Our story began in 1963, when a movie star met a priest. Betty Bryant Silverstein was Australia’s number one film, stage and radio actress. Father Stan Hosie was a Marist priest who quietly completed missionary work across the South Pacific.

Betty and Stan shared a passion for helping others. They believed in the right and ability of people to drive their own destinies. In 1965 they started the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP), focusing on the tiny islands that had been forgotten by most funders after World War II. It was a humble beginning, with much of FSP’s funding derived from sales of donated clothing, first out of Betty’s Manhattan apartment, and then through a thrift store. FSP decided to “go global” in 1992 and changed its name to Counterpart.

When they began their work, their approach was one-of-a-kind in the international development sector. Betty and Father Stan wanted to work on equal footing with local people, communities and organizations. In following the principles they set forth, Counterpart works side by side with our “counterparts” to overcome today’s challenges while building for tomorrow.
Dear Friends and Donors

In 2015, Counterpart International celebrated our 50th Anniversary! Within this Annual Report, we revisit our unique history and share our vision for the next 50 years with you, our friends and supporters.

Counterpart has never lost sight of what our founders, Betty Bryant Silverstein and Father Stan Hosie, believed in—that building the capacity of local leaders and organizations to meet their community challenges must be the major ingredient in any development effort.

Capacity building has always been at the core of what we do, and our work in 2015 reflects that commitment. In 2015, Counterpart provided assistance to 2,643 organizations and helped establish or support 71 social sector networks. Our 40 programs in 30 countries reached more than 800,000 people through trainings, events and technical assistance, plus an additional 200,000 people through our food distribution programs. To help stem the tide of closing civic space (see page 16), Counterpart also trained more than 10,000 people in civic engagement and government transparency.

The stories highlighted in this year’s Annual Report are but a sampling of what Counterpart accomplished on behalf of leaders, organizations and networks around the world. The lives touched and improved by stronger leaders, more effective organizations and more resilient networks are what keep all of us at Counterpart focused and determined to help strengthen the social sector to improve people’s lives and build more durable futures.

In 2015, we also launched three initiatives to address the opportunities and challenges ahead. On page 20, you’ll read about the newest institutional member of the Counterpart network, the Social Sector Accelerator, which helps businesses and philanthropies to improve the results of their existing social investments by strengthening partnerships and outcomes from their work with local social sector organizations. You’ll also learn about an innovative effort in partnership with USAID, Sida and CIVICUS to launch six regional civil society hubs around the world to better equip citizens to become solution creators in their own communities, regions and countries. And you’ll see how we are supporting the 193 countries signing on to Agenda 2030, focusing our efforts to drive the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forward to success. We play a leadership role on Goals 16 and 17, and are developing solutions for 13 other SDGs across our programs.

Heading into Counterpart’s next 50 years, we have a full agenda. Our work continues to be grounded in our belief in the courage and determination of people around the world to drive their own destinies. We are pleased to be a trusted partner in building a stable and peaceful world, and welcome your support.

Joan Parker     Deborah Nolan
President and CEO    Board Chair
OUR HISTORY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, 1965

These guiding principles were not common business practices for international non-governmental organizations in the 1960s. Our founders demonstrated a unique commitment to:

I Help local communities build the infrastructure needed to resolve their own problems.

II Build self-help local community structures by leveraging small amounts of money.

III Work with civil, religious and business leaders and development agencies.

IV Gender equity.

1963 An Idea is Born
Betty Silverstein, who was Australia’s #1 actress, met with Stanley Hosie, a Marist priest quietly completing missionary work across the South Pacific. Betty and Stan shared a passion for helping others and believed in the right and ability of all people to drive their own destinies. This passion sparked an idea.

1965 Founding an Organization
Grounded in those shared beliefs, Betty and Stan form the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP) to help local communities in the aftermath and support long term rebuilding efforts.

1968 Humble Beginnings
A Manhattan thrift shop selling clothes donated by Betty and her friends helps get FSP’s mission off the ground.

1973 FSP Becomes Official
A socioeconomic survey of the South Pacific established a starting point for FSP’s work. FSP begins implementing projects across the region.

1982 A New Focus on Humanitarian Assistance
FSP aids South Pacific communities damaged by cyclones, offering humanitarian assistance in the aftermath and supporting long term rebuilding efforts.

1984 A New Network
FSP Tonga chairperson, Sione Amanaki, works to create a new network of NGOs called the “Tonga Covenant,” which leads to the formation of the Pacific Association of NGOs. This type of collaboration and network building plays a large role in FSP’s future.

1985 FSP Builds Healthier Communities
USAID asks FSP to expand their work and “go global.” The Board agrees and changes the name to Counterpart International.

Counterpart leads the lead in launching PartnerSHIP for Impact. partnersHIPforImpact.org

1992 USAID Issues a Challenge
Following the VEST visits, Counterpart works with USAID to set up support centers for local NGOs. Through capacity building, Counterpart equips local organizations to become solution creators in their own communities.


1994 Launching 20 Years of Humanitarian Assistance
Counterpart helps supply food, clothing, bedding, hospital equipment, and other relief supplies to people in need around the world as part of the U.S. State Department’s Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP).

When funding ends in 2014, Counterpart takes the lead in launching PartnerSHIP for Impact. partnersHIPforImpact.org

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IV Gender equity.
2000
Well-Deserved Recognition
First Lady Hillary Clinton presents Betty & Stan with a humanitarian service award in a special ceremony at the White House.

2002
Food & Nutrition
Counterpart launches a sustainable agriculture and nutrition program in Senegal to help improve the lives of poor families.

2004
Into Iraq
USAD funds a select number of public projects in Iraq, including Counterpart’s Community Action Program to promote citizen involvement in community development.

2007
Innovative Technology
Counterpart wins the Katherine M. Seawright Equality Award for its Data Warehouse tool, used to respond to humanitarian crises around the world.

2008
Changing of the Guard
Stephanie Meeks joins Counterpart as the new President & CEO.

2009
Focusing on Civil Society
USAD awards Counterpart a 5-year cooperative agreement to implement the Global Civil Society Strengthening (GCSS) program.

2010
New Leadership
Joan Parker is named President & CEO of Counterpart International. Feeling that Counterpart’s mission has “never been more relevant”, Joan focuses on innovation and building the capacity of local partners and leaders.

2011-
2015
50 FORWARD
Counterpart’s program footprint doubles in size with new countries including Burkina Faso, Timor-Leste, and Zambia.

2015
Looking Forward to the Next 50 Years
Counterpart celebrates 50 years of building partnerships and improving lives around the world with #50FORWARD, commemorating the individuals, organizations, and communities working to overcome today’s challenges while building for tomorrow.

2015
Accelerating Impact
Counterpart launches the Social Sector Accelerator — an incubator for social sector organizations and emerging citizen leaders worldwide.

2001-
2002
Leadership Transition
Betty and Stan transition from President and CEO, respectively, to join Counterpart’s Board of Directors. They welcome Lelei LeLaulu as the new President & CEO.

2008
Changing of the Guard
Building local capacity and leadership. Enriching design of civil society programming globally. Strengthening independent media.

2009
Focusing on Civil Society
The GCSS Leader With Associates portfolio focuses on:

2007
Innovative Technology
Counterpart wins the Katherine M. Seawright Equality Award for its Data Warehouse tool, used to respond to humanitarian crises around the world.

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Into Iraq
To this day, we’re still implementing food and nutrition programs in Senegal with local partners.

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SISTERS ESSAH BARNABAS
Eleven years after fleeing from the conflict in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Essah Barnabas and her family finally returned. Essah realized that many in her community were still struggling with emotional trauma caused by the conflict. She worked tirelessly as the only mental health nurse for Bougainville's community of 300,000.

Essah tackled the problem of gender-based violence in her community by leading trainings on sexual abuse with local nurses to help them talk to and treat abuse victims. She did radio interviews about gender-based violence, despite the great personal risk involved with publicly addressing the issue. She also founded the Healthy Community Program, which improves public sanitation through projects such as a toilet-building initiative.

In the spring of 2015, Essah expanded her reach across Bougainville’s rural communities through her new Community Health Workers Training, a program she organized and funded with Counterpart’s support. Essah is a health worker, a peace builder and a solution creator.

ONASIS KEUSEN
People didn’t expect much from Onasis Keusen’s community on the outskirts of Tela, Honduras. The municipality would not provide basic services and officials refused to visit out of fear of gang-related violence. Onasis took matters into his own hands and formed a Community Revitalization Committee through impactors, a project implemented by Counterpart.

The Committee built a local outreach center to train youth on health and safety issues. They started one-on-one dialogues with youth, helping them to get involved in positive community activities. School attendance rose and gangs dwindled and started to leave town.

Onasis continued to advocate for his community. As a result, the municipality pledged to build a second outreach center and to sponsor more school trainings. And, after a 16-year stalemate, it was Onasis who finally arranged for the municipality to install reliable electricity, water, and sewage systems.

Onasis is a leader who has helped people believe in their community and their right to live free of violence. He is a mobilizer, a motivator and a change-agent.

DONA MANOLA LIMA
Donña Manola Limá was a single mother in Yaxha, Guatemala, struggling to feed her family and send her daughter to school. Jobs were scarce, so Manola took matters into her own hands. She envisioned Yaxha’s parkland as a tourism destination and helped build an entirely new industry in her community.

Manola completed Counterpart’s tour guide training, where she also learned to train other guides. She recruited people from her community, especially women, who until then never had the chance to earn an income. With Manola’s help, 325 people in the region received tour guide training. Word spread, and now tourism is strong in Yaxha that more than 1,200 new businesses have been launched.

Today, Manola continues to shape her community’s economy as president of the tourism association, where she set fair, standard rates for all tourist guides, regardless of gender. Manola’s leadership has helped break the cycle of poverty throughout Yaxha and helped transform the future of her community.

JERRY OBERNDORFER
Jerry Oberndorfer was living in Eastern Europe during the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992. He watched as famine began to spread and thousands of people who had relied on government-based food and healthcare services lost access to those basic resources.

Jerry knew he had to help. He began a new career at the U.S. State Department overseeing humanitarian aid efforts in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. For the next 23 years, he worked tirelessly to establish nimble, efficient projects that cut through red tape to quickly deliver critical supplies to children, families and refugees.

Jerry managed Operation Provide Hope, a $5.27 billion humanitarian aid program, building partnerships and involving stakeholders at all levels. He partnered with Counterpart, overseeing funding for the region’s Community and Humanitarian Assistance Programs.

Jerry is creative, industrious, and persistent. Determined to not forget those in need. Jerry’s passion and drive helped him navigate bureaucratic obstacles to deliver nearly 25,000 shipments of food and medicine to people otherwise overlooked.

MARIA PACHECO
Growing up in Guatemala City, Maria Pacheco watched poverty and famine cripple her country and its people. Her desire to make a difference led her to found a farming movement to help villagers improve farming techniques to better care for their families.

She earned a reputation as someone who truly helped communities—so the indigenous people of Jocotenango Village trusted her in confiding that the challenges they faced also needed long-term solutions. Mara responded by launching two enterprises: Kiel de los Bosques, to connect women artisans from rural communities with well-established markets; and Comunidades de la Tierra, a nonprofit organization and a Counterpart partner that supports women’s artisan groups.

Today, Maria partners with 18 women-led, rural businesses and connects more than 500 indigenous artisans with buyers in 15 countries. Her efforts have expanded beyond Guatemala to support artisans in Mexico and Panama.

Maria’s vision and determination have transformed the lives of indigenous communities across Guatemala and Central America. She is an innovator and an architect of change.

SABINA YASMIN
The children of Mymsnesh Sadar in Bangladesh had no school and no teacher to learn from. Sabina Yasmin wanted the youngest members of her community to have access to education—a chance at a brighter future. So, last year, she decided to open a school.

Using the skills she learned at Counterpart’s Leadership Development Program, Sabina built her school from the ground up, personally walking door-to-door and talking to parents about the importance of early education. Today, she teaches reading and math to 30 five-year-olds. She is committed to teaching the girls and boys all the way through the fourth grade, when they can attend a nearby middle school.

Because of Sabina’s vision and tenacity, an entire generation of children will have the knowledge they need to grow smarter, stronger and healthier. Sabina is a teacher, a neighbor and a solution creator. She is one woman, making her community a better place.

YOUSOUF NEE HADIDJA ALIM
In Cameroon, mothers are 42 times more likely to die in childbirth than in the United States. In 1996, when the Family Health Center was on the verge of closing in her community, Madam Youssouf née Hadidja Alim kept its doors open, giving women’s lives and helping the next generation enter the world safely. Over the next 20 years, Madam Youssouf expanded her reach, advising the municipal government on women’s and family issues, eventually directing northern Cameroon’s Regional Women’s and Social Affairs Department. In 2007, she was elected to the Cameroon National Assembly and received Cameroon’s Knighthood of Valor.

In 2009, Madam Youssouf became Minister of Basic Education. She is now also the President of the Conference of African Union Ministers of Education. Madam Youssouf touches the lives of thousands of children every day through projects like her School Library Initiative. Collaborating with Counterpart, libraries were built at 150 elementary schools, serving 96,000 children.

ARLENE LEAR — A COUNTERPART HERO FOR 23 YEARS

In 1992 when the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) tapped the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific to “go global” and help determine a role for U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the former Soviet Union, Father Stan Hosie handpicked Arlene Lear to join the Counterpart team.

Arlene helped to map out a strategy for civil society support and managed the USAID-funded Volunteer Executive Service Teams, (VEST) program, a public/private partnership model for rapidly responding to the challenges facing newly emerging democracies and economies in the former Soviet Union. Among many significant achievements of VEST, 34 partnerships were designed and funded to support NGO capacity building, microenterprise development, women and reproductive health, environmental protection, social services and education.

In his book, The House that Betty Built, Father Stan called out Arlene in particular: “It would not be realistic to overlook the essential and ongoing role of the Counterpart VEST initiative manager and later senior vice president of Counterpart, Arlene Lear … Hands Across the Table to Arlene Lear for what she achieved in those four incredible years in the nineties.”

Counterpart was at the forefront of civil society building in the former Soviet Union, and particularly in Central Asia. As part of civil society programming, Arlene designed a successful capacity building methodology that Counterpart continues to use around the world. This “cascading model” trains intermediary Civil Society Organizations in capacity building who in turn train other organizations. The goal is to maximize outreach and sustain that outreach over time.

Under Arlene’s leadership, a network of 35 Civil Society Support Centers was created throughout five Central Asian countries, reaching thousands of organizations. Those networks still exist in four of the five countries.

Arlene also launched Counterpart’s food security and local economic development programs. For more than two decades, Arlene has been known for her single-minded dedication to Counterpart’s excellence, always with an eye out to find what will make Counterpart even better.

Now, post-retirement, Arlene continues to provide her expertise and institutional knowledge to Counterpart. As one staff member noted, “Arlene can’t walk away from this team. If anyone at Counterpart needs her, she will always step up. Arlene was a force when Counterpart started and she still is. Her commitment is so deep.”

In recognition of 23 years of unwavering commitment to Counterpart, Arlene Lear is a very special SO FORWARD Hero.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION >>
In 2015, Counterpart International celebrated its 50th Anniversary, which included a Global Meeting and Training event that brought together headquarters staff with colleagues from around the world. In her opening remarks, Joan Parker, President and CEO, noted that the 50th milestone gave the staff the opportunity to reaffirm the vision of the founders, Betty Bryant Silverstein and Father Stan Hosie. Joan shared that at Counterpart’s 25th Anniversary, Betty said that many people felt the organization’s approach “represented the wave of the future for international development agencies.”

That wave, Joan noted, “has brought Counterpart to our 50th year, still embracing Betty and Father Stan’s philosophy that local people should solve local challenges. We are building the capacity of the social sector to be a vibrant and unwavering force for social good.”

We are building the capacity of the social sector to be a vibrant and unwavering force for social good.

The meeting included several days of trainings and program planning. It gave the Counterpart team an opportunity to chart the course for the next 50 years, renewing the vision of working with local partners to improve people’s lives and build more durable futures, community by community. For Bedilu Shagen, Chief of Party in Malawi, the meeting was an “inspiring week… like one big family event where we shared our experiences, passions and hopes about the work we do with Counterpart.”
The crackdown on civil society is growing and alarming.

CLOSING CIVIC SPACE: A GROWING THREAT TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

As part of the Global Meeting, Counterpart brought together a panel of experts to discuss the impact of closing civic space around the world. At a special event held at the National Press Club, Laura Abrahams Schulz, Director of Global Engagement at the National Security Council, Will Dobson, Washington Bureau Chief, Slate Magazine and author of *The Dictator’s Learning Curve: Inside the Global Battle for Democracy*; Sana Mustafa, an exiled Syrian activist, and Julia Roig, President of Partners Global, discussed the impact of shrinking civic space and the increasing restrictions against international nongovernmental organizations.

Will Dobson noted that “The greatest compliment to your work is the fact that it’s gotten so much more difficult to do that work. It has been a direct result of the fact that it works. Governments see it as a threat… they recognize the validity of it and how effective it can be.”

Joan Parker, Counterpart’s President and CEO, emphasized that ensuring resources and technical assistance still reach local leaders and organizations to help them achieve their missions is more imperative than ever in the face of increasing restrictions on civil society. The panelists all pointed to the need to continue to support civil society organizations and build the capacity of stronger networks within countries and across boundaries to counteract this troubling global trend.

Sana Mustafa, who received political asylum in the U.S., told the audience that, “By helping and empowering those who live in closed civil societies, we will make the world a better place.”

Keep working together, organize, trust each other and build networks.
CONTINUING THE LEGACY

Counterpart builds capacity—in leaders, organizations and social sector networks—to help solve pressing challenges. We support solution creators—our counterparts—to be architects of change in their own communities, countries and regions.

PROGRAM AREAS

In 2015, with our local partners in 30 countries, Counterpart implemented 40 programs in the following areas:

CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE:
No matter what sector, or what country, Counterpart is committed to moving the marginalized to their rightful role in civic life. Throughout 2015, Counterpart worked with civil society organizations committed to improving voter education, increasing citizen participation in policy development and expanding the role of women and youth in decisions that impact their lives.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION:
Focusing specifically on girls who are oftentimes forced into early marriages and left out of educational opportunities, Counterpart implemented Food for Education programs that rewarded girls’ attendance by providing food to families. As a result, parents and teachers created their own community networks dedicated to improving access to education for all children in their communities.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION:
Counterpart worked with local partners to identify and implement community-led solutions to malnutrition and to expand prevention strategies to reduce infant mortality, malaria and HIV-AIDS.

LIVELIHOODS:
Focusing on the sustainable use of natural resources and ensuring those traditionally excluded are given opportunities to develop their innate skills, Counterpart worked with communities to identify critical economic assets and create new assets, leading to transformative opportunities for people and communities.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY:
Counterpart worked with partners in government, academia, the private sector and local coastal communities to raise awareness about the need for strong conservation and climate resiliency policies to protect coastal resources. Central to our efforts is advancing policies to mitigate climate change impacts through the protection of mangroves that capture blue carbon.
IMPROVING PEOPLE’S LIVES

Counterpart believes that a community creates the most effective social, political and economic solutions to challenges when citizens, organizations and networks work together to co-create these solutions. Here are three stories exemplifying Counterpart’s efforts in 2015 to support the leaders, organizations and networks that are improving people’s lives and building more durable futures.

BUILDING LEADERS IN BANGLADESH

Umaymong Marma lives in one of the hilly regions in Bangladesh. During the monsoon season, dirt roads that connect his remote village to larger towns and vital resources are washed away. Days, sometimes weeks, go by before the roads are usable again. Umaymong never imagined he could change all that, until he participated in Counterpart’s Leadership Development Program (LDP).

In 2015, LDP helped develop the leadership skills of more than 5,000 people in Bangladesh. In total, the program has supported nearly 14,000 leaders from all over the country.

Umaymong was appointed an LDP community leader and took on the challenge of building roads. He submitted an application to the authorities and using his newly-acquired advocacy skills, convinced a representative of the regional administration to come to his village to see firsthand what they were up against. This visit gave community members unprecedented access to voice their concerns. After the representative’s visit, funding for road construction was approved.

In 2015, a brick road was completed, successfully connecting the people of Umayong’s village to area towns, schools, and other resources. Umayong didn’t stop there. He also successfully led the effort to get funding for the renovation of a local Buddhist temple. Now confident in his leadership abilities, Umayong has much more to offer. And Counterpart will continue to inspire and support emerging leaders like him to be solution creators in their communities.

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONS IN GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, indigenous farming communities have little access to resources that can improve their livelihoods. To address this need, in 2015, Counterpart continued to improve the capacity of Rural Development Learning Centers (CADERS) in five departments of the Western Highlands. These rural farmers’ organizations help communities improve sustainable agriculture practices and expand access to markets.

Fabian Perez is a farmer in the village of Aldea Chaque Malacatanico, in the department of Huehuetenango. He formed a community organization with 27 other men and women farmers. Counterpart provided capacity building training to help them build an effective organization that could seek government funding. Unified and prepared, the group received funding for their CADER, which includes a demonstration plot to train farmers about agricultural techniques and a community greenhouse.

“We are doing this to learn how to make our farms last, so we can have something to leave our children and grandchildren,” says Fabian. Blanca Lopez, another member of the CADER, adds, “If we hadn’t formed a group, no one would have noticed us or given us help.”

The CADER’s greenhouse has produced 5,000 tomato, broccoli and cabbage plants, shared among members. CADERS are now thriving in nine municipalities in Huehuetenango and members’ incomes have increased by 10 percent. “Because we work together,” Blanca says, “we make our village a little better every day.”

BUILDING NETWORKS IN BURKINA FASO

Ten-year old Djamila Sory used to force her body through a tiny hole into the dark tunnels of a gold mine in Burkina Faso. Staying in school was not an option. Then Djamila received assistance from Counterpart’s Reducing Child Labor through Education and Services Program (RCLES). Now Djamila will tell you, “I am so happy. I received a school kit and assistance with my classes. It’s helped me improve.”

More than 7,000 children like Djamila have been rescued from mining work in Burkina Faso, or stopped before they started. Counterpart helped organize Social Protection Networks in three regions, comprised of teachers and school staff, representatives from local government ministries, community leaders and other volunteers. Members identify at-risk children to help keep them from the mines and ensure children pulled out of working in the mines don’t go back.

In 2015, the beta phase of the Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS) was launched. This first-of-its kind system in Burkina Faso helps people report child labor to local authorities. It will expand the role of community networks in protecting more children.

Counterpart engaged the local government in building awareness about the dangerous working conditions for children. A government decree now calls attention to the worst forms of child labor. The government is also interested in implementing the CLMS in other regions of the country.

And the Social Protection Networks continue to ensure children can be children—learning and playing in school.
For 50 years we have seen that an engaged social sector is essential to helping communities mitigate such daunting problems as poverty, inadequate education, poor health, environmental threats and civic restrictions.

These local organizations, while passionate and determined to achieve their missions, often also need capacity building assistance to fully realize their potential and generate lasting impact.

To address the growing interest in local partnerships and to support the role of the social sector, in 2015 Counterpart International launched the Social Sector Accelerator.

The Accelerator is designed to offer our proven tools and unique approaches to private donors, investors and their partners through three core services:

- Partnership Assessments and Effective Engagement Strategies;
- Social Sector Investment Opportunities; and
- Capacity Building.

The Accelerator will also quantify for investors the Capacity Dividend™ of their investments in capacity building. If you want to strengthen and accelerate the impact of the social sector and see your social investments go farther, faster, contact Teresa Crawford, Executive Director, Social Sector Accelerator, tcrawford@counterpart.org or visit www.captcitydividend.org.

For more information, contact Jennifer Jones, Vice President, Strategic Communications, at jjones@counterpart.org.

Civil society—social service providers, advocates, and activists alike—encounter ever-larger challenges in delivering on their purpose, in their ability to connect internationally, and in their access to resources. At the same time, ideas and actions generated by civil society have never been more important to creating lasting solutions to local and global challenges.

In this context, and with funding from the United States Agency for International Development and Swedish SIDA, 45 international civil society organizations came together to co-create a prototype for regional innovation and “hubs” to support civil society. In 2015 Counterpart and CIVICUS Alliance hosted six additional workshops that captured input from 151 civil society leaders representing six regions and 94 countries. Counterpart and CIVICUS were then tapped to facilitate the launch of six regional hubs over the next two years.

The Civil Society Innovation Initiative (CSI) will create a permanent network that allows knowledge and assets to be shared across civil society. By building strong networks and incubating the next generation of solutions, Counterpart is helping to advance a new paradigm for innovation for this sector in the Global South. As more countries restrict the ability of citizens to act on their ambitions for a better world, this support is urgently needed.

For more information, contact Albert Cevallos at acevallos@counterpart.org.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present an unprecedented opportunity for the global community to embrace the power of the social sector to achieve the impact we collectively imagine.

In many countries, local organizations are the conduit to the most vulnerable and marginalized populations and are the primary groups delivering social services. For this reason, the social sector must continue to be supported in the execution and monitoring of the SDGs.

Capacity building is at the core of everything Counterpart does. We have seen time and again that building the capacity of local partners achieves the most lasting impact. As the world turned its attention to the global endorsement of the SDGs in September 2015, Counterpart initiated Campaign 17point9 to call attention to the need for local capacity building to achieve the SDGs.

“Capacity building” only appears once in Agenda 2030 (at 17.9). It should be in every SDG. For the Global Goals to be achieved, governments, donors, investors and nongovernmental organizations need to invest in the capacity of local partners. Going forward, Campaign 17point9 will be a key rallying cry at Counterpart as we demonstrate to donors and investors the Capacity Dividend™ of investing in capacity building to achieve Agenda 2030. For more information, contact Jennifer Jones, Vice President, Strategic Communications, at jjones@counterpart.org.
Financial and in-kind donations allowed us to provide program services in three broad program areas to more than 2,000 organizations and the communities they serve in fiscal year 2015.

Counterpart’s generous partners and donors provided $61.7 million in program grants and contributions for fiscal year 2015, and $3.6 million of gifts in-kind. These grants and in-kind donations helped us implement 40 programs in 30 countries around the world.
OUR DONORS, OUR COUNTERPARTS

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At Counterpart our 50th Anniversary was both a time to take stock of our roots and to declare where and how we will honor our legacy in the next 50 years. We know our work will always be about supporting the hopes and dreams of our local partners who are striving to have a voice in decisions that impact their lives, no matter how difficult it may be for them. It will always be about the children, helping to ensure they are given the opportunities they deserve to realize their full potential. It will always be about capacity building so local organizations carrying out the work of improving people’s lives can do it even better, for lasting impact. And it will always be about people like you who understand that the kind of work Counterpart is committed to builds a more peaceful, inclusive and just world. We welcome your support.

Please go to www.counterpart.org/donate to support our efforts to improve people’s lives and build more durable futures, community by community.

Making a difference takes vision, focus, bravery, persistence and resilience. The Counterpart team confirms these traits time and time again, in the most challenging locations around the world, and under the most extreme pressures. It’s an honor to be part of the organization.

CARLOS F AGUILAR, BOARD MEMBER