



Members' Report 2017

STEELWORKERS *Humanity Fund*

September 2018

The United Steelworkers, In Solidarity Here and Around the World

Sometimes it can feel easier to focus on our differences rather than what brings us together. As Steelworkers representing different sectors and regions of the country, the value of unity is, in many ways, part of our DNA. The Steelworkers Humanity Fund is putting this principle into action on a global scale, building on our shared humanity for social justice and respect for human rights and labour rights.

Working with local and international partners, we provide resources as well as opportunities to exchange and learn from each other. In this report you will find highlights of the inspiring work that your contributions have allowed us to support in 2017. You may also have noticed our new logo. We wanted it to convey our common struggle toward shared goals that unites progressive organizations around the world. This logo captures the spirit of the Steel-

workers Humanity Fund; it portrays diverse people in solidarity – helping each other move forward. ■



Building Women's Equality

When it comes to workplace health and safety, women and men tend to face very different risks, many of them not recognized in national standards, laws and regulations.

In order to take a deeper dive into this much undocumented issue, the 2017 Steelworkers Humanity Fund Women's Exchange brought representatives to Canada from organizations across six Latin American countries

that run programs focusing on women's rights. From July 24 to 28, the international participants learned from each other's experiences, strategized and heard about the work of the District 6 Women of Steel Committee and the challenges they face as women, workers and unionists in Canada. Following this exchange, the delegates also took part in a workshop on Health and Safety for Women, organized with support from the Women of Steel. ■

Sustainable Development and Environment

In Bolivia, weak environmental laws and regulations have resulted in extensive pollution in mining regions. Large sectors of the industry remain unregulated, contributing to the environmental degradation of local soils, water supplies and forests. For this reason, a priority for the Centre for the Promotion of Mining (CEPROMIN) has been to promote sustainable and socially responsible mining, engaging the various levels of government to address issues affecting workers and their

communities. Last year, CEPROMIN promoted the sharing of best practices in social and sustainable management of mining resources among companies, mining co-operatives, communities and families. Through an extensive training program benefitting more than 1,000 co-operative miners, it has developed campaigns on the importance of protecting the environment in communities across the country. ■

Photo: Laura Ramirez



CEPROMIN delegation at Mina San Cristobal, one of the largest zinc, silver and lead mines in Bolivia.

Emergency Relief

In 2017, record-breaking wildfires tore through British Columbia, affecting 1.3% of its territory, forcing tens of thousands to leave their homes and leading to the longest state of emergency in the province's history.

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund channelled \$82,000 through the Canadian Red Cross and the Thompson

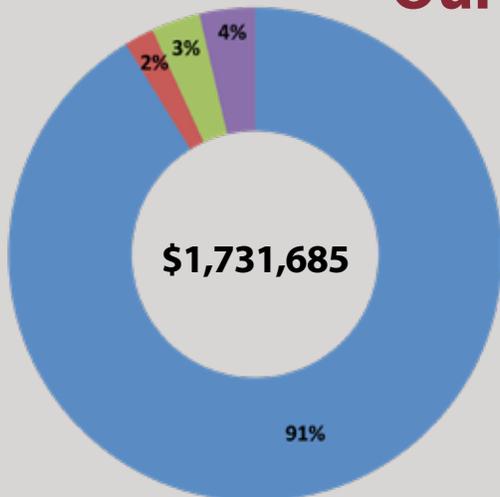
Nicola Cariboo Region United Way. This contribution helped meet the emergency needs of individuals and families of evacuees, but also communities as they recovered from the impacts of this calamity, around issues such as food assistance, housing, trauma and mental health support. ■

Fighting Poverty in Canada

In 2017, the Steelworkers Humanity Fund partnered with Community Food Centres Canada to implement the Community Action Program (CAP) in six cities across the country. Geared at fostering civic engagement within communities, CAP empowers low-income community members to take action on issues that

affect their lives, such as poverty and food insecurity. CAP is a model for leading change that integrates both individual and systemic transformation for social justice, providing workshops to community members, training to local advocates who themselves become trainers, and organizing social justice clubs. ■

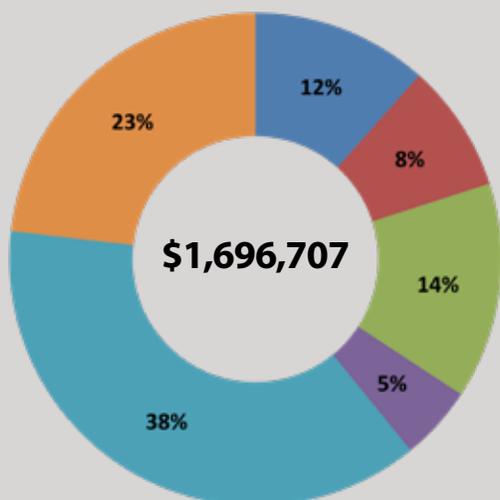
Our Finances – 2017



Where our money comes from

- Negotiated Contributions
- Other Donations
- Corporate Accountability Program
- Investment Income

*The Steelworkers Humanity Fund did not receive any government funding in 2017.



Where our money goes

- Food Banks
- Administration
- Emergency Relief
- Education and Monitoring
- Canadian and International Projects
- Project Support and Development

At 20 years old, Athule knows a thing or two about organizing.

In Grade 11, Athule was a student at Philippi High, a school set up in an informal settlement of Cape Town to accommodate the inflow of new students from impoverished areas of the city. Originally meant to be a temporary structure, Philippi High was built out of 15 recycled shipping containers in the playground of an existing elementary school. But as time went by, students started to wonder how they could be expected to learn in overcrowded classrooms that felt, in their own words, like ovens in the summer and freezers in the winter.

In 2014, Athule and her classmates were introduced to community organizers from the International Labour Research and Information Group (ILRIG), through discussions on current affairs every Monday after school.

ILRIG's methodology builds from the lived experience of communities, which in the case of the Philippi High students meant providing them with tools to think critically about the lack of public infrastructure and how this disproportionately affects the black population, as well as key knowledge on how to articulate their demands for quality education.

After months – turning into years – of student mobilization and activism, but also false promises and repression by authorities, a major breakthrough came last year. A piece of land had finally been secured, allowing for the construction of the new Philippi High to go forward.

Athule now studies anthropology and gender studies at a local university. Still an activist around gender-based violence and issues affecting the black community, she looks back on her involvement in the struggle for Philippi High and how those events taught her that organizing pays – and that social change doesn't happen overnight.

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund is proud to have supported the work of ILRIG, contributing to progressive social change across South Africa by supporting activists like Athule in their own communities. ■

Supporting the Fight for Quality Education in South Africa

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund is proud to have contributed to progressive social change across South Africa by supporting activists like Athule in their own communities.

Athule Baba

Photo: Athule Baba



Photo: Armindo DeMedeiros

Health and Safety Without Borders

Steelworkers Humanity Fund delegation to Liberia, 2016 (Adam Nichols is in the middle).

Workers around the world face very similar concerns when it comes to the right to work in a safe environment. In 2016, a Steelworkers Humanity Fund delegation to Liberia realized this first-hand while visiting its partner AAIWUL, the Agricultural, Agro-Processing and Industrial Workers Union of Liberia.

During their discussions, Liberian delegates mentioned important concerns over the health and safety of workers in charge of collecting the rubber tree sap, as small bits of bark, contaminated with pesticides used to protect the rubber trees, often fall into the tappers' eyes – affecting as many as 25% with blindness in one or both eyes.

Adam Nichols, a USW Local 5975 health and safety representative at the time, was part of the delegation and shared his own experience.

“I told them about how we use emergency eye-wash stations to minimize this type of damage. They also talked about how the goggles they had were not appropriate for this work, so I asked if they had considered using special mesh goggles that would not fog up or get scratched.”

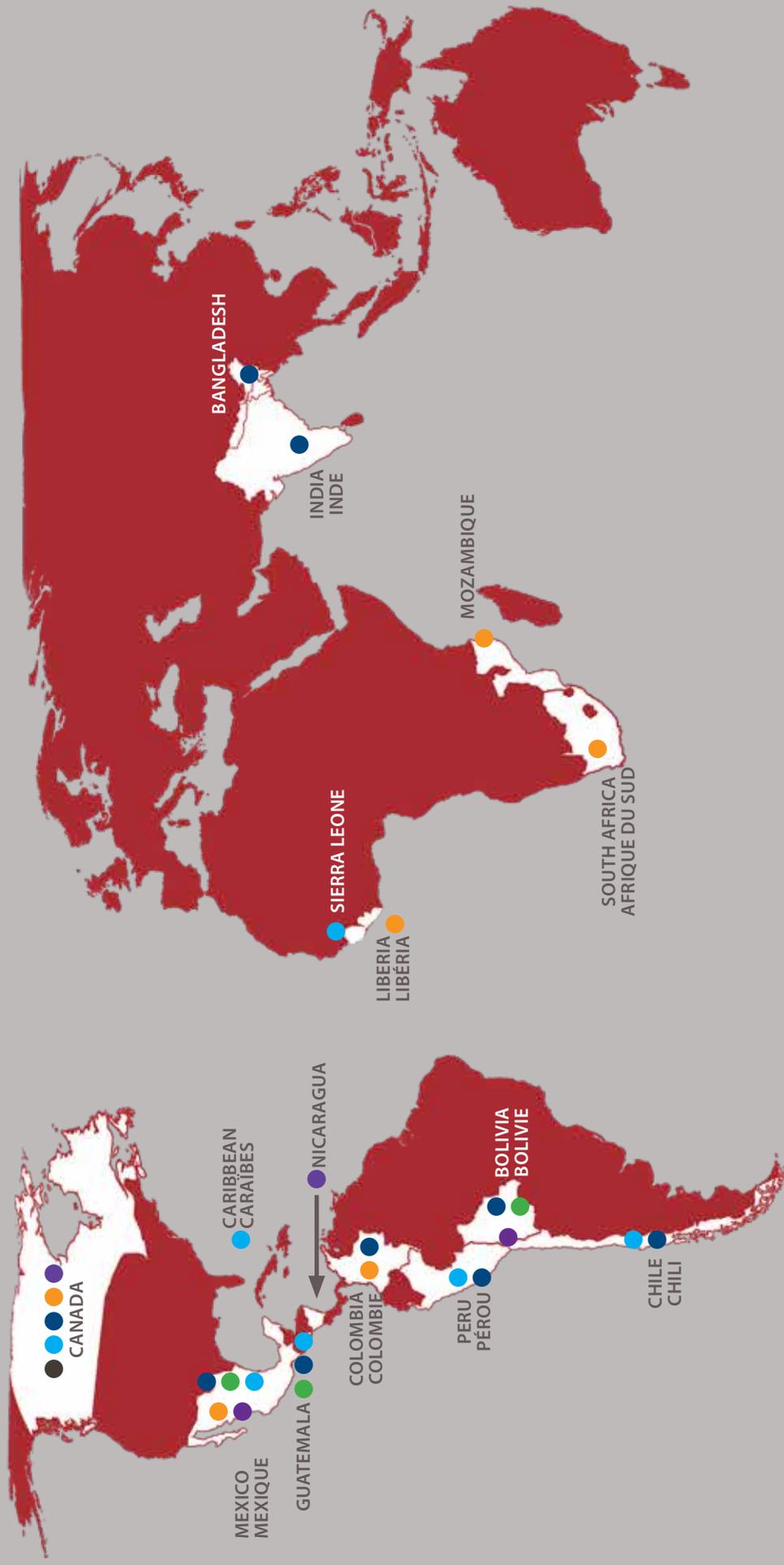
Adam's suggestions triggered a conversation on ways

Steelworkers could leverage funds for a pilot project that would address those issues over the long-term.

When Adam returned to Liberia in 2017, he was pleased to see that the mesh goggles and emergency wash kits were used by the Firestone agricultural workers. The SHF-supported project allowed AAIWUL to train 145 shop stewards, who themselves trained 814 rubber tree tappers for the use of 2,000 emergency eye wash kits.

Moreover, 240 special safety goggles were distributed to the tappers facing the highest risk levels. **The demand for the equipment from workers has been such that for the next set of negotiations, a priority issue will be for the company to adopt similar personal protective equipment and safety equipment for all its employees.**

Representing over 5,000 workers at the Firestone Tires rubber plantation, AAIWUL is a central actor in an industry that employs the largest number of private-sector workers in Liberia. The potential ripple effect this pilot project could have on the agricultural sector across the country is significant. And the delegation's story shows how the USW shop floor experience, combined with a little bit of solidarity among workers, can go a long way. ■



Your contributions at work around the world Vos contributions au travail dans le monde

Legend | Légende

- Building Women's Equality
Renforcer l'égalité des femmes
- Sustainable Development and Environment
Développement durable et environnement
- Upholding Labour Rights
Faire respecter les droits des travailleuses et travailleurs
- Promoting Human Rights
Promouvoir les droits de la personne
- Emergency Relief
Secours d'urgence
- Fighting Poverty in Canada
Lutte contre la pauvreté au Canada

Our Partners | Nos partenaires

- CEPROMIN, Bolivian Centre for the Promotion of Mining, Bolivia
Centre pour l'avancement du secteur minier de la Bolivie
- FESIMINI, Nicaragua Miners' Federation, Nicaragua
Fédération des syndicats des travailleurs et travailleurs des mines et connexes du Nicaragua
- ProDesc, Project for Economic, Social and Environment Rights, Mexico
Projet pour les droits économiques, sociaux et environnementaux, Mexique
- ASDENA, Development Association Nuevo Amanecer, Guatemala
Association pour la santé et le développement de la communauté de Nuevo Amanecer, Guatemala
- DESMI, Social and Economic Development for Indigenous Mexicans, Chiapas, Mexico
Développement social et économique des Autochtones mexicains, Chiapas (Mexique)
- AAJJC – Bench Marks Foundation, Mozambique
Association pour le soutien et la défense juridique communautaire, Fondation Bench Marks, Mozambique
- International Labour Research and Information Group (ILRIG), South Africa
Groupe de ressources et d'information sur le travail dans le monde (ILRIG), Afrique du Sud
- Camp for Peace, Liberia
Camp pour la paix, Libéria
- Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity, Bangladesh
Centre de solidarité ouvrière du Bangladesh
- CTF, Chilean Forestry Workers Confederation, Chile
Confédération chilienne des travailleurs forestiers, Chili
- Vida Viva Colombia Platform, Colombia
Formation communautaire novatrice en santé et sécurité, Colombie
- FESTRAS, Federation of Food, Agricultural and Related Workers, Guatemala
Fédération des syndicats des travailleuses et travailleurs de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de secteurs connexes, Guatemala
- FNTMMSP, Peruvian Mining Federation, Peru
Fédération nationale des syndicats des métallurgistes et mineurs péruviens, Pérou
- FAT, Authentic Workers Front, Mexico
Front authentique des travailleurs, Mexique
- Land Workers Corporation, Colombia
Corporation des travailleuses et travailleurs de la terre, Colombie
- Maharastra Building Construction Forest and Wood Workers Union, India
Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs du bâtiment, de la construction, de la foresterie et du bois du Maharastra, Inde

Emergency Relief 2017 | Secours d'urgence en 2017

Canada

British Columbia	Wildfires (\$82,000)
Colombie-Britannique	Feux de forêt (82 000 \$)
Quebec	Mosque shooting (\$5,000)
Québec	Fusillade à la Mosquée (5 000 \$)
New Brunswick	Ice storm recovery (\$10,000)
Nouveau-Brunswick	Rétablissement après la tempête de verglas (10 000 \$)
Quebec and Ontario	Spring floods (\$42,000)
Québec et Ontario	Inondations printanières (42 000 \$)
Newfoundland and Labrador	Mud Lake flood (\$3,000)
Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador	Inondations à Mud Lake (3 000 \$)
Canada	Syrian refugee resettlement (\$30,000)
Canada	Réinstallation des réfugiés syriens (30 000 \$)

Global

Chile	Forest fires (\$10,000)
Chili	Feux de forêt (10 000 \$)
Guatemala	Drought (\$10,000)
Guatemala	Sécheresse (10 000 \$)
Sierra Leone	Mudslide (\$8,000)
Sierra Leone	Coulée de boue (8 000 \$)
Caribbean	Hurricane Irma (\$25,000)
Caraiibes	Ouragan Irma (25 000 \$)
Mexico	Earthquake (\$10,000)
Mexique	Tremblement de terre (10 000 \$)
Peru	Rain and floods (\$6,000)
Pérou	Pluie et inondations (6 000 \$)

Member of the Canadian Council for
International Cooperation
Membre du Conseil canadien pour la
coopération internationale



CANADA'S COALITION TO END GLOBAL POVERTY
ENSEMBLE POUR ÉLIMINER LA PAUVRETÉ DANS LE MONDE