



Measuring the Impact of *Effective* Altruism

Effective Altruism gets results. Measurable results. But it doesn't happen automatically. It is the product of standards, policies, and choices.

To create *Effective* Altruism, ODFL measures the impact of every project. However, the impact of a classroom will be measured differently than the impact of a medical clinic, or a water well. Some impacts can be expressed in dollar terms, others cannot. Projects whose impacts are measured in human lives, cannot.

The point is not to have the same measure for every project. It is to have an *appropriate*, and *accurate*, measure. Below, are 7 mini-case studies showing exemplary impacts from 7 different kinds of ODFL projects in 7 different countries. ODFL has completed 120 such projects in 15 countries in the developing world.



Project: Cows in Kenya



Situation: An orphanage in Nanyuki, Kenya had 120 children but no protein for them. Instead, it fed them corn, cabbage, and potatoes.

Solution: A California middle school, Jordan School in Palo Alto, raised money to buy two milk cows. We had one cow artificially inseminated. The now-three cows will give milk for eight years, enough to serve a daily glass of milk to each of the orphans. The cows cost \$1,300. $(120 \text{ children} * 8 \text{ years}) = 960 \text{ child years}$. $(\$1,300 / 960) = \$1.35 \text{ cost per child-year}$.

Impact: We are providing 120 Kenyan orphans protein every day for **\$1.35 per child per year**.

Project: Birthing Centers in Nepal



Situation: Nepal has one of the highest rates of maternal neo-natal mortality (women dying in childbirth) in the world.

Solution: ODFL builds birthing centers in remote areas, close to deliveries, with trained midwives, modern technology, and sanitary equipment. The centers provide pre-natal, birthing, and post-natal care.

Impact: According to the Nepal Ministry of Health, the centers are reducing the number of mothers dying in childbirth by **more than 90%**, and the number of babies dying by **more than 95%**.



Project: Classrooms in Nicaragua



Situation: The *15 de Septiembre* school in Matagalpa had 450 students, but only 3 classrooms. And they were small and decrepit.

Solution: Over two years, ODFL helped build three more classrooms, while refurbishing the entire school. High school students from Oregon and California helped fund the project. The project cost \$28,000. The classrooms will last 30+ years. So, $((\$28,000)/(450 \times 30)) = \20.74 .

Impact: We are providing quality classrooms for 450 students over 30 years for **\$20.74 per student per year**.

Project: Medical Clinic in Myanmar



Situation: In Mandalay, Myanmar, a Buddhist temple was providing food, clothing, shelter, and education for 230 street orphans. But there was no medical care. Most of the children had never seen a doctor.

Solution: ODFL funded a basic medical clinic. The local community is funding an RN to staff it. The clinic cost \$5,000 and will last for more than 20 years. So, $((\$5,000)/(230 * 20)) = \1.09

Impact: First-ever medical care for 230 orphans for **\$1.09 per child per year.**



Project: Water Well in Malawi



Situation: The village of Manyesa in Malawi has 5,000 people. They only grew one crop, when the rains came. If rain didn't come, people starved.

Solution: ODFL helped drill a water well. It produces 100 gallons per minute, enough for the village to grow a second crop. It cost \$12,500 and will produce for 10 years. So, $((\$12,500)/(5,000 * 10)) = \0.25 .

Impact: We *doubled* the calories available to 5,000 villagers for 10 years for **25 cents per person per year.**

Project: Latrines in Zambia



Situation: The latrines at the Mbuluyenji school in Mambwe had given out. They presented a health hazard to the school's 220 students.

Solution: ODFL helped build a new set, using a UNICEF design and local labor (to keep down the cost). They will last 20 years. The project cost \$4,200. So, $((\$4,200)/(220*20)) = \0.95 .

Impact: We've helped 220 students return to school for **95 cents per student per year**.



Project: Girls' Equality Project



Situation: As many as 50,000,000 adolescent girls drop out of school every year because they have no way to deal with their periods.

Solution: ODFL's Girls' Equality Project provides thousands of girls in Africa and Asia with washable sanitary pads. The pads cost \$5, but are free to the girls. They will last 3 years, long enough for most girls to finish school with the chance to better realize their human potential.

Impact: At \$5 per girl (**\$1.67 per girl per year for each of three years**), GEP may be one of the greatest returns on human investment in the world.