



kentro

CHRISTIAN NETWORK

2021-2022 Annual Report



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Overview of Kentro Christian Network

Kentro Christian Network (formerly CCRDA) is an association of over 50+ organizations and individuals that are based in Canada and working to address global poverty and injustice from a Christ-centred perspective.

We are the connecting point for all Canadian Christian relief and development organizations and professionals so that we all know we are not alone in this important work of addressing poverty and injustice. We learn from each other, collaborate together, and encourage one another.

Our Mission

To promote unity and excellence among all Canadian Christian Relief and Development organizations.

Our Vision

Together, seeking God's Kingdom purposes for flourishing lives and communities worldwide.





Letter from the Chairperson

Our sector values tangible outcomes. As this report shows, it is abundantly clear that the association's activities over the past year have resulted in deeper connection and more effective collaboration between its members.

We have learned together in virtual workshops, webinars, and forums. We have created and shared resources in task forces and affinity groups. Some of us have forged closer partnerships and are working together on shared projects.

As if that wasn't enough, we also journeyed together through a rebranding process that resulted in a memorable new name, a vibrant new website, and an online "Member Connect" collaborative space that is bursting with potential!

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to express our thanks to Laura and the Kentro staff for their exceptional work over the past year.

As we prepare for our first "in person" forum in over two years, Kentro Christian Network is better positioned than ever to help the Body of Christ in Canada engage humbly and transformatively with people living in poverty around the world.

Greg Reader (Chair)
International Teams

Our Valued Members and Subscribers



★ Associate Subscriber

★ New members to be ratified at 2022 AGM

Member Impact Stories

Kentro Christian Network is proud to welcome members from across Canada, working to address global poverty and injustice from a Christian perspective.

We are excited to share the stories of how being a member has impacted their organization and provided valuable connections and resources.

See their stories on the following pages.



Member Impact Story

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Since joining Kentro Christian Network, we have been able to engage in deeper connections with other faith based organizations and to learn from them as we seek to walk alongside and serve those who are hungry.

We've also been able to access first class learning, development and fellowship opportunities for our staff in a supportive environment that allows for open dialogue and mutual respect, no matter what the subject is.

As a community of Christian practitioners in the relief and development space, it has been so helpful to be able to share stories and lessons and to understand to an even greater extent how much more we can achieve when we are in unity. We are stronger together and Kentro is a great place to work that out.

- Andy Harrington, Executive Director, CFGB



Susan Kareia shows maize harvested from her farm in Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya. Her husband Gerald Ndumpa, was trained to pass on conservation agriculture farming knowledge to other farmers in his area through a program of Foodgrains Bank member The United Church of Canada. (Photo: Mwangi Kirubi)



Yemen is home to one of the greatest humanitarian emergencies of our time. Through our member The Christian and Missionary Alliance, we provided emergency food to families forced from their home by conflict and suffering from severe hunger.



Member Impact Story

Health Partners International of Canada

"As a small organization, Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) sometimes needs support in amplifying our voice to reach a wider audience and educate them about our mission.



We do some truly incredible work in improving global health, but if no one knows about us or our work, our impact will be diminished.

Being connected by Kentro Christian Network has opened HPIC up to a whole community of similar development organizations and gives us the opportunity for collaboration.

There are so many organizations doing incredible, world-changing work, and Kentro lifts us all up and fosters a community of passionate do-gooders. We all need to work together to bring about meaningful change, and HPIC looks forward to many years of continued collaboration with Kentro Christian Network."

- Catherine Sharouty
Programs Director, Health Partners International of Canada

ADRA

"ADRA Canada has greatly benefited from the connections and tools provided through Kentro activities.

Most recently, our office's protocols and procedures were informed and/or confirmed by the tools and strategies shared concerning back-to-work during a pandemic, as well as staff safety as they begin traveling again.

We are proud to be a member of Kentro. ADRA Canada's mission is 'to serve humanity so all may live as God intended.'

Our membership in Kentro helps us pursue our mission with excellence. We are encouraged and empowered by the connections we make through the association as each member strives to show God's justice, compassion, and love to a world in need."

-Steve Matthews
Executive Director, ADRA Canada



Member Impact Story

Medical Ministry International & FAIR

"It was at a Kentro meeting that we got to know Leanne Ferris of MMI (Medical Ministry International). When FAIR first heard about the work that MMI does to bring medical care and the Gospel to Indigenous communities in remote areas of the Amazon Rainforest, we knew that we needed to be involved.

For many years, people living deep in the Amazon Rainforest did not have access to medical care nor did they have the opportunity to develop relationships with Christians who could introduce them to Jesus, their Creator and Saviour.

In only the most urgent of situations, the Colombian Airforce would airlift patients to a nearby city for medical care. But over the past nine years, MMI has worked to meet some of this medical and spiritual need by sending local Colombian health care professionals along with skilled North American volunteers into these communities. Imagine how exciting it would be for a team of doctors and nurses to come to you across such great distances!

Because of this, MMI was uniquely positioned to respond to the COVID crisis in the Amazon, and FAIR decided to partner with them on their work.



After this first project, we decided that we also wanted to more regularly support their medical work in the Amazon Jungle amongst First Nations communities.

MMI has developed long-term relationships with communities in two regions of Colombia. In the Leticia Region of southern Colombia, teams regularly travel to 30 surrounding villages providing much-needed health care that otherwise would not be accessible, while also introducing people to Jesus. And on the remote Igara Parana River, a base was established in a central village with the goal of planting a House of Prayer church, developing a Biblical training centre in order to equip leaders of future House of Prayer in neighbouring villages, and providing regular medical support from MMI teams.



Photos



Compassion



Emmanuel International



Wellspring



EduDeo



International Teams

Photos



Compassion



World Vision



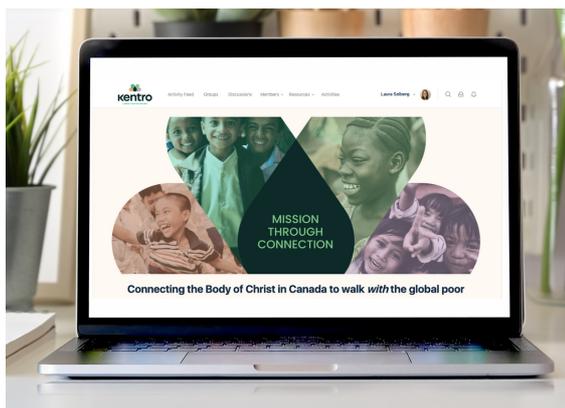
Plateau Perspectives

New Name, New Brand and Member Connect Platform

In February 2022, we announced our new name, Kentro Christian Network, complete with our new brand, website and Member Connect digital platform.

Our new name, Kentro Christian Network, reflects that Jesus continues to unite us in our shared mandate to partner with the global poor. Kentro, Greek for "centre," recognizes our renewed vision to continue to act as a hub of collaboration for Canadian relief and development organizations to work together to create more measurable change, and that Jesus is at the centre of us and the communities we exist to serve.

We know that to move our organizations' missions forward and benefit from our collective wisdom in fighting poverty and injustice, we need people like you who are willing to connect and engage. Our new Member Connect platform delivers an easy-to-use, integrated user experience for our members to:



- Connect and collaborate directly with individuals and teams from more than 50 relief and development organizations.
- Locate people and organizations working in the same geographical area or programming focus as your organization with our interactive map.
- Revisit webinars, share learnings, and establish best practices on critical topics like creation care, fundraising and disaster response in real-time.

“

"Being part of Kentro's Preferred Partner Network has been enriching. The Network offers opportunities for a more complete service when one organization is unable to engage all on its own."
 - Denis St-Amour
 (Preferred Partner)

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Annual Events

In 2021, Kentro hosted 2 annual events that we had online again due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. For our Annual Forum in May, we hosted 3 keynote speakers:

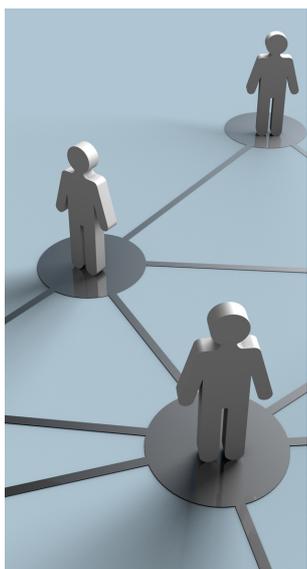


Dr. Ken Muma (Executive Director – AIC Kijabe Hospital), Dr. Terry LeBlanc (Founding Chair and Director of NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community), and Onome Ako (Former Executive Director of Amref Health Africa in Canada) on the topic of “Diversity in International Development: A Call to Reflection and Action”. We had over 100 people attend this event from across the country.

In September, our Annual Workshop was focused on very practical learning opportunities led by our network of Preferred Partners, with our time book-ended by space for inspiration and spiritual formation led by Cheryl Bear and Sara Williamson-Bynoe. We had over 75 people attend this event from across the country.

Webinars

At Kentro, we believe it is important to learn from each other regularly as we are a community of Christ-centred organizations who desire to share skills, knowledge and support one another. In order to facilitate this mutual learning relationship, in May 2017, we introduced our first series of monthly webinars which feature one of our members or an expert in a relevant field on a topic of their expertise. Since May 2021, we have featured the following topics in our webinar series:



- Improving the Stories we Tell with Paul Bettings, [Paul Bettings Photography](#).
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Decolonization in a Biblical Context, with Bernadette Arthur, [Co-Culture Collective](#) **This webinar was offered 3 times with Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3.
- From Silos to Systems Thinking, with Chris Bosch, [Chisel Consulting](#).
- Good Governance Panel, Facilitated by Phil Reilly and with Panelists Ed Wilson, Suanne Miedema, and Brinsley Saleken.
- Designing Reports that People will Want to Read, with Antoinette Burrell, [Burrell Creative](#).
- How to Craft Money-Raising Fundraising Offers That Open Hearts and Wallets with Mike Duerksen, [BuildGood](#).

Partnerships

Preferred Partner Network

Through our Preferred Partner Network, we have initiated and continued partnerships with a variety of organizations, institutions, and companies that serve the relief and development sector, including training discount partnerships with Plan to Protect and Arrow Leadership Ministries.

In Fall 2019, we formed an official partnership with the Chalmers Center at Covenant College which ensures that our Kentro members have a free license to access the Chalmers Online Learning Platform. We also formed a partnership with Wheaton College of Graduate Studies to offer our members tuition discounts on their M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership Program.

The Preferred Partner Network also features a select group of pre-vetted consultants that have committed to work within the collaborative spirit of Kentro at accessible rates for our members. A list of our current Preferred Partner Network consultants can be found here: [Preferred Partners Network – Kentro Christian Network \(kentronetwork.ca\)](https://kentronetwork.ca)

Memberships

We maintain memberships with the Canadian Center for Christian Charities, Cooperation Canada, the Ontario Council for International Cooperation and the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. We regularly look for ways to collaborate with these organizations and share information and networking opportunities from them to benefit our membership.



Affinity Groups

In Spring 2019, we initiated Affinity Groups for members to share experiences and challenges, learn from one another, and make connections with a network of like-minded individuals.

In the last year, the following Affinity Groups have formed and met quarterly: Fundraising, Disaster Relief, Senior Leaders Operations, Programs, Prayer, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL).

In Winter 2021, we initiated two Task Forces for members to take a step further in their learning and action with other Kentro members to affect change: Equity, Diversity & Belonging and Creation Care.

These groups developed a learning journey/strategy and are finalizing a resource bank for equipping members which they will share on Member Connect portal and will present at our Forum in May.

“ Through forums, affinity groups, in-person and online events, Kentro has provided a space where we can connect with a diverse group of fellow professionals, encourage and pray for each other, and stand with each other in our work.
- Wellspring
(Member)

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Newsletter

Kentro's newsletter is distributed to members quarterly (with the Annual Report comprising the spring's quarter) via email. For each issue, member agencies are invited to write about a specific theme in addition to submitting general news and announcements.

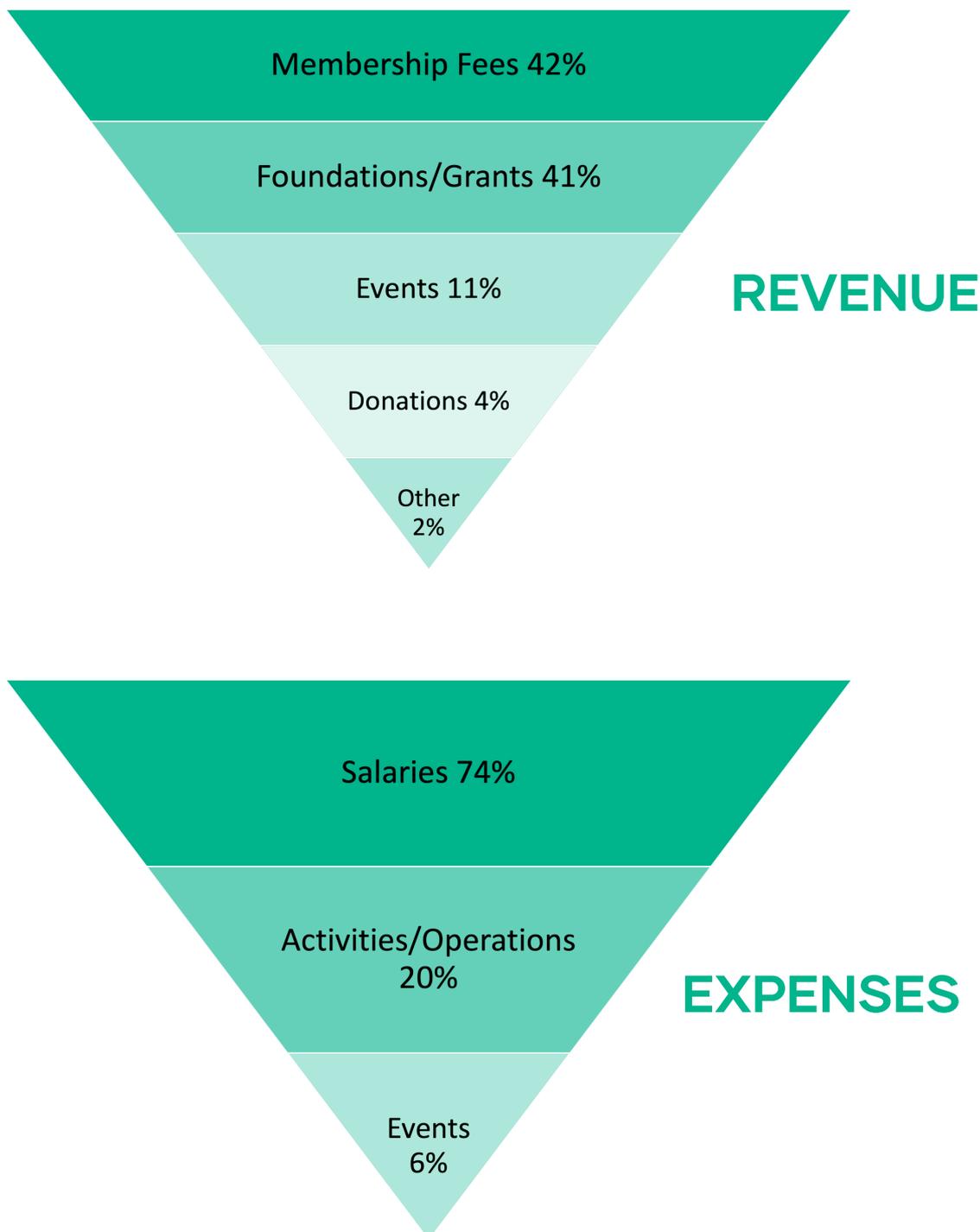
This publication is meant to act as a forum where members can keep each other informed, share their knowledge, and learn from others' best practices.

Since last summer, the newsletter has focused on the following themes: COVID-19: Adapting to the New Normal, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Highlights of 2021 and Plans for 2022.



Finances

Financial stewardship and integrity are important to Kentro. Each year we engage an outside firm to complete a full audit of our finances. Below is a snapshot from 2021. The full Audited Financial Statements can be found on our [website](#).



Board and Staff

Board members are elected by the Network from among member organizations. The Kentro staff is a small but dedicated team, alongside many valued volunteers and collaborators, that keeps the whole Network going.



Greg Reader (Chair)
International Teams



Laura Scolberg
Executive Director,
Kentro



Joella Reitsma
Director of Operations
and Programs, Kentro



Peter Lublink (Treasurer)
Bethany Kids



Claudia Berloni
World Vision Canada



Gina Jacklin
Hope Story



Allison Alley
Compassion Canada



Jose Prem
Childcare International



Ryan Geleyse
EduDeo Ministries

★ Gina Jacklin has resigned as of April 2022

Closing

The problem of poverty is huge – felt both locally and internationally. No one organization can conquer poverty on their own. Kentro Christian Network member organizations know this better than anyone. The stories in this Annual Report give practical examples of how Kentro is connecting people and organizations to the bigger picture.

Whether it's medical care in the Amazon, or gardens in Ethiopia; amplifying the voice of smaller organizations to a larger audience, or helping larger organizations pursue their missions with excellence, Kentro connects the Body of Christ in Canada and around the world to pursue flourishing for people and communities globally.

Having gone through a significant rebranding this past year, including a name change, the staff and board of Kentro are more thankful than ever for our members, subscribers, partners and funders. Those networks of relationships are the richness of Kentro. While our name has changed, our shared faith and purpose remains the same. Our new name, Kentro, the Greek word for "centre", puts our relationship with Christ at the core.

As I look toward another year, I am filled with grateful anticipation for what God is going to continue to do in and through this amazing Network. World circumstances and events continue to point us to the need for God's grace and love. Despite the poverty, injustice, war and environmental degradation that we see on a daily basis – God. Is. Moving. And we get to be part of that. We are not alone, disconnected, and small in the face of a vast problem.

We are together and God is moving. Take heart. Have courage. And stay connected!

In unity,

Laura Solberg
Executive Director





Relief | Development | Justice

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