

# coregroup

## 2017

### ANNUAL REPORT





## INTRODUCTION

Dear CORE Group friends and supporters,

2017 marked the 20th year of collaboration and impact for the CORE Group and its members. This has been a busy and exciting year for us and we hope you enjoy reading about the highlights in this special 20th Anniversary Annual report.

For two decades, CORE Group members and partners have collaborated at the country, regional and global levels to improve health for underserved populations. Through flagship programs like the Child Survival Health Grants program, CORE Group Polio Project, Maternal and Child Survival Program, and TOPS, CORE Group members have been collaborating to make a difference for families and communities around the world.

However, despite incredible accomplishments and impact, the need for CORE and its community of practice is still great. Many countries continue to lag behind in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, disease outbreaks continue to crop up around the world, often with insufficient infrastructure to halt their spread, and humanitarian crises threaten the health of millions. Community-centered health is still desperately needed by many women and children around the world, and the need for a community to share knowledge, evidence and best practices for measurable impact is needed now more than ever.

In 2017, CORE continued to expand its member network of organizations and contributors improving the lives and health of people around the world with the addition of nine new organizational, associate and individual members, including new partners that add unique expertise to our community of practice.

CORE's Working Groups continued to be extremely active, leading high-level technical and cross-cutting discussions and producing impactful materials to strengthen global programs on Child Health; Community-Centered Health Systems Strengthening; Monitoring & Evaluation; Nutrition, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn & Adolescent Health; and Social & Behavior Change. Our volunteer-led Working Groups continue to generously lend their time and expertise to this important work and we remain so grateful to the Group Chairs and Members. Interest groups have led important discussions on HIV/AIDS, Immunization, Malaria, mHealth, NCDs, TB and Humanitarian Development. CORE Group also spearheaded the Humanitarian-Development Task Force to address the divide between humanitarian response and development action.

CORE has continued to champion its convener model and the important work of the organization and its members at various high-level meetings, symposiums and roundtables around the world including through organization of the first Institutionalizing Community Health conference in Johannesburg, South Africa; participation in the WHO's World Health Assembly and UN General Assembly for the first time in CORE's history; and a presentation at the 15th World Congress of Public Health representing CORE Group's members.

In October CORE held the Fall 2017 Global Health Practitioner Conference, with a record number of attendees from around the world—261 participants from 20 countries and 74 organizations.

The organization also hosted a celebratory 20th anniversary gala that brought together founders of CORE Group and legacy champions of community health.

Our achievements are in our collective force and dedication to the communities we work together with. In 2018, we seek to deepen our engagement with CORE Group members, partners, donors, youth, and meet their needs for global health learning and collaboration. We are grateful for the support of the CORE community and look forward to our continued efforts to improve and expand community health practices for underserved populations.

Regards,

**Lisa Hilmi**, Executive Director  
and **Erin Stieber**, CORE Group Board Chair

*Cover photography by Lydia Bologna/CORE Group Polio Project, Lawrence Mtimaunenenji/Feed the Children Malawi, and Jenny Stoecker/Medical Teams International (lower photo)*

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

In 2017, CORE Group celebrated its 20th Anniversary, with a rich history of collaboration and accomplishments, and looked forward to embarking on the next phase of CORE Group's strategy to improve and expand community health practices for underserved populations.

## MILESTONES

### ■ CORE Group from 1985 to Today

CORE Group's story actually began years before 1997, with the 1985 launch of the USAID Child Survival and Health Grants Program (CSHGP), which provided grants to PVOs (private voluntary organizations) to operate child survival projects.



*Pupils having lunch at school. Photo by Kepha Machira/Feed the Children Kenya*

### ■ Dory Storms Awards

Since 2001, CORE Group has presented the annual Dory Storms Child Survival Recognition Award to a person or persons who demonstrate courage, leadership, and commitment to helping non-governmental organizations have an impact on and effectively implement programs that end child deaths.

### ■ Membership

CORE Group launched in 1997 as a membership organization, and while our membership has evolved over the years, it has remained central to our mission.

### ■ Working Groups

Working Groups are the heart and soul of CORE Group's International Community Health Network. As the main voluntary mechanism to provide leadership within the network, they implement activities relevant to CORE Group Members and global priorities.

### ■ USAID's Maternal and Child Health Projects

In its early years, CORE Group worked closely with USAID and the Child Survival Technical Support Project to provide technical support to NGO grantees of the Child Survival and Health Grants Program (CSHGP).



Registration at CORE Group's Global Health Practitioner Conference in Fall 2017. Photo by Jason Putsche for CORE Group

*“The fact that the conversations are very grounded and very connected to the field is my biggest takeaway from CORE Group conferences. Every single time.”*

— **ANUPAMA VARMA,**

## ■ TOPS Program

Since 2010, CORE Group has been a partner on The TOPS Program, a USAID/Food for Peace (FFP)-funded program that builds the capacity of FFP grantees and improves the quality of implementation through fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing around food security and nutrition best practices.

## ■ Fall 2017 CORE Group Conference

The CORE Group Fall 2017 Global Health Practitioner Conference brought together representatives of CORE Group Member and Associate Organizations and other community-focused global health practitioners, policy makers, researchers, private sector partners, and donors. Attendees exchanged and learned about community health approaches and good practices, connected with their global health peers, and strategized on joint efforts in Working Groups.

The Conference drew 261 participants from over 20 countries representing 74 organizations and 8 universities. An additional 40 remote participants from around the world joined in the live broadcasts of the keynote and plenaries.

Through the conference theme of “Collaborating for Health Communities: Results, Realities, and Opportunities,” participants identified and discussed results of collaborative action for community health; challenged realities of operations research, program approaches, and changing environments; and explored opportunities for new partnerships and emerging voices for building healthy communities worldwide.

<https://coregroup.org/conference-report/fall-2017-global-health-practitioner-conference/>

## ■ 20th Anniversary Gala

At this memorable night of dinner, music, and dancing, CORE Group celebrated two decades of impact, and recognized those who have transformed CORE Group from an idea into the global force it is today.

# MEMBERSHIP AND WORKING GROUPS

## MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

In 2017, CORE Group welcomed 5 new Members: Americares, ideas42, Medtronic Foundation, Relief International, and White Ribbon Alliance. We also welcomed two new Associate Members: Ascension Global Mission and the Food Aid Quality Review, based at Tufts University. These new Members and Associates join our International Community Health Network of 71 organizations and 15 individuals committed to improving community health worldwide.

Moving forward, CORE Group is working on a plan to include International Organizations officially in its membership to elevate their work at the country-level in the International Community Health Network.

Our membership continues to grow and collaborate through our Working Groups. Our Working Groups are led by Co-Chairs from our Membership, including Advancing Synergy, CARE, Chemonics, Medair, Save the Children, Samaritan's Purse, and more.

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK (YPN)

YPN fosters engagement, collaboration, knowledge sharing, and career development among our young CORE Group members.

Currently YPN has 168 members, 21 to 35-year-old students, interns, and early career professionals.

In March 2017, YPN hosted a facilitation skills workshop together with Mercy Corps, with a particular tool of the trade as the specific focus: Post-It Notes. The workshop touched on facilitation skills and training methods, as well as adult learning principles. In June, YPN hosted an International Development Trivia Night

Visit us: [www.coregroup.org/ypn](http://www.coregroup.org/ypn)



*In 2017, YPN hosted several activities including a Trivia Night on international development and a facilitation skills workshop. Photos by Holly Collins for CORE Group*

## WORKING GROUPS

Working groups made key achievements in 2017. Working Groups push the field of community health forward by focusing on specific technical and cross-cutting issues. The groups are self-organizing, self-governing, and adaptive entities that transcend organizational boundaries. Working Groups develop and implement collaborative activities aimed at improving international health and development. Working Groups are established based on the interest of CORE Group Membership, and often tackle issues at the periphery of the evidence base where the experience of multiple organizations is critical to mainstream best practices. Through CORE Group's Working Groups, dedicated professionals bring their individual and organizational resources to bear, to collectively generate ideas, create knowledge and craft responses that can show health impact on a meaningful scale.

Currently, CORE group has [working groups](#) on:

- Community-Centered Health System Strengthening
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Nutrition
- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn & Adolescent Health
- Social & Behavior Change

**Interest groups** include:

- Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)
- Disability Inclusive Health
- Humanitarian-Development Task Force

Working groups held a variety of webinars in 2017, including:

[Double Burden of Malnutrition](#)

[Maternal and Newborn Health in Crisis and Conflict](#)

[SBC Journal Club – How the REAL Fathers Initiative Reduced Domestic Violence in Northern Uganda](#)



*“CORE is a place to meet people with diverse field affiliations and backgrounds and to engage in productive discussions about where we want to see the global health field move toward in the future.”*

— **CYNTHIA MATARE,**  
Anime World Health

*Photo by Jason Putsche for CORE Group*

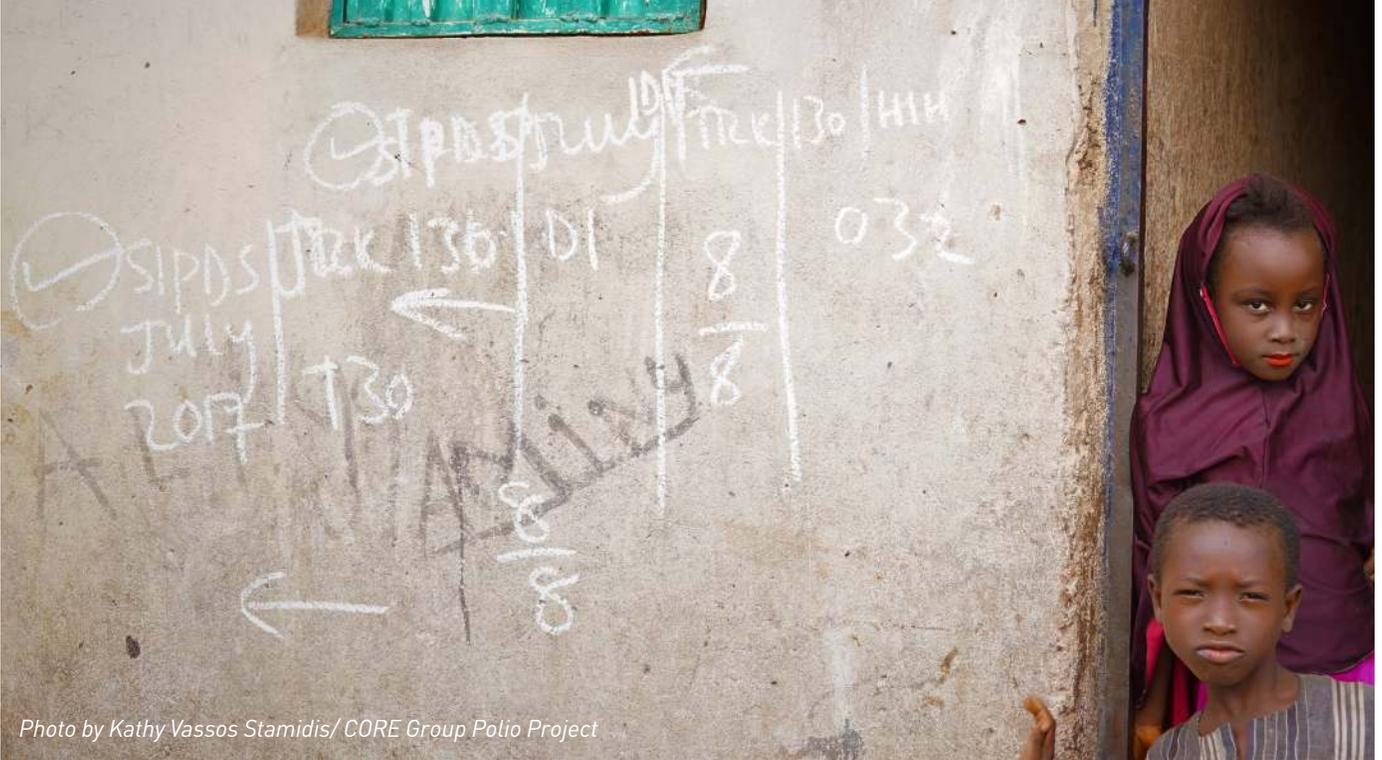


Photo by Kathy Vassos Stamidis/ CORE Group Polio Project

## PROJECTS

### CORE GROUP POLIO PROJECT

Only 20 Wild Polio Virus cases have been confirmed in 2017. There were only 37 confirmed cases in 2016 and 72 cases in 2015, all record low years. Over the past 18 years, the CORE Group Polio Project has made significant contributions to polio eradication and developed an effective consortium model and community strategies that can and have been replicated by others.

Read more in the 2017 annual report <https://coregroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CGPP-Annual-Report-2017-Final-rev1.16.18-.pdf>



Photo by Lydia Bologna/ CORE Group Polio Project

## TOPS

TOPS ended in February 2018. 2017 was our closeout year. Below are some of the highlights for the KM Team for our final year on The TOPS Program.

### TOPS FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting

The tenth and final TOPS FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting: *Successes, Challenges, and the Way Forward: Seven Years of Community Building*, took place July 19-20, 2017 in Washington, DC. The two-day conference was the culmination of seven years of learning and collaboration led by TOPS to strengthen food security and nutrition programming through community building and knowledge sharing. The event welcomed 208 implementers, donors and researchers from 60 organizations in 12 countries, and hosted 12 concurrent sessions, 17 table topics and three plenary sessions.

Participants reflected upon the collective accomplishments of TOPS and its implementer-led community of practice the Food Security and Nutrition Network while exchanging promising practices and new learning around emerging food security and nutrition topics. Matt Nims, Acting Director, USAID's Office of Food for Peace delivered the Knowledge Sharing Meeting's keynote highlighting the increasing role food security and nutrition play in delivering emergency and development programming to the world's most vulnerable.

[Starting Dialogue, Building Community: Seven Years of Knowledge Sharing Meetings](#)

[Photo gallery](#)



*Meeting attendees of the 2017 TOP/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting participate in a small group discussion.  
Photo by Adam Lowe for The TOPS Program*

### FFP Niger and Burkina Faso Implementation Review Workshop, May 16-18, 2017

USAID's Office of Food for Peace invited the TOPS Program to design and facilitate a 3-day Implementation Review Workshop for its Niger and Burkina Faso Development Food Aid Program (DFAP) portfolio of five projects. The Workshop focused on providing guidance that would be useful for implementing partners as they approach the final 18 months of programming. The three days were comprised of sessions that prioritized learning and exchange of what has worked, what has not worked, and how can this learning be incorporated in the final year and a half of programming.

Forty-nine participants attended the meeting. USAID representatives were from USAID FFP/ Washington, DC, USAID Bureau for Food Security, Bureau for Global Health, Center for Resilience, Sahel Regional Offices, USAID FFP/Niger, and USAID FFP/Burkina Faso. The DFAP portfolio was represented by the implementing partners – Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, and ACDI/VOCA. Representatives from the SAREL Project were also in attendance. Finally, government officials from Niger and Burkina Faso who are involved on the projects also participated.

## Stakeholder Consultation: Development Food Assistance Design, August 7, 2017

USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) requested TOPS to hold a Stakeholder Consultation on the accompanying documents of Request for Applications (RFAs) for Development Food Security Assistance (DFSA) projects. These documents include, but not limited to, the FFP Technical Reference Chapters, Country Specific Information, Market Analyses, Country Desk Reviews, and Environmental Fact Sheets. The objective of the consultation was to capture the experience of past RFA applicants in using these materials in order to better understand their effectiveness and utility. 56 people attended in-person and online.

The TOPS Knowledge Management Specialist and TOPS Knowledge Management Officer attended KM4Dev's Communities of Practice (COPs) Workshop in Seattle, Washington on April 6-7, 2017. The event revolved around the sharing of knowledge and experience in the creation, management, and sustenance of communities of practice. During the event, the TOPS KM Team hosted discussions on the challenges of online engagement and shared the successful strategies the program had used to mitigate this. As a result of this event, the TOPS KM team were invited to participate in setting up a DC chapter of the global Knowledge Management for Development (KM4Dev) community of practice.



*Clockwise from above:*

*The TOPS KM Team reflected on the value of COPs during KM4Dev's Communities of Practice (COPs) Workshop.*

*Photo by Adrienne Todela/CORE Group;*

*Participants gather for discussion during the FFP Niger and Burkina Faso Implementation Review Workshop.*

*Photo by Adrienne Todela/CORE Group;*

*A meeting attendee shares her thoughts to the crowd at the 2017 TOPS/FSN Network Knowledge Sharing Meeting.*

*Photo by Adam Lowe for The TOPS Program*

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## MATERNAL AND CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM

2017 was an exceptional year for MCSP, with the Institutionalizing Community Health Conference (IHC) in Johannesburg, South Africa held in March. IHC brought together nearly 400 community health champions from 44 countries, representing multiple sectors. These stakeholders gathered in Johannesburg to share global and country-specific evidence and lessons, as well as to identify opportunities and challenges for institutionalizing community health as an integral component of primary health care. The IHC 10 Critical Principles for Community Health were announced.

IHC resources can be found here. MCSP continued its social accountability work in Malawi, as well as country to country learning opportunities through IHC webinars and country technical support.

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## RESILIENCE, EVALUATION, ANALYSIS AND LEARNING (REAL)

**CORE Group along with other consortium members**, were intricately involved in building the intellectual capital around resilience concepts, analysis, measurement, learning, and knowledge management related to resilience-related program design and implementation for USAID Center for Resilience. Each of the partners is also member of the Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) Program through which the REAL Associate Award was granted. Throughout the year, the REAL award led workshops, guidance notes and technical learning events. The Resilience Evidence Forum (REF), in October 2017 in Washington DC, was attended by almost 200 representatives of USAID, other multi-lateral donors, United Nations Organizations, private and academic research institutions, and international non-governmental organizations. The REF provided a forum for attendees to share and consolidate the emergent evidence and methodological approaches to resilience analysis; discuss ramifications of evidence for resilience policy and programming; and identify future directions and priorities for the resilience community of practice. See resources here: <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/resilience-evidence-forum>

# GLOBAL REACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

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CORE Group expanded collaboration across the globe and partnered with CORE Group members, UNICEF, and WHO's PMNCH on several initiatives. CORE Group's Executive Director, Lisa Hilmi, also joined the Board of Directors of PMNCH as well as the Board of Directors for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Registration, global interactive engagement, and exchanges on CORE Group's International Community Health Network and listservs were increased to more than 8,000 members. CORE Group led and participated in events at the World Health Assembly, the United Nations General Assembly, the civil society side-event at the USAID Acting on the Call Report launch in Ethiopia in August 2017, and several other global events. Conference participation increased from multiple countries as well as global online engagement during webinars.



*Photo by Rocky Prajapati/Helen Keller International Nepal*



*ChildFund Community Mobilizers are involved in facilitating the assessment and scaling up of the Positive Deviance (PD) approach in the community. Photo by SivaPrasad Behara/ChildFund International India*

## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

### HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

CORE Group created the Humanitarian- Development Task Force in 2017, led by co-chairs Jesse Hartness (Save the Children) and Emily Sharpe (Medair). Multiple meetings were held by the Humanitarian-Development Task Force, with participation from UNICEF, WHO, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), researchers, USAID, and academic institutions. The Task Force aims to coordinate globally with other initiatives examining improved coordination, research and collaboration in this area.

### TAG GROUPS

Launch of the “Disability Inclusive Health Technical Advisory Group”: CORE Group is pleased to announce the launch of the Disability Inclusive Health Technical Advisory Group, led by Alessandra Aresu (Humanity & Inclusion) and Leia Isanhart (Catholic Relief Services). This new CORE Group initiative aims to:

1. Promote learning on disability inclusive health and rehabilitation;
2. Facilitate collaboration to promote disability inclusive health initiatives;
3. Advocate for disability inclusive health policies; and
4. Advocate for increased resources for disability inclusive health programming.

The **Disability Inclusive Health Technical Advisory Group** is open to all CORE Group members and associates, as well as non-members NGOs, CSOs, academic institutions, national governments, UN, donors, and policy makers' representatives committed to work toward "Leaving No One Behind" and "Health for All" along the continuum from humanitarian relief to development. Look for further details for a June kick-off meeting.

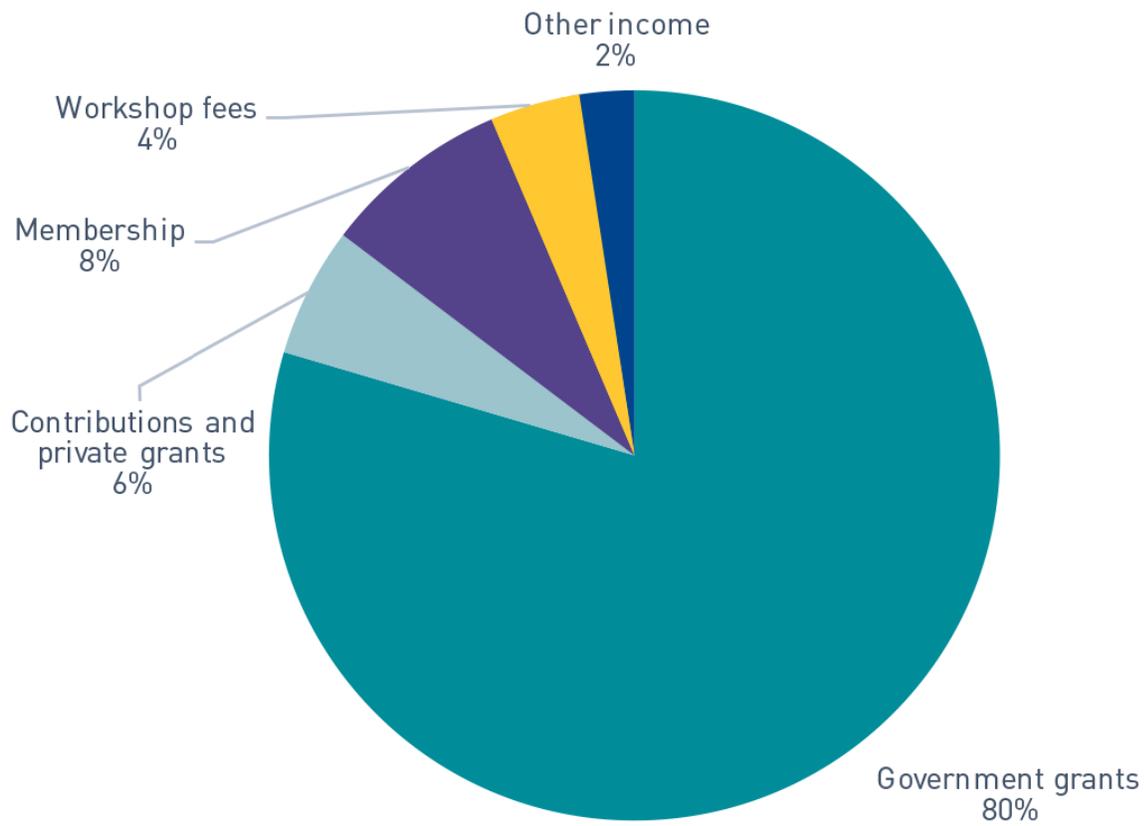
**NCD Interest Group:** Led by Arti Patel Varanasi (Advancing Synergy), the NCD Interest Group has been re-vamped and held several meetings to develop their workplan. They are organizing the NCD Workshop, in conjunction with NCD Child, at the CORE Conference on June 7th.

**Child Health:** CORE Group was invited to join the Global Child Health Steering Committee and will be updating CORE members as news and activities develop. CORE Group's Executive Director is also the Programme co-chair for the PMNCH Partners' Forum 2018, in New Delhi, India.

**Social Accountability:** The Social Accountability Technical Advisory Group, led by the CHSS Working Group co-chairs Megan Christensen (CONCERN), Eric Sarriot (Save the Children), and Alfonso Rosales (World Vision), conducted several meetings, and has formulated a plan for the upcoming months. They are seeking pre-doctoral students to assist with some research.

# FINANCES

## REVENUE 2017



- Government grants
- Contributions and private grants
- Membership
- Workshop fees
- Other income

Total 2017 revenue: \$2,309,200



Advancing community health worldwide.

[www.coregroup.org](http://www.coregroup.org)