





A message from our Executive Director



The past few months have been difficult. For everyone. Although this Annual Report speaks to the impacts of our projects ending at March 31, 2020, it is impossible not to address the current pandemic situation and its impact on

global development – and the worsening poverty – locally and globally – that we will see moving forward. But as we witness change in our World at a rapid speed, we also see the rate at which people respond cooperatively to protect vulnerable people, to proliferate community, and to show the strength of human spirit.

This past year, Change for Children projects across the developing world have helped marginalized populations stand on their own two feet, stand strong, and stand out. While our major investments have been in Central America, our reach has also extended to special needs children in Africa, to health and nutrition programs in Uganda, and to India with a dental/optometry delegation.

In solidarity with partners across the globe and focusing on what we want our World to look like in 2030, we are making choices and managing complexity and uncertainty through the application of science and technology as a core component in our work to strengthen the capacities, communication, and competencies of vulnerable populations.

Our water project in Nicaragua incorporates information and communications technology to enable citizens to stand up for themselves in advocating for water rights. Our education

project in Guatemala equips students with 21st century skills to stand independently in the face of uncertain futures. Our offline learning project in the BOSAWAS, Nicaragua, is giving a voice to girls, empowering youth to stand out and be heard and training teachers to innovate and carry on, despite increasing isolation and exclusion.

“This is a time for Science and Solidarity”

– UN Secretary-General
António Guterres

Little did we know that our technology initiatives this past year would be ahead of the curve and THANKFULLY we had this vital digital infrastructure in place before the pandemic hit (and in the case of BOSAWAS – just in time!). As such, we were able to leverage the technology that our projects have placed with water

committees, in schools, and in communities across the globe, for new purpose to keep communities connected and to share information in response to the health crisis.

Even as we are feeling insecure about our own individual futures, we are encouraged by the Change for Children community of supporters who see the importance of looking after others, of standing up for, and alongside each other – our neighbours, our communities, our World.

The value of digital connection as a lifeline on so many fronts is undeniable. This is a time to stand up, to stand strong, to stand out. We see the importance of solidarity and of science. We see the impact of your commitment. We invite you to see it in the pages of our 2019/2020 Annual Report.

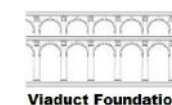
Standing with you,

Lorraine

Our work would not be possible without the support of local partners, global partners, and community supporters.



Global Affairs Canada
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CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

www.changeforchildren.org
2nd Floor, 10808-124 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5M 0H3
Tel: 780-448-1505 email:
Registered Charitable Organization No. 11884 9496 RR0001

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WOMEN, WATER, AND CLIMATE

In its third year of implementation, our *Technology for Sustainable Water Resource Governance* project, which receives funding from Global Affairs Canada, continued in Nicaragua. Over 400 women in Water Management were trained to implement new activities, and water systems were rehabilitated, expanded, or constructed in 20 communities. Ensuring access to sustainable water and sanitation services is a critical climate change mitigation strategy for the years ahead.

FOOD SECURITY

The final phase of the *Community Food Security* project in Comitancillo, Guatemala was completed in October 2019. The four-year project worked with 300 families per year on improved poultry and egg production, household vegetable gardens, filtered water, and follow-up for infants with severe malnutrition.

IN PURSUIT OF GENDER EQUITY

In June 2019, the Women Deliver 2019 Conference in Vancouver inspired us to continue to fuel power and progress to achieve gender equality. In November, Change for Children's Technology for Education Project in BOSAWAS was featured at the annual 60milliongirls conference in Montreal.

A TEST OF TECHNOLOGY

In September 2019, the feasibility of implementing a technology-enabled, innovative, off-line training program to increase teacher capacity in remote communities in the Bosawas was tested. In February 2020, the *Technology and Training for Quality and Equality* project, with support from the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT), was rolled out. 60milliongirls announced their support for the next phase of this project to commence in January 2021 with the introduction of technology in classrooms for use by students.



TEACHERS CONNECT

In July 2019, through a partnership between the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and Change for Children, a team of six Alberta teachers traveled to indigenous communities in Guatemala to collaborate with local educators. The Alberta teachers collaborated with local teachers to explore effective teaching techniques in a unique context.

BUILDING A LEGACY

Construction of a secondary school in the Bosawas community of Tuburus broke ground in October 2019. The seventh secondary school constructed by Change for Children in the region was generously funded by the Mark Chatenay Memorial Fund and the Hurl-Smith family. The Tuburus School is a legacy of the support shown for initiatives that advance health, human rights, and education in the Bosawas.

WE SAW THE HOPE

The September 2019 Development Dinner Fundraiser focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the hope that they bring with them for humankind and for our planet. The Sustainable Development Goals may be the why behind our projects, but you who show such steadfast support are the *how*. You not only opened yourself up to #seethehope, but you brought a fair share of it right along with you. And then you left it with us to share with others.

CHANGING GEARS

In March 2020, Change for Children pivoted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and worked with our partner organizations to distribute soap, bleach, hand sanitizer, hand washing stations and masks. We also provided much-needed education to communities about health, hygiene and social distancing.

2019/20 in Review



VOLUNTEERS IN INDIA

In February 2020, a group of fifteen Canadian volunteers, including optometrists, dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, provided care in northern India. In partnership with a local charitable hospital, our clinics provided much-needed services for over 500 people.

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Three of Change for Children's star field workers made Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's *Top 30 under 30* List and were recognized for their work making the world a more just, fair, and sustainable place for all. Congratulations to Joud Nour Eddin (Canada), Glendy Paola Augustin (Guatemala), and Alonso Jr. Joseph Hodgson (Nicaragua).

technology + water

Central to the **Technology for Sustainable Water Resource Governance** project is the utilization of Information & Communication Technology as a tool to improve the ability of Community Water Committees in Nicaragua to communicate, build capacity, financially administrate, self-manage, and advocate for and sustain rural water systems



WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE

Water is not only a basic necessity supporting life itself, but also an instrument of hygiene. Your support of the Nicaragua Water Project has been critical in making water accessible for many. There were 20 major water system construction and rehabilitation projects completed in 2019-2020, benefitting over 3,000 families and 12,000 people.

TECHNOLOGY FOR WATER RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Each of the participating 323 Community Water Committees (CWCs) received a mobile device (a tablet) and data plan that allows them to access the Internet, make calls, send messages, access tools and

resources on water management and administration - such as the project website - and use social media to facilitate democratic participation and water rights advocacy.

The project team, including four field officers, have conducted over 230 workshops in 12 municipalities on five topics: using technology; the legal framework for water in Nicaragua; CWC administration and financial management; operation of water systems; and sustainable management of community water resources.

Early evidence indicates that participants are rapidly embracing the use of technology for communications, coordination, and learning. CWCs immediately began to use the tablets to coordinate meetings and share information and questions. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and the project website are actively used, but the most popular has been WhatsApp. CWCs are using this app to start engaging and advocating for water rights with their local governments and other water stakeholders.



quality + equality

The **Technology and Training for Quality and Equality** in the Bosawas project has begun with much activity and energy invested by local community partners. A technology-enabled, innovative, off-line training program and digital resource library is being rolled out to overcome geographic, contextual, and cultural barriers to improve the quality and reach of education in indigenous communities.



Historically, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have represented one more service from which residents are marginalized and one more tool that they cannot access. This project works to change that by extending the reach of information technology and of education, directly impacting 80 teachers receiving training and their 1800 students who will benefit from technology in their classrooms. The entire population of the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve will in turn be touched by the results.



THE POWER OF POWER

Communities in the Bosawas are not only outside the reach of road access, but are also without electricity. The introduction of technology to remote schools includes investment in solar energy systems to power equipment and charging stations in support of long-term project viability. Solar panels made their way by dugout canoe down the Rio Coco to provide the four participating schools with the ability to power digital libraries and tablet technology.



TEACHER TRAINING

Project initiation included engaging local indigenous facilitators and project promoters to work with 90 teachers in four communities to pilot an off-line teacher training program originally developed by our partner *Mundo Posible Guatemala* and now adapted for the Bosawas context. The technology is introduced first to teachers who will gain the skills necessary to use the digital library as a resource and to incorporate the use of technology for student learning.



GENDER EQUALITY

Barriers such as isolation, lack of resources, poor health conditions, child malnutrition and child labor exacerbate the lack of access to education in a region with the lowest literacy rates in Nicaragua, especially amongst women and girls. Gender equality and sexual and reproductive health education materials are being adapted to the Bosawas cultural context and uploaded to the digital libraries for teachers to utilize in their classrooms.

offline + learning

The **Technology for Improved Education** project established mobile learning labs and technology classrooms in 10 schools and provided training and support for teachers to utilize these resources to augment student learning. New Maya-Mam educational materials were developed and disseminated in the classrooms.



NUMERACY AND LITERACY

With the continued support of 60milliongirls, the *Technology for Improved Education* project has focused on the use of technology to improve student outcomes in the areas of numeracy and literacy. Teachers and students in ten schools have been using tablets and an offline digital library of resources and educational content to address the lack of access to diverse didactic materials in offline communities.

Two permanent technology classrooms were constructed this year. The classrooms in Cuatro Caminos will provide a permanent home for a learning lab in this remote community.



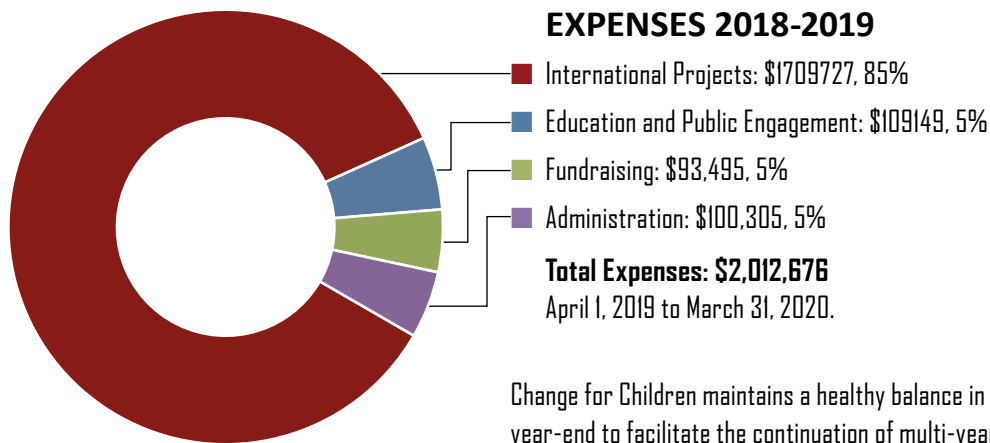
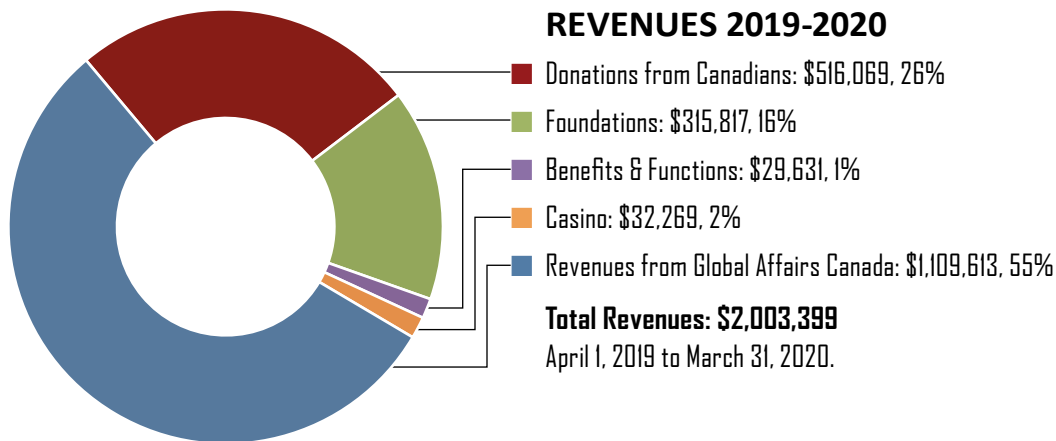
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EDUCATION COLLABORATION

In July 2019, six Alberta teachers worked in four elementary schools and one junior high school over a two-week period. The partnership culminated in a Professional Development symposium for 100 teachers in the surrounding area led by those local teachers who had participated in the previous two-week sessions. It was exciting to see purposeful, animated teacher engagement as new knowledge intersected with current practices.

financials



Change for Children maintains a healthy balance in project accounts at year-end to facilitate the continuation of multi-year initiatives.

STAND UP!

This year's fall fundraiser promises to be a non-event! Literally. In its place, a month-long campaign (until September 25) will invite you to **Stand Up** to injustice. We won't take it sitting down. We're not even going to give you a seat! **Stand Up** to injustice by showing your support online to help others stand up for themselves.

www.changeforchildren.org/standup



THANK YOU

Our work would not be possible without you. You lift your voices to advocate for others, you invite us into your lives to promote awareness, you offer your resources to increase our reach, and you open your hearts to be the change.

Thank you!