



2021-22
ANNUAL REPORT



2021-22

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2021-22!

It has been a great honor this year to work alongside CAUSE Canada beginning to change the lives of women and girls living with disabilities in my community.

As a young woman, being blind is like being forsaken. Many in my community treated me poorly and told me that my only hope for survival would be to become a beggar. But this year, through CAUSE Canada's project, Wi Lead by Sabi, I am one of a small group of women with disabilities working with girls with disabilities and their families in my community to help increase our access to rights. Too often people with disabilities, and especially women and girls with disabilities, are not allowed to even leave their homes because people do not see our value.

This project has not only changed the way my community looks at me and others like me but has also added great value to my life. Working with women and girls living with disabilities is like a dream come true.

I want to share my deep appreciation with all who support CAUSE Canada. Things are changing in our community, thanks to you. Together, we are raising awareness on the rights of women and girls and creating long term change. I am now confident that all is not lost and there can be dignity in disability.

I wish each of you God's abundant blessings!

Antoinette K Mansaray

Antoinette K Mansaray
Musaia Community, Sierra Leone



11,217
Out-of-school
adolescents and
women benefited from
small business support

208,302
Women, men and
children reached by
CAUSE Canada projects

805
Communities in Sierra
Leone, Guatemala and
Honduras benefited from
CAUSE Canada projects.

12,276
Children and youth
participated in education
programming



Executive Director
Wendy Fehr



Board Chair
Ed Temple

OUR LEADERSHIP

Executive Director
Wendy Fehr

Board Chair
Ed Temple

Board of Directors
Ashley Tedham
Heidi Tratnik
Hoa Quach
Jason Ho
Nketti Johnson-Taylor
Sochi Iwuoha
Tyler Cleveland

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This past year, we sat down and considered what CAUSE Canada does best and made a commitment to prioritize this.

If you have been partnering with us for a while, it will come as no surprise to you that we are most effective when we are partnering with communities – building strong relationships that help us to better understand needs and how to support communities to meet these needs, working with leaders, and especially in building opportunities for women. I think this comes from the core belief that all our team has about dignity and equity – all people everywhere deserve to be valued and respected. We come alongside to support people living in extreme poverty to help them have opportunities to leave it.

As we reflected on working in partnership with communities, we realized that, while we do this well, we can do better – making space to listen more, work more closely, and build stronger relationships.

This past year has had many highlights which we hope you will enjoy reading more about in the following pages. Our achievements in Sierra Leone have been remarkable. It has truly been an exciting year, trying new things, and opening new opportunities with communities to support girls to go back to school, and cancel and prevent child marriages.

One of the biggest challenges throughout the 2021-22 year was clearly the ongoing pandemic crises affecting people in Guatemala and Honduras – particularly the irregular or complete school closures for another year.

The secondary effects of the pandemic are evident in every place CAUSE Canada works: sky-rocketing inflation and increasing hunger and violence. These risks are very real for people living in rural communities throughout the world as well as for our local teams as they work alongside the people most in need of opportunities.

Thank you for the support you provide in so many ways.

With gratitude,

Wendy Fehr, Executive Director

Ed Temple, Board Chair

The first commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

There is no commandment greater than these.

Mark 12: 29-31



OUR VISION

CAUSE Canada’s vision is of a world where all people are equally valued and have the opportunity to live free from extreme poverty.

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

Through the values of faith, dignity, equity and impact, CAUSE Canada partners with communities to help them break the cycles of extreme poverty.



2021 Organization Innovation and Impact Award Recipient

Cooperation Canada, in collaboration with World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the trustees of the Lewis Perinbam Award, presented CAUSE Canada with the 2021 Organization Innovation and Impact Award for our work to end child marriage in Sierra Leone.

As an organization, we are continually striving to address stubborn problems in new ways. We are grateful to have the support and be recognized for this work.

Ending Child Marriage in Sierra Leone

The project *Mi Small Wef No More (I am not a child wife anymore)* ended child marriage in 20 communities in Sierra Leone. In the first six months, 127 planned child marriages were cancelled, and we saw a significant drop in the number of child marriages being arranged.

While the impact of the project was astounding, it highlighted how listening and learning from communities and then being nimble and responsive to what we learn, allows us to achieve life-changing results. True partnership with communities is foundational to the way CAUSE Canada works and our ability to be agile and responsive, means that we can be more effective.



Dignity For Adolescent Mothers in Central America

Adolescent pregnancy and motherhood, despite being commonplace in rural Guatemala and Honduras, often brings shame. Girls who are pregnant do not seek out maternal health care, and often do not participate in the community in the same way as other women and girls because of their shame.

This past year, through our health programs, we provided professional vocational and business training to young mothers. These adolescent mothers are now cutting hair, baking bread, and running small businesses that are helping them to provide for their families.

Sustainable Small Business Support in Honduras

CAUSE Canada has microfinance programming in several coastal communities in Honduras that were devastated by two hurricanes (Ida and Iota) while the areas were being severely impacted by the pandemic.

Throughout 2021, these small business owners picked themselves up, cleaned the mud out of their huts, and restarted their businesses. While some of them are still struggling, it is inspirational to hear how they are able to rebuild their lives because they have some economic security from their small businesses.



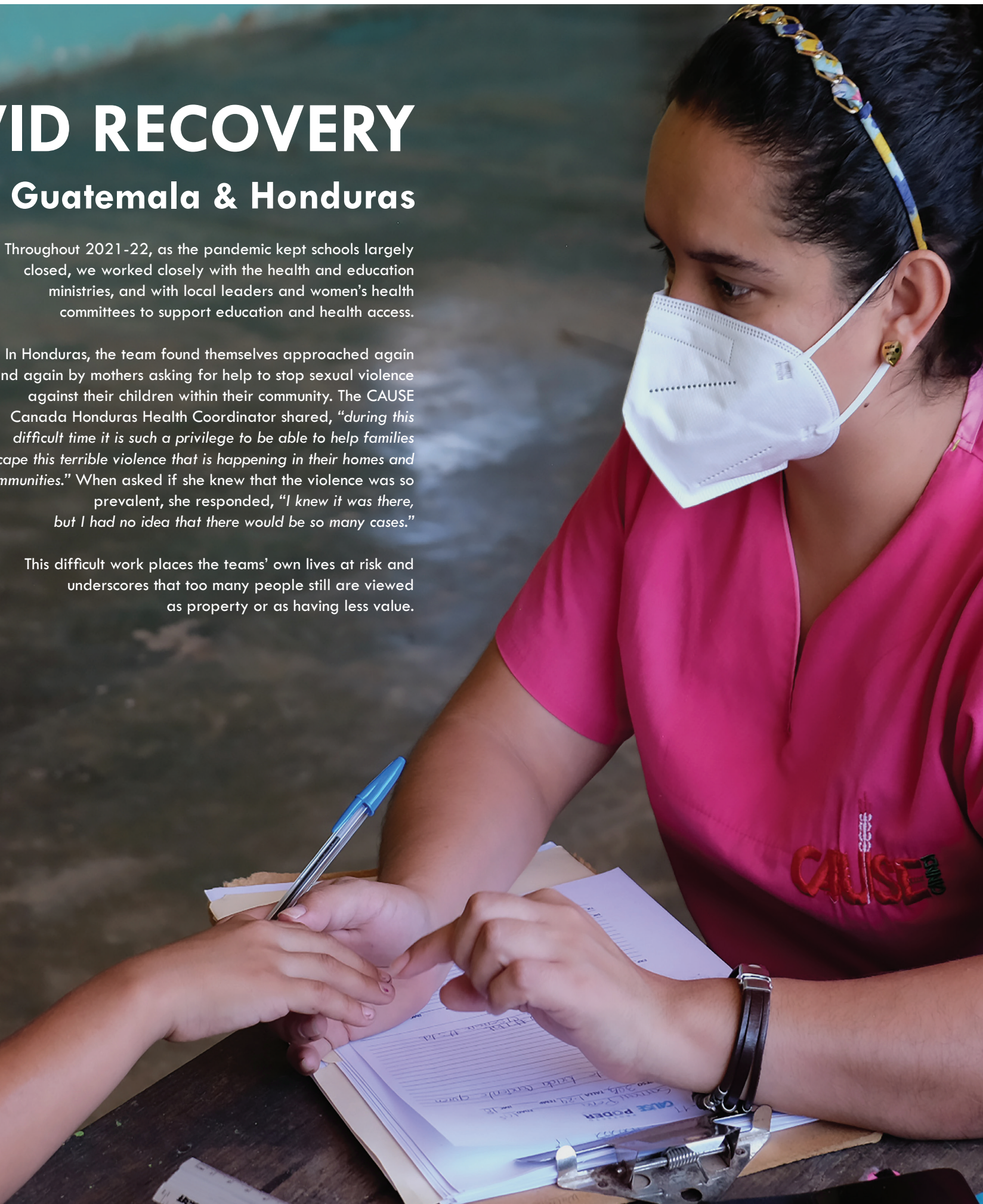
COVID RECOVERY

In Guatemala & Honduras

Throughout 2021-22, as the pandemic kept schools largely closed, we worked closely with the health and education ministries, and with local leaders and women's health committees to support education and health access.

In Honduras, the team found themselves approached again and again by mothers asking for help to stop sexual violence against their children within their community. The CAUSE Canada Honduras Health Coordinator shared, *"during this difficult time it is such a privilege to be able to help families escape this terrible violence that is happening in their homes and communities."* When asked if she knew that the violence was so prevalent, she responded, *"I knew it was there, but I had no idea that there would be so many cases."*

This difficult work places the teams' own lives at risk and underscores that too many people still are viewed as property or as having less value.



In Sierra Leone

Prior to the pandemic, being female and living in rural Sierra Leone meant that the likelihood of attending secondary school was significantly low. With the rising economic hardships caused by the pandemic, of the girls who were attending school prior to the pandemic, many did not return when the schools reopened.

In Koinadugu, girls marry very young: 17% before age 15 and 43% before 18 years of age. Girls who stay in school, delay marriage and, with each passing year in school, gain an edge over living in extreme poverty. These girls earn higher incomes and are more likely to participate in decisions that affect them. Because girls who go to school have their children later, there is a significant decrease in maternal mortality, and their children are more likely to survive past the age of 5. In Sierra Leone, as one of the poorest countries in the world, with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, every year a girl that goes to school has a huge impact!

In 2021-22, many lives were changed through the opportunity to go back to school. Over 1,160 adolescent girls participated in programming to help them return to school.

Sustainable Development Goal 4: QUALITY EDUCATION



320

Teachers trained to teach critical literacy and numeracy skills.



7,439

Girls gained access to quality education.



143

Communities participated in activities to help children and adolescents go to school or return to school.

In 2015, the United Nations developed 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** that address how we as an international development community can come together to create a better world. CAUSE Canada aligns its work with four of these Sustainable Development Goals including No Poverty, Good Health and Wellbeing, Quality Education and Gender Equality.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

"My name is Neneh. I am 17 years old and am from a small community in Koinadugu, Sierra Leone.

When I was 14, my father passed away. At the time, he was highly respected in our community, and he fully supported me with everything I needed. After he died, life became very difficult as my mother could no longer afford to send me to school. I had no choice but to withdraw from my classes and work on our family farm. It was the saddest day of my life.

I lost all hope of returning to school as our earnings barely provided enough for our family to eat. I often asked my mother to help me return to school so I could complete my education but I knew she was doing the best she could.

Then one day in August, the town crier informed our community that CAUSE Canada was holding a meeting and there was a program that would support out-of-school girls to return to school. The next morning, I excitedly attended the meeting and registered myself as one of the program's beneficiaries.

Today, I am one of the happiest girls in our community. Words cannot express how thankful I am to be provided with an opportunity I never thought would be possible. I plan to complete my education and pursue university to become a medical doctor. I want to thank CAUSE Canada and those who support CAUSE Canada for making my dreams come true."

In 2021-22, CAUSE Canada prioritized sending adolescent girls back to school. By building community capacity, and partnering with Mothers' Clubs, CAUSE Canada worked to develop sustainable solutions to help support the most vulnerable girls to gain access to education.

**Name has been changed*



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Because of CAUSE Canada's relief work during the pandemic and the complexity of maternal and reproductive health needs, CAUSE Canada has built a strong network of partners.

Ana* is one of many people in Honduras who have been supported by CAUSE Canada and benefited from these partnerships that help us to have life-saving impact.

Ana lives in the rural community of Vista Hermosa, Honduras. At the age of 19, she was in the second trimester of her first pregnancy. One day, while alone taking care of her 8-year-old brother, she began experiencing intense pain.

Overwhelmed by fear and shame, without any money or family support, and very little knowledge of what changes or problems she might expect as a soon-to-be new mother, Ana hesitantly reached out to a leader in her community. This leader knew of CAUSE Canada's work in Honduras because of the network of care and partnerships CAUSE has built in the area. He suggested she contact CAUSE Canada's Honduran team. Apprehensively, Ana dialed the number of the Honduran office and spoke with one of the nurses.

The nurse, realizing that Ana desperately needed maternal health services, responded immediately. The team was quickly able to coordinate a response with two local partners, the Passionist Social Service of Honduras (SSPASH) and the Red Cross to transport Ana to a local health centre, where she received an ultrasound, and then was transferred to the regional public hospital in San Pedro Sula to receive further care. Ana was able to stay in the hospital for two weeks and because she received the care she and her baby needed; a miscarriage was prevented.

Stories like Ana's are encountered by CAUSE Canada staff throughout the year. The PODER project team has been focused on ensuring that vulnerable adolescents receive the help they need to confront difficult situations by having greater access to adolescent and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

*Name has been changed



Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being



182,286

People benefited from health services and information.



430

Communities received health services and information.



4,821

People participated in training on maternal and reproductive health services.



Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality



127

Child marriages prevented and a 92-95% reduction of child marriages in the communities that participated in the project.



6,489

People participated in workshops to stop sexual and gender-based violence.



8,172

Women participated in business and vocational training that would help them to participate in economic and public life.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

At the age of 8, Damba* was sent to live with her uncle, Foray, and his family after losing both of her parents during the Ebola outbreak.

In October 2021, Damba turned 15 and her uncle arranged for her to be married. When her teacher, Yusufu, found out, he quickly set up meetings with the town chief and a few community leaders. Both Yusufu and the leaders had been trained as intermediaries in CAUSE Canada's project to prevent child marriages.

Shortly after, Foray was summoned by the town chief and community leaders to discuss the plan for Damba's early marriage. Foray was advised to cancel the marriage and allow Damba to continue her schooling. He agreed and Damba returned home.

A few weeks later, Foray asked Damba to leave the house. Unsure of who to turn to, Damba told her teacher, Yusufu, and he accompanied her to meet with the chief and other intermediaries in the community. After speaking with Damba, the intermediaries encouraged Foray to support Damba to go to school and provide care for her. They helped him understand the implications of child marriage and why education is important.

Later, when a community advocacy meeting was held, Foray stood and requested to speak for a few minutes. He shared with those in attendance that he regretted attempting to arrange Damba's early marriage, explaining that he did not realize the effects early marriage can have on girls. Foray has continued to support Damba to complete her schooling and provide care for her.

"I have always wanted to help change early marriages in my village. I saw so many of the girls I grew up with suffer because they were taken out of school and forced to marry. I always wanted to say something but didn't know how."

When CAUSE Canada staff came to our village and asked me to be an intermediary I said YES! At first, I was nervous to speak out in meetings, or share my opinions but through their training, support, and encouragement I have been able to meet with mothers, fathers, girls in my village and share about the dangers of child marriage and how it impacts us all. If it had not been for this project, I would still be sitting at the back of the room, shouting in my head but not out loud. Now I'm the first one to share and you'll find me in the front of the room fighting for women in my village to be heard about their rights and the dangers of childhood marriage."

*- Kulako Mansaray,
A intermediary in CAUSE Canada's project to end child marriage*

**Names have been changed*



PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGY

Focusing on Health, Education & Gender Equality

Access to quality health and education are critical if people are going to leave poverty. Helping communities develop solutions that meet their health and education needs creates sustainable solutions ensuring access does not rely on aid to continue.

Power inequality is a key driver of poverty. Ending discrimination, violence and harmful practices against women and girls, and empowering them to lead and have a voice over their own lives and in their communities and families is a vital step to ending poverty.

Partnerships Leading to Sustainable Solutions

One of CAUSE Canada's strengths is its' community development approach. In all circumstances, teams come together with communities to present opportunity and unite to solve real problems. One of the ways this is implemented is through community women's groups. The women in these groups have great capacity to make changes in their communities. They know the problems best, but often their value is overlooked by male leaders. CAUSE Canada strongly believes whole community partnership is crucial to protect the most vulnerable.

Working with Rural Communities

Education and health needs are particularly acute in rural communities where public services are far less accessible and accountability for providing these services is more difficult.

CURRENT CHALLENGES TO MEET

Currency Fluctuations, Rising Inflation & Malnutrition

Inflation is on the rise everywhere. For families already living in extreme poverty, life is getting much worse. In Sierra Leone, the local currency has lost over 55% of its value in the last few years, and inflation is over 28%. As a result, malnutrition is on the rise.

An Increase in Violence Against Women & Girls

In Honduras, the teams are encountering very high levels of sexual and gender-based violence. Helping these survivors means they are regularly putting their own lives at risk.

Foundational Numeracy and Literacy.

Schools in Guatemala and Honduras reopened in February 2022 after being closed or only partially open since the start of pandemic. Many children are missing the foundational education that should have been developed over the past two years. This means that they are severely struggling as they try to catch up on what they have missed.



FINANCIALS

COMMENTARY ON FINANCIAL RESULTS

CAUSE Canada's financial statements were restated for the 2020-21 period due to incorrect treatment of the foreign exchange losses in the microfinance program since the program's inception. The restatement and treatment of funds in the microfinance program more accurately reflects CAUSE Canada's positive financial health in 2021-2022.

REVENUE

Microfinance revenue decreased in 2021-22 due to the impact of the pandemic. In Sierra Leone, the program closed however more appropriate support for this extremely impoverished beneficiary population was able to continue via foundation and individual support.

Foundation revenue increased due to specifically funded one-time innovation projects undertaken during the reporting period including two projects funded by the Fund for Innovation and Transformation.

Cumulatively, individual donations increased 10% this past year, allowing CAUSE Canada to increase its ability to meet people's most pressing needs in the field.

Funding from the Government of Canada was lower in 2021-22 than the previous year due to completion of COVID-19 prevention and response projects. UNICEF funding for Early Childhood Development projects in Sierra Leone was unavailable during the year but expected to recommence in 2022-23.

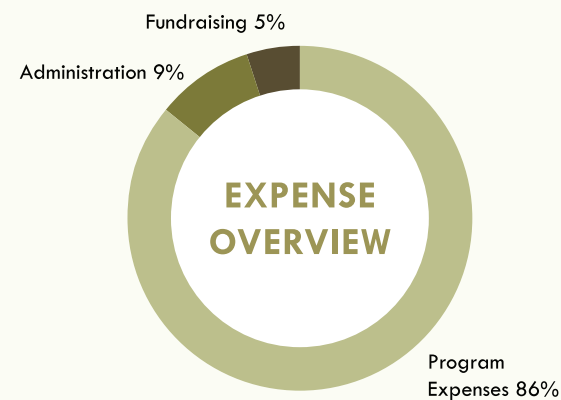
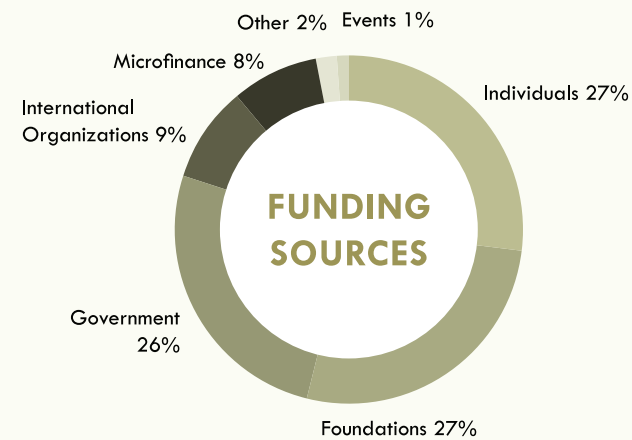
EXPENSES

Expenses from CAUSE Canada programs in Sierra Leone increased due to several foundation-funded projects including sending girls back to school, working with Mothers' Clubs, an afterschool project, and a project to end child marriage.

In Central America, the Microfinance Program focused on supporting female entrepreneurs' business recovery from the 2020 hurricanes and the ongoing pandemic.

The PODER Project was able to operate at full capacity despite the ongoing pandemic in Central America resulting in higher project expenses in 2021-22.

Administrative costs increased slightly year-over-year, as the organization resumed normal operations following the pandemic outbreak.



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

REVENUE	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Microcredit Financial Revenue	132,987	174,891
Events	20,139	24,176
International Organizations	160,221	407,303
Government of Canada	445,038	739,078
Designated Donations	67,038	105,389
General Donations	206,178	122,923
CAUSE Kids Sponsorship	175,065	174,529
Foundation Revenue	447,973	249,868
CEBA Loan	-	20,000
Interest and Miscellaneous	26,395	5,876
Administration	-	7,905
Total Revenue	1,681,034	2,031,938

EXPENSES	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Amortization	31,725	63,600
MNCH Program	-	225,222
CAUSE Canada Programs (Sierra Leone)	652,170	371,033
Microcredit Programs	149,478	225,743
International Organizations Programs	161,721	359,849
PODER Program	416,054	216,416
COVID Response Programs	-	262,149
Total Program Activities	1,411,148	1,939,722
Administration	152,932	148,113
Fundraising	76,344	67,597
Total Expenses	1,640,424	1,939,722

FUND BALANCES	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Excess of Revenue		
Over Expenses	40,610	92,216
Recovery of Microcredit Loan Obligation	43,484	(227)
Total Excess of Revenue		
Over Expenses	84,094	91,989

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Cash	78,210	181,257
Accounts Receivable	20,074	7,277
Donated Investments	22,402	22,402
Prepaid Expenses	17,512	11,245
Total Current Assets	138,198	222,181
Capital Assets	75,171	106,896
Total Assets	213,369	329,077

LIABILITIES	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	44,419	49,590
Deferred Contributions	31,695	91,327
Total Current Liabilities	76,114	140,917
Microcredit Loan Obligation	-	134,999
CEBA Loan	40,000	40,000
Total Liabilities	116,114	315,916

NET ASSETS	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Invested in Capital Assets	75,171	106,896
Unrestricted Net Assets	22,084	(93,735)
Total Net Assets	97,255	13,161
Total Fund Balance	213,369	329,077



CAUSE Canada is an accredited member of the Canadian Centre for Christian Charities. You can expect accountability, transparency, excellence, respect and responsiveness from CAUSE Canada. To request full audited statements, please email info@cause.ca.





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 and Instagram. Share about CAUSE Canada with your family, friends and church.

WAYS TO HELP

MOVING FORWARD

We are honoured to have partners like you working with us to help others have opportunities to leave poverty. We know that the current global situation is causing poverty to rise and enter new levels of crisis.

We will continue moving toward amplifying our values of faith, dignity, equity and impact so that people can build brighter futures. Thank you for walking along on this journey to love and care for our neighbours.



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Through the values of faith, dignity, equity and impact,
CAUSE Canada partners with communities to help them break the cycles of extreme poverty.

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