



# ANNUAL UPDATE

2016-2017

**CUSC**  
International





Cuso International would like to recognize our patron, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

The governor general plays a key role in promoting national identity by supporting and promoting Canadian values, diversity, inclusion, culture and heritage. As such, the governor general is patron of many community, charitable, military and cultural associations, as well as public service organizations, lending them vital support and recognition for their outstanding contributions to society.

*Photo credit: Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2015.*



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For additional copies, please contact:  
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Cuso International gratefully acknowledges the financial support of our donors, partners and the Government of Canada (through Global Affairs Canada).

# Canada

This report is also available in French and Spanish | Ce bulletin est également disponible en anglais et espagnol | Este informe también está disponible en francés y en inglés

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# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

We are in a new era in development around the world: the Sustainable Development Goals. Spearheaded by the United Nations, the Goals represent a world-wide action plan for equitable, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development. There is a new era for development in Canada as well, with the new Feminist International Assistance Policy. We are very pleased to see this formalization of putting women and girls at the centre of development as it has been the way Cuso International has undertaken its work for decades.

An essential part of the Sustainable Development Goals is their universality. No longer are we focused solely on developing nations—we have an obligation to meet these goals in every country, including Canada. Cuso International is embracing the universality of the goals, continuing our work around world, and undertaking new projects with Indigenous partners in Canada. This is allowing us as an organization to better understand the devastating effects of colonialization and to be a part of reconciliation efforts in this country. We thank our Indigenous

partners for allowing us to work with them and our volunteers for taking on these special assignments.

Volunteers are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They create new spaces of interaction between governments and individuals, and they leverage the combined energy of all people. Volunteering gives global citizens, especially the world's young people, a tangible way to contribute to health, governance, sustainable livelihoods, environment, gender and social inclusion and find leadership roles in their communities. It provides opportunities for everyone to play an active and meaningful part in the international effort to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for your support of Cuso International as it works with partners here in Canada and around the world to have lasting and sustainable impact.



*Lloyd Axworthy*

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy  
Board Chair



Beneficiaries  
**617,325**



Volunteers  
**292**



Partners  
**278**



Countries  
**20**



E-Volunteers  
**265**

*“Putting women and girls at the centre of development has been the way Cuso International has undertaken its work for decades.”*

—Lloyd Axworthy  
Cuso International Board Chair





# HIGHLIGHTS

*Khamoom now realizes having her own business one day is possible.*





## COMMUNITY

In May 2017, Cuso International and its partner the Programa de Rehabilitación de Parálisis Cerebral (Prepace) mourned the loss of a bright young star, Mayori Velasco. Prepace supports youth with disabilities in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Maryori had sickle cell anemia, which left her exhausted and struggling to keep up with her peers. A surgical error after she was struck by a motorcycle led to the amputation of one of Maryori's legs when she was 17.

At Prepace, Maryori was on the high school's honour roll and served as president of the student government. In that role, she developed into a dynamic advocate for people with disabilities. In 2016, Maryori helped plan the first ever disability awareness campaign in Honduras. She spread the idea that "disability does not mean inability".

"Prepace taught me that I have rights," said Maryori. "I've learned that I have a voice and that I must use it."



## HEALTH

At the Maweni Regional Hospital in Kigoma, Tanzania, Dr Bruce D'Souza is a difficult man to track down. The busy paediatrician from Quebec has full days supporting local doctors and nurses as they treat newborns and young children for everything from malaria to motor vehicle accidents. As a volunteer, one of Dr D'Souza's biggest challenges has been the lack of modern equipment such as incubators for sick newborns and phototherapy to treat jaundice. Physicians and nurses are also scarce commodities in Kigoma. Practising in a developing country had always been something Dr D'Souza wanted to do, and Cuso International provided him with the opportunity—one that comes with both frustrations and rewards. "It's difficult to expect the unexpected but the people are warm and welcoming and that makes all the difference," he said. "While many of the practices differ in Kigoma, it sparks excellent discussions. After all, we are all working together to ensure optimal care for the children."



## LIVELIHOOD

For 32-year-old Khamoom, the smells of rich curries and stews are the smell of change and success. She is one of five women at Pao Mon, a restaurant run by the Mon Women's Organization. Together these women serve traditional fare as a means of preserving their Mon culture. In addition to cooking skills and learning how to lead in a kitchen, Khamoom and the other women are learning important skills in management, business and customer service. They are learning about working as a team, planning, and financial management skills. They are building their confidence and leadership abilities. These types of skills are critical in a community where entrepreneurial success for women is rare. Learning to become a chef has opened new doors for Khamoom. She now realizes having her own business one day is possible.





# GLOBAL IMPACT



## CANADA

Our most recent Indigenous organization partner, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata has spent three decades working with Indigenous communities in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Using Indigenous ways of knowing, they build the strength and brighten the future of those they serve. ‘Mino Stat An’ (Cree for “Making Things Right”) involves creating a partnership based upon the shared goals of reconciliation and growing a vital community institution.

Another project related to the wellbeing of Indigenous youth involves volunteers being placed with the Beaufort Delta Education Council & South Slave Divisional Education Council. Supporting positive education outcomes for Indigenous children in Canada is crucial to the alleviation of poverty and working towards reconciliation.

## JAMAICA

Volunteer Christine French implemented a week-long summer camp for students of the YMCA’s Youth Development Program, where students were given hands-on training in renewable energy and robotics. “It was amazing to watch the students thrive,” said Christine. “I felt very inspired and honoured to be a part of their learning experience.”

Christine was able to take a leave of absence from her work thanks to a partnership between Cuso International and the Government of British Columbia.

## BOLIVIA

Local partner CISTAC is helping men and boys in Bolivia challenge the traditional—and harmful—gender stereotypes and pressures they face to be strong, stoical, competitive and tough. With support from volunteers, the organization has offered creative and innovative edu-tainment programming,

using radio, telenovelas and more to weave educational content into entertaining and engaging platforms that promote behaviour change.

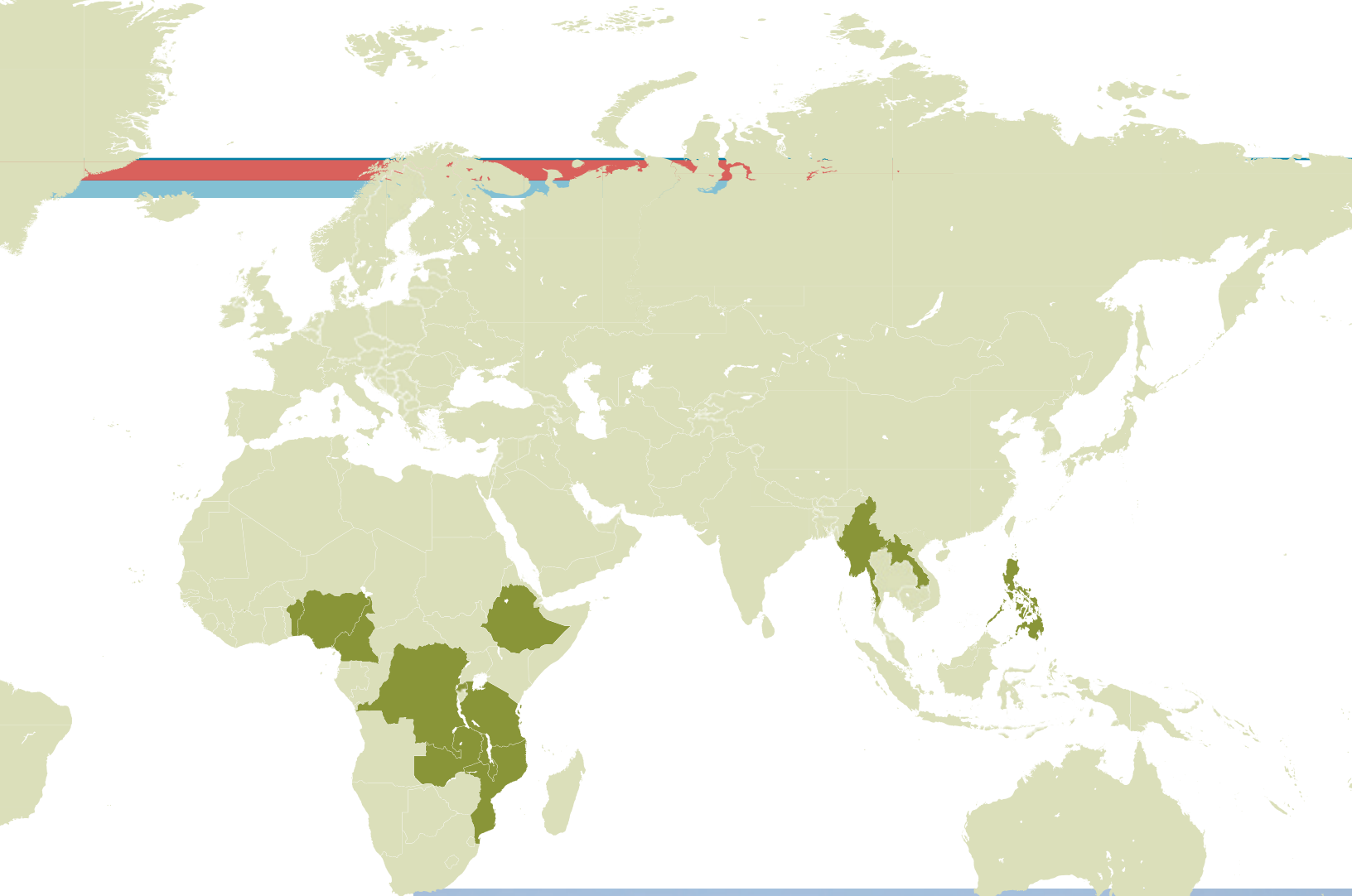
## BENIN

In Benin, citizen-journalists are helping to end the stigma around mental health. Patients and staff of our partner St-Camille, which provides comprehensive mental health services, started by writing and producing the Journal Échos de la St-Camille. Writing about their lives and mental health is both a therapy tool and an education tool for readers. Lately, articles have been submitted to national newspapers and blog posts are regularly published on the St-Camille website.

## ETHIOPIA

Cuso International, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Midwives, organized a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Training for in-service





midwives with a specific emphasis on Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The participants were engaged and actively discussed how the subjects related to their own lives and practices, forming critical analyses of GESI and RMC topics. “Since I am working on producing healthcare professionals, the knowledge that I get helps my students to be knowledgeable regarding gender equality and social inclusion.” –Genet Fikadu

#### LAOS

Farmers in Laos’ climate smart villages have seen yields double by planting climate-resilient rice and adopting new irrigation techniques. These new techniques are also increasing harvests in home gardens, so families have more nutritious food and extra produce to sell. We are now working with the International Rice Research Institute to try to reach other farming communities across the country.



[Read more about our stories of impact at cusointernational.org/impact](https://cusointernational.org/impact)



# YOU HAVE CHANGED LIVES

**THANKS** to you, we've been able to have impact in the world and change lives. It's your dedication, investment and commitment that allows our volunteers, partners and the communities in which we work to make a difference that truly lasts. Your support to Cuso International means so much as we work together to eradicate poverty.

## DONATIONS AND GRANTS \$1,000 AND OVER

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## *"Part of me will live on"*

Celia Denov was just 22 when she embarked on a journey that would stay with her for the rest of her life—as a Cuso International volunteer in Tanzania. "I want to make a lasting difference in people's lives. I have always felt that way. That's why I became a volunteer and why I have decided to leave a gift to Cuso International in my Will." Celia's commitment to the world's most vulnerable will live on after she's gone. Thank you, Celia, for your continued support now and in the future.



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 Donald and Mary Rolfe  
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## *You planted a garden of opportunity*

Kilder is a traditional healer and medicinal plant expert who lives in the Peruvian Amazon. She knows Cuso International supporters helped her use her knowledge of medicinal plants to improve her quality of life.

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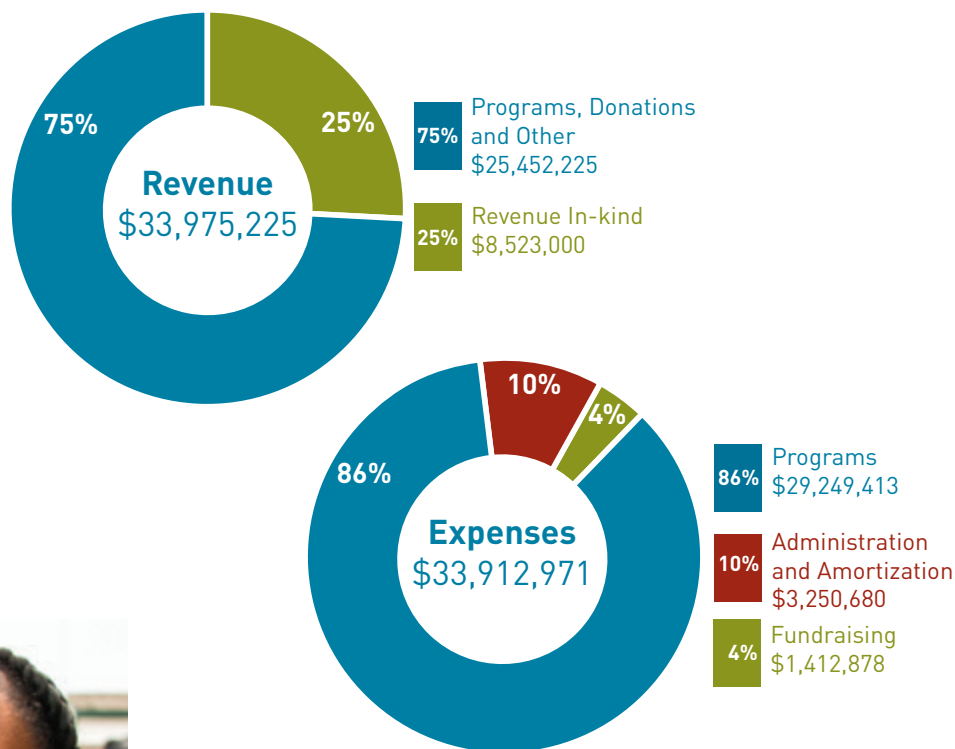
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# OUR FINANCES

Thanks to your strong support and generosity, Cuso International's financial position provides us with a secure basis for our work. Through efficient operations and careful use of the life-changing funds we receive, we ensure that the majority of our money is spent on delivering programs and supporting our volunteers and partners and the communities and families they work with. We will continue to use our resources with great discretion.

For the complete audited financial statements, please visit:  
[cusointernational.org/accountability](http://cusointernational.org/accountability)





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## MAKE A DONATION

A small amount goes a long way at Cuso International! Every dollar you give will have the power of \$10—through the work of our volunteers, partners and funders, that dollar is leveraged 10 times.

## VOLUNTEER FOR US

You can use your skills for a life-changing experience—for yourself and for others. Email us to find out how you can have impact in the world as a Cuso International volunteer.

## PHILANTHROPY

Do you have a special connection to maternal health in Tanzania or women's cooperatives in Nicaragua? Your philanthropic gift to Cuso International can make an extraordinary difference.

## LEGACIES

A gift in your Will allows you to continue to play an integral role in Cuso International's mission. To find out more about creating your legacy through our work, please contact us.

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*June 30, 2017*





Your help can make a huge difference  
to people's lives all over the world

For more information please contact  
Christine at 1.888.434.7445 x222 or  
[christine.woodbridge@cusointernational.org](mailto:christine.woodbridge@cusointernational.org)

Cuso International is a non-profit international development organization working to improve the lives of people living with poverty and inequality around the globe. Each year we mobilize hundreds of volunteer professionals who work with local partners to create positive, lasting change. Established in 1961, Cuso International is a registered charity in Canada and the United States.

#### Our Vision


A world where all people are able to realize their potential, develop their skills and participate fully in society.


#### Our Mission

Working in inclusive partnerships to overcome poverty through equitable and sustainable development.


**CUSO**  
International

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