

A woman with dark skin and braided hair is smiling while cooking in a large, shallow, black metal pan over an open fire. She is using a wooden spatula to stir the contents of the pan. The background shows a lush, green outdoor setting with trees and foliage. The overall scene conveys a sense of community and traditional cooking.

IMPACT

CUSO
International

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION
SPRING 2019

How you are helping Jacinta break barriers

Thank you for being the Voice for Change P2 & P3

Urban farmers in Peru are building healthier communities P3

You are promoting equality in Myanmar P4

NIGERIA:

Jacinta is breaking down barriers, thanks to you



Look around your community, identify a problem and find a money-making business solution.

This was the challenge presented to Jacinta when she participated in Cuso International's YouLead (Youth Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Access and Development) program in Cross River State, Nigeria.

At 32 years old, Jacinta Dickson runs one of the only women-owned cassava processing facilities in her community. She is determined to shatter every barrier and inspire other women to do the same.

"I will advise women not to be limited by cultural expectations of what a woman can or cannot do. I grind, press and fry cassava in my factory. Other woman can do the same if they put their mind to it," says Jacinta.



Because of you, women like Jacinta are gaining the skills needed to break barriers.

"I am grateful to Cuso International for leading me in the right direction. I gained self-confidence during the training and it pushed me to start the biggest cassava plant in my community. Now my plan is to buy more equipment and export my cassava outside Nigeria."

-Jacinta Dickson

Although cassava is widely cultivated by both young women and men in most communities, the processing and sale is dominated by men. Cultural expectations to stay at home and tend to their families often prevent women from participating in the business supply chain. They are most times shut out of decision-making and denied access to the land needed to start their own businesses.

But Jacinta wanted to challenge all that. She realized most people were losing valuable time by using small pans to process their cassava. With her training from YouLead and support from her family to rent land, she raised enough money and gained the necessary skills to buy processing equipment and start her own business.

As Jacinta's business grows, her success is having a ripple effect on her community. Reduced processing times means more cassava to sell and more income for families. Jacinta has increased her staff and she's taken steps to ensure that her factory doesn't pollute the environment.

VOICE FOR CHANGE: You are creating a more equal world

Together, we are raising our voices. We are harnessing the power of Canadians, foundations and companies to conquer poverty.

The Voice for Change campaign is leveraging significant funding from the Government of Canada to improve equality and inclusion and to address significant health issues around the world.

Thanks to generous donors like you, we're thrilled to report that we are already at 70 per cent of our goal! You have allowed us to engage more than 3,300 volunteers to lend their skills to partners in 19 countries, building stronger, more sustainable communities.

In Ethiopia, you are supporting mothers like Medina Mathair. She was worried when her one-year-old



Your support is helping urban farmers and their families access food

With a population of around 10 million people and an average of 200,000 new inhabitants per year, Lima is home to a third of Peru's populace. The city's rapid and unplanned urbanization has led to millions of people living in poverty.

Thanks to you, urban farmers in Lima are combatting these issues by growing their own nutritious foods through the Cuso International Innovation Fund.

Around 1,000 farmers are receiving formal training and agro-hubs are being established throughout the city. The hubs offer workshops and promote ecological farming techniques.

Cuso International's Innovation Fund provided grants of up to \$100,000 to teams in Peru, Cameroon and Philippines for projects that transform lives and communities. Through your support, you are helping these hardworking urban farmers grow and access safe and nutritious foods, leading to healthier families and healthier communities.



You make it possible for urban farmers to build healthier communities.

INNOVATION FUND

To learn more about the Innovation Fund,
please visit cusointernational.org/innovation



Your support means the world to mothers like Medina Mathair.

son Abdulalem spiked a fever that wouldn't subside. She made the trek to the hospital where doctors confirmed he had malaria. For the past two years, Cuso International volunteers have been training the medical staff at that hospital so they made quick work of saving the young boy's life.

Thank you for sending skilled Canadians where they are needed most. Thank you for being a voice for change.

Want to learn more about the campaign?
Visit cusointernational.org/voiceforchange

MYANMAR:

On a mission for equality Your support helps women in Myanmar



“ These women are on a mission to achieve equality. They have a passion and commitment to protect their families and the rights of their Tavoyan sisters, mothers, daughters and children. ”

- Katherine Chong

Because of you, Katherine volunteered as a legal advisor with the Tavoyan Women's Union, in Dawei, Myanmar. The organization operates a safe house for women and girls fleeing violent situations, and offers free legal services and skill-building opportunities the women never had access to before.

The construction of a major seaport and industrial zone in Dawei is posing serious issues for the women who live there. While men stand to benefit with increased employment opportunities, women are rarely considered for hard labour jobs and may suffer other adverse effects. There have been forced evictions with little or no compensation, pollution of the air, land and water, and little to no consultation with those who are affected.

The Tavoyan Women's Union, however, is continuing to push for equal access to project information and to be included in discussions on community solutions throughout the negotiation process. It encourages women to get involved and lobby for legislative changes to include women's perspectives in all decision-making processes.



Lwin Lwin Hlaing at Tavoyan Women's Union is one of many fighting for equality in Myanmar

Thank you for helping us advance gender equality and for ensuring all women have the chance to be heard.

We'd love to hear from you!



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