

IMPACT



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION
FALL 2016

For Justine,
hope began
with a
single crop

See how your support transformed
Justine and her community! P2

You are helping women stand up for their rights. P3

Your support helps midwives save lives. P4



CAMEROON:

How a single crop can create lasting change

Deep in the Congo Basin rainforest in southern Cameroon, 80 km away from any modern conveniences, or even potable water, lies the municipality of Akom II. Here, 25 000 people depend on subsistence farming for their survival.

One of the most important crops is cassava, a caloric-rich root vegetable and an important local source of carbohydrates and minerals. For a community dependent on cassava production for its livelihood, a processing plant is key to eliminating some of the back-breaking and time-consuming work of traditional processing.



Viviane with Mengué, a farmer who will benefit from the processing plant

Your gifts are sending skilled volunteers, like Viviane Tardif, to help farmers access markets, earn more income and lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

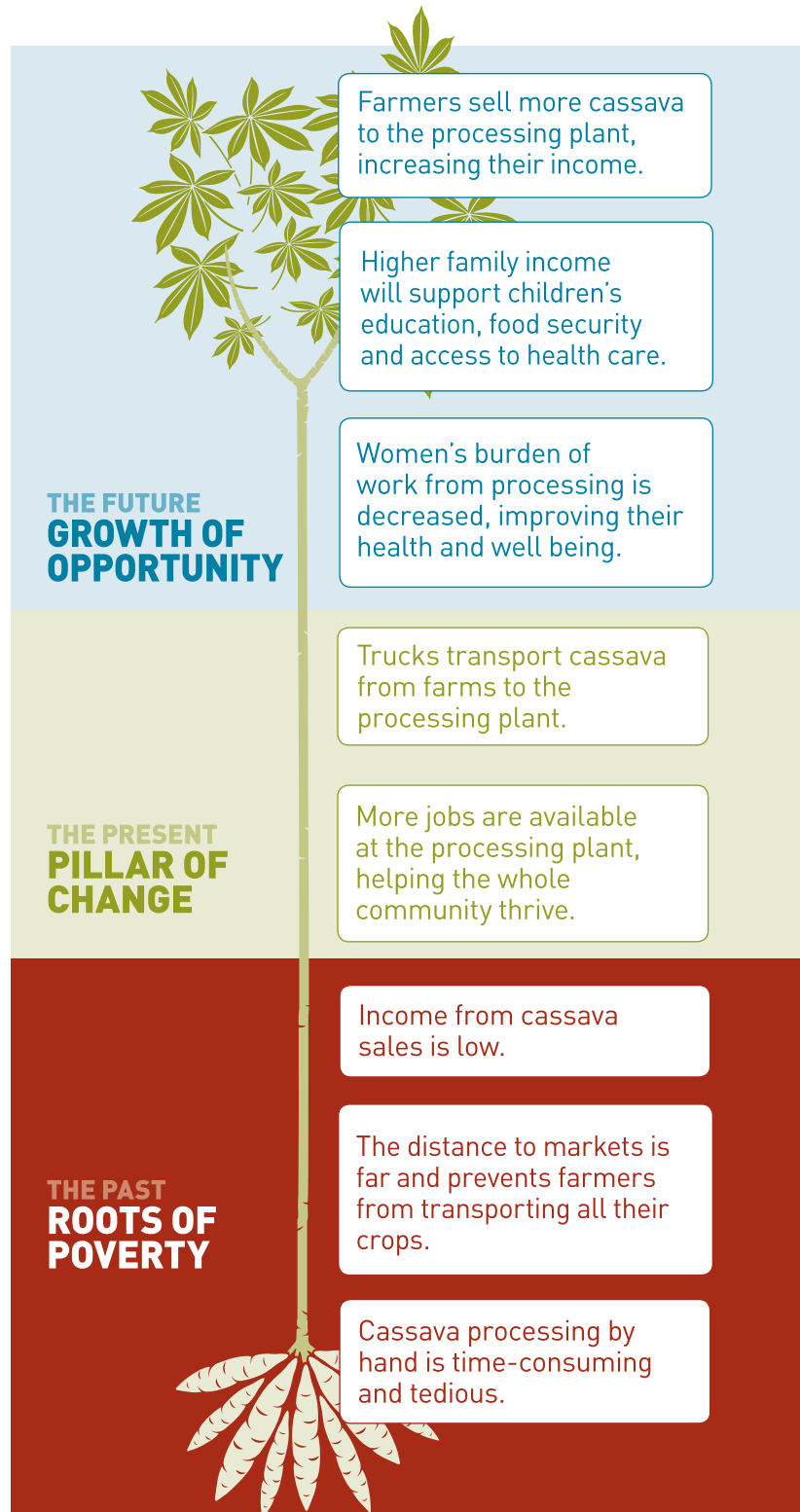
Thank you for sending skilled volunteers like Viviane where they're needed most!

Fast fact: Cassava is also known as yucca, manioc, mandioca, yucca root, casabe, and tapioca.

CASSAVA:

THE RAW MATERIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

This is how you are helping a single plant transform an entire community.



MYANMAR:

With your help, women in Myanmar are standing up for their rights

Your generosity is making a life-changing difference to women in Mon State, Myanmar. Your gifts help send skilled Cuso International volunteers to the country to address gender-based violence and advocate for gender equality.



Pao Mon Restaurant, a social enterprise empowering Mon women

Did you know? Many Mon people have fled to the Thai-Myanmar border because of economic crisis, poverty, political oppression and land confiscation due to internal conflict in Myanmar.

Community Partner Profile: Mon Women's Organization

Q & A

with Mi Eim Pakao, Programme Coordinator

Q. Who are your programs designed to help?

A. We work with a lot of young women from small, rural villages. Most of them can't read or write and are either farmers or work on rubber plantations. We're working to improve rural women's participation at every level. We also help to protect women from gender-based violence.

Q. What gender-based violence issues do Mon women face?

A. Rape cases are higher in Mon state than elsewhere in the country. Recently, the Mon police put up a big billboard saying all the things women should do to prevent rape – women should not go out alone, should stay indoors with good locks on their doors, not wear sexy clothes or look at sexy movies. People always think that it's the women's fault and the women's responsibility to prevent rape. But we were successful in getting the billboards changed so it's aimed at men and also managed to get the rape penalty changed too – it now carries a ten-year sentence.

Q. Can you describe a program that is currently having an impact?

A. Last December, we opened Pao Mon Restaurant in Mawlamyine. It's a social enterprise that aims to empower Indigenous Mon women and spread Mon culture. Our aim is to serve local-made Mon dishes and teach other Mon cooking and culture to preserve our traditions. Mon food is sour, spicy and salty. We're hoping the restaurant will make enough income to become financially sustainable.



Global Highlights

Here are just a few of the many ways you made an impact last year.

CANADA

Cuso International volunteers are strengthening the capacity of Indigenous communities to address the root causes of poverty. For the first time, a Cuso International volunteer was placed in Canada.



COLOMBIA

With the sustainable wage Bernarda earns at Fruandes, a fair trade snack company, she can provide health care and education for her children. Cuso International is working with a local partner to certify businesses like Fruandes so that they can employ and improve the lives of many more vulnerable women.

PHILIPPINES

One of Cuso International's newest country programs was launched this year in collaboration with Gawad Kalinga (GK), a Philippines-based movement that aims to end poverty for 5 million families.

Midwives Save Lives

Midwives provide quality care to women, newborns and families during pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum period. Funded by Global Affairs Canada, Midwives Save Lives will support midwives to improve health and help women and their newborns survive in Benin, Tanzania, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Watch for more on this exciting new initiative.



We'd love to hear from you



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