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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT | *The past year has been difficult for the international cooperation sector in Canada. The trend that started a few years ago continues, and it is likely that the coming years will be no better.*

That said, I have confidence in the future and I am fully confident in our organization. CECI will adapt to this new reality without betraying either its mission or its soul.

It is in this context that we were forced to make difficult decisions at the beginning of 2012 to make sure that our structure remained appropriate and relevant.

CECI must give itself the means to face the essential changes and must be able to adapt to new realities of international cooperation in a world in full transformation.

We will have to reinvent our practices.

To accomplish this, there is no doubt that the arrival of our new Executive Director, Claudia Black, gives us the breath of fresh air we need, and brings the energy necessary to lead us to innovate and create. It is with great satisfaction that for six months I have been witness to her talents as an approachable manager who listens, participates and includes.

I sincerely thank Suzanne Laporte who preceded me in the position of Chair of the Board of CECI from October 2010 to December 2011 for her dedication and the hard work she accomplished.

Thank you as well to Mario Renaud, seventh Executive Director of CECI, who, in March 2012, completed his three-year mandate as Executive Director in a term marked by major challenges, including the Haitian earthquake of January 12, 2010, as just one example.

I have confidence in the future, and I am certain that the Board of Directors, members of the Corporation and the entire CECI team at headquarters and in the field will demonstrate the innovation and leadership needed to help keep the CECI international cooperation organization the leader it has always been!

ROBERT PERREAULT CHAIR OF THE BOARD



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | *Last April, I was very pleased to join CECI as Executive Director. For me, CECI has always been an organization committed to a combination of dynamism and innovation. For six months now, my feeling has not diminished—on the contrary! I have found a professional, dedicated and highly-skilled team.*

I approach the future with great confidence, despite the uncertainty and the difficult context in which international cooperation organizations operate today.

Many challenges lie ahead, with public aid funds decreasing and international cooperation transforming, but I have no doubt that we will adapt.

Together, we must mobilize around a common vision for a strong and united CECI that will have the ability and flexibility to adjust to a changing landscape. This is the pace and tone that I have striven towards since I took office.

It is essential to position ourselves for the future while remaining true to our mission and values. To do so, we must strengthen our particular network and reinvent ourselves in our practices.

We will be challenged to work with strategic partners and to collaborate with numerous stakeholders including civil society organizations, governments and the private sector in order to innovate in our work.

We exist to fight poverty and exclusion in the world, to meet the needs of underprivileged communities and to reinforce their developmental capabilities. This is our raison d'être and our primary motivation.

Whether it is through our emergency intervention in answer to the food crisis in the Sahel with thousands of vulnerable families, or job creation and support for youth entrepreneurs in Haiti, or by sending more than 450 volunteers to 15 countries each year, our annual report shows significant results reaching thousands of people: employment, income, food safety, access to health, education and training. Every day, CECI continues to change lives.

CLAUDIA BLACK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**THE MISSION OF CECI
IS TO COMBAT POVERTY
AND EXCLUSION.**



A F R I C A

In the Sahel, 2011–2012 was marked by major political and economic events. A food crisis hit the region again, affecting over 18 million people. Mali was the victim of a *coup d'état* and the presidential elections in Senegal were performed in an often-violent climate. Regardless of these challenges, CECI teams on the ground have continued to change lives every day, focusing on security projects and food sovereignty, while not losing sight of the other aspects of development work, including gender equality and the economic empowerment of women.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

CECI has been in the Sahel since the beginning of the food crisis after the launch of a humanitarian aid project in Niger, implemented in conjunction with the government's "3N" (Nigerians Nourish Nigerians) initiative, to mitigate the suffering of the affected populations. Our program has targeted 85 villages in five districts of the Tahoua region; this translates to 231,274 people, 51% of them women. Specifically geared towards the most vulnerable groups, this emergency intervention had about 29,000 households participate in "cash for work" activities, while 850 vulnerable families received food aid in the form of money transfers for five months, and 293 small farmers (including 171 women) received support in vegetable seeds, tools and agricultural training to boost their activities.

Meanwhile, the fighting in northern Mali has forced more than 315,000 people to flee to areas further south or to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, which has increased food insecurity in the region. CECI has extended its emergency program to other Sahelian countries where the organisation is already present.

According to the UNDP, Africa cannot maintain its current economic recovery if it does not eliminate hunger, which affects nearly one quarter of its population. Recognizing this, CECI concentrates on food security and agri-food from a governance and local economic development perspective.

GUINEA

The aim of agri-food sector development, like the fishery in Guinea, is to build the capacity of economic agents best positioned to provide equitable and sustainable development, specifically the needs of youth and women, and, then change life of the community.

FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Outside the context of a humanitarian crisis, CECI has continued its ongoing food security and agri-business development projects in Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Niger. In both Mali and Burkina Faso, we continued to strengthen our support for the development of the shea sector. We obtained convincing results with shea butter, a product sought more and more by the international cosmetic and food industries for its exceptional properties.

Our collaborative work has improved the income of tens of thousands of women, members of production partner organizations, generating a remarkable impact on the lives of thousands of families. With the contribution of volunteers, and in collaboration with various organizations, CECI promotes the sustainable management of resources and the carbon-neutral development of agro-forestry production methods while aiming for growth in sales and exports. In Niger, despite the food crisis, CECI was able to continue to intensify its activities in the food sector through the Alliance agricole internationale and Women and Food Security (FSA). These projects in Niger began in 2009, and have reached 231,274 people, 51% of them women.

Throughout the world, women are particularly vulnerable to food shortages, as they are the base of the agricultural workforce and everyday family subsistence. This is especially true in Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world where nearly 60% of the population is food insecure. In addition, we must mention that the project reached Nigerians living in zones inaccessible to foreigners, due to insecurity. But thanks to the exceptional work of the Alliance national teams, we were able to achieve our goals.

Several studies have shown it: women are the key to sustainable food security. Now that the Women and Food Security (FSA) project has proven this, emphasizing the empowerment and participation of women in a precarious food security context is vital.

GUINEA NIGER MALI
BURKINA FASO SENEGAL
R.D. OF THE CONGO RWANDA



GENDER EQUALITY

CECI and their national partners in gender equality undertook an initiative to adopt a protocol for equal rights and development in West Africa, through a partnership with the Gender Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

This protocol intends to create a legally binding document protecting and promoting women's rights. This tool will apply a planning process in different countries to ensure its effective implementation. The process is already on the right track and has been adopted by the Senegalese President, with the support of ECOWAS and the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso.

In the African Great Lakes region, the project on violence against women has achieved its initial results, through the Concertation des collectifs des associations féminines des Grands Lacs, a regional partner of CECI. In the framework of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the 11 member countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region, the Concertation has conducted advocacy and spoken with a united voice. Its recommendations for awareness, the fight against impunity, services and compensation to victims, were all submitted to the Heads of State and Governments. These recommendations were heard and 70% of them were included in the Kampala Declaration.

HAITI

CECI has been working in Haiti since 1971. With geographical coverage of about a third of the country, we are one of the largest development organizations in Haiti. Through our many projects and programs, we have changed the lives of over 200,000 people.

IN BRIEF

RECIPIENTS

5000 parboilers, made up of young women and vulnerable women, heads of households

PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

2010-2015

PARTNERS

The delegated minister in Agriculture, the Comité Interprofessionnel du Riz (CIRB) and Union nationale des producteurs de riz, and the Groupe de coopération internationale de l'Université de Sherbrooke (GCIUS)

BUDGET

financed by the CIDA via the Uniterra program

Rice parboilers

After the successful experience of parboilers in Mali, CECI wants to repeat its success in the western region of Burkina Faso, in the plains of Banzon and Bama. Since 2008, CECI's activities have helped more than 600 parboilers to regroup into 15 professional associations.

Parboiling is a process that consists of precooking a previously hydrated rice paddy. This transformation technique has been passed down from mothers to daughters and improves the physical and nutritional quality of the rice paddy, which is then sold at the local market.

This year, 2000 members of the Comité interprofessionnel du riz du Burkina, have strengthened their skills and sales at their Bama parboiling centre from 101 CFA francs in 2010 to 149 million in 2011, a progression that has directly benefited 529 members while allowing the integration of 210 new members.

In addition, 430 Banzon parboilers have also been equipped with a baking centre, built with financial and technical support from six students from the Groupe de collaboration internationale en ingénierie de l'Université de Sherbrooke, a CECI partner.

The opening of the Banzon parboiling centre allowed women to parboil and sell 103 tonnes, for a total of 33 million CFA francs for the period from January to March 2012.

The Bama and Banzon centres allow women to do their work in a more respectful standard of quality and hygiene. In addition to improving their working conditions, the project provides income generation for women, as they are the only administrators.

Improving the quality of production of an agricultural product and helping to market it, CECI has helped hundreds of women to earn an income and gain confidence in themselves. In Burkina Faso, as in other places, the development is closely linked to women's economic empowerment.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT IN

BURKINA FASO

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OF OUR PROJECTS...

WWW.CECI.CA

LIST OF PROJECTS CARRIED OUT OR IN PROGRESS IN 2011-2012

BURKINA FASO

- Cooperatives for women shea producers
- Rice parboilers

NIGER

- Cooperatives for women shea producers
- Women and Food Security
- Emergency response for populations suffering from food crisis

GUINEA

- Strengthening of rural development communities
- Microcredit for women smoked fish producers and fishermen
- Cooperatives for women shea producers
- Cooperatives for women working in the smoked fish sector

GREAT LAKES

- Support for local governance in rural Rwanda
- Fight to combat violence against women and girls in the Great Lakes region

SENEGAL

- Bey Dunde "Farming for Sustenance"
- Cooperatives for women working in the processing peanuts sector

MALI

- Cooperatives for women shea producers
- Improving Mali's community health care system
- Gender equality project
- Competitive and agricultural diversification program

REGIONAL-AFRICA

- Protocol for equality between women and men.



**CECI BUILDS THE
DEVELOPMENT CAPACITIES
OF DISADVANTAGED
COMMUNITIES.**

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES year ended March 31, 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Revenue		
CIDA – Partnership	7,688,048	6,903,220
CIDA – Bilateral and other	14,895,685	15,888,492
Other funding organizations	16,467,735	16,558,356
Donations	1,285,051	4,073,712
In-kind contributions	29,804	963,571
Contributed services	3,362,786	4,096,392
Other revenue	511,986	430,855
	44,241,095	48,914,598
Expenses		
Offices and departments	7,776,389	7,414,362
Programs	32,734,579	36,660,200
Contributed services	3,362,786	4,096,392
Interest on long-term debt	128,525	138,646
Amortization of capital assets	230,682	301,505
	44,232,961	48,611,105
Excess of revenue over expenses	8,134	303,493

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS year ended March 31,

Balance, beginning of year

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses

Acquisition of capital assets

Reimbursement of long-term debt

(Losses) gains from changes in exchange rates of net assets received as endowments

Balance, end of year

* Including amortization of capital assets of \$230,682 less amortization of deferred contributions rela

HAITI

Often, gender-based discrimination goes along with discrimination on grounds of age, social status, or other characteristics. Such double or triple discrimination further marginalizes women and girls and makes them more vulnerable to unfair treatment. Areas in which the relationship between discrimination and poverty is clearly perceptible include income distribution, living conditions, and access to education and health services.

Invested in capital assets	Endowments	Unrestricted	TOTAL	
			2012	2011
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,488,945	612,226	1,379,239	3,480,410	3,153,061
(224,552)*	-	232,686	8,134	303,493
391,286	-	(391,286)	-	-
170,174	-	(170,174)	-	-
-	(10,897)	-	(10,897)	23,856
1,825,853	601,329	1,050,465	3,477,647	3,480,410

ated to the capital assets of \$6,130.

2011–2012
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

BALANCE SHEET as at March 31, 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	6,948,388	8,701,059
Cash in trust	460,884	167,588
Term deposit in trust	132,060	-
Accounts receivable (net of deferred contributions of \$68,053; \$330,876 in 2011)	1,162,221	686,414
Advances to partners	1,488,081	1,692,223
Loan and interest receivable	-	436,253
Prepaid expenses	368,225	349,400
	10,559,859	12,032,937
Capital assets—tangible and intangible	3,953,572	3,792,968
	14,513,431	15,825,905
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,609,861	2,296,882
Deferred contributions (net of accounts receivable of \$1,997,197; \$887,568 in 2011)	6,298,204	7,744,590
Current portion of long-term debt	177,900	170,357
	9,085,965	10,211,829
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	92,709	98,839
Long-term debt	1,857,110	2,034,827
Commitments and contingencies		
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	1,825,853	1,488,945
Restricted for endowment purposes	601,329	612,226
Unrestricted	1,050,465	1,379,239
	3,477,647	3,480,410
	14,513,431	15,825,905

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS year ended March 31, 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenses	8,134	303,493
Adjustments for:		
Amortization of capital assets	230,682	301,505
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	(6,130)	(6,130)
Foreign exchange (gain) loss on cash held in foreign currency	(39,428)	106,145
	193,258	705,013
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items	(1,423,897)	(633,654)
	(1,230,639)	71,359
Financing activities		
Reimbursement of long-term debt	(170,174)	(162,811)
Investing activities		
Acquisition of capital assets	(391,286)	(218,008)
Foreign exchange gain (loss) on cash held in foreign currency	39,428	(106,145)
Decrease in cash	(1,752,671)	(415,605)
Cash, beginning of year	8,701,059	9,116,664
Cash, end of year	6,948,388	8,701,059

Transactions during the year in cash in trust account, term deposit and loan and interest receivable cancel each other out in the statement of cash flows because the aggregate amount available in foreign currency is always the same. The change in the balance of the endowment is the change in the exchange rate of the amount available in Canadian currency.

Supplementary information

Interest paid	126,343	141,114
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A M E R I C A S

In the Americas, 2011–2012 was marked by a series of elections, as in Guatemala and in Haiti. In both of these countries, the rise to power of new presidents and new administrations has added to already unstable situations. Despite a decline in Latin American poverty, the gap between rich and poor widens. Poverty still remains very high in this region and development issues have basically remained the same. CECI has continued to work for the inclusion of young people and women, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable local development in four main countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, Bolivia and Haiti. Food security, risk management and humanitarian crises remain ever present.

YOUTH INCLUSION

Concerning youth inclusion, CECI has intervened in both rural and urban areas, and always from a perspective of equality between men and women. While the under-35 population accounts for 62% of the total population of the region, there are major challenges for them. The youth situation is not always easy in a developmental context where humanitarian and economic crises combine.

During the last few years, CECI has changed the lives of many young men and women and improved their situation by promoting employability and entrepreneurship. This was the case in Haiti with the Young Entrepreneurs Club local development project, as well as through our projects supporting young farmers and offering professional training for girls.

In El Salvador and Guatemala, CECI has continued to work to stop and prevent youth violence by promoting the exercise of good citizenship and putting forward a holistic approach that includes community leaders, civil society organizations, local governments and national authorities. These actors lead a concentrated effort at the community level in three areas: youth integration by putting forward positive economic opportunities, increased violence prevention at an early age through structured management of free time and professional training for, and strengthening of, local governments, and basic services. Violence against women is also addressed through the actions of all our projects.

FOOD SECURITY

For CECI, sustainable agriculture is a food safety issue. Through its food security activities in Haiti, CECI is increasing the agricultural production base while protecting the environment in the region of Artibonite, in the north and northeast.

This project, in partnership with the Alliance agricole internationale, has provided a brilliant response to the emergency while also offering long-term environmental protection. In addition, by focusing on strengthening the position and abilities of women, the project has addressed the gender equality issue head on. Thousands of women have now gained control over the use of resources and revenues, have participated in work traditionally reserved for men, and now hold senior positions. These Haitians, through their active participation, can now directly influence decision-making processes.

In Guatemala, where chronic malnutrition among children under five years old is the highest in Latin America, a Sololá Department economic development project supports agricultural sectors, youth and women entrepreneurship, and an alliance between the public and private sector, in order to create jobs and stable incomes for rural and indigenous populations of the area.

In Bolivia and Guatemala, CECI supports sharing activities and ability building for small producer organizations through its Uniterra program of voluntary cooperation, providing them with a more equitable income and better living conditions.

GUATEMALA HAITI
EL SALVADOR
BOLIVIA



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EL SALVADOR

Violence prevention at an early age through structured management of free time is one of the means put forward by CECI to fight against a culture of violence in countries like Salvador and Guatemala, and that contributes to change thousands of lifes.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Haiti and Central America are high-risk regions for natural disasters. When this happens in countries where CECI is present, an emergency humanitarian aid plan is quickly implemented. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti has been particularly devastating.

In 2011–2012, CECI continued and completed all of its emergency measures after January 12, 2010, including its prevention and control of cholera project, supporting the operations by the national authorities and carried out jointly with the North East Health Department (Direction départementale sanitaire du Nord-Est).

In risk and disaster management, CECI, through its local governance project, supports the Haitian government by strengthening the national risk and disaster management system. CECI adds to rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by natural disasters, while strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of the Civil Protection Department to deal with future risks and disasters. About 15 improvement sub-projects, controlled directly by civil protection community committees, were prioritised in as many communities in the Western area.

In October of 2011, the 10-day passage of Tropical Storm 12E and its incessant rains severely affected Central America, causing floods, landslides and vast property losses. CECI mobilized to intervene in El Salvador and Guatemala with the help of its local teams.

In El Salvador, CECI has worked in the municipalities of Ciudad Arce and San Juan Opico. The project has rehabilitated more than 40 latrines destroyed by floods and supported 419 families in neighbourhood, street and riverbank clean-up and prevented further spillage and water contamination. Everything was done with the support of local authorities and volunteer committees. Finally, two classrooms in the San Nicolás los Encuentros school in San Juan Opico were renovated, helping more than 300 students and a dozen teachers. In all, there are 2000 people who have benefited from CECI support.

In Guatemala, CECI prioritized disaster victims and their families in three municipalities of the Chiquimula Department, and quickly met the essential needs of the most affected populations. In collaboration with local authorities and NGOs, CECI teams have completed the distribution of 462 kitchen kits, 200 stoves, 202 personal hygiene kits, 200 cleaning product kits, building materials for 200 families and water filters to 578 others. Finally, risk mitigation activities are underway to prepare the population for future climatic disasters. In all, nearly 3000 people have benefited from CECI support.



IN BRIEF

RECIPIENTS
25,000 youth

PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION
March 2010
to September 2014

PARTNERS
Research Triangle
Institute International
(RTI), various local
partners

BUDGET
\$26 million us, financed
by USAID whose oper-
ational budget, managed
by CECI, is \$3.4M

Prevention of violence

The increase in violence and crime among Guatemalan youth in the last few years has caused negative effects on the economic development and the quality of life of the population.

To improve safety in communities with higher crime rates, CECI and its partner, RTI International, led a project at the community level in multiple fields: economic insertion of youth, increased youth crime prevention and reinforcement of the governorship from local governments, and basic services.

Violence is a deeply anchored societal reality stemming from the past, and more recently, organized crime and drug traffickers have devastated the area. Despite everything, by effectively addressing youth and offering options to violence and crime, the Guatemalan society walks towards a peaceful future.

The project implemented by CECI initiates holistic prevention at the community level, similar to that used in El Salvador. It is being carried out in 10 municipalities of three high-risk areas. Until now, 22 prevention commissions at the community level were created and 360 police officers trained in the field of the violence prevention. More than 5000 young people received technical training for better work opportunities and 6300 took part in entertainment and cultural activities, while 37,000 people were sensitized on issues of violence prevention and the promotion of good citizenship.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT IN GUATEMALA

IN BRIEF

RECIPIENTS
150,000

PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION
2007–2011

PARTNERS
Haitian government and
several organizations in
Haitian civil society

BUDGET
\$1.5 million financed by
the Haitian government
and the World Bank

The Transport and Territorial Development Project

Constraints in transportation and territorial development of rural areas are a true obstacle to socio-economic development in Haiti. As a result, the Haitian government's recent initiatives are focused on promoting local development. It was in this context that the Transport and Territorial Development Project (PTDT), whose objective was the construction of National Road No. 3 and territorial development of two priority intervention areas, namely the North micro-region and Southeast micro-region, was born. CECI has been given the responsibility of controlling the territorial development planning for the North micro-region. The latter, with a total area of 580 km², is strongly geared towards agri-business. It includes five municipalities: Dondon, Milot, Grande Rivière du Nord, Saint-Raphaël, and Bahon.

The CECI mandate revolved around a participatory territorial development approach involving all key state and non-state actors in the diagnosis, analysis and identification of strategic priorities for a development plan centered around economic investments and the implementation of a set of infrastructure and basic services to anchor the foundation for sustainable and fair socio-economic growth.

The following objectives were carried out:

- the participatory and inclusive process of territorial planning was properly led, leading to the production of a micro-regional development plan
- the support necessary that the Departmental Steering Committee and the Departmental Management of the Ministry of Planning in the North needed to reinforce their abilities was given
- the additional resources necessary to finance the Plan were mobilized beyond the amounts hoped

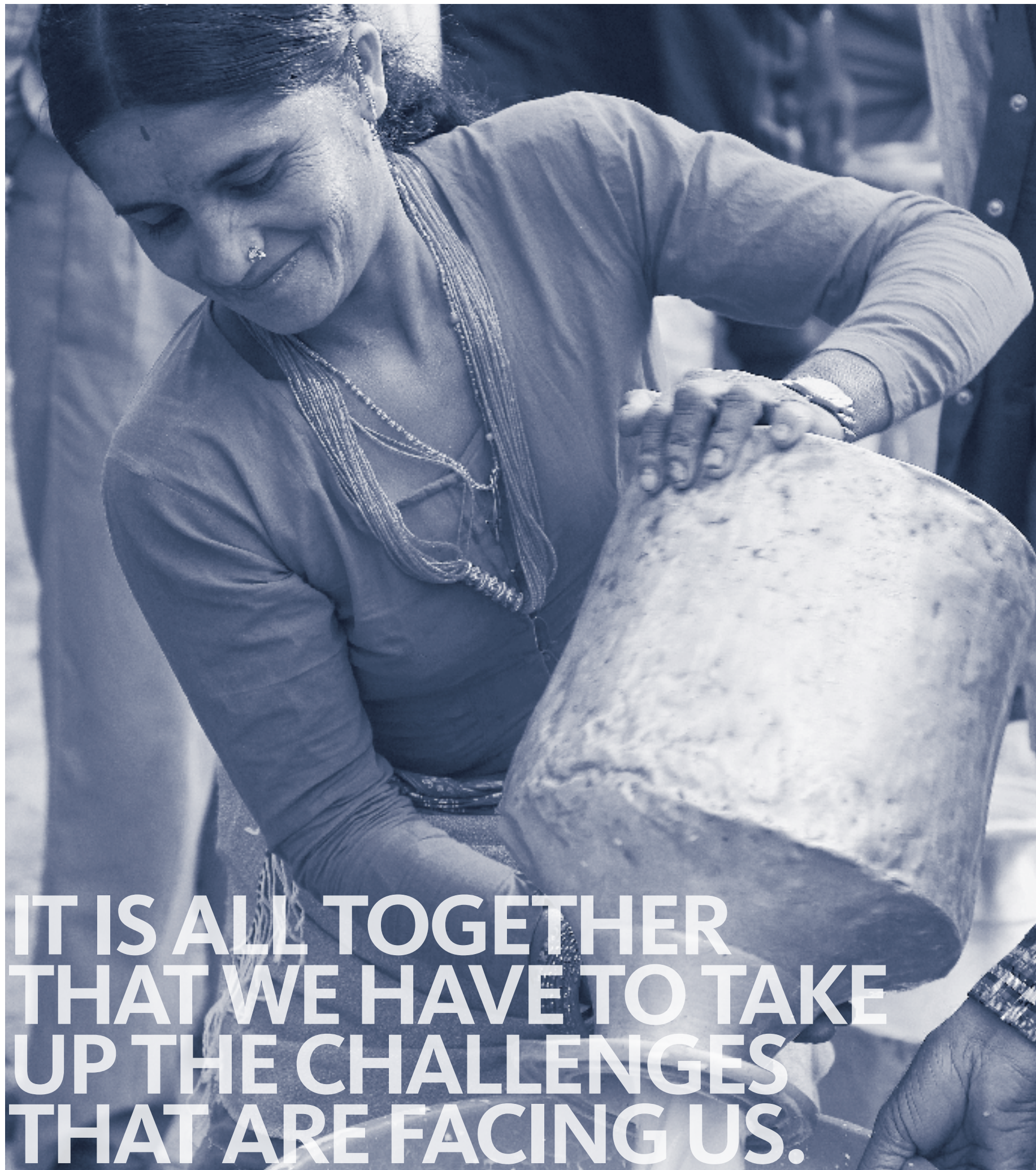
On December 31, 2011, on the official date of closing, the initial results had a positive impact on the lives of communities, and we managed to raise an additional \$2.8 million to fund other developments identified by stakeholders.

NEPAL

CECI holds the conviction that women must have equal access to the benefits of development, and this dictates that they be made equal partners in decision-making processes. Our approach acts on the complexity of social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental relations that may represent impediments to their participation and empowerment. In Nepal, thousands of women have gained confidence in themselves that changes their life and the life of their community!

FLAGSHIP PROJECT IN NORTHERN HAITI

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT EACH OF OUR
PROJECTS...



**IT IS ALL TOGETHER
THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE
UP THE CHALLENGES
THAT ARE FACING US.**

© JULIEN CARLIER

LIST OF PROJECTS CARRIED OUT OR IN PROGRESS IN 2011-2012

HAITI

- Volunteer cooperation in Haiti
- Tourist development in the North Department
- Local governance for risk and disaster management
- Local development programs
- National participative urban community development project
- Protection of the Cap-Haïtien Drainage Basin
- Support for displaced Haitians
- Improving food security

- Community development and citizen safety
- Risk and natural disaster management
- Recapitalization of women-owned small businesses
- Rebuilding of the Mère Delia school destroyed by the quake
- Cholera epidemic response

BOLIVIA

- An Aguayo for a Risk Free Childbirth, a health project
- Social economy and fair trade

EL SALVADOR

- Community project for the prevention of violence
- Prevention of violence against women and girls
- Institutional capacity building for crime prevention in Central America through OBSICA Observatory
- Humanitarian aid 12E

GUATEMALA

- Local economic development of the Sololá Department

- Rural business development program
- Violence prevention
- Prevention of violence against women and girls
- Institutional capacity building for crime prevention in Central America through OBSICA Observatory
- Social economy and fair trade
- Humanitarian aid 12E





ASIA

In 2011–2012 in Asia, CECI continued its efforts to reduce all types of inequalities. In Vietnam and Pakistan, we supported vulnerable populations in better protecting themselves against natural disasters, while in Nepal we continued our support in meeting the urgent needs for development. The year was marked by the closing down of our office in Vietnam as the country moved to the middle-income group, and is on its way to becoming an industrialized country by 2020. We are proud of our 20 years of commitment to Vietnam during which many lives have been changed and the poverty level has dropped from 60% to 14%. Nepal remains CECI's focal Asian country for programming, while we explore the possibilities of investing in surrounding countries.

HUMANITARIAN AID AND RISK REDUCTION

During our 20-year engagement in Vietnam, CECI developed significant expertise in reducing the risks to vulnerable populations during natural disasters. Through its extensive programming in reducing vulnerability of ethnic minorities in mountain areas, CECI and its French partner, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), developed and systematized the experience in community based disaster risk reduction.

Representatives from affected communities have been trained to offer workshops that raise awareness among villagers, including youth in primary and secondary schools. The priority needs of communities were identified and supported. Dams were built to prevent new floods as well as conserve and preserve farmlands. In typhoon season, early warning systems allow the evacuation of the village before flooding reaches three metres. With the strong success of this system, the project team now collaborates with the authorities to expand this model at the national level.

In 2011–2012, 4376 students and 320 teachers were made aware of the related issues; 73 village chiefs and 20,198 villagers improved their knowledge about disaster risk reduction, while 16,955 villagers from 73 villages benefited from small infrastructure or training programs.

CECI also carried out disaster risk reduction activities in Nepal and Pakistan as the impacts of climate change are being increasingly felt. In Nepal, CECI provides technical support to the UNDP to strengthen Nepalese institutions and legislative framework for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction.

Working in a local consortium, we also supported the Nepalese government as they plan for the adaptations needed for climate change, through guiding the Ministry of the Environment in advocacy, capacity building and the means to prepare effectively.

Our project in Pakistan aimed at restoring livelihoods of the victims of the 2010 floods and targeted the most vulnerable families. 1800 households received 72 tonnes of rice seed, 191 tons of fertilizer, and 1440 storage racks. 1769 households received money in exchange for their participation in the rehabilitation of 23 small agricultural infrastructures. 1800 women received seeds, fertilizers and kitchen utensils and gardening tools while 1905 received survival kits, food, support and training. 3600 school-age children were given advice about nutrition and the importance of healthy food.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

With more than half of its population living on less than \$1.25 U.S. per day, Nepal is among the poorest countries on the planet. 80% of the population lives in rural areas where agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. Since 1995, the government's forest management decentralization policy has given people the control of land and resources. Each forest in Nepal is managed by a group of community forest users.

Since 2004, CECI, through its voluntary cooperation program Uniterra, jointly run with the WUSC, supports the federation of user groups in a project for the sustainable management of forests. New marketing opportunities for user groups have been developed; four new plants for handmade paper and essential oils have been created, and the selling price has increased.

In 2011–2012, the Sahakarya project completed all its agricultural activities, exceeding its objectives by reaching 12,000 households in 146 villages. The 471 training sessions and all the activities related to the construction of small irrigation, marketing, seed distribution, or bee-keeping infrastructure took place, and 801 hectares were irrigated. The average production by household is now of 891 kg/ha for a total production of 4657 tonnes, of which 73% was taken to market. The average family revenue rose from 72 dollars to 191 dollars thanks to harvest sales.

NEPAL
VIETNAM PAKISTAN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

In 2008, after 10 years of civil war, Nepal abolished the monarchy, proclaimed itself a Republic and elected a Constituent Assembly, hoping to lead to the adoption of a new constitution, but work stalled in spring 2012. However, the challenges of governance and development are enormous: the fight against corruption, the need for transparency and accountability. Under the Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN), funded by the World Bank, CECI acts as grants manager with a modest fund of \$630,000 U.S. dollars.

The program supports civil society organizations in Nepal committed to demanding better governance from their authorities. As a manager, CECI establishes the criteria for the allocation of grants, ensures awareness of the program across the country and ensures the smooth running of the projects selected.

This year, CECI provided 30 grants to organizations from various parts of Nepal for the implementation of activities in 32 districts. Organizations have started 14 different social responsibility tools involving 54 district government offices, 87 village development committees, 14 municipalities and 21 schools. To get funding, organizations must demonstrate that the issue of gender equality and women's participation in the activities are carried out.

Also, with a goal of contributing to greater social harmony and the reduction of ethnic tensions, CECI, in partnership with the Nepalese NGO Worldview, accompanies and offers technical assistance to various minority groups in the promotion and creation of cultural products. The project, entitled Sahaastitwa, promotes diversity and cultural rights at the national level, through advertisements in local media and public awareness actions.

More than 65% of the 125 producers manufactured high-quality products with new designs and committed themselves to adding sales outlets. Their incomes increased by 25 to 35%. More than 60% of the 125 producers are women, primary bearers of traditional knowledge. An estimated nine million people from ethnic groups, castes and religions benefit directly or indirectly from the project.

Despite our withdrawal from Vietnam, we will be present until 2014 through our Uniterra volunteer cooperation program that has jointly implemented a vocational training project for the development of tourism projects with the WUSC. Every year more than one million young people enter the labour market in Vietnam. Since 1994, Hoa Sua, a vocational school in the hospitality industry, has helped disadvantaged youth by providing quality training to enhance their employability. This school has implemented an innovative business management model and practical training in collaboration with the tourism industry to meet the specific needs of the sector.

IN BRIEF

RECIPIENTS

50,000 households

DURATION

September 2003–
March 2012

PARTNERS

Government of Nepal,
13 nongovernmental
local organizations
and cooperatives

BUDGET

\$9,400,000 financed
by the CIDA

Sahakarya “Together for development”

In the mountainous regions of western Nepal, Sahakarya, which means “working together” in Nepali, was able to improve the socio-economic situation of more than 50,000 households. Through information sessions and capacity building for 1251 community organizations, CECI has allowed farmers to increase food security for their region by promoting public participation in government planning processes.

An important change in the understanding of their rights as a population has occurred, which has had the effect of increasing their ability to articulate their demands and require that authorities be responsible. This is particularly the case for women who have gained self-confidence by learning to make their requests for funds. The participation of women in executive committees of local organizations has increased by 68%, which has increased the level of public awareness about the inequities between men and women.

During the selection of beneficiaries and during training, the Sahakarya team ensured that marginalized women of all castes and ethnic groups are present and play an important role in the process of marketing agricultural products, both for transport and for sale.

In addition, many farmers have been able to significantly increase their production of high value crops. Ensured of greater food security and reduced social discrimination, CECI proves that equality is possible. The project inspired the Nepalese government and several donors who are now adopting the same model.

FLAGSHIP
PROJECT
IN
NEPAL

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT EACH OF OUR
PROJECTS...

www.
ceci
.ca

LIST OF PROJECTS CARRIED OUT OR IN PROGRESS IN 2011–2012

VIETNAM

- Development in the private sector
- Building community resilience to disasters

NEPAL

- Sahaastitwa: Reinforcement of local cultures to build harmony in Nepal
- Sustainable forest management

- Accountability program
- Climate change risk management
- Sahakarya “Together for development”

PAKISTAN

- Support to flood-affected families


BOLIVIA

Based on the mutual reinforcement of networks and organizations, CECI volunteer programs pool expertise and know-how to act more effectively against poverty and to change lives!



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To achieve its objectives, obtain meaningful results in its projects, and accomplish its mission, CECI depends on the power of cooperation of more than 450 volunteer each year.

 Agence canadienne de développement international

Canadian International Development Agency

None of the CECI's activities in Canada and the world would have been possible without the funding of our partner in Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Voluntary Cooperation Project in Haiti is implemented jointly by CECI, WUSC, the Paul Gerin-Lajoie Foundation and CESO. >>> www.pcvhaiti.ca



Uniterra programme is implemented jointly by CECI and WUSC. >>> www.uniterra.ca



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