



Together, we can end extreme poverty

“The world has an astonishing chance to take a billion people out of poverty by 2030,”

proclaimed *The Economist* in 2013. Trickle Up is committed to this ambitious goal. That’s why we’ve strived to make breakthroughs in the last year to put us on a path to lifting a million people out of extreme poverty in the next five years.

But, no organization or government will be able to help lift a billion people out of extreme poverty on their own. Trickle Up has partnered with the Indian govermemnt and global institutions like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to expand our ability to reach the world’s poorest people. Supported by the MetLife Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the World Bank’s Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, Trickle Up has entered a new era of impact – something we would

not have been able to do without the support of thousands of donors, allies and advocates.

Since 1979, we’ve helped over one million of the poorest, most vulnerable people move to greater economic self-sufficiency and connection to their communities. Our founders Glen and Mildred Robbins Leet asked, “How can we help the poorest of the poor start small businesses and escape extreme poverty?” Trickle Up was their answer.

We’re pioneers in delivering the sustainable development approach known as “graduation,” recently evaluated by top independent researchers. The research, published in *Science* magazine and reported in *The New York Times*, demonstrates our approach successfully lifts households out of extreme poverty with sustained results.

Our program helps women and other vulnerable populations gain the skills and capital they need to build sustainable livelihoods and join savings groups that give them a safe place to save money and access credit.

They gain hope, confidence and become decision-makers in their households and communities. Trickle Up’s support helps people connect with others in their villages, build self-confidence and find their voice. We help build social capital because extreme poverty is more than just a lack of money – poverty is exclusion.

To learn more about extreme poverty visit trickleup.org/extreme-poverty



Going the last mile for people with disabilities

In Chontales, Nicaragua, high mountain peaks command the horizon at upwards of 2,800 feet, cutting through the western countryside, and dividing the Central American nation into two unequal parts. Small, rural communities dot the landscape in the surrounding valleys below. It’s here, among some of the very poorest villages in Nicaragua, where Trickle Up and our partners are piloting a bold, new project aimed at aiding one of the region’s most vulnerable populations.

People with disabilities are often over-represented among the extreme

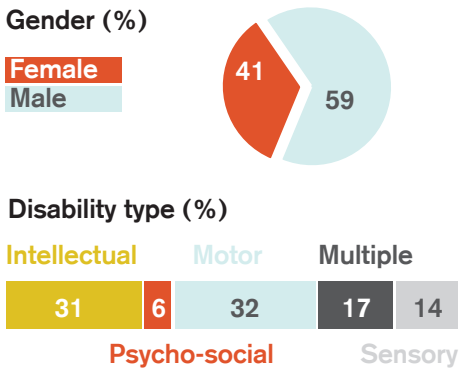
poor, with 20% living in extreme poverty worldwide. To confront the obstacles that divide them from their communities and local economies, we’ve partnered with Nicaragua’s *Todos con Voz* (A Voice for All) program, international disability experts CBM, and a local organization, ASOPIECAD, to engage community leaders in actively including people with disabilities.

150 people living in conditions of extreme poverty are now building dignified livelihoods, saving and accessing credit in groups, and emerging as active members of their communities for the first time in their lives. They’re finding their voice in a conversation that once excluded them.

The effects of the project may be far-reaching. Finding a successful method for engaging local communities and people with disabilities together to fight stigma and poverty results in

Project fast facts

150 participants 92% have a caretaker



a better quality of life and stronger communities. It also paves the way for other community-focused programs combating extreme poverty faced by people living with disabilities beyond the peaks of the Chontales mountains.

To learn more about our projects visit trickleup.org

Impact Data

What difference does Trickle Up make?

See more data demonstrating our impact at trickleup.org/impact

Protecting children in West Africa

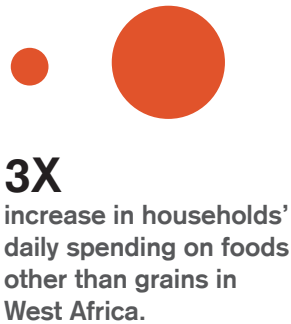
In Burkina Faso, a 2012 study found that 1.25 million children ages 5-14 are working because their families are too poor to support them. Children are often sent to work in hazardous conditions far away. Girls, in particular, are at great risk. They may be forced into early marriages so their families can obtain their “bride price” or sent away to work

as domestic help, where they face the threat of sexual exploitation.

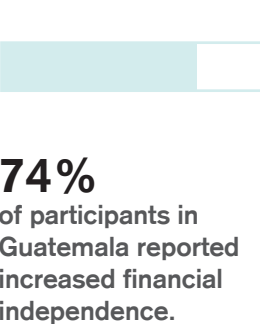
What effect can our economic strengthening program have in stemming forced labor, sexual abuse, and violence against children in Burkina Faso? Working with UNICEF, the University of Chicago, Child Fund

International, and the Women’s Refugee Commission we’re conducting a trial to determine how our program impacts child safety, and how to better educate parents on keeping their children in school and at home. The results, which will be published next year, will influence the work of other practitioners in the field focused on child protection.

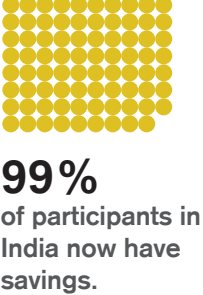
Combating hunger



Social empowerment



Savings



Research Note



Forging a path to dignity with refugees

The average length of time that a person stays a refugee is 20 years, often going well beyond the immediate conflict or disaster that put them on that path, and making them particularly vulnerable to economic and social exclusion. Without assistance, they can face sustained discrimination and marginalization. Refugees are at risk of violence, chronic hunger, and other issues faced by people living in exreme poverty.

That’s why Trickle Up is working with the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR) to deliver practical livelihoods programs to refugee populations. UNHCR’s program already provides many of the stabilizing services we know are critical for the extremely vulnerable – health care, education, and legal support.

But now, at pilot locations in Egypt and Ecuador, when refugees cross borders into safety, new considerations such as work experience, language, livelihood skills, and assets have become a key part of the intake process. By assessing skills and experience, UNHCR can begin business coaching or job placement at the outset, instead of placing refugees on long-term assistance.

UNHCR field workers are already recognizing the changes our partnership has been making as they reach communities and find refugees

who have never come into an aid office for services. Together, UNHCR and Trickle Up are reaching more people more effectively – a major development in our global effort to end extreme poverty.


To learn more about our projects visit trickleup.org



Lifting the next million out of extreme poverty

commitment to reaching its poorest citizens led to the execution of this agreement within just seven months. If other governments can proceed as nimble, Trickle Up’s approach may provide something that has long eluded economic development: a powerful, proven intervention that can work for the most severely poor—and on a massive scale.

To learn more about our projects visit trickleup.org

 **Magdalena**
Tambiz Cuc de Xolcaja
Guatemala, Central America



Weaving a dream of independence

When we met Magdalena Tambiz Cuc de Xolcaja, she was sitting on the dirt floor of her home with a loom strapped around her waist. On her loom, a tableau of brilliant blue embroidery was beginning to emerge in the shape of a lion. Even in a country renowned for the skills of its weavers, Magdalena's craftsmanship stands out.

Magdalena lives in extreme poverty, on far less than \$1.25-per-day. For most of her 30 years, she's been dependent on her family because she has a disability. She was mostly kept indoors by her parents, who wanted to protect her from the stigma that comes with disability in her culture. Given these odds,

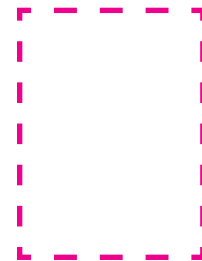
Magdalena could have given up and stayed inside for the rest of her life. But, Magdalena was not only determined, she had a plan.

When she joined Trickle Up, she was challenged by our staff to brainstorm ideas to start a business. Her mother had taught her weaving, so she chose to weave skirts and traditional clothing, as well as table runners that would appeal to tourists in the town of Panajachel. Magdalena explained to us how her Trickle Up grant gave her the capital she needed to buy her own yarn and embroidery thread, which meant that she'd earn far more profit for her labor. Supplies cost her about about \$9, and she could sell her finished product for

about \$30, providing her an income of around \$2 a day.

With her weaving business providing a steadier source of income, she now has her eyes set on building another business vending food at a local soccer field. For a woman living in extreme poverty, and who was excluded most of her life, this turnaround speaks to Magdalena's singular drive to better her circumstances, her clear focus on the goals she has set herself, and her overarching dream of independence.

Read more stories like Magdalena's at trickleup.org/impact



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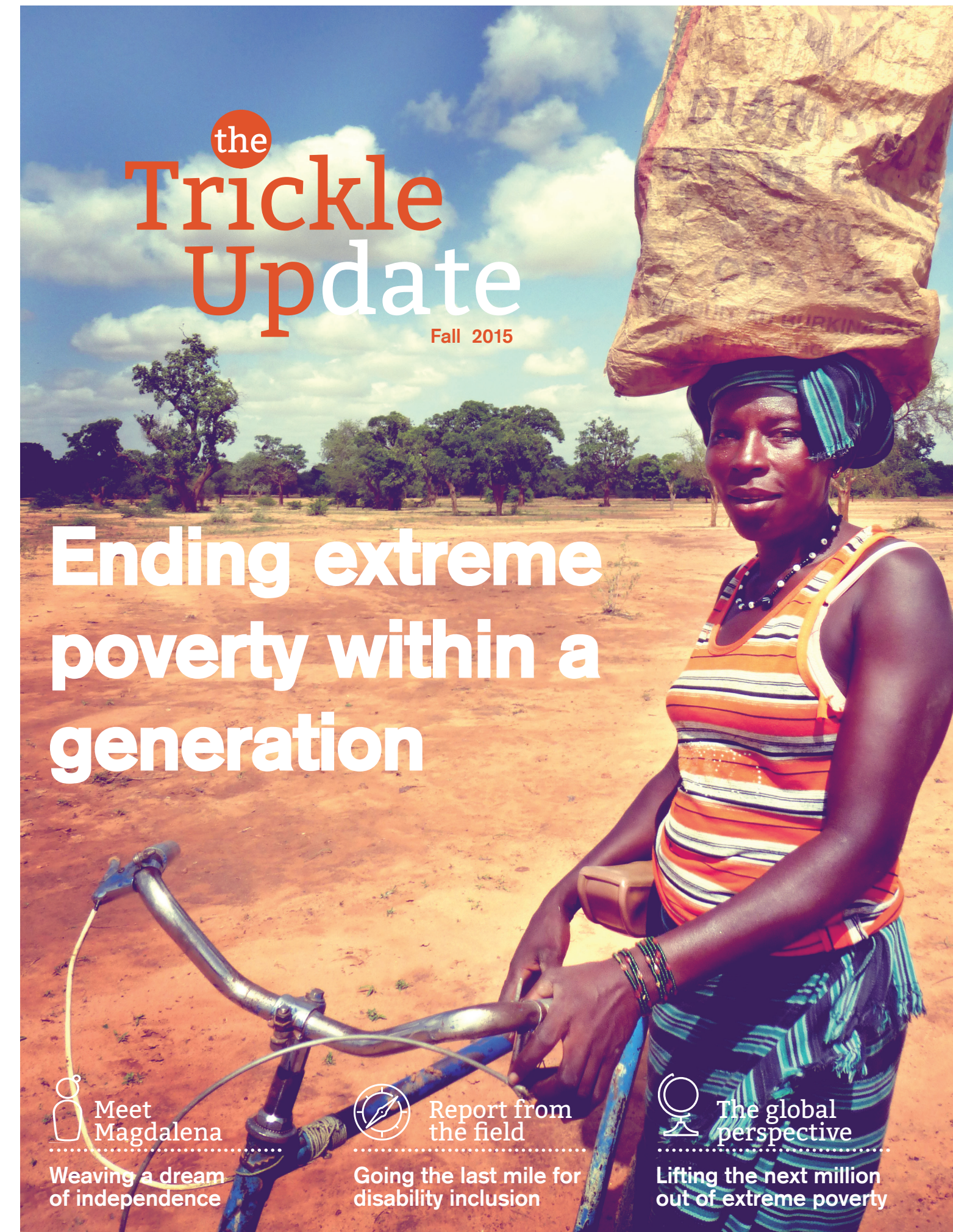
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trickle
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“We have been brave. We have learned skills. We are more confident. And from this day on, we hope to achieve even more.”


Mahasiran Bibi, India




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Fall 2015

Ending extreme poverty within a generation

 **Meet Magdalena**
Weaving a dream of independence

 **Report from the field**
Going the last mile for disability inclusion

 **The global perspective**
Lifting the next million out of extreme poverty