Dear Counterpart Community,

Counterpart International embarked on our 51st year with determination to expand our impact around the world.

From empowering citizens to advocate for more transparency and accountability in local, regional and national governments, to training the next generation of environmental leaders, to ensuring girls get to school and stay in school, all of our programs have a singular focus — bringing citizen voices to the table with government to support citizen-driven solutions.

Without local communities identifying and solving local problems that are important to them, solutions won’t last. And without government recognizing its role in working in partnership with citizens, the wrong kind of solutions are likely to be implemented, or, no solutions at all. The stories we are excited to share with you in our 2016 Annual Report demonstrate the kind of success that is possible with a commitment to inclusion, collaboration and partnership.

Some of these stories started with just small shifts in the way communities stepped up or in the way a government agency decided to be more willing to listen. And yet, we have seen how these small shifts can lead to lasting change for the mutual benefit of citizens and governments.

In fiscal year 2016, Counterpart programs in 27 countries directly reached nearly 500,000 beneficiaries, among them more than 300,000 women and young people. Through the 98 citizen networks we established or strengthened, the number of beneficiaries reached is in the millions. To support strong collaboration with local and national partners, Counterpart provided $20.8 million in grants to provide technical assistance to local communities and enable civil society organizations to improve their effectiveness to achieve their missions.

Helping people build better lives and more durable futures is a challenge we undertake each and every day, with the support of our partners and donors. With your support, we will create stronger, healthier and more inclusive communities around the world, allowing individuals, organizations and networks to take an active role in building the future of their choice.

These are just a few of the many stories where you and others have made and can continue to make a positive difference. We hope that you will agree that by building capacity in leaders, communities and networks to be solution creators, we can help create meaningful and lasting change.

Joan Parker
President and CEO

Deborah M. Nolan
Board Chair
AFGHANISTAN

In the 14 years that Counterpart has worked in Afghanistan, we have witnessed the emergence of an empowered civil society. With partners in all 34 provinces, Counterpart has supported civil society’s efforts to improve government transparency and increase the voice of citizens in decisions on Afghanistan’s development priorities. Now more than ever, Afghan civil society leaders are playing an integral role in the country’s future.

SECURING A SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR AFGHAN CITIZENS

World leaders from 41 countries and 11 international organizations came together at the 2016 Brussels Conference on Afghanistan (BCA) to discuss the future of Afghanistan and funding priorities. Much like they did at the 2014 conference, these world leaders and funders gathered to create an action plan to support Afghanistan’s development. But in 2016, for the first time, decisions on priorities included input from Afghan citizens.

Working with a network of international agencies, Counterpart facilitated the National Civil Society Conference in Kabul of 100 civil society organizations who co-created a citizen platform to be presented in Brussels. The platform called for a partnership with the Afghan government to achieve key priorities, including poverty reduction, economic development, better governance and human rights. Ten organizations were then selected by their peers to represent the coalition in Brussels. Half of them were either women-led or women-focused, demonstrating the increasing leadership role of women in Afghanistan.

To ensure these leaders were well-equipped to participate in Brussels, specific trainings on effectively engaging with policy makers and international funders were provided, as well as coaching on advocacy methods and media training.

The outcome of the Brussels conference on Afghanistan’s future was a five-year action plan that includes priorities articulated by Afghan citizens. Civil society leaders are continuing to meet with their government counterparts to ensure citizen priorities are represented in policies and laws being developed to implement that plan.

We are encouraged by the increased involvement of the social sector in Afghanistan and firmly believe that only when civil society works in partnership with government will the aspirations of the Afghan people be fully realized. We are excited that some of our partners are making their voices heard at BCA.

Joan Parker, Counterpart International CEO
REVIVING THE OGP IN GUATEMALA

Seventy-five countries are currently part of OGP, and have generated more than 3,000 commitments in National Action Plans. Guatemala was an original member of OGP in 2011, but efforts to work with civil society on specific commitments stalled.

Then in 2015, peaceful demonstrations that resulted in the ousting of President Otto Pérez Molina and his administration emboldened both newly appointed government representatives and civic leaders in Guatemala to jointly revive OGP efforts.

ADVANCING THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

In Honduras and Guatemala, Counterpart builds the capacity of government leaders and civil society organizations to better collaborate, advance transparency and accountability and effectively respond to the needs of citizens.

INSPIRING CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION IN HONDURAS

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a voluntary international platform for governments to agree to specific commitments to improve transparency and accountability, reduce corruption and increase collaboration with citizens to better respond to community needs. Through Counterpart’s Impactos program in Honduras, a network of more than 30 civil society organizations works hand-in-hand with government leaders on these important issues. The network is a strong advocate for OGP, promoting dialogue between citizens and government and participating in cross-border collaboration.

As a result, Honduras has signed on to 13 OGP commitments, including 3 that are seen as having transformative potential impact.

Building on the excitement from OGP regional meetings in Uruguay, representatives from both Guatemala and Honduras have since spearheaded discussions on the creation of a “Central American Alliance for Regional Initiatives.” The Alliance will be a strong bridge connecting civil society organizations across five countries, representing 39 million citizens. Extracting energy from this regional movement, OGP also is now taking hold in El Salvador. These efforts will help develop and advocate for OGP commitments that are citizen-centric. Dina Egiguire, Counterpart’s Chief of Party in Honduras, notes, “Our countries are joined together in the hope that by working with our governments on OGP commitments the changes needed to improve people’s lives will be made and a foundation of open and accountable governance will be built to last.”

Counterpart worked with partners on the ground to create the CSO Network for Open Government, a group of seven civil society organizations (CSOs) that coordinated closely with community leaders and government officials to reactivate the OGP in Guatemala.

This network has proven to be invaluable. Within three months, it produced the 2016-2018 Open Government Action Plan, which President Morales signed on to and committed to upholding. This was the first time the government and citizens worked together to address critical issues such as corruption and impunity. Guatemala currently has 22 commitments, including 2 designated as having transformative potential for impact.

We want to get closer to the citizens in their national and local activities. Open Government is a tool for change to have a Guatemala free from corruption...We appreciate USAID for their decisive support through Counterpart International for the development of the Open Government Action Plan for Guatemala.”

Dina Egiguire, Counterpart’s Chief of Party in Honduras

Jimmy Morales, President of Guatemala
It was the local parents and school administrators who first recognized that they needed to start their own gardens at school and within the community to provide food to support their children’s well-being. Counterpart helped the Saint Louis community develop a plan to grow and harvest diverse crops, including rice, maize, cabbage, tomatoes, onions, peppers and okra. With Counterpart support, parents and school leaders also learned how to make nutritious meals using the crops, safely store them for year-round availability and to sell the surplus to pay for other needs.

The Senegalese government noticed the progress in Saint Louis and seized on the opportunity to do even more to build local resiliency. Facilitated by Counterpart, the Senegalese Department of Agriculture provided improved seeds, small equipment and technical assistance to communities who wanted to start or expand their gardens. Forty community members who oversee the farms are now working hand-in-hand with their government counterparts. A network of 161 parents and community members from 81 schools are establishing granaries to store stockpiles of food during the harvest season. Excess food will be sold and the money earned will help buy much-needed food, such as fish and other sources of protein, during the dry season.

Twenty community farms have been established throughout the three departments of Saint Louis, producing a total of almost 8 metric tons of rice, cowpeas, sorghum and millet for the school granaries. Community members across the region have been inspired to contribute donations in addition to their labor.

According to Desire Yameogo, Counterpart’s Senegal Director, the feedback and outcomes have been overwhelmingly positive. “There have been so many stories of success,” he says. “Gadaty, for instance, was suffering from severe food insecurity, but thanks to this program, the local community was inspired to use the income from the sale of sheep and goats to solve the challenge of the food shortage in the dry season by purchasing food now to store in the school granary.”

By working in partnership with government leaders, communities across Senegal are solving their food security challenges. Community farms have become robust hubs of engagement that are reducing hunger and, by keeping more children in school, are ultimately increasing literacy rates in the community as well. These wide-ranging benefits are proving to community leaders and parents that they can lead the way to a better future for all.

SENEGAL

More than half of Senegalese children live in poverty and don’t have enough food to eat. Across Northern Senegal, community farms are at the nexus of changing this dire reality. These community farms provide more than just vital nutrition. They are driving parental and government engagement and building community resiliency.
YOUTH ACROSS GUYANA “VOTE LIKE A BOSS”

Guyana’s first government election in 22 years presented an opportunity for youth to leverage their numbers and effect change in their communities. To help ensure a strong election turnout, Counterpart collaborated with several local partners on the Youth and Citizens’ Participation Project. The project’s aim was to increase the participation of voters who needed to be heard the most — youth, the LGBTQ community, women and people with disabilities.

Partners in Guyana launched an innovative voter education campaign, known as “Vote Like a Boss” (VLAB). VLAB partners engaged with citizens through voter education sessions, edutainment, text messages and social media. Throughout the campaign VLAB sent text messages to 300,000 individuals, conducted 18 edutainment sessions, responded to voter inquiries on Twitter, and reached local communities with a VLAB bus tour.

Volunteers working to educate people about the electoral process (“mobilizers”) talked with groups about local needs. They helped people understand how important it was to vote for the elected official who would best address their concerns. Elsie Harry, a 23-year-old mobilizer, said, “If the problems and priorities identified by local communities cannot be understood, they cannot be addressed.”

Youth mobilizers like Harry played a pivotal role in getting young voters to the polls. They helped empower the next generation of Guyanese leaders to take part in the political process. The turnout was even higher than anticipated and youth across Guyana now know that they have a powerful voice in what happens in their country.

SUPPORTING LOCAL REPRESENTATION IN TIMOR-LESTE

Counterpart has worked with suco councils in Timor-Leste since 2013, and now works across all 442 sucos throughout the nation to support the partnership between local citizens, village and municipal leaders and the national government.

In 2016, civil society and the local government came together to oppose a draft law that would have eliminated citizens’ ability to directly elect a suco chief. Counterpart supported local partners in their efforts to advocate for the rights of citizens to elect their own local leaders. The draft law was defeated and citizens retained their ability to elect suco chiefs. At the same time, a Counterpart-supported network of partners initiated a country-wide voter education campaign. They worked together to encourage voter turnout and ensure fair, inclusive and transparent elections. Timor-Leste boasted a 70% voter turnout in these important national elections.

Counterpart’s work in the mountainous municipality of Ermera demonstrates why suco leaders play such a vital role in the community. Ermera Chief Cristalina Quintão had long been proud of the clean water access her suco enjoyed. A 2014 dry season resulted in a brush fire that compromised the village’s access to the tank that provided clean water to local schools, churches, and clinics. Despite her best efforts, Chief Quintão and the rest of the council struggled to get the necessary repairs completed.

Working with local partners, Counterpart helped Ms. Quintão and her staff put together a plan for the repair and replacement of the system. The plan recommended that the new water system be built underground to protect it from future damage. At a Counterpart-hosted forum, Ms. Quintão met with national government officials to make the case for funding. The government supported the plan and agreed to fund it, ensuring the Ermera community would once again have access to safe, potable water.

To the Counterpart team: Thanks for your expertise and guidance from beginning to end. It all came at an opportune time for Guyana and lessons have been learnt that will be invaluable to us and the other partners involved. I’m sure the project’s impact will be evident into the future. A great big THANK YOU!

Chloe Noble, Program Management Specialist, USAID/Eastern and Southern Caribbean
**INNOVATION FOR CHANGE**

Building on whirlwind convenings in 2015 that included more than 150 civil society organizations, six regional innovation hubs were launched in 2016, self-branded as “Innovation for Change.” The hubs are designed to deliver cross-border solutions that can be scaled up first within regions, and then across regions, to address civil society’s most pressing needs.

Counterpart and CIVICUS work together to curate the six hubs, helping them organize and launch groundbreaking innovations. The entire network is supported by an online community platform where new resources and tools are continually added. Users can navigate between regional homepages to share learnings, news, and events. Hundreds of civil society leaders and organizations around the world are being reached through the platform.

The goal of the network hubs is innovation and disruption — drawing on today’s best thinking and emerging technologies. As examples:

- The Latin America and Caribbean Hub is creating a “shared economy” platform, enabling individual citizens to donate their skills to other groups in exchange for credits. This new form of currency is designed to foster resource-sharing across sectors.

- The Central Asia Hub is running a series of Innovation Bootcamps where civil society organizations work closely with leading experts and activists to encourage fast-cycle innovations.

- The Middle East Hub is training members in digital advocacy and digital security, necessary skills in today’s hyper-connected world.

In short, a multi-pronged global community of civil society organizations is now off and running, forging new ways to empower citizens to lead change all over the world.

**SUPPORTING GLOBAL NETWORKS**

Counterpart invests in individuals and the organizations they lead. And we get really excited when we build and strengthen networks where individuals and organizations come together to create leveraged solutions that would otherwise be out of reach. A sizable proportion of Counterpart’s work is now devoted to network building — and helping networks create solutions for members, communities and entire regions.

**YALI — BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF EMERGING AFRICAN LEADERS**

Young leaders are at the center of their communities’ and their countries’ futures, and are the source of the next generation of innovations and solutions. They are also a huge asset for the African continent: by 2045, an estimated 400 million Africans will be between the ages of 15 and 24.

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), formed in 2010, is a network of emerging African leaders. YALI, under the leadership of Counterpart’s implementing partner, IREX, is a platform to mentor the next generation who will move into public, private, and social leadership roles over the coming years.

In 2016, YALI fellows participated as speakers and panelists at major technology and development events in the United States and around the world. These emerging leaders traveled from Zimbabwe to Silicon Valley and from Senegal to London to meet with peers from around the globe. They are now taking their new skills back home, forging new partnerships across countries and sectors, and, most importantly, contributing to their communities.

The YALI experience has made me a better leader and by connecting with like-minded Fellows — who are nothing short of champions — I was challenged to discover the potential I didn’t know I had. That has played a central role in my work, and the community I serve is benefiting immensely.

— O’Brien Mkore, YALI Fellow from Zimbabwe
The conference was exceptional. It has injected energy into many of our organizations.

Working Together for Malawi participant

Malvuto Bamusi, Presidential advisor on Civil Society Organizations, making a presentation on Evidence-Based Advocacy at the Working Together for Malawi conference.

MALAWI

ZAMBIA

In 2016, Counterpart brought community leaders from a variety of sectors together in Malawi and in Zambia to build their capacity to advocate for the needs of citizens and improve their partnerships with government. Best practices and lessons learned in one sector were shared broadly with organizations working in other sectors, ensuring that development issues advanced in tandem — and with more government support than ever before. In both countries, this has led to a more empowered citizenry and more government engagement.

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EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Mangrove roots act as a natural coastal infrastructure, holding back storm surges and reducing erosion while providing shelter for fish and crustaceans. Above the waterline, the beautiful trees attract visitors from around the world and boost the local eco-tourism economy. Perhaps the most important benefit, however, is how mangroves reduce carbon pollution. Just one acre of mangroves can process up to 100 pounds of carbon per day, making them one of the best natural carbon sinks in the world. Estimates put the economic value of the remaining Dominican mangroves between $700 million and $2.3 billion. Unfortunately, the trees are under constant threat from overfishing and coastal development.

In 2016, Counterpart’s Social Sector Accelerator responded to the need to protect mangroves and the livelihoods of coastal communities by building strong networks with citizens, government representatives, business leaders and local students. Partnerships were established with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Dominican Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and AgroFrontera. With our partners, Counterpart provided support and training for fishing associations to promote legal, sustainable fishing and to expand their ranks to enroll young fishers and share these sustainability lessons with the next generation.

To further support future youth environmental leaders in the Dominican Republic, Counterpart partnered with Learning Streams International and the Dominican Environmental Education Program (DEEP) on a youth mentoring program. Throughout 2016, more than 250 young people from seven prestigious high schools and Santo Domingo’s public university came together to work with scientists, university mentors and community-based environmental organizations on pressing environmental issues, including climate resiliency. This mentor program culminated in DEEP Day, a science fair event where students showcased their work and honed important leadership and advocacy skills.

Counterpart also joined other partners in the Dominican Republic to form the Restoration Working Group to expand the number of coral gardens — another vital resource that improves coastal resiliency while helping the economy through tourism. The group will improve the quality of coral nurseries and gardens and share data and restoration results with the government.

Collaboration between government officials, local communities and their schools and the private sector has helped make mangrove conservation, climate resiliency and improving livelihoods a unified and mutually beneficial priority in the Dominican Republic.

In the waters surrounding the Dominican Republic, mangroves provide food, shelter and nursery grounds for as many as 75% of the fish that commercial fishers depend on for their livelihoods. Mangroves are also key to reducing the impacts of climate change. Counterpart’s Social Sector Accelerator is working hand-in-hand with local communities, businesses, students and the government to find new and effective ways to preserve and protect this national treasure — strengthening both the local environment and the local economy.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

LOCAL COMMUNITIES  YOUTH  GOVERNMENT  PRIVATE SECTOR
FINANCIAL REVIEW

PROGRAM AREAS

Financial and in-kind donations allowed us to provide program services in three broad program areas to more than 1,800 organizations and the communities they serve in fiscal year 2016. Additional organizations were strengthened by the Social Sector Accelerator, a business subsidiary of Counterpart and a member of the Counterpart International Network.

- Governance and Civil Society Strengthening: $53M
- Nutrition, Health and Access to Education: $7.7M
- Livelihoods, Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development: $2.7M
- Social Sector Accelerator: $382,000

$63.8 million

Grants and Contributions = $59.4M
Contracts: $160,000
Gifts In-Kind = $4.2M

REVENUE SOURCES

Counterpart’s generous partners and donors provided $59.4 million in program grants, contracts and contributions for fiscal year 2016, and $4.2 million of gifts in-kind. These grants and in-kind donations helped us implement 40 programs in 27 countries around the world.

GLOBAL SUCCESSES

- 40 PROGRAMS
  Empowering citizens to advance civic participation, promote social inclusion, advocate for government transparency, support emerging leaders and identify local solutions to local problems.

- 27 COUNTRIES
  Partnering with individuals, organizations, communities and networks on five continents.

- 1,836 ORGANIZATIONS
  Receiving capacity building and technical assistance.

- 439,958 BENEFICIARIES
  Receiving information through trainings, events and technical assistance, focusing on civic engagement and government transparency, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, and climate resiliency.

- 153,805 WOMEN AND GIRLS
  Participating in trainings, events or leadership workshops.

- 157,211 YOUTH
  Participating in leadership, communications, peace building and job trainings.

- 98 SOCIAL SECTOR NETWORKS
  Established or strengthened.

The Emerging Civil Society Leaders Program graduation ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan.
## DONORS AND FUNDERS

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THANK YOU
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AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

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As the saying goes, there is only one constant, and that is change itself.

As we closed out our 2016 fiscal year, there were many changes afoot in the international development arena. And yet, we go forward — clear in our purpose — knowing that Counterpart’s work is needed now more than ever. We hope we can add you to our efforts.

By supporting Counterpart with a generous tax-deductible contribution, you can help ensure that all citizens continue to have a voice and that governments become effective partners in collaboration with the communities they serve. Together, we can be catalysts for long-term, local solutions in areas close to your heart and purpose that will transform lives.

To make a donation, please go to www.counterpart.org/plusyou