

IMPACT



From Dominance to Alliance

How youth are reinventing masculinity in Ethiopia

Inside you will read stories of growth and change from Peru and Cameroon

September 2025

Strengthening gender equality in the classroom

In Ethiopia, Solomon Agazi, age 17, is showing how change begins with the courage to question traditions, challenge stereotypes, and redefine what it means to be a man.

Cuso International's Positive Masculinity training changed how Solomon thought about masculinity.

"We grew up believing strength meant dominance," he confesses. "Cuso taught me true strength lies in empathy."

Now, Solomon recognizes how a different approach to gender norms could positively impact his entire community.

Solomon's advocacy is having a ripple effect. Teachers are seeing harassment of female students decrease, and more boys are participating in menstrual health discussions—topics once taboo.

"We're not just students—we're brothers, sons, and future fathers," he emphasizes. **"When you change our minds, you change families, communities, and ultimately, nations."**

Solomon hopes to see these trainings in every school to help make gender equity the norm.

"The cost of one training session is small. The cost of silence? Generations of inequality."



THE CUSO EFFECT

A total of 486 individuals — 451 males and 35 females —

participated in these sessions, reshaping views of masculinity and highlighting the role of boys and men in creating learning environments for girls.

Like Solomon, these boys and men will apply what they've learned to their own lives, creating a ripple effect in their communities.



**93%
male
participants**

**7%
female
participants**

Bio-garden teaches students to plant seeds for a sustainable future

In the heart of Villa El Salvador in Peru, a transformative project is taking root. A school's bio-garden is connecting students with nature and teaching them about sustainability, healthy eating, the value of the land, and the benefits of urban agriculture firsthand.

Through hands-on workshops, students learn about plant life cycles, cultivation techniques, composting, and the importance of respecting the environment. **This practical, immersive approach equips students with knowledge that goes beyond school, giving them skills they can use at home and in their communities.**



The project goes beyond the students. Parents, teachers, and neighbours are invited to help care for the garden, creating a network of collaboration and mutual support. Becoming familiar with sustainable agriculture techniques, they can then replicate in their own homes, promoting food self-sufficiency and helping families save money.

Thanks to you, this bio-garden is an agent of change, sowing in each student the seeds of respect for the earth and a desire for a healthier future for all.

A technical program's training helps support Tatiane's dream in digital art



In Cameroon, young girls can face many challenges, including unwanted pregnancies, gender-based violence, early and forced marriages, domestic violence, and racial or professional discrimination.

From an early age Tatiane had a passion for cinema. Despite challenges she faced, she fought to be among the best in school. Top of her class, she graduated with honors.

"We may come from difficult neighbourhoods, but we're not doomed to failure," she said.

She joined Cuso's TechWomen Factory program, developing skills in digital art, particularly video editing, and used Photoshop to design the poster for her award-winning film LA TACHE. TechWomen Factory, in partnership with the Cameroon Youth School Tech Incubator (CAYSTI),

supports women 18 to 35 years old by adding a high level of digital competency to their existing credentials.

Thanks to you, Tatiane dreams of shooting a film with a team made up entirely of women technicians.

"I hope to see in Africa, and in Cameroon in particular, as many women technicians as men in the technical professions of the film and audiovisual industries, enjoying the same rights," she said.

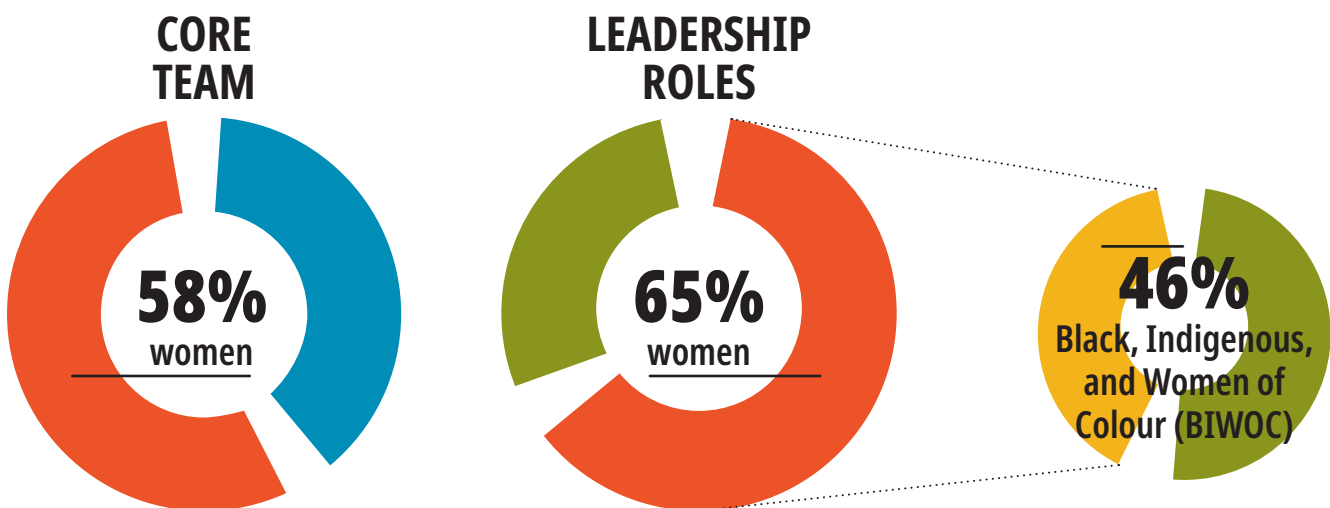
"I would like to thank Cuso for giving me this platform to express myself."

Cuso shines in the FAIR SHARE Monitor 2025

Cuso is pleased to share that we have ranked impressively in the 7th edition of the FAIR SHARE Monitor.



Organisations are considered to have a fair representation of women in leadership when their FAIR SHARE Index is 15.0 or lower.



Source: fairsharewl.org/monitor-2025-en/

Cuso demonstrates a meaningful commitment to gender equity.

By voluntarily submitting data and sustaining transparency, Cuso not only secures a leading position in the Monitor but also exemplifies accountability and leadership in advancing intersectional gender equity.



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123 Slater Street, Suite 800, Ottawa ON, Canada K1P 5H2

If you have any questions about the impact of your gift, please contact us at donorrelations@cusointernational.org

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