Cassava project earns kudos

“You all should be proud of your accomplishments. You made the most of this grant opportunity. You never forgot nor strayed from the purpose of this project – to create a commercially sustainable, quality-assured cassava seed system. You pursued that purpose with focus and determination and the wisdom to learn and adjust when necessary to overcome obstacles. You leveraged the principles of good business to develop something sustainable. You have been true pioneers, doing something that most said could not be done, doing something courageous, new, innovative, inspirational, and important. Something that you and others are building on.”

Lawrence Kent
Senior Program Officer, Agriculture
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

On our cover

Within just two years of joining GROW (Greater Opportunities for Rural Women) in Ghana, soybean farmer Assibi Sumani has been able to work with her husband to build a new home for her family and send her children to school using the profits from her crops.

FY2017 HIGHLIGHTS

• 91M families moving out of poverty through our work and investments in 60 countries
• Private contributions reach record high thanks to our generous individual MEDA donors!
• 417 attend MEDA convention in San Antonio, Texas, featuring the theme, Women Changing the World
• Healthy $2.6M net surplus!
• 2 new projects signed; 5 new projects launched
Executive view

Once again, we are happy to have good news to share. It is a pleasure to report on a successful year of creating business solutions to poverty.

We are grateful to our worldwide MEDA team, who are committed and have worked so hard to ensure that we met and even exceeded our FY17 goals.

MEDA’s positive impact continues to expand. This year with your generous support we were able to help 91 million families in 60 countries through our work with 322 partners. In addition to the 615,000 lead firms, farmers and entrepreneurs served by our projects, small and medium enterprises where MEDA has an investment served 90.6 million customers.

The center spread of this annual report illustrates four particular projects and the way in which we quickly multiply the impact when we scale up our work and maximize the power of our investments.

We are exceedingly grateful for our philanthropic MEDA supporters, whose generosity resulted in a record high $6.5 million in private contributions.

We are particularly gratified as we embark on a large, five-year campaign to raise $50 million to support our mission of creating business solutions to poverty. Funding from institutional donors multiplied the impact of your gifts, for a total budget of $27.2 million.

With our customary stewardship and judicious use of these gifts, we realized a healthy $948,000 operating surplus, in addition to a $1.67 million equity gain in our Sarona Risk Capital Fund, where it will be invested again and again.

MEDA continues to work toward a more just and peaceful existence by building bridges. The bridges we build are the ties between people and communities, partnering and collaborating to strengthen local organizations, businesses, entrepreneurs and their families – bridges that increase understanding and strengthen our relationships. We do this by improving lives and livelihoods, because enduring livelihoods are vital to long-term peace and economic growth.

We are grateful for the very committed staff and the continued trust and faithful generosity of our loyal supporters in the sharing of your gifts of time, talent and financial support.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment, for walking alongside us, and with people living in poverty, to build bridges to enduring livelihoods.

Allan Sauder
President

Albert Friesen
Chair
Why is MEDA focusing on lead firms?

First, let’s look at what we mean by lead firms.

Lead firms – generally larger, more formal companies – have links to smaller enterprises in a symbiotic relationship. Small entrepreneurs rely on a lead firm for inputs – seeds or other supplies – and also to sell their products.

Lead firms play a pivotal role in moving their industry and others in the value chain forward. They are often involved in aggregating the production of smaller players in their network. They have a commercial interest in small entrepreneurs and potential leverage to impact them – key characteristics of interest for economic development.

MEDA is working with lead firms as an entry point to reach small farmers and enterprises in that chain. There are several potential benefits:

**Scale**

By working with one lead firm, we can reach hundreds, if not thousands, of independent actors, providing essential training and access to financial services, supplies and equipment to help small players prosper.

Lead firms also receive incentives to expand their operations, to improve outreach to women or youth, for environmental upgrades, and often to benefit larger numbers of small producers.

**Cost savings**

With a ‘lighter touch’ on MEDA’s end, direct implementation costs per client are sharply reduced, so every dollar invested in the project by funding institutions and individual donors goes further and has greater impact.

**Sustainability**

Simultaneously, MEDA helps the lead firm improve its internal capacity by providing business training, funds and technical assistance to strengthen the business, making it more effective in its role, and ensuring its longevity as a key resource for others in the chain.

MEDA is successfully applying the lead firm approach in three current projects:

- **UHBDP** Ukraine Horticulture Business Development Project
- **SSBVC** Strengthening Small Business Value Chains – known in Tanzania as *Kuza Biashara Sawia*
- **M-SAWA** Equitable Prosperity – or *Maendeleo Sawa* as it is known in Kenya
Multiplying our impact with lead firms

How three projects are leveraging the potential of lead firms

**Agro-Patriot (UHBDP)**

- **Garlic grower and exporter**
  - Odessa Region, Ukraine
  - Matching grant recipient, UHBDP (Ukraine Horticulture Business Development Project)
  - Their vision is to become a recognized supplier of quality garlic by establishing a sustainable farmer aggregation model and an efficient production/post-harvest/sales supply chain.
  - They plan to increase cultivation to 50 hectares (15 in 2014) and revenue 10-15%. By 2020, they plan to be buying 100 tons of garlic a year.
  - Agro-Patriot received a matching grant in 2016 to buy a combine harvester and line machine, increasing sorting efficiency.
  - This reduced harvest costs and encouraged them to work with more farmers in innovative ways.
  - A second grant will be used to build a 1,000-ton cold storage and processing facility, greatly increasing quality and gross margins by 10%.

**HomeVeg (SSBVC)**

- **Exporter of fresh vegetables**
  - Working with small farmers in Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Tanga regions
  - Through SSBVC (Strengthening Small Business Value Chains), HomeVeg plans to increase 3,000 farmers’ knowledge of good agricultural practices (GAP), increase farmers’ incomes 75%, and increase snap pea production.
  - In addition to gender training, they plan to help farmers adapt to climate change by adopting greenhouse production and certification.
  - HomeVeg has built five greenhouses for farmers to reduce post-harvest losses due to disease, and added cold room equipment – refrigerated truck, food grade tables, produce crates, packing equipment – to their operation.
  - They have provided entrepreneurship training to 65 women farmers, who shared it with 375 women, and environmental sustainability training and GAP training to 716 farmers.

**Equator (M-SAWA)**

- **Exporter of African bird’s eye (ABE) chilies**
  - 16 Full Time + 44 seasonal/casual staff
  - Network of 7,000 small farmers in Kenya
  - First grantee signed by M-SAWA – Equitable Prosperity – Maendeleo Sawa in Kiswahili, Kenya
  - As part of M-SAWA, Equator aims to increase production and exports to meet growing market demand by improving farmer production and profitability, and increasing their network to 10,000 farmers.
  - Equator aims to reach 500 tons a year within three years, in a market estimated at 1,000 tons annually.
  - Equator has created six demo farms and trained 800 farmers in crop scouting, nutrient needs and safe pesticide use.
  - They also have conducted gender and environmental sustainability training for staff and farmers, and mapped farmers eligible for drip irrigation and water pumps.
FY17 Operational Highlights

Projects signed*

- Trading Up (global) – 2017-2022
  Global Affairs Canada - $14.7M
  Access to finance for 12,000 small-medium enterprises, more secure jobs for 1.6M workers, market linkages for 50,000 small entrepreneurs

- Techno-Links+ Nicaragua – 2016-2021
  Global Affairs Canada - $6.9M
  Boost productivity, quality and profitability for 35,000 farmers, 85 processors and distributors, create 850 new jobs

Projects launched*

- ENGINE, Tanzania – 2016-2020
  USAID - $3.4M
  Business development services and matching innovation grants for small/medium enterprises; ‘smart incentives’ for women and youth

- Jordan Valley Links – 2016-2021
  Global Affairs Canada - $14.4M
  25,000 women and youth increasing their incomes through access to finance, business services

- INNOVATE (global) – 2017-2020
  IDRC - $1.7M
  Enabling large-scale adoption of agricultural innovations among small farmers through pilot projects and case studies

- Nigeria WAY – 2017-2021
  Global Affairs Canada - $11.3M
  Opportunities for women and youth by improving performance of 16,000 entrepreneurs and small businesses

- BEST Cassava, Tanzania – 2017-2021
  Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - $11.7M – Building a cassava seed system – 400 seed entrepreneurs, 29,000 farmers

Projects wrapping up*

- INFRONT (global) – 2013-2017
  Global Affairs Canada - $19.8M
  MEDA provided support to small and medium enterprises so they could grow and flourish. 6M clients impacted, 4,600 new jobs through $128M investment portfolio in 100 companies, and 30 matching grants in 16 countries.

- Masava, Tanzania – 2014-2017
  IDRC - $3.2M – MEDA made Vitamin A-fortified sunflower oil available to 65,000 women and children – those most at risk of serious deficiency.

  UNCDF - $1M – MEDA made innovative savings products more accessible for low-income rural families, particularly women.

Highlights

- Libya Women Economic Empowerment (LWEE) recently introduced Brightspace, an online learning tool from Desire2Learn (D2L). Early success in reaching 300 women in remote or challenging locations and in a culturally sensitive manner has been encouraging.

- MEDA hopes to relaunch Themar in early FY18. The project to provide access to financial services for women and youth in Yemen was put on hold soon after war broke out in 2015.

- Improving Market Opportunities for Women (IMOW) in Myanmar recently launched its Innovation Fund, a matching grant program for agricultural enterprises interested in increasing inclusivity of women farmers.

- MEDA piloted its Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) framework, which helps enterprises and investors improve women’s empowerment. MEDA piloted GEM with seven companies in India and Indonesia from a range of sectors. The framework and pilot research are building the business case for gender lens investing.

- Global Affairs Canada’s new Feminist International Assistance Policy targets gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Like MEDA, GAC knows that empowering women makes families and countries more prosperous.

*Project values in US dollars
Building on our Successes

MEDA’s approach to our work always is to improve upon our past efforts: to innovate, to find better and more efficient ways to alleviate poverty, and to scale the impacts of our investments. Below are two more examples where institutional donors agreed with MEDA’s direction and entrusted us to build upon our past successes and to scale our outreach and results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>COMPLETED</strong></th>
<th><strong>Techno-Links</strong></th>
<th><strong>Techno-Links+</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Nicaragua, Peru, Zambia</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Nicaragua</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2011–2014</strong></td>
<td><strong>350,000 rural families living in remote areas</strong></td>
<td><strong>2016–2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5,000 small farmers</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,000 small farmers</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Rural families living in remote areas gained access to financial services</strong> through new technology and partnerships with local institutions</td>
<td><strong>85 processors &amp; distributors</strong></td>
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<td><strong>850 new jobs will be created in the agri-food sector</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Government institutions strengthened for supporting cassava seed system to maintain sustainability once project ends</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Families in impoverished rural areas of northern Nicaragua will improve their livelihoods through increased agricultural productivity, product quality and profitability</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NICARAGUA</strong></th>
<th><strong>TANZANIA</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MMB</strong></td>
<td><strong>BEST Cassava</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Mihogo Mbegu Bingwa</em> (Cassava Seed Champion)</td>
<td><strong>Building an Economically-Sustainable Seed System in Tanzania for Cassava</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2012–2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017–2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*<em>218 <em>CSEs</em></em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>13,000+ small farmers</strong></td>
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FY17: Impact by the numbers

MEDA continued to make a lasting impact in FY17, helping **91 million families** in **60 countries** realize healthier, more economically sustainable lives through our work with **322 partners**.

**MEDA GROW**

- **5 KEY FACILITATING PARTNERS**
- **10+ SMEs**
- **1000+ LEAD FARMERS**
- **20,000 WOMEN FARMERS**
- **140,000 INDIRECT CLIENTS** (FAMILY MEMBERS)

**MEDA MASAVA**

- **3 SMEs**
- **319 RETAILERS**
- **400,000 CUSTOMERS**

---

**SMEs**: SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
**GROW**: GREATER RURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN  
**MASAVA**: NATURAL SUNFLOWER OIL FORTIFIED WITH VITAMIN A  
**UHBDP**: UKRAINE HORTICULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Here’s how three projects plus SRCF quickly multiply impact as we scale up and maximize the power of our investments.
EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MOBILE TRANSFERS

Zoona offers money transfers, savings products and payment services, as well as entrepreneur credit. Mobile phones and an agent network serve rural African communities and people without access to financial services.

MEDA’s Sarona Risk Capital Fund invested in Zoona, and three MEDA field consultants provided technical expertise to the company. MEDA recently sold half its stake in the company at a healthy profit. That money will be returned to the Sarona Risk Capital Fund and re-invested in new projects.

MEDA will sell its remaining shares in ZOONA in 2020, provided sales targets are reached.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVED LIVES

MEDA helped Zoona expand its agent network, grow market presence, empower young women, and launch a pilot that gave e-vouchers to farmers. Small farmers received e-vouchers instead of cash for cotton crops. This helped farm families manage crop incomes better and save for future purchases. Vouchers could be used at Zoona registered businesses to buy farm inputs, hardware and household staples.

MEDA helped Zoona reach 330,000 clients and expand to 230 locations over three years. Zoona now works in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, and has 1,500+ agents, 2,500 locations, and 1.5+ million active customers.

* (SAM) Sarona Asset Management, a for-profit asset management company established by MEDA to invest in private companies in developing countries, was spun off in 2011. MEDA remains a minority shareholder.

* MicroVest, a for-profit asset management company in which MEDA was a founding partner in 2003, invests in microfinance institutions in under-served markets.
People with a Passion for MEDA

Dan Nussbaum & Shanti DeFehr

We always knew that at some point we needed to do something for other people. A couple of years ago we looked at each other and decided the time is now.

Q: How did you get involved with MEDA?
A: Dan attended his first convention in 1993 or 1994 in South Bend, IN, as a student at Goshen College. He has always respected MEDA and the things they did. Growing up in Kidron, OH, he remembers his parents attending local chapter meetings and events.

Q: How does supporting MEDA help you live out your values?
A: As an adoptee from Bangladesh and having studied international relations, giving back to other people in the world has been an important part of Shanti’s life. For Dan, MEDA’s business perspective on economic development was key – the longer-term vision, and global rather than local focus. Shanti and Dan – having lived all over the world and having children who were born in Bangkok and London – have a global perspective.

Q: How has this been a transformative experience for you?
A: “We always knew that at some point we needed to do something for other people. A couple of years ago we looked at each other and decided the time is now.” They have been to convention, but never on a trip to a project, so Dan will be part of the Myanmar on the Move field experience trip to Myanmar in November 2017. It will be his third visit to the country, having gone 13 years ago for the first time, then again two years ago. Dan is anxious to see MEDA’s work first hand, taking it from the abstract to the real.

Q: What would you like to say to others to inspire them to give?
A: “We don’t need to promote our giving – we like to give quietly. But we are in our mid-40s, so we are still young. People often wait, but we would like to encourage them to take the opportunity to get involved sooner. We have an obligation to show the next generation what we can do. There are plenty of people our age who have the means to do more than they are doing today. I think our parents did a better job than us.”

Meeting women’s groups in Nyaung Bin Thar village has definitely been a highlight of my work in Myanmar so far! They have called this village a leprosy colony since the early days. Villagers have been outcasts for years – not allowed to move to other places, go to school or receive basic services.

Our local partner, Shwe In Thu (SIT), mobilized the village women as part of MEDA’s IMOW (Improving Market Opportunities for Women) project. The women are so happy to be given back the dignity they have been longing for.

Stigma has lessened: They are receiving technical support and basic services, can farm and go to market to sell their harvest and buy for their needs; their children are now sent to school.

When we visited they kept on thanking us. It was just so heartbreaking! I couldn’t help myself from crying as I heard their stories. When we said goodbye, they told us to come back and we all said yes, we will continue to visit you here.

Now I know why I am here in Myanmar and I thank God that MEDA sent me here for a much bigger purpose!

Catherine Sobrevega
Deputy Country Project Manager, IMOW

Catherine Sobrevega, deputy country project manager, IMOW, at the Strength of Women Farmers photography show in Yangon, Myanmar, with two of the farmers in the Improving Market Opportunities for Women project. The show was organized in honor of Canada’s 150th birthday and Myanmar Women’s Day.

People with a Passion for MEDA

Catherine Sobrevega, deputy country project manager, IMOW, at the Strength of Women Farmers photography show in Yangon, Myanmar, with two of the farmers in the Improving Market Opportunities for Women project. The show was organized in honor of Canada’s 150th birthday and Myanmar Women’s Day.
Your Engagement

We are humbled by the amazing generosity of MEDA supporters. Once again, we received record contributions as opportunities to engage with our mission grew.

Thank you!

Extraordinary generosity marks FY17

Contributions of $6.5 million – Thanks to our generous donors! Gifts were up 3% over FY16 and 9% over target.

New ways to engage with MEDA:

- Women Empowering Women groups
- Women Walking to GROW
- World Night Market – 8,000 attended events in Lancaster and Souderton, PA
- Myanmar on the Move initiative

This year also marked the departure of Wally Kroeker as editor of The Marketplace. We welcomed Mike Strathdee as he assumed the reins.

Women Walking to GROW

peopleCare COO Elaine Shantz continued the organization’s long-time partnership with MEDA last year as she launched Women Walking to GROW with fellow business executive Miriam Turnbull, VP at ProResp. The women embarked on a long journey to inspire leadership among their own staff and women an ocean away by trekking Ontario’s 900-km Bruce Trail in support of MEDA’s GROW – Greater Rural Opportunities for Women – project in Ghana.

22,376
MEDA SUPPORTERS
incl. 899 VOTING MEMBERS

417
ATTEND MEDA CONVENTION
in San Antonio, TX

PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS UP
3% over FY16
MEDA celebrated its 2016 convention theme of **Women Changing the World** in San Antonio, TX, with awards to 10 young exceptional women who exude a strong commitment to faith values and service and embody an entrepreneurial spirit. The recipients included, left to right, Carissa Rempel, Arborg, MB; Melisa Baez, Lancaster, PA; Salima Jaffer, Toronto, ON, and Audra Miller, San Francisco, CA. Not pictured: Leena Miller Cressman, Kitchener, ON; Kelly Shenk Koontz, Boston, MA; Mary Fehr, Sarasota, FL; Ishita Aggarwal, Toronto, ON; Kate Stoltzfus, Pittsburgh, PA, and Janae Dagen, Lancaster, PA.

MEDA supporters on a recent field experience trip to Nicaragua had the opportunity to meet sewing sisters Rosaura and Maria del Rosario Castillo of Granada. In five years as MiCredito clients, access to financial services has ensured them a stable income. With credit, they were able to grow their business. MEDA organized three trips last year to Nicaragua, Ghana and Ukraine, giving 45 people the chance to witness our work in action. **Join us on a future trip. Contact Carol Eby-Good by email - trips@meda.org or call 1.800.665.7026.**
Financials

### Consolidated Balance Sheet - Unaudited

#### As at June 30, 2017 (stated in '000s US Dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and short term investments</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16,984</td>
<td>16,985</td>
<td>14,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable and other current assets</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>1,516</td>
<td>1,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances to related parties and partner agencies</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Non-current assets                          |                                    |                      |            |            |
| Investments and loans receivable            | 19,164                             | -                    | 19,164     | 17,841     |
| MEDA member direct investments and loans receivable | 1,229                        | -                    | 1,229      | 970        |
| Capital assets                              | -                                  | 735                  | 735        | 988        |

#### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>2,109</td>
<td>2,231</td>
<td>1,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred grants and contracts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,853</td>
<td>11,853</td>
<td>10,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred contributions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to related parties and partner agencies</td>
<td>1,471</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-1,471</td>
<td>-130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of notes payable</td>
<td>3,199</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,199</td>
<td>2,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Long term liabilities                        |                                    |                      |            |            |
| Notes payable                                | 6,191                             | 176                   | 6,367      | 7,858      |

| Net assets                                  |                                    |                      |            |            |
| Subvention certificates                      | 10                                 | -                    | 10         | 10         |
| Sarona Risk Capital Fund                     | 9,899                              | -                    | 9,899      | 8,229      |
| Unrestricted                                 | -                                  | 6,568                | 6,568      | 5,749      |

| Consolidated Statement of Operations and Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets - Unaudited
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| For the Year Ended June 30, 2017 (stated in '000s US Dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>MEDA Sarona Risk Capital Fund 2017</th>
<th>MEDA Operations 2017</th>
<th>Total 2017</th>
<th>Total 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable contributions</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>5,013</td>
<td>6,263</td>
<td>6,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contracts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,836</td>
<td>13,836</td>
<td>10,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,486</td>
<td>4,486</td>
<td>3,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention and tours</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized investment income</td>
<td>2,029</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,030</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses                                     |                                    |                      |            |            |
| Constituency engagement                      | -                                  | 1,095                | 1,095      | 1,020      |
| Development programs                         | -                                  | 20,294               | 20,294     | 16,790     |
| Resource development                         | -                                  | 1,622                | 1,622      | 1,851      |
| Sarona Risk Capital Fund operating costs     | 1,167                              | -                    | 1,167      | 1,035      |
| Unrealized investment loss                    | 447                                | -                    | 447        | 537        |
| Other                                        | -                                  | 140                  | 140        | 113        |

| Total Expenses                               | 1,614                              | 23,151               | 24,765     | 21,346     |
| Operating Surplus                            | 1,669                              | 820                   | 2,489      | 662        |

| Unrestricted net assets - beginning of year  | 8,230                              | 5,748                 | 13,978     | 13,316     |

| Subvention Certificate Payments              | 9,899                              | 6,568                 | 16,467     | 13,978     |

| Unrestricted net assets - end of year        | 9,899                              | 6,568                 | 16,467     | 13,978     |

Note: Audited Financial Statements, comprising MEDA’s North American-based operations are available upon request.
MEDA People

Who We Are

Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) is an association of Christians who firmly believe that unleashing entrepreneurial spirit is the best way to alleviate poverty. We believe we are called to live our faith in our own work settings and to create sustainable business solutions to poverty throughout the world.

We are committed to:
• Creating hope for all people by offering economic options and taking a shared risk
• Building relationships on trust, integrity and hospitality that promote peace
• Using the disciplines and structures of business to create innovative and sustainable solutions to poverty

Our Vision

...that all people may experience God’s love and unleash their potential to earn a livelihood, provide for families and enrich their communities.

Our Mission

As an association of Christians, faithful in daily work and committed to sharing abilities and resources, MEDA creates business solutions to poverty.

Engagement with MEDA

We are deeply grateful for the support of the many individuals who are committed to MEDA’s vision, values and programs. We invite all individuals who are interested in business solutions to poverty to join forces with MEDA.

Engagement with MEDA can take various forms:
• Contributing financially to support MEDA’s overall work or a specific project
• Joining or starting a Women Empowering Women group in your region
• Attending a young professionals event in your area – or offering to organize one!
• Getting involved with a MEDA Chapter, where you can share the inspiration and challenges of being faithful in daily work and utilizing your gifts to alleviate poverty
• Attending MEDA’s annual convention or entrepreneurs conference
• Joining us on a field experience to see a MEDA project firsthand
• Serving as a volunteer board member, auditor or consultant
• Hosting an inside MEDA event in your area
• Becoming a voting member of the MEDA association – MEDA members endorse, embrace and promote MEDA’s vision and mission, make an annual financial contribution, and vote at our annual general meeting.

We welcome your inquiries. Call us at 1-800-665-7026.
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ONLINE
WWW.MEDA.ORG
meda@meda.org

TELEPHONE
1.800.665.7026

addresses
155 Frobisher Dr. Ste. I-106
Waterloo, ON, Canada N2V 2E1
T. 519.725.7633
F. 519.725.9083

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