

2003: The International Year of Fresh Water

Cover Photos: Gervais L'Heureux, Louis-Joseph Goulet (CECI).

This report is also available in English and Spanish editions. Number printed: 1,500 - Printed on recycled paper

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PHOTO BY DANIEL PROULX (CECI)

CECI combats poverty and exclusion. To this end, it "strengthens the development capacity of disadvantaged communities; supports initiatives for peace, human rights and equity; mobilizes resources and promotes the exchange of know-how."

CECI is governed by a Board of Directors composed of unremunerated members elected by CECI's membership at the Annual General Assembly. CECI's corporate membership is composed of nearly 100 volunteers from various sectors: religious institutions, academia, the business community, organizations active on the international stage, former CECI volunteers, etc. The Annual General Assembly was held in Montreal on Saturday, September 21, 2002.

The organization carries out its mission via partnerships with organizations based in developing countries and in collaboration with partners in Canada or other countries from the North, such as France, Australia, the United States, etc. CECI belongs to a number of coalitions or umbrella groups, including the Ottawa-based Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), the Montreal-based *Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale* (AQOCI), the Montreal International Forum and the Small Enterprise Education and Promotion (SEEP) network.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR and THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Strategic planning, the elaboration of a new vision statement, developing alliances and new networks—CECI set itself an ambitious program in 2002-03. The resulting orientations were adopted by the Board of Directors in September 2002. They will guide CECI's course over the next five years, that is to the eve of its 50th anniversary.

CECI's strategy today can be summed up in one key word: **partnership**. It is with this in mind that we ask you to become acquainted with our vision and strategic objectives for 2003-08, which are outlined on the facing page.

To remain a leader in the fight against poverty and exclusion (Statement of principles No. 1), CECI must target its overseas programs around its principal sectors of expertise and increase its involvement in various international **networks**, in particular those related to social economics and fair trade.

To become the principal agency enabling Canadians to participate in international cooperation (Statement No. 2), CECI must diversify beyond traditional models of cooperation by developing **linkages** with other organizations, both in Canada and overseas. This work is already well underway, as attest the partnerships established this year with WUSC and *Congé solidaire*.

To promote its expertise in so-called "post-emergency" efforts, i.e. rehabilitation, reconstruction, economic recovery and family reunification (Statement No. 3), CECI must form an **alliance** with a major organization specializing in initial emergency relief efforts.

To ensure greater visibility and increased recognition for its actions, and those of its partners (Statement No. 4), CECI must enhance its capacities in communications, particularly through **participation** in campaigns to combat poverty and violence.

Finally, CECI must be able to count on everybody that is part of the organization (Statement No. 5): head office and overseas employees, Canadians and foreign nationals, present and former cooperants, interns, our corporate membership and members of the Board of Directors. It is by creating **synergies** and opportunities for mutual enrichment among people in the organization that CECI will succeed in attaining its objectives.

This is our program for the future. To remain a useful instrument for the development of communities, CECI must yet again raise the standards it sets for itself. Given the scope of the challenges to be met, aren't all organizations working in international cooperation required to do so?



DANIELLE SAUVAGE
Chairperson of the Board



MICHEL CHAURETTE
Executive Director



PHOTO : CAROLINE SAVARIA / LE PHOTO-MATRIÈRE



CECI's 2002-03 Board of Directors

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, IN THE FRONT ROW, LUCIE BLONDEAU () DANIELLE SAUVAGE-CHAIRPERSON () PIERRE PICHETTE-VICE-PRESIDENT () PATRICIA BORLACE-TREASURER (); IN THE BACK ROW, BERNARD DECALUWÉ () CAROLINE MARCEL () LOUIS-JOSEPH GOULET () MONIQUE VÉZINA () RAYMOND BATRIE () MICHEL CHAURETTE-SECRETARY.

()))

THE LAST OF CECI'S FOUNDERS HAS LEFT THIS MORTAL COIL

In Uganda, on May 2nd 2003, **Édouard Trudeau**, a Jesuit father, passed away. The last surviving member of the three signatories to CECI's application for incorporation in November 1968, Father Trudeau was often called an "incurable optimist," a "servant of the most destitute refugees" or simply a "builder." Active to the very end of his 85 years, Édouard Trudeau was an honorary CECI member who kept a keen eye on CECI's fortunes.

Mr. Paul-Émile Lamy, a member of the Corporation passed away in 2002-03.

VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2003-08

Statement of principles No. 1

CECI is a leader within an international network of partners combating poverty and exclusion. Its expertise lies mainly in building capacities for development. Concretely, this entails a structured process of skills and knowledge sharing, the mobilization of change agents in actions that are local, regional and international in scope, and the influence the network exercises on public opinion, governments and funding agencies.

Statement of principles No. 2

Nationally, thanks to its network of partners, CECI is the principal agency enabling Canadians to participate in international cooperation. It offers a variety of models for engaging in direct cooperation, such as exchanges, internships, international voluntary cooperation, responsible consumption, social tourism and solidarity leaves.

Statement of principles No. 3

CECI is a much-valued partner of humanitarian organizations specializing in initial emergency assistance; it complements their work as regards reconstruction and the strengthening of local capacities for confronting new crises.

Statement of principles No. 4

Communications are at the heart of our strategies for social change and the positions we take. In particular, CECI shall participate in campaigns combating poverty and violence.

Statement of principles No. 5

Our mode of governance and organizational structure are the motors of this strategic vision and of the partnerships to be developed. The people at CECI identify with the organization's values. They appreciate the opportunities for professional development and growth offered by their work environment.

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Members

Diane Bachand – Maurice Carel – Gisèle Guilbault – Gilles Pion – Jean-Marie Roy
Fabienne Vachon

Former cooperants

Patricia Borlace – André Bouvette
Jean-François Deschênes – Johanne Journeault – Myriam Lafrance – Valérie Lavergne – Clémence Leblanc – Lucie Lippé – Caroline Marcel – Gigi Marchessault – Nicole Morais
Radegonde Ndejuru – Marie-Marthe Ouellet – Sylvie Painchaud – Élizabéth Parent – Charles Pouliot – Patricia Riel
Jocelyne Rochon – Anne-Marie Saulnier
Sylvie Tremblay

Members of the international cooperation community

Raphaël Assor – Michel Charette
Jean-François Cloutier – William Cosgrove – Jean-Claude Desmarais
Ernest Hébert – Michèle Jodoin – Pierre-Marc Johnson – Pierre Juneau – Jean-Luc Legros – Marie Naltchayan – Michel Samson – Thérèse Sévigny – Martha Stone – Monique Vézina

Members from academia

Manon Bourgeois – Jean Cadieux
Claude Corbo – Bernard Decaluwé
Fernand Potvin – Michel Roy – Jacques Tousignant – Jean Vincelette

Members from religious institutions

Pierre Bélanger – Lucie Blondeau
Mario Dufour – Louis-Joseph Goulet
André Lamothe – Jean-Guy Lanthier
François Lapière (Mgr) – Marcel Lefebvre – Jacques Levac – Gilles Lussier (Mgr) – Michel Marcil
Mireille Morin

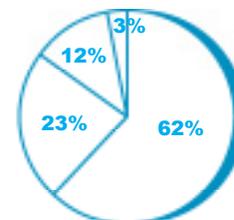
Members of the business community

Raymond Batrie – Nicole Beaudoin
Christiane Beaulieu – Michel Bélisle
Pierre Bibeau – Monique Daigneault
Marie-Andrée Delisle – Georges Désilets
Pierre Dion – Guy Dufresne – Pierre Émond – Claude Généreux – Luc Lavoie
Jean-Robert Leclerc – Paul Leduc
Andrée Lemarier – Gaétan Lussier
Pierre Parent – Michel Pauzé – André Payette – Pierre Pichette – Denyse Robichaud – Trung Nguyen

Others

Robert Bisailon – Nicole Boily – Antonin Boisvert – Mario Cardinal – Louise Carré
Pierre F.Côté – Bernard Hervieux
Michaëlle Jean – Robert Letendre
Nancy Neamtan – Claude Papineau
Jean Pelletier – Paule Sainte-Marie
Danielle Sauvage – Jean-François Simard – Karen Spierkel

Breakdown of revenue sources in 2002-03



CIDA: 62%
Other funding agencies*: 23%
Value of professional services rendered by volunteers: 12%
Fund-raising: 3%

* World Bank, USAID, UNDP, ASDB, HCR, GEF, AusAID, ministère des Relations internationales du Québec, various foundations, etc.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, PAUL DAVIDSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (WUSC), CLAUDE PERRAS, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CECI), ANGÈLE TOUCHETTE, DIRECTOR OF OVERSEAS PROGRAMS (WUSC), BARBARA LEVINE, DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WUSC) AND MICHEL CHAURETTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CECI). PHOTO BY GILLES ST-AMAND (CECI)

World University Service of Canada (Ottawa) and CECI have formed an alliance regarding a five-year unified and innovative volunteer cooperation program. Both organizations already count among the principal Canadian volunteer-sending agencies. CIDA's initial reaction was favourable. Should CIDA accept the proposal presented in June 2003, CECI and WUSC will implement the biggest program of this type in the history of the country. Our Board of Directors approved the concept of the program in March. In May, it endorsed the countries and

sectors of intervention retained for the program. As did the WUSC Board of Directors. The following countries were selected: in Africa, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Tanzania (budget permitting), plus South – South exchanges with Benin and Zimbabwe; in Asia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, plus South – South exchanges with Bangladesh, Cambodia and India; in the Americas, Bolivia, Guatemala and Honduras (budget permitting), plus South – South exchanges with El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru and Haiti.

Should CIDA endorse this proposal, over 1,000 participants (including partners from the South) and more than 100 partner groups, from every province of Canada, and from 15 countries of the South will have participated in the program by 2009. We expect the official announcement launching the new program to take place on December 5th 2003, i.e. International Volunteer Day. The program should kick off in April 2004.



During the past year, CECI supervised thirteen short term cooperation missions effected in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal by French volunteers. These interventions mainly entailed capacity building among members of current CECI partner organizations. The participants and their African counterparts were more

than satisfied with the results obtained from the point of view of transferring skills and knowledge, and that of intercultural enrichment. As a consequence, **Congé solidaire** (Paris) and **CECI** renewed their agreement. In effect, our partner recruits volunteers in French companies. The latter contribute to covering the program's costs. The two parties signed an agreement in pursuance of which CECI will gradually establish the "solidarity leave" model in Canada.

AN EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY YEAR

() THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP IS VERY MUCH ALIVE IN THE FIELD AS WELL AS IN CANADA. WE COLLABORATE WITH CLOSE TO A HUNDRED LOCAL OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN AFRICA, ASIA, THE AMERICAS AND IN EASTERN EUROPE. A FEW OF OUR PARTNERS ARE MENTIONNED IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

The year of partnership

Regarding volunteer sending, agreements were renewed, implemented or signed with the International Centre for Conflict Resolution and Mediation (Montreal), the Québec without Borders program, Engineers without Borders (Toronto), The New Brunswick Training Group (Fredericton), *la Société éducative de l'Alberta* (Edmonton), *le Centre de formation en coopération interculturelle* (Rivière-du-Loup), The Foreign Missions Society (Laval), The Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa (Montreal) and, more recently, Community Experience Initiative (Montreal). As for fair trade, CECI collaborated with *MondÉquitable*, a boutique in Montreal, *Équiterre* and Marie-Andrée Délisle & Associates, a company specializing in tourism consulting services. Concerning reintegration into society and responsible consumption, we worked with the Montreal organization Renaissance. Concerning health and palliative care, we explored possibilities with the Hospices Association of Ontario.



THE DIRECTOR OF SEÑOR DE MAYO, AN ASSOCIATION OF BOLIVIAN ARTISANS, ANTONIA RODRIGUEZ DE MOSCOSO, ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF FAIR TRADE DURING AN OPEN CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL IN NOVEMBER 2002. HER QUEBEC-WIDE TOUR INCLUDED MOST OF THE PROVINCE'S MAJOR CITIES AND WAS COVERED BY THE MONTREAL DAILY LA PRESSE. TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT OF OUR GUEST, ISABELLE ST-GERMAIN (ÉQUITERRE) AND CAROLINE MARCEL (MONDÉQUITABLE; ALSO A CECI MEMBER) RESPECTIVELY. PHOTO BY GILLES ST-AMAND (CECI)

A greater presence in the Canadian public arena

CECI's activities garnered media attention several times this past year, in particular during International Development Week in February 2003. We organized four tours of delegations from the South in the Montreal region and throughout Quebec. The topic addressed by our visitors from Bolivia and Guatemala was fair trade, whereas representatives from Senegal

and Macedonia were interested in agricultural development. Together with Via le monde (D.B.), CECI co-produced a film in Guatemala entitled *The Coffee Crisis*, which premiered in Montreal with the participation of the Ottawa-based organization TransFair.

We added to our website a photo album originating from an internal photography contest held in 2002. Thanks to funding from Industry Canada, we launched a separate website on international cooperation in March 2003 in partnership with *la Société éducative de l'Alberta* (SÉA). This site was called a "success story" by a representative of the Industry Canada program *Francommunautés virtuelles*, where it is hosted.

Dialogue on development policies

CECI defended the role of civil society organizations and that of organizations sending volunteers overseas as partners in development. In Canada, during private and joint meetings, representations to this effect were made by our Executive Officers to CIDA officials, to the Minister responsible for CIDA, to the Parliamentary Finance Committee and to *l'Association canadienne des parlementaires francophones*. Other steps were taken through CCIC, the coalition of volunteer-sending organizations and the International Development Executives' Association (IDEA). In November, our Executive Director had the opportunity to observe the work of international volunteers in South Africa and Mozambique. He was invited as a resource person on the occasion of *les Entretiens du Centre Jacques Cartier* in Lyon, France. Our Deputy Executive Director acted as a consultant on the accreditation of volunteer-sending NGOs in Australia.

CECI participated in consultations on the orientations of Canadian aid to Africa, on defining the orientations of the future CIDA policy in support of agricultural development (we submitted a position paper), and on up-dating Canada's foreign policy. CECI is represented on the boards of directors of AQOCI, the Montreal International Forum and the *Groupe d'économie solidaire du Québec*. We took part in Canadian

or international forums for joint action on micro-credit, new paths for development (World Social Forum in Brazil, 2003), on Vietnam, on development in Africa, etc.

))) YOUTH TAKING THEIR PLACE IN THE SUN!

In addition to the 19 young volunteers despatched to the South in the context of various agreements, CECI welcomed to its head office eight interns who made their mark in accounting, communications or fund-raising.

The CTCRC reaches cruising speed

Various consultation contracts were executed by the Centre for Training, Study and Consultancy, which is a product of the restruc-

))) MEASURING AND MONITORING POVERTY

Technical support and training in Burkina Faso, India, Nepal and Vietnam (client: IDRC).

RIGHTS, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

A study on a rights-based approach to development (client: CIDA).
Gender and development in Egypt (client: CIDA).

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

A study on conflicts in the mining sector in Bolivia and the most effective dialogue mechanisms for managing them, conducted in collaboration with the Catholic University of Bolivia (client: IDRC).

BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

Strengthening the cooperative cotton sector in Tchad (client: the World Bank and Japan).

turing carried out in 2000-01:

Over 225 persons participated in the introduction to international cooperation and conflict resolution courses offered in Montreal and Quebec City. Trainings on human rights and the Equality-Equity approach to gender issues were dispensed to CIDA personnel. Over 150 persons, most of whom were locals, benefited from training on intercultural cooperation in five West African countries. On another note, CECI was certified as a "provider of internal training services" by the Government of Quebec.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD

In the Americas

PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD IN 2002-03

70 LOCAL AND 4 CANADIAN EMPLOYEES

55 CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS

ON LONG TERM CONTRACTS

3 ASSOCIATE COOPERANTS (CHILE) AND

8 SHORT TERM CANADIAN YOUTH INTERNS*

As part of its **CIDA**-financed Volunteer Cooperation Program, CECI continued to work in peace-building and conflict prevention/resolution in the **Andes**. In effect, 3,000 Peruvians (school-children, teachers and parents) and 3,000 children, 150 teachers and four institutions in Bolivia were initiated in the art of negotiation. In Ecuador, our efforts focussed on conjugal violence in partnership with *el Centro Integral de la Familia*. Some 900 Peruvian households, along

with 1,250 Ecuadoran families and 1,500 Bolivian families, were beneficiaries of the support provided by volunteers and local staff to approximately a hundred producers' associations or groups, composed principally of indigenous members. In **Ecuador**, for example, the association of producers of medicinal plants in Chimborazo (600 members most of whom are women) benefited from the collective marketing of their production. Consequently, whereas in 2001 the average price per kilo of fresh plants was less than 8 cents, in 2003, its members received 20 cents per kilo. Jambi Kiwa's membership increases every year. Marketed production reached 10 tons per month in 2003. This project was financed by **CIDA** and by CECI through its **fund-raising** campaign. Our office in the Andes turned its attention to a sector characterized by great poverty, that of the small-scale mines located in higher altitudes. We began

to sensitize parents in parts of Puno, **Peru**, regarding the future of their children, too often trapped in this particularly unforgiving and hazardous work environment. Funds have recently been obtained from *la Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer* (of Paris and Lausanne) to establish in Quito a centre to train the Andean region's female community leaders of tomorrow.

In **Guatemala**, ASOBAGRI, the Barillas region association of organic and fair trade coffee producers, saw its membership increase by 12%. ASOBAGRI pays its 900 members a price 80% higher than the market price. A Japanese buyer wished to purchase ASOBAGRI certified coffee, but the entire harvest had already been sold to American coffee traders. ASOBAGRI receives support from the Communities in Transition Project, which is operated by CECI and co-financed by **USAID** and CECI. On another front, the Democratic Development Fund (DDF), a **CIDA** financed project in its ninth year, provided technical and financial assistance to the National Commission on Governance, a body responsible for mobilizing Guatemalan society in the fight against corruption, whether it occurs in public administration, the private sector or community groups. The DDF also gave methodological support to the local governance commissions set up in 23 municipalities by round tables composed of representatives from municipal governments, civil society and the private sector. DDF Team Leader Ms. L.A. de Paniagua attended the Eleventh International Conference against Corruption in Seoul, in April 2003. Her expenses were covered by the **Soros Foundation**.

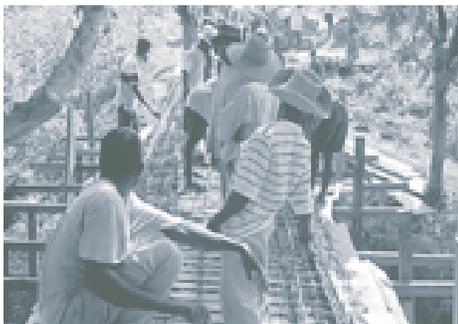
In **El Salvador**, our Citizen Security pilot project, executed in the municipalities of Puerto La Libertad and Zaragoza, in collaboration with the Montreal group *Objectif Sécurité Action*, was singled out as one of the best existing initiatives in the country as regards preventing community crime and family violence. The approach used in this **CIDA** financed project was the subject of a publication in Spanish. The project is currently being extended to San Salvador, the capital.

In **Haiti**, a country where we were involved in health projects and in combating domestic violence against women and children, we began implementing in 2003 the PALIH STD/AIDS project, in partnership with CCISD, a Quebec City-

based NGO. This major **CIDA** financed initiative is being carried out with local partners such as the Public Health Directorate of Artibonite Department and *la Fondation Esther Boussiquot*. Over 300 people attended the premiere of the first Haitian documentary on persons living with AIDS. This film pays tribute to a woman who, although herself HIV-positive, has provided assistance and care to persons with AIDS since the very onset of the AIDS pandemic in Haiti. Finally, over 562 families from Carice and Mont-Organisé, Grand Latanier and Cayes-Jacmel benefited from CECI's assistance: restoration of soil fertility to 179 hectares, environmental sanitation projects, or rehabilitation and self-management of irrigation systems. The **US Department of Agriculture** sponsored this latter initiative.

The development of North-South linkages has been a priority. In the area of fair trade, there was the 2002 Quebec tour of Antonia Rodriguez de Moscoso of *Señor de Mayo*, an association of Bolivian women artisans. As for social and responsible tourism, partnerships were formed between groups in Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia, *la Société pour un tourisme durable et responsable* (the Society for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism) and a Montreal company specializing in tourism consulting services. As for mass media in indigenous communities, the Confederation of Indigenous Nations of Ecuador (CONAIE) and *la Société de communication Atikamekw-Montagnais* (Quebec City) have signed a promising protocol for cooperation.

* *The interns in Bolivia from le Centre de formation en coopération interculturelle (from Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec) receive orientation and technical and administrative support. There were four of them in that period.*



MEN AT WORK BUILDING A RETAINING RESERVOIR. PHOTO BY CECI-HAITI

In Africa

PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD IN 2002-03

155 LOCAL AND 6 CANADIAN EMPLOYEES
64 CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS
ON LONG TERM CONTRACTS
9 SHORT TERM CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS,
INCLUDING 7 YOUNG INTERNS
3 ASSOCIATE VOLUNTEERS (CAMEROON) AND
13 SHORT TERM FRENCH VOLUNTEERS ON
"SOLIDARITY LEAVE"

Concerning the results from actions that are regional in scope, 30 organizations from **Guinea, Mali** and **Burkina Faso** formed national advocacy networks within the framework of the **CIDA**-financed regional project for Women's Rights and Citizenship. Moreover, the support given to regional stakeholders contributed to broadening participation in the elaboration of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights' Additional Protocol on Women's Rights. In the **African Great Lakes** region, the **CIDA**-financed "Citizen Action for Peace" program supported the actions of local partners active in their communities. Thus, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CADI trained 200 peace builders and laid the groundwork for a dialogue with local authorities regarding the impact of war on women. AJPRODHO, an organization working with youth in Rwanda, assisted in the founding of 29 human rights clubs in schools. As a result, over 7,000 young people were sensitized to the issues of respect for human rights and tolerance.

In **Burkina Faso**, various initiatives were launched to support partners working in the city of Ouagadougou. Among these was *Santé – Sida*, an information, education and communications project, backed by *le ministère des Relations internationales du Québec*. The population of Yako (province of Passoré) collaborated in the setting up of a system for the participatory monitoring of poverty. A roundtable of economic organizations bringing together tens of thousands of producers of both genders was created in the North Central region. The 2,000 women involved in the production of shea butter saw their market share increase by over 50%. This translated into 92 million CFA francs (i.e. 220,000 Canadian dollars) of additional income. Two major European clients renew their



WOMEN FARMERS FROM THE NIAYES REGION, SENEGAL, CLEANING CARROTS BEFORE MARKETING THEM. THE PAEP PROJECT (CECI-CIDA). PHOTO BY JOCELYNE DALLAIRE (CECI)

orders year after year. The Burkina Faso Chamber of Commerce, a French partner named Tech-Dev and CECI are executing this project, which is funded by *la Coopération française*. Our volunteers and local employees provide technical and administrative support.

In **Guinea**, eight rural communities of the *Moyenne Guinée* region, representing over 120,000 people, have equipped themselves with a development plan and built elementary schools, health clinics, drinking water supply points and crossing works (i.e. culverts or pipes). Retained by the Guinean government as operator of this **World Bank** financed "Village Communities Support Program" endeavour, CECI has strengthened the management capacities of elected officials and civil society actors in each of these municipalities. With the support of its **donors**, CECI contributed

significantly to the well-being of thousands of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in two camps and in Conakry. Both the refugees themselves and the UNHCR have expressed their satisfaction with the services provided by our teams.

In **Mali**, *l'Agence de promotion des filières agricoles* (Agency for the Promotion of Agro-food Systems) and **the World Bank** (the funding agency) were appreciative of CECI's contribution to a market garden production techniques pilot project. In *le cercle de Niafunké* region (Timbuktu area), over 20,000 persons in 19 villages benefited from new infrastructure projects (nine wells, including one equipped with a pump, seven schools and a fully equipped health centre), as well as training and sensitization activities related to health issues or education. These projects were carried out with the collaboration of two local NGOs. Moreover, five mill and hulling machine units were put in place, three ponds were developed for agricultural purposes and seven large diameter wells were constructed. Committees were formed to execute or manage these works. This was all done within the framework of the PAIB (Basic Initiatives Support Project), a **World Bank**-financed anti-poverty initiative in one of the country's most impoverished regions. In 2002, CECI undertook to support groups of women producing shea butter in the Mandé region with a view to give them access to a more lucrative market: Western manufacturers of cosmetic products.

In **Niger**, collaboration with CECI is increasingly sought for projects in civil society capacity-building, combating HIV/AIDS and community development. In operation for two years in Agadez, Tillabéri and Zinder, a program for supporting the development of non-formal education has proven highly successful: 24 literacy program operators have become better equipped to deliver quality literacy training, 571 literacy centres have opened, 5,660 persons have learned to read and write (of whom 54% are women), etc. In light of this **CIDA**-financed program's good results, the Government of Niger and the **World Bank** have asked CECI to replicate the program in four other regions or provinces.



DAKAR WAS ONE OF PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRÉTIEN'S DESTINATIONS DURING HIS MAY 2002 TOUR OF AFRICA. HE IS SEEN HERE IN THE COMPANY OF CECI PERSONNEL, INCLUDING SYLVAIN MATTE, OUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, WHO IS TO THE RIGHT OF THE PM. PHOTO BY CECI-SENEGAL.

In the **Central African Republic**, our biodiversity conservation efforts in the Bangassou forest ecosystem continued despite the political context (the 2003 coup) and the interruption in road communications. The local population was happy to see several activities maintained, in particular the assistance for economic activities provided by a community businesses support fund. The project also launched a comic strip for local high school students aimed at mobilizing them in favour of forest habitats and fauna preservation. This initiative is financed by the **UNDP** and the **Global Environment Facility**.

In **Senegal**, *le Réseau Sigil Jiggéen* independently continued its advocacy activities nation-wide in favour of women's rights, including their citizenship rights. As part of a **CIDA** financed project, *l'Association des unions maraîchères des Niayes* (The Association of Niayes Market Gardening Unions) developed its institutional capacities in onion marketing, among other areas. Given its importance in the region, the AUMN was invited by the Government of Senegal to participate in the elaboration of a future local development program. Agricultural producers, of both genders, have instituted local cross-sectoral roundtables in five localities in this region; likewise, a regional water management roundtable – water is a critical resource here – has also been set up. An anti-poverty project funded by **the World Bank** has been initiated in Louga, in the same region. The area's most disadvantaged households will soon have better access to basic social services.

In **Sierra Leone**, we launched an initiative for the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons with **CIDA's** support (i.e. its Humanitarian Assistance Program) and that of **private donors**. A school and health clinic are being rebuilt. A micro finance program will facilitate the start-up of economic activities by persons in need.

In 2002, Chairperson Danielle Sauvage visited many of our projects in Senegal, Mali and Guinea.

In Eastern Europe

PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD IN 2002-03

3 CANADIANS (ONE EMPLOYEE AND TWO CONSULTANTS)

2 FULL-TIME AND 4 PART-TIME NATIONAL EMPLOYEES (WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS)

CECI is building a network of local partners, transferring skills and exchanging know-how for economic and social development, as well as for peace and stability.

In **Macedonia**, along with the Macedonia Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF) we support paprika, tomato and apple sub-sectors to become more competitive (funding from **CIDA**). These sub-sectors, that represent 8,000 family farms, 10 processing units and 8 wholesalers, as well as government stakeholders, have registered as an association and established a three year strategic plan. In 2002, ten representatives were exposed in Canada to the challenges and approaches of sub-sector groups (*table de concertation*). MEDF has integrated the sub-sector strategy into its corporate plan, ensuring ongoing support to the target groups after funding from CIDA ends in 2004.

In **Kosovo**, a project funded by **USAID** through **Save the Children US** was started to stimulate agricultural development through increasing volumes of marketed and processed vegetable products, and strengthening capacity of farmers' associations to provide extension services to members. The project is implemented in partnership with the Kosovo Development Centre (KDC), a national NGO that is becoming a leading service provider in the agricultural sector.



PHOTO : CAROLINE ROGER-VIETNAM

In Asia

PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD IN 2002-03

125 LOCAL AND 6 CANADIAN EMPLOYEES

41 CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS

ON LONG TERM CONTRACTS

4 SHORT TERM CANADIAN YOUTH INTERNS

101 SHORT TERM AUSTRALIAN YOUTH INTERNS

In **India**, during the International Year of Mountains, the **CIDA**-funded Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) project hosted the International Symposium on Mountain Farming in Mussorie, Uttaranchal State. Over 150 people – from the Himalayas, the Andes, the Alps, the Rockies, etc. – were in attendance, including farm operators, co-op managers, development specialists, government representatives, etc. Among the topics discussed were the roles and rights of women, developing co-ops, research issues and indigenous knowledge. The proceedings, entitled “High Altitude Harvest: A Mosaic of

Perspectives on Mountain Farming”, were published in April 2003. Among the participants were partners from Bolivia, Vietnam, Nepal and India. The event was endorsed by **CIDA**, **IDRC**, **CCA**, the **Government of Uttaranchal**, **UTDASP**, **NABARD**, the **Ford Foundation**, the **Commonwealth Foundation**, **ICIMOD** and the **Mountain Forum**. Also in India, in collaboration with local organizations, namely BAPS, RCT, KVT and ANA, two rehabilitation projects were completed in Gujarat, a State rocked by a major earthquake in 2001. The results were impressive: 763 houses, 161 classrooms, 10 community service buildings and 8 water supply systems were rebuilt. The larger of the two projects was mostly funded by the **Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund**, which was established in Toronto by the Indo-Canadian community.

In **Nepal**, the US Agency for International Development - **USAID** awarded a certificate of excellence to a project recently implemented by a

CECI team, in recognition for its contribution to enhancing the profitability of small family farms.* January 2003 marked the beginning of a 6-year UK-funded project known as *Utthan* (Improving Living Conditions for the Poorest) that will analyse the methods and evaluate the results of all organizations directly involved in poverty reduction in the country, and disseminate the resultant findings. Our local partner in this endeavour is HURON. This project is subsequent to a tender we won from **DFID** in the context of the recent untying of certain British aid programs. This is the first time that CECI has used UK bilateral funds. In twelve lowland districts of southern Nepal, close to 4,000 poor farming households were provided with the know-how and low cost technology for tapping shallow ground water. They now grow crops all year round. Their yields have increased by 200%. The Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP) is funded by the **Government of Nepal**, **AsDB** and **CIDA**.



()))) In August 2002, torrential rains, floods and landslides devastated the districts of Dhanusha and Mahottari, in the south of Nepal. Over 160,000 persons were the beneficiaries of reconstruction or rehabilitation efforts carried out by the team from Project Upakar ("help others"), between October 2002 and April 2003. Our donors funded this project.

In **Vietnam**, CECI was one of the first foreign NGOs to join the National Disaster Mitigation Partnership and, through the **CIDA**-funded Capacity Adaptation for Climate Change project, one of the first to actually build capacity in disaster preparedness at the local level. Among the projects currently implemented by CECI in the country, the **CIDA**-funded "Integrated Livelihood for Mountain Communities" project in Than Hoa Province stands out in terms of results. A signal achievement: the malnutrition rate of children under 5 dropped from 44% to 27% in 10 priority communes. Numerous infrastructure micro-projects were completed in 30 communes, including 5 drinking water systems, 65 centres for pre-school children and 63 irrigation schemes that produced a 22% increase in irrigated area. Endowed with new skills and technologies, many households have already tripled their rice and maize yields. Furthermore, 28 savings and credit organizations have been established with a total membership of close to 4,000. Over half of their members have received loans for small business activities and women accounted for 72% of the recipients. The loan repayment rate is 98%. Two district governments and a CECI team jointly manage this project, initiated in 2001.

In **Cambodia**, we focus on capacity-building through ad hoc training and skills sharing. Over 20 private and public institutions, as well as a few international organizations offering services to the community, benefited from the support of 50 volunteers, 46 of whom were short-term Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development. **AusAID** funds the AYAD program.** At the end of the year, our team was busy preparing a new project to be funded by **La Fondation Jules et Paul-Émile Léger**, a Canadian charity. This project will work to help protect the health of impoverished women involved in the sex trade, combat the spread of the AIDS pandemic and also provide these women with the means to earn a decent living outside prostitution.

* This project was named **MARD**, i.e. **Market Access for Rural Development**.

** Since 2001, CECI-Asia has been supervising young Australian volunteers assigned to Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia by **Austraining**, an Adelaide-based NGO. Thirty-six AYADs worked in Vietnam (in HCMC and Hanoi), while 19 were posted in Nepal.



()))) Jane Welsh, an AYAD volunteer assisting the Blind Persons Association, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Photo by Nile Sprague

()))) **CBED (1995-2002) AND CHI (1998-2003): SUSTAINABLE RESULTS IN WESTERN NEPAL**

An estimated 200,000 people benefited from two **CIDA**-funded projects carried out in three isolated districts of western Nepal: Jumla, Baitadi and Dadeldhura. Overall, the **Community-Based Economic Development** project fostered the formation of 339 producers' groups (PGs), 106 savings & credit groups (SCGs) and 161 community forest users groups (CFUGs). By the end of 2002, 24% of all community-based groups were assessed as "self-reliant," 46% had attained an advanced state of development, while none remained in the "emerging state." The overall membership of PGs reached 8,000. They marketed over 6,000 metric tonnes of cash crops in 2001-02, which generated an average of 12,250 rupees of income per household (up from 4,800 in 1996-97). In 2002, membership in CFUGs reached 11,900 (up from 2,464 in 1996-97) and 92 CFUGs were legally registered entities. Through their 15,600 members, the 106 SCGs had accumulated savings of about 28.4 million rupees (about 600,000 Canadian dollars) in 2002. In 1996-97, there were fewer SCGs and each one held less than 11,000 rupees of savings on average.*

The **Community Health Initiative** project had an equally palpable impact. For instance, almost 8,000 households (close to 50,000 people) were given access to clean drinking water through the construction or rehabilitation of 157 gravity water systems. Some 92% of these were assessed as properly maintained. Over 14,600 pit latrines were installed, 99% of which were actually used. The result: a 42% drop in chronic dysentery among children. CHI's Nutrition Education Rehabilitation Program covered no less than 447 villages and restored the health of 21,900 seriously malnourished children under 5. The Safe Motherhood Program was quite effective too, as some 65 to 70% of pregnant and nursing women were provided with iron foliate tablets or vitamin supplements. In 2003, CIDA agreed to support an expanded and long-term CECI-led program to further combat poverty in western Nepal.

* These results were recently acknowledged by the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP) in Washington.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Auditors' Report

To the Members of the Board of the
Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale

We have audited the balance sheet of the *Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale* as at March 31, 2003 and the statements of revenue and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Centre's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2003 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Samson Bégin / Deloitte & Touche

Chartered Accountants
May 30, 2003

Statement of changes in net assets

Year ended March 31, 2003

	Invested in capital assets	Restricted for endowment purposes	Unrestricted	Total	
	\$	\$ (Note 6)	\$	2003 \$	2002 \$
Balance, beginning of year	976,080	437,530	1,179,947	2,593,557	2,454,221
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(175,251)	-	242,389	67,138	139,336
Investment in capital assets, net of financing and deferred contributions	742,853	-	(742,853)	-	-
Balance, end of year	1,543,682	437,530	679,483	2,660,695	2,593,557

Statement of revenue and expenses

year ended March 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Revenue		
CIDA - Partnership	6,252,994	6,389,731
CIDA - Bilateral and other	15,297,476	16,689,945
Other funding organizations	8,637,010	11,617,774
Donations	884,268	1,384,686
Contributed services (Note 7)	4,113,852	4,076,047
Other revenue	420,937	248,123
	35,606,537	40,406,306
Expenses		
Offices and departments	6,353,722	6,341,335
Programs	24,896,574	29,725,240
Contributed services (Note 7)	4,113,852	4,076,047
Amortization of capital assets	175,251	124,348
	35,539,399	40,266,970
Excess of revenue over expenses	67,138	139,336

Balance sheet

as at March 31, 2003

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	3,382,384	4,700,089
Temporary investments	112,500	-
Accounts receivable	879,296	2,125,234
Prepaid expenses	730,125	643,942
	5,104,305	7,469,265
Investments (Note 3)	343,009	379,543
Capital assets (Note 4)	2,804,235	2,121,846
	8,251,549	9,970,654
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	966,681	1,317,171
Deferred contributions		
CIDA (net of an account receivable of \$1,192,752; \$688,744 in 2002)	778,421	2,529,956
Other	2,585,199	2,384,204
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 5)	51,100	51,100
	4,381,401	6,282,431
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	147,878	153,241
Long-term debt (Note 5)	1,061,575	941,425
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	1,543,682	976,080
Restricted for endowment purposes (Note 6)	437,530	437,530
Unrestricted	679,483	1,179,947
	2,660,695	2,593,557
	8,251,549	9,970,654

Statement of cash flows

year ended March 31, 2003

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenses	67,138	139,336
Adjustments for:		
Investments devaluation	47,000	-
Amortization of capital assets	175,251	124,348
	289,389	263,684
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items (Note 8)	(741,275)	(4,538,475)
	(451,886)	(4,274,791)
Financing activities		
Increase in long-term debt	120,150	992,525
Contributions related to the acquisition of the building	(5,363)	153,241
	114,787	1,145,766
Investing activities		
Acquisition of investments	(10,466)	(17,208)
Acquisition of capital assets	(857,640)	(1,401,623)
	(868,106)	(1,418,831)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,205,205)	(4,547,856)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	4,700,089	9,247,945
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	3,494,884	4,700,089
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash and temporary investments.		
Supplementary information		
Interest paid	13,255	11,140

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2003

1. Description of the organization

The Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale is incorporated under Part III of the *Companies Act* (Québec).

The Centre takes part in activities to promote economic, social and cultural development in Third World countries by training and sending volunteers and technical assistants to these areas, undertaking projects, conducting research and publishing special works.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and include the following significant accounting policies:

a) *Revenue recognition*

The Centre follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

b) *Foreign transaction recognition*

The Centre accounts for its expenses using recognized accounting practices for this type of organization:

- i) Capital expenditures incurred for overseas activities are charged as operating expenses with the exception of the capital expenditures of regional offices, which, since April 1, 2002, are capitalized.
- ii) Overseas expenses are recorded when expensed.
- iii) Gains or losses due to changes in exchange rates are charged to the programs to which they are related.
- iv) Other contributions for technical assistance to the Volunteers and Partnerships Program represent overseas partners' share of living allowances and volunteer housing.

c) *Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash and short-term investments in money market instruments that mature in three months or less.

d) *Capital assets*

Capital assets are recorded at cost and are amortized using the following methods and rates:

Building	Straight-line	4%
Library	Straight-line	5%
Furniture and equipment	Declining balance	20% and 30%
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	20%
Audio-visual equipment	Declining balance	20%
Automotive equipment	Declining method	30%

3. Investments

	2003		2002	
	Book value \$	Market value \$	Book value \$	Market value \$
Money market	13,250	13,228	15,656	15,656
Bonds and debentures	171,739	176,487	161,949	162,433
Canadian equity funds	132,238	109,892	168,104	137,365
Foreign equity funds	25,782	21,250	33,834	27,960
	343,009	320,857	379,543	343,414

4. Capital assets

	2003		2002	
	Valuation cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	Net Book value \$	Net Book value \$
Land	869,445	-	869,445	869,445
Building	1,066,706	37,335	1,029,371	459,959
Furniture and equipment	1,312,779	986,881	325,898	301,941
Library	542,607	81,390	461,217	488,347
Audio-visual equipment	35,718	33,996	1,722	2,154
Automotive equipment	137,155	20,573	116,582	-
	3,964,410	1,160,175	2,804,235	2,121,846

5. Long-term debt

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Loan secured by a first-rank hypothec on the building for a maximum authorized amount of \$1,121,250, payable in monthly instalments of \$3,738, plus interest calculated at 7.05%, due January 15, 2017	1,068,925	942,525
Loan payable in annual instalments of \$6,250 plus interest, due in December 2009, non-interest bearing for the first three years, bearing interest at 1% the fourth year, 2% the fifth year, 3% the sixth year, 4% the seventh year and 5% the eighth year	43,750	50,000
	1,112,675	992,525
Current portion	51,100	51,100
	1,061,575	941,425

Estimated principal payments to be made in each of the next five years are as follows:

	\$
2004	51,100
2005	51,100
2006	51,100
2007	51,100
2008	51,100

6. Net assets restricted for endowment purposes

Net assets restricted for endowment purposes are as follows:

- a) an amount of \$303,540, subject to external restrictions requiring that any resources be maintained permanently in the Fonds Pelletier. The related investment income is used to finance projects aimed at education and training for women and girls;
- b) an amount of \$134,080, subject to external restrictions requiring that any resources be maintained permanently in the Fonds Jean Bouchard. The related investment income is used to finance projects aimed at basic human needs.

7. Contributed services

Contributed services represent the value of the unpaid contribution provided by the volunteers. The value of this contribution for 2002-2003 is estimated at \$40,135 (\$38,453 for 2001-2002). This amount was obtained from a study conducted in February 1994 and indexed for the Consumer Price Index for 1995-1996 to 2002-2003. The number of volunteers, expressed in person-years, is 104 in 2002-2003 and 106 in 2001-2002.

8. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Accounts receivable	1,245,938	(148,575)
Prepaid expenses	(86,183)	(383,740)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(350,490)	161,637
Deferred contributions	(1,550,540)	(4,167,797)
	(741,275)	(4,538,475)

9. Commitments

The Centre is committed under renewable, non-cancellable leases for administrative premises and equipment for a total of \$152,297 as follows:

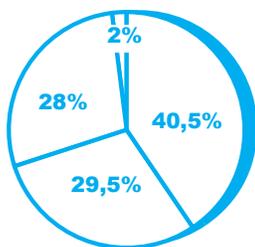
	\$
2003-2004	42,834
2004-2005	42,834
2005-2006	29,362
2006-2007	22,671
2007-2008	14,596

10. Contingency

The Centre granted CIDA two letters of credit to finance projects. A letter for \$ 125,000 is due October 31, 2003 and another for \$ 200,000 is due December 31, 2003.



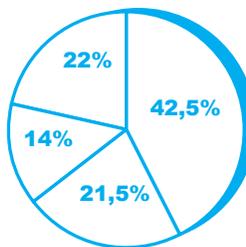
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN 2002-03:



Allocation of resources per region*

Africa: 40.5%
Asia: 29.5%
The Americas: 28%
Eastern Europe: 2%

* Including the value of services rendered by volunteers.



Breakdown of resources per sector*

Economic Development: 42.5%**
Social Development: 22%
Human Rights and Democratic Development: 21.5%
Humanitarian Assistance*: 14%**

* Including the value of services rendered by volunteers.

** Including environmental protection and rehabilitation.

*** Reconstruction and rehabilitation, and refugee relief efforts.

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*In May 2002, CECI moved into its new head office
in the east end of Montreal.*

*The official inauguration took place on June 12.
An open house was held in September.*

