

CHILD VOICE

ANNUAL REPORT
2018 ISSUE

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her community
graduation

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Christian

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“

A big part of my job is thinking about the future — where we're going, how we'll get there, and how we'll sustain progress.

Patrick Canagasingham, CEO

CEO'S NOTE | Measuring what really matters

We all want the best for our children. My 18-year-old son, Caleb (*shown here with our sponsored child, Betania, 8, in Paraguay*), reminds me of that simple truth every day.

It's a shared love of children that brings together diverse communities, supporters and partners to help children create change in their communities — and the world. Simply put, we couldn't do it without you.

Key achievements we've made together are the focus of this Annual Report issue of *ChildVoice*. Your generosity can be seen in the number of schools built, health checkups received as well as child and youth groups formed (*p. 14-15*).

But, what I find truly inspiring is how your support is helping change harmful traditions and practices that will influence generations. Consider eight-month-old Halima. She's alive today because of a project in Ghana that's tackling local childbirth traditions that endanger the lives of mothers and babies (*p. 6*). Meanwhile, families in 16-year-old Kasthuri's Dalit (lower caste) community in India are breaking deeply-rooted gender and class barriers (*p. 8*).

Our commitment to tackling cultural and social barriers to change is the catalyst for centres of excellence we're

championing in countries where we work. Each will be a space to address important issues, share best practices, drive innovation and mobilize people, partnerships and resources (*p. 8-9*).

You support incredible change

These are all important achievements, but this report also reminds us we have much to do. In the year ahead, we'll focus on creating a groundswell of change in countries and communities around the world. In the next issue of *ChildVoice*, we'll share the beginning of an exciting new chapter to help us get there.

Thank you,

Patrick Canagasingham, CEO
Christian Children's Fund of Canada
ceo-office@ccfcanada.ca

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CHILD VOICE

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A member of ChildFund Alliance

OUR VISION

We dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.

ACCESSIBILITY

We seek to recognize and remove the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities. All communications are available in alternative formats upon request.



Did you know?

We hire local staff and work closely with 31 local partners and more than 200 local community groups to plan and deliver our programs. Skills, knowledge and talents are nurtured (and stay!) in-country.

Find out what else is key to sustainable change.
(p. 18)

On the cover

Meet Kasthuri, 16, a courageous girl breaking cultural and gender barriers in her Dalit (lower caste) community (p. 8). Photo by Lipi Jobson

What's happening

Rescued from child traffickers

Quick action and teamwork made it possible to safely return six Nigerian boys to their families and a suspected child trafficker to police. Our local partner, Eglise Evangélique Société Internationale Missionnaire (EE/SIM), worked with the Child Protection Network of the Tapoa Province to intercept the child trafficker before the boys were delivered to work in a bar in Burkina Faso. Through EE/SIM, Christian Children's Fund of

Canada (CCFC) and the local Child Protection Network coordinated the return of the children to their families. The rescue was possible thanks in part to ongoing collaborative work with government agencies charged with child-protection mandates and CCFC's efforts to increase community awareness of child rights and where to report violations. Well done, CCFC Burkina Faso!

Children inspire commitment from Paraguay president



Earlier this year, CCFC and other leading non-governmental organizations in Paraguay successfully challenged the

Presidential candidates to support 20 commitments to build and sustain child rights. Young people from across Paraguay were actively involved in helping draft and present the recommendations. On August 16 (National Children's Day), newly elected President Mario Abdo Benítez ratified the 20 commitments as his first act of government. CCFC Paraguay's call-to-action in August 2017 initiated the process. Great job, CCFC Paraguay!

Ethiopia project wins innovation award

A project to nurture early-child development in communities where literacy rates were low has earned special recognition 'for innovative practices' in Ethiopia. President Dr. Mulatu Teshome personally presented the award to CCFC. The two-year Saving Brains project (funded by Grand Challenges Canada with financial

support from the Government of Canada) benefited 3,000 children. As part of the project, a small projector, carried village to village, played video messages about child health to parents. Calendars charting growth were also handed out to encourage parents to engage with children through play. Congratulations, CCFC Ethiopia!



A supporter's story

Sir Sean Madsen

Describe yourself in three words.
Optimistic, dedicated, obstinate.

What was it like visiting your sponsored child in Paraguay?

I was advised by the staff that Marcos was a quiet boy. However, when I got there he came out, took my arm and put it around his shoulder and held it there with his hand. So that kind of said everything.

What are your hopes for Marcos' future?

Marcos has ambitions to be a lawyer someday, and I hope he can get there. Also, Marcos is taking English lessons. Next time I visit, I hope we will be able to talk without an interpreter.

What would you say to others thinking about sponsoring a child?

The biggest benefit is realizing what you're doing is helping a child. You see the child's face and receive letters and reports on how they're doing in school. It's a relationship.

Meet Sean and Marcos

bit.ly/SeanSponsorVisit



Once you choose hope, anything is possible.

— Christopher Reeve




6

Inspiring stories behind the numbers



What can seem like a simple act of giving is so much more. Read how your generosity is changing lives, communities — and the world.



See the change  bit.ly/SeeInspiringStories

In appreciation

Thank you to our global community of change-makers, including caring supporters like you. Together we're tackling complex social issues, breaking barriers to change and making measurable progress.



Photo by Philip Maher



Changing traditions, one safe delivery at a time

If you want to save mothers' and babies' lives, it begins with shifting mindsets about childbirth — putting knowledge and power in the hands of women

By William Anim-Dankwa, communications manager, Ghana

The giggles of eight-month-old Halima are a sweet sound to Issah (pictured), 23, but they're also a sad reminder. At 21, she lost her first daughter. Like many Ghanaian women, she had delivered at home using a traditional birth attendant without the requisite medical training or sterilized tools to save her child.

Eighteen months later, Issah delivered her second child, Halima, in a local health clinic via caesarean section. Issah's choice of where to give birth was the result of a Government of Canada-funded project called Promoting Maternal, Newborn, Infant and Child Sustainable Health Efforts (PROMISE). The four-year project (2016–2020), reaching 40,000 women, focuses on health-service delivery and

improved nutrition to reduce maternal and child mortality. Our inclusive approach is creating steady change.

- ▶ We involve women and men in maternal, newborn and child-health groups to change beliefs that women are weak or having an extra-marital affair if they deliver at the clinic.
- ▶ To leverage the influence of respected traditional birth attendants, and provide a new means of livelihood, we offer them skills-training. In their new role, birth attendants refer and travel with women to health clinics and provide post-delivery support.

Progress in Ghana

The Promoting Maternal, Newborn, Infant and Child Sustainable Health Efforts project area includes three districts in Ghana, Malawi and Rwanda

In Ghana, between 2016 to 2018:

- Baby survival increased from 64.9 percent to 83.7 percent
- The percentage of mothers who received post-natal care within two days of childbirth rose from 41.9 to 66.7 percent
- Fathers who feel men should be involved in maternal, newborn and child health rose from 58.9 to 90.4 percent

Did you know?

Each year, more than 100,000 women in West and Central Africa die from pregnancy-related causes — mostly during labour and delivery. That's more than any other region of the world.*

*Source: Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2013 Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank and the United Nations Population Division

OUR PROJECT PARTNERS





Progress in Ethiopia

The Canada-Africa Initiative to Address Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality project area includes 20 districts in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania

- The number of women giving birth at the Woledi health centre in Ethiopia increased from an average of 10 per month in 2016 to 60 per month this year
- Five health centres in Ethiopia have been equipped with solar power to operate laboratory equipment and other essentials

Women who deliver their babies safely in health centres are powerful influencers of change

By Semereta Sewasaw, communications manager, Ethiopia

Two months ago, Ashura (*pictured*), 20, became one of the first women in her family to give birth in a health centre, delivering her daughter, Ekram. Her mother, like many Ethiopian women, gave birth at home.

Each year in Ethiopia, thousands of women and children don't survive childbirth. Ashram is trying to change that. "So far, I've encouraged 15 mothers to deliver their babies in the health centre," she shares.

Through the Government of Canada-funded Canada-Africa Initiative to Address Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality (2016–2020), we're reaching 1.7-million women in Africa. Our goal: to improve the delivery of essential health services to moms, pregnant women, newborns and children under the age of five.

With your support, we've made remarkable progress. Community sessions and conferences are helping women understand the risks of home delivery and the importance of pre- and post-natal care. Working closely with community members has shaped our successful approach.

- To overcome expectant mothers' fears of dying at a health centre, we're training health workers to have the confidence and skills for complicated deliveries.
- During birth, it's customary for women to be surrounded by family. To support women, we're building waiting rooms and encouraging families to continue their traditional ceremonies when they go home.

“ I encourage women in my community not to be afraid of delivering their babies in health centres. — Ashura, 20, Ethiopia

Did you know?

In the past six years, the percentage of births attended by healthcare professionals in CCFC-supported Ethiopian communities rose by 24 percent (52 percent in 2012 to 76 percent in 2017)

OUR PROJECT PARTNERS

Canada 

SickKids | Centre for Global Child Health

WaterAid
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amref
health africa 



Creating change, through centres of excellence

Our new centre of excellence in India will champion the social inclusion of girls, women and others often excluded, including Dalits (lower caste or class)

By Lipi Jobson, communications manager, India

Social exclusion is deeply rooted in cultures, economies, as well as social and political institutions around the world. In India, Dalits are forced to live on the fringes of society. They're denied their most basic rights, highly vulnerable to abuse and shunned from many public places. Dalit girls face double-discrimination based on their gender and caste.

Our new centre of excellence will help us build knowledge and networks to change practices and policies that impede progress. Already, your support is making a difference. Sixteen-year-old Kasthuri is one example.

Your support of education, awareness and advocacy efforts in Kasthuri's remote Dalit community has helped inspire her to develop a school cultural program and to lead

a protest (roadblock) against a government-built quarry to draw attention to environmental concerns. Today, Kasthuri's community is breaking gender and caste barriers, making history with their "firsts."

- ▶ We're celebrating the first successful negotiation between Kasthuri's remote hamlet and the government. Forty women met and advocated for the installation of four wells to bring clean water to the community.
- ▶ Previously landless, groups of women organized, saved money and received a loan from a financial institution to buy land. Now, 32 families are involved in agricultural production.

“ [Higher caste] people ask us to participate in local events. We underestimated ourselves, so they underestimated us.

— Kasthuri, 16, India (pictured)

Progress in Kasthuri's hamlet (population: 288)

- More than 30 children, up from two, received a government loan to seek higher education
- Fifteen women own a house and six are self-employed — both community firsts
- More than 100 community members are benefiting from government programs they never accessed before

Did you know?

- Our success stems from helping community members identify shared concerns; form an association to unite their interests and actions; promote women and Dalit leadership; and attend trainings on rights, laws and resources available. Vocational and advocacy training, economic development projects and new linkages to support organizations contribute to progress.



Progress in Paraguay

- Seventy-five schools working with Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) – reaching 13,980 students – have formed school councils and created spaces where children learn and exercise their rights
- Nearly 600 children are being trained in children's rights through a special network of children's organizations in CCFC-supported programs
- CCFC-supported community workshops, awareness campaigns and radio programs (plus press coverage) are helping eliminate child domestic labour and trafficking

Paraguay's new centre of excellence will bring together people, practices and resources to advocate for child participation and protection

By Rosanna Menchaca, communications manager, Paraguay

During the past decade, awareness, advocacy and education efforts in Paraguay have shifted the view of child participation. Now, the belief that children should participate in decision-making is no longer a “concession of adults,” it's a right. We've also been making child protection a priority.

How have we done it? We built a strong network of allies across communities, governments and other non-governmental organizations at the community, municipal and national level. Our new centre of excellence will continue to advance joint strategies to accelerate change.

Last year, nearly 1,200 children and youth had leadership and child-rights training, and nearly 600 children were organized into more than 30 groups, now part of the Association in Defense of the Rights of Childhood and Adolescence (ADDNA), a children's network.

“It's a strong, structured organization,” shares ADDNA member, Alcides, 16 (*pictured*). “I want all children to have this type of space to be heard.”

Here's what we're doing:

- To give children a safe place to speak about childhood policies and accountability processes, we've created and strengthened a national network for children and adolescence that gives them the chance to influence national leaders.
- To support national change, we're working with the government to include children's rights in the public and political arena. We co-lead a network of 20 local and international non-governmental organizations promoting child and youth rights (read about our success *p. 4*).

Did you know?

- CCFC Paraguay helped lead successful efforts to include the protection of children from violence in the United Nations' Global Goals. Due in part to these efforts, Paraguay is one of 20 countries named a “Pathfinder” country, fast-tracking efforts to save children from violence.

With notes from Diego Martínez, project manager, Paraguay and Amelia Aguirre, Local partner in Alcides' community: Fundación Alda

“ The creation of a network of children's groups is a big step. We can learn, talk, reflect and be agents of change.

— Alcides, 16, Paraguay



New role models for a new generation

Investing in women's economic empowerment is crucial to gender equality and the health and future of children

By Patrice Zongo, communications manager, Burkina Faso

If you want to see the incredible difference you make, it's in the stories of eight women who travelled 55 kilometres to our office in Burkina Faso to say thank you for a village-savings-and-loans (VSL) project that's changed their lives. It could also be in the achievement of Alimata, a mother-of-four who is one of two female VSL members elected to serve as municipal councillors, a first in the community.

These women are part of a successful VSL that's continued to thrive since the community graduated from our support three years ago. Since the VSL project began in 2014, 66 groups, representing 1,149 women, have saved nearly \$270,000 and loaned nearly \$150,000 within their groups to help one another start and

grow small businesses. Thanks to training sessions, the women are running successful businesses.

Two challenges had to be overcome early in the project:

- ▶ With no financial institution in the area, there was no saving culture in the community. But, as the first women in the project engaged, others soon joined, excited by the thought of financial independence.
- ▶ A distrust in microcredit loans due to unscrupulous past practices led to initial distrust of the VSL. Ongoing education sessions and a study to understand how to address local concerns helped regain trust.

“My daughter is always curious about my village-savings-and-loans activities. My participation helped me develop confidence. People noticed, and I was elected a local council member.

— Alimata, VSL member and municipal councillor

Progress in Alimata's community

- Almost all women in the community joined the village-savings-and-loans project (VSL)
- Eighty-five percent of women have developed a business and all have seen their income increase by 30 to 300 percent
- Women are paying for their children's health and education needs, such as buying bicycles for their children's travels to and from school

Did you know?

- We design programs that can multiply and grow. Since 2014, VSL participation (men and women) ballooned from one Christian Children's Fund of Canada-supported community to 127 communities — involving 434 groups and 9,354 members. A total of \$905,790 has been saved and more than \$650,000 has been used for loans.



Youth championing change

Providing teens with safe spaces to build knowledge, confidence and leadership skills kindles youth-led community change

By Enmanuel Castro, communications manager, Nicaragua

Youth are playing an increasingly important role in the development of communities in Nicaragua. At the forefront is a youth group of 30 teens named JUPAC and a 70-member strong children's council of six-to 17-year-olds.

These young trailblazers are providing input in community council meetings and other public forums, building support networks across schools, communities and government to drive change.

JUPAC gathered 751 signatures, and successfully petitioned district authorities to cover 11 damaged manholes along a busy school walking route. And, the children's council has been busy leading an awareness campaign that's helping boys recognize their responsibility in teen pregnancies

and encouraging parents to educate their children about sexual health.

Creating and strengthening youth groups is especially important in communities where children are marginalized. Your support has helped us increase the number of youth groups in our programs from four to 10 this past year. We've shared key learnings with all of our local partners.

- Training has helped youth develop self-esteem, confidence and skills to overcome their fears of being judged for expressing ideas in public spaces.
- Positioning JUPAC's activities as contributing to social development has helped youth gain a strong ally in local political leaders.

“ Before, my community had high levels of [youth] violence. Now, we participate for the benefit of our community.

— Hector, 17, Nicaragua (JUPAC member)

Progress in Nicaragua

A look at youth network activities

- In Estelí, more than 1,300 children from 56 interest groups have banded together to form one group promoting arts, culture and sports for young people
- In Pueblo Nuevo, a 24-member youth group is involved in trainings, awareness campaigns and child-protection brigades
- In Managua, a youth network of 80 members works alongside 20 female community leaders to strengthen child and youth participation in school, sports and more

Did you know?

“Generational succession” is a key priority of youth groups in Nicaragua. By actively motivating new members to join, the momentum for change continues even after senior members leave.



THANK YOU to our 2018 Board of Directors for your leadership support

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As of October 1, 2018

How we spark and sustain change

My visit to a Dalit (lower caste or class) community in India reminded me of a powerful truth: children are our best hope of genuine, lasting change.

I listened to young people speak passionately about their fight for equality in a society that denies them justice, access to health, education and other services. Yet, their dreams are still big and bright.

Some people say working with children is idealistic but impractical. However, what we've learned is it's the only way to sustain progress. Creating better programs, policies and practices means engaging and listening to everyone, including children and others who are often left out. Children who are heard can make their needs prioritized and contribute to finding new solutions to serious social issues.

It's also become clear we need to be more deliberate in our efforts to change cultural attitudes and

practices that silence, exclude and harm children. Otherwise, we risk young people leaving the same legacy of discrimination, violence and poverty to their children.

Today's youth will create a better future for their children

As we move forward, we're focusing our efforts on tackling five key barriers to change — placing children's voices at the centre of all we do (p. 18-19).

Thank you for your tremendous support. Together, we'll learn from the will and wisdom of children and create a new era of progress.

Warm wishes,

Dr. John Dirks
Chair of the Board

OUR VISION

We dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.

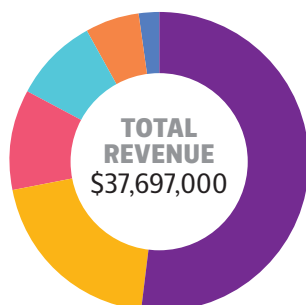
OUR MISSION

Christian Children's Fund of Canada creates a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and injustice. For nearly 60 years, we have followed the example of Christ by serving the poor regardless of their faith, cultural, and ethnic background.

Our financials

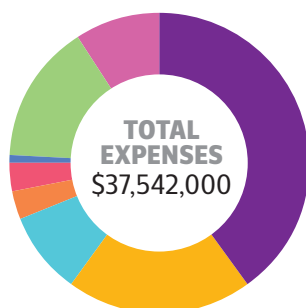
Your generosity raised **\$37,697,000** — sparking change across communities and countries. **Thank you!**

2018 Revenue



- 50%** Child sponsorship
- 20%** Donated goods
- 11%** Global Affairs Canada
- 11%** Project funding
- 7%** Special gifts for children
- 1%** Other donations

2018 Expenses



- 40%** Health and nutrition
- 20%** Education
- 9%** Strengthening community organizations
- 3%** Sustainable economic growth
- 3%** Water, sanitation and hygiene
- 1%** Emergency response
- 15%** Fundraising
- 9%** Administration

Summarized Statement of Operations

For the year-ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands of dollars)

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
Sponsorship and other contributions	26,438	26,637
Donated medications/gifts in kind	7,152	8,807
Contributions from Global Affairs Canada	4,107	2,909
TOTAL REVENUE	37,697	38,353
EXPENDITURE		
Program services		
Health and nutrition	15,015	16,018
Education	7,647	7,471
Strengthening community organizations	3,269	3,330
Sustainable economic growth	1,154	1,098
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,124	806
Emergency response	354	476
Fundraising	5,430	5,953
Administration	3,549	3,468
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	37,542	38,620
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	155	(267)

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2018 (in thousands of dollars)

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Current assets	2,441	4,235
Investments	5,390	5,150
Capital assets	5,616	5,704
TOTAL ASSETS	13,447	15,089
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	2,804	2,659
Deferred contributions	3,625	5,366
Demand loan	604	805
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,033	8,830
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	1,403	1,360
Invested in capital assets	5,011	4,899
TOTAL NET ASSETS	6,414	6,259
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	13,447	15,089

For CCFC's detailed independently audited Financial Statements, visit ccfc.ca/about-us/financials.

Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) is an independent and autonomous organization and, unlike many other Canadian International development registered charities, CCFC does not flow funds through international governing bodies or regional offices. Instead, funds donated to CCFC are distributed directly to countries of operation for program activities. Further, as part of our social impact strategy, CCFC does not employ expatriates in our field offices. We are committed to hiring nationals.



We reached...

705,155

children and community members across 12 countries and 160+ communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas thanks to you

The beliefs of our global community are changing the lives of children and families around the world. Here are highlights from the past year.

WE BELIEVE...



GIRLS MUST HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS



72,861 students, parents, teachers, community leaders and others were reached by awareness-raising campaigns on issues such as education for girls

31,810

women received prenatal and postnatal services



5,066 youth and adults learned about their right to refuse unwanted sexual advances



CHILDREN MUST BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO BE HEARD

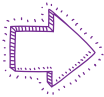


64,485 children and youth had the chance to discover the world through safe and fun after-school activities



1,160 children joined 95 newly formed children and youth groups where they learned about their rights, discussed issues of importance to them, participated in community activities and built leadership skills





CHILDREN'S BASIC NEEDS MUST BE MET



13,498

children in our sponsorship program received **nutritional support**

13 communities held a graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements in their journey towards self-sufficiency

30,717

children received annual **health** or **dental checkups**



13,876 people were reached through disaster-preparedness campaigns +



3,094 community members were trained in **emergency preparedness**

76,176 community members were reached by **health-awareness** campaigns



CHILDREN MUST HAVE A QUALITY, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

4,684 youth received skills-training, including 2,067 girls



87 educational facilities, classrooms, **child-friendly spaces** and **libraries** were built or renovated

359 schools and 54,621 children were provided with 331,652 school supplies, including pencils, uniforms and books



10,025 community members, teachers and leaders were trained in advocacy to promote **inclusive education and equality of opportunity**



CHILDREN MUST BE SAFE AND EMPOWERED

132,409

people in communities we serve were reached by **child-protection** campaigns



4,830 children and youth learned about their **rights and responsibilities**, leadership, group management and organizations they can tap into for support



119 government departments and 741 education workers were trained in **children's rights and protection**



*Statistics are based on Christian Children's Fund of Canada's last fiscal year (April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018). | For more annual report information, visit ccfcanada.ca.

Sophia's story

After community graduation

Earlier this year, Sophia's community in Paraguay graduated following 12 years of Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) support. The 19-year-old nursing student was eager to share how your generosity has changed her life — and the life of her family and community.



What word best describes you?

Helpful.

What is your first memory of CCFC?

It was watching the community centre being built. While we [children] didn't understand what was happening, we were excited.

What was it like before CCFC came?

Children did not have spaces to play or have fun. We didn't know our rights, and more children worked and didn't go to school. Everyone lived side by side but alone.

What's changed since then?

The attitude of the community. We think more about each other and the development of the community. We're free to defend our rights.

How has life changed for your family?

My brother and I had school support. I have a sister who studied baking and makes bread to sell. My parents did training in advocacy. We've developed as people.

What's been the greatest community challenge?

Changing the beliefs of people with respect to children — usually in the countryside where children's rights are more violated.



You can't imagine how many lives you're transforming.

— Sophia, 19 (pictured right)

What CCFC activities changed you?

I participated in camps, happy hours (training) and trips. My sponsor encouraged me to study and be a better person. What helped most was meeting others through children's networks with the same dreams and vision to serve.

How did you feel at the community graduation?

We celebrated the graduation with laughter and tears. We know good work continues here. CCFC will help another community as you helped us.

Since graduating, Sophia's community has successfully:

- Advocated for the provision of food and supplies from the National Secretariat of Social Action to continue a community soup kitchen
- Hosted an open house at the community centre to share projects, achievements, investments and fundraising procedures with community members and the media
- Presented a proposal for improvements to the community centre to investors and secured funding from corporate sponsors
- Partnered with a local organization to bring youth entrepreneurship training to the community centre

Meet Sophia

bit.ly/HearFromSophia

With notes from Javier Melgarejo
Former local partner in Sophia's community: Crecer

Six-year spotlight ON EDUCATION

Successes, stumbles and how you're making a difference

Your generosity is helping children access quality education in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nicaragua and Paraguay.

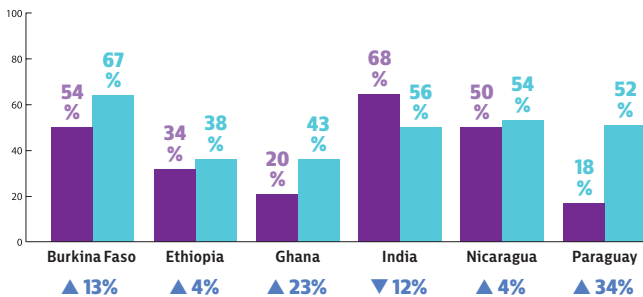


Photo by Philip Maher

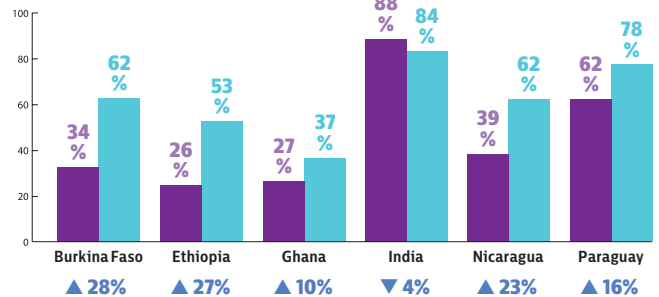
HERE'S WHERE WE GET TO CELEBRATE

During our six-year strategic plan (2013-2018), you helped improve literacy in five of six countries, and boost the percentage of children completing primary school (five percent) and attending secondary school (11 percent). Yay, you! What's more, 651 schools were built or renovated and 75,439 teachers and community members trained on children's right to education.

% of youth 15-24 who attend secondary school



% of children 6-14 years of age who performed at or above their current grade level in a reading test



2013 2018

Here's where progress has stumbled

Barriers to education are varied, from the cost of a uniform to a child's gender or social class. Progress in Ghana, India and Nicaragua was impeded by many long-standing practices, attitudes, and political and economic obstacles, including barriers youth shared below.

Youth not going to school mentioned various barriers, such as:

25% IN GHANA

said the National exam or financial reasons

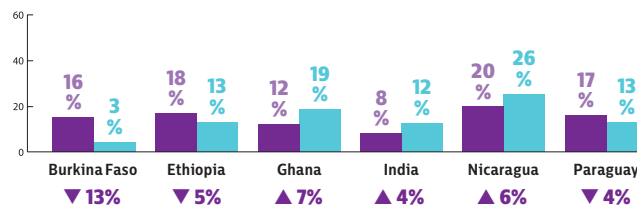
50% IN NICARAGUA

said youth pregnancy, school fights or family issues

60% IN INDIA

said financial reasons

% of children and youth who report experiencing social and systemic barriers to education



DID YOU KNOW?

We worked with 564 government departments to advance education efforts.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Every percentage point showing progress is a hard-fought victory to celebrate. To do better tomorrow, we've taken our learnings from the past 58 years and developed five pathways of change. Learn what we want to change and how (turn page).



Our five pathways of change

What we want to change and how

By Vicki Quigley
managing editor & brand
stewardship manager,
Canada

Ending poverty and creating a more equitable and inclusive world starts with children. Our new Theory of Change reflects this commitment. It states what we want to change and how. And, it empowers a new generation of leaders.

Children's writer Dr. Seuss once wrote: "A person's a person no matter how small." He's right: children have insights and ideas equally as important as adults.

Partnering with children and youth, engaging with them actively, providing them with opportunities to contribute, and linking young people to planning and policy efforts is vital to the long-term success of development efforts.

As we took a hard look at the results of our six-year strategic plan (2013-2018), our path forward became clear. To ensure children are heard, included and

empowered, serious social issues, like child marriage, need to be tackled. We also need to address traditions and practices that violate their rights and limit their ability to achieve their full potential.

Vulnerable children can't do this alone.

That's where you come in.

With your support we'll continue to work alongside children to help make education inclusive and accessible; promote equal rights and opportunities for girls, boys and others often excluded; and build safe, thriving communities.

The result: a new generation of young leaders changing their communities — and the world.

WHAT WE WANT TO CHANGE

5 barriers silencing, excluding and harming children

CHILDREN DENIED AN EDUCATION

Millions of children live near schools but aren't allowed to enter, others feel unsafe to attend

CHILDREN'S BASIC NEEDS UNMET

Many communities struggle to meet children's basic needs and are highly vulnerable when hit by drought or other disasters

CHILDREN ABUSED AND EXPLOITED

More than half of the world's children experience a form of violence and exploitation every day¹

INEQUALITY FOR GIRLS

Girls are the most discriminated group in the world — their rights are continually violated and opportunities denied

CHILDREN'S VOICES SILENCED

Children make up nearly a third of the population, yet their experiences, ideas and insights are rarely heard²

HOW WE WILL CHANGE IT

5 ways we're helping children to be heard, included and empowered

CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED

We work to ensure boys and girls — regardless of gender, caste or any other difference — receive a safe, inclusive quality education

CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY IN THRIVING COMMUNITIES

We build resilient, resourceful communities that can provide for their children and respond, recover and rebuild when disaster strikes

CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED

We work to reduce all forms of violence and exploitation and ensure children have the tools to overcome injustice and protect their rights

EQUALITY FOR GIRLS

We promote equal rights and opportunities for girls and women and engage boys and men as partners for transformative change

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATE FOR CHANGE

We work to provide children with safe spaces and opportunities to be heard

1

2

3

4

5

Sources:

¹Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: a systematic review and minimum estimates. Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, Kress H. Pediatrics 2016; 137(3): e20154079.

²UNGlobalCompact.org



You can give the gift of education

Consider helping girls around the world access an education they never thought possible.

There are many issues keeping girls out of school. Some fetch water daily from great distances, some care for siblings while their parents work and others are forced into early marriages that keep them home doing chores and raising their children.

Others don't attend school because of their social status.

Give a girl the gift of education, school supplies or schoolbooks. She deserves to chase her dreams.

SEND A GIRL TO SCHOOL FOR A YEAR > \$100

SCHOOL SUPPLIES > \$40

SCHOOLBOOKS > \$35

Check out ccfcanada.ca/GiftsforGood for gifts from our catalogue that will be combined with other donations to have 5X the impact.

Support girls' education today.

Visit ccfcanada.ca, or call 1.800.263.5437



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