



**Skills to Share.
Futures to Build.**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020–2021

Cuso International 2020-2021 Annual Report

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Cuso International is a Canadian charity committed to ending poverty and inequality. Cuso works with local partners around the world to improve economic opportunities for all, enhance women's and girls' empowerment, and advance gender equality. Through skills sharing, we are building sustainable futures. Each year, we amplify our impact by mobilizing hundreds of professionals who volunteer their time and provide their knowledge.

Learn more at: cusointernational.org.



Established in 1961, Cuso International is a registered charity in Canada and the United States.

Canada

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

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On the cover: Ntue, Cameroon
Photographer: Brian Atkinson



Benin **Photographer:** Brian Atkinson

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Our Mission

Reduce poverty and inequality through the efforts of volunteers, partners and donors.

Our Vision

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

Our Values

Partnership: We believe in the power of people. We employ a people-centred approach to development and the challenge of overcoming poverty and inequality.

Respect and Integrity: We value diversity. We recognize and care about the rights and dignity of others.

Accountability: We take responsibility for our actions and proactively demonstrate that we work with and on behalf of others. We seek to achieve and inspire excellence.

Cameroon | **Photographer:** Brian Atkinson



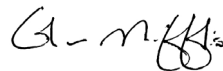
Message from the Chair and CEO

There are things we can control, and things we cannot. This year has demonstrated abundantly that despite a well-planned agenda, an organization must be ready to adapt to unforeseen challenges.

One quality we look for in the professionals who work and volunteer with Cuso, is their ability to adjust, be flexible and adapt. These characteristics were put to the test in 2020, perhaps more than in any other year in memory. We were awed by how positively our volunteers, donors, staff and partners adapted and responded.

Terms we had never before used at Cuso—like “COVID-19” and “pandemic”—became part of our daily vocabulary. All our well-laid plans had to suddenly shift as we contended with the reality of a crisis the likes of which the world has not seen in a century. It has been challenging, to say the least, and especially so in the communities where we work.

Sincerely,



Glenn Mifflin
Chief Executive Officer



Patricia Perez-Coutts
Chair

But disruption and innovation go hand in hand.

The year of COVID-19 required Cuso to shift program delivery in certain regions, adjust our strategy and get creative. The difficulties shone a light on our organization’s ability to be agile in the face of uncertainty and challenge. We are proud of having made it through even stronger than we were before.

As we move beyond this difficult year, our focus will be on the best ways to advance our mission and continue to support those who are most in need. Growth, efficiencies, evolution and change, when appropriate, will guide us. Meanwhile, the impact of our work on the millions of beneficiaries whose lives we touched this past year will continue to be our inspiration. We are grateful to the legions of donors, supporters and partners who have helped us implement our programs to end poverty.

Cuso International Around the World

Gender empowerment, social inclusion and efforts to strengthen the capacity of the most vulnerable fuel our work.

Here is a snapshot of impact across Cuso's many projects and regions.

Benin

Delivering key information: Conducted 100 workshops led by women facilitators for teenage girls on their sexual and reproductive rights. Ran information sessions targeting 62 community and traditional leaders on women's rights, new masculinities and the need for religious leaders to act in supporting conflict resolution. Provided 200 women across eight villages with life-saving information about COVID-19, who were then empowered to lead information sessions in their communities.

Cameroon

Flattening the curve: Trained 288 health care providers, government representatives, community leaders, radio hosts and partner organizations on COVID-19 prevention, symptoms and consequences, reaching 247,109 citizens. Trained several women's empowerment centres on how to produce protection kits, including making soap and masks, ensuring ample supplies and allowing distribution to continue after the project's completion.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Empowering women: Reached more than 50,850 people through various online forums, workshops and other engagements

to help address acts of sexual and gender-based violence committed online. Facilitated governance and gender-equality training for 15 farmers' organizations, reaching 309 farmers.

Honduras

Educating inclusively: Educated the students of Las Manos Hablan School for the Deaf on skills that will help them find employment. Together with our partner Coordinadora de Instituciones Y Asociaciones de Rehabilitación de Honduras, provided students with computer equipment and hands-on training.

Jamaica

Advancing education: Together with our long-time partner Junior Achievement, and seven e-volunteers, enabled 4,500 students from vulnerable communities to access digital learning platforms and innovative learning opportunities. Fifty per cent of those reached were girls.

Peru

Giving women a voice: Expanded the reach of our partner Flora Tristan to provide legal and psychosocial support services to women, particularly those in remote regions. In doing so, mitigated the negative effects of



Participants in our entrepreneur project, Tanzania Photo: Cuso International

the pandemic lockdown, such as significant increases in gender-based violence. Ran an accompanying awareness campaign for victims of violence on how to access essential services during the pandemic.

Tanzania

Supporting entrepreneurs: Working with our partner, the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce, facilitated the development of a mobile app that is now being used to provide business development services to women entrepreneurs nationwide in an effective and affordable way.

Where we work

Benin
Cameroon
Canada (Northwest Territories)
Colombia
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ethiopia
Honduras
Jamaica
Nigeria
Peru
Tanzania

Impact by the Numbers



1,941,124
BENEFICIARIES



160
VOLUNTEERS



16,106
DONORS



120
STAFF



218
PARTNERS



11
COUNTRIES



34
E-VOLUNTEERS



\$18,029,234
REVENUE



Pawa, Ethiopia **Photographer:** Brian Atkinson

Innovative Program Partnerships

With support from our institutional funders and generous loyal donors here at home and around the world, Cuso developed several new partnerships and enhanced existing ones to advance our programs.

Thank you!

Departamento para la Prosperidad Social

Provides employment and business training to Colombia's vulnerable populations, including youth, women and victims of conflict.

Education International

Through technical support, promotes access and addresses barriers to higher education for adolescent girls, including those with disabilities, in Ethiopia.

European Union and CBM International

Addresses the social and economic rights of persons with disabilities and marginalized communities in the Dry Corridor of Honduras.

Global Affairs Canada

Increases the participation of women, girls and their communities in the fight against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation in Northern Benin.

Provides technical training to four leading women's rights organizations in Peru to improve their long-term sustainability, strengthen their programming and advance gender-equality initiatives.

In Cameroon, helps our local community partners flatten the curve of COVID-19 in the Centre, Littoral, East and South regions of the country.

Improves the economic and social well-being of the most vulnerable people, particularly women and girls, across 10 countries in Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Promotes access and addresses barriers to higher education for adolescent girls, including those with disabilities, in Ethiopia.

Works with public and private sector partners to design more inclusive employment policies and programs that directly respond to the needs of vulnerable groups in eight cities in Colombia.

Manitoba Council for International Cooperation

Provides technical training to four leading women's rights organizations in Peru to improve their long-term sustainability, strengthen their programming and advance gender-equality initiatives. Also, in Ethiopia, promotes access and addresses barriers to higher education for adolescent girls, including those with disabilities.

Power Corporation of Canada

Provides educational support to remote Indigenous communities in Canada's Northwest Territories and helps improve learning outcomes for high school students.



Cameroon **Photographer:** Brian Atkinson

UN Refugee Agency—UNHCR

Supports Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria with business-management training, instruction in agriculture, livestock and fisheries production, and access to start-up capital.

Supports the socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Colombia, including providing skills training to enable access to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

World Refugee & Migration Council

Galvanizes the international community's response to refugees through cooperation and responsibility sharing.



Beneficiary Luisa Serna, Colombia **Photo:** Cuso International

SHARING SKILLS

Our Volunteer for Development Program straddles the globe

Our new seven-year Volunteer for Development Program launched on April 1, 2020, as the world grappled with the realities of a global pandemic. While COVID-19 challenged us to rethink how we would deliver our promise, we kept our goals in view. In each of the field countries, staff, partners and volunteers identified ways to deliver inclusive, innovative and environmentally sustainable development initiatives, particularly for women and girls.

A cornerstone of the program is the recruitment and placement of skilled Canadian volunteers to work alongside partners in 10 countries in Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Canadian volunteers who had signed up for travel took on e-volunteer roles where they could support partners, and we were able to place volunteers from overseas, many of whom were Cuso alumni living abroad. Fifty-seven local projects are now underway, supporting knowledge sharing, partnership delivery capacity and/or COVID-19 mitigation.



Provided targeted technical assistance to local partners to advance gender equality and empower women and girls, who comprised 65% of those reached.



Supplied technical assistance to local partners to increase income-generating opportunities for youth.



Facilitated policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and learning around key international development issues related to gender equality, youth employment and sustainability.



Funded partner initiatives to increase their capacity to deliver gender-responsive projects.



Central and South America, and the Caribbean:

- ① Colombia
- ② Jamaica
- ③ Honduras
- ④ Peru

Africa:

- ⑤ Benin
- ⑥ Cameroon
- ⑦ Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ⑧ Ethiopia
- ⑨ Nigeria
- ⑩ Tanzania

SHARING SKILLS

Safer, More Resilient Communities in DRC

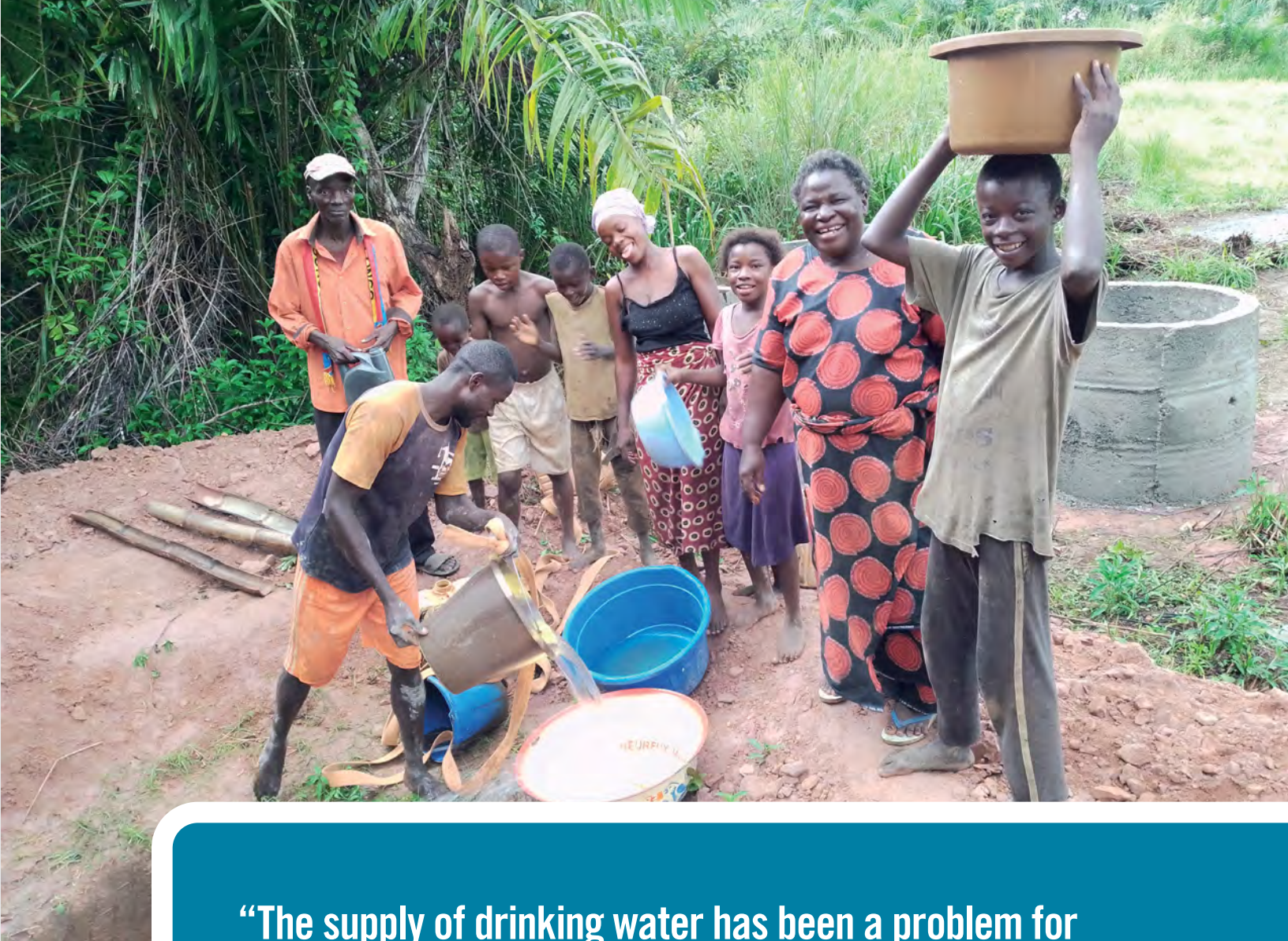
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, accessing clean water is a matter of life and death. Fresh water resources are scarce in this region, and the responsibility of collecting it most often falls to women and girls. Esther Mamona Wamba, a 39-year-old Congolese woman living in the village of Kiobo in the Seke Banza territory, knows the challenges firsthand. “There are times we cannot access water for days,” says Esther. “The paths we walk can be treacherous, even deadly. Not only is the terrain dangerous, but the path itself is a place where many women and girls have been attacked, raped and even killed.”

In 2020, Cuso partnered with the Congolese organization Actions concertées pour le développement durable to finance the development of five accessible, clean wells. These wells were built in five villages to alleviate the burden of water collection and reduce the risk of violence for young girls and women. The girls, whose daily chores included hours of travel to obtain fresh water, are now encouraged to attend school. “The supply of drinking water has been a problem for our village for decades,” says Esther. “When the information about this new well was announced, I cried tears of joy.”

This program has been built to last. Twenty-five community members, including 12 women and 13 men have been appointed to various water committees to manage the long-term sustainability of the well.



Esther Mamona Wamba, Kiobo, DRC



“The supply of drinking water has been a problem for our village for decades. When the information about this new well was announced, I cried tears of joy.”

— Esther Mamona Wamba | Kiobo, DRC

Kiobo, DRC | Photos: Cuso International

SHARING SKILLS

Breaking Down Barriers in Honduras

In early November 2020, Honduras was battered by Hurricane Eta, bringing widespread flooding and forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. Just two weeks later, Hurricane Iota hit. Incessant rains, widespread floods and landslides caused damage to almost all areas of the country. The pandemic and the impact of these natural disasters exacerbated the obstacles already faced by the most vulnerable people in Honduras. Projects underway in the region are giving communities the tools and knowledge they need to be self-sufficient in the next disaster.

Despite an ancestral connection to fishing, in the Honduran communities of Chivana, Muchilena, Las Flores, Estero Prieto and Omoa, only one local woman was skilled at the practice of building and repairing fishing nets. She longed to share her skill.

“Fishing is too often seen as a male activity, but now we will be taken seriously,” says dedicated fisherwoman Lourdes Salinas. Alongside local partner Centro de Estudios Marinos, Cuso organized a workshop under Ms. Salinas’ tutelage called “Pescando para la vida” (Fishing for Life.) It taught 34 local women how to cast, use hooks and repair fishing nets. All of the women were provided with a kit of basic supplies. Under their mentor’s watchful eye, the women learned responsible and sustainable methods for fishing, as well as the area’s lawful practices. On the final day, they put their newfound skills to the test in a fishing contest.

“This project highlighted once again the importance of gender inclusion in sustainable development,” says Karen Pavon, Country Representative for Cuso in Honduras. “If you give a woman a fish, you feed her for a day. If you teach a woman to fish, you feed her, her family and her community for a lifetime.”

34

women promoted economic empowerment.

Strengthened the Fishing for Life campaign, which promotes the sustainability of fishing by adopting responsible and sustainable fishing practices.



Increased knowledge on gender equality and women’s rights for the women involved.



“Fishing for Life teaches us to care now so we can have what we need in the future. I wish a better life for our children and our families; this is a dream that every fisherwoman has.”

— Lourdes Salinas | Master Fisherwoman, Honduras

Lucrecia Padilla and Joise Gonzales, fisherwomen from the hard-hit municipality of Omoa, Honduras | **Photographer:** Kevin Peña

Women's Voice and Leadership

A milestone for equality

Thanks largely to the advocacy of two Cuso partners, Manuela Ramos Movement and the Flora Tristan Center for Peruvian Women, the Peruvian government passed the Parity and Alternation Act (Ley de Paridad y Alternancia) on June 25, 2020. The act assures gender parity and representation in the lists of candidates for the Peruvian elections.

In Peru, COVID-19 has laid bare the key structural issues of inadequate housing and hygiene, and limited access to clean water for the country's most vulnerable. As an added burden to Peruvians, gender-based violence (GVB) has increased, with calls to the country's GBV hotlines jumping by 97 per cent during the pandemic.

Like many women in Peru, Rosa Cachi is doing her best to keep herself and her family safe. An Indigenous woman from Puno, she and others like her would easily fall through the gaps were it not for safety nets such as the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project. This year, the project's four women-led partners were able to support immediate and life-saving measures, including the provision of food and sanitation supplies for women and their families.

Launched in 2019, WVL is anchored by efforts that empower women and girls. In situations where a woman's rights or safety are threatened, any of the four partners can access emergency funds. "These fast-response strategic funds have assisted our women's organizations to respond to COVID-19 related emergencies for their communities," says Pilar Garcia, Country Representative for Cuso in Peru. "The fund has helped the most vulnerable—including women like Rosa."

WVL is funded by Global Affairs Canada and private donors.



Pre-pandemic Pride march in Lima, Peru **Photographer:** Movimiento Manuela Ramos

98

organizations participated in WVL activities in 15 regions, including 76 women's rights organizations and 22 local and national networks.

4,896

women received counselling, medical information about COVID-19 and/or food and sanitary supplies.

317

women received psychosocial support, most through cell phones, virtual platforms and in person, in cases of sexual and psychological violence.

Vulnerable Entrepreneurs Find a Better Future in Colombia

“I worried most about finding work, but I knew if I stayed, my life was at risk,” said textile entrepreneur, Clevis Berrio. Fleeing armed conflict, Clevis sought refuge in Cali, Colombia, one of eight cities where Cuso’s Sustainable Colombian Opportunities for Peacebuilding and Employment (SCOPE) project operates. One of SCOPE’s local partners, Fundación Carvajal, learned of Clevis’s situation, advising her she would be eligible for training and support. She quickly signed up.

In a short time, with the help of a mentor, resources and access to retail information and tools, Clevis improved her business knowledge and entrepreneurial acumen. Today, her small textile business is thriving, and she has traded fear and uncertainty for a promising future. While most of SCOPE’s work is focused on labour inclusion, the project also supports microentrepreneurs like Clevis, enabling them to strengthen their small businesses so they can become more profitable and create more formal employment in the country. With the support of

the project’s tailor-made training on business management, marketing and accounting, Clevis was able to improve the profitability of her business by more than 200 per cent. In the last four years, more than 1,630 small business owners have participated in SCOPE’s entrepreneurial programs.

“We have increased our efforts to support vulnerable populations such as women, victims of armed conflict, youth and Venezuelan migrants during these difficult times,” says Alejandro Matos, Country Director for Cuso in Colombia. “We are deeply aware of the importance of contributing to women’s economic independence, as they head 12 million households in the country.”

Funded by Global Affairs Canada, in 2020 alone, SCOPE strengthened 277 vulnerable small businesses in Bogotá and Medellín through targeted business development training.



SCOPE beneficiary Clevis Berrio at her shop in Cali, Colombia **Photographer:** Carlos Andrés Miranda, Volunteer

13,303

beneficiaries trained
from 2015–2021.

840

beneficiaries linked to
formal employment.

80

partners supported 2,009
direct beneficiaries.



Northern Benin **Photographer:** Brian Atkinson

Human Dignity for Women and Girls in Benin

Thirty-five-year-old Noura Amidou was curious when she was invited to attend a workshop in her home village that addressed the risks of female genital mutilation (FGM). Though the practice was banned in 2003 by the Benin government, FGM is still exercised in many rural villages, like Kalalé, Borgou (population 168,000), where Noura lives. “Before attending this workshop, I thought the practice was necessary for a girl’s success,” says Noura. “At the workshop, I heard testimony of young women dying, complications at birth and infant death, and I knew I had to share what I had learned with others.”

An important part of the solution to end FGM, Noura is one of the hundreds of women, men and health workers we reached this year. “A lot has changed in Kalalé since I took part in this project,” she says. “The young girls live without fear and many families have changed their thoughts on having their daughters circumcised. My hope is for a future free of FGM.”

Funded by Global Affairs Canada and private donors, this three-year project, which ends in 2022, is transforming social norms, improving knowledge, advancing gender equality and enabling socio-cultural change to abolish FGM in Northern Benin.

3,817

beneficiaries engaged in activities to fight FGM and gender-based violence (GBV) in their communities.

80%

of women and girls who participated in training reported increased skills to promote, develop and implement actions against FGM and other forms of GBV.

100%

of health officers participated in sensitization workshops.

16

empowerment and leadership strengthening workshops organized for 393 women and girl leaders.

150+

school clubs in northern Benin now have messaging against GBV and FGM.

Challenging Inequities in Honduras

A third-generation bean and corn farmer in Olancho, Honduras, Cesar Alonzo Moradel loves working the land. He cultivates crops and sells them to support his family. Until recently, Cesar was forced to sell his harvest to a broker, whose cut so depleted Cesar's profits that he and his family could barely survive. In one last attempt to produce a marketable crop, Cesar recruited his wife and children to help him farm. "My youngest daughter could not attend school because I could not afford to pay labourers, and I could not work the land on my own," says Cesar. "This is not the future I wanted for my family."

Cesar was among the 60 per cent of rural Hondurans who live in poverty. He struggled to see hope past the violence, corruption and natural disasters that disproportionately affect the poor. A new initiative developed with Cuso partner Mancomunidad de los Municipios del Norte de Olancho

is now ensuring farmers like Cesar can access their buyers directly and eliminate the middleman.

"We helped develop an interactive online platform where farmers can offer quality products at fair market prices," says Karen Pavon, Country Representative for Cuso in Honduras. The online platform, known as Olagro, is enabling agricultural communities in Honduras to market produce to the right buyer, at the right price. It is improving family income, increasing local employment and giving children (particularly girls) access to school. Through hands-on training, Cesar learned his way around the e-commerce market. Today, he is generating profit and contributing to the development of his community. "This technology is life-changing," says Cesar.

The Olagro project is one of many initiatives launched as part of Cuso's three-year Inclusive and Sustainable Development for Vulnerable Populations program.

13

local partners supported, benefiting 1,601 people, 52% women.

115

entrepreneurship groups operating with seed capital.

584

people trained, including 67% women and 33% men.

Workshops provided to vulnerable populations so they can better understand their social and economic rights.



Cesar Alonzo Moradel with his two daughters in Boquin, a rural farming community in Olancho, Honduras **Photographer:** Hector Rolando Diaz



Providing Life Skills for Refugees in Nigeria

Vanessa Mbahwei is one of thousands of Cameroonian refugees living in southeast Nigeria. She fled to escape conflict in Cameroon and find safety and a better life for herself and her two young daughters. She is now enrolled in Cuso's Skills for Improvement of Lives and Livelihoods for Refugees (SKILL) project.

Launched in 2019 and funded by the UNHCR, SKILL focuses on training emerging entrepreneurs and helping them recover their livelihoods while empowering them to realize long-term financial independence. Over three months, Vanessa received training to refine her tailoring skills and learn how to develop a business plan. She also received an entrepreneurial starter kit—a sewing

machine, thread, a measuring tape, an iron, cutting table and stool—to launch her own tailoring business.

Today, Vanessa, her two daughters and her tailoring shop are thriving. She has expanded her business by selling locally sourced fabrics and offering drinks and water from her storefront. She is even mentoring three trainees, one of whom is also a refugee. “I am incredibly thankful,” says Vanessa. “I am deeply committed to training and empowering more women like myself.”

The success of SKILL led the UNHCR to extend funding into 2020, allowing Cuso to expand its geographic reach. Today, we work with refugees in Nigeria's Cross River, Taraba and Benue States.

5,269

victims of conflict trained with the skills they need to operate a prosperous business.

19,200

men and women reached in 2020.



“This training has given me what I need to create a successful business where I can employ local community members. I can now see a future full of hope.”

— Vanessa Mbahwei | Graduate of SKILLS project and successful entrepreneur, Nigeria



Assosa, Ethiopia **Photographer:** Brian Atkinson

Helping Girls Succeed in Ethiopia

Girls need to know they are valued and can achieve what boys can. But without access to a proper education, their potential is limited. In Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region, one of the most impoverished areas of the country, education is not a given for young women. Families often invest their few resources in their sons' schooling, while daughters care for their families and households. Girls also face harmful traditional practices, with some marrying as young as 12. Cuso wants to help these girls chart a different course.

Fatuma Abebe is an 11th grade student at Assosa Secondary and Preparatory School. The youngest in her family, Fatuma lives with her mother, who is visually impaired. Without permanent income, the family relies on the generosity of their mosque for basic needs. Fatuma's worry about her mother often means she cannot attend to her studies, which has had a negative effect on her grades and puts her at risk of leaving school.

Fatuma applied to U-GIRLS2, a new project in Ethiopia that promotes access to higher education for high school girls by providing them with academic resources, training and tutorials, and a financial stipend. When she learned she had been accepted, Fatuma was overwhelmed.

"It gives me hope. I feel that I have someone who is concerned about me. I will study hard and score the highest result." Fatuma has a dream of studying medicine in university. "I am grateful! And I will use the opportunity. I want to have better future and support my family and country."

In 2020, despite COVID-19 restrictions, U-GIRLS2 established its framework and coordinating committees. It selected 150 female students in grade 11 and 250 female students in grade 9 from five target secondary schools. Over the next four years, Cuso will continue to work with its local partners to provide young girls and women with opportunities to break through social norms while supporting their families and communities.

1,514

of the 2,156 community members reached were girls.

170

of the 215 indirect beneficiaries reached were girls.

Supporting Community-led Solutions in Northern Canada

Cuso is proud of its partnership with Power Corporation of Canada, which supports us to direct resources, knowledge and expertise here at home.

As a seasoned healthcare professional and child psychotherapist, 69-year-old Nina Spitzer knows education is vital to the progress of individuals and communities. Volunteering with Cuso's Canadian Program for four years, Nina has created a solid foundation of respect and trust with her students, their parents and the communities of Fort Good Hope and Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

"I feel that my presence as a mature, respectful person assists in mending what has historically been a broken bridge between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities," says Nina.

"The students I serve are curious about the world and their curiosity provides me the opportunity to educate and empower them, as together, through books, we explore, learn, rebuild and grow."

By turning a dilapidated structure into a vibrant, welcoming library, Nina has created a safe space where students can access academic resources, music, good books and seating arrangements that accommodate individual learning styles. She most recently

volunteered as an educational assistant in a class that demands a one-to-one student-teacher ratio for students struggling emotionally and academically.

Launched in 2017, the Canadian Program is committed to helping Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories address low graduation rates, improve education outcomes and promote truth and reconciliation with non-Indigenous citizens. This year, Cuso placed eight volunteers in seven schools. To date, we have placed 58 volunteers in 12 communities, providing 9,599 service days.





“The library has become a critical resource for transforming the lives of young people by creating a safe place to learn and grow.”

— Nina Spitzer | Cuso Volunteer, Inuvik, Northwest Territories

Education Assistant volunteer, Niroja (2nd from the right) and her students in Fort Providence, Northwest Territories

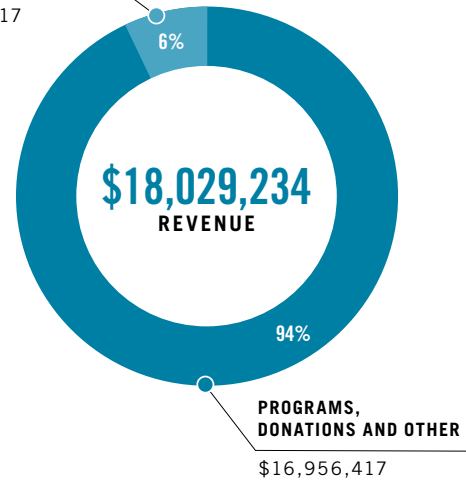
Finances

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 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 they work with. We will continue to use our resources with great discretion.

We are proud to abide by Imagine Canada's Ethical Code for fundraising and pleased that our fundraising investments are consistent with the charitable sector's best practices.

REVENUE IN-KIND

\$1,072,817

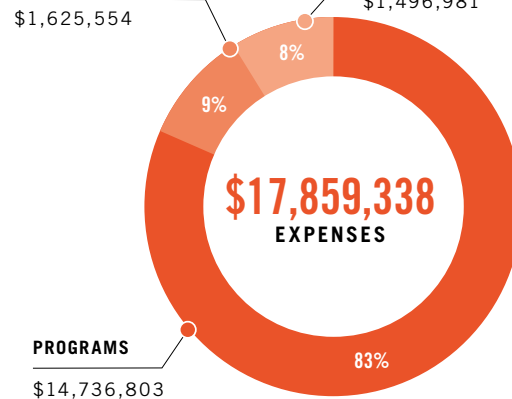


ADMINISTRATION AND AMORTIZATION

\$1,625,554

FUNDRAISING

\$1,496,981



To view our complete audited financial statements, please visit: cusointernational.org/impact/finances-and-accountability/.



Ethiopia Photo: Brian Atkinson

Board of Directors

Patricia Perez-Coutts, Chair
Mississauga, Ontario

Lynn Graham, Vice-Chair
Ottawa, Ontario

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Ottawa, Ontario

Jeff Cates
Mississauga, Ontario

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Nora Murdock
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Wayne Robertson
Vancouver, British Columbia

Lori Spadorcia
Toronto, Ontario

WHY **WE** GIVE

In the summer of 1963, when Robert (Bob) Malcolmson was 20 years old, he volunteered with Crossroads Africa and worked in Tanganyika (as it then was). Later, he heard about Cuso and other international development organizations that were actively recruiting volunteers to work overseas. While Bob did not feel personally suited to such work, he was entirely supportive of Cuso's mission. Today, both he and his wife Patricia are committed donors.

"We've known about Cuso for decades and have always been drawn to organizations that find a way to help others help themselves," says Patricia. A former executive in the Ontario public service, Patricia has a passion for observing social life, past and present. Together with Bob—he is a professor emeritus of history at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.—they continue to research and write and have authored and edited a dozen books since their retirements in 2004. "As social historians, we are especially interested in the history of everyday life," says Patricia.

"Cuso does a lot of work on the ground that assists women," she says. "Several of Cuso's projects take this approach. You are also enabling communities, particularly women, to access micro loans. At a practical level, women are very good about repaying loans. Beyond this, they become more independent, empowered and know how to protect their rights. Ultimately all this leads to social change. This is the kind of change we are proud to support."





Bob and Patricia Malcolmson, Cuso donors since 1992, in Nelson, BC. **Photographer:** Jake Sherman

CUSO
International