TGUP'S IDEA FOR HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

Since 2007, TGUP has improved the world one project at a time. Now, after almost 800 projects, we believe we know how to *change* the world, not marginally, not aspirationally, but substantially, and to enduring effect.

This paper describes the **predictable outcomes** of TGUP's current projects and their trajectories. It is what happens—for certain—if we simply continue executing as we are on the programs we have created.

Four elements contribute to our "realizable vision," or Idea: Motives. Methods. Models. Metrics. They reliably, demonstrably, get us from noble intentions to transformed outcomes.

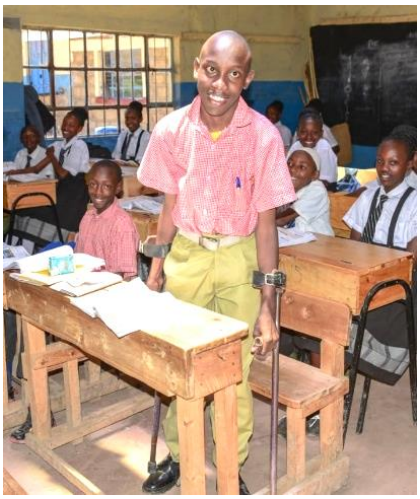
Everything has to do with our mission: "Helping the World's Children Learn." Look closely at the photos as you read through. They are all real people from actual TGUP projects. They exemplify what we're doing, as nothing else could. Imagine yourself as the person in any of them, like the girls at the left, at the first desk they've ever had, using the first notebook they've ever had, or the girl above, on the first swing set she's ever played on.

MOTIVES

Our motives are the same as those of every person reading this paper. We want a better world. Not in the abstract but in some very specific ways, actionable ways.

We want **less suffering**, like having to endure bad water, not enough food, no shoes, no latrines. No one should suffer for want of basic human needs, especially when it's absurdly inexpensive to provide them (details below).

The flip side of less suffering is **improved opportunity**. Like when someone can get an education that none of their ancestors have ever had. That requires classrooms, desks, notebooks, science labs, latrines, and more.



We want **greater chances for our donors to grow themselves**. We're not smaller when we help others. We're taller! And, when anybody is made better off, we're all better off. It's like a boat in the water. When any part rises up, it all rises up! That's humanity. Imagine if we could embed that realization into our culture! That's what our donors demonstrate, and what we're doing, here.

METHODS

We have a very specific set of methods governing what we do. Our core programs embody these four traits:

Very low incremental cost. All of our programs deliver benefits to their recipients for pennies per person. It's startling when you see it.

Very high direct impact. What's the value of clean water? The first pair of shoes a child has ever had? The first desk? Learning science? It's incalculable.

Economies of scale in execution. Our programs get less and less expensive as they get larger. With high direct impact (just above) that means their effect grows more and more powerful.

Linear path to global expansion. Trees only grow so high. Not so, human improvement. The limits of TGUP's programs are the outer edge of human potential, with no barriers between here and there. By the time we get to "there," humanity will be transformed. That is the goal.

MODELS

In addition to providing general educational infrastructure in dozens of developing world countries, TGUP operates three core programs. These form the heart of our Idea.

Save a Girl™ (SaG) provides washable, reusable sanitary supplies for adolescent girls to help them manage their periods so they can stay in school. In January 2026, we distributed our 1,000,000th pad, to a girl at a middle school in Kenya.

One SaG kit costs $8 to make and is given free of charge to the girls. A kit lasts four - five years. So, we're helping keep girls in school for $2 per girl, per year. It might be the highest return on human investment in the world. This is what we mean by "low cost" and "high impact."

Science Lab in a Box™ (SLaB) provides the equipment, instruments, and curriculum to allow developing world high school students to do world-class laboratory work in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. All that is required are secure lab facilities and university-trained instructors.

A single SLaB costs $3,000 and can serve as many as 5,000 students. We are installing SLaBs in Uganda to help 200,000 high school students learn the rigors and wonders of real science. It comes out to $.75 (seventy-five cents) per student. Low cost. High impact.

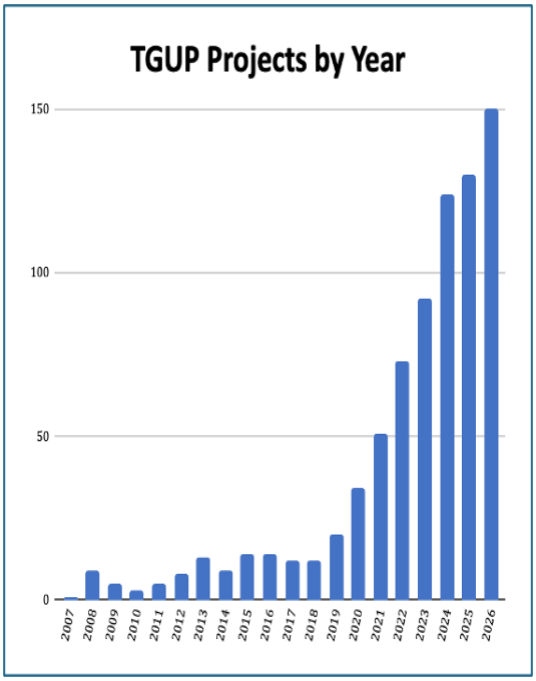
Clean Water for Africa™ (CWA) delivers World Health Organization-quality purified water to students at schools in Africa for $.44 (forty-four cents) per student, per year. It is 1/10th the cost of leading clean water solutions.

The system uses the pressure in the water system to convert salt into chlorine, the world's most common disinfectant. No electricity needed. CWA removes 99% of viruses, 99.9% of bacteria, and 100% of coliform-based organic contaminants. Low cost. High impact.

METRICS

All of this is delivered through local nonprofit partners in developing countries. Here are some indicative metrics of success, large and small, across multiple dimensions of our work:

- Almost 800 projects completed in 26 of the world's poorest countries.
- More than 5.3 million people helped, giving them a slightly better chance in life.
- Average cost per person helped since 2007: $.84 (eighty-four ***cents***).
- 2,600 new people—mostly children—are being helped *every day*.
- Days of school missed by girls in Kenya using ***Save a Girl*** ™: down 93%.
- National test scores for SLaB users in Uganda, up 80+% after six months of use.



TGUP receives grants from foundations that cover all of our operating costs: literature; website; travel; software subscriptions; etc. So, **100% of every dollar donated** by anybody else goes to the donor's intended project. The foundations are covering the overhead.

IS THIS WORKING?

This is SO working. We can't return to our beginnings, to a mythical "golden age." But we can begin anew, from where we are today, and create a new ending, one with less suffering, greater opportunity, more nobility, and expanding human potential. Isn't that what we all want for the world? Isn't that what we all want for our own lives? It is! Join us. We need you. The world needs you. And this is working.