



December 2023

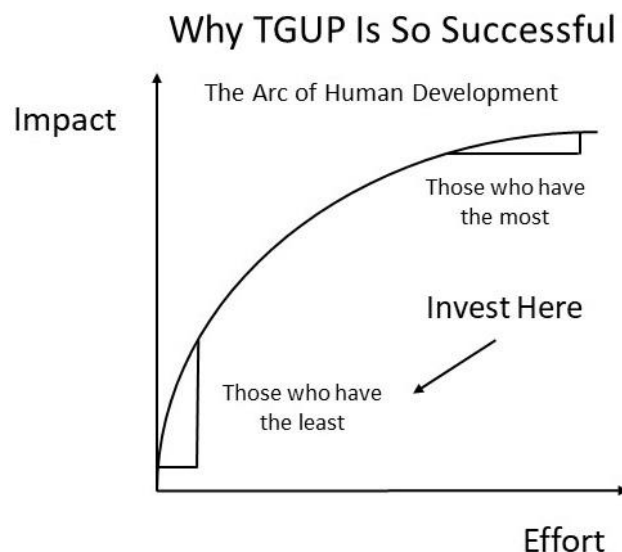
The Practice and Thought Behind TGUP's Success

This was TGUP's [best year, ever](#), by far. We thank our generous donors and amazing partners in the developing world. We thought we'd share with you some behind-the-scenes practices and thinking about why this works.

Most international development spending is misplaced. The big "glam" projects like hydroelectric dams and highways are really meant to serve the needs of multinational corporations, to make their plantations and mines and engineered forests more profitable. Very little trickles down to average people in need.

TGUP works at the other end of the spectrum. Yes, we build a lot of classrooms, but we also build simple, low-cost, but high-impact projects that directly help individual human beings boost their own chances in life. We think of it like in this chart:

Here's a quick tour through some typical TGUP projects in 10 developing world countries.



Nepal

We built a water storage and filtration system at Shree Amar Jyoti School in Nepal. It provides clean water for the school's 409 students. It cost \$1,560. Over its 15-year



expected life, that means clean water costs \$.25 (25 cents) per student per *year*.

Brazil

This is the "Before and After" of a playground we built in a "favelina" (slum) in Brazil. It cost \$1,800 and will provide thousands of local children clean play for years.



Cameroon

In Cameroon, we've provided [school supplies](#), including backpacks, pencils, pens, and notebooks for 300-odd children at the ROSA Primary School in Buea. They're the first such supplies the children have ever had. How can you learn without pencils and paper?



Kenya

In much of east Africa, the people live in small mud huts. They cook and derive warmth from open fires which are both inefficient and emit *prodigious* amounts of smoke. \$10 provides two energy efficient [clay stoves](#) that reduce wood consumption by 80% and smoke by more than 90%. Here are "Before

and After" photos.



Ivory Coast

The Karat village near Abidjan, Ivory Coast had 5,000 people but no running water. The ladies made themselves into two-legged mules, carrying water $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, each way, all day. We bought $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile of 6" plastic pipe and a pump and dug a trench from the highway to the village. Presto! Water on tap. The cost? \$3,500. Over the life of the system, that comes out to \$.07 (seven cents) per person per *year* to get water on tap and liberate tens of thousands of women hours.



Uganda

More than a billion children without shoes suffer from soil-transmitted diseases each year. In the village of Nsawo, Uganda we provided 100 pairs of "[shoes that grow](#)". The shoes can be expanded through five sizes, keeping children shod for years. Each pair costs \$25.



South Africa

Children need to play. That might be the first imperative of education. In South Africa, we installed a play structure at the 20+ pre-schools we've rehabilitated. The cost? \$600 each. Is that worth it? Look at the children's faces.



Guatemala

At Nueva San Jose School in Guatemala, they had classrooms but no desks. We bought desks for the 120 students. They cost \$1,650 and will last 15 years, or \$.90 (ninety cents) per desk per year. Is it worth \$.90 to put a student in a desk for a year? Could you have learned in school without a desk?



Tanzania

Maasai women in Tanzania usually give birth in their homes in unsanitary conditions. We give [Safe Birthing Kits](#), free of charge, to soon-to-deliver women. The \$20 kits include a plastic drape over which the birth takes place, razor and clamps for cutting the cord, antibiotics for cord stem and eyes, wash basin & soap, blankets, gloves & gowns for midwives and washcloths. Is a safe birth worth \$20?



Zambia

Latrines are not glamorous, but after water and food are the most essential requirement for public health. The latrines at the Mbuluyengi Primary School in Zambia were exhausted. The school faced shutdown. TGUP funded a new set at a cost of \$5,000. Over their lives, they will allow 3,450 students to stay in school, or \$1.45 per student per year. Is it worth \$1.45 for a student to be in school for a year?



Reflection

This is what we mean by “simple, low-cost, high-impact projects.” We've completed 370 of them. See them [here](#). Every one of them improves life chances for the people receiving them. Some don't cost as much as a McDonalds meal in the U.S. Their power lies in their cumulative effect. Consider...

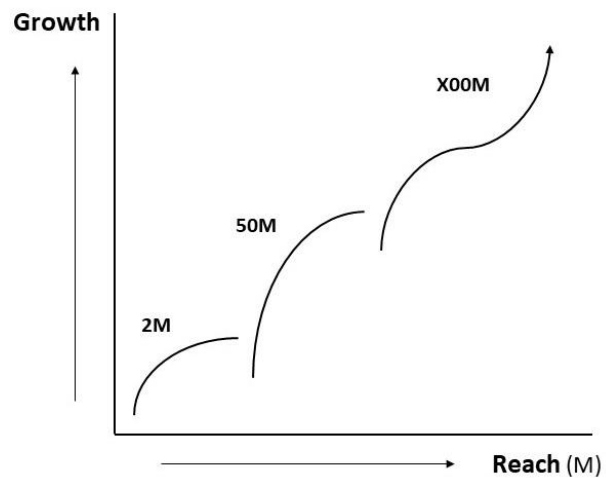
When one person is helped, they can do more for themselves, which they almost always do. More importantly, they help others around them, who, in turn, help still others. Soon, the effect becomes auto-catalytic (self-sustaining) and the community or society is able to begin lifting itself out of poverty.

We see this on a small scale almost

everywhere we work: communities continuing to better themselves after we have left. Once catalyzed, the impulse for self-development is unstoppable. We model this effect as you can see in the accompanying chart.

This is the essential thought behind all of what we do. It works, because though the Projects focus on the personal level, their effect bubbles up to the societal, and eventually, the human level. This is TGUP's vision for how we Uplift the human race.

Reaching Auto-Catalytic Development



If you would like to help, many of the Projects portrayed above can be given as gifts, tax deductible, and with acknowledgement to the donors. [Click here](#) to see the **TGUP 2023 Holiday Gift Catalog**.

Thank you for your part in making this possible. We really CAN change the world. We are. You can, too. Join us. It's working.

TGUP

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