



**Cultivating  
Communities  
That Thrive**

**2019 Annual Report**

## Message From The Executive Director



David Barth, Executive Director

### Our Mission is to Cultivate Communities That Thrive

#### We Value:

- partnership
- empowerment
- justice
- sustainability
- integrity
- interdependence

Friends,

Change is inevitable. This year we spent the last of our regular program funds that we received from the World Hunger fund and later in the year another gift came from the Community of Christ to help with our transition away from having the program funds that have been a constant from the World Hunger fund for many years. This last gift was greatly appreciated and will be used in our current year for the programs in Central America. It marks the end of a long period where we had some certainty of support and opens the doors to a host of new possibilities for World Accord and our partners. We remain ever grateful to the World Hunger Fund of the Community of Christ for the many years of amazing program support. We simply have to change with the times.

While last year was a big one for working on proposals for Global Affairs Canada, this year was a year for looking for more opportunities while we waited to hear back on those proposals. We learned that we were deemed eligible by GAC and our proposal advanced to the next level that would require a much more detailed outline of our project and associated budget. We also learned that the proposal we submitted with the Mennonite Economic Development Associates for a project in Guatemala was not successful. While it was unfortunate to learn that this project would not go ahead we learned a great deal from working with MEDA on the proposal and we will look for other opportunities to work with them again in the future.

In light of the changing landscape of World Accord program funding, our staff and board members developed a new three-year strategic plan for our organization that will help to strengthen the capacities of not only our partners, but our staff and board as well. Our partners will work to provide us with more bite sized projects that will be easier to get funded than their programs in their entirety. New fundraising initiatives will then be focused primarily on these bite sized projects and our board of directors will be more active in the promotion of World Accord and assisting with fundraising initiatives.

Right at the very end of the fiscal year we learned that our proposal for a rights based women's empowerment project for Nepal was approved for funding by Global Affairs Canada. We will have 5 organizations in Nepal working on this project along with World Accord and the Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO). This will be for \$1.14 M over the next 4 years with a match contribution from World Accord and an in-kind contribution of volunteers from the EFO for an overall project value of \$1.475 M. This year we will negotiate the contribution agreement with GAC and our other partners and begin on a journey that will change and strengthen program participants, partner organizations, and the staff and processes at World Accord. As always we are grateful to the thousands of individual donors who support the very core of World Accord which permits us to do this work and allow thousands to find ways to lift themselves out of poverty. Thank you for joining us on our mission to cultivate communities that thrive.

Thank you.



David Barth,  
Executive Director



This report provides a summary of the development activities World Accord (WA) supported from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 through the financial support of the World Hunger Fund (WHF), Community of Christ as well other private donors. This first part provides a detailed understanding of World Accord's approach, along with an overview of our aggregate results, while the second part contains case studies of our partners' work.

### World Accord (WA) – Our Role & Approach

World Accord celebrated its 39th anniversary this year and has been fortunate to have had the support of the Community of Christ from its inception until now which enabled us to provide opportunities for women and men living in poverty so they may achieve food security, meet their basic needs, and promote sustainable development in their communities. Using a partnership model, WA collaborates with established organizations that carry out participatory planning with local communities to identify specific needs and opportunities as well as ways to improve the overall well-being of their members. This approach cultivates sustainability, local leadership and ownership over development as it is based on long-term relationships and trust with key stakeholders.

In order to report results and provide accountability to all our other supporters, we monitor the activities of our partners overseas. Field visits, regular communications, reports and presentations to our key stakeholders and wider public in Canada are part of this process.

World Accord also builds the capacity of our local partners and communities to promote long-term local development. This is done through in-house and external trainings, funding for equipment and services, volunteer placements in countries, by supporting learning exchanges between partners as well as by actively working to expand our partnership basis and improve the quality of our projects.

With this initial gaining of experience, WA has come to realize the importance of creating strategic partnerships not only to avoid duplicating our resources but more importantly to be able to share experiences and learn from one another. Thus, we have a network/partnership established in each country of intervention, which is Canadian based or one of our partner's country based. Through this, we also hope to learn about what approach works best as well as the main components of a successful collaboration.

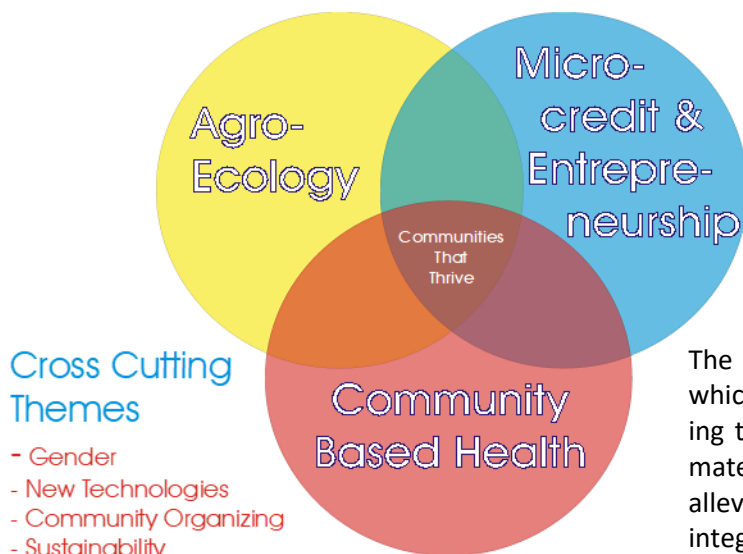
Through our small staff of three employees at our home office in Waterloo, WA works in Canada to enhance the knowledge of Community of Christ members and other Canadians about the interconnectedness of our world through international development education and public engagement. Furthermore, via presentations and events, we share how people can participate in fostering social justice in developing countries

By the provision of ongoing interaction and support to our partners, we hope to provide the maximum benefit to the people and communities we partner with around the world and fulfil our mission of cultivating communities that thrive.

We have a vision of world accord -  
the flourishing of well-being for all:

- where basic human needs are met,
- where every person has the opportunity to fulfill their potential,
- where diverse people live peacefully in global community,
- where care of earth and love of neighbour shape our life together.





All countries in the world have engaged in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These 17 goals along with their 169 targets cover a broad range of sustainable development issues; which include ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.

The graphic below on the left depicts the programmatic areas in which all of our partners are working and that contribute to achieving these SDGs. For example, environmental sustainability and climate action (SDG 13), gender equality (SDG 5) as well as poverty alleviation (SDG 1), which are all essential components within our integrated development approach.



**Agroecology:** One of our priorities is ensuring that the world's poor have access to and can produce their own food. We advance food security by supporting projects which develop the capacity of smallholder farmers to: farm sustainably, raise livestock, and develop innovative and locally adapted techniques to generate greater and more diversified production.

**Micro-Enterprise and Entrepreneurship:** Another essential element towards social and economic empowerment is the provision of credit. Once participants are provided with training, they require micro-credit offered at a nominal rate, so they can invest in inputs or inventory and start small micro-enterprises or expand existing ones. We are especially looking at this component because it is a unique means to empower women and youth.

**Community based health:** A healthy community is essential in order to maintain and reinforce the positive effects of development projects. Thus, our partners engage in community based health by creating awareness on key health issues or referring community members to specialized health facilities.

#### Cross-cutting themes:

**Gender** continues to be a cross cutting priority for our development programming. A holistic approach is needed that includes women, men, girls and boys as stakeholders working towards gender equality.

**New technologies:** Our partners have shown great interest in integrating new technologies in their projects which enable them to gather data and analyse it, mitigate against the impacts of climate change and become more resilient.

**Community Organizing:** Our partners work with impoverished communities that struggle with social, economic and gender-based barriers. In the face of adversity and little individual capacity to overcome challenges; community building, group formation and the social capital generated from these initiatives are important support mechanisms in our partners' suite of tools so participants are strengthened by sovereignty and find power in numbers.

**Climate change:** Not only is climate change impacting all our partners' programs, it is significantly altering the way we and other stakeholders are working in the field. Additionally, it is now a key component that most donors are looking to reduce, mitigate and to create resiliency in their targeted areas of intervention.

The ability to breed varieties of beans that are more resilient to temperature and moisture fluctuations is an important part of climate change adaptation. It will help the farmers grow food in the years ahead.

Climate change is more than changing weather patterns. Disease carrying mosquitoes are found in higher areas than they used to be as global temperatures rise.

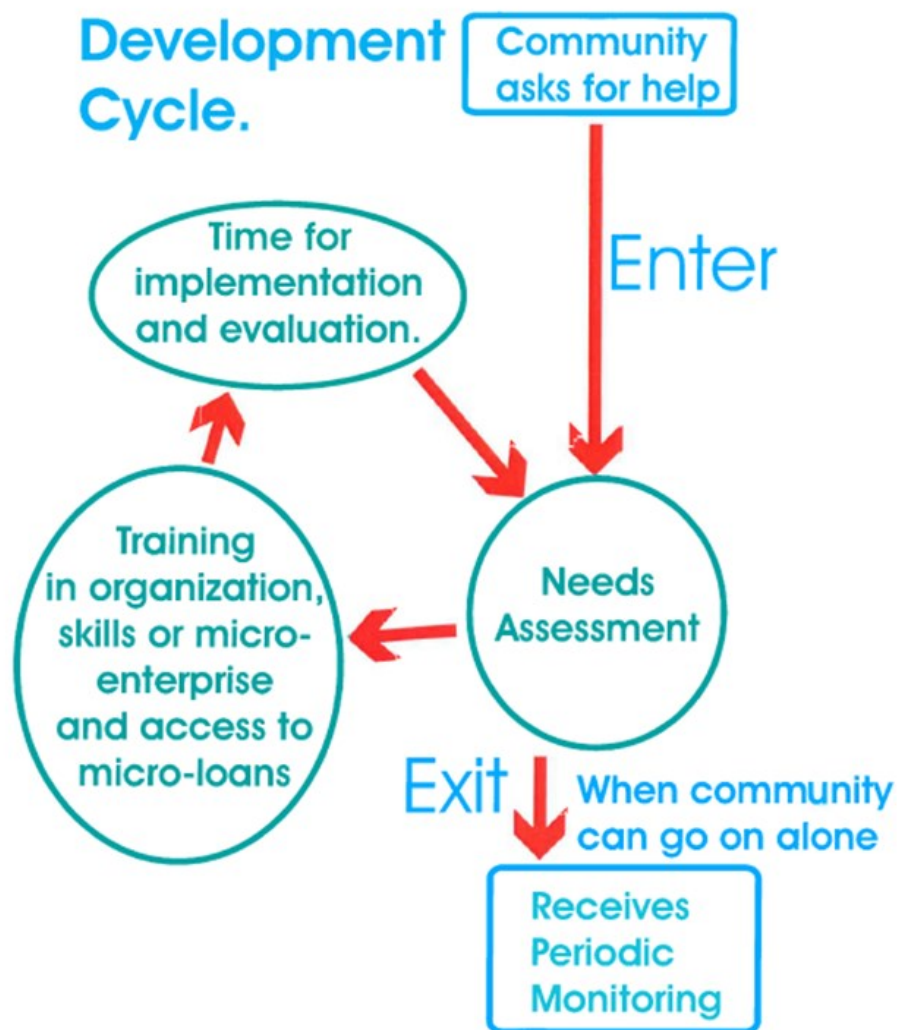


### Development Cycle

To provide an understanding of how our partners work, the diagram to the right illustrates the general sequence of steps each of our partners follows when working with a community. Through our partnerships with local organizations that has spanned decades, we have observed that communities have become empowered. Thus, we continue to reinforce their capacities so they can deliver services that respond to the complexity of the many needs of their members.

Moreover, we focus on using our modest resources as efficiently as possible and continuously strengthen our monitoring component. It is for this reason that we advocate for a gradual, long-term approach to development that increases the likelihood that improvements in quality of life will be sustained, and that participants will have ownership over the process.

Our experience and research indicate that it can take more than 10 years - and a convergence of ideal social and environmental conditions - for an integrated development approach to even bear sustainable results. An important indicator of success is when a group of people is sufficiently equipped to move out of relative poverty and become promoters of development themselves.



### Overview of 2018 – 2019 Activities

World Accord's programming with partners this year continued to positively impact an estimated 110 communities, and a population of approximately 2,850 direct program participants and 5,500 indirect participants. About 8% of this population was estimated to consist of "new" participants, given that a larger number of new participants had been introduced the year before and work this year continued to focus on training them. It is also an important consideration that the desire to take on new participants needs to be carefully balanced with the need to maintain the quality and consistency of the programming. The rest who are not considered "new" are past participants who continue to receive ongoing support while sharing their experiences and best practices with others. Furthermore, it has been easier for our Central American partners to monitor their own programme and build on their successes with the use of our common logical framework.

This year, World Accord learned that, unfortunately, our project VERDE for which we partnered with MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) was not successful in being funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC). However, GAC did invite us to proceed to the second phase of its call for proposals: "the Development Impact Window - Canadian Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation". Therefore, we submitted a detailed performance management framework and a reviewed budget for RENEW. This project, which is led in Nepal by our partner, Women for Peace and Democracy, aims to enhance social and economic empowerment of women and girls, especially from Dalit and most vulnerable groups. In order to achieve this ultimate outcome, we established a unique partnership with four other Nepali NGOs who have expertise in gender-based violence and human rights, climate change adaptation (CCA), enhanced performance of micro/small-scale enterprises,

## Overview of 2018 – 2019 Activities (cont'd)



increased access to the products and services required by these enterprises, as well as in the social empowerment of women and girls enabling them to effectively engage in their communities. RENEW also engages with men and boys as well as key stakeholders by creating awareness on sexual and gender-based violence along with human rights.

On another note, WA continued to work with WAAC which comprises of four professionals from fields that are relevant to our work such as

- A professor from the University of Guelph specializing in environment
- A professor from the University of Wilfrid Laurier specializing in disaster risk reduction and gender
- A professor from the University of Waterloo specializing in food security and climate change
- An international human rights lawyer

Thirdly, WA continued to be involved with the Food Security Policy Group (FSPG), Canadian Coalition for Climate Change and Development (C4D) and OCIC, which enabled us to access information and communications related to GAC and other international development issues as well as participate in various advocacy campaigns which amplify our own voices and enable us to learn from others. Also, in order to further increase our visibility through strategic events as well as public engagement initiatives, we participated in talks and knowledge sharing at the universities in Kitchener/Waterloo. This enabled us to build on our existing network of organizations, institutions, and individuals committed to achieving the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals while assessing the possibilities of partnering and future opportunities.

Finally, WA welcomed an intern from May to August 2018 who worked with us on a research and prepared funding proposals regarding gender, innovation and sustainable agriculture. She also facilitated potential partnership between World Accord and the University of Waterloo for development projects focusing on gender empowerment, innovation and agroecology.

The following section provides a narrative summary of our partner Women for Peace and Democracy's achievements followed by a table showing our Central American partners' activities and results. The second part concludes with case studies from all our partners.



## Women for Peace and Democracy—Nepal



Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women (SEWAM) aims to develop the capacity of the most marginalized and vulnerable women so they become economically and socially empowered. World Accord (WA) has been supporting this initiative for the last eight years. This narrative report will provide an overview of key achievements.

SEWAM is implemented in the following villages and districts in Nepal: Bachhauli and Kumroj in Chitwan district, Handikhola and Basamadi in Makwanpur district, Hariyon and Haripur in Sarlahi district and Bindhi in Dhanusa district. Its activities are divided into four major components:

- Education, technical and vocational trainings with the objective to strengthen capabilities of the target women to initiate small scale income generating activities.
- Trust funds to encourage women to start small scale businesses.
- Awareness/education on climate change and gender equality.
- Orientation, review and monitoring of the program activities for effective and efficient operation of the program.

During this project period (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019) 428 women from 15 villages were engaged in the first three components of SEWAM.



Out of this total, 257 women actively participated in various income generating activities (such as animal raising, vegetable farming, grocery store, agricultural farming, snacks stall and food shop) and were then able to take loans from the trust fund to start their micro-small businesses. Their economic conditions improved while they also gained knowledge on nutrition, diseases and farm management. Being involved in their enterprising activities, they have become more independent and self-reliant and have gained strong willpower.

On another note, WPD created awareness on climate change. The targeted participants learned what this means and why it is such a critical issue. Indeed, even though the effects are felt by all, poor people suffer the most and the women even more so. After climate disasters, it is generally harder for women to recover the economic positions than men.

### Achievements:

- After training on climate change training, women of Phulbari started to separate organic from non-organic waste to produce compost manure.
- Shobha Praja of Parijat women group who took slipper making training has now opened a shoe shop and sells the shoes made by her. Also, Srijana Dangol and Bimala Nepali of Parijat women group are selling shoes at home on the basis of pre order.



Shobha Praja in her shop

Area	Activity	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	Results
Food Production	Increased food security and household income	60%	65%	35%				This year, more than 2,000 program participants and their neighbours continued to increase their capacity to grow food and care for their resource base. Indeed, all our partners promote sustainable agricultural practices and now even more smallholder families are using organic compost on bigger land areas and this contributes to improving soil quality. For example, PRR managed to perform a soil analysis in the Southern Region which demonstrated an improved quality while MeA planted 35,000 trees in the communities where they operate. On another note, the impacts of the climate crisis have hit our Central American partners hard and have contributed to more smallholders not being able to provide to their household's needs.
	Persons given support to access agricultural inputs (e.g., fertilizers, seeds; etc.), land or employment.	851	458	420	482	533	962	
	Improved lost soil quality	49%	47%	43%				
	Number of new technologies in agroecology adopted by households	12	6	5				
	Area farmed sustainably	88 Ha	86 Ha	84 Ha	71 Ha	53.1Ha	21 Ha	
	Crop diversification	54%	52%	48%				
	Seed banks created and maintained	41	6	5	5	5	6	
Capacity Building & Skills Training	Persons who received training to improve food production	568	432	420	478	535	1,110	Capacity building enables one to work with others so that we can all become agents of change. These trainings can take many shapes such as exchanges between PRR and other organizations on local seed production in other countries (such as Nicaragua and Cuba).
	Number of partnerships established	11	7	5				
Community Organizing	Local groups formed and / or supported	131	90	75	72	80	93	ADCASMUS, this year created two local groups of smallholders
	Participants that received ongoing technical support and capacity building	1086	845	780	762	750	668	



The table on the preceding page provides an aggregate review of activities and selected results.

As in previous years, this table contains aggregate numbers of participants in World Accord programming and is intended to provide a general point of reference.

However, it contains limitations: it does not explain changes, positive or negative, due to environmental factors. Nor does it take into account the non-linear nature of development work progress. One year may be set back the next year due to a natural disaster, political instability or an economic downturn.

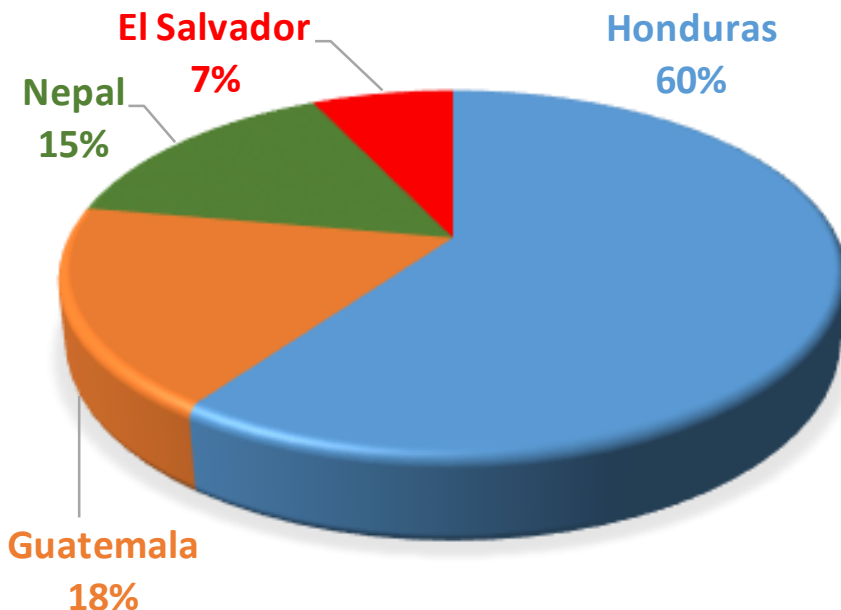
Finally, activities have been grouped together that are comparable but not always the same. Local context, partner capacities and resources play important roles in shaping how program activities are delivered.

### World Accord - International Development Agency Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2019

GENERAL FUND	2018	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current:		
Cash	\$357,284	\$371,866
Short term Investments (Unrestricted)	\$29,479	\$40,685
Accounts receivable	\$2,483	\$2,798
Prepaid Expenses	\$682	\$3,351
	<b>\$389,928</b>	<b>\$418,700</b>
Office furniture and equipment	\$14,518	\$8,544
Accumulated amortization	\$12,020	\$5,808
	<b>\$2,498</b>	<b>\$2,736</b>
Long Term Investments	\$150,000	\$150,000
Contingency Reserve	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$542,426</b>	<b>\$571,436</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$4,391	\$6,835
Deferred Revenue	\$272,721	\$256,571
General Fund Balance - unrestricted	\$112,816	\$155,294
General Fund Balance - Capital Assets	\$2,498	\$2,736
	<b>\$392,426</b>	<b>\$421,436</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND</b>		
Cash	\$150,000	\$150,000
<b>FUND BALANCE- Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$542,426</b>	<b>\$571,436</b>



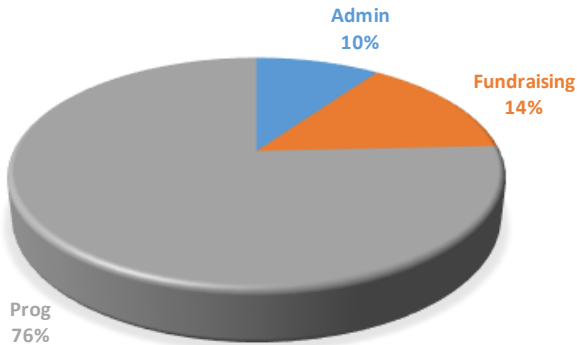
### PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAM BY COUNTRY





Home made machine for spinning thread into string for hammock weaving.

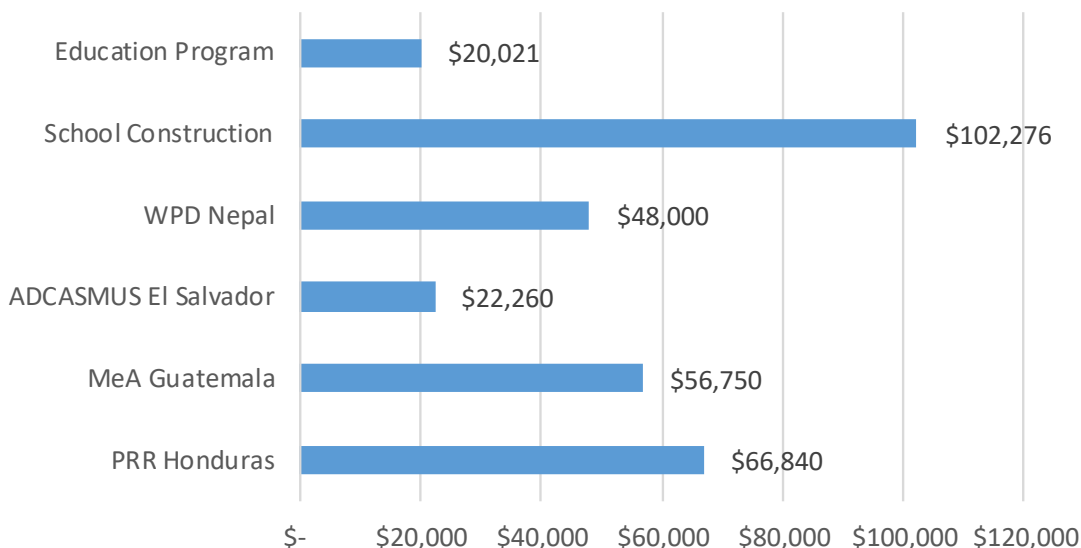
### NET ADMIN AND FUNDRAISING COSTS



### Statement of Revenues and Expenses - General Fund for the Year Ended March 31, 2018

REVENUES	2018	2019
Donations	\$435,370	\$461,759
Grants from charitable organizations	\$221,000	\$139,920
Investment and other income	\$4,542	\$13,079
	<b>\$660,912</b>	<b>\$614,758</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	\$86,804	\$89,140
Fundraising	\$90,159	\$83,163
Amortization of Property and Equipment	\$3,194	\$923
	<b>\$180,157</b>	<b>\$173,226</b>
Less		
Private core funding donations	<b>-\$12,251</b>	<b>-\$14,451</b>
Core funding from organizations	<b>-\$18,160</b>	<b>-\$20,000</b>
Wage Subsidy Grants	\$0	\$0
Operating Total	<b>\$149,746</b>	<b>\$138,775</b>
Programming		
Project development	\$99,360	\$81,757
Education	\$41,603	\$35,313
Project costs	\$396,176	\$316,197
Programming Total	<b>\$537,139</b>	<b>\$433,267</b>
	<b>\$686,885</b>	<b>\$572,042</b>
<b>OPERATING EXCESS (Loss)</b>	<b>-\$25,973</b>	<b>\$42,716</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - Opening</b>	<b>\$291,287</b>	<b>\$265,314</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - Closing</b>	<b>\$265,314</b>	<b>\$308,030</b>

### Program Expenses by Country / Program





## Case Study—Som Laxmi Proja (Nepal)



Som Laxmi Praja, aged 30, lives in Makari. She had a hard life. She got married at the age of 18 and suffered from domestic violence both physical and mental. She could not share her problems with her in-laws, friends or family because she was afraid of them. Her house also needed repair but she could not afford to maintain it as even sending her children to school was difficult. Before joining a SEWAM group, she did not know about the benefits or the delight of being a member. Indeed, she only used to engage in household activities and stay at home. But, now she has been part of this group for the last eight years, and spent the first four working as a secretary then as a motivator.

She got the opportunity to participate in various trainings, through which she gained knowledge and skills that made her capable of working as a facilitator and become more and more independent. Her life at home also changed as her husband started respecting and supporting her. She no longer suffered from domestic violence. “This was such a welcome change and I could even send my children to school and manage my household expenses by myself. Today, I am more confident to share my opinions and problems. In fact, now I always encourage my group members to do the same” she adds smiling.

With SEWAM, she had the same sense of belonging and shared values as while working as a Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) in her community. Indeed, both enable her to be an active member of the community and help her friends, family and neighbors, even during difficult times. She has also fulfilled her dreams of working to better the society and promote women’s rights. Moreover, it is through this experience that she built her self-confidence and got an opportunity to participate as a candidate in local elections.

At that time her husband was working abroad but he fully supported her decision to participate in this important election. Her main reason for doing so was to empower women and marginalized communities by spreading awareness about women’s rights and human rights. Last year she was elected to local office.

She is very thankful for all the initiatives taken by WPD- Nepal and World Accord to empower the marginalized women by giving them access to various trainings. She says, “During my tenure, I would like to make Manahari VDC an exemplary community in my village”.





## Case Study - Doña Irma Yolanda Ixjotop Cuc (Guatemala)



Doña Irma Yolanda Ixjotop Cuc, is 47 years old, married and living in El Rejon Village of Sumpango, Sacatepéquez. She is a housewife with seven sons and three daughters. She was born in a large peasant family, her childhood and youth were marked by suffering from extreme poverty. She also suffered from racial discrimination until she joined the cooperative called “Four pines”.

She became a member of Mujeres en Acción (Women in Action) through the Women's Presidential Secretary who delivered trainings in local government and authorities.

In the long term, her vision is to create a cooperative so that her entire village can be part of it and have common objectives of community and family development. It will also enable them to unite so that they may strengthen the market with their agricultural products. She wishes to export purely organic agricultural products in the future.

She declares that Women in Action has opened the way to continue fighting and teaching together to new generations, especially their children. This will enable them to solve economic and community development issues. Her dream is to write a book about the leadership she has exercised and she has asked her children to write their experiences, because she considers this to be part of the lessons learned in life.

Mujeres en Acción has provided credit for the improvement of the French bean and blackberry cultivation; she has also received training in recycling and the egg incubator.

She has currently invested time and resources in her forest nursery, with approximately ten thousand seedlings and small trees.





## Case Study— Smallholder Farmers (El Salvador)



The San Juan Opico group lives in the department of La Libertad in the west of El Salvador where ADCASMUS supports the cultivation of local seeds (corn, beans and sorghum). This particular group was treating 100% of their crops with chemical inputs representing an economic household investment of 70%. Due to this counter-productive factor, they decided to reduce the use of all these chemical inputs in order to prevent contamination that contributes to health diseases as well as impoverished soils.

These smallholders believed that organic agriculture was unreliable and that the crops would grow much slower with the use of organic compost. Moreover, they thought that this would require complex preparation in comparison to using chemical fertilizer; which according to many could be more effective because it is direct, fast and is a practice that is transmitted from father to son.

However, through the demonstration and use of organic products they were able to improve, better manage and control pests; even better than if they had used chemical products!

Thanks to organic agriculture discussions that focus on the recovery of minerals and nutrients from the soil as well as family economy, they learned about the importance of living mountain materials and microorganisms that allow the preparation of organic products. At the same time fungicides were prepared with the goal of distributing them to the members of the group, who then themselves became promoters of organic agriculture and encouraged other farmers in the area to adopt the same practices.



*This is our first consolidated year with 40% organic representation in terms of inputs.*



This is the story of the CIAL called "The Harvest" La Cosecha.  
(a CIAL is a Local Agricultural Research Committee)

La Cosecha is in the community of Linderos that borders Santa Cruz, Lempira, at an altitude of 1500 meters, approximately 20 kilometers to the east of the municipality. To the south there is San Juan, Intibucá. This CIAL includes ten members (nine men and one woman). It was created in 2017 by small holders and is now witnessing the success of collaboration and learning as well as sharing together. Even, Don Yonery Hernández, leader of the CIAL declares that all "have been empowered through the CIAL methodology".

Before, the farmers say that they were not organized, did not know the CIAL methodology, did not investigate, had to buy beans for consumption and did not know any environmentally sustainable practices. The yields were so low at 10-12 quintales / manzana that the producers did not make any profit. Whereas now, according to Don Yonery Hernández "Because we investigate collectively and individually, we have been able to adapt bean varieties, exceeding the yields of local varieties. We also manage our CIAL so that it benefits all the members. Finally we have been trained in different topics: production, administration and marketing research which enables us to commercialize grain and bean seed inside and outside the community".

Their main activities include the production of basic grains such as corn and beans as well as coffee, continuous training (agroecology, seed production, marketing, post-harvest) and exchanges of experiences with other producers. Their achievements have been amongst others: strengthening family food security, incorporating the bean chain in Lempira and in the bean chamber nationwide as well as practicing and promoting organic farming.



*Don Yonery Hernández monitoring his crops of maize and beans.*



*CIAL participation in an important event at the municipal level: World Food Day*







THANK YOU!

### Special Thanks to our Funders

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Community of Christ Congregations

First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

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*A special thank you goes to all of our donors and volunteers.*

*Our work is only possible with your generous support.*







Anita Devi has become a shining example of an empowered woman in her community of Bindhi in south eastern Nepal. Small in stature at 4'10", Anita will stand up for her rights and has done so on many occasions. She literally turned the tables on a man who was trying to cheat her on a water buffalo she raised for him and ended up owning the animal herself. A few years ago she never would have had the strength of conviction or belief in herself. Now she won't let anyone get away with treating her as "less".

**People in our programs are working hard to change their lives for the better. You can help them by giving generously to World Accord.**



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