

ANNUAL
REPORT

2023-24


CAUSE
GAINDA

Rising Voices,
Stories of Growth

THANK YOU!

A Message From CAUSE Canada's Program Manager in Sierra Leone

To all the generous people around the globe who made our work possible this year, I would like to express my profound gratitude. Your meaningful contributions have been instrumental in allowing us to carry out our mission and serve our communities.

Your generosity has enabled us to expand programs, reach more people in need, and make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. It is because of your unwavering support and commitment that we have been able to provide essential services, educational opportunities, and vital resources to those who needed them most.

Your compassion and willingness to give back are truly inspiring. You have demonstrated the power of collective action and shown that when we come together, we can achieve remarkable things. Your commitment has not gone unnoticed, and we are deeply appreciative of your trust in our work.

As we look to the future, we are excited to continue building on the foundations laid this year, thanks to your valuable support. With your continued involvement, we are confident that we can expand our impact and create even more positive change in the years to come.

On behalf of our entire team, beneficiaries, and the communities we serve, thank you for your generosity. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful for your partnership in this important work.

Oumar Alie Muctar Kamara

Oumar Alie Muctar Kamara
Program Manager in Sierra Leone

Rising: the action of something moving upwards on its own accord.

Rising suggests growth, empowerment and the emergence of strength and growing influence. As CAUSE Canada seeks to work with the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, women and girls continue to be the focus of our work as they are disproportionately affected by poverty.

CAUSE Canada seeks solutions to poverty that allow people to have dignity and see hope for their future. Rising personifies a person's journey to elevating their own voice, capabilities and presence in various spheres of life. CAUSE Canada works to provide opportunities for girls and women to begin their own journey to rise.



Our Leadership

Message From The Chair & Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your support this past year. Your belief in working with people who are the most vulnerable and marginalized, whose voices would not be heard unless someone stops to listen, is what allows CAUSE Canada to hear, and respond; working together with people to help them solve their most pressing problems at the heart of extreme poverty, and helping them to find a path to leaving poverty.

Over the past year, we have seen the impact of taking time to listen and support people to discover their strengths, help them identify opportunities and we are seeing transformation – helping people build pathways to leave poverty themselves, and to helping others. In 2023-24, so many stories from the field were shared with us. One young woman from rural Sierra Leone supported by CAUSE Canada to go to school, dropped by our office. She is completing her Ph.D. in Mathematics and teaching at a university in Sierra Leone. She is also now volunteering with us and mentoring girls from the rural impoverished communities where she grew up. She knows that few people, especially girls, see women finding a path out of poverty. It is a privilege to be a facilitator of these life-changing opportunities especially, when people helped by CAUSE Canada, are now returning to be the help in their own communities. Thank you for joining us on this journey in pursuit of hearing people's voices and helping them have an opportunity to leave poverty.

As in other years, the 2023-24 Annual Report is just a small snapshot of all that was accomplished thanks to you, our teams of staff in Canada and internationally, and our dedicated volunteers, especially our Board of Directors. The willingness of so many people to contribute what they can is amazing and truly strengthening and inspiring us daily.

With gratitude,



Wendy Fehr
Executive Director



Ed Temple
Board Chair



Wendy Fehr
Executive Director



Ed Temple
Board Chair

Board of Directors

Ashley Tedham

Brandon Waardenburg

Grace Banke Adaghe

Hoa Quach

Jason Ho

June-Marie Innes

Lee Umbach

Nketti Johnson-Taylor

Sochi Iwuoha

Tyler Cleveland

“Over the past year, we have seen the impact of taking time to listen and support people to discover their strengths, help them identify opportunities and we are seeing transformation – helping people build pathways to leave poverty themselves, and to helping others.”

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 & PURPOSE

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

Faith

We are motivated and guided by our faith in Christ to love and care for the most vulnerable and marginalized people.

Equity

We believe in just and fair inclusion and that everyone should have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Dignity

We believe people are worthy to be valued and respected simply because they are humans.

Impact

We strive to maximize the quality of our efforts with the goal of effective, long-term, measurable, holistic transformation.

To quote Javeria Masood, a specialist with UNDP, “poverty does have a face, a place, race and often a gender—a face that transcends geographical boundaries, manifesting in various forms across continents and cultures. It is a face often marked by systemic injustices, economic disparities, and social marginalization. Yet its impact is disproportionately felt by specific communities and demographics.”

**POVERTY DOES HAVE
A FACE, A STORY
AND VOICE.
THE QUESTION IS:
WILL WE TAKE TIME TO
LISTEN?**

Current Challenges To Meet

Malnutrition:

In Sierra Leone, world events have combined to increase malnutrition and cause over 26% of all children to be experiencing serious long-term health effects of chronic malnutrition. In Guatemala, 46.5% of children 6 months to 5 years old are experiencing chronic malnutrition.

Violence Against Girls & Women:

This is a symptom of gender inequality but also the root cause of women and girls’ absence from schools, from participation in economic development activities and contributes to poor health outcomes, particularly maternal health.

Economic Development:

There are many barriers for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations to increase their income. Literacy, remote locations, lack of opportunity. CAUSE Canada continues to explore new methods for help people to earn a decent income – whether it is through improved agricultural activities or through microfinance, people have the capacity to earn a living and feed their families, we only need to help them find the right opportunities.

Working Together to Create Prosperity for All

In 2023-24, we were thrilled to work with you, our Canadian community, on two very special projects to contribute to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to building our community in Canada and internationally, to be stronger.

Mother's Day Care Package

In May 2023, we celebrated Mother's Day with our 3rd Annual CAUSE Care Package Project. Each care package featured 6 Canadian, female-led businesses and micro-businesses in rural Guatemala. With your support, 100% of funds raised supported female-led micro-businesses in Guatemala to receive vocational and business training.

We found that this small project has a significant impact on all who participate. First, it acknowledges the mother or another important woman in your life. When a volunteer arrives at the recipient's door, right before Mother's Day with the package, an exclamation of surprise and joy usually follows.

For small, female-led businesses in Canada and in the countries where we are working, this project builds their profile and is helping them to grow their business. Finally, it helps raise awareness about the entrepreneurship of women in West Africa and Central America and contribute funding back into these businesses.



Advancing Girls, Ending Poverty Event

In October 2023, in celebration of International Day of the Girl Child, we held our first in-person event since before the pandemic. This very special event took place at the Carriage House Hotel and featured an incredible dinner, and even better company. We celebrated being together again and the opportunity to discuss and share about the work in West Africa and Central America. We were thrilled to also be able to share two short films.

This event brought together CAUSE Canada staff, volunteers, donors and partners from the Sierra Leone Association of Canada, the Honduran Embassy to Canada among others, to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child and discuss how girls continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty, and what we can do together to change this.



Stories of Education

SIERRA LEONE: MOTHERS' CLUBS SENDING GIRLS BACK TO SCHOOL

Once the Yarah community Mothers' Club saw the importance of girls' participation, they have been working tirelessly to support adolescent girls who are out of school, to return to the education system.

Since few girls in the community continued to go to school after primary school, having a young female facilitator from the region who had finished university working for CAUSE Canada, impressed the Mothers' Club and helped them realize the critical importance of girls' education, leading the club to launch a series of income generating activities to fund education supplies for girls who were out-of-school.

One of their key projects was setting up a community vegetable garden with a support grant provided by the project. The mothers used the grant to purchase seeds, tools and irrigation equipment. They organized work parties to clear the land and tend the garden. The fresh produce was then sold at the local market with the proceeds going directly to the girls' school expenses.

The community's collective efforts have paid off tremendously. Over the past two years, the Yarah community Mothers' Club has been able to send 16 previously out-of-school adolescent girls back to secondary school through their own resources. The girls are thriving academically, and their families are deeply grateful for the support.

"Before the mother's club stepped in, I had lost all hope of returning to school," says 14-year-old Amara*, one of the beneficiaries. "Now I'm going back to the classroom, and I'm determined to complete my education and achieve my dreams."

The success of the Yarah community Mothers' Club has inspired other surrounding villages to replicate the practice. With continued community-driven initiatives and a steadfast commitment to girls' education, the future looks bright for the young women of Yarah.

**Please note: Names and some details have been altered to protect the identities of those we seek to empower*



EDUCATION



CAUSE Canada trains, mentors, and coaches early childhood development educators, primary and secondary school teachers, parents, and adolescent girls to support them to develop a quality learning environment for children in their schools, homes, and communities. With each of these learning opportunities, the teachers, parents, and adolescent girls improve their own literacy, numeracy, and leadership skills, to not only provide quality education and mentoring, but to increase their own opportunities to leave poverty and thrive.

Our Impact in 2023-24

11,367 children participated in quality education programming to help support their learning in school, **6,235** of these students were girls.

421 teachers were trained to provide quality educational outcomes, especially for the vulnerable students.

1,046 women in **62** mothers' clubs were trained and contributed to supporting vulnerable children in their community to go to school.

301 out-of-school adolescent girls returned to school specifically because of the support provided by women trained by CAUSE Canada on the importance of adolescent girls' education.

960 women and men that participated in adult educational programming improved their literacy.

A total of **13,759** people in **217** communities participated in educational activities supported by CAUSE Canada.

Stories of Health

HONDURAS: REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AT THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LEVEL

My name is Gloria*, and I am the school principal in the community of San Juan, located in the Quimistán area.

As the principal, I did not know what to do or how to handle situations of harassment and sexual assault occurring inside and outside the school. In the community, these situations of assault and violence were considered normal. I experienced a very difficult time as my own daughter was harassed and sexually assaulted when she was 16 years old. The incident went unpunished due to my lack of knowledge about reporting procedures and fear of retaliation.

When CAUSE arrived in the community and began working at the school with a focus on preventing sexual and gender-based violence, they began training us as teachers. This was the first time these topics were talked about in schools. They also engaged parents, which created a significant change in our community.

My fears as a teacher, as a woman, and as part of this community changed. The young people altered their behaviour as they participated in workshops held in the schools. Now, there is more respect among the youth, and we live in a healthier environment. The young people share roles and responsibilities, and there is more gender equality.

As a teacher, I no longer allow any form of violence, either inside or outside the school, thanks to the confidence and security I gained from the training provided by CAUSE. In the community, we organized a committee composed of teachers, pastors, and community leaders. Its' objective is to continue everything we learned from CAUSE.

It is the first time an organization has focused so much on supporting teaching staff in these situations. Their workshops helped us understand each process and approach the topics effectively.

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HEALTH

For most Canadians, dying during pregnancy or childbirth is unimaginable but despite these preventable deaths, for women and girls in lower-income countries, pregnancy continues to be incredibly dangerous. CAUSE Canada's work on health is focused on reproductive health however continually, women that we work with have said, that if we want to address reproductive health, we must address the violence that women and girls are also regularly subjected too – in their communities and in their families.

Because these are two very sensitive topics, CAUSE Canada focuses on two areas: helping train and develop local support that can provide communities with quality services and information. Additionally, as nationally, many countries have policies that protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, CAUSE Canada has been training and helping local stakeholders establish procedures to prevent and respond to violence in their communities.

Our Impact in 2023-24

In Honduras, in the municipality where the PODER program was implemented, reporting of cases of sexual and gender-based violence to local services has increased substantially due to the system of care developed and trained by the CAUSE Honduran team and the increased knowledge among survivors of the care that is now available to protect them and respond to their needs.

176,220 people in **228** communities benefited from health information and/or training to serve people in their community.

608 health service providers and teachers are now trained and providing health care services to meet the specific needs of adolescents.

6,595 individuals were provided with maternal and reproductive health services.

Stories of Livelihoods

GUATEMALA: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG WOMEN TO THRIVE

Carmen* is a teenager from Chemal II, a small rural Indigenous community in the municipality of Todos Santos, Guatemala. Due to the poverty in her community, Carmen could only complete primary school and had no prospects for continuing her education. Like all the women in her community, she learned to weave huipiles and other items on a loom from an early age. Carmen spent her days caring for a flock of sheep, planting and harvesting potatoes to sell or eat. At 16, her future seemed limited to either getting married and having children or migrating to the United States.

In 2021, Carmen had the opportunity to participate in the workshops offered by the PODER Project. She attended sessions on self-esteem, life planning, responsible reproductive health, and violence prevention, and gained access to reproductive health services. Carmen also took part in economic empowerment workshops and received a Basic Baker certification.

With her parents' support, Carmen opened a business, which has been gradually growing. After two years of operation, the bakery offers a wider variety of products and has begun selling to other bakeries. Now 19 years old, Carmen aspires to create more types of bread to expand her business and sell to other communities. With this new source of income, she is no longer pressured to marry young and start a family immediately. If she had not participated in the PODER Project, she believes she would have become a mother by now or would be very close to it. Carmen also recognizes that having her own income protects her from the violence many women in her community are exposed to.

Carmen has become an inspiration for the adolescent girls and young women in her community. She chose to set aside the idea of early marriage and motherhood, which is often seen as the only option for women. They see that, by having her own income and knowledge of her rights, no man will "dare to lay a hand on her" because she can seek justice. Despite running her bakery, Carmen continues weaving and has set up her loom within her business to make the most of her time.

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LIVELIHOODS

CAUSE Canada focuses on entrepreneurship among women and adolescent girls to help provide a means of women and girls to participate in economic development. Mothers' Clubs, microfinance, and business and vocational training all contribute to helping women gain opportunities to increase their household income. For most women in CAUSE Canada's programs, this means that, if they have children, their children go to school.

Our Impact in 2023-24

5,884 individuals participated in small business & vocational training.

1,593 individuals participated in **532** business management and financial literacy workshops, **1,160** of these participants were women.

456 individuals participated in **78** vocational skills workshops, **434** of these were women.

3,515 individuals participated in **315** life skills workshops, **2,587** of these participants were women.

1,259 small businesses were supported and are now growing and thriving.

Creating Sustainable Change

In 2023-24 CAUSE Canada took the huge leap to move away from sponsorship. Since 2008, sponsorship has been an important means of helping children to go to school. However, sponsorship is also administratively resource intensive and, can allow local communities and governments to ignore their responsibilities to ensure that all children go to school.

While many people sponsoring children enjoy the connection to an individual and the way this helps them teach their own children about poverty and the importance of giving, it is important that governments take responsibility for meeting the needs of their constituents and that every dollar that we receive has the biggest impact possible. So, we decided to move away from child sponsorship.

What are we doing instead to ensure that all children have the opportunity to go to school?

While it is true that governments should be making sure children go to school, they do not always do this. In Sierra Leone, for example, most girls drop out of school after primary school. To overcome gaps where governments fail to provide people's basic needs and rights, such as education, CAUSE Canada has been working closely with community structures to support them to have the skills and resources to bridge gaps.

In Sierra Leone, when it comes to education, Mothers' Clubs have become an amazing structure that we are working closely with, and they are continually reaching new heights for having sustainable impact.

In 2021, CAUSE Canada began working with these community structures to provide training about the importance of adolescent girls staying in school and helping them to develop the means to identify and support girls vulnerable to dropping out. Between 2021 and 2023, a total investment of \$35,000 into Mothers' Clubs has helped send more than 1,000 girls back to school. This means that instead of requiring sponsors to spend \$40 a month to keep a child in school, we are now investing about \$35 per student to have local community structures send a girl to school for her life.

Thank you to the many sponsors who welcomed the change from sponsoring one child, to helping many, and making a long-term sustainable change that empowers people to meet their own needs and those of their community.



Financials

COMMENTARY ON FINANCIAL RESULTS

REVENUE

In 2023-24, the Government of Canada, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and other international funders contributed to 51% of CAUSE Canada's income. While GAC comprises a significant portion (29%) of this income, there was an 11% increase in other longer-term committed funds from a variety of these institutional donors (now 22% of income) in this reporting year. The strategy to expand the number of institutional donors is part of CAUSE Canada's fund development strategy to building sustainability.

Foundation revenue fluctuates annually due to the nature of limited-term project grants versus ongoing funding. The Microcredit Program in Guatemala is continuing to recover from the pandemic, resulting in increasing income and overall program growth.

EXPENSES

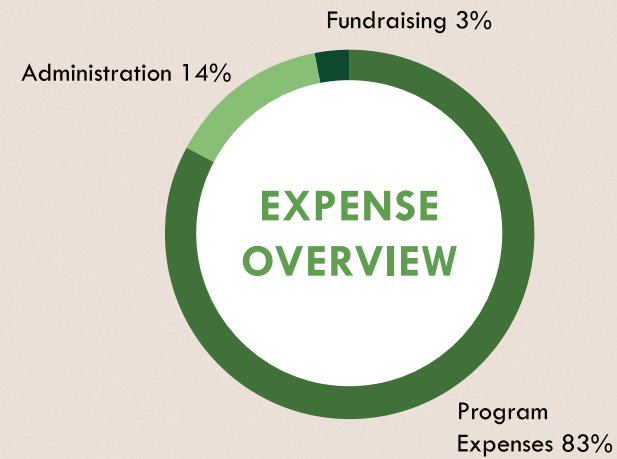
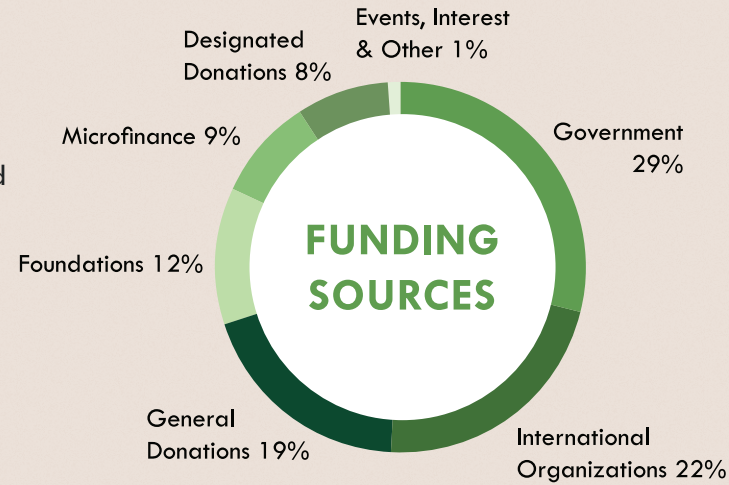
Increased program funding has led to higher expenses. The PODER program, in its fourth year, is increasingly demonstrating impact with more adolescents accessing family planning and pregnancy care services.

CAUSE Canada programs in Sierra Leone had lower expenses in part due to timing of programs however, overall programming in Sierra Leone is increasing due to international organization funding.

Administration in this reporting year was higher, in part due to the development and implementation of new processes, however we expect these costs to decrease as a percentage of the overall expenses in the coming years.

In general, expense increases align with increased program activities.

Overall, revenues exceeded expenses in 2023-24.



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

REVENUE	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Government of Canada	538,717	499,198
International Organizations	410,364	185,486
General Donations	356,010	215,364
Foundation Revenue	226,344	376,149
Microcredit Financial Revenue	169,686	159,769
Designated Donations	140,624	176,641
Events	13,100	16,286
Interest and Miscellaneous	3,346	(82)
Total Revenue	1,858,191	1,628,811

EXPENSES	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
PODER Program	443,907	452,771
CAUSE Canada Programs (Sierra Leone)	469,368	528,978
International Organizations Programs	414,053	220,506
Administration	260,127	208,900
Microcredit Programs	240,847	196,543
Fundraising	59,051	32,568
Amortization	3,245	3,468
Total Expenses	1,890,598	1,643,734

FUND BALANCES	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	(32,407)	(14,923)
Other Expenses (Income)		
Gain On Microcredit		
Loan Obligation	(346)	(1,075)
Gain on Foreign Exchange	(66,882)	(45,925)
Total Other Expenses	(67,228)	(47,000)
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	34,821	32,077

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Cash	319,130	83,093
Accounts Receivable	12,843	52,127
Donated Assets	18,199	20,162
Goods & Services Tax Recoverable	2,699	3,941
Prepaid Expenses	16,308	10,305
Total Current Assets	369,179	169,628
Tangible Capital Assets	70,488	73,733
Total Assets	439,667	243,361

LIABILITIES	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	55,009	60,375
Payroll Liabilities	33,449	9,078
Deferred Revenue	187,056	4,576
Total Current Liabilities	275,514	74,029
Canada Emergency Business Account	-	40,000
Total Liabilities	275,514	114,029

NET ASSETS	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
Unrestricted Net Assets	93,664	55,598
Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	70,489	73,734
Total Net Assets	164,153	129,332
Total Fund Balance	439,667	243,361



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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.

Get Involved In CAUSE Canada's Work

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.

We love it when you share your talents with us! Whether you'd like to get involved through working with us, volunteering with us or giving financially, we would love to hear from you.



Moving Forward

In 2024-25, CAUSE Canada in coordination with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and your support, will begin a school feeding program to meet the challenge of growing malnutrition. The project will work closely with community structures to help them sustainably build a program that can continue after CAUSE Canada's intervention ends. As part of this program, local female farmers will have an opportunity improve their agricultural skills to meet the challenges of changing weather and increasing access to markets to sell their produce. CAUSE Canada is excited to be starting a new project that aims to sustainably reduce malnutrition and, at the same time help Sierra Leonean farmers develop strategies to be both more productive and to grow crops that are climate resilient.

As our programs in Central America for adolescent maternal and reproductive health come to end in 2024, we are excited to see the continued impact of our work to prevent and respond to the violence against women and girls in the community. The significant changes that we have seen in building systems at the municipal levels to bring government ministries, health, education and legal systems and non-government organizations together to coordinate and implement response systems to gender-based violence, has been phenomenal. We look forward to using this experience to continue to overcome the insecurity that keeps women and girls at home, instead of at school, in the workplace and in the community.



This report was printed on 100% recycled paper

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dignity, equity and impact,
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