

## Highlights 2005

*In 2005, Inter Pares provided more than \$5 million to support the work of our counterparts in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The following are highlights of some of these activities. More detailed information is available on the Inter Pares Web site at [www.interpares.ca](http://www.interpares.ca).*



Anna Paskal

## Asia

- Through the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), Inter Pares provided over \$600,000 for food, shelter and humanitarian supplies for thousands of Burmese refugees living in camps along the Thailand-Burma border. TBBC works with refugees who have fled human rights violations perpetrated by the Burmese military. Though they now live in difficult conditions in refugee camps, they have maintained their communities, and manage their own affairs. They have built houses, schools, temples, and churches, and provide services to their own communities, as teachers, nurses, health workers and counsellors.
- In the lead up to the December 2005 World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Hong Kong, Inter Pares' counterpart Focus on the Global South

worked with grassroots organizations of farmers, fisherfolk, workers and other popular organizations to ensure that these groups understood the complex trade proposals on the WTO agenda. Of particular concern was the continued refusal of both the European Union and the United States to reduce their massive farm subsidies, potentially resulting in the massive dislocation of small-scale agricultural producers around the world who cannot compete with heavily subsidized producers. The work of Focus ensured that the perspectives of people most affected by WTO decision-making were heard by their own governments prior to the WTO negotiations.

- In the Philippines, Inter Pares collaborated with long-time counterpart Likhaan, in its work in the squatter areas of Manila. Likhaan has developed low-cost health services largely operated by community women, with training and support from Likhaan's professional health staff. In these areas, where access to government services is virtually non-existent, local women formed their own associations to reach out to vulnerable community members, delivering primary health

care services and addressing pressing social concerns in their communities.

- In India, Inter Pares supported The Other Media in its work with Burmese refugees who live in New Delhi and the north-eastern states. The Other Media promoted respect for the human rights of all by raising public awareness of the situation of Burmese refugees in India, fostering linkages between Indian civil society organizations and the Burmese community, and advocating with the Indian government to implement refugee protection laws.
- With support from Inter Pares, staff from Tricom in the Philippines traveled to India in September 2005 to visit Inter Pares' counterpart Deccan Development Society (DDS), who have helped pioneer the development of biodiversity-based agriculture in the state of Andhra Pradesh, leading to improvements in rural livelihoods. Tricom plans to introduce techniques learned from DDS during their visit – such as community-based grain banks – to address the problem of hunger amongst indigenous peoples in the Philippines who have lost their traditional lands and livelihoods.

## Africa



Tiniguena e Pierre Campredon

- In Sudan, Inter Pares supported the Gender Center for Research and Training in its work to engage and sensitize the medical community, police, judiciary and the media on issues of violence against women, as well as women's access to services. The Center also worked to include women's voices in the peace process in Sudan, emphasizing the importance of strengthening women's

representation and participation. For example, the Center initiated a series of dialogues on women and political participation, drawing together activists from various political parties in Sudan.

- In Guinea-Bissau, Inter Pares' counterpart Tiniguena, working with farmers' and fishers' groups, achieved adoption of the Management Plan for the Communal Marine Protected Area of the Urok Islands. This plan was the result of a long-term process of organizing and consultations in which local communities participated in the definition of regulations governing the use of coastal resources. The adoption of the plan and the recognition by government of the rights of the islanders over certain key areas contributed

to the islanders' food security and the protection of biodiversity, and empowered communities to manage the resources on which they depend.

- In October 2005, Tetteh Hormeku, Head of Programs at Third World Network-Africa, came to Canada to participate in Inter Pares' work in engaging the Canadian government, civil society and general public on issues of trade justice in the lead-up to the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in Hong Kong, December 2005. In meetings in Kingston, Toronto and Ottawa, Tetteh talked about the pressing issues on the table for African countries at the Hong Kong meeting, and the vital role played by civil society organizations in promoting trade justice.

## Latin America



Project Counselling Service (PCS)

- Inter Pares' program in Colombia provided over \$1 million in programs to assist the tens of thousands of families displaced by the armed conflict. The program contributed to national and international awareness of the crisis by documenting the increasing incidence of forcible confinement of rural communities, a situation largely ignored by state and international actors. Evidence and direct testimony

produced in text and video format opened up broad discussion on this issue, and confinement has now been included in the list of urgent humanitarian and human rights concerns in Colombia.

- Working together with Project Counselling Service (PCS), Inter Pares created a multi-year regional initiative to confront the violence specifically targeted against women during periods of armed conflict, and to assist women survivors in their search for healing and justice. The program supports women's participation in truth, reparation and peacebuilding processes in Peru, Guatemala and Colombia, with opportunities for women to work together internationally, share

experiences and resources, and learn from and support one another.

- Inter Pares' programs in El Salvador and Peru strengthened poor and indigenous women's ability to participate in decision-making and political processes. In El Salvador, women's organizations promoted electoral reform and greater participation of women in all political parties and processes, particularly at the municipal level. In Huancavelica, Peru, women's organizations collaborated with other groups in their communities to monitor the actions of civil authorities and promote transparency in local and regional government, including participating in the review of development plans and the creation of participatory budgets.

This work is made possible by thousands of individual and institutional supporters from coast to coast across Canada, and by contributions from the Canadian government through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Inter Pares is deeply grateful for this trust and support.