

sustaining social justice



annual report 2020



transforming hardship to hope

Reflecting on this past year gives me immense pause. While most were ready to say goodbye to 2020, I remain captivated by the light that COVID-19 shone on the world's disparities.

Our counterparts worldwide have told us clearly: COVID-19 has exacerbated the inequalities of those who had the least to start with. Women and girls have been disproportionately impacted by these inequalities.

Yet I have hope for what is to come. Hope that is fueled by the expertise and actions of Inter Pares' counterparts and allies, deeply rooted in relationships of mutual trust.

As it will become clear to you reading this report, our counterparts have rolled up their sleeves and done what they always do: work tirelessly to make the world a more just and equal place. From India to Burma to Sudan, counterparts provided urgent food support to migrant workers

stranded in rural areas; health services and information to those unable to travel to clinics; and legal services for women experiencing increased levels of violence. Worldwide, counterparts addressed immediate needs while still tackling more complex, long-term issues.

I also find great hope in you, our community of supporters. You remained alongside us through this challenging year. Your kind words and support made a difficult time a time of renewal and hope.

Now, we find ourselves with a rare opportunity: to make this brush with an historic disaster propel us to an historic transformation. It is the hour when the solid foundations

built through Inter Pares' years of solidarity can knit back an example of global equality. I find great comfort in knowing that our counterparts are leading the way to this transformation, as they always have.

So, while everyone else is saying good riddance to 2020, I will be hanging onto its every lesson. I hope we all stare into the glare of this spotlight just a little longer.

Amanda Dale

Chairperson,

Inter Pares Board of Directors



IN FOCUS:

persevering for the right to health

The pandemic poses enormous challenges for healthcare providers globally. Mae Tao Clinic approached COVID-19 with a wealth of experience in adapting to complex crises.



Photo Credit: Mae Tao Clinic

Mae Tao Clinic opened in 1989 just across the border from Burma, in the safety of Thailand. Several young people established the Clinic after fleeing a military crackdown in Burma. On their journey to the border, they witnessed people suffering without healthcare. Inter Pares began funding Mae Tao Clinic just a few years after it opened – it was our first counterpart in what is now an extensive Burma program.

The Clinic started small, meeting urgent needs, and has since grown into a sophisticated training hospital. The patients are from Burma – some live at Thai factories where they work, some come from refugee camps in Thailand, and more than half travel across the Thai-Burma border to seek care.

In March, in response to COVID-19, Clinic staff procured protective equipment, installed additional hand

“2020 highlighted that peace, justice, development and humanitarian issues have to be carried out not separately but simultaneously, by political leaders, civil society organizations and international aid agencies. And especially, with the empowerment of local people.”

Dr. Cynthia Maung
Director, Mae Tao Clinic

washing stations, adapted facilities, and cancelled non-emergency procedures. But the lockdown had a huge impact on people’s access to healthcare: factory workers were unable to leave their compounds, refugees were confined to camps and the Thai-Burma border closed. Police presence also increased, as did fears of deportation for the Thai-based community, including Clinic staff. As a result, the Clinic saw a 37% reduction in consultations.

To respond to the movement restrictions on patients, Mae Tao Clinic worked to bring healthcare to their community. Together with partner providers, Clinic staff trained health workers on both sides of the border and for the first time offered online courses to those with reliable internet. They created and distributed public health information in local languages, and established sanitation stations and quarantine systems.

As a facility built by resilient refugees, Mae Tao Clinic is founded upon principles of equity and peace, self-care and self-governance, and fundamentally, on the right to health. Clinic staff have been tested by the impacts of landmines and grenades, floods and fires, funding cuts and now a pandemic, and yet they persevere. Inter Pares is committed to continue to accompany them.

addressing inequalities

As COVID-19 exposed and exacerbated inequalities, vulnerabilities and greed, Inter Pares' counterparts and allies responded rapidly to address injustices. We remain committed to sustaining action toward a more equal future.



Health

- Partners in **BURMA** built hand-wash stations, distributed soap and created educational materials.



Photo Credit: Likhaan Center for Women's Health

- The Likhaan Center for Women's Health in the **PHILIPPINES** equipped health workers and volunteers with personal protective equipment and, in Metro Manila, distributed health information in the local language.
- SISAY** in **PERU**, the Centre for Women's Rights in Chiapas, **MEXICO**, and partners in **BURMA** used local-language radio as a life-line to isolated and quarantined communities, providing public health information as well as educational programs and news updates.



Food Sovereignty



- Tinguena in **GUINEA-BISSAU** and Enda Pronat in **SENEGAL** supported farmers to replenish their seed reserves and provided urgent assistance such as emergency food kits and agricultural materials.
- In **CANADA**, the National Farmers Union supported Indigenous communities and migrant workers by organizing online educational sessions and coordinating solidarity actions.
- Food Secure **CANADA** delivered a Food Policy Action Plan to the Canadian government to address the root causes of food insecurity.



Women's Rights and Gender Justice

- Inter Pares and allies called on the Government of **CANADA** to implement a feminist response to COVID-19, centering women's rights and gender equality to save lives and build a more equitable future.
- In **EL SALVADOR**, La Colectiva Feminista established phone and internet emergency hotlines to address increased rates of domestic violence during pandemic-related lockdowns.
- DEMUS supported women survivors of forced sterilization in **PERU** to continue their lawsuits for justice, and supported LGBTI and women human rights defenders' basic needs.



Migration

- Justice for Migrant Workers drew attention to the precarious and exploitative reality of migrant farmworkers in **CANADA**, organizing a call for legislation to protect migrant rights. They also provided emergency food and personal protective equipment to migrant workers.



Photo Credit: DEMUS



Economic Justice

- MiningWatch **CANADA**, the Canadian Health Coalition, and Canadians for Tax Fairness exposed how mining companies, long-term care facilities, and pharmaceutical companies are profiteering from the pandemic. This research and documentation are important tools to call on the government to enact legislation that prioritizes people over profit.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of MiningWatch Canada

IN FOCUS:

responding to hunger with solidarity

Two months after the first COVID-19 case in India, the central government imposed a strict lockdown. With no warning, tens of millions of people lost their jobs in the cities and millions moved back to their villages in the countryside.



Photo Credit: Deccan Development Society

They had no savings, received little or no government support and often settled in informal camps, unable to reach their villages. Government aid was late and poorly coordinated. Workers and their families went hungry.

The Deccan Development Society (DDS), a long-term Inter Pares counterpart, supports rural women, organized into village-level groups called *sanghams*, to develop sophisticated community-based food systems. In the past, these systems have helped them weather unexpected food crises due to droughts. Now, they have ensured adequate food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seeing the suffering created by lockdowns, the *sangham* women collected 20,000 kg of grains and pulses from their farms, asking DDS

to distribute them to the stranded workers in informal camps. They provided cooking oil, and brought highly nutritious finger millet porridge to new and expecting mothers.

Mayuri Masanagari, a staff member of DDS, helped to coordinate this response. Together with the *sangham* women, Mayuri went door to door, identifying Dalit families who were on the verge of starvation. The women recognized that even with food rations, some families needed support to prepare the food. So they started a

“In the informal camps, we did a survey, and identified what people needed most, and then we went back to the *sanghams* and gathered and prepared the food. This way, we made sure people got what they really needed.”

Mayuri Masanagari
Deccan Development Society

community kitchen, serving nutritious meals twice a day. DDS also supported local health workers, serving warm porridge daily to nurses, doctors, and sanitation workers.

For over two decades, *sanghams* have nourished the land, cultivated a diversity of foods, and built strong social infrastructure to enhance wellbeing and prevent hunger. Sovereignty over their own food systems has allowed them to come through past crises, and now to respond in solidarity to those in need within their communities and beyond. Inter Pares is honoured to be in solidarity with DDS and the *sangham* women.

Taking action against systemic racism

2020 was a year marked by COVID-19. We were required to distance ourselves from one another. Despite that distance, we still found ways to come together to call for change and demand justice.



Photo Credit: Shawn Goldberg, Shutterstock.com



Photo Credit: meandering images, Shutterstock.com

In the spring, “I can’t breathe” was a rallying cry for all those fighting against racism and the brutality that it engenders. Later in the year, the tragic death of Joyce Echaquan, a 37-year-old Attikamek woman, in a Quebec hospital brought us face to face with systemic racism in Canada.

Systemic racism is insidious. It is present in most societies, although it manifests itself in different ways. It is no longer enough just to recognize its existence. We must rise up together, learn together, and take action together.



As a feminist organization working for social justice among equals in Canada and around the world, in 2020 Inter Pares joined sector colleagues to develop a collective roadmap towards a more anti-racist international cooperation sector.

[The anti-racism framework](#)¹ that emerged from this consultation reinforces our commitment to not only defend the values of equality, dignity and inclusion, but also to put them into practice.

1 Anti-Racism Framework for Canada's International Cooperation Sector. Anti-Racist Cooperation, January 2021. <https://cooperation.ca/anti-racism-efforts/>



Photo Credit: Bing Wen, Shutterstock.com

Inter Pares – which means among equals – believes in solidarity, not charity, as our approach to international cooperation. We work closely with courageous activists and inspiring organizations throughout the world to build peace, advance justice, and globalize equality. In 2020 we collaborated with **over 75 social justice organizations across 22 countries.**

AMERICAS

Canada
Colombia
El Salvador
Guatemala
Mexico
Peru

AFRICA

Benin
Burkina Faso
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Ivory Coast
Mali
Niger
Senegal
Sudan
Togo

ASIA

Bangladesh
Burma
India
Malaysia
Philippines
Thailand

We put feminism into practice



We see issues of equality as important elements of our political analysis. We value methodologies that promote collaboration, foster good process, and encourage the agency of those with less power.

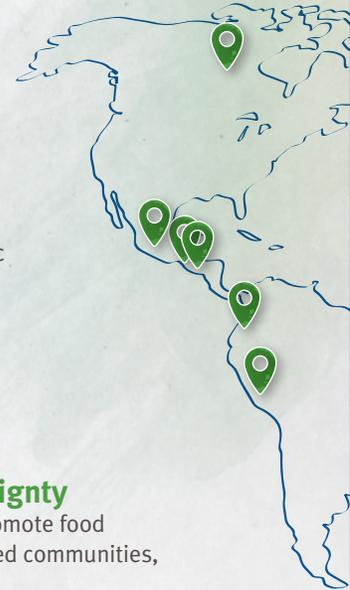
We believe in the strength of women



We work with women and men who promote women's leadership, economic well-being, health, and autonomy.

We promote food sovereignty

We work with farmers and others to promote food systems that support small farmers, feed communities, and ensure a healthy planet.





We engage in peacebuilding and reconciliation

We help enable grassroots participation in peacebuilding efforts, and support those who challenge the power structures that lead to violence, displacement, poverty, and corruption.



We support refugees, migrants, and displaced people

We provide political, humanitarian, and financial assistance to refugees, displaced people, and those who support them through documenting abuses, providing health services, building livelihoods, and promoting peace and democracy



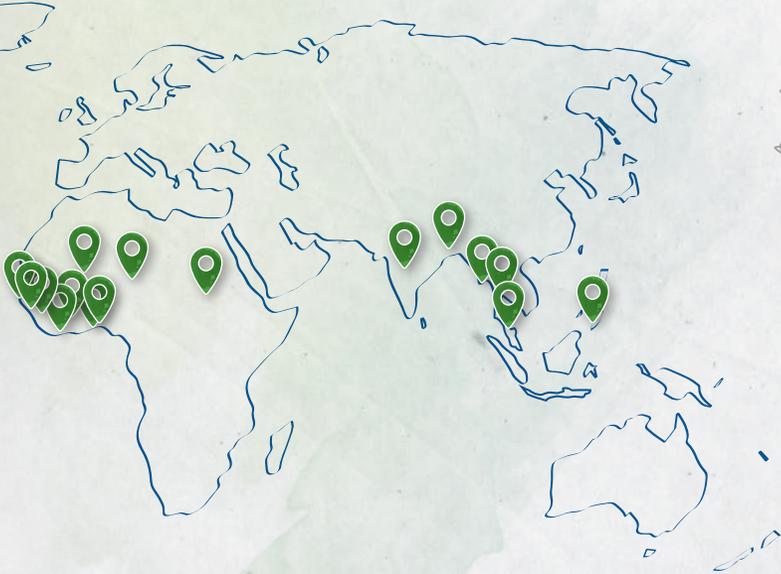
We promote fair economies

We collaborate with groups promoting fair trade agreements, support communities affected by resource extraction, and help rural communities develop management plans to protect resources and livelihoods.



We advocate for strong, public healthcare systems

We see health as a political issue and fundamental to social justice. We promote an approach that addresses the nexus of health, poverty, equality and social conditions. We advocate for integrated, accessible, publicly funded healthcare systems.



celebrating our donor community



Photo courtesy of Gwen Davies



Photo courtesy of John Harnett

In a challenging and uncertain year, our donors responded with kindness, generosity and solidarity. Some shared with us what inspires them to give.

“Inter Pares has always proven to be a reliable, solid organization that does what it intends to do. And always connects with reality from the point of view of the people it aims to support and for me that is the most important thing.”

Gwen Davies

“I had a request from Inter Pares to make a special donation this year to support organizations doing work in relation to COVID. I didn’t hesitate. I was glad to be asked and to do my part, to send additional funds to Inter Pares to respond to that immediate need.”

John Harnett

“This is the type of work that needs to be done to bring about social change. Inter Pares is a rare organization in that the work they support is for political organizing and not simply service-delivery.”

Erin Sirett



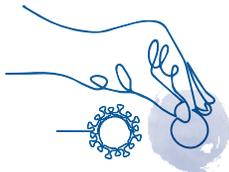
Photo courtesy of Erin Sirett

In 2020:

We welcomed 124 new donors into our community



11 long-time donors left a gift in their will to Inter Pares as part of their social justice legacy



With your support, we established a COVID-19 rapid response fund of \$100,000 which supported 10 counterparts in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Canada



4,642 generous donors gave a total of \$2,086,347 to Inter Pares!

IN FOCUS:

dismantling Sudan's shadow pandemic

For the better part of the last decade, the situation of violence against women in Sudan has been described by everyone from local feminist organizations to UN agencies as an “epidemic”, even a “pandemic”.



Photo Credit: Rita Morbia, Inter Pares

Faced now with COVID-19, the wider public understands the scope and scale of what those terms mean.

The Sudanese Organization for Research and Development (SORD), supported by Inter Pares, has long been working to dismantle what is now referred to as a “shadow pandemic”. SORD has provided free legal representation to women and girls in cases of child marriage or assault. They have educated judges on alternative interpretations of the law. They have created more just legislative tools, presenting them to civil society and government. And they have argued publicly for different political and social understandings of women’s roles in the public and private sphere.

“Even as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, we are working to address the legal barriers standing in the way of the full realization of women’s rights in Sudan. The time to act is now.”

Wafaa Ibrahim Hamid Mahmoud
Lawyer, SORD

In 2020, as a result of school closures, lockdowns and social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of sexual and gender-based violence in Sudan increased. It was a grim reality widely acknowledged, and witnessed up close by SORD’s lawyers providing legal assistance.

Wafaa is one of these lawyers. She is sharp, and despite years of listening daily to her clients’ heartbreaking realities, her vibrant personality continues to shine.

As we are all learning, triumphing over a pandemic takes persistence and commitment, which Wafaa has demonstrated in spades.

For SORD, physical security and freedoms, and the ability to control one’s fertility and sexuality, are critical to women and girls being able to live their lives to their fullest potential. These are rights that SORD continues to promote – providing legal accompaniment as well as advocating for broader reproductive and sexual health, feminist reforms – despite the arrival of the other pandemic, COVID-19.

Inter Pares is pleased to accompany lawyers like Wafaa and her colleagues at SORD in their endeavour to end the shadow pandemic.

by the numbers

2020

4 counterparts in **4 countries** are supported by the new *Strategic Interventions to Build Momentum on Sexual and Reproductive Health* program, which leverages funding from Global Affairs Canada.

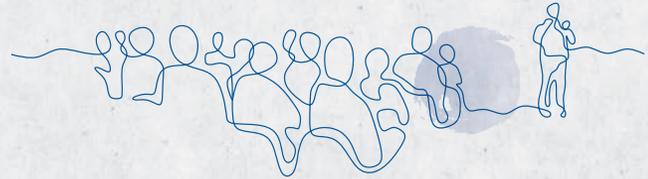


3 ground-breaking reports were published by

Colombia Diversa documenting violence committed against LGBTI persons in the context of Colombia's armed conflict.



400+ national and international participants gathered in January in Dakar, Senegal at the *Journées de l'agroécologie* to discuss and validate policy recommendations to support the Senegal government's transition to agroecology.



3 fundamental flaws in the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise were identified by the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability, making the office unfit for purpose.





30 organizations – including Inter Pares – joined the Dignity Network, a group of civil society organizations across Canada involved in supporting the human rights of LGBTI people globally.

5,485km² in Karen State, Burma – the Salween Peace Park – was awarded the 2020 Equator Prize, recognizing and celebrating the park as an outstanding community and Indigenous initiative that is advancing conservation and local sustainable development.



1 landmark ruling was made by the B.C. Supreme Court to protect the province's universal public healthcare system, the culmination of years of advocacy by the Canadian Health Coalition and allies.



91 women and girls were provided culturally appropriate training on physical and mental health, bodily autonomy, and the right to live free from violence by the Centre for Women's Rights in Chiapas, Mexico.



100,000+ marginalized women in the state of Tamil Nadu, India are brought together by the Tamil Nadu Women's Collective, a new Inter Pares counterpart, to address violence against women, promote agroecology, and support the political participation of women.





Photo Credit: Ashley Armstrong, Inter Pares

welcoming

co-executive directors

In November 2020, Inter Pares welcomed Charlotte Kiddell and Samantha McGavin as new Co-Executive Directors.

The Co-Executive Director position is unique at Inter Pares, in that leadership is shared equally among all co-managers. As a feminist organization, Inter Pares challenges conventional structures in which authority is concentrated in one person, or a very small group. Inter Pares operates instead on a non-hierarchical co-management structure, in which full-time staff members collectively manage the institution through consensus-based decision-

making. Co-Executive Director is thus a representational role without hierarchical authority.

Inter Pares selects its Co-Executive Directors from among current staff, rather than recruiting externally. The choice of Co-Executive Directors is made by all staff and board members, considering our feminist analysis and commitment to women's leadership, diversity, and equity. Through our

choices, Inter Pares aims to challenge societal norms of who represents and is viewed as a leader.

Charlotte and Samantha enthusiastically embrace their new representational roles, while retaining program management responsibilities. Inter Pares welcomes Charlotte and Samantha to their new responsibilities and looks forward to how their fresh perspectives will advance our work to globalize equality.

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2020

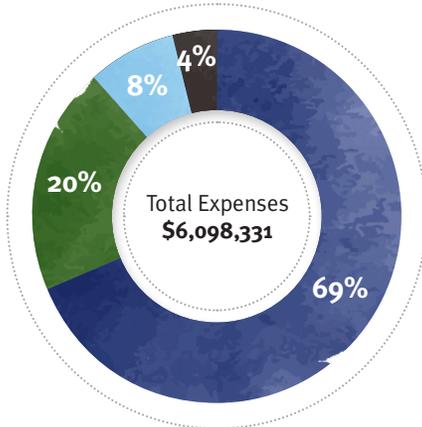
| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Cash | \$1,977,168 | \$3,839,992 |
| Accounts receivable | 258,946 | 126,444 |
| Program advances | 1,049,490 | 458,481 |
| Prepaid expenses | 43,135 | 48,150 |
| Short-term investments | 886,286 | 369,796 |
| | 4,215,025 | 4,842,863 |
| INVESTMENTS | 3,710,892 | 4,475,302 |
| CAPITAL ASSETS | 521,335 | 533,385 |
| | \$8,447,252 | \$9,851,550 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$39,976 | \$40,891 |
| Deferred revenue | 1,850,830 | 3,525,200 |
| | \$1,890,806 | \$3,566,091 |
| CEBA LOAN PAYABLE | \$30,000 | |
| YEARS OF SERVICE BENEFITS PAYABLE | 152,279 | 159,476 |
| | \$2,073,085 | \$3,725,567 |
| FUND BALANCES | | |
| Unrestricted | 311,209 | 331,715 |
| Invested capital assets | 521,335 | 533,385 |
| Reserve Fund | 1,037,844 | 1,015,006 |
| Margaret Fleming McKay Legacy Fund | 4,503,779 | 4,245,877 |
| | \$6,374,167 | \$6,125,983 |
| | \$8,447,252 | \$9,851,550 |

Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2020

| | | | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | General Operations | Reserve Fund | Total | Total |
| REVENUE | | | | |
| Donations | \$1,916,342 | | \$2,086,347 | \$2,525,729 |
| Global Affairs Canada | | | | |
| MNCH | 90,183 | | \$90,183 | 523,544 |
| Buil-Mo | 699,178 | | \$699,178 | 113,806 |
| PSOP Colombia | 120,616 | | \$120,616 | 23,850 |
| IDB | 3,056,000 | | \$3,056,000 | 3,606,655 |
| Philippines | 26,979 | | \$26,979 | |
| PSOP Sudan | 116,983 | | \$116,983 | |
| Project generated grants | | | | 77,756 |
| Interest and other | 39,494 | 22,838 | \$150,229 | 101,809 |
| | \$6,065,775 | \$22,838 | \$6,346,515 | \$6,973,149 |
| EXPENSE | | | | |
| Program | | | | |
| Projects | 4,196,932 | | 4,196,932 | 4,256,027 |
| Operations | 1,203,265 | | 1,203,265 | 1,152,761 |
| | 5,400,197 | | 5,400,197 | 5,408,788 |
| Administration | 228,187 | | 228,187 | 244,566 |
| Fundraising | 469,947 | | 469,947 | 471,849 |
| | 6,098,331 | | 6,098,331 | 6,125,203 |
| NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR | \$(2,556) | \$22,838 | \$248,184 | \$847,946 |

Inter Pares Expenses in 2020

- 69% Program Projects:**
Funds sent to counterparts working in Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America
- 20% Program Operations:**
Monitoring programs, management, program staff salaries
- 8% Fundraising:**
Recepting, online donation systems, printing costs, bank charges, donor stewardship, fundraising staff salaries
- 4% Administration:**
Office costs, governance, financial management, finance staff salaries



About Us

Inter Pares draws on over forty years of experience and a worldwide activist network to challenge inequality in Canada and abroad. Known for its progressive and innovative approach to international cooperation, Inter Pares supports people's struggles to build societies that are fair for all by using the power of solidarity. We collaborate with over 75 counterparts and, together, identify the root causes of injustice and act for sustainable social change.

Our Team in 2020

Ashley Armstrong
Bharat Bishwakarma
David Bruer
Eric Chaurette
Mariétou Diallo
Kathryn Dingle
Bill Fairbairn

Rasha Hilal Al-Baiyatti
Lorraine Hudson
Charlotte Kiddell
Lise-Anne Léveill e
Jack Hui Litster
Samantha McGavin
Rita Morbia

Marie Jos e Morrissette
Laura O'Neill
Nikki Richard
Taina Roberts
Jean Symes
Rebecca Wolsak

Board of Directors in 2020

Amanda Dale
Annette Desmarais
Beth Jordan
Mireille Landry
James Loney

Michael Manolson
Esperanza Moreno
Shree Mulay
Jeannie Samuel
Holly Solomon

Viola Thomas
Sari Tudiver
Bill van Iterson
Barbara Wood





221 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa,
Ontario K1N 6P1 Canada

Tel: 613-563-4801

Toll free: 1-866-563-4801

Fax: 613-594-4704

info@interpares.ca

www.interpares.ca

Facebook: [@InterParesCanada](https://www.facebook.com/InterParesCanada)

Twitter: [@Inter_Pares](https://twitter.com/Inter_Pares)

Instagram: [@InterParesCanada](https://www.instagram.com/InterParesCanada)

Charitable registration number (BN)
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