

CECI is a non-profit organization that was founded in Montreal in 1958 and incorporated in 1968 under Section 3 of *The Companies Act* of Quebec. Its **mission statement** is: "CECI combats poverty and exclusion. 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."

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we review the year 2004, we wish to underline the work of thousands of women and men engaged in a common struggle: the elimination of poverty and exclusion. We will also show how CECI accompanies them on the path to development.

We and our partners have shown leadership by putting the accent on rural development, especially as regards agriculture. We do so because it is in the countryside where one finds the greatest numbers of poor people. Agriculture is the principal economic sector in the countries where we intervene and, for many of the poor, the only source of employment. However, more than economic growth is needed since too many are excluded from its benefits. We therefore support the defence and advocacy of the rights of victims of exclusion: women in Africa and elsewhere, indigenous peoples in the Americas, and ethnic minorities and marginalized castes in Asia.

In a world marked by strife and the fight against terrorism, CECI opts for international cooperation and development assistance. We believe the struggle against poverty and exclusion paves the way to peace and security. We urge governments to honour their commitments regarding the Millennium Development Goals and larger international aid budgets—despite the constant pressure to increase military spending.

In showcasing the convincing results produced by dozens of the civil society organizations that it supports, CECI is also making the case for a more diversified and inclusive model of international cooperation. We do not believe it is desirable to channel aid entirely (or almost entirely) towards governments and multilateral institutions. We think that collaboration between the civil society organizations of the South and the North is crucial for international solidarity and citizens' participation in development efforts.

It was in this spirit that CECI chose, without neglecting other types of action, to relaunch its volunteer cooperation program. Thanks to the

support of the Canadian government, this program will constitute about 30% of our international cooperation activities over the next five years. Jointly designed and executed by CECI and World University Service Canada (WUSC), its intention is to spur partnerships between civil society organizations in Canada and thirteen countries of the South. The program will contribute to the Millennium Development Objectives. It will also favour diversification of voluntary action, both South and North, as well as increased partner involvement and greater public engagement in Canada—even as it generates tangible and targeted development results. The new program has already had a structuring effect on our other cooperation activities in the countries concerned. The boards of directors of the two organizations and the consortium's joint team will work hand in hand to ensure the success of this initiative.

The coming year will be full of challenges. In spite of a difficult context, CECI is ready to meet them. Together, we will be equal to the task. Long live international cooperation!



Pierre Pichette

PIERRE PICHETTE
CHAIRPERSON



Michel Chaurette

MICHEL CHAURETTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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NOTE Unless indicated otherwise, the pictures featured in this review belong to CECI.

They were taken by CECI cooperants, employees or members.

This report is also available in French and Spanish.

We express our gratitude to Nolin for its valuable input to the making of this review.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left to right, in the front row, Danielle Sauvage, Michèle Jodoin, Lucie Blondeau, Monique Vézina et Pierre Bélanger; in the back row, Bernard Decaluwé, Raymond Batrie, Pierre Pichette, Benoit Labonté and Chantal Havard. Do not appear on this picture Pierre Racicot and Jean-François Simard.

Photo: Photo-Maître, Montréal

SECURITY FOR ALL

Security has long been on the agenda of international assistance. It's an issue that affects every aspect of life because poor people are vulnerable people. Examples include the lack of food security afflicting drought victims, lack of access to affordable medicines for persons living with AIDS, disaster victims who become homeless when natural disasters occur because they live in areas prone to flooding and earthquakes, and finally the abuses and violence that prey on so many during episodes of strife and political repression. The OECD has recently added the fight against terrorism to the list of international aid's objectives. NGOs are concerned about the potential for serious mistakes that this new orientation comports, such as the militarization of humanitarian assistance, the diverting of aid to conflict zones linked to the fight against terrorism, and setbacks in civil liberties and fundamental human rights. CECI believes, as do others, that the question of security must be taken into account, but that it's a matter that concerns citizens as much as it does governments and armies. This is why we are increasingly engaged in peace and security initiatives such as the transformation of conflicts through negotiations, mediation, community security, citizens' arms control and prevention, and the strengthening of local capacities to prevent and mitigate risks. Our approach is to offer a sustainable citizens' alternative to costly and short-term solutions such as the sending of international police or military forces, or abusive restrictions to immigration and refugee flows.

FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

The World Trade Organization's latest round of negotiations, held in Cancun, revealed as never before the abyss between speeches on trade liberalization and the reality of farm subsidies in the countries of the North. As we work for agricultural development in some of the poorest countries of the South, we can see the negative effects of such protectionist practices: dumping of surpluses at the expense of local products, decline in world cotton prices, disputes around genetically modified seeds, etc. In a word, farmers in the South do not earn a decent living and their future seems bleak. The agricultural cooperatives and peasant associations that we support are in favour of a trade liberalization that would give them access to a fair world market, one that would pay a just price for their products. They are also seeking alternatives for times when market conditions are unfavourable, as is the present case. Many are opting for the organic and fair trade sectors. We are accompanying them in this path. International agricultural cooperation is vital for our partners from the South. Given the present world economic context, they need our solidarity. CECI is making an urgent appeal to governments in favour of maintaining agriculture as a major sector of development cooperation.

Around the World

Through CECI, some 325 nationals, 165 Canadian volunteers, 12 Canadian employees and consultants as well as 122 volunteers from France and Australia have worked in more than 20 countries.

The organization carries out its mission through **partnerships** with organizations based in developing countries and in association with groups from Canada (including WUSC) and various other countries of the North: France, Australia, the United States, etc. CECI also carries out activities to engage the Canadian public. Finally, it conducts fund-raising campaigns and participates in the national and international dialogue on development policies. CECI is a member of the Ottawa-based Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), the Montreal-based *Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale* (AQOCI) and the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. It subscribes to the ethical norms established by these associations. CECI also belongs to a variety of coalitions or networks, including *le Groupe d'économie solidaire du Québec* (GESQ), *le Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec*, *le Réseau québécois de développement local*, the Montreal International Forum, the Washington-based Small Enterprise Education and Promotion Network (SEEP) and the Dakar-based Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social/Solidarity Economy (INPSSE).

African Great Lakes Region

SECURITY AND RIGHTS / PEACE-BUILDING / HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (BURUNDI)

15 local employees (Rwanda, Burundi, North and South Kivu), 1 Canadian employee and 1 Canadian volunteer (Kigali)

Bolivia

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT / PREVENTION AND TRANSFORMATION OF CONFLICTS / WATER AND WATER PURIFICATION

7 local employees, 1 Canadian employee and 20 Canadian volunteers

Burkina Faso

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SUB-SECTORS / AIDS PREVENTION / WOMEN'S RIGHTS

19 local employees, 12 Canadian volunteers and 2 French interns

Cambodia

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / AIDS PREVENTION / SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

3 local employees, 6 Canadian volunteers and 33 young Australian interns

Central African Republic

DECENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

6 local employees

Ecuador

MEDICINAL PLANTS / INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATIONS / COMMUNITY TOURISM

3 local employees and 13 Canadian volunteers

El Salvador

COMMUNITY SECURITY

3 local employees and 5 Canadian volunteers

Guatemala

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / HUMAN RIGHTS / GOVERNANCE / YOUTH PROGRAMMING

16 local employees and 7 Canadian volunteers

Guinea

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT / LOCAL GOVERNANCE / RESETTLEMENT OF SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES

65 local employees, 13 Canadian volunteers, 2 Canadian employees and 1 French intern

Haiti

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE / HEALTH AND AIDS PREVENTION / INFRASTRUCTURES AND FACILITIES / CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION / LOCAL GOVERNANCE

22 local employees and 5 Canadian volunteers

India

RURAL DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNICATIONS

15 local employees, 1 Canadian employee and 5 Canadian volunteers

Kosovo

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT / ENVIRONMENT

1 Canadian employee, Partnership with KDC

Macedonia

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Partnership with MEDF

Mali

WOMEN'S RIGHTS / ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE / AGRICULTURE (SUB-SECTORS) / LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

21 local employees, 15 Canadian volunteers and 13 French interns

Nepal

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT / RURAL HEALTH

39 local employees, 14 Canadian volunteers, 2 Canadian employees and 6 young Australian interns (AYAD)

Niger

LITERACY AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION / AGRICULTURE (SUB-SECTORS) AND IRRIGATION / LOCAL DEVELOPMENT / FAIR TRADE

18 local employees, 1 Canadian employee, 12 Canadian volunteers and 3 French interns

Peru

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND TRANSFORMATION / PEASANT AND INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS

2 local employees and 6 Canadian volunteers

Senegal

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HORTICULTURE) / NON-FORMAL EDUCATION / WOMEN'S RIGHTS

36 local employees, 1 Canadian employee, 17 Canadian volunteers and 40 French interns (on solidarity leaves)

Sierra Leone

RECONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURES / MICRO-ENTERPRISES FOR DESTITUTE PERSONS

1 Canadian cooperant, partnership with ABC Development

Vietnam

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT / PREVENTION OF WEATHER-RELATED RISKS

36 local employees, 14 Canadian volunteers, 2 Canadian employees and 24 young Australian interns

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Peru, Niger, Mali

The volunteer program is pretty much CECI's heart and soul.

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What we've Achieved

From Vision to Action

In 2003, CECI adopted five vision statements*. Strategic objectives for the 2003-2008 period have been set for each one. Our actions in 2003-2004 were in keeping with this framework.

STATEMENT 1

Exercise leadership within an international network of partners engaged in the struggle against poverty and exclusion

The CECI delegation at the World Social Forum (India, January 2004) included a member from *Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec* and *Groupe d'économie solidaire du Québec*. In Mumbai, our Executive Director participated in a panel on promoting the social/solidarity economy and chaired a workshop on international alliances coordinated by PRIA, an Indian NGO, and the Montreal International Forum (MIF). We facilitated the participation of delegates from Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Guatemala at the first gathering of the First Nations of the Americas Communications Circle, held in Quebec City in October 2003. Thanks to CECI, delegates from the *Société de communication Attikamekw-Montagnais* had already taken part in the annual gathering of the *Red Kiechwa*, a network of Andean indigenous radio stations, which took place in Bolivia. *SOCODEVI*, the *Union des producteurs agricoles - DI (Développement international)* and CECI signed an agreement on the creation of an agricultural alliance, which committed them to sharing resources to promote agricultural development in francophone Africa.

One of the ways we contribute in the struggle against poverty and exclusion is through the strengthening of capacities and the sharing of skills. During the year, our training activities—conducted mainly by specialists from our Centre for Training, Study and Consultancy (CTSC)—experienced rapid growth. Sessions on the rights-based development approach, gender equality, results-based project management, analysis of the bio-food sector or business support services were given in Canada, as well as in Bolivia, Egypt, Haiti, Kosovo, Macedonia, Morocco, Nepal, Tajikistan and Vietnam. Via the CTSC, we also

concluded an agreement with the **World Bank** on the management of local community enterprises on behalf of the *Agence sénégalaise d'électrification rurale (ASER)* and an agreement on strengthening capacities with respect to the trade policies of several countries receiving support from Britain's **Department for International Development (DFID)**.

STATEMENT 2

Develop and diversify the channels enabling Canadians to participate in international cooperation

In partnership with WUSC and with the financial support of **CIDA**, we launched an innovative new volunteer cooperation program in Africa, the Americas and Asia. The key elements of this program are as follows: a five-year duration; a focus on the Millennium Development Goals; participation of 950 volunteers from Canada and the South (including missions co-financed by Canadian businesses in accordance with a proven model from France, i.e. solidarity leaves); concentration in 13 countries and in a limited number of sectors both for the program as a whole as well as per country (i.e. two sectors per country) in order to maximize the program's impact. For example, at the end of five years, more than 400,000 persons will have benefited in the South from the support provided by volunteers involved in rural and agricultural development. Likewise, over 125 organizations from the South will be dispensing improved services in basic education. Furthermore, CECI and WUSC will act as the official representatives in Canada of the United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV).

STATEMENT 3

In partnership with an organization specializing in humanitarian operations, provide populations afflicted by disasters with emergency aid, as well as assistance for reconstruction and the strengthening of local capacities to face future crises

In Haiti, we undertook a humani-

tarian assistance operation which will have mobilized over a million dollars. Two organizations joined efforts with us, the CCISD, based in Quebec City, and *Action contre la faim - France*, a major international NGO specializing in emergency assistance. This collaboration came after an initial experience with ACF-Spain in Sierra Leone last year. Our agreement with *ACF-France* on Haiti may lead to other collaborations in the future. To assist the Haitian people, we launched the Emergency Campaign for Haiti in February 2004, with singer **Luck Mervil** as our spokesperson. By March 31, 2004, this special campaign had already raised \$265,000.

STATEMENT 4

Integrate communications into our strategies for social change and make our positions more widely known

We participated in representations undertaken by the Ottawa-based Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) and other coalitions of Canadian NGOs (particularly the consortium regrouping the ten NGOs engaged in volunteer cooperation) in order to influence the federal government's orientations re development assistance and foreign policy. We prepared a brief in response to the **CIDA** consultation on the future of Canadian cooperation in Haiti. In November 2003, over 125 stakeholders participated in an international conference on self-managed cooperatives, organized in India by our team in that country. In February 2004, CECI-India and one of its local partners advocated the merits of an approach combining micro credit and rural development at the Asia-Pacific Regional Summit on Micro Credit in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In Kobe, Japan, we were invited to expound on our experience in Vietnam during the International Symposium on Community Legacy in Disaster Management.

We raised awareness among the general public in Canada through a variety of initiatives: in May, a film launching in Montreal on the crisis

in the coffee sector in Guatemala (a CECI-*Via le monde* co-production); the publication of two bilingual editions of the newsletter *News from the Field*, including a special edition gathering heart-felt testimonies from some of our partners (Sept. 2003); the publication of an trilingual and illustrated 2004 calendar; in Nov. 2003, the Quebec tour of Cheikh Diop (CECI), a Senegalese expert on water issues, during the *Journées québécoises de solidarité internationale*; and conferences in February 2004 in Montreal and Quebec City on the World Social Forum in Mumbai, India. Magazines, newspapers, radio and television stations also covered CECI, its projects and cooperants. The appeal launched in February 2004 on behalf of the Haitian people, afflicted by a political crisis, had a major impact. Several Canadian and Haitian media outlets interviewed our spokesperson **Luck Mervil**, who went to Haiti to verify whether our humanitarian actions were going smoothly. Finally, let's mention the progress achieved in the reconfiguration of our Internet site, which will be launched soon.

STATEMENT 5

Adapt our structures and our form of governance to our objectives and strengthen our own capacities

A position was created to stimulate the membership's participation in the organization. Two forums for participation were created within the Corporation: one is a working group on programming in the Americas and fair trade; and the other, a working group on programming in Africa and the launching of the Solidarity Leave initiative. The number of Board members was increased from ten to eleven. Our new projects information system was integrated into our work practices. We adopted a new accounting system and updated our administrative policies. Training sessions were given in our offices on these issues.

* The statements listed below are condensed versions of the statements adopted by the CECI Board of Directors.

What we've Achieved

Tangible Results on the Ground

The projects cited as examples show that we basically collaborate with local organizations that work at the grassroots level. These projects made major contributions to the strengthening of local organizations.

PEACE AND SECURITY: A CITIZENS-CENTRED APPROACH

In **El Salvador**, phase II of the project for citizen participation to prevent violence and juvenile delinquency consolidated its achievements in two rural municipalities and extended its activities to an under-privileged neighbourhood in the capital, San Salvador, which had become unsafe due to street gangs. Applauded by the association of municipalities and ISDEMU, a national institute, this project has had a real impact on municipalities and the national police in terms of crime prevention methods utilized. Given their relationship with the municipal authorities and other political agencies, the citizens' committees for security should be able to ensure the project's sustainability after it terminates in 2004. Our approach was the subject of a publication in Spanish. **CIDA** ensures project financing, in particular via counterpart funding from the El Salvador-Canada Fund.

In light of the good results obtained in this area during the last few years with our partners in **Bolivia**, notably with mining communities, we undertook an important mandate in the present context: to increase the capacities of government officials or representatives, and of civil society and businesses to resolve conflicts through negotiations. This sensitization and theoretical and practical training program is executed with the Ministry of Labour, and funded by **DFID**, the British cooperation agency, and **CIDA**. With a view to promoting a culture of peace and tolerance among children, a local NGO called *Centro de Estudio y Trabajo de la Mujer* (Women's Centre for Study and Work) has been implanting a program called *Camino a la Paz* in the Arbieta region of Cochabamba province since 2000, with our support. We seek to extend this program to other regions of the country. Originally called "Pacific Path",

this program was developed by the Montreal-based International Centre for Conflict Resolution and Mediation for kindergarten and grade school students—and is now used in over 800 schools in Quebec.

The Citizen Action for Peace project (ACIPA) is entirely devoted to the promotion of peace and human rights in **Rwanda**, **Burundi** and two eastern provinces of the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. ACIPA has fostered the creation of regional synergies between some twenty national organizations and encouraged them to engage as civil society actors in the construction of a just and lasting peace in the African Great Lakes Region.

In central **Vietnam**, eight villages elaborated action plans for reducing the impact of hurricanes and the flooding that comes in their wake. A manual on community management of disasters was produced in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre. We also produced, in collaboration with Development Workshop, a manual on safe construction practices. A drawing contest was launched in primary schools as a public awareness initiative. This project was funded by the **Canada Climate Change Development Fund** (CIDA). The Embassy of New Zealand also made a contribution.

RURAL PEOPLE TAKING CONTROL OF THEIR OWN AFFAIRS

A component of the Canadian action plan for *les Niayes*, **Senegal's** coastal agricultural zone, the Project to Support Peasant Entrepreneurship has strongly contributed to professionalizing market-garden production. This project has also assisted in the development of sustainable methods for exploiting the 300 metre wide and 200 kilometre long arborescent strip, which protects areas under cultivation from silting. Furthermore, this project has helped counter the salinization of the water table by popularizing the drip irrigation sys-

tem. The five agricultural associations supported by the project successfully launched the "*Les Niayes maraîchères*" brand name on the local market. In 2003, they had a turnover of \$210,000 and a surplus of \$40,000 to cover their recurrent costs. In 2003, the producers who took part in the cooperative marketing program for onions earned a quality bonus of up to 25% of the regular price. *L'Association des unions maraîchères des Niayes*, founded in 2002, already regroups nearly 8,000 producers, half of whom are women.

In north-western **India**, the State of Uttaranchal has passed a law on self-reliant cooperatives. The first to qualify in this regard were the 20 cooperatives constituted as a part of the **CIDA** financed Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) project, an initiative executed by two local NGOs in partnership with CECI. In two very poor districts, Pithogarh and Champawat, 3,376 persons are now members of micro-credit cooperatives or small agro-industrial cooperatives and more than 9,000 others belong to village groups with an economic vocation. Some 950 men and 900 women, many of whom are marginalized persons, marketed 91 tons of garden produce and savoury or medicinal herbs. The annual incomes of these households have quadrupled. The CBED project launched a literacy program for women centring on economic topics and concepts. In the words of one of the 2,000 participants, Mrs. Janki Devi: "We had never seen the inside of a bank because we thought that what went on there was no concern of ours. Now, I deposit my savings there."

The Community Groundwater Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP) is an initiative of the Irrigation Department of **Nepal** to assist poor small farmers in twelve south-eastern districts to irrigate their parcels of land. About twenty local NGOs supported by CECI mobilize farming communities around a simple irrigation technology: shallow tube wells. The 2,100 wells installed irri-

gate over 6,700 hectares. Yields have increased by 30 to 80% in accordance with the type of crop cultivated (e.g. garden produce). Each well is managed by a users group composed of men and women. No fewer than 11,000 families (about 70,000 people) participate in the project, including ethnic minorities and marginalized castes. Thirty users groups associations have been set up and about twenty others are being formed. All are destined to become small services cooperatives. This program is co-financed by the **Asian Development Bank** and **CIDA**.

Since its inauguration in 2001 in Thanh Hoa, **Vietnam**, the Integrated Livelihood for Mountain Communities project has supported 130 micro-irrigation initiatives. The surface area irrigated has increased 50% in this province. Over 10,000 agricultural households now have a second rice harvest, which provides them with greater food security. In addition, the project has helped its beneficiaries organize to manage the entire process leading up to the construction of the irrigation works. These communities have adopted this participatory approach with enthusiasm. Moreover, micro-irrigation is but one of the components of this **CIDA** financed project.

With financial support from **USAID** and **Save the Children US**, the Kosovo Development Centre in Gjakova and CECI have helped to stimulate agricultural development in **Kosovo** since 2003. In 2003-2004, together, we gave support to 1,147 farmers organized in 31 associations. A year after the adoption of a new technological package, farmers attained 48% of their objectives regarding expanding the volumes marketed for eight garden produce. That represented an additional income of nearly \$315,000. Yields jumped by 60% on average. This project also helped four agricultural producers associations to offer their members better services (training, etc.)

The Technical Assistance for

What we've Achieved

Results (continued from page 07)

Business Development Services Project accomplished much to make the farming sector profitable and to create agriculture related jobs in **Macedonia**. Producers and other stakeholders first set up round table development committees for the tomatoes – paprika and apples sub-sectors. Support was provided in strategic planning, strengthening of competitiveness, market analysis, business development and the implementation of a management information system. These two sub-sectors regroup 8,000 family farms, ten agro-food processing facilities and eight wholesalers. This **CIDA**-financed project terminated in 2004. It was co-executed by CECI and the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation, based in Skopje.

WOMEN ON THE MARCH

Upon termination of the 1998-2004 Women's Rights and Citizenship Project (DCF in French), some thirty organizations from **Burkina Faso**, **Mali** and **Guinea** formed three coalitions in order to pursue their activities. Each coalition received direct assistance of \$75,000 for the 2003-2005 period from **CIDA**, the DCF project's funder.

In **Mali**, a variety of groups are working for greater gender equality. Given the paucity of appropriate public education tools, we developed a "tool kit" on gender equality comprised of images and detachable cards presenting, in the Bambara language, the key-concepts of the Gender and Development approach. The purpose is to stimulate discussion in communities. In partnership with six local NGOs and under the patronage of a committee formed by representatives from, notably, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family, we initiated over 60 groups in the utilization of this new tool. About twenty others requested sample copies of the kit. Training sessions were also given to NGOs working in northern Mali. **Canada's Embassy** in Bamako supported this initiative.

In **Niger**, the **CIDA** financed Non-formal Education Project has completed its fourth year of operation in the Agadez, Tillabéri and Zinder regions. The results obtained thanks to a multi-partner approach are conclusive: 41,000 persons taught to read and write (65% of whom are women) and, better still, about thirty local operators qualified to deliver quality literacy programs. In light of these results, the Ministry of Basic Education and Literacy (MEBA) and the **World Bank** (IDA) asked CECI to participate in a similar project covering the regions of Diffa, Dosso, Maradi and Tahoua. Entitled the "Program for the Development of Non-Formal Education" and endowed with significant financial resources, this endeavour was launched in January 2004. It will continue until the end of 2007.

In Barillas, **Guatemala**, CECI was associated with the Communities in Transition project from 1995 to 2004. **USAID**, the funding agency, entrusted us with the management of a five-year \$CDN 900,000 budget to support small rural businesses in the mainly Mayan populated departments of Huehuetenango and Quiche. We will continue our engagement with the ASOBAGRI (organic, fair trade coffee) and ASODEMNA cooperatives, as well as the *Casa Barillense de las Mujeres* (Woman's Centre of Barillas), which has founded a services cooperative. Since the inauguration of its offices in 2002, the CBM has come a long way and helped many women in the region raise their heads. The new mayor of Barillas, Mr. Gilberto Lopez, was a close collaborator of CECI. One may expect this municipality to be managed in a participatory and transparent fashion.

In **Nepal**, we have completed the first phase of a study on "Measuring Empowerment and Social Inclusion" (MESI) whose aim is to develop a set of indicators and instruments that can be used for the monitoring and measurement of changes in the empowerment and social

inclusion of disadvantaged groups, i.e. women, ethnic minorities and other socially excluded groups. The results will highlight the elements of empowerment and social inclusion that are critical for the achievement of social justice and human development. A part of the research will also form the Nepal component of a five-country study on Measuring Empowerment being carried out by research teams for the **World Bank**.

STOPPING A PANDEMIC

In **Burkina Faso**, we strengthened the capacities of local associations and NGOs engaged in the prevention of HIV-AIDS and other sexually transmitted illnesses. For example, the group *Solidarité et entraide mutuelle au Sahel* (SEMUS) is conducting an experimental voluntary screening program and is operating a support and counselling centre for persons living with AIDS in Yako. Five new community organizations are extending SEMUS' activities to the provinces of Passoré and Zandoma. In Sissili and Ziro, twelve youth clubs belonging to the *Réseau des jeunes* are using a new manual on HIV-AIDS prevention and voluntary screening. We shall be involved in three new projects. Financed by a private foundation established by **Bristol-Meyers-Squibb**, of the pharmaceutical industry, the first is being executed in Passoré with SEMUS as the local partner. The second concerns taking charge of orphans and vulnerable children in seven provinces while the third is an HIV-AIDS prevention project in gold-mining zones. These latter two projects are financed by the **World Bank**.

Since June 2003, RACHANA, a local NGO, is executing with our support a prevention project centring on the well-being of poor women and vulnerable communities in Cambodia. The objective is to sensitise these communities and at the same time support their economic development. Over 1,800 persons (of whom 1,130

were women) have been taught about HIV-AIDS prevention, while another 2,000 have attended a play about AIDS. Furthermore, 108 women farmers and their families have received technical assistance on income-generating activities. These measures encourage people to stay in their communities and slow the pandemic's spread. This initiative has the financial support of the Montreal-based **Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation**.

In partnership with Quebec City's CCISD and local NGOs, we are also engaged in a major project for preventing STIs and HIV-AIDS in **Haiti**. It was in this context that the first Haitian film for raising public awareness about AIDS was premiered in Port-au-Prince. Entitled *Esther*, the film pays tribute to the dedication of a woman who has been lavishing aid and health care to AIDS patients since the start of the pandemic in Haiti, even as she struggles to break the isolation of persons living with HIV in that country.

THE NEW FAIR TRADE ECONOMY

During the 2003 WTO meeting in Cancun, fair trade was a subject arousing great interest—outside of the meeting rooms. CECI has been active in this area for a number of years, particularly in the Americas. In fact, we support associations or producers cooperatives in the coffee, medicinal plants and crafts sectors in Guatemala, Ecuador and Bolivia. This year, we launched two community tourism projects, one with the Plurinational Federation for Community Tourism of Ecuador (FEPTCE), the other with REDTOURS, the new Guatemalan network for sustainable tourism. Furthermore, prefeasibility studies done by us showed that in North America there is a real potential for marketing clothing made in El Salvador and Guatemala under socially responsible conditions. A Board of Directors committee is closely following these initiatives.

Results (continued from page 08)

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WORTHY OF HUMANITY

Our first intervention in **Sierra Leone** was carried out with the financial support of **CIDA** (IHA) and thanks to our donors. This project, which was administered from **Guinea**, was part of the return process of thousands of Sierra Leoneans who had taken refuge in that country. A school and a health centre were built with the help of local communities. One hundred and fifty des-

titute persons were able to start micro enterprises. The authorities appreciated our participatory approach and the collaboration that we enjoyed with a local NGO, **ABC Development**.

The political crisis that erupted in **Haiti** in 2004 caused major damages. We reacted by launching a fund-raising campaign with singer **Luck Mervil** as our spokesperson. We approached **CIDA**, the **Government of Quebec**, the **City of**

Montreal, and various foundations, notably **la Fondation J.A. Bombardier**. We mobilized the **CCISD** in **Quebec City**, **ACF-France**, **UNICEF** and **WFP-Haiti**, as well as various local committees to launch a humanitarian program in **Gonaïves**, **Saint-Marc** and north-eastern **Haiti**. Seven health clinics centres were supplied with medicine. Over 100,000 hot meals were served to 3,800 children between the aged 6 months to 5 years old in the working class

neighbourhoods of the city of **Gonaïves**. Six thousand days of paid work were invested in the installation of food canteens, the rehabilitation of social infrastructures and environmental sanitation. This project, which is to exceed a million dollars, will continue until **October 2004**. Another benefit: its contribution to mending a social fabric torn by fratricidal conflict.

Concluding our Overview

\$900,415

FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN: OVER \$900,000 RAISED

As of March 31 2004, we had raised \$900,415. That amount includes \$265,000 for the Haiti Emergency Campaign, which was launched with popular singer **Luck Mervil**, who is of Haitian descent, as spokesperson. Our donors have not only been more numerous (3,000), but also more diversified than in past years. For example, over 183 religious communities made a donation to CECI. Their contributions were equal to more than two thirds of our total fund-raising receipts. During the year, we organized an event-gathering with these institutions.



HAITI

Luck Mervil went to Haiti where he saw with his own eyes that our humanitarian operation hit the ground running. He even joined in by participating in the delivery of medicine to the Marchand-Dessalines Hospital.

Photo: Steeve Duguay



MONTREAL

Thanks to the donations from the public, we were able to obtain further contributions for Haiti from CIDA, the Government of Quebec, etc. In the end, the donations and contributions surpassed the amount written on the symbolic cheque exhibited by Luck Mervil. This photo was taken in May at the *mosaikArt* gallery, in Montreal, where some fifty works of Haitian art from the private collection of Madam Émeraude Michel were put on sale for the benefit of the Emergency Campaign for Haiti. Thanks also to Lionel Serik, from the organization *OVUM - Les femmes et les enfants d'abord*, who also greatly contributed to making this activity a success.

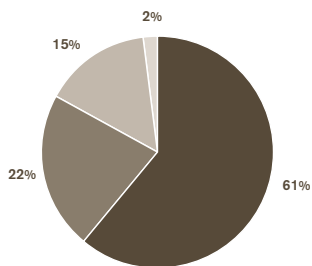
Photo: Gilles St-Amand, CECI

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

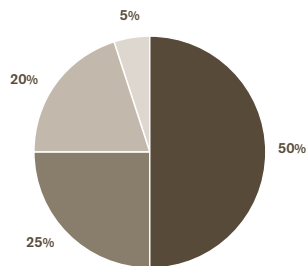
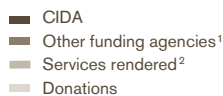
We are grateful to every person and organization that made a donation to us in 2003-2004. Whatever the amount may have been, every donation we receive is precious. The following list includes every donor that contributed \$500 or more, save those who wished to remain anonymous:

JERRY ANTONIK · AUGUSTINES DE LA MISÉRICORDE DE JÉSUS · JEAN-BRUNO · ÉLISE BENNY · YVAN BORDELEAU · THÉRÈSE BOUCHARD · CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION · CARMÉLITES DÉCHAUSSÉES · CARMEN CARPI · CCMM · BRUNO CHABOT · JACQUES CHAGNON · JEAN J. CHAREST · MICHEL CHAURETTE · CIRCM · CONFÉRENCE ST-VINCENT DE PAUL · CONGRÉGATION DE NOTRE-DAME · CONGRÉGATION DE NOTRE-DAME DU SAINT-ROSAIRE · CONNEXIM · CONSEIL CENTRAL MONTRÉAL MÉTROPOLITAIN (CSN) · CONCERTATION FEMMES ESTRIE · CORPORATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST.MARTHA · MICHELLE COURCHESNE · DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM · XAVIER DE MARRE · MICHEL DESPRÉS · GUY DESJARDINS · RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS · SUZANNE ET MAURICE DONGIER · ŒUVRES HEDWIGE BUISSON · FAITHFUL COMPANIONS OF JESUS · LOUIS FAVREAU · FILLES DE LA CHARITÉ DU SACRÉ-CŒUR DE JÉSUS · FILLES DE JÉSUS · FILLES DE LA SAGESSE · FILLES DE MARIE-DE-L'ASSOMPTION · FILLES RÉPARATRICES DU DIVIN CŒUR · FONDATION DE LA FAMILLE · J.W. MCCONNELL · FONDATION ÉMILIE JAURON · FONDATION FRANÇOIS BOURGEOIS INC. · FONDATION INTERNATIONALE RONCALLI · FONDATION J.A. BOMBARDIER · FONDATION THOMAS-LÉON TREMBLAY · FONDATION YVON BOULANGER · FRANCISCAINES MISSIONNAIRES DE L'IMMACULÉE-CONCEPTION · FRANCISCAINES MISSIONNAIRES DE MARIE · FRÈRES DE SAINT-GABRIEL DU CANADA · CAMILLE GARDNER · CÉLINE HERVIEUX-PAYETTE · MARC HUBERT · PIERRE JUNEAU · L'AIDE AUX MISSIONS · ÉDITH LAFRANCE · RÉAL LAVERGNE · MARCEL LÉVESQUE · NORMAN MACISAAC · RENÉ MALO · MISSIONNAIRES OBLATES DE ST. BONIFACE · NATHALIE NORMANDEAU · ŒUVRES CARITATIVES LES FILLES DE JÉSUS · ŒUVRES LE ROYER · LOUISE OUELLET · PÈRES JÉSUITES · CLAUDE PERRAS · PETITES FILLES DE SAINT-JOSEPH · PETITES FRANCISCAINES DE MARIE · PETITES SŒURS DE L'ASSOMPTION · JEAN PILOTE · FERNAND POTVIN · RELIGIEUSES ADORATRICES DU PRÉCIEUX SANG · RELIGIEUSES DE JÉSUS-MARIE · RELIGIEUSES HOSPITALIÈRES DE SAINT-JOSEPH · RELIGIEUSES TRINITAIRES · JEAN-MARIE ROY · ANNE-MARIE SAUNIER · ROBERT SAURO · SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION · SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF HAMILTON · SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF TORONTO · SOCIÉTÉ DES MISSIONS AFRICAINES · SOCIÉTÉ DES MISSIONS ÉTRANGÈRES · SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART (CANADA) · SŒURS ANTONIENNES DE MARIE · SŒURS DE LA CHARITÉ DE QUÉBEC · SŒURS DE LA CHARITÉ DE SAINT-HYACINTHE · SŒURS DE LA CHARITÉ D'OTTAWA · SŒURS DE LA CHARITÉ DU SACRÉ-CŒUR DE JÉSUS · SŒURS DE LA MISÉRICORDE DE JÉSUS · SŒURS DE LA PRÉSENTATION DE MARIE · SŒURS DE LA PROVIDENCE · SŒURS DE L'ASSOMPTION DE LA SAINTE-VIERGE · SŒURS DE L'IMMACULÉE DE GÈNES · SŒURS DE MARIE RÉPARATRICE · SŒURS DE MISÉRICORDE · SŒURS DE L'INSTITUT JEANNE D'ARC · SŒURS DE NOTRE-DAME AUXILIATRICE · SŒURS DE NOTRE-DAME DU PERPÉTUEL-SECOURS · SŒURS DE LA SAINTE-FAMILLE DE BORDEAUX · SŒURS DE SAINTE-MARTHE DE SAINT-HYACINTHE · SŒURS DE SAINT-FRANÇOIS D'ASSISE · SŒURS DE SAINT-JOSEPH DE SAINT-HYACINTHE · SŒURS DE SAINT-JOSEPH DE SAINT-VALLIER · SŒURS DE SAINT-PAUL DE CHARTRES · SŒURS DES MISSIONS ÉTRANGÈRES · SŒURS DES SAINTS-APÔTRES · SŒURS DES SAINTS NOMS DE JÉSUS ET DE MARIE · SŒURS DES SAINTS-CŒURS DE JÉSUS ET DE MARIE · SŒURS DOMINICAINES DE LA TRINITÉ · SŒURS DU SAUVEUR · SŒURS MISSIONNAIRES DE L'IMMACULÉE-CONCEPTION · SŒURS SERVANTES DU SAINT-CŒUR DE MARIE · CAROLE THÉBERGE · URSULINES DE L'UNION CANADIENNE · MARYLISE VIENS · VILLA MARIA · VILLE DE MONTRÉAL · JEAN VINCELETTE

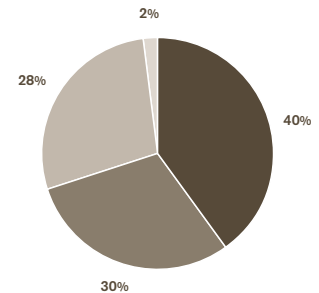
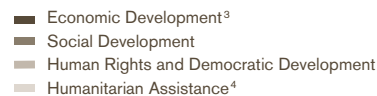
2003-2004 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS



Revenue sources in 2003-2004:



Breakdown of resources per sector



Allocation of resources per region⁵



¹ Other funding agencies (22%): ADB, AusAID, AYA, *Congé Solidaire*, DFID, Embassy of the Netherlands, GERF, IDRC, Ministry of Natural Resources of Quebec, UNHCR, UNDP, USAID, World Bank, etc.

² Monetary value of unpaid services rendered by volunteers.

³ Including environment-related projects.

⁴ Reconstruction and rehabilitation, refugee relief and food assistance.

⁵ Including the value of services rendered by volunteers.

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