Radio for the people:

Marie Thérèse’s voice is changing lives thanks to you  P2

Your role in helping women thrive in Bolivia  P2 & P3

Cuso International has launched its new Innovation Fund  P3

Harvesting Hope: Your impact  P4
When Marie Thérèse Manzoeur started her radio show, it wasn’t just a first for her, it was a first for thousands of people in Cameroon – it was the first time they’d heard their own language on the airwaves. Marie Thérèse is Bagyeli, an Indigenous people living in the extreme south of Cameroon and among the poorest and most marginalized people in the world. The majority of Bagyeli still live on hunting, fishing and gathering but they are in danger of losing their land and way of life. Marie Thérèse’s show is helping to change that. “People used to mostly be French or Bantu on the radio,” explains Marie Thérèse. “But now this radio is their radio.”

Her programs have made an impact. Since Marie Thérèse started talking about social issues and cultural observations on the radio, children’s school attendance has increased and people are more mindful of their health. “I’m changing lives for the better,” says Marie Thérèse. “It gives me joy.” Marie Thérèse received training in broadcast skills because of you. Your generosity helped Canadian volunteer Emile Anet share communications skills with partners like Radio Communautaire Nkuli Makeli (a community radio station whose name means “tam tam who carries the voices”). Emile trained Marie Thérèse in everything from interviewing skills and covering breaking news to technical know-how.

Now, Marie Thérèse is using her platform and voice to change lives. “I want children to go to school, I want people to know agriculture is important, I want them to know health is important. I want all the children and women to get the health services they need,” she says.

Rural Indigenous women are among the poorest people in Bolivia, often living on less than $2/day. Your generosity is sending Cuso International volunteers to the APAMA co-operative to make a difference. APAMA was formed as a way for remote and struggling women to band together to create profitable businesses and earn a stable income.

APAMA members use their ancestral knowledge of local plants to make products such as ointments for joint pain and healing creams. The women also provide raw material to a local pharmaceutical company.
The women look forward to meeting once a month and getting away from the stress of their days for half a day,” says volunteer Chelsey Berendse. “They laugh, chat and harvest the plants together. The women all say that the association has been a great source of skill-learning and leadership building over the years.”

By supporting Cuso International you give these hardworking women a hand up to lift themselves out of poverty and create a better future for their children. APAMA has requested additional volunteers to continue the cycle of positive change. Give today and your donation will be leveraged to have 10 times the impact!
The flood waters rose rapidly as Alan Orais gathered his family and rushed to the roof. As Typhoon Haiyan – one of the strongest cyclones ever recorded in history – made landfall in the Philippines, Alan made a deal with God: spare my family and I will dedicate my life to helping others.

Alan lost everything that day. But his family survived. True to his word, Alan is transforming his family’s peanut butter company into a business model helping small farmers regain their livelihoods.

Alan works with local farmers to grow peanuts, guaranteeing a fair price for their product. Your support helped send Cuso International volunteers Marshall Bell and Tiffany Tong to the Philippines to help Alan and other micro-entrepreneurs grow their businesses.

“Alan is a real go-getter, driven to do the best for his community,” explains Tiffany. “We helped him rebrand his business and plan for growth.”

Thanks to the marketing and business support he received from Cuso International volunteers, Alan has secured new contacts to sell his rebranded “Farmer’s Harvest” and the future looks bright. Best of all, success for Alan means better lives for others also affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

We’d love to hear from you

200-44 Eccles Street, Ottawa ON, Canada K1R 6S4
1.888.434.2876 ext.222
support@cusointernational.org
cusointernational.org

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