



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

MAKE ROOM





## MAKE ROOM

### Women and girls need a place at the table.

In the tradition of Change for Children, with your support this year, we worked to educate, to nourish, and to empower marginalized populations – people who too often are simply not invited to the table to make decisions that impact their lives, their families, and their communities.

Many of those marginalized include, disproportionately, women and girls. But progress is being made. Change for Children projects champion women's rights, women's entrepreneurship, women's empowerment, and women's education.

As we reflect on the year, we celebrate the successes which have given more women a voice, given more girls an opportunity, and which continue to **Make Room** for women and girls at the table.

This was also a year of building – building partnerships, building relationships, building ideas and building on experience.

Much of our effort this year has been put into researching and planning a new project, *Technology for Sustainable Water Resource Governance* – a project which will be implemented in partnership with Global Affairs Canada over the next four years. This project builds on the success of our Nicaragua Water Project and its objectives are in line with those of the UN-declared *Water Action Decade (2018-2028)* which focuses on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources.

This new project will add the use of technology to our toolbelt as we continue the work of making room for the equitable participation of women and girls in democratic processes, in leadership roles, and in initiatives that strengthen families and communities.

Change for Children is a family. We are proud to have you at our table. Squeeze in tight. Together, we can continue to **Make Room**.

Lorraine Swift  
Executive Director



*Education initiatives*

**MAKE ROOM**

*for Maria to achieve education levels previously unattainable in Nicaragua's Bosawas Biosphere Reserve.*

## **MAKE ROOM FOR EQUALITY**

New secondary schools constructed in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve last year means opportunity this year and a generation of young women motivated to take advantage of it. While traditional gender roles and cultural norms have historically disadvantaged girls' education, this year, gender equality workshops enabled teachers to identify the ways that gender inequality impacts student learning and ways to create a more inclusive classroom. With 160 Miskito and Mayagna teachers empowered to promote gender equality in their classrooms, the entire population of the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve will be touched by the impact.

This year, CFC also hosted a team of Alberta teachers in the Bosawas through a pilot project in partnership with the Alberta Teacher's Association. The group imparted ideas for dynamic classrooms and innovative instruction and provided valuable workshops, resources, and training on the use of a Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education & Learning (RACHEL) which provides the best of the web without an internet connection. Pre-loaded free educational content from the web is now available in the remote community of Pamkawas. We look forward to continued partnership with the Alberta Teacher's Association following the success of this year's partnership.

## MAKE ROOM FOR CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

### *Technology to strengthen citizen advocacy*

Almost fifteen years ago, Change for Children received funding from the Canadian Government to initiate the Nicaragua Water project in water-scarce northwestern Nicaragua. Since that time, with the support of generous donors, over 130 communities have clean water!

The next phase of the Nicaragua Water Project focuses on sustainable water management realized through infrastructure, technology, training and technical support provided to the Community Water Committee (CWC) network and community leaders from marginalized local groups.

The Project aims to enhance public participation in democratic processes and increase the responsiveness of public institutions with respect to water supply needs and sustainable management of water resources.



*Access to clean water  
**MAKES ROOM**  
for Mariette to participate in income-generating activities rather than being consumed by the daily challenge of securing clean water for her family.*

**“Smart phone technology can be used as a powerful tool to educate and to empower, and to allow citizens to engage with governments and advocate for their rights!”**

### *Technology to support social action by connecting citizens*

Thanks to renewed funding from the Canadian government (Global Affairs Canada), the new *Technology for Sustainable Water Resource Governance* initiative will harness the power of technology to strengthen the ability of rural populations to hold their governments to account.

With the support of Global Affairs Canada, this project will strengthen citizen engagement in water management by putting technology (tablets, data plans, and customized apps) in the hands of community water committees.

Using technology for monitoring, reporting and for water rights advocacy will empower Nicaraguan citizens to engage in democratic processes and improve their access to water as a human right.

The ability for CWCs to easily communicate not only locally, but also regionally and nationally will create a growing community of water advocates sharing lessons learned and best practices to the benefit of sustainable water management for all citizens.



*Opportunities to engage  
in democratic processes  
**MAKE ROOM**  
for Isaurus to be a member  
of the water committee tasked  
with managing the newly  
drilled water well  
in her community.*



**TECHNOLOGY  
for SUSTAINABLE  
WATER RESOURCE  
GOVERNANCE**

**GOAL:** Increase empowerment of Nicaraguan citizens, through the use of science and technology, to engage in democratic processes and improve access to water as a human right.



**TECHNOLOGY FOR GOVERNANCE**

Use of tablets and customized apps by CWCs to hold governments to account increases the responsiveness of public institutions to the diverse needs and rights of citizens.



**TECHNOLOGY FOR SOLIDARITY**

Customized apps assist CWCs with water management and facilitate participation in CWC forums to share best practices in the advancement of the cause for water rights nationally.



**TECHNOLOGY**

Dissemination of tablets, data plans, customized water management and communications apps, and training to CWCs in water-scarce areas.



**CITIZEN  
STAKEHOLDERS**

Use of technology to monitor and report to local, regional, and national governments and CWC forums about water status and the rights of water users.



**GOVERNMENT  
STAKEHOLDERS**

Implementation of social audit process to track municipal investments in WASH and ability to respond to citizens through the use of technology.



**WATER FOR ALL**

Sustainable management of water resources in NW Nicaragua and achieving access to safe, clean water as a human right.



**EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION**

Dissemination of technology and information ensures marginalized populations have a voice in water management and increased participation in democratic decision-making processes.



**STAKEHOLDER  
COLLABORATION**

Increased capacity for collaboration between CWCs and municipalities encourages cooperation in the delivery of WASH services and provision of water systems that demonstrate best practices.

Engagement in democratic decision-making processes will be realized through providing technology, training and technical support to:

**1,825 board members**  
from **365 local Community Water Committees (CWCs)**

**50 community leaders** from marginalized local groups

**33 municipal technical personnel** for sustainable water management.

**Potable water system construction and rehabilitation will impact:**

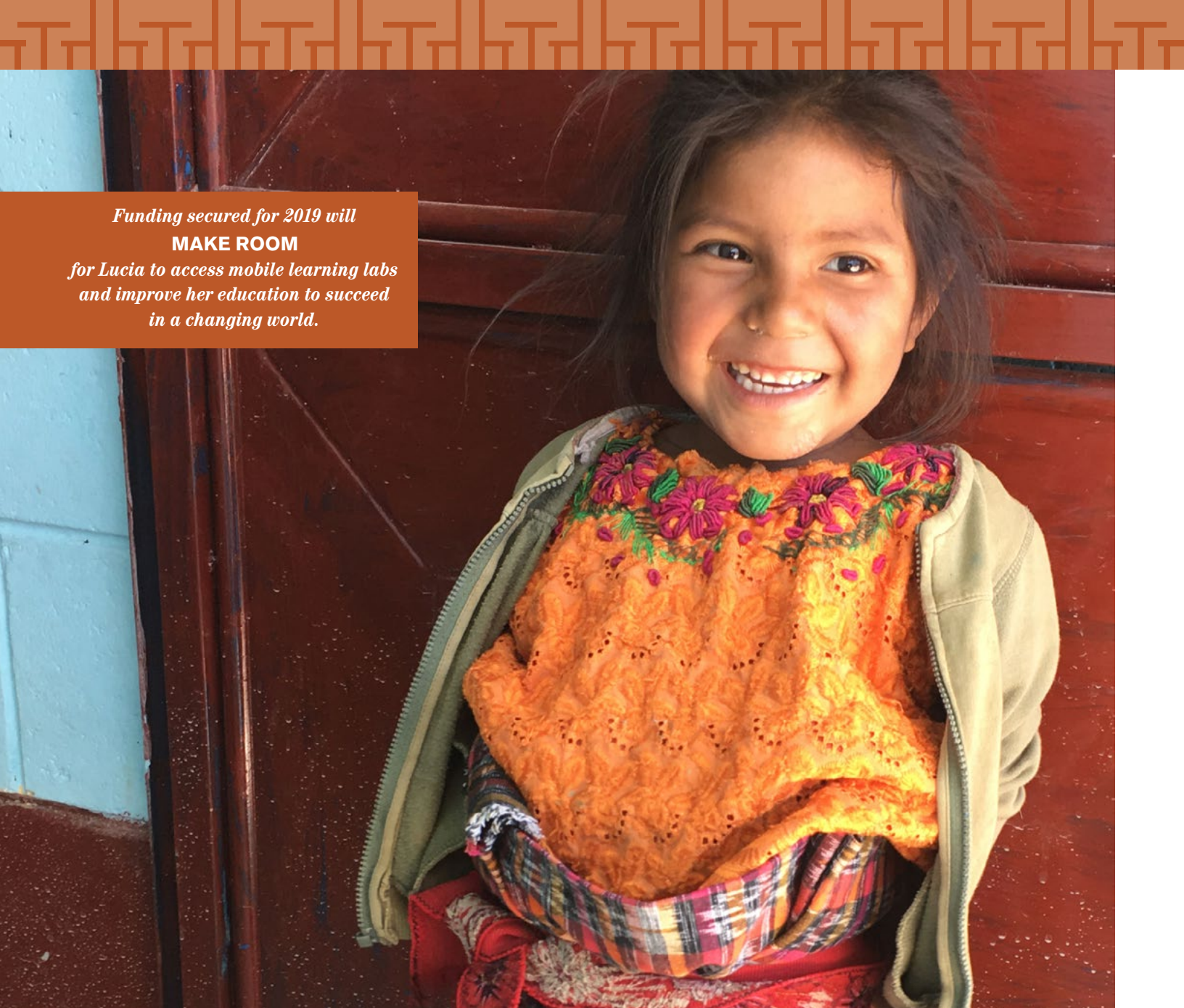
**80,000 PEOPLE**

With the support of:



Global Affairs  
Canada

Affaires mondiales  
Canada



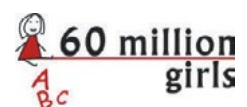
*Funding secured for 2019 will*  
**MAKE ROOM**  
*for Lucia to access mobile learning labs  
and improve her education to succeed  
in a changing world.*

## MAKE ROOM FOR EDUCATION

Last fall, funds were raised at the Annual Development Dinner in support of agriculture, nutrition, and education projects in Comitancillo, Guatemala. Guest, Ruben Feliciano (Director of project partner, AMMID), shared the challenges faced by the Mam people seeking to adapt to changing realities brought on by climate change. This spring, CFC and AMMID collaborated with Public Radio International to tell the story of the challenges faced by many working toward a more food-secure future.

CFC continues to listen and to respond. This past year makes five years of empowering women to improve production of food, and of integrating mothers with malnourished children into programs to improve nutrition and family health practices, through the Nutrition Project.

Funds were also secured this year for school construction in Comitancillo. New classrooms in San Isidro will make it the sixth community in the region with which CFC has partnered to provide infrastructure. As access to education infrastructure needs are reduced, we shift our focus to improving quality of education. This year, CFC's application for 2018/2019 funding from the *60 million girls foundation* was approved. *The Technology for Improved Education* project will benefit marginalized communities through improved teacher training, innovative didactic materials, and mobile learning technology - all delivered through a gender equality lens.





## MAKE ROOM FOR CULTURE

This year, the Strathcona Lodge, a sustainable venture aimed at increasing economic opportunities for local indigenous peoples in the Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador, opened its doors. The eco-lodge is well-positioned to provide accommodation for visitors to the rainforest and volunteers working in indigenous communities. Jobs introduced by the initiative increase opportunities for young people to stay in El Pilche, allowing them to improve their own living conditions while preserving cultural traditions and sharing them with future generations and visitors alike. The first visiting group of dentists was hosted this year and with this experience under their belt, the locally-operated eco-hostel is set to welcome the world.

*Ecotourism initiatives **MAKE ROOM** for Ruby and Deborah to one day contribute economically in the remote Ecuadorian rainforest they call home.*

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## MAKE ROOM FOR CONNECTIONS

This year, CFC hosted dentists, optometrists, teachers, volunteers, and donors in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Ecuador. International brigade participants found out first hand that volunteering is one of those selfless acts that more often than not offers a disproportionate rate of return.

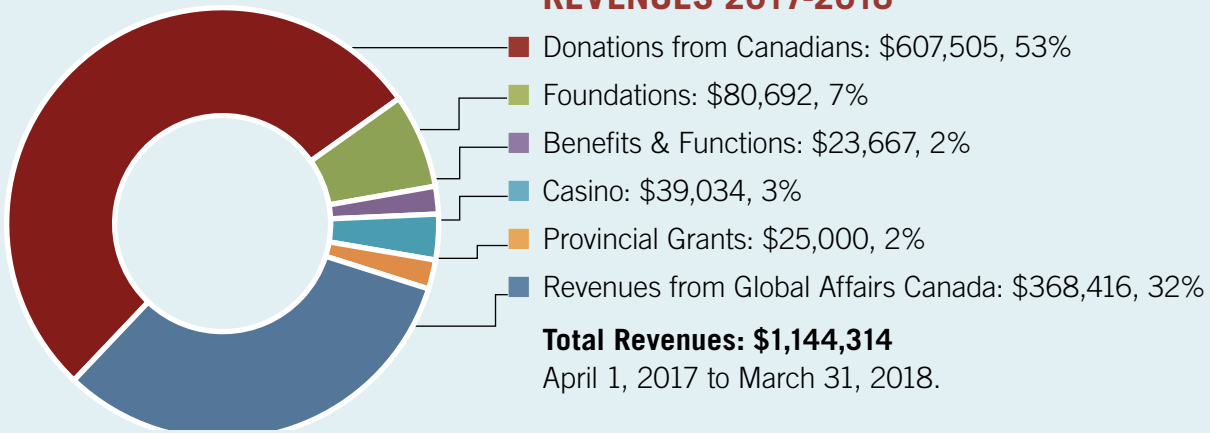
There is much to learn from those who continue to smile in the face of adversity; from those who open their hearts to, and trust in, the kindness of strangers; from those whose gratitude for life shines through in even the most brief of encounters and despite daily challenges most certainly beyond our comprehension. And for this, it is we who are truly indebted.

With great privilege comes great responsibility: To speak. To act. To share. To **Make Room**.

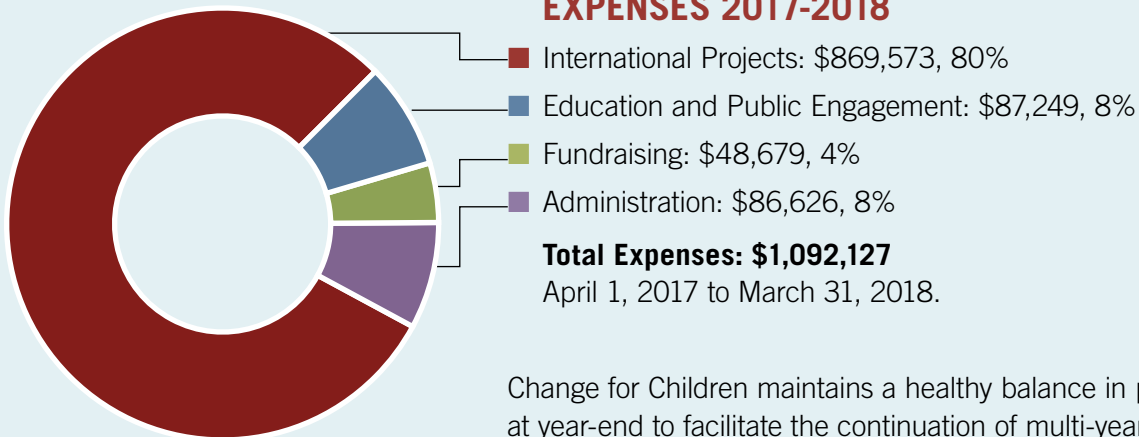


*International brigades **MAKE ROOM** for Canadians to contribute their skills, their time, and their volunteer spirits to support the work of Change for Children.*

**REVENUES 2017-2018**



**EXPENSES 2017-2018**



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

**MAKE ROOM**  
women and girls need a place at the table

**DEVELOPMENT DINNER**  
Friday, September 21, 2018  
Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre  
Grand Ballroom, Edmonton  
Cocktails 6pm, Dinner 7pm

**#MAKEROOM**

 For tickets, call 780-448-1505 or visit [www.changeforchildren.org](http://www.changeforchildren.org)

**THANK YOU for your support!**

To all those who lifted your voices to promote awareness, who used your skills to provide service, who offered your resources to increase the reach, who shared your hearts to be the change – we thank you!

Our work would not be possible without you.

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