



2020/21

Annual Report



A message from our Executive Director

This year will be remembered as one of struggle and of challenge for many, but also as one of determination and resilience. The resolve of our partners to carry on in the face of adversity and the human spirit of our funders, donors, and friends has allowed us to rise to the challenges that the pandemic and the global climate crisis have presented.

This year marked our 45th anniversary as an organization. For over four decades we have been working to improve the quality of life in some of the most remote communities of the world. With your continued dedication and generosity in spite of the year's difficulties, we are proud of everything you helped us to achieve. We are grateful for your support of programs that have grown and evolved with us. Our Water Project is empowering communities through the use of Information Communication Technology, and our education projects are bridging the digital divide in remote communities through the use of digital libraries and wireless resources.

Project delivery evolves and changes over time, but we remain steadfast in our mission to promote health, human rights and solutions to poverty through sustainable development. We are still here, but we have been anything but still.

We are still innovating. Still improving. Still growing. Still impacting.

We are still listening and ever-adapting as we do our part to work towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A few years ago, our projects addressed the majority of these goals, but we had work to do to touch on all 17. We are proud to report that today, after significant investments in renewable energy, climate change adaptation, and projects that strengthen local governance, our projects collectively touch on each and every one.

But there is still work to be done. The pandemic and the climate crisis have created challenges that have set the world back ten years or more in the amazing development progress made in recent decades. As we look optimistically towards a resilient future here in Canada, recovery and continued progress in the developing world seems a less tangible reality. Same storm; different boats. **Still.**

A reminder of what is truly important has emerged from the year's trials. Relationships, sustainable lifestyles, experiences (not things) endure. This truth guides us into the next year as we build on the past year's successes by nurturing relationships with partners, promoting sustainable initiatives, and expanding opportunities for others to experience education and success — to make not only recovery, but also progress, a tangible reality for all.

Still moving forward,

Lorraine Swift

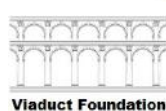


Our work would not be possible without the support of local partners, global partners, and community supporters.



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Lorraine Swift
Executive Director

Adrienne Wiebe,
*International Projects
Manager*

Nicole Farn
*Communications
Coordinator*

Olivia Krol
Administrative Assistant

Cecily Mills
Volunteer

Community. Still Sharing. Still Caring.



Hurricane Relief

The BOSAWAS, Nicaragua, was hit by both Hurricane Eta and Iota this year. High winds toppled trees and stripped roofs from homes, and the sheer volume of rainfall compounded from both storms caused unprecedented flooding, landslides, and crop losses. With the help of CFC donors, relief supplies including food, clothing, seeds, tools, and temporary shelters made their way to those in need.

Standing Up

Although we were unable to physically gather as a local community this year, we asked you to **Stand Up** instead, forgoing a seat at a fundraising event, while still helping others stand up for themselves. And you rose to the occasion! Thank you for standing together with us.



Connections

Although Change for Children staff and volunteers were not able to travel to bear witness to our projects this year, our in-country implementing partners went the extra mile to connect us with the field work in progress. We are also grateful for the continued support of the Alberta Teachers Association, dental professionals, and volunteers who are just as eager as we are to connect with our partner communities when it is once again safe to do so.

Thank **you**



Water. Still Innovating.

Project: **Technology
for Sustainable Water
Resource Governance**

Country: **Nicaragua**

This Project builds on the Water Project that began in 2003 to ensure access to water for communities in northwestern Nicaragua. The current initiative, in its fifth and final year of implementation, facilitates increased empowerment of rural populations and Community Water Committees (CWCs) to claim their rights to water and hold their governments accountable through the innovative use of science, technology, and capacity-building strategies. With the fourth year of implementation behind us, Gender, Environment, and Governance have emerged as cross-cutting themes.

Still innovating.



Workshops

Since project initiation, 368 CWCs have participated in workshops to strengthen knowledge with respect to water laws, administration, water system maintenance, water management, ICT, and gender equity.



Clean Water

As part of the Project's COVID-19 response, a total of 159 chlorinators were installed in water systems that were lacking, benefiting a total of 20,231 families. CWCs were trained and equipped with chlorination supplies as needed.



Communications Technology

Access to data plans and devices has improved communication between stakeholders. WhatsApp has proved to be a valuable tool, connecting CWCs with resources and technical support for water systems maintenance.

44,913 families

with a reliable water supply

This project has provided training to 368 Community Water Committees governing the water supply for thousands of families.

49%

participation by women

in municipal network meetings, bringing together all the CWCs in a single municipality for the purpose of exchanging information and learning and for building a common action agenda on water.

1106

gender training participants

joined the Project's gender specialist in workshops promoting a gender-equitable approach to community water management and building understanding of existing gender gaps.





“We are excited to participate in the solar energy transformation of our territories. It facilitates our access to education, and it strengthens our sovereignty.”

– Primitivo Centeno, President of the Regional Territorial Indigenous Government of Western BOSAWAS



Technology. Still Bridging Gaps.

Project:

Phase 1: Technology and Training for Quality and Equality in the Bosawas (Phase One)

Phase 2: Technology for Improved Learning and Education in the Bosawas (Phase Two)

Country: **Nicaragua**

Seven Miskito indigenous communities in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve have been equipped with a RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning), a classroom set of tablets and laptops, and solar power. The RACHELs are small servers that provide reliable access to pre-loaded software and content modules, customized to meet local cultural and language needs, to communities without internet access. Teachers and students connect to the RACHEL via a wireless signal. The project fosters improved education by providing teacher training both in-person and virtually; educational resources such as virtual texts, libraries, and learning games; Miskito (mother-tongue) cultural and linguistic materials; and gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information.

Still bridging gaps.

Teamwork

This project is being implemented in partnership with the local Indigenous Government and with the support of Nicaragua's Ministry of Education. Technical development, training, and support is provided by Mundo Posible Guatemala and Girl Rising.



Mother Tongue

First-language materials facilitate the transition of children into school and demonstrate a respect for culture and language. Elders are engaged in preserving cultural history through the process of recording history, stories, tales, and cultural traditions and uploading them to the server.



Overcoming Barriers

Technology is used to overcome social and geographical barriers to education for girls and women in remote locations. Professional development through off-line technology also means that teachers do not need to leave their families to continue their education.



4,487

Students benefitting from technology

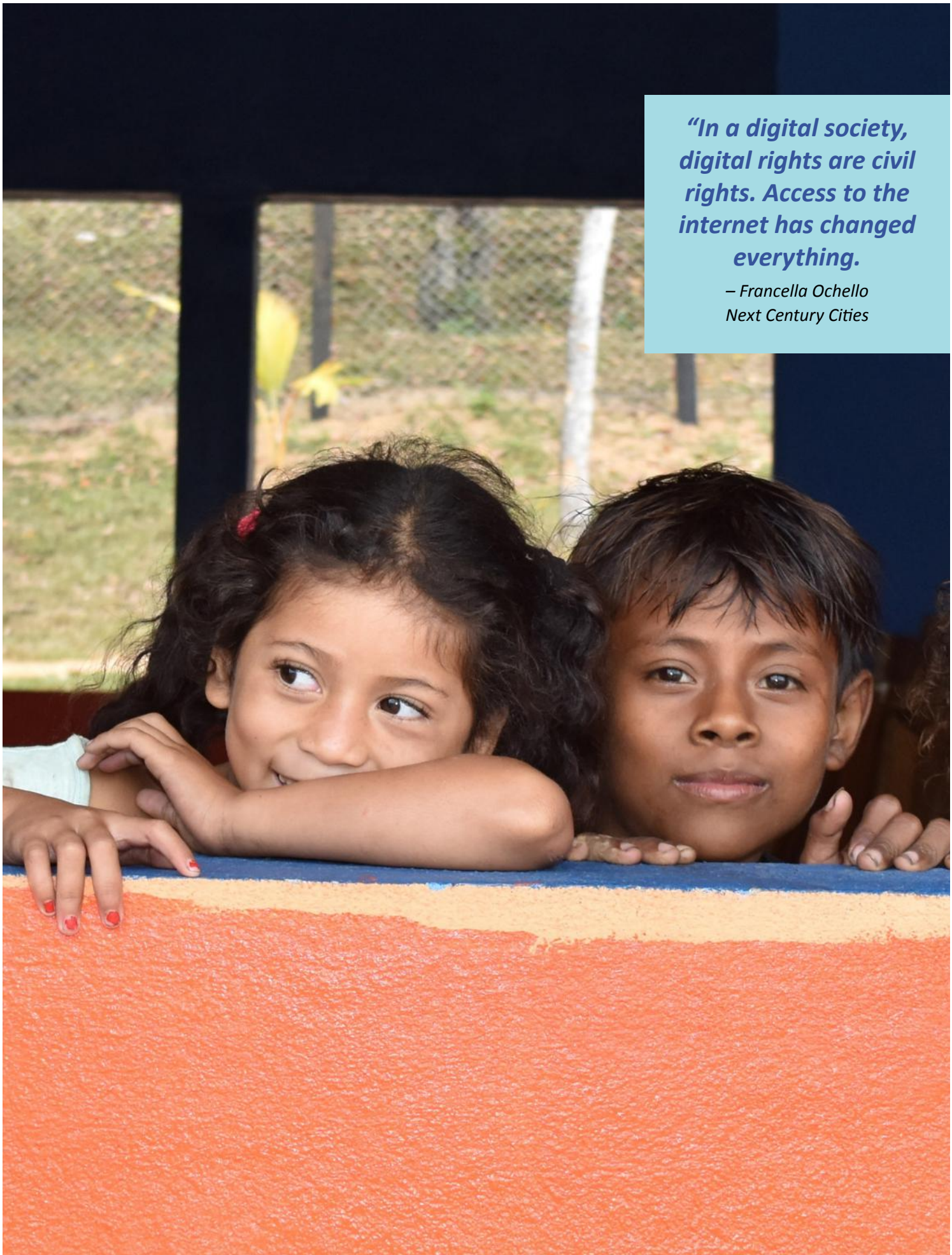
The first step for integrating technology into the classroom is textbook substitution — filling the gap of the lack of textbooks in ill-equipped schools. Providing students with access to books, audio recordings and videos in the Miskito mother tongue is also critical as most students begin school with very limited Spanish, the primary language of instruction in the national school system.

225 teachers

participating in seven schools (53% female, 47% male)

In order to gain confidence and increase the sustainability of the program, teachers are provided frequent training in the use of the technology and the digital content and programs. Teachers reported using the RACHELs for an average of 8 hours per week during Phase 1 of the project.





***“In a digital society,
digital rights are civil
rights. Access to the
internet has changed
everything.***

***– Francella Ochello
Next Century Cities***



Education. Still Empowering.

Project: Technology for
Improved Education
Status: Complete

Country: Guatemala

Mobile Learning Labs (MLLs), consisting of an off-line server (RACHEL) containing a digital library and educational resources which connect to a classroom set of tablets, have been used in ten schools in the remote Guatemala highlands over the past two years. In combination with teacher training, the contribution of technology in the classroom is aimed toward scaling up standardized instruction, facilitating differentiated instruction, expanding opportunities for practice, and increasing learner engagement. This project has now been transitioned into the hands of the participating schools and school boards and the lessons learned are being incorporated into our Technology for Education projects in the BOSAWAS, Nicaragua.

Still empowering.



Engaged Students

Increased learner engagement not only made learning more entertaining with games and videos, but also more self-directed and student-centred, which led to increased self-confidence in the ability to learn and master skills and knowledge.



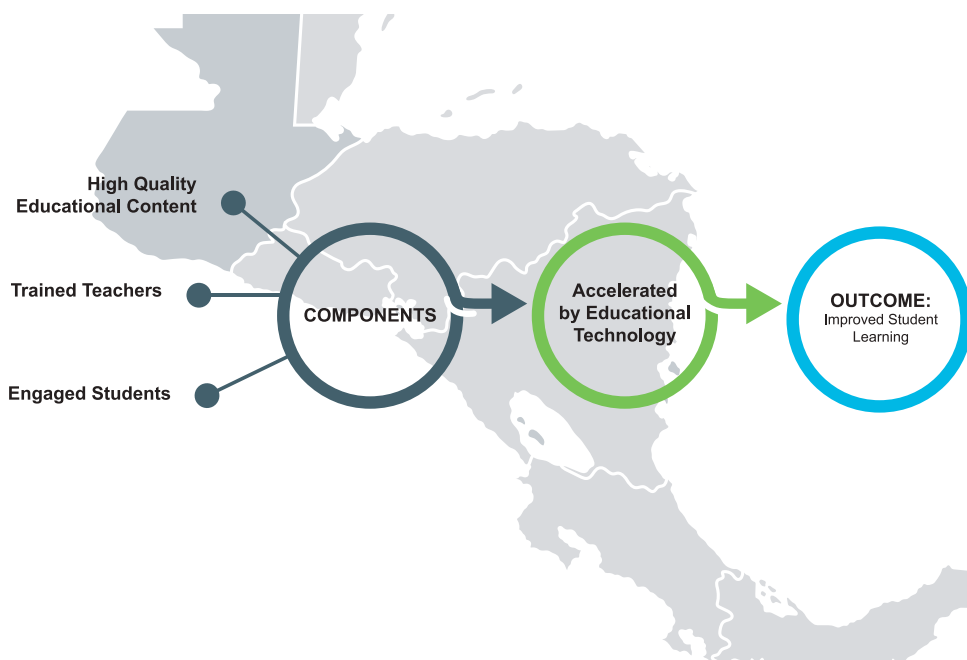
Additional Contributions

The Project highlighted the potential of technology to provide access to high-quality educational resources, build teacher capacity, develop digital literacy, and integrate family, community, and cultural perspectives.



Overcoming Disparities

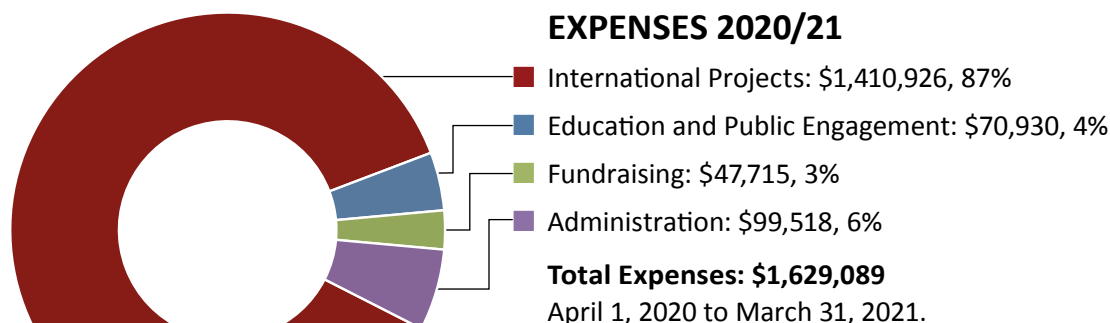
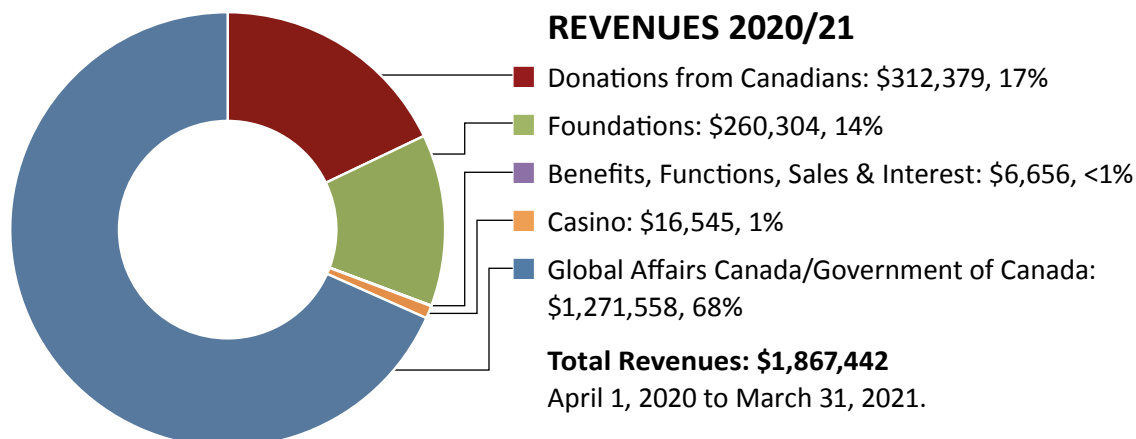
The advantages afforded by technology in education are extremely critical for marginal communities if students are to have the possibility of overcoming educational disparities.



Theory of change

This project demonstrated that appropriate educational technology in support of high-quality educational content, increased teacher knowledge and skills, and increased student engagement contributes to improvement in student learning.

Financials



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



DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER 2021

For the past 45 years, Change for Children's work has been in some of the most remote communities of the world, communities in the margins — communities outside the reach of the electrical grid, of the cellular signal, of the services of health and education. Much of our work relies on innovative solutions, challenging traditional approaches to achieve sustainability.

Join us as we celebrate international development, *Outside the Lines*.

Innovation, creativity, and imagination flourish inside the margins!

www.changeforchildren.org/outsidethelines

THANK YOU

This past year, our partners, our donors, and our community showed us that some things simply cannot be cancelled. Creativity cannot be cancelled. Nor can hope. Nor heart. Nor perseverance. Nor passion. And with all of these open for business, with your help, we continue to address needs, to ease hardship, and to alleviate poverty. **Thank you!**

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

www.changeforchildren.org

2nd Floor, 10808-124 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T5M 0H3

Tel: 780-448-1505 email: cfca@changeforchildren.org

Registered Charitable Organization No. 11884 9496 RR0001