

trickle^{UP}

BUILDING RESILIENCE

HOW TRICKLE UP IS RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



CLIMATE CHANGE & EXTREME POVERTY

Climate change is a threat multiplier for the poor, amplifying existing vulnerabilities such as poverty, hunger, and poor health. Nearly half the world's population are estimated to be highly vulnerable to climate change but do not have the means and conditions to adapt. The poorest parts of the world, and the poorest people within them, are the most severely affected. As climate change threatens to undo more than 50 years of global poverty reduction, Trickle Up is expanding its programs and partnerships to respond by helping vulnerable households and communities build resilience—by identifying risks, adapting livelihoods, planning for emergencies, and working together. Here is how our approach relates to climate change.

DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS



Diversification is a core principle of Trickle Up's livelihoods approach. It reduces the impact of shocks to household livelihoods by spreading risk across a number of income-generating activities.

SAVINGS



Savings and access to fair credit help enable households to weather difficulties without resorting to irreversible coping strategies, such as selling productive assets. Trickle Up works with thousands of savings groups.

MARKET & RISK ASSESSMENTS



Trickle Up participants understand the opportunities and risks of livelihood activities and support decision-making that incorporates market needs and climate-related risks.

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE



We provide training on agricultural innovations, such as water-efficient vertical gardens, linkages to programs for water harvesting, and cultivation techniques, such as inter-cropping, that conserve water and soil, reduce risks, and enhance yields.

KITCHEN GARDENS



Kitchen gardens promote better nutrition while also supporting self-reliance, particularly in times of crisis. In Guatemala, households with kitchen gardens were less impacted by Covid-19 and hurricanes.

LEADERSHIP



Poor women often bear the brunt of climate change. Trickle Up supports their leadership and confidence to raise their voices and negotiate for what they need in their homes and communities.

ENTITLEMENTS



Knowledge of and access to entitlements provides households with safety nets and access to disaster response programs.

SOCIAL CAPITAL



Social capital and connectedness, through savings groups, encourage people to help each other in times of need, plan together, and advocate for their rights.

ADAPTATION & MITIGATION

Trickle Up's integrated approach to supporting people in extreme poverty allows us to promote adaptation and resilience from multiple angles. In addition to incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into our programs, as an organization we will use communications and advocacy, as well as reducing our own carbon footprint, to achieve our climate change goals. Here are specific steps we are taking.

LIVELIHOOD PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- Identify actual and predicated climate impacts when articulating hypotheses in theories of change and setting program design.
- Develop indicators for resilience that reflect climate-based trends and risks in each region. This may include revisiting how we formulate migration-related targets to take into account medium and long-term adaptive strategies.
- Establish livelihood planning and approval processes that explicitly include assessments of environmental and climate change risks. Where appropriate, this includes investment readiness assessments prior to asset transfers.
- Identify risks that are likely to be common across activity types when supporting the diversification of income sources.
- Ensure livelihood training promotes practices that support adaptation to climate change, including use of digital tools, particularly regarding agricultural and animal husbandry practices.
- Integrate steps to enable access to climate-adapted inputs (e.g., improved seeds where they are not readily available).
- Ensure market assessments, livelihood planning and training take into account and mitigate against further stressing environmental resources and competition, and monitor such impacts throughout the project cycle. Where feasible, promote livelihood practices that have positive environmental impacts (such as reforestation).
- Provide information about how to access reliable weather forecasts, crop, and livestock insurance, where available, particularly through digital means.

TARGETING

- Account for climatic changes in poverty and vulnerability mapping and participant selection processes by assessing how climate change is affecting vulnerability and identifying individual and household traits that make them susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- Explore options to establish a contingency fund to enable replacement of core assets lost due to crises, such as extreme weather within the project cycle and before households have had the time to develop sufficiently strong coping mechanisms —and integrate funding for contingencies into project budgets.
- Identify non-project forms of assistance that could be used to replace assets as part of project design and implementation, including linkages to government and NGO relief programs.





DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & PREPAREDNESS

- Support savings groups to identify risks, engage in community planning processes and responses, and to support both collective actions within savings groups to enhance their members' preparedness and resilience.
- Build relationships with governance structures at local and regional levels for climate change risk mitigation.
- Work with government partners to integrate participants into their databases wherever possible and appropriate.

OPERATIONS

- Give preference to ground transportation over air travel. Include carbon offsets for flights in grant proposals when possible.
- Upgrade communications infrastructure in regional offices so as to reduce reliance on travel for collaboration.
- Give preference to recycled materials, renewable energy sources, and high fuel efficiency for organizational offices and vehicles.

COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY

- Highlight voices of Trickle Up participants and local partners—those most affected by climate change.
- Make explicit the importance of adaptation as part of efforts to fight extreme poverty while not downplaying the enormous risks and consequences that climate change poses even when adaptation measures are put into place.
- Sign on to statements by international development organizations and networks about the need to urgently address climate change. Trickle Up is a founding signatory to the [InterAction NGO Climate Compact](#).

OUR COMMITMENT

In their lives and livelihoods, the families who work with Trickle Up confront the climate crisis every day. For more than four decades, we have helped people around the world escape extreme poverty and gain the resources, skills, and confidence that can help them overcome shocks and stresses—including, more recently, those related to climate change. We now pledge to do even more, so that Trickle Up participants and our partners are prepared to confront the increasing challenges of the climate crisis.

Go further with us in the fight against extreme poverty and protecting our planet. For more information about how Trickle Up is responding to climate change, please contact us at partner@trickleup.org

