

Welcome to the **Cuso** **International** workshop



VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WORLD
UN MONDE DE VOLONTAIRES

Agenda

- Who are we
- What do we do
- Could this model work in your community?
- Question and answer



Cuso International is...

An international non-governmental organization working to reduce poverty and inequalities

A strategic partner of VSO International, working in over 40 countries

Sends people... not aid money: sharing skills to support the achievement of development goals



CUSO
International

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WORLD
UN MONDE DE VOLONTAIRES

Our 6 goals areas

Participation and
governance



Disability



Secure Livelihood



HIV and AIDS



Education



Health



Participation and governance

- Support communities to give voice to their needs and **exercise their rights**
- Work with governments to become more **responsive** to the needs of communities

- Roles for volunteers include:
 - ✓ capacity building of civil society agencies
 - ✓ supporting agency networks
 - ✓ supporting judicial reform and access to justice



Secure Livelihood and sustainable development

- We work to support communities to **live healthily and sustainably**, and to enhance their ability to **earn an income**
- This includes work related to economic development, climate change and the environment



- Volunteers skills include:
 - ✓ business development
 - ✓ marketing
 - ✓ advocacy and lobbying
 - ✓ natural resource management
 - ✓ technical (e.g. forestry, horticulture and agriculture)

Education

- We work to support inclusive education, education management and quality of education.

- Needs for volunteers include:
 - ✓ teachers to provide training to improve techniques and methodology
 - ✓ education managers to work with local government offices in areas such as assessment, strategic planning or curriculum development



Health and Social Well Being

- We seek to enable people to **access** basic health care, strengthen the **capacity** of health and social work professionals, improve **health management** systems and tackle the **root causes** of exclusion and illness



- Current needs for volunteers include:

- ✓ Doctors - especially pediatricians and obstetricians
- ✓ Nurses
- ✓ Midwives
- ✓ Educators
- ✓ Health managers

HIV and AIDS

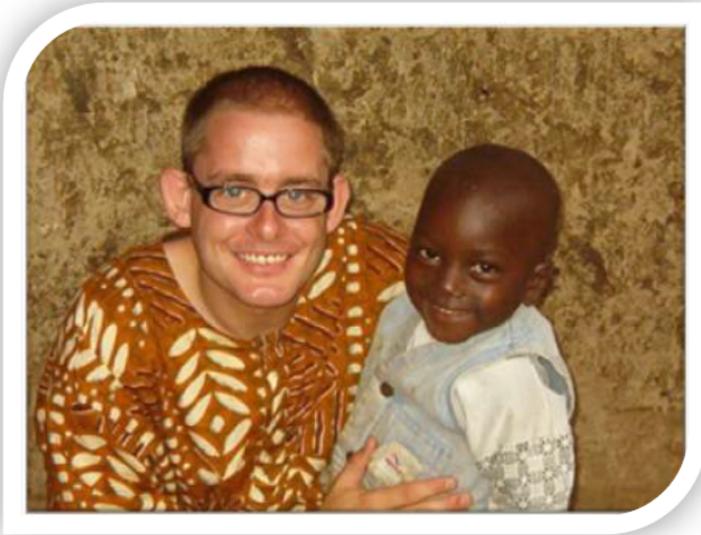
- We work to combat **stigma**, to support **prevention** and to increase availability of **treatment** and for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

- Roles for volunteers include:
 - ✓ networking activities to build links between communities and governments
 - ✓ awareness-raising about HIV and AIDS and its prevention
 - ✓ fundraising for HIV and AIDS projects



Disability

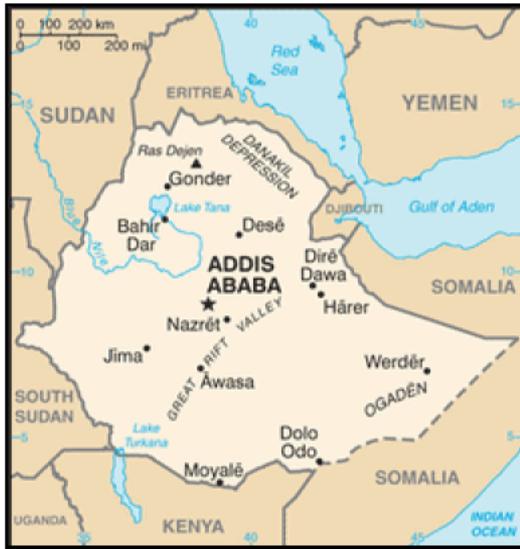
- We work to strengthen **rehabilitation** systems, support the **economic participation** of people with disabilities, and **advocate** for rights of people with disabilities



- Roles include:
 - ✓ supporting education, employment and healthcare strategies that promote disabled people's human rights
 - ✓ improving the quality and accessibility of mainstream and special services provided by the government and by NGOs

Country Goal Areas

Ethiopia



- Health
- HIV and AIDS
- Education

Guyana

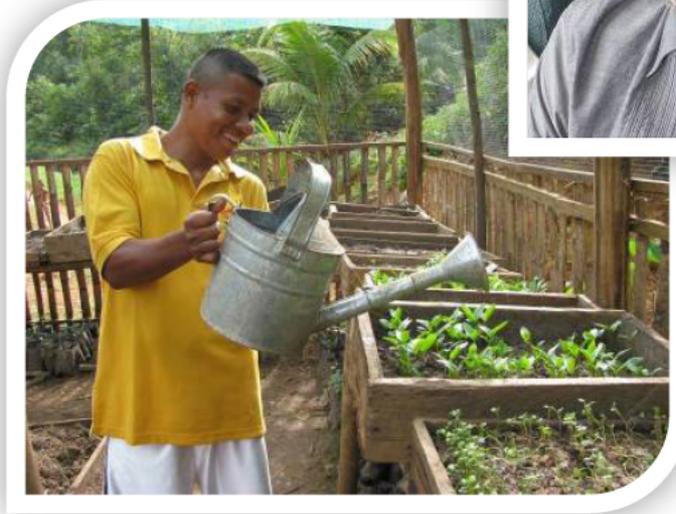
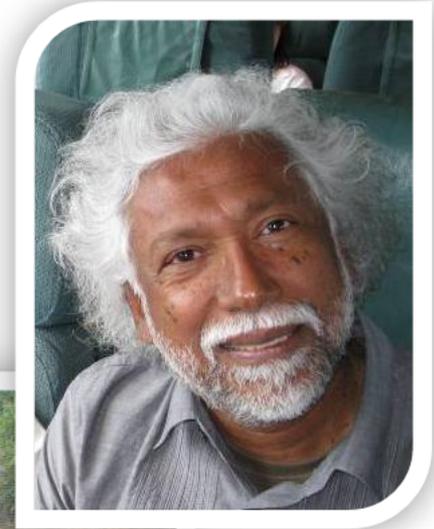


- Education
- Disability
- Secure Livelihoods



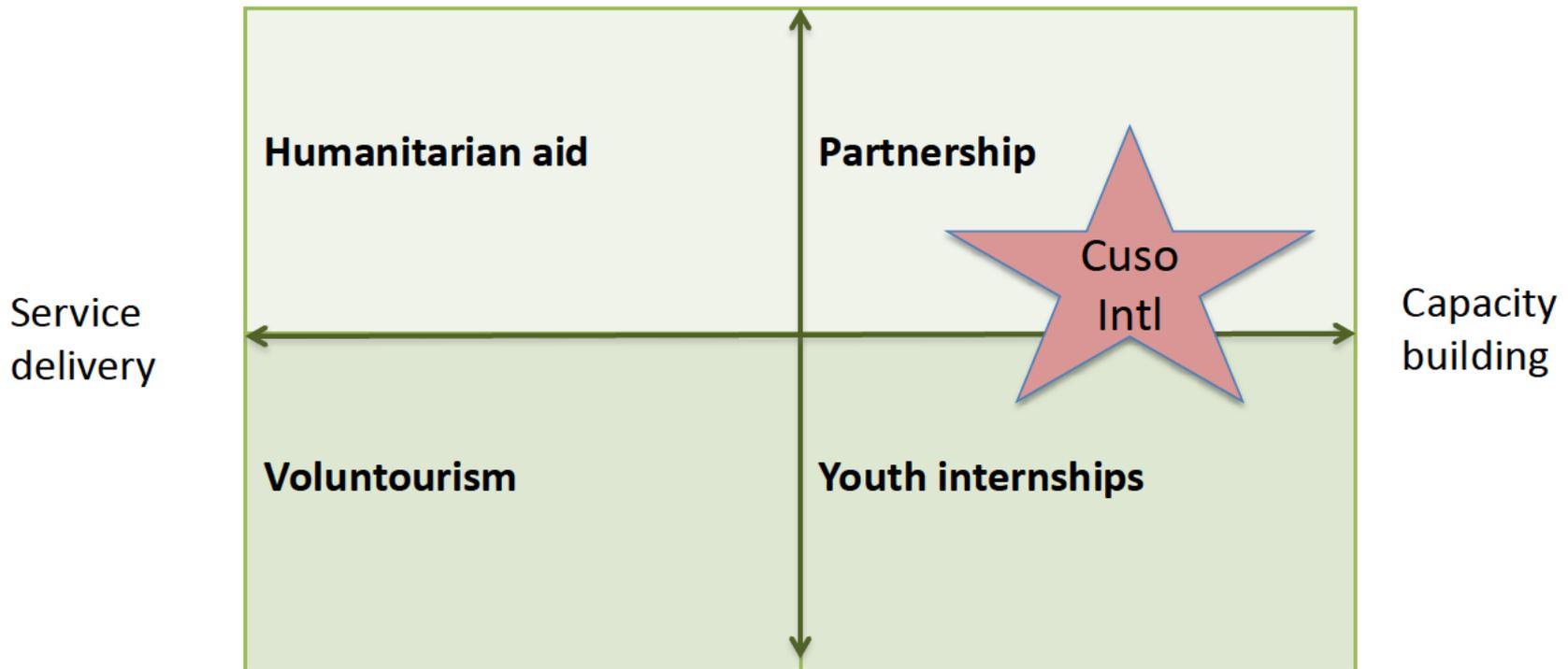
Our “360 degree” volunteer movement

- We are more than “North-to-South” volunteering! We promote and engage in a variety of “360 degree” volunteer programs and initiatives:
 - ✓ North-to-South volunteering
 - ✓ South-to-South volunteering
 - ✓ National Volunteering
 - ✓ Diaspora Volunteering
 - ✓ South-to-North volunteering
 - ✓ Corporate Partnerships



Volunteering for sustainable development

Objective is development



Objective is personal and professional growth



Professional skills in demand...

Our volunteers are professional, skilled and adaptable

- We recruit volunteers from a variety of in-demand professional fields:
 - ✓ Organizational Development / Business
 - ✓ Communications/Fundraisers
 - ✓ Community and Social Development
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ IT
 - ✓ Health
 - ✓ Natural Resources
 - ✓ Vocational training



Soft Skills are also essential to a successful placement ...

- Cuso International volunteers are more than their impressive professional skills! We also carefully recruit individuals with some vital soft skills:

- ✓ Flexibility
- ✓ Adaptability
- ✓ Sensitivity
- ✓ Self-assurance
- ✓ Team work
- ✓ Positive attitude
- ✓ Open-mindedness
- ✓ Desire to learn
- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Sense of humor



The volunteer profile

Our volunteers range in age from their early 20's to their late 70's... we have no upper age limit!

- Basic volunteer criteria:
 - ✓ Have a recognized qualification
 - ✓ Minimum 2 to 5 years of professional experience
 - ✓ Successfully complete an "assessment day" and attend pre-departure training
 - ✓ Obtain medical and criminal records clearances
 - ✓ Be available for 6 months to 2 years



The volunteer's journey



Our financial support

- Shared costs in attending an Assessment Day.
- Travel and accommodation costs associated with 5-day pre-departure training course held in Ottawa.
- Return airfare and visa/permit (includes a return flight for family emergency).
- Coverage for required vaccinations, medications and health insurance.
- Modest accommodation while overseas.
- Modest living allowance, depending on the country of placement.
- Quarterly payments to support you in your placement.



Professional and credible

Funding Sources and Expenses

- Supported by CIDA and community donations.
 - only 10% of our budget goes to administration and fundraising costs.
 - 90% of our budget is to recruit, assess, train and cover living costs of volunteers overseas.
- Every \$2500 we fundraise supports one volunteer for a whole year, thanks to the fact that:
 - every dollar fundraised is leveraged 9 times by CIDA ($\$22,500 + \2500) = \$25,000



Self-assessment...

- Volunteering overseas will change your life! It will be one of the most challenging and inspiring things you ever do.
- Before you apply to any placement, be sure you have taken some time to reflect on your life right now, in the following areas:
 - ✓ Personal readiness and support system
 - ✓ Health (mental and physical), coping mechanisms and adaptability
 - ✓ Working style and professional skills
 - ✓ Cultural sensitivity and intercultural experience



Maureen's experience with Cuso International

- Key learnings
- Thoughts about applicability of this model for First Nations communities in BC
- Questions?



Could this model work in First Nations communities in BC?

- What skill sets would be most useful?
- How would we fund the initiative?
- What are the advantages of this model?
- What are the disadvantages of this model?
- What might some next steps include?
- General questions?



Could this model work in First
nations communities in BC?