GROWING FORWARD
2015-2016
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GROWING FORWARD:
2015-2016

By David Pell, Chair of the Board and Debra D. Kerby, President & CEO

2015 was a turning point in international development for the world, for Canada, and for Canadian Feed The Children.

The UN launched its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a stronger focus on climate change and women’s equality. The agenda sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at eradicating poverty and “leaving no one behind.” The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, agreed to by 193 UN member states, outlined a financing foundation for implementing the 2030 Agenda and marked a milestone in global partnership. In December, the historic Paris Agreement on Climate was adopted by 95 countries at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21).

2015 was also an important turning point for Canada’s international development efforts, with a new government and a renewed commitment to advance Canada’s key development priorities. The newly-named Global Affairs Canada (formerly, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development) began its mandate to refocus Canada’s development assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable. Key to this, GAC was tasked to create a new framework to guide Canada’s aid decisions, empower people, and support broad-based, sustainable growth in the developing world with an emphasis on women and girls and on the climate. In May 2016 GAC sought input through its International Assistance Review (IAR) from all Canadians, including civil society organizations.

Canadian Feed The Children has actively participated in the IAR. Engaging in this important national discussion has accompanied our heightened profile as a recognized, respected international development actor – an important change-maker, not just an effective charity – and the deepening of our expertise in food security, climate change, and innovation in development.

Since 2011, CFTC has revamped our programs and funding strategies – a period we’ve called our “Journey to Change” as we’ve sought to increasingly focus and align our efforts with best-practice development models and metrics. Our 2013 Annual Report set out the elements of our strategic plan designed to drive the type and level of funding that would achieve excellence in programming to deliver impact for children including:

- **Theory of Change**: a model of achieving impact that aligns programs around outcomes related to improvements in food security, nutrition, education and capacity building that benefits children, and

- **Power of 10**: building partnerships to secure $10 million in institutional funding by 2016 to diversify revenues and scale up programming.

Reporting on these goals in mid-2016, we are delighted to be able to say that we have achieved notable success in each area.
STRENGTHENING PROGRAMMING

CFTC’s Theory of Change continues to be refined around food security and education outcomes that are central to making lasting improvements to children’s lives. These are well-aligned with Canada's renewed international assistance approach and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG #1, “No Poverty” and SDG #2, “Zero Hunger”.

With the influence of CHANGE, RESULT and MILEAR*, our work increasingly tackles poverty and hunger by addressing two of its determinants: women’s inequality and the impacts of climate change. Programming that addresses both of these issues is vital to create sustainably prosperous environments where children can thrive.

In keeping with the UN’s 2030 Agenda, i.e. that the SDGs apply to all people everywhere, CFTC has redesigned our approach to First Nations food security. In early 2016, we were honoured to receive a $1-million grant from The Slaight Family Foundation to launch Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: a comprehensive school food and nutrition education program with a mandate to partner with 20 new First Nations communities by 2020. Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds is founded upon our successful work in partnership with First Nations communities in New Brunswick and Ontario, and is designed to achieve transformative, community-led change for even more children living in poverty in Canada.

DIVERSIFYING REVENUE

In August, 2015, Canadian Feed The Children officially reached our institutional funding revenue goal – one year ahead of schedule – when we were selected to assume responsibility for RESULT and MILEAR, two GAC-funded projects initiated by the Canadian Hunger Foundation.

The transition of these projects to CFTC marks an important milestone in CFTC’s journey to change and a definitive turning point as we expand the scope of our programming in food security and climate-smart agriculture.

These projects complement the best practices established through CFTC’s CHANGE project, which was extended for a third, self-funded year and wrapped up in December, 2015. Each is having significant positive impacts on children, women and men in northern Ghana and Ethiopia (see Growing Forward with Food Security Projects, starting on page 10). With new expertise, an increased and diversified revenue base, and the ongoing commitment of our supporters, CFTC is in a strong position to ensure that these projects deliver maximum impact, and that they become the launch pad for sustainable, high-impact programming that improves children’s lives for the long term.

* Three larger-scale GAC-funded projects that CFTC has implemented in Africa: the Climate Change Adaptation in Northern Ghana Enhanced (CHANGE) project; the Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation (RESULT) project, also in northern Ghana; and Market-Led Improved Livelihoods in Eastern Amhara Region (MILEAR), in Ethiopia.
None of this work is possible without our loyal donors who have remained with us through the past years of significant transition as we made difficult decisions that were necessary to achieve our longer-term goals.

You have stayed connected and interested in the details of our work, understanding the bigger picture and changing context, and in many cases providing us with a sounding board and valuable input on how CFTC can best leverage your gifts and our strengths to achieve our shared objectives. You’ve helped increase the quality and focus of our work with local partners and communities, and provided us with the capacity to strengthen our programming, attract new funding sources, and build our expertise and reputation.

In 2016, Canadian Feed The Children will complete its thirtieth year operating in Canada. In the past five years, we’ve turned the agency into a focused force for change: flexible, independent, innovative and visionary; a Canadian agency that combines good governance, sound financial management, and a relentless focus on results with a personal touch to improve the lives of children living in poverty.

As we turn our attention to the next thirty years, we are confident that we will grow to new heights in achieving high-impact, innovative programming that unlocks children’s potential through community-led action, and – together with you – help to create a world where children thrive.

Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women’s empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
To the Directors of Canadian Feed The Children

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, the summary statement of income and expenditures and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and the related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Canadian Feed The Children for the year ended December 31, 2015. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 16, 2016.

The summary financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of the qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements and do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Canadian Feed The Children.

MANAGEMENT’S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in the note to the summary financial statements.

AUDITOR’S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, “Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements”.

OPINION

In our opinion, these summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Canadian Feed The Children for the year ended December 31, 2015 is a fair summary of those financial statements on the basis described in the note to the summary financial statements. However, the summary financial statements are possibly misstated to the equivalent extent as the audited financial statements of Canadian Feed The Children for the year ended December 31, 2015.

The possible misstatement of the audited financial statements is described in our qualified audit opinion in our report dated June 16, 2016. Our qualified audit opinion is based on the fact that in common with many charitable organizations, Canadian Feed The Children derives revenues from contributions and events, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of Canadian Feed The Children. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contributions and events, excess of income over expenditures and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, current assets as at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 and net assets at both the beginning and end of the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014. Our qualified audit opinion states that, except for the possible effects of the described matter, those financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canadian Feed The Children as at December 31, 2015 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants,
Licensed Public Accountants
August 10, 2016
Toronto, Ontario
### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**AS AT DECEMBER 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>3,791,466</td>
<td>2,696,058</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>947,729</td>
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<td>Capital assets</td>
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<td>Intangible assets</td>
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<td>11,265</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>4,776,871</td>
<td>3,681,748</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>1,423,509</td>
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<td>Deferred tenant inducements</td>
<td>202,588</td>
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<td>Deferred rent</td>
<td>28,320</td>
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<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td>3,122,454</td>
<td>3,068,639</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>4,776,871</td>
<td>3,681,748</td>
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### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions and events</td>
<td>6,077,559</td>
<td>5,798,985</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
<td>1,727,295</td>
<td>786,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment and other income</td>
<td>112,014</td>
<td>64,689</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>7,916,868</td>
<td>6,650,021</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>5,693,869</td>
<td>4,367,564</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>1,598,154</td>
<td>1,610,093</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>571,030</td>
<td>575,695</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>7,863,053</td>
<td>6,553,352</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances - beginning of year</td>
<td>3,068,639</td>
<td>2,971,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess income over expenditures for the year</td>
<td>53,815</td>
<td>96,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances - end of year</td>
<td>3,122,454</td>
<td>3,068,639</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NOTE TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Applied criteria in preparation of the summary financial statements are as follows:

a) The information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete financial statements; and

b) The summary financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete financial statements, including the notes thereto.

For CFTC’s complete audited financial statements, please visit: www.canadianfeedthechildren.ca/who/financials
2015 was a year of significant change and growth for CFTC. The assignment of the MILEAR and RESULT projects on August 1, 2015 resulted in a substantial increase in grants income over 2014. In addition to the incremental funding from the Government of Canada for these projects, CFTC’s own required financial contribution is evident by the even greater increase in programs expenditures. Both cash (included in current assets) and deferred revenue (included in current liabilities) balances increased due to advances for MILEAR and RESULT on hand at year end.

The organization moved its head office during 2015 when its previous lease expired. Several items on the Summary Statement of Financial Position were created or impacted by this. As is typical, some modifications were made to the new office space prior to move-in which were financed by the landlord. This is reflected in the increase in capital assets (the leasehold improvements) and the deferred tenant inducements (the offsetting liability), both of which will be amortized over the 66-month term of the lease. The deferred rent relates to a free rent period and annual rent increases built into the lease, which are also amortized over the term of the lease.

Fundraising and administrative expenditures remained at 2014 levels in absolute terms and contributions income increased even during this time of substantive organizational change due to the continued and strong commitment of our dedicated donors, for which we are extremely grateful.
To every one of our generous donors, we extend our deepest gratitude for your support in 2015.

Your compassion and commitment to a better future for children by investing in food security, education and capacity building creates opportunities for children to live better lives now, and for families and communities to build the resilience they need to assure children’s health and success going forward.

Our many leadership donors, who give significant and multi-year gifts, provide CFTC with the foundation for long-term planning and programming excellence.

This year, we’d like to especially recognize:

Global Affairs Canada – for its funding of the RESULT and MILEAR projects, now providing sustainable, climate-smart agricultural support to more than 160,000 people in northern Ghana and Ethiopia

Ipsos Foundation – for their gift to rebuild a school in Kpachelo, Ghana providing 248 children with a safe place to learn and thrive

The Slaight Family Foundation – for four years of funding to launch Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds – CFTC’s food security, school food and nutrition education program designed to reach 20 new First Nation communities by 2020

Unifor Social Justice Fund - for generous multi-year support for a women’s livelihoods project.

CATEGORIES

CORPORATIONS

Alamos Gold Inc.
Alinare Veterinary Hospital
Anilin Decorating Centre (Anilin Holdings Ltd.)
ATB Securities Inc.
ATCO Electric Epic
Cascades Recovery Inc.
Cenovus Energy Inc.
Choice Hotels Canada Inc.
Colliers MacAulay Nicolls
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Day and Ross Dedicated Logistics
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Ingredion Canada Incorporated
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Sunset Gourmet Food Company
TELUS Corporation
TELUS Atlantic Community Board

TELUS Toronto Community Board
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Traffic Detours Inc.

FOUNDATIONS

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Choice Hotels Canada Foundation
CIBC Children's Foundation
Fleming Foundation
Holdbest Foundation
Howick Foundation
Ipsos Foundation
Mary Ellen Timmins Family Trust
McKesson Foundation
Nutrients For Life Foundation
O’Brien-Jackson Family Foundation
Philpot Family Fund
Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation
RBC Foundation
Sisters of Charity of The Immaculate Conception
Sisters of St Joseph for the Diocese in Upper Canada
Tabernacle of God Worship Ministry
The Andy and Beth Burgess Family Foundation
The John and Jeanne Eyking Family Foundation
The McCain Foundation
The N.R. Harris Family Foundation
The Newall Family Foundation Trust
The S. Schulich Foundation
The Sprott Foundation
The Windsor Foundation
The Winnipeg Foundation
Unifor Social Justice Fund
Victoria Foundation
We also extend our deep appreciation to our major donors who choose to remain anonymous. Thank you!

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Robyn Adelson
Gordon Aitken
James A. Alexander
Carol Annett
Giovanna Asaro
Kathy Asp
Bill Austin and Julie Sullivan
Jordan Baker
Bill and Karen Barnett
Joe and Betty Bergen
Larry and Sharon Bilben
Gail Black
Ann Boston-Reamey
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Armande Bouchard
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Randolph O’Brien
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Gilles Carriere
June V. Cauthers
CFTC Employee Giving
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Cara Cross and Nigel Perkins
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Ian and Joy Winterborn
Dr. Mark Wise and Mrs. Gail Wise
Bob and Joan Wright
Robin Yagelniski
Mia Yoo
Paul Zelichowski
Jiacheng Zhang

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Barbara Lynne Small
Eleanor Margaret Rushworth
Freda Fennell
Joseph Weisberg
Leslie James
Reta Gray

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Brampton Christian School
Cari and Maddy Reed and Alyssa Seggie
Carleton University CFTC Club
Dunlop Public School
Magical Kids
Tiger Jeet Singh Public School
University of Alberta CFTC Club
University of Western Ontario CFTC Club

POWER2FEED
Thank you to the companies and individuals within the Canadian electrical industry who generously supported the 2015 Power2Feed campaign:

Colin Barnett
D.A.D Sales
Dave Syer
Eecol Electric
Electro-Federation Canada Inc.
Hubbell Canada LP
Jay Fleet
Jim Milne
Kevin Mallory
Nedco
Paul Finkbeiner
Richard Campbell
Sonepar Canada Inc.
WESCO Distribution Canada
WESCO International Charitable Foundation
William Smith

The CFTC Board & Employee Giving Campaign is proud of its 100% giving rate again in 2015. Every member of the Board of Directors and staff at CFTC donates to our organization: a clear demonstration of their commitment to our mission!
In August, 2015, Canadian Feed The Children announced that it would be assuming responsibility for two development initiatives: the Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation (RESULT) project in northern Ghana, and Market-Led Improved Livelihoods in Eastern Amhara Region (MILEAR) in Ethiopia. These projects, funded generously by Global Affairs Canada and CFTC’s donors, support smallholder farmers to achieve increased food security, improved agricultural production, better nutrition and greater income in some of the world’s most impoverished and climate-challenged communities.

Taking on these two large-scale projects broadened our scope, reach and capacity in Ghana and Ethiopia, and has deepened our food security efforts to assist more than 120,000 people in Ghana and more than 40,000 in Ethiopia.

With GAC funding and the ongoing commitment of our supporters, CFTC is in a strong position to ensure these projects are delivered with maximum impact, and that they provide a foundation for sustainable, high-impact programming that improves children’s lives for the long term.

The transition to CFTC of MILEAR and RESULT would not have been possible without the experience and base provided by CHANGE – the Climate Change Adaptation in Northern Ghana Enhanced project – which was extended for a third, self-funded year in 2015. CHANGE has now concluded, however the lessons learned and best practices established during CHANGE are being carried forward in our core work in northern Ghana and are informing ongoing delivery of RESULT.

Collaboration is achieving true impact. Partnerships are key to bringing large-scale food security projects like CHANGE, RESULT and MILEAR to life. From farmers, local NGOs and technical experts, to academics, government representatives and funders, we have united around a single, clear and urgent objective: to boost community resilience to the impacts of climate change.
CHANGE has been instrumental at expanding CFTC’s impact in northern Ghana, where smallholder farmers continue to struggle to achieve food security for their families and resilience to the impacts of climate change in their communities.

With CHANGE, CFTC has established a solid foundation to continue our support for farm families in northern Ghana through climate-smart agricultural training, alternative income generating opportunities, and women’s empowerment.

CFTC, with Canadian coalition partner Farm Radio International and local implementing partners Regional Advisory Information and Network Systems, Trade Aid Integrated and Tumu Deanery Regional Integrated Development Programme, completed the third extension year of CHANGE in December 2015.

The third year allowed for follow-up training and new climate-smart agricultural techniques to be put into practice for another growing season, and for important learnings from the first and second years to be integrated into program design to inform ongoing work in northern Ghana.

An end-of-project evaluation was conducted in March 2016, and a CHANGE Stakeholder Learning Forum was held in May, bringing together key stakeholders to share and discuss results, lessons learned and best practices to take forward from the project. The evaluation concluded that CHANGE’s objective – to support smallholder farmers to improve their adaptive capacity and build resilience to the impacts of climate change on agriculture, food security and livelihoods – was met and exceeded.

More than 2,000 farmers in 17 communities in the Upper East, Upper West and Northern Regions of northern Ghana increased their awareness of climate change, and are now using climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practices and weather information to improve their agricultural productivity. Close to 400,000 farmers gained the same skills through radio programs.

**Smallholder farmers are now able to implement adaptive actions based on their understanding about climate change, and their agricultural productivity and incomes have been increased.**

- 93% (66% female) of farmers tested one or more climate-smart agricultural (CSA) method, far exceeding the target of 75%
- 95% (66% female) of farmers who implemented CSA strategies (e.g., low tillage, planting drought-resilient seeds, planting across/along slopes, mulching, using organic fertilizer/manure, and using indigenous seeds requiring low inputs) reported increased farm productivity
• FBOs were established, strengthened and trained to promote community adaptation action plans and community land use plans, and supported to influence district and regional governments to advocate for community needs

• Sub-projects such as the Climate-Seeds-Knowledge (CSK) initiative, tree nurseries, bullock ploughing, energy-saving stoves, improved seed storage, and basket-weaving have increased smallholder farmers’ incomes and resilience

• Farmers were trained on improved post-harvest storage facilities (cleaning, drying, pesticide use, stocking procedures) which reduced post-harvest losses by an estimated 70%

• 2,305 smallholder farmers (67% female) are using energy-saving stoves to reduce climate hazards, women’s workloads, and health risks; the stoves are economical in terms of construction and fuel wood, provide income benefits for those who construct them and users have come to prefer them to traditional fire stoves.

Women have significantly improved their agricultural productivity, income, and participation in local economies through agricultural and alternative income generating schemes:

• Basket weavers achieved improved quality, and gained high-demand international market linkages

• Basket production increased by 36%

• 90% of basket weavers reported increased incomes

• 100 women were successfully trained to graft mango plants

• 98% reported an increase in incomes of at least 10% under the mango seedlings project.

“...What I want to say is that it wasn’t possible for people like us to make up to 2 – 3 million (GH¢200-300). With the support of CHANGE however, I am now able to make that much money per year, and I am able to pay for my children’s health insurance. That is how helpful the increase in income has been to us.”

Basketweaver, Upper East Region, Ghana
The Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation (RESULT) project is increasing the food security of 120,000 vulnerable people in the Upper East and Upper West Regions of northern Ghana.

RESULT, a six-year project running until 2018, completed its fourth year in March 2016 and is on track to achieve all its targets. RESULT’s goal is to help smallholder farmers and their families:

• produce more food
• generate higher, more stable incomes from diversified sources
• establish a threshold of resilience from which vulnerable farm families in northern Ghana can not only resist shocks but also pursue more market-oriented growth opportunities, and
• enable women’s full participation in community development, agricultural activity, and income generation.

By the end of its 2015/16 project year, RESULT had achieved most of its phase one targets, including closing the gaps between male and female farmers:

• Close to 80% of female farmers and over 80% of male farmers continue to apply the climate-smart agricultural practices that they have been trained on such as planting in rows.
• About 60% or more of male and female farmers are applying good animal husbandry practices such as keeping their animals in well-constructed and well-ventilated pens and vaccinating their animals against diseases.
• Over 75% of male and female farmers can access extension services for crop and animal production when they need them. While RESULT field staff and community agricultural and livestock workers provide most of these services, farmers also have increased access to district government extension agents.
• Three-quarters or more of farmers have access to loans when needed to finance their production or household needs. Increasingly, Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) are the source of the loans, especially for women. RESULT has set up 212 VSLAs to date and will be establishing another VSLA in each of RESULT’s 140 communities in the coming project year.
• Close to 80% of basket weaving, beekeeping, groundnut processing, shea butter processing and soap making groups have started producing as a group, and 35% have started selling as a group (instead of as individuals) – fulfilling

GETTING A GREAT RESULT
RESULT’s goal to increase production and marketing of non-agricultural products.

- About 75% of men and women continue to have regular access to pricing information and readily available buyers for their products.
- Almost all of the community members sensitized to gender equality and environmental management issues have improved their knowledge of the issues and identified actions they can take.

With improved skills and knowledge, and increased access to agricultural inputs and technology, farmers have significantly increased their yields and the survival rate of their animals, and women are more active participants in household decision-making. For example,

- Maize yields have more than doubled for both male and female farmers since the start of the project; groundnut yields have tripled for men and quintupled for women.
- On average, three-quarters of male and female farmers’ goats and sheep are surviving compared to only two-thirds at the start of the project. CFTC and implementing partner ACDEP are continuing our work to increase the survival rate of animals.
- About half of women are now actively participating in decisions about household spending. About three-quarters of women now say their economic contribution to the household is strongly recognized, up from one-quarter of women at the start of the project. Women have also sustained or increased their access to land and labour, and have increased their influence in project-based groups.

RESULT has enabled Mwinpog Dan-yi to double her agricultural productivity and feed her five children and aging mother all year round.

I am the household breadwinner. Before the RESULT project came to my community, I had to scratch the surface of the earth daily to put food on the table for my five children and aged mother. We ran out of grains and I had to sell a pig to buy foodstuffs to supplement our diet.

I realized things were going to change for me and my family when the project staff explained that apart from benefiting from more crops, I could also choose to participate in new income generating activities.

True to my expectation, I got some maize seed and project staff helped me measure one acre from my parcel of land to plant the seeds. With that and crops from the rest of my land, I got seven bags of maize and I have been able to pay all my children’s school fees and renewed our health insurance cards.

I am also hoping that when I sell one or two of my pigs, I will buy more guinea corn to increase the quantity of the pito I brew instead of using it to buy foodstuffs and my pigs will continue to get more pito mash to feed on.
Over the last year, Ethiopia has experienced a devastating drought, the severity of which has not been seen in the Horn of Africa in the last 50 years. An estimated 10.2 million Ethiopians require food aid, many of whom reside in Eastern Amhara. MILEAR beneficiaries who rely on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods are most vulnerable, and the project has expanded its irrigation supports to counter the effects of the drought.

In 2015 and continuing into 2016, MILEAR has ramped up its support to build farmers’ agricultural productivity and drought-resistance by helping them plant, harvest and market drought-resistant crops, and increasing access to water through wells, pumps, irrigation systems, and community Water User Groups (WUGs). MILEAR continues to bring resources to bear to address the severe drought in Ethiopia, constructing two additional irrigation systems in response to the needs of smallholder farmers.

As a result of MILEAR’s efforts to improve access to water through irrigation and climate-smart crop/livestock production, plus alternative income-generating opportunities, the project is on track to achieve its outcomes for its fifth and final year. A survey conducted at the end of the project’s fourth year shows that:

- The number of households with access to irrigation has increased from 16.5% to 36.6% (female-headed households with access to irrigation has increased from 11.1% to 24.4%).
- There has been a 45% increase in the size of irrigable land (slightly more for women).
- The percentage of households involved in the production and marketing of high-value crops has increased:
  - Mung beans grew from 7.6% to 25.6%
  - Onions grew from 4.6% to 23.9%
  - Peppers grew from 7.6% to 20.0%
  - Tomatoes grew from 4.3% to 13.7%
- Farmers, in particular women, have much better access to agriculture extension services (from 23.7% to 94.0%).
- Despite the drought, the average number of animals owned by households did not decrease,
due to better availability of irrigation as well as veterinary support, feed and vaccination provided to livestock holders.

- Community members are adopting a culture of saving, boosting their resilience to economic and natural shocks. Village Savings and Loans Groups have become alternative financial service providers for smallholder farmers (especially women).
- MILEAR has surpassed all its gender equality targets across all types of interventions. Trainings on irrigation, improved crop production, and livestock rearing are being provided to both spouses within targeted households. Women – who traditionally are excluded from such activities – are able to hear and understand for themselves the information and services. This has allowed women to more actively manage household resources for the benefit of their families, develop leadership skills in their groups, and have their voices heard in their households and in their communities.

Hussien has earned enough money from his crops to invest in an irrigation system that will enable him to expand his farm to keep up with market demand, plus ensure all his children are educated.

Hussien struggled to put food on his family's table for years, and the family often had to sell off valuable livestock assets to buy grain to eat. As a farmer who had only ever used his fields to grow food to feed his family, MILEAR expanded Hussien's skills and vision, as well as his income by teaching him new agronomic practices and what crops to plant to earn more profit at market.

Even before the large well being built next to his farm was complete, Hussien had harvested his largest crops and earned more from them than he ever had from growing mung bean alone. With the profits, he purchased a water pump to improve and scale-up farming practices.

“I hope to be a model farmer in mung bean production,” Hussien said, speaking of his plans to expand his production. “Now I have five milking cows and I am no longer selling animals to buy food grains. I am able to buy enough sorghum for my family to eat for the year.” With their nutrition needs fulfilled, Hussien can now fund his children’s education. His eldest son will soon graduate from university, and he now knows he can give his other children the same opportunity.
We work in Canada to help communities create opportunities for healthy, prosperous, food-secure futures.
One in four First Nations children, almost double the national average, lives in poverty and arrives at school hungry. CFTC helps overcome the challenges many families face in accessing and affording nutritious food for their children.

With a three-pronged approach to address food insecurity in First Nations communities:

1. Responding to children’s immediate nutritional needs through school meal programs
2. Helping students learn healthy eating behaviours and sharing these with parents and the community through nutrition education initiatives, and
3. Addressing the root causes of food insecurity through community mobilization strategies that link to First Nations cultural traditions around food, and are led by the communities themselves.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

For many children from food-insecure homes, school meal programs provide nutritious meals and snacks that they may not get at home – ensuring they have the energy and focus they need to learn and grow.

School breakfast and lunch programs remain the mainstay of CFTC’s Canadian program. In the 2015 school year, we delivered close to half a million meals through seven school and community centre-based programs in various locations in Canada. We also supported community members to access affordable fruits and vegetables through Good Food Box or Fresh for Less initiatives.
Teaching children the basics about nutrition gives them the knowledge they need to make healthy food choices when they leave the classroom. By providing essential information about healthy eating, portion control and meal preparation, students are building healthy food practices and families and communities are taking steps to improve their food security.

Nutrition education is supported by a curriculum that includes healthy eating instruction, recipe contests, and cooking classes that teach meal planning and safe food preparation; newsletters and other communications that encourage student and family participation; Youth Champions (older students who mentor younger ones on healthy eating and food-related initiatives); and school gardens through which students learn where their food comes from, and help grow and harvest food for their own consumption.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

CFTC seeks always to unlock the community’s potential to lead their own change. When it comes to First Nations food security, CFTC works with our partners to engage communities in broader-based nutrition, food and wellness activities like collective kitchens and expanding school gardens to the community. These activities include Elders, students, health centre staff, teachers and parents, and help to celebrate and transfer cultural knowledge about sharing food.

For example, school gardens reinforce the traditional relationship between the community and the land – links that have been broken as a result of the legacy of colonialism and residential schools. They also create opportunities for intergenerational learning, with Elders passing on to children traditional practices and knowledge of food and agriculture. Come autumn, students in several CFTC-supported communities are proud to harvest what they’ve grown, and then use the skills they’ve learned during food preparation classes to make and serve a feast for their parents, teachers and Elders in appreciation.

GROWING FORWARD IN 2016

In February 2016, CFTC announced a new phase of our First Nations food security programming with a $1-million pledge of support from The Slaight Family Foundation. The Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds initiative is a national, comprehensive food security program with a mandate to partner with 20 new First Nation communities by 2020. Recognizing
that local partners are the most knowledgeable champions of their own community, CFTC will work with First Nation partners to achieve transformative, sustainable change through a combination of hands-on learning for students; consistent, nutritious, culturally appropriate meals; land-based learning and traditional food practices; nutrition education for students, families and community members; and the engagement of youth champions. These initiatives will be guided by a local coordinator from the First Nation partner community. The model is based on the successful partnerships CFTC has built in New Brunswick and Ontario.

The Slcaight Family Foundation’s leadership gift will deepen our programming investment with the goal to build on community-derived best practices to change the national landscape of First Nation school meal programs. The program additionally has a focus on youth engagement and volunteerism.

BUILDING FOOD SECURITY AT CHIPPEWAS OF NAWASH UNCEDED FIRST NATION

Students at Kikendaasogamig Elementary School and the residents of Cape Croker, Ontario, have benefited from a culturally-meaningful school meal and nutrition education program developed by the community, for the community, and supported by CFTC funding.

The program has become a model for community-led food security programming, under the leadership of principal Debbie Chegahno and School & Community Nutrition Project Coordinator DeeDee Millar.

“A large number of families in the community are living below the poverty line and struggle to make ends meet,” said Debbie. “There are still children who do not bring lunches on a regular basis or do not bring healthy food. This is a direct result of the low income earnings in the community, the high price of food, and the lack of transportation.”

The program includes school breakfasts and lunches, in-class nutrition education, family outreach, inter-generational activities, a school garden, and a new fresh food box program providing the community with affordable, healthy food.

A key focus is on empowering youth to make changes in their own lives and communities by giving them the support and tools to do so. Students have quickly become enthusiastic nutrition advocates. They participate in planting and harvesting, hold healthy food fairs, learn food preparation skills, and pack food boxes for distribution to those in need.
GROWING POSITIVE FUTURES FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONALLY

CFTC’s commitment to excellence in programming continued to deliver impact for children through our core food security and education programming in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda in 2015 and 2016.

With the additional investments we were able to make in Ethiopia and Ghana through MILEAR and RESULT, we are now reaching more than 125,000 children and adults directly with early childhood and primary education, school food programs, agricultural training and inputs, livelihood supports, credit/savings groups, and income generation activities. We’re reaching another 150,000+ community members with climate-sensitive agriculture, climate change adaptation, and community resilience strategies.

These initiatives are growing positive futures for children by strengthening smallholder farm families and communities to provide for children’s needs today and by building resilience and a more prosperous future for tomorrow.

Improving people’s food security, increasing access to education, and building strong organizational and local capacity are proven strategies to best unlock people’s potential to participate in and lead their own development. CFTC’s staff in Canada and in-country, our local partners, and the communities themselves work together to identify and create the change that is needed to achieve sustainable growth and greater resilience.
As CFTC has transformed, our investment in food security has increased. CFTC donors are supporting greater availability of food by investing in agricultural techniques that counter the effects of climate variability. Donors are also contributing to initiatives that improve people’s on- and off-farm incomes, with a special focus on women’s livelihoods. And we continue to feed children directly (through school food programs) and ensure that people have the resources to provide nutritious, healthy food for children at home, all year long.

In 2015:
- **30,356** farmers received agricultural training
- **21,807** farmers received seeds, tools, plants, livestock, and other farming basics
- **46** school gardens were planted
- **6 out of 10** farmers were women
- **5.05 million** meals & snacks were provided to school children

Climate-smart agricultural training, agricultural inputs like drought-resistant seeds and livestock, and irrigation equipment enable families to produce more food and feed their children all year long.

These activities are supported by school and community gardens, family nutrition education, and alternative agricultural income generation activities like beekeeping, aquaculture, and dry season gardening. Gardens and small but productive family farms increase the availability of food for family consumption and sale; they also increase the amount of fresh produce available promoting dietary diversity. Enabling women to participate in agricultural training increases their productivity and their voice within their communities and ultimately increases the benefit to children.

Livestock (e.g., goats, sheep or chickens), add protein and dairy to families’ diets, increasing overall nutritional value and the availability of food to the most vulnerable family members. They also create renewable, sustainable assets. Assisting families to grow and maintain a healthy herd, hive, or flock is a key strategy. Veterinary advice, vaccinations, ensuring adequate feed and irrigation, and supporting families to maintain and market their agricultural assets (produce...
and livestock) enables greater resilience for farm families. Produce and livestock offer sustainable income generation opportunities, particularly for women who may be unable to own or farm on a larger scale, and for those in urban settings where land for cultivation is scarce or unavailable. These inputs are delivered as part of more comprehensive programs that include business skills and marketing training, basic literacy and numeracy, and social support for marginalized women and men. These help improve people’s skills, confidence and capacity to care for their children.
Government agricultural extension services are often scarce in impoverished rural areas, so CFTC helps fill in the gaps. CFTC’s local partners identify and train community members to perform these services – which also drives community engagement and empowers farmers (many women) to take ownership and advocate for their community’s needs. This creates connections between farmers – natural innovators – and government and academic agricultural experts, bringing new resources to communities and ensuring farmers’ voices are heard and their needs considered and budgeted for in municipal and regional community plans.

INCOME GENERATION

Helping people earn more money improves access to food. It helps create robust, resilient communities that can invest in their own development in ways that are specific to them, and led by them.

Rising household incomes also build community resilience to climate stresses and other shocks. Sustainable, community-led economic development necessarily demands that women be included, that their voices be heard, that their skills be drawn upon, and that they achieve equal access to resources and decision-making in their homes and in their communities. And this all leads to greater benefit for children: more income means more food, more access to education, more opportunity for children’s potential – and their dreams – to flourish.

Self-help groups, Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLAs) and other micro-finance groups assist people to earn and save income and provide a better life for their families. These groups are instrumental in bringing women together to develop income-earning opportunities, enhance their social bonds, improve their literacy, business management and financial skills, promote a culture of savings, and use loans to diversify their existing or start new businesses.

With income, parents are now able to purchase enough food to supplement what they grow and invest in better technologies or equipment to make more productive use of farmland.

In 2015 and into 2016, CFTC beneficiaries in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda have diversified their incomes and invested in their home-based businesses for future growth; and more families now have savings on which to rely in times of scarcity or drought, to feed and water livestock rather than selling them off and eroding their longer-term value. Families are telling us they now have funds available for needed health insurance and health care, and for school supplies and educational fees that may not be covered by government programs.

Wominshet has doubled her income thanks to an Ethiopian livestock distribution and business training program.

I was one of the poorest in my community, struggling to survive with my two children. Before receiving two goats, my income was not sufficient to cover my household expenses and I couldn’t meet the needs of my children.

Since I started rearing goats and earning an income from them, my children are now happy and hopeful. I am able to provide adequate food for my children and pay for school expenses. My children’s future is bright!

I am on a good track and I am growing my business. I sold 10 goats and bought a deep freezer and fridge and started selling soft drinks and beer. Now I am getting an average of 200 birr per day compared to less than 100 birr per day previously.

I maintain 13 goats which are all in good condition. I want to have a big area of land to expand my business and increase my herd of goats to large number.
SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

School feeding programs provide nutritious meals to children through primary schools and early childhood education centres – alleviating hunger and helping them learn.

School feeding is widely recognized as an important method to stem the malnutrition due to poverty in both developing and developed countries. Schools also provide a base from which to educate students and parents about good nutrition, and deliver activities that improve community food security.

In Bolivia, poverty and food insecurity are complex and affect the Indigenous population—particularly children—disproportionately. That is why CFTC works in early childhood education centres and primary schools to support feeding programs and nutrition education. These are part of broader, children’s rights-based work that helps to create an environment where there is equal access to food and education for all.

In Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda, snacks and meals provided in school are incentive to attend and give children the energy to learn. School feeding also helps to alleviate hunger among other family members, including children not yet old enough to attend school and nursing mothers who are most vulnerable to the consequences of poor nutrition.

In many communities, school gardens are a core component of nutrition programs. These gardens engage children in hands-on learning about their environment, where food comes from, how to grow it and how to plan and prepare nutritious, healthy meals.

School food programs are accompanied by children’s health status monitoring. Children who show signs of malnutrition or stunting are supported with supplemental nutrition and their parents and caregivers are frequently offered access to livelihoods programs that will enable them to provide for children’s well-being for the longer-term.

SCHOOL NUTRITION NOURISHES AN ENTIRE FAMILY IN UGANDA

Raymond is only eight years old, but his short life has been full of adult worries. Raymond lives with his grandmother and six siblings in rural Uganda. His grandmother works very hard to provide for the family, but as a widow and a farmer with only a few crops to grow and sell, it has not been easy.

Three years ago, Raymond was showing signs of undernutrition: he suffered from hair loss – a sign of nutritional deficiency – and he was often sick. He acted out at school and at home, and struggled to make friends. He couldn’t concentrate in class and wasn’t learning.

The school food program at the local early childhood education centre became a lifeline for him. Where previously he could only count on one meal a day provided by his determined grandmother, he now knows he will eat a healthy meal during the school day.

“Raymond is strong, and rarely falls sick compared to before – thanks to the feeding program,” his grandmother said. Raymond completed the 2015 school year at the top of his class. And his grandmother has become a stronger provider for her grandchildren because CFTC supporters have funded her participation in a livestock distribution program, which has given her goats and training on rearing them.
CFTC promotes quality teaching and learning environments with a variety of initiatives:

- To meet the demand for education in rural communities, CFTC donors help fund salaries, training, teaching materials, and other necessities to attract and retain teachers.

- Schools, well-equipped classrooms, water, sanitation, and kitchen facilities contribute to safe environments where learning can occur.

- School food programs attract children to school to receive a nutritious meal, improving attention and making learning possible.

- Strong parent and community participation in school governance reinforces the value of education, helping to secure resources and influence policy.

- Adequate water and sanitation facilities are critical to keeping children in school and healthy. This includes school latrines (particularly important for girls) and safe, clean food preparation areas.

Access to quality education – both comprehensive early childhood care and education and free, quality primary education – is one of the most important factors in future life outcomes. Together, we are ensuring that children, especially girls, can attend, remain in and graduate from school, and take advantage of the increased self-esteem and better life outcomes that education brings.

In 2015:

**45,573** students attended primary school

**164** primary school teachers were recruited and trained

**7** new classrooms were built or renovated

**10** new water and sanitation facilities were installed in schools

**66** classrooms were restocked with school supplies and equipment
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

In a growing number of communities, CFTC is also supporting initiatives to expand the availability of early childhood education centres. These are crucial to ensure that children under the age of six have the nourishment, care and stimulation required to achieve social, cognitive and motor developmental skills in their early years, setting them up for success as they grow. Positive outcomes are being seen throughout Ethiopia, Uganda and Bolivia, where enrolment for the youngest children in early childhood education centres is leading to greater success in primary schools.

EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

Girls face many barriers to education: from child marriage, to the undervaluing of girls’ education, to the practical realities of needing to take care of personal health and hygiene where there are no safe, private facilities to do so. As a result, girls reaching the age of 12 or 13 – before many have a chance to even graduate from primary school - begin to drop out, and the cycle of poverty persists.

Thanks to generous CFTC donors, thousands of girls now benefit from more equitable access to quality education with educational facilities that include safe, private and hygienic latrines; and teachers specially trained to support girls’ needs as they enter puberty.

These supports are critical to make sure that girls can enjoy the better health and life outcomes that come from education - and pass on those benefits to their own children, once they graduate and reach adulthood.

For example, small improvements to the availability of a water source can immediately reduce the need for girls to spend hours a day fetching water, which often prevents them from attending school and exposes them to danger.

The availability of clean water for drinking and hygiene, and instruction in proper hygiene practices from trained teachers, reduces illness, absenteeism and the drop-out rate.

Madame Frehiwot Dejene has been a teacher and mentor to young women for over 30 years. She is the coach of the girls’ club at the school where she teaches in Woliso, Ethiopia, and helps raise discussions with her students about reproductive health, hygiene practices, and the importance of sanitation. She has witnessed the significant impact school latrines and water access can have on girls’ education, and she is grateful to CFTC donors for helping change her students’ lives before it is too late: “On behalf of me and the school I would like to say ‘thank you’ for the support to address our school problems just in time.”

LIMBER’S HEAD START

Seven-year-old Limber recently celebrated graduating from his early childhood education classroom to grade one in a small village in Bolivia. As one of seven children from a farm family that is just trying to survive, his graduation was a milestone for Limber – and a milestone for the community itself.

For the children who live in this remote, rural community, attending school locally was a luxury that was previously unavailable. The closest school was hours away by dirt road, often impassable in winter. Most parents could not arrange for transportation to school for their children, and had no choice but to leave their school-age children at home or bring them along to their often dangerous worksites.

With funds from generous CFTC donors, and working with the community itself, CFTC’s local partner rallied support to build a new early childhood centre, relocate a primary school, and build a new cafeteria. They recruited and trained teachers from within the community, and enlisted parents to participate, raising their commitment to their children’s education.

“Without school, Limber would not know how to read or write, or how to defend himself in life,” Limber’s father Zacarians said.
CFTC approaches capacity building in two ways. First, we engage with our local partners in-country to help them achieve best practices in governance and financial management. Strong, engaged local partners are then capable of supporting community-led development that builds sustainably resilient households and communities.

Secondly, we fund work that builds capacity, resilience and self-reliance in communities directly through farmer-based organizations (FBOs), village savings and loans associations, parent-teacher associations, school management committees, and business co-ops like basket weavers’ groups. These groups work collectively to develop members’ skills and capacities, and drive economic and social development that strengthens and sustains the entire community.

In 2015, this work paid off in significant instances of community empowerment and benefit:

- A local basketweaver group in Sumbrungu, Upper East Region, Ghana received a new craft centre thanks to CFTC donors. Not only did they immediately put it to use to learn new basket weaving skills and expand their production of baskets, but they turned it into a meeting centre where group leaders instructed other community members in literacy and numeracy.

- Farmer-based organizations (FBOs) throughout northern Ghana have been trained to prepare Community Adaptation Action Plans and Community Land Use Plans, and use them to influence their local assemblies to fund needed climate adaptation initiatives. This has resulted in the construction of a culvert in Kpachelo, Northern Region, to better manage water drainage for water conservation and crop protection; and

In 2015:

- **826** self-help groups and village savings & loans associations were operating

- **21,951** members borrowed, saved and earned income

- **8 out of 10** members were women

Strong, engaged country offices and local partner organizations share CFTC’s mission and values and have the expertise to support community-led development that builds resilient households and communities.
plans to upscale energy-saving stoves, which have multiple health, environmental and economic benefits, by the Sisala District Assembly, Upper East Region.

- The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centre at Gelan II Primary School, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has received its third annual award as the best performing ECCE in the city. The school is supported by CFTC’s local partner Emmanuel Development Association (EDA). In 2015, EDA was asked to sit on a national committee that is responsible for shaping policy and guidelines to influence school feeding in Ethiopia – a testament to the regard and strength that CFTC supporters have helped to build within EDA and in the schools that we support together.

- In Uganda, local NGO and long-time CFTC partner Child Rights and Empowerment Organization (CEDO) has earned another large grant funded by USAID and UKAid. The project will increase civic participation by rural women and youth in local government processes in Masindi, Buliisa and Kiryandongo districts in Uganda. It will also empower rural women and youth working in the private sector (e.g., market vendors, VSLA members) to advocate for better public health and primary education services. CEDO’s Executive Director, Byabasaija Abdallah, directly attributes his organization’s ability to compete successfully for these funds to CFTC and its donors’ support. Like EDA in Ethiopia, CEDO has also been invited to sit on a national committee that is advising government on children’s education and nutrition policy.

- On a smaller scale, but no less impressive, the Aviobolo Early Childhood Development centre in Masindi, Uganda, received a generous donation of 50 iron sheets from a Village Savings and Loans group who chose to donate some of their profits to put a roof on the school. This example of grassroots action to directly influence the delivery of quality education shows the kind of positive outcomes that occur when women gain the skills and incomes that allow them to become full participants in their own development.

Capacity-building is key to achieving meaningful change that benefits children – and that lasts far beyond our investment and involvement. CFTC’s ultimate goal is to leave communities able to drive and sustain their own development progress. Along with good governance and financial sustainability, strong capacity throughout our operations, within our partners, and in the communities we serve together is the foundation upon which our goal—excellence in programming that delivers impact for children—will be achieved.
Again this year we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the hard-working, deeply committed members of our Board of Directors. Their guidance, expertise and passion for our mission motivates and inspires us each day to do our very best work to help children thrive.

CFTC’s Board of Directors is a governance board, responsible for reviewing and approving policies, strategies, annual plans and budgets. Management is responsible for developing and implementing a detailed plan and budget based on jointly-agreed guidelines.

CFTC’s Board of Directors and its two committees, the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) and the Nomination and Governance Committee (NGC), each meet quarterly. Committees include a minimum of three and a maximum of five members, with chairs appointed by the Board Chair.

The FAC is accountable for traditional finance and audit responsibilities. In addition to developing and recommending to the Board the annual budget, the FAC also monitors organizational performance versus budget; reviews and recommends investment policy; assesses overall financial risk; and oversees management’s risk mitigation strategies and CFTC’s internal controls. The FAC recommends the appointment of the external auditor, monitors its independence, and reviews and recommends approval of the audited statements by the Board.

The NGC’s mandate is to oversee the nomination of directors; the size, composition and structure of the Board and its committees; and the overall approach to corporate governance. The NGC documents the skills and experience of each director and compares that to the skills desired on the Board, and develops and implements a recruitment plan to address identified skills gaps. The NGC is also responsible for formal Board orientation, education, and evaluation to ensure that Board directors are prepared and capable of assuming their governance and fiduciary responsibilities.
CREATING CONNECTIONS, UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Each year, thousands of people support a child ambassador in a CFTC community. If you are or have been a child sponsor, thank you. You’ve made a difference not only in your sponsored child’s life, but for their classmates, their siblings, their parents and their communities. Your connection with your sponsored child allows a child to fulfill his or her potential – and also allows child-focused programming to expand into larger-scale projects that have regional impact for hundreds of thousands of children, women and men.

Jovan – a former sponsored child – reached out to us last year after graduating from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda with a B.Sc. in Software Engineering in 2014. His email began: “I attribute what I am to influential people like [my sponsor]. She’s a HERO to me.” When we received it, we knew we had to share his story as it is such a strong demonstration of the tremendous impact sponsorship has in a child’s – and their family’s – life.

My family and I moved to the humble village of Busega in the suburbs of Kampala in 1992 when I was just three years old. Hardly a year after we had moved there, in May 1993, my dad passed on. Having been the family’s breadwinner, my dad’s death marked the beginning of a chapter of struggle in the family. I and my four siblings stayed with our mum, and I have since lost my big brother in the July 2010 Kampala bombings.

We did some farming in the backyard and this became our source of food. My mum later received a calf through one of Canadian Feed The Children’s programs. It became our major source of income mainly through the selling of milk.

My mum was really determined to see all her children get an education but it was never easy. Before sponsorship, we always defaulted on school fees and the school would send us home. The sponsorship covered school fees, scholastic materials and a school uniform. As a result, I was able to enjoy some of the benefits that children from well-off families enjoyed and school became fun and enjoyable.

Sponsorship was a big stepping stone for me to get where I am today and I’m forever grateful. When I learned that someone I didn’t know and had never met cared about my education, it changed the way I looked at education. I realized how valuable education was and this was reason enough for me to study hard.

As a Systems Developer, what I enjoy most about my job is that it’s about problem solving. I was lead developer on a system for World Vision – and as a person with great love for children, working on this important project was a prodigious opportunity.

I would love people who are considering being a Canadian Feed The Children donor to know that their support, no matter how small it may seem, is causing a great positive difference in lives of many children out there.

I extend my sincere gratitude to CFTC and all the donors that pull funds together to cause change in the lives of unfortunate children. It’s my prayer that I too will one day be in position to help impact lives of children through CFTC.