

IMPACT

CUSO
International

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

FALL 2019



Serving up change:

How a restaurant is changing
women's lives, thanks to you. P2

Strengthening and Sharing Business
Skills, with Your Support! P3

Thanks to you, more women and newborns are surviving
childbirth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. P2

MYANMAR:

You're giving hope to Indigenous women in Myanmar.



Khamoom at the restaurant

You might think that the Pao Mon in Myanmar is just another restaurant, but it's so much more than that.

As you approach, you're greeted with the delicious smells of lemongrass, ginger and garlic from Mohinga soup, considered the national dish of Myanmar. You may see Khamoom, the general manager, working her magic in the kitchen. Khamoom has been with the restaurant for four years and has developed her cooking skills to the point that she's being encouraged to enter a national competition.

But it's what's behind the scenes that's truly inspiring.

This unique restaurant, run by Mon Women's Organization (a Cuso partner), employs only Indigenous women. In this part of the world, it's rare for these women to run their own enterprise and be financially independent. Typically illiterate and from remote rural villages, they're often forced to work on farms and take on domestic responsibilities. They may also be victims of gender-based violence, or even human trafficking.

With the support of Canadian volunteers, Khamoom and her co-workers are earning income and gaining independence, all while helping to preserve their traditional Mon culture.

Your gifts to Cuso are creating **hope and opportunity for women and girls in Myanmar.**



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:



Thanks to you, more women and newborns are surviving childbirth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Hélène Bombula Liema is unmissable as she sweeps down the maternity ward in this small hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Dressed in electric pink, she warmly greets her fellow midwives, all similarly dressed in shades of rose. Here in the DRC, pink is the colour that identifies a midwife.

Midwives face harsh conditions in the DRC, yet their role is life-giving. In a country where women can't afford formal medical care, and, when they can, are treated poorly, midwives are essential. Yet midwives have little access to drugs, and minimal training.

COLOMBIA: Strengthening and Sharing Business Skills, with Your Support!



Deira, one of the many people supported through the SCOPE program



Deira Tomasa Quiñones was determined to create a better life for herself and her family, but traditional employment wasn't the way to do it. In Colombia, where Deira lives, minimum wage doesn't provide enough to survive let alone thrive.

Like many Colombians living in poverty, Deira decided to start her own small business. She knew it was a risk. After all, the majority of micro-enterprises in Colombia fail within the first year.

But Deira has a good chance of success thanks to her participation in Cuso's SCOPE project (Sustainable Colombian Opportunities for Peacebuilding and Employment). The program aims to help Colombian citizens in seven cities who are living in poverty find meaningful and sustainable employment.

Deira and others receive training from Cuso volunteers in the technical and soft skills they need to succeed in the workplace. The SCOPE team works with local stakeholders to develop initiatives, events and to provide technical assistance to promote employment opportunities for people in vulnerable situations.

Thanks to donors like you, who allow Cuso to send Canadian volunteers to work on projects like SCOPE, Deira and her fellow entrepreneurs are full of hope for the future, and they have the skills to make their dreams come true.



Hélène Bombula Liema

That's where Cuso's Midwives Save Lives project comes in. Thanks to Canadian volunteer midwives, Hélène and her colleagues are learning ways to save lives using just their hands and basic medical equipment.

"Before the workshop, I didn't know that you could bring a postpartum hemorrhage under control without using drugs. I didn't know you could resuscitate a newborn without drugs. Now I can do both these things and show others how to as well."

THIS YEAR, your gifts helped vulnerable people around the world.

For every caring and supportive donor, 271 people around the world benefit from the skills and knowledge shared by Cuso's Canadian volunteers.



\$4,147,301
beneficiaries



21
countries



182
staff



326
partners



581
e-volunteers



677
volunteers



15,320
donors



\$48,063,729
revenue

Your gifts at work in... **BENIN**

Advanced work on *Women Engaged for Human Dignity* in Northern Benin, which helps 57,000 girls, local leaders and health and education professionals fight female genital mutilation and gender-based violence.

Your gifts at work in... **MYANMAR**

Piloted two campaigns:

- *Say No to Plastic*, which reduces use of plastic in tourist destinations, and
- *#MyMyanmarDad*, which celebrates fathers and showcases shared household responsibilities in an innovative approach to reducing gender-based violence.

Your gifts at work in... **CAMEROON**

Collaborated with Centre pour l'Environnement et Développement and Indigenous Baka youth and women to improve production, conservation and marketing of local honey. Product now sold locally with proceeds supporting Baka people.

We'd love to hear from you



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