



The Global Uplift Project

Media Backgrounder

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What if we could change the world, literally? Not metaphorically. Not rhetorically. Literally. Would we? Well, we can. Now, *will* we?

The Global Uplift Project (TGUP) gives people the chance to change the world, literally. It allows any number of people to come together to build specific, tangible projects in the developing countries. The effect is electrifying, and transformative.

Projects include classrooms, medical clinics, water wells, latrines, libraries, irrigation systems, computer labs, science labs, and other small-scale projects that improve life chances for millions of the poorest people in the world.

The Global Uplift Project has built [almost 300 such projects](#) in 24 developing world countries, in Central America, Africa, and Asia. These projects improve local communities' capacity for self-development. That factor—improving the capacity for self-development—is the key to sustainable growth, and systemic change.

TGUP works with individuals, schools, companies, workgroups, churches, service groups, even entire towns; any group that wants to build a specific, tangible project that delivers dramatic, demonstrable impact in a developing world country.

TGUP was started in 2007 as **One Dollar For Life (ODFL)**. ODFL was founded by a high school teacher in California. His students felt overwhelmed by the world. He wanted to show them the power *they* had to bring about a better world.

The premise was that if each person would donate only one dollar, the effect would be enormous. That year, 2007, the students and those from four other schools, all donated one dollar. They built a new stone [classroom in Naro Moru, Kenya](#).

Since, then, the offer has expanded to include adults and anyone who is serious about changing the world. To accommodate this expanded offer, ODFL changed its name in 2020 to **The Global Uplift Project (TGUP)**.

The mission is the same, only larger: to Uplift the world through millions of people making small donations and building thousands of low-cost, small-scale, high-impact infrastructure projects in the developing world. *It's working*. For example:

- [Fourteen Birthing Centers in Nepal](#) are reducing the number of mothers dying in childbirth by more than 90%, and babies by 95%.
- By providing [cows to an orphanage in Kenya](#), TGUP is helping feed the orphans daily protein for \$2 per child per year.
- A new [water well in Malawi](#) enables a doubling of the calories available to the village residents. The cost? \$.25 (25 cents) per person per year.
- [Twenty-one classrooms](#) in Nicaragua have dramatically improved the educational opportunities for thousands of Nicaraguan school children.
- TGUP's [Save a Girl](#) program provides washable, reusable sanitary supplies to teenage girls in nine countries in Africa and Asia. These kits cost \$6 to make, but are given free of charge to the girls. They last for three years. At \$2 per girl per year, this is one of the highest returns on human development in the world.

TGUP works with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Nicaragua, Mexico, Morocco, Cambodia, Tanzania, and Haiti to carry out its projects.

TGUP's NGO partners meet strict standards. They must be nonprofit and have at least a five-year track record in the field in which they are working. They must not discriminate in hiring. Every dollar spent must be accounted for.

TGUP is a 501c3 nonprofit. It has raised funds from private foundations to cover its "back-office expenses" including literature, website and travel. As a result, **100% of every dollar donated by an individual goes to the project they have designated.**

The hardest thing about changing the world is believing it's even possible. It is possible. TGUP is both the proof and a proven means for making it happen.

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