack access to economic opportunities and face discrimination, upon arrival in a new country.

LABOR

No legal right to work, own land, or obtain working papers

FINANCIAL

Limited financial inclusion and the depletion (or lack) of personal financial resources

PROTECTION

No right to legal status and lack of documentation leads to fear of local authorities and deportation, problems with integration, and uncertainty about the future

PERSONAL

Negative attitudes and discrimination towards refugees in host countries, are compounded by struggles with prior trauma and persecution in home countries



Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Ecuador

Ecuador: From Pilot to National Scale-Up

In 2015, Trickle Up worked with UNHCR Ecuador and HIAS to implement the first Graduation project in an urban context. The goal was to promote self-reliance among refugees without compromising traditional protection services. Due to the program's success, UNHCR Ecuador and HIAS are working with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion to incorporate the Graduation approach into the government's social program, and to expand access to refugee households.

72%

Graduation success rate in the pilot

\$86.09

Average household income per capita at pilot endline, an increase from \$66.31 at the start

61%

Participant households with access to formal savings account, compared to 1% at the beginning

180

Urban refugee households, targeted at pilot, mostly hailing from neighboring Colombia

3,264

Households targeted in national scale-up

Building Refugees' Self-Reliance

Refugee participants in Graduation programs are supported through a set of sequenced and time-bound interventions to help them meet essential needs, engage in savings activities, build social cohesion, begin livelihoods projects, and live with dignity. For refugees to sustainably graduate out of extreme poverty, Trickle Up works with local implementing partners to address each vulnerability through the following interventions:

LABOR

Work with graduation participants to develop and implement **livelihoods activities** through self and wage employment mechanisms

Offer **technical skills training** for refugees to meet the demands in the local market

Provide a **livelihoods asset transfer** or **employment support**

FINANCIAL

Promote **savings** as a tool for risk management to build resilience to shocks and create opportunities for investment

Provide **household financial education**

PROTECTION

Build **core capacities** on legal rights, integration, and cultural norms, so refugees can better claim their rights

Channel **consumption support** appropriately, so that basic needs are met and refugees can focus on livelihoods activities that are more beneficial in the long-run

PERSONAL

Conduct intensive weekly or biweekly **coaching** sessions

Encourage refugees to **engage** with other participants, refugees, and locals to reinforce social capital and overcome the sense of isolation



Uganda: Growing Social Cohesion

Trickle Up's work with the AVSI Foundation in Uganda started in 2017 and seeks to graduate 13,200 extremely poor refugee and Ugandan households from fragile livelihoods and food insecurity to self-reliance and resiliency. With its unique targeting structure, the project has the opportunity to promote local social cohesion in the Kamwenge region.

50%
local Ugandan
households

50%
refugee
households