



CECI



2009-2010
ANNUAL REPORT



**VIETNAM
TAJIKISTAN
SENEGAL
RWANDA
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
PHILIPPINES**



**PERU
NIGER
NEPAL
MALI
MALAWI
HAITI**



**GUATEMALA
GHANA
EL SALVADOR
CANADA
BURKINA FASO
BOTSWANA
BOLIVIA**

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HAITI

CECI'S MISSION IS TO FIGHT POVERTY AND EXCLUSION.

CECI builds the development capacities of disadvantaged communities. We support peace building, human rights and equity initiatives. We mobilize resources and promote exchanges of knowledge.

**A BIG YEAR FOR CECI,
AND BIG RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE FUTURE!**



AN ENDURING SPIRIT

I would like to give sincere thanks to Luck Mervil, former sponsor of CECI; to all CECI staff in the field and in Montreal; to the Board of Directors; and a very special acknowledgement to all those who contributed to the success of our campaign for Haiti, in particular to the members of the Haitian diaspora. Many thanks for the spirit that has energized and continues to energize CECI.

— PIERRE BÉLANGER SJ

CHAIR.

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**MALI
SHEA
BUTTER**

**AFRICA
AMERICAS
ASIA**



This year has been marked by emergency relief efforts and by the completion of several development projects in accordance with our strategic directions. However, it is also worth noting that the research branch of our organization has grown and is once again gaining prominence in our activities. In short, we have had an intense year at CECI that has led us to take up new challenges together, as members, employees, volunteers and donors.

— MARIO RENAUD

EXEC.

BOLIVIA QUINOA

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DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

01 Every Voice Valued

Following several years of civil and ethnic conflict, Rwanda continues to pursue recovery efforts and take political action. Allowing the voices of all citizens to be heard by instituting democracy and good governance is a key factor in avoiding new tensions. That is why a national policy of decentralization has been implemented since 2002. Over the last three years, the CECI-Experco consortium has contributed to the process through PAGOR (*Programme d'appui à la gouvernance locale en milieu rural au Rwanda*) by working to strengthen the capacities of decentralized government authorities and civil society organizations.

02 Social and Solidarity Economy in Mali

Through the Uniterra program, CECI supports the National Social and Solidarity Economy Network in developing an alternative economy in Mali. A partnership established between the Malian network and the *Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec* forms one of the cornerstones of this project. Within this context, expert consultant, volunteer cooperant and ex-minister of the Quebec government Robert Perreault carried out a six-month mission in Mali. His key achievement was the co-production of a National Public Policy to foster the social and solidarity economy sector.

03 Health in Mali is Everyone's Business

CECI has been very active in Mali's healthcare sector and has developed relationships with several partners in order to ensure better access to quality services for the Malian population. Within the Uniterra program, the National Federation of Community Health Associations – encompassing more than 700 community health associations across the country – CARE Canada and the *Unité Santé Internationale* at *Université de Montréal* are all taking part in a project to strengthen the decentralized healthcare system in Mali. With \$19 million in funding from CIDA, this six-month project aims at strengthening governance and improving social mobilization, quality of services and access to healthcare for populations in Mali's four disadvantaged regions.

04 Sololá: job creation and increasing incomes

PROSOL, a CIDA-funded project managed by CECI and SOCODEVI, seeks to increase and diversify economic activities and opportunities in the Sololá department of Guatemala. The harmful effects of the global economic crisis of 2008 compounded by severe drought in 2009 are still being acutely felt in this part of the world. Improving the efficiency of coffee and vegetable industries has resulted in an immediate rise in income for farmers who are members of the project. Thirty thousand primarily indigenous families, which translates to over 150,000 men, women and children, will make significant improvements to their living conditions. Our support for local development in this region focuses on four economic domains: agricultural industries, public-private investments, tourism, and local entrepreneurship that creates jobs and incomes.

05 Pursuing Development Goals is Part of Recovering from Catastrophe

“With nearly 300,000 dead, it’s one of the biggest natural disasters ever. It has shown that the toll of massive rural migration to Port-au-Prince, which brought on uncontrolled, extremely rapid and dangerous urbanization, is one of the main causes of the disaster,” asserts program director Christian Fauliau. With 40 years of work in the field under its belt at the time of the January 12, 2010 earthquake, CECI quickly took its place at the center of the process for rebuilding the country while maintaining our CIDA-funded local development program in Haiti (PLDH). In the face of this emergency, CECI remained focused, continuing to pursue development projects such as the economic recovery of Port-au-Prince as well as Haiti’s rural regions. With a constant emphasis on the importance decentralization, PDLH works with local communities to implement meaningful grassroots development.



HAITI
EMERGENCY

MALI COFFEE



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DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

06 Sahakarya* Supports Local Development in Nepal

“So many positive changes have come about in my life since my training. My farm operates so well that soon I am going to be able to hire help. Now, I own my land and my home,” Bikha Nepali of Jumla proudly testifies. His revenues increased by more than 62% thanks to Sahakarya. After 5 years of operation, the Sahakarya project led by CECI and the Nepalese government’s Council for Social Wellbeing together with numerous local partners is a success and has been granted renewed funding by CIDA. Sahakarya initially aimed to improve the socioeconomic situation of 30,000 households from 500 selected communities in the mountainous regions of the west and extreme west of the country. In the end, more than 55,000 households have been reached through 1,300 community organizations from 884 communities.

*“Working together” in Nepali.

RURAL ECONOMIC AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

07 Nigerien Women: The Key to Food Security

As drought persists and harvests dwindle, men are being forced to leave their villages for the city in search of money to feed their families. Women and children are left behind, and as a result, the rates of malnutrition are increasing dramatically. Since April 2009, the Women and Food Security project (FSA), funded by CIDA, has been underway in 5 communes of the Tahoua region in Niger. The women, who must provide for their families, play a key role in the Nigerien government’s national strategy for food security. In a country where 7.8 of the 13.2 million people have been declared as living in acute to moderate food insecurity, the Tahoua region alone has seen 33.9% of households hit by critical food insecurity. Directed by the *Alliance Agricole Internationale* consortium under CECI’s leadership, the Women and Food Security team deals with this state of extreme food vulnerability in its intervention zone and is obtaining encouraging results, particularly in terms of prevention.

AFRICA RICE

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RURAL ECONOMIC AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

08 The Art of Parboiling, A Traditional Solution for High Quality Rice

Through the Uniterra program, CECI has been taking action with Burkinan women rice parboilers since 2004. Rice cooperatives in crisis have been dealing with the combined effect of the state withdrawal from the rice industry in the 1990s and the dumping of rice on the market to cover 70% of the population's needs. In the face of declining national production and gradual abandoning of parcels by producers who can no longer sell their paddies, CECI supports an emerging local solution: the purchase and parboiling of rice by women. This ancestral transformation process transmitted from mother to daughter improves the physical and nutritional quality of rice, which is then easily sold on the local market to generate household income.

09 The Participatory Development Project (PRODEP) for Haitian Recovery

"PRODEP's exemplary model of participatory community development could be a driving factor in the national rebuilding effort. In fact, it could facilitate recovery by providing a tool for consulting with different communities, including the displaced, on the prioritization of their needs," states Michael Lecorps, General Director of the *Bureau de Monétisation Programmes d'Aide au Développement*. Operating in 10 departments, the project's primary targets are the 59 poorest communes, and PRODEP will have brought support to an estimated 2,320,000 people by the end of 2010. CECI is taking part in the colossal efforts put forth since 2005, acting as delegated project manager of the national Participatory Development Project in Haiti on behalf of the Haitian government, with funding from the World Bank.

10 Food Security in Haiti: From Aid Dependence to Agricultural Autonomy

Humanitarian food distribution has come to an end on orders from the Haitian government in coordination with post-earthquake humanitarian efforts, with the exception of the most vulnerable individuals such as orphans, elderly persons and disabled persons. Yet the question of food security in Haiti was quickly complicated by last January's earthquake and is a central concern for Haitian authorities and their national and international partners who estimate the value of destroyed goods in the agricultural sector at over \$30 million USD. The CIDA-funded food security improvement project in Haiti (CASA) was already in place at the time and had to

adapt to the post-earthquake reality as hundreds of thousands of displaced people were relocated to other regions, including towns where the project operates. Their presence has significantly increased the demand for agricultural projects and is taking a heavy toll on the general availability of food products.

11 Dehkan Farmers Take Charge of Development

The Facilitating Agricultural Reform and Marketing in Sugd (FARMS) project recently came to a close after five years of operation in the north of Tadjikistan's Sugd province. Grappling with both the transition to a market economy and disastrous socioeconomic conditions, this former Soviet block country remains the poorest in central Asia. Conscious of the agricultural sector's importance in fighting poverty, CECI has supported the Tadjik government's efforts in agrarian reform, helping producers fully understand the process and changes underway and take full advantage of them.

12 Vietnamese Mountains: Escaping Isolation through Active and Inclusive Participation

Very few NGOs are authorized by the government to work with marginalized ethnic groups in the mountainous regions of Vietnam. It is an area forbidden to tourists, isolated from the world due to political tensions between indigenous communities and the authorities. CECI has, however, been working with the most vulnerable populations to find solutions that fight poverty and exclusion. The participative approach used has quickly mobilized vulnerable groups, women in particular. For the first time, the communities have been invited to identify their own socioeconomic needs for themselves. Thus heard and respected, the villagers have taken their future into their own hands and worked toward the success of every aspect of their local development project.



BOLIVIA BUILD

INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERING



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13 Safety First

Forced to work in a particularly difficult political situation, CECI teams in Guinea and Nigeria must be highly adaptable and constantly aware of safety issues in personnel management. Though their histories are different, these two West African countries shared a tumultuous year in 2009. International aid to Guinea was temporarily cut, provoking a temporary and speedy evacuation of volunteers to Mali and Senegal, while political instability in Niger led CECI to implement and maintain tested safety procedures.

14 Proactive Volunteers for Concrete Results

Through the Uniterra program, CECI established a partnership with the Economic and Social Services and Development Agency of Huehuetenango in Guatemala geared at strengthening the department's groups of producers. *The Pleurotus spp* (an edible mushroom that is easy to farm and rich in proteins) industry is the target of a project begun in 2007 with around 15 women farmers. Small in scale, this project is a convincing example of the essential role volunteering plays in development efforts. It also has concrete impacts on Mayan women who have become entrepreneurs and who are inspiring change in women's traditional roles within their families and communities.

15 The Canadian Haitian Diaspora at the Heart of CECI's Humanitarian Response

Since January 13, Canadian-Haitians of all professions and ages have shown their sincere desire to support humanitarian efforts deployed in Haiti. Healthcare was immediately prioritized, as the severely wounded flooded makeshift hospitals. Speaking Creole and having knowledge of the culture and the country, 30 volunteers from the diaspora – doctors, nurses and logisticians – left on Air Transat's first humanitarian flight on January 19. Humanizing the care of disaster victims in Creole, working in close collaboration with French, American and Diquini hospital

medical teams on the ground and saving lives were the major challenges met by CECI's volunteer teams. Today, the team is proud to say that the rate of amputations decreased by over 50% following their arrival in the Diquini hospital.

16 Australians Adopt the Uniterra Model

Having acquired an expertise in managing international volunteers through the Uniterra program, CECI and the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) are applying it to their partnership with Austraining International. For nearly 10 years now, Volunteering for International Development from Australia (VIDA), funded by AUSAid, has been managed by CECI and WUSC in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. CECI and WUSC are responsible for the training and guidance of volunteers and for monitoring the volunteer program's development results. Active in Vietnam since 2006, VIDA has managed 45 volunteers to date.

17 Developing a Social Economy Network in Nepal

On the heels of several years of civil war, an important political transition has been underway in Nepal since 2006. Despite instability, constitutional restructuring and multiple changes of government, local development initiatives have persisted and continue to pursue their objectives. With more than 30 projects under our belt and 23 years of experience in the field, CECI is well acquainted with the local development organizations, and through the Uniterra program and support for volunteers, our partners have been able to experience an economy based on solidarity and principles of social responsibility. A vast network is thereby being established: the Solidarity Economy Network (SEN-Nepal), which unites several umbrella organizations in the credit and savings, dairy, agriculture, forestry and fair trade industries.



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
RECONSTRUCTION
AND SECURITY

18 Breaking the Cycle of Violence

The Community Violence and Crime Prevention Program (PPCV) in El Salvador is a joint initiative between RTI International and CECI, funded by USAID. It is built on the foundation of 10 years of intervention in citizen safety and violence prevention in Guatemala and in El Salvador. The program offers new approaches to citizen safety by valuing involvement from all social spheres – including the private sector – as well as by focusing on young people and women. In a country where civil war gave way to street gang violence and organized crime, the program team offers young people tangible alternatives to deter them from crime and break the momentum of this destructive cycle.

19 Recovering Strategically and Reducing Future Risks

When Hurricane Ida hit El Salvador in November 2009, the Post-IDA Humanitarian Aid and Rehabilitation Project was quickly set up by CECI and several of our partners to respond to its devastating consequences. RTI International and CECI were already working in the area on the violence prevention program and immediately launched an emergency response in communities struck by flooding and landslides. While humanitarian aid is currently giving way to clean up and reconstruction of public spaces, efforts will now begin to focus on mitigating future risk.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RECONSTRUCTION AND SECURITY

20 The January 12, 2010 Earthquake: A Case in Solidarity

Already present and operating several development projects in Haiti, CECI rapidly mobilized to respond to the January 12, 2010 earthquake while also maintaining its activities so as to ensure quick and efficient economic recovery. Financed in large part by generous donations from Canadians and the Emergency Haiti campaign supported by Luck Mervil, CECI and its local and international partners were able to implement an emergency program that brought aid to 350,000 disaster victims and responded to their most urgent needs. Ensuring access to healthcare and water, building temporary shelters and distributing foodstuffs and survival kits were top priorities. Numerous aid, community mobilization, economic recovery and rebuilding projects are now underway.

21 CECI Fights Exclusion

Though numerous emergency aid organizations brought crucial assistance to inhabitants of the Philippines and Vietnam after the passage of Ketsana and Parma typhoons, certain communities have still not been reached, in particular those in the mountainous regions inhabited largely by members of ethnic minorities. To compensate for this situation, CECI contributes to the Disaster Response to Selected Ketsana and Parma Ravaged Communities project, started in December 2009 in partnership with the Filipino Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation and several Vietnamese organizations.

PHILIPPINES





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EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

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22 Toward the Adoption of a National Gender Equality Policy in Mali

CECI has been particularly active in several networks of women's associations in Mali, where gender inequality and women's participation in policy development still present significant challenges. In 2007, CECI implemented its CIDA-funded Gender Equality Project which is implicated in healthcare, law and governance. Having received formal recognition from Mali's Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family for its contribution to economic development, CECI is capitalizing on this momentum and supporting the development of a national gender equality policy.

23 When Traditional and Modern Medicine Meet

The recipient of the latest Bill McWhinney Award of Excellence in International Development for its project "*Un Aguayo* for Risk-Free Childbirth," CECI continues to work with Aymara communities in Bolivia's Oruro Department. In an effort to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates, a pilot project was implemented in the rural municipality of Carahuara de Carangas. The goal now is to extend the project to five other Aymara communities interested in adopting the model.

24 Economic Empowerment of Women

The economic empowerment of women remains a priority for CECI, even in emergency relief programs. Already in a situation of economic precariousness, many of them lose their homes and their micro-businesses. Not only must they be able to protect and feed their families, they also have to face the psychological disturbance catastrophe is likely to cause in their children. The CECI team is aware of women's specific needs and the essential role they play in post-emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction. That is why several field initiatives have been designed specifically for women. One practice that has successfully encouraged businesswomen to resume their income-generating activities has been to provide loans with flexible and advantageous conditions and to ensure regular follow-up thereafter.

25 Gender Equality Expertise

Our efforts to further gender equality are showing results, and CECI is gradually establishing itself as an expert in the matter. The formation of a specialized team to promote equality between women and men enables CECI to respond to numerous internal and external requests as well as to significantly increase its visibility. Initially composed of 5 specialists based in Montreal, the team currently includes several active staff members in every target country of the Unitererra program, whose activities amounted to nearly 120 workdays in 2009-2010.

HAITI DIGNITY

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CANADA SOLIDARITY AND SELF-HELP

Thanks to

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Yanouchka
Majorie
Marie-Françoise
Amir
et toutes et tous les autres.

26 Training Without Borders

Capacity building is one of CECI's central skills and is at the heart of its five strategic orientations. In order to strengthen this aspect within the institution, CECI's Center for Training, Study and Consultancy has worked primarily on the implementation of distance training in international cooperation, while improving collaboration with the university network and encouraging active involvement from our professionals in the field in our systematization efforts. CECI has therefore developed a distance-training program in international cooperation that capitalizes on various training sessions given in Montreal and abroad within the framework of our projects. To do so, we have opted to use new Internet technologies enabling us to broaden our clientele and reach them at a lower cost. In order to adapt to this new medium, we are reediting our main training modules according to the pedagogical principles of distance learning.

27 Active Membership at CECI

In December 2009 under the direction of the Vice-Chair of Membership, Marie-Pierre Chazel, a survey was carried out among members of the Corporation to find out their interests and provide more stimulating membership opportunities. Results showed a willingness among members to get more involved, a desire the Board wishes to channel. Among activities intended to stimulate participation, a member's newsletter has been created, special thematic events have been organized, and the possibility of offering "leave for change" vacations to members is being investigated.

28 CECI, A Hive of Activity: Quebec and Haiti Hand in Hand

On January 13, CECI was transformed into a bustling center of more than 360 volunteers – taking shifts, answering calls from donors, picking up food donated by numerous restaurants and cafes and organizing media relations. A great many thanks to all of you! CECI has never before been energized with such vitality. The result: \$11 million in monies and in-kind donations for Haitian disaster victims.

COVER PICTURES

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1. *Michel Huneault*
2. *Carine Guidicelli*
3. *Michel Huneault*
4. *Jean-François Lemire*
5. *Carine Guidicelli*
6. *Éric Saint-Pierre*
7. *Benoît Aquin*
8. *Benoît Aquin*
9. *Éric Saint-Pierre*
10. *Benoît Aquin*
11. *Benoît Aquin*
12. *Carine Guidicelli*
13. *Benoît Aquin*
14. *Carine Guidicelli*
15. *Michel Huneault*

The corporative body of CECL is made up of about 100 people from a wide variety of backgrounds (former volunteers, business people, members of international cooperation organizations, university communities, and religious institutions, etc.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all the people who are involved and devoted to CECL activities. Thank you to all the donors, precious volunteers and friends of CECL! Please go online to our website to see all the people who have contributed to CECL's development and who share its values.

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RICHARD OUELLET

FRANÇOIS VITEZ

PIERRE RACICOT

Outgoing president

MARIO RENAUD

Executive Director

PRODUCTION

CARINE GUIDICELLI · CINDY SAVARD

Coordination

JOËLLE BRODEUR · CARINE GUIDICELLI · CINDY SAVARD

Written by

JAMIE HERD

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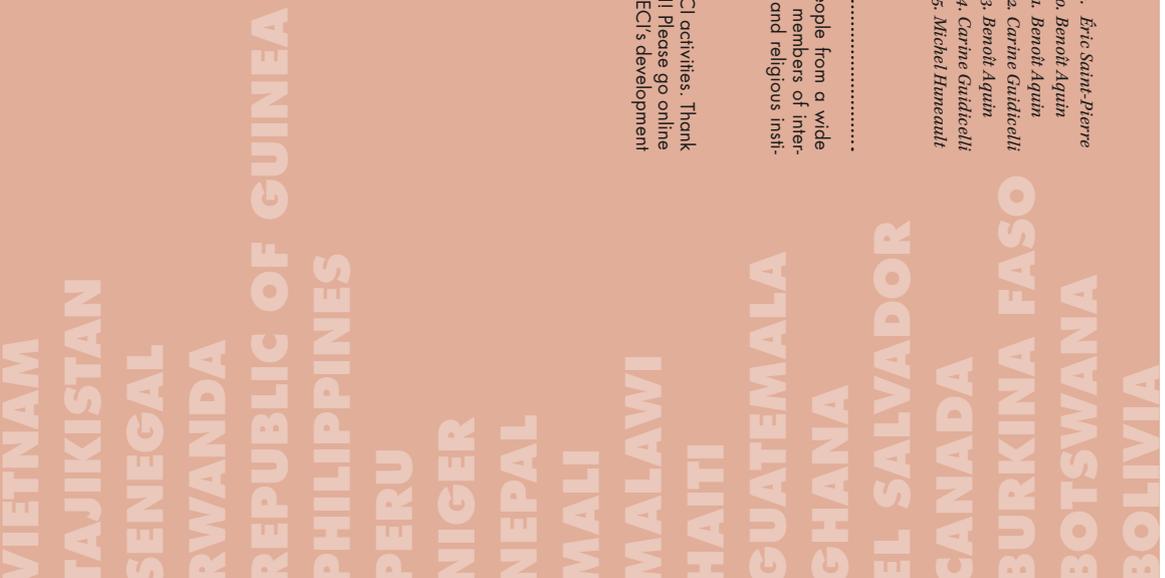
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CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES AND COOPERATION

3000 OMER-LAVALLÉE STREET

MONTREAL (QUEBEC) H1Y 3R8 CANADA

514.875.9911 • WWW.CECL.CA

WWW.PUBLICATION.CECL.CA