



CAUSE CANINDA

2018 - 19 ANNUAL REPORT

Thank You!

From the steep mountainous highlands of Western Guatemala, to the straw roofs along the very bumpy roads of Sierra Leone and the rural communities with beautiful vistas of Honduras, we want to **thank you** for supporting CAUSE Canada this year.

Your contribution is a great blessing and is returned with thousands of smiles from children, women and families that are now going to school and learning to meet their basic needs thanks to your generosity.

Thank you to our board of directors, staff and volunteers for your dedication to ending extreme poverty.

We are infinitely thankful to our creator for the existence of people with such big hearts who have supported those in need this year.

Thank you to each individual who makes the work of CAUSE Canada possible. The blessings have been immeasurable and so many families have been given the opportunity to flourish because of you.

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A Letter From The

Executive Director



“While a seemingly unreachable goal, when you consider the dimensions of the most extreme forms of poverty – malnutrition, infant mortality, children that have never attended school – you begin to realize, that perhaps we can eliminate the most severe manifestations of extreme poverty if we set our minds to it.”

Dear Friends of CAUSE Canada,

Thank you for the support and encouragement that you have provided to us in the 2018 - 19 year! I am humbled by the partners we have - your generosity in funds but particularly in heart. The enormous kindness and concern you have for supporting marginalized and vulnerable people to have dignity and justice is truly meaningful.

As a member of the international development community, we strongly believe in participating and contributing to reaching the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Of these, goal number one is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere.”

While a seemingly unreachable goal, when you consider the dimensions of the most extreme forms of poverty – malnutrition, infant mortality, children that have never attended school – you begin to realize, that perhaps we can eliminate the most severe manifestations of extreme poverty if we set our minds to it. Truthfully, we all know that we are created equal and no one deserves to suffer these inequalities. We need to pursue justice to ensure that no one is undernourished, children live past their 5th birthdays and all children have the opportunity to attend school.

I truly believe that when we look at the dimensions of poverty, we can begin to conceive how to eliminate extreme poverty and how we can make a significant contribution to making a difference in ending extreme poverty by 2030, together. My hope is that as you read the 2018 - 19 Annual Report, you are inspired to continue to build the momentum to eliminating the health, education, and basic needs inequalities that deprive so many people and that you will continue to partner with us as we work towards a world where all kids go to school, people have enough to eat and everyone has opportunity to live a healthy life.

Gratefully,

Wendy Fehr
Executive Director

A Letter From The

Board Chair



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Nighswander - Chair
Deanne Stene - Treasurer
Jason Ho - Secretary
Ashley Tedham - Director

Les Sawatsky - Director
Pamella Manning - Director
Yenny Foulston - Director

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am pleased to report to you on CAUSE Canada's work in 2018 - 19. We are proud of the recognized work that we are doing in the areas of health, education and livelihoods, that is continuing to be more fiscally and programmatically transparent.

In February, we were informed of the Government of Canada's intention to continue investing and building on our work in maternal and infant health by funding CAUSE Canada to start a new program for young adolescent girls who we too often see in our programs as very young mothers. Our education programs in Sierra Leone are developing with more focused efforts on helping girls complete high school instead of becoming young mothers. In doing this, we must ensure that children attending school are achieving the literacy and numeracy skills critical to long-term retention in school.

Funding for these programs continues to be provided by long-term partners – individuals, foundations, government and intergovernmental partners who remain committed to partnering with us and to ensuring that people living in extreme poverty have hope for the future. We are so grateful for our partners who are committed to working for long-term sustainable change.

Lastly, we remain committed to supporting decent work for women, recognizing that women with access to a small income are empowered to improve the whole families' access to sanitation, drinking water, housing and other assets. This means investing in more training for women to improve their literacy skills and build confidence in their abilities as women to create change.

We are proud of what CAUSE Canada is accomplishing in our efforts to eliminate extreme poverty – supporting people and communities to address the dimensions of extreme poverty and improve their lives.

Thank you for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Nighswander".

Jan Nighswander
Chair, Board of Directors



What We Do

CAUSE Canada is a Christian-motivated international relief and development organization that strives to empower communities and individuals in disadvantaged regions to overcome poverty.

For 35 years, CAUSE Canada has implemented responsive, integrated community development programming in geographical regions where there is an under-representation of international development and aid organizations.



Health

We bring culturally appropriate health services and education to remote areas, training communities to provide critical services and supporting them to advocate for their right to care.



Education

We believe that it is not enough to have children attending schools, but that we must also ensure that they are participating in quality education that will provide them with the literacy and numeracy skills required to thrive.



Livelihoods

We provide small loans in combination with business training to female entrepreneurs to help grow their businesses, increase their household incomes and provide employment for others in their communities.

Where We Work



Sierra Leone

For over 30 years, CAUSE Canada has worked in Sierra Leone, West Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Only 59% of children living in the rural northern area who are supposed to be entering grade 1 will actually start school.

Across the country, 26% of children under age 5 are malnourished, meaning that their growth and development are impaired due to poor nutrition, repeated infection and limited social interaction.



Guatemala

In Guatemala, CAUSE Canada is working with Indigenous populations in the rural Western Highlands.

Guatemala has some of the worst poverty, malnutrition and maternal child mortality rates in Latin America.

Approximately 80% of the 17 million Indigenous people in Guatemala live below the poverty line.

Indigenous women have an average of 3 years of schooling.



Honduras

CAUSE Canada is working in rural Honduras, where approximately 1 of 5 people live in extreme poverty.

Due to intense levels of violent crime, many rural communities where CAUSE Canada works receive little or no government services or any support from other humanitarian organizations.

Nationally, 17% of all girls are out of school but intense levels of violence mean that few girls living in rural areas continue participating in education past primary school when the schools are outside their rural community.





Helping People Meet Their Health, Education and Basic Needs

Over the past year, through the support of investors and partners, CAUSE Canada worked with communities living in extreme poverty to help them meet their most basic needs through programs and services that address critical health care challenges, education access and quality, and economic development opportunities.

CAUSE Canada has been undertaking sustainable rural and remote development in some of the most impoverished countries and regions in the world for 35 years. Eliminating the dimensions of extreme poverty – a lack of access to health services, education, proper housing, sanitation systems, or transportation – has always been at the heart of our work.



Health

This year, CAUSE Canada partnered with over **12,640 Indigenous and extremely impoverished women and men** living in rural and remote communities to help them access high quality medical services.

Many people living in impoverished rural regions do not have literacy or numeracy skills and have lived a traditional way of life with no medical care leading to high mortality of infants and women. In 2018 - 19, **6,814 women** participated in training to prevent malnutrition and **2,431 midwives and other health aides** were trained in breastfeeding support.

Training these men and women to understand that maternal mortality does not have to continue if they seek trained care can make all the difference for their families, creating a sustainable change that will have a long-lasting impact.





Education

Working to make education more accessible and better in quality is at the forefront of CAUSE Canada's work in Sierra Leone.

In Koinadugu, Sierra Leone, only **21% of mothers over 15 years of age** have any level of literacy. This makes early childhood development programming critical as we work together with parents to prepare and support their children to start school.

This year, CAUSE Canada had **701 children** participating in ECD programs and **16,017 primary and secondary school children** participating in school programs that support their education either by helping them to directly attend school or helping them succeed at school through after-school programs, learning labs, library access and other educational projects.

In 2018 - 19, **48 adolescent girls** participated in the CAUSE Carrick Bursary Program, ensuring they will be supported to attend junior and secondary school and go on to University. This program will grow to support 100 girls in 2019 - 20.





Livelihoods

In most of the impoverished communities where CAUSE Canada works, women have little or no education. Enabling them to earn a wage is critical in supporting their families to thrive.

For women in the highlands of **Western Guatemala**, raising pigs, chickens and other livestock has significantly helped them improve their lives and those of their families.

In **Honduras**, you will see women wearing and selling second-hand clothing often from Canada – using the resources around them to make a living. In 2018 - 19, **185 new businesses** were started by women through our microfinance programs.

In **Sierra Leone**, **128 adults** with disabilities participated in apprenticeships to become independently employed with dignity.





Quimistan, Honduras

Creating Change Through Health Care

Honduras can be captured in swatches of three colors. Green, for the lush vegetation all around. Blue, for the clear skies above. And brown for the dirt roads and rural communities. Amidst these colours is where you'll find Liliana García Romero*, health care nurse, eyes lifted high to the blue above.

Previously an auxiliary nurse at a government run health center, her work was characterized less with training and more with a focus on filling quotas. Health centers built by the Honduran government are spartan in resource and operation; staff have only the barest of necessities needed to serve their municipalities. Liliana was under-trained and overworked. Rarely was she fulfilled by work; her heart longed to build meaningful relationships with her patients.

That all changed in 2017. When Liliana decided to begin working with CAUSE Canada, she found that the job she had landed meant ongoing training, continually developing as a nurse. It meant learning about women's rights, empowering her to speak up for herself and others in the communities she works in. Best of all, the job she has now means that she is able to build the patient relationships and their overall capacity for better health that is core to the passion she has for her work. Through home visits and routine checkups, Liliana is instrumental in providing culturally sensitive care to families in rural areas that are hard to reach.

For Liliana, the benefits of CAUSE Canada's work are reaped daily. By focusing on education and implementing health programs, CAUSE Canada is empowering locals to build up their own community. Nurses such as Liliana demonstrate better quality of care after training with CAUSE Canada and an immense amount of work satisfaction. "There is a joy... In being able to be with patients and volunteers." Liliana says. "Thanks to this opportunity, I have improved and continue to improve every day."

**Name has been changed*

Impact This Year

2,832

Women Trained
To Provide Health Services In
Their Communities

37,666

People Benefited From
Basic Health Care Services

6,814

People Trained In
Healthy Nutrition

Kabala, Sierra Leone

Education In Sight

The world loses color when you start to go blind. Imagining a future can be difficult for anyone, but the thought of navigating that future without sight is almost certainly devastating. For Aminata Jalloh*, this was her life.

Born to mother Tenneh Mansaray and father Momodu Jalloh, Aminata seemed destined for a life in the fields. For many families that rely on farming in Sierra Leone, money is tight. Secondary school is rarely an option when all hands are needed to feed the family. Being the sixth child and a girl doesn't promise much for the future.

Life began to change when Aminata joined CAUSE Canada's CAUSE Kids program. Her life grew in joy. CAUSE Kids helped her family meet the requirements for Aminata to go to school. Even more importantly, when her father was too sick to work, she was able to have a proper meal in the school's canteen. At 11 years old, life was looking up. A dedicated girl, Aminata worked after school as a CAUSE Canada peer literacy facilitator reading with grade 1 and grade 2 students. Part of a team of 60 girls, these young women build literacy in over 2,100 younger students over the course of the year. As Aminata taught, her love of learning increased. Leading others to do well meant her own pronunciation and understanding improved exponentially and she grew in confidence knowing that she was a role model for the younger students.

When Aminata began to lose her eyesight, school, that beacon of hope, began to be snuffed out. In North America, perhaps, a child without sight might undergo surgery and then continue their education. But Aminata did not have the luxury of health care. Her parents, worried that she might never see again, turned once again to CAUSE Canada for help.

In response, CAUSE Canada arranged for Aminata to be taken to the Catholic Holy Spirit Hospital in Makeni, away from her village. Treatment cost 500,000 Leones (just under \$72 CAD) and took a year to complete. When she fully recovered, Aminata dove right back into her studies. Despite the year away from school, she completed the national exam and scored well enough to move into secondary school. Today, at the age of 16, Aminata is studying hard. Her education is financially possible through CAUSE Canada and through her own tenacity. She hopes to one day become a medical doctor and Aminata Jalloh isn't quitting any time soon.

**Names have been changed*

Impact This Year

3,600+

Kids Accessed The
Integrated Resource Library

560

Community Meetings Promoting
Education

17,631

Children Benefited From
Education Programs





Todos Santos, Guatemala

Weaving A Brighter Future

25 and newly single, Maria López Carillo* found herself in an impossible situation when her husband left her and their three children without any type of financial support. Between working and managing her home, Maria registered for CAUSE Canada's Microfinance Program after hearing of the program from her former mother-in-law.

At its core, CAUSE Canada's microfinance program empowers women by providing the training and cash flow necessary to start a small business. Of equal importance is the fact that all women are treated with respect and taught their worth. Each entrepreneur participates with a group of like-minded women and CAUSE Canada staff conduct regular home visits to better provide optimal support.

Through the program, women grow in both self-confidence and self-competence. Such an atmosphere helped sustain Maria through the inevitable challenges of entrepreneurship, when her first investment failed. She had purchased a small number of chickens and turkeys, hoping that the poultry farm would take off. But disaster struck, with plague and illness taking much of the lot.

Still, supplied with resources and education, Maria saw a way forward. She would pay back her loan and continue to provide for her family, this time by pursuing another dream. Having learned how to weave belts and skirts years ago, Maria knew that this business would play better to her strengths. The materials and equipment were more expensive than poultry, but like any true entrepreneur, she took the leap.

In time, her efforts began to pay off. With a loan of 3,500 Quetzals (\$600 CAD), Maria was able to build, and continues to run, a small business that makes all the difference in the world for her family. Her sashes, sold to other women in neighboring villages, mean that Maria can put food on the table and attend to her children's needs. "[I needed] a lot of perseverance and faith in what I do..." Maria admits, "[but] my economic conditions have improved."

**Name has been changed*

Impact This Year

185

Women Started
Their Own Business

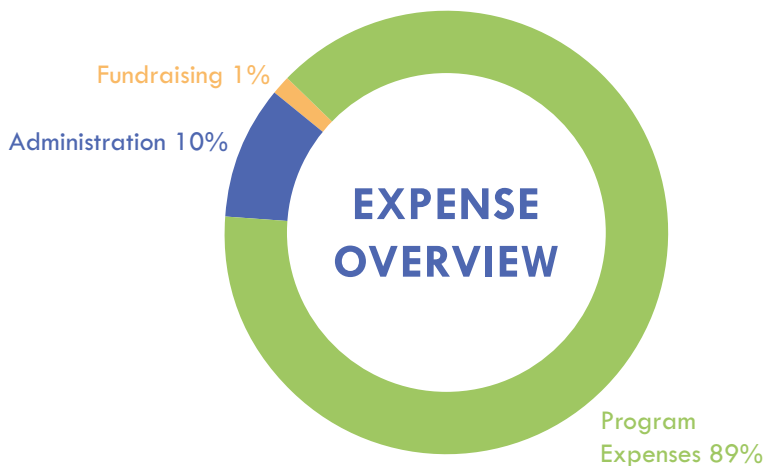
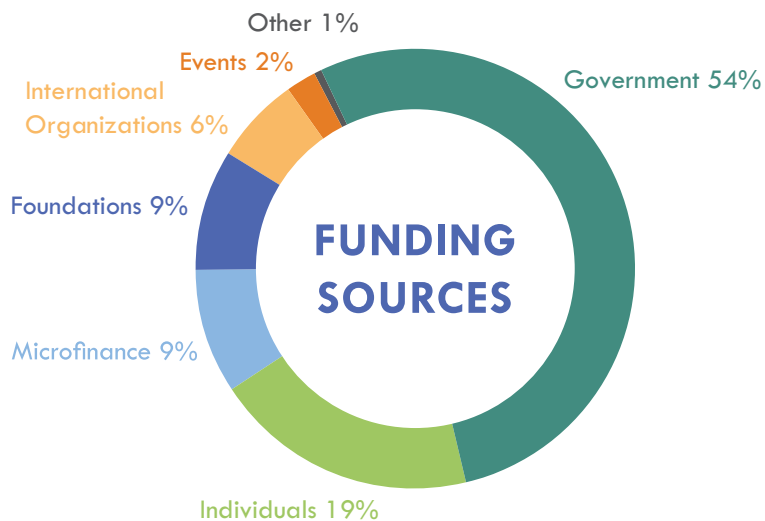
2,592

Active Members In
The Microfinance Program

27

Businesses In Guatemala
Became Self Sustainable

Statement of Operations April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019



REVENUE	2019 Total
Microcredit Financial Revenue	217,155
Events	51,269
International Organizations	148,001
Government of Canada	1,249,734
Government of Alberta	12,800
Designated Donations	108,946
General Donations	139,724
CAUSE Kids Sponsorship	208,678
Foundation Revenue	210,914
Interest and Miscellaneous	11,403
Total Revenue	2,358,624

EXPENSES	2019 Total
Amortization	64,240
MNCH Program - Guatemala/Honduras	1,174,537
CAUSE Canada Programs - Sierra Leone	588,114
Microfinance Programs	262,552
International Organizations' Programs	126,853
Total Program Activities	2,216,296
Administration	243,571
Fundraising	32,395
Total Expenses	2,492,262

FUND BALANCES	2019 Total
Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenses	(133,638)
Recovery (Impairment) of Microcredit Loans Receivable Portfolio	(1,203)
Gain on Disposal of Property/Equipment	777
Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenses	(134,064)

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2019 Total
<i>Current Assets</i>	
Cash	206,146
Accounts Receivable	5,553
Donated Investments	22,402
Prepaid Expenses	24,141
Total Current Assets	258,242
Capital Assets	235,024
Total Assets	493,266
LIABILITIES	2019 Total
<i>Current Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	87,998
Deferred Contributions	21,458
Total Current Liabilities	109,456
Microcredit Loan Obligation	146,946
Total Liabilities	256,402
NET ASSETS	2019 Total
Invested in Capital Assets	235,024
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,840
Total Net Assets	236,864
Total Fund Balance	493,266



CAUSE Canada has earned the Seal of Approval from the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (www.giveconfidently.ca). You can expect accountability, transparency, excellence, respect and responsiveness from CAUSE Canada.

To request full audited statements, please email info@cause.ca.



Want to Support CAUSE Canada?

Pray. Pray for those in need and for the work CAUSE Canada is doing in the poorest rural areas of Sierra Leone, Guatemala and Honduras.

Donate. Only with partners like you, is CAUSE Canada able to work with those living in extreme poverty. Your gifts give families, women and children hope for a better future.

Volunteer. Support our team and contribute your skills in a meaningful way.

Spread the Word. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Share about CAUSE Canada with your family, friends and church.





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Inspired by faith in Christ, CAUSE Canada strives to be a catalyst for global justice. CAUSE Canada provides sustainable, integrated community development in rural West Africa and Central America through authentic, collaborative long-term relationships.



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