

# IMPACT

**Cuso**  
International

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION  
SPRING 2022

A woman wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a logo that says "PESCANDO PARA LA VIDA" and "EL FUTURO EN NUESTRAS MANOS", blue shorts, and a grey baseball cap is standing on a boat. She is holding a large fish by its mouth with a metal hook. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

## Generating livelihoods for women and their communities:

You're empowering Honduran women to feed their families through climate crisis. [P2](#)

You're helping women farmers weather droughts, floods, and storms in Cameroon. [P3](#)

You're growing fresh food and hope in the heart of urban Lima. [P4](#)

## CENTRAL AMERICA:

# You're empowering Honduran women to feed their families through a climate crisis



Over the last 24 months, Hondurans faced three crises — the ongoing pandemic, and two devastating hurricanes.

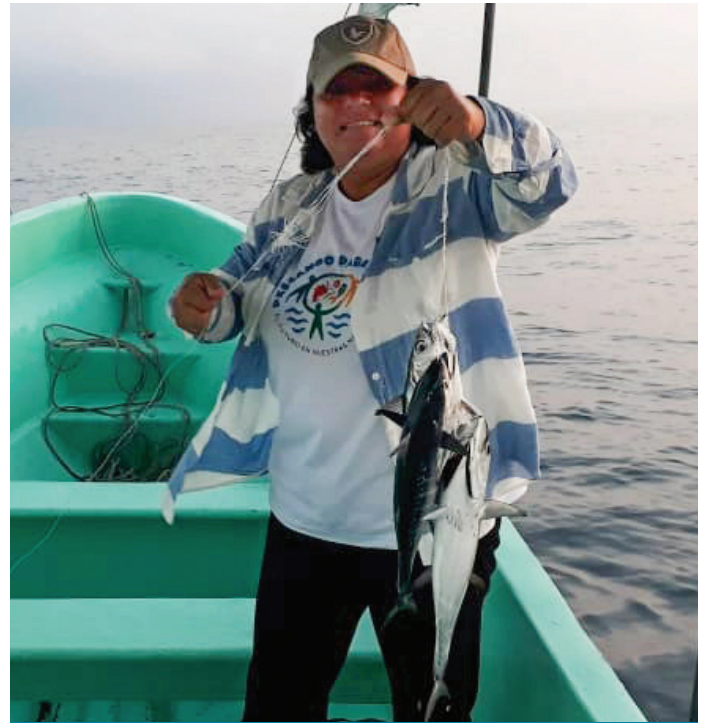
Incessant rains, flooding, and landslides wrought havoc, causing widespread damage to roads, bridges, homes — and the agricultural lands that many Honduran women rely on to sustain their families and communities. Thousands were thrown into food insecurity.

**Women were some of the hardest-hit by the crisis, but they also showed incredible strength and resilience.** After the hurricanes Cuso leapt into action, partnering with the *Centro de Estudios Marinos* to empower women to feed their families in a new, innovative way: fishing.

In Honduras, fishing is traditionally male-dominated. Facing the threat of widespread hunger, women came together to change that. Through a workshop they learned sustainable fishing methods, and local fishing guidelines. After, they received a kit of fishing supplies — tools to help them feed their families and communities.

**“The project teaches us to be responsible now, so we can have what we need in the future.”** says **Lourdes Salinas, a local woman who helped train her fellow fisherwomen.**

“The project highlighted the importance of including women in sustainable development,” says Karen Pavon, Country Representative for Cuso in Honduras. “If you teach a woman to fish, you feed her, her family, and her community for a lifetime.” This is how your support contributes to women’s livelihoods.



Lourdes Salinas proudly showing her catch.

## CENTRAL AFRICA:

# Cameroon: Update from Odette



When Odette Kamanzi said goodbye to Cameroon and flew home to Québec City, little did she know that the world was about to change forever. COVID-19 forced Cuso to recall all its Canadian volunteers from around the globe.

In Cameroon, she saw firsthand how women could lead change in their communities when given the right tools and opportunities. She also saw how strong and resilient they were in the face of challenges.

“I said to myself, I have to go back.” Odette says. “Development can’t stop, even in COVID times. In fact, it’s more crucial than ever.”

In November, after a 20-month hiatus, Odette became the first Canadian volunteer to return to the field.

Since then, she’s been partnering with peer-led organizations like Queens of Peace to advocate for an end to child marriage



## CENTRAL AFRICA:

# You're helping women farmers weather droughts, floods, and storms in Cameroon



For generations, Cameroon's women have farmed to the longstanding rhythms of the land and the weather, sustaining their families and their communities.

But over the past few decades, those familiar rhythms have been thrown into turmoil by climate change.

"We used to know when the rains would come," says Madame Benda, one of a long line of smallholder farmers. "Now, it's all unpredictable. I couldn't plant my corn because the rains didn't come."

Floods, droughts and windstorms have caused widespread crop damage. The result? Hundreds of thousands of vulnerable families have been plunged into food insecurity.

**But with your generous support, and the programs and tools from our partner, Observatoire National sur les Changements Climatiques (ONACC), we are helping Cameroon's women farmers survive — and thrive — in the face of these challenges.**

You are giving women farmers in the rural community of Awaé the tools and knowledge they need to prepare for and adapt to the ever-changing conditions.

Women are taking part in this groundbreaking program which distributes crop seeds bred specifically for the country's climate, and provides training on sustainable agricultural techniques. The program also connects women farmers with crucial information, from the latest techniques to up-to-the-



*Madame Benda and Cuso volunteer Nelly Rakotozafy harvesting thriving crops in Awaé.*

minute weather forecasts, through an innovative smartphone app connected to newly-installed weather stations.

**Your support means women like Madame Benda can continue to feed their families and communities. Thank you!**

and gender-based violence, and to increase opportunities for women and girls.

**"It was my heart that called me back to Cameroon, but my mind as well," Odette says. "This work is about improving the lives of women and girls...this is what compels me to go, to provide support and help them move forward."**



*Odette is welcomed back by school children in Cameroon.*

## SOUTH AMERICA:

# You're growing fresh food and hope in the heart of urban Lima



Consuela used to worry constantly about where her family would gain access to healthy, nutritious food — and as a resident of Lima, she was far from alone.

The city sprawls for miles, bursting at the seams from rapid and unplanned urbanization. Over 200,000 new inhabitants arrive every year.

As the city continues to creep outwards, it swallows up more and more agricultural land. Food security has become a huge concern. **But Lima's resilient and resourceful women are finding new ways to grow nourishing food for their families and communities.**

Your generous support and the partnership with Plataforma de Agricultura en Lima, are empowering Lima's women through the first grass-roots urban farming program in Latin America.

Through this innovative program, women receive the tools, training, and support they need to establish urban gardens — producing fresh, nutritious produce, fertilizer, and compost for the benefit of the entire community.

For Consuela, the program has been life-changing. She no longer has to worry about feeding her children, and by selling products from the garden at the local market, she's building a brighter future for her family that will last for generations.



*Tending to fruit trees in the heart of urban Lima.*

## Your Impact by the Numbers

Thanks to your support, Cuso International has worked with over **15,000 volunteers** in more than **100 countries**, for 60 years, to create opportunity, security and dignity for people in need—especially women and girls.

### *In the last year alone, you have helped:*



**1,941,124**  
beneficiaries



**11**  
countries



**120**  
staff



**218**  
partners



**34**  
e-volunteers



**160**  
volunteers



**16,106**  
donors



**\$18,029,234**  
revenue

## We'd love to hear from you!



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If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Maquilene at 1-888-434-2876 at ext. 222 or by email at [support@cusointernational.org](mailto:support@cusointernational.org). | [cusointernational.org](https://cusointernational.org)



Global Affairs Canada  
Affaires mondiales Canada

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada

Cuso International is a registered charitable organization.  
Canada: no. 81111 6813 RR0001 • United States: no. 42-1769535 4

