



Annual
report
2021 —
2022

Photo : Sara Germain



This annual report describes the context in which the teams in CECI's international network worked, alongside their partners, to support communities in 2021-2022. It presents an overview of their activities and gives examples of achievements in different countries to show the impact of their actions. The last section of the report will give readers a deeper understanding of one of CECI's programmatic priorities: climate action with increased leadership by women. Each year, a different priority will be highlighted.



Our mission

Combat poverty, exclusion and inequality.

Our values

**Cooperation
Respect
Equity
Commitment
Integrity**

Message from the Chair and the Executive Director



Danielle Lamy
Chair, Board of Directors



Philippe Dongier
Executive Director

In 2021-2022, CECI was able to stay the course and pursue its mission thanks to its great agility. Not only was this the second year of the global pandemic, it was also a year of instability and insecurity in a number of our programming countries, in particular Haiti, Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso. But despite the risks and constraints affecting our operations, we were able to achieve the objectives of our Volunteer Cooperation Program and development support projects.

In 2021-2022, we achieved significant progress toward implementing our strategic framework:

- **Greater efforts to strengthen the economic power and rights of women, and concrete results such as productivity and income gains for women-run enterprises and agricultural sectors, strengthened capacity of organizations to assert women's rights, and increased retention of girls in schools for displaced populations.**
- **Important advances in climate change adaptation by communities supported by CECI and its partners, and the development of a range of programs targeting adaptation in the face of threatened ecosystems as well as biodiversity conservation while strengthening women's leadership.**
- **Increased concentration of our actions in fragile contexts, with a strengthening of links with conflict prevention and peace consolidation.**
- **Greater emphasis on experimenting with innovative solutions and replicating them at a larger scale through strategic support and advocacy at the policy level and through major national programs.**
- **Strengthened security for teams working in difficult areas.**
- **Progress in CECI's internationalization initiative, which aims to give leaders in CECI's programming regions a greater role in the organization's governance and program management.**

Looking ahead, we are planning to launch a series of initiatives to better integrate diversity, inclusion, gender equality and anti-racism within our organization and its programs to ensure that they fully reflect our core values. To this end, CECI along with some sixty other organizations in the sector signed on to a Cooperation Canada initiative to train staff and lead dialogue on these objectives.

We would like to thank all our CECI teams, volunteers and partners for their commitment, engagement and many achievements in 2021-2022. We are also grateful to the many financial supporters, donors and members of the corporation and advisory committees, who enable us to continue working day in and day out to end poverty and build a more inclusive and egalitarian world.



Major trends in CECI’s external context

CECI’s activities in 2021-2022 were carried out in a context of increased hardship for the populations of countries where we run programs, especially for women and girls.

While poverty has declined dramatically around the world in the past three decades, progress toward ending poverty is now stagnating and the situation is deteriorating in countries affected by instability and conflict.

Decrease in global poverty and improvement of human development indicators

Extreme poverty has declined significantly in the past three decades: the number of people living below the extreme poverty line fell from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 650 million in 2018. This improvement in the material conditions of life has been accompanied by significant gains in health and access to education.

The reduction in poverty is due to sustained economic growth and job creation in a number of countries during these decades, most notably China and India, but also Ethiopia, Ghana, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Senegal, Kenya and others.

Poverty reduction is stagnating and poverty is geographically concentrated.

The overall trend in poverty reduction worldwide hides a disturbing reality: progress has slowed or halted in some countries and pockets of significant poverty persist even in some rich and middle-income countries. While sustainable development goals call for an end to extreme poverty by 2030, current projections indicate that extreme poverty will stagnate at approximately 500 million during this decade. Many of the countries where poverty is not decreasing are what we call “fragile states,” that is, states marred by conflict and headed by governments that lack the legitimacy or the capacity to provide the public services and employment opportunities their populations need. By 2030, Africa will represent approximately 87 percent of the global poor—the main hotspots outside Africa will be Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan. Bolivia and Guatemala in South America also have high poverty rates (especially indigenous populations in rural areas) as well as Nepal (mainly populations in hilly and mountainous areas).



Poverty is urbanizing.

Current projections suggest that one billion people will be added to the cities of Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050. The majority of this young urban population will not have the education they need to find productive work or create profitable micro-enterprises. Instead, they will be forced to earn a living in the informal sector and face greater economic poverty.

Climate change is especially devastating for the world's poorest countries.

Climate change is exacerbating poverty and accelerating the displacement of populations. Seventy-four (74) of the world's poorest countries account for less than one tenth of global greenhouse gas emissions. As temperatures rise and precipitation patterns become more volatile, it is the world's poorest who are hardest hit. Flooding, drought and extreme weather threaten the means of subsistence of many communities.



Recent crises are hitting poor populations harder.

A succession of crises have had a particularly negative impact on vulnerable populations. More than 100 million people were pushed below the poverty line and suffered a deterioration in living conditions due to the pandemic. This health crisis caused a multitude of snowballing effects on communities, one of the most serious being an increase in gender-based violence.



Women are more vulnerable to extreme poverty.

Gender inequality and the precarious legal and social status of women make them more vulnerable. In a number of fragile and conflict-ridden countries, women cannot open a bank account, find employment or register a business in the same way that men can. In a number of countries, customary or personal law is viewed as a valid authority and constitutionally enshrined. Such laws often work against women. Numerous women face further discrimination due to also being poor, indigenous and/or displaced. Girls have less access to education and so as women find themselves with more limited legal rights, such as the right to property and inheritance. And it is women and girls who do the bulk of unpaid domestic work, including caring for children and the elderly.

The impact of the war in Ukraine

Just when there were some tangible signs of recovery from the pandemic in the second half of 2021, including for vulnerable populations, the war erupted in Ukraine, sending shock waves around the world. The rise in food and fuel prices are major obstacles for poor populations, where a greater proportion of household expenses goes to food and transportation. A major food crisis is undergoing. So-called stagflation is slowing economic growth, increasing poverty, pushing interest rates higher and threatening to trigger a new debt crisis in many countries.





Increasing demands for diversity, inclusion and an end to racism

Movements for diversity, inclusion, civil rights and anti-racism continue to grow in strength and cover a broader range of issues. For many years, social movements have highlighted the inequalities faced by women and racialized persons. Now increasing attention is being paid to the intersectional discrimination faced by people who belong to several marginalized groups, in particular women, indigenous peoples, racialized persons, displaced persons (migrants and refugees), people with disabilities and LGBTQI2S+ communities. Social movements around these issues are gaining momentum in many parts of the world, including in regions where CECI runs programs.



Programmatic priorities

1.
Women's economic empowerment and rights

2.
Women, key actors in adaptation to climate change

3.
Resilience of communities to fragile contexts and/or protracted crises

Projects and programs **Area** **Country**

Agricultural Support Service (SAA)	Climate action	Niger
Cash Transfer (all projects)	Strengthening women's economic power	Haiti
Climate Adaptation and Economic Development of Agricultural Sectors Project (AVETI)	Climate action	Haiti
Community Roots	Other	Guatemala
Compra de Concentradores de Oxígeno para el Centro de Aislamiento para pacientes con COVID-19	COVID-19	Bolivia
Energy Transition for Women's Empowerment through the Horticultural Value Chain (WEL)	Women's empowerment	Guinea, Senegal
Fight against Climate Change (Konbit pou Lite kont changman Klimatik KLIMA Grand Sud)	Climate action	Haiti
Girls' Education for a Better Future in the Great Lakes Region (EDUFAM)	Gender equality	Multicountry
Governance and Economic Sustainability Project (WAGES)	Strengthening women's economic power	Burkina Faso, Guinea
Improving Women's Resilience to Climate Change in Shea Parks (PCCI-Karité)	Climate action	Burkina Faso
Integrated Resilience Garden (JIR)	Climate action	Senegal
Mother-Child Health Continuum Project (ACOSME)	Health	Haiti
Nouveau Québec sans frontières	Gender equality	Burkina Faso, Guatemala
Project to Modernize Traditional Poultry Farming (PMAT-PQDI)	Strengthening women's economic power	Burkina Faso
Resilience and Protection for Women	Fragile context or prolonged crisis	Colombia
Resilience Saint-Michel	Climate action	Haiti
Resilient Women in Agriculture (FAR)	Climate action	Senegal
Restoring and Improving Livelihoods (PRAMS)	Strengthening women's economic power	Guinea
Rights and Justice for Aboriginal Women and Girls (DEMUJERES)	Gender equality	Guatemala
Rural Business Development Program (PDER)	Gender equality	Guatemala

Projects and programs **Area** **Country**

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Innovations in Kaye (Yellen)	Rights and sexual health	Mali
Skills Development and Youth Employment (PROCEJ)	Entrepreneurship	Mali
South Departmental Resilience	Climate action	Haiti
Strengthening Youth Resilience for Peace in the Sahel and the North (Djamtan-Laafi Bala)	Fragile context or prolonged crisis	Burkina Faso
Support for Federalism (STF-Sajedhari)	Gouvernance	Nepal
Support for Income-generating Activities in Communities in Extractive Zones (PA-AGR)	Gender equality	Guinea
Support for Institutional and Technical Reforms for Equity (PARITÉ)	Education	Burkina Faso
Support for the Co-consolidation of Peace and Social Cohesion in the Centre-North	Fragile context or prolonged crisis	Burkina Faso
Support for Women Entrepreneurship in the Rice Sector (PAEFFR)	Strengthening women's economic power	Benin
Support to Vulnerable Internally Displaced Women and Men and Host Communities through agriculture, WASH and protection interventions in Timbuktu and Mopti regions	Fragile context or prolonged crisis	Mali
Sustainable Use of Technology for Empowerment (SUSASAN)	Technology	Nepal
Technology Innovation Program for Agriculture and Agroforestry (PITAG)	Climate action	Haiti
Temporary Social Safety Net and Skills for Youth (FSSTCJ)	Other	Haiti
Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP)	Strengthening women's economic power	Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal
Women, Pillars of the Family (Dou Touloma)	Strengthening women's economic power	Mali
Women's Voice and Leadership (VLF - Musoya)	Gender equality	Mali
Women's Voice and Leadership (VLF)	Gender equality	Senegal
Women's Voice and Leadership (VLF)	Gender equality	Haiti

The CECI international network

CECI

Philippe Dongier
Executive Director

CECI-Haiti

Claude Phanord / Director

- Present in 90% of the country
- 148 employees and 2 volunteers

• Principal financial partners: Global Affairs Canada, Haitian Treasury, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank

CECI-Guatemala

Silvia Cotton / Director

- Present in 8 regions
- 10 employees and 22 volunteers

• Principal financial partners: Global Affairs Canada, USAID, Inter-American Development Bank

CECI-Bolivia

Marcela Vallejos / Director

- Present throughout the country
- 9 employees and 25 volunteers

• Principal financial partners: Empresariado Social (IES), Cámara de Mujeres, Empresarias de Bolivia, ProMujer

The CECI international network

CECI-Burkina Faso

Nathalie Nikiéma / Director

- Present in 9 regions
- 6 employees and 18 volunteers

• Main financial partners: Global Affairs Canada, Kingdom of Belgium, Peacebuilding Funds

CECI-Benin

- Present in 6 regions
- 11 employees and 24 volunteers

• Main financial partner: Global Affairs Canada

CECI-Guinea

Herico Diallo / Acting Country Representative

- Present mainly in the administrative region of Boké
- 8 employees

• Main financial partners: World Affairs and International Development Research Centre

CECI-Mali

Maïmouna Dioncounda Dembélé / Director

- Present in 9 regions
- 39 employees

• Principal financial partners: Global Affairs Canada, Assistance (BHA) USAID, Fonds Armande Bégin and Yves Pétillon

CECI-Nepal

Sagun Bista / Director

- Present in 4 provinces
- 17 employees and 47 volunteers

• Principal financial partners: Global Affairs Canada, Australian Volunteer Program, Asian Development Bank

CECI-Senegal

Mouhamadou Leye / Director

- Present in 14 regions
- 34 employees and 4 volunteers

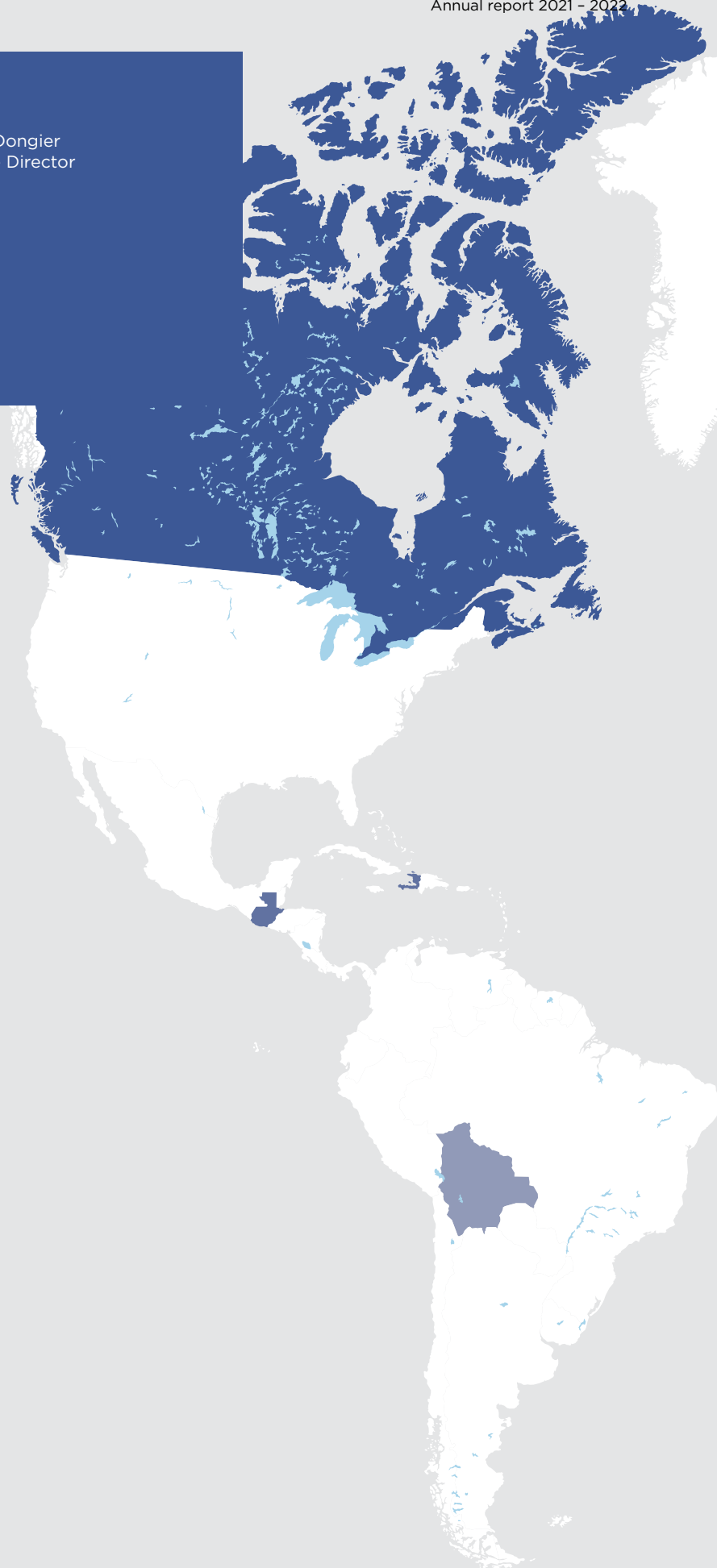
• Principal financial partners: Global Affairs Canada, Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie and International Development Research Centre

CECI-Rwanda

Olive Ingabire / Manager of the Volunteer Cooperation Program and country representative

- Present in 4 provinces
- 3 employees and 17 volunteers

• Main financial partner: Global Affairs Canada



Our
actions
in the
world



In 2021-22,
CECI reached:

1.2 million people directly,
59% of whom are women;

5.9 million people
indirectly.

Africa



Women entrepreneurship and solidarity in the rice industry

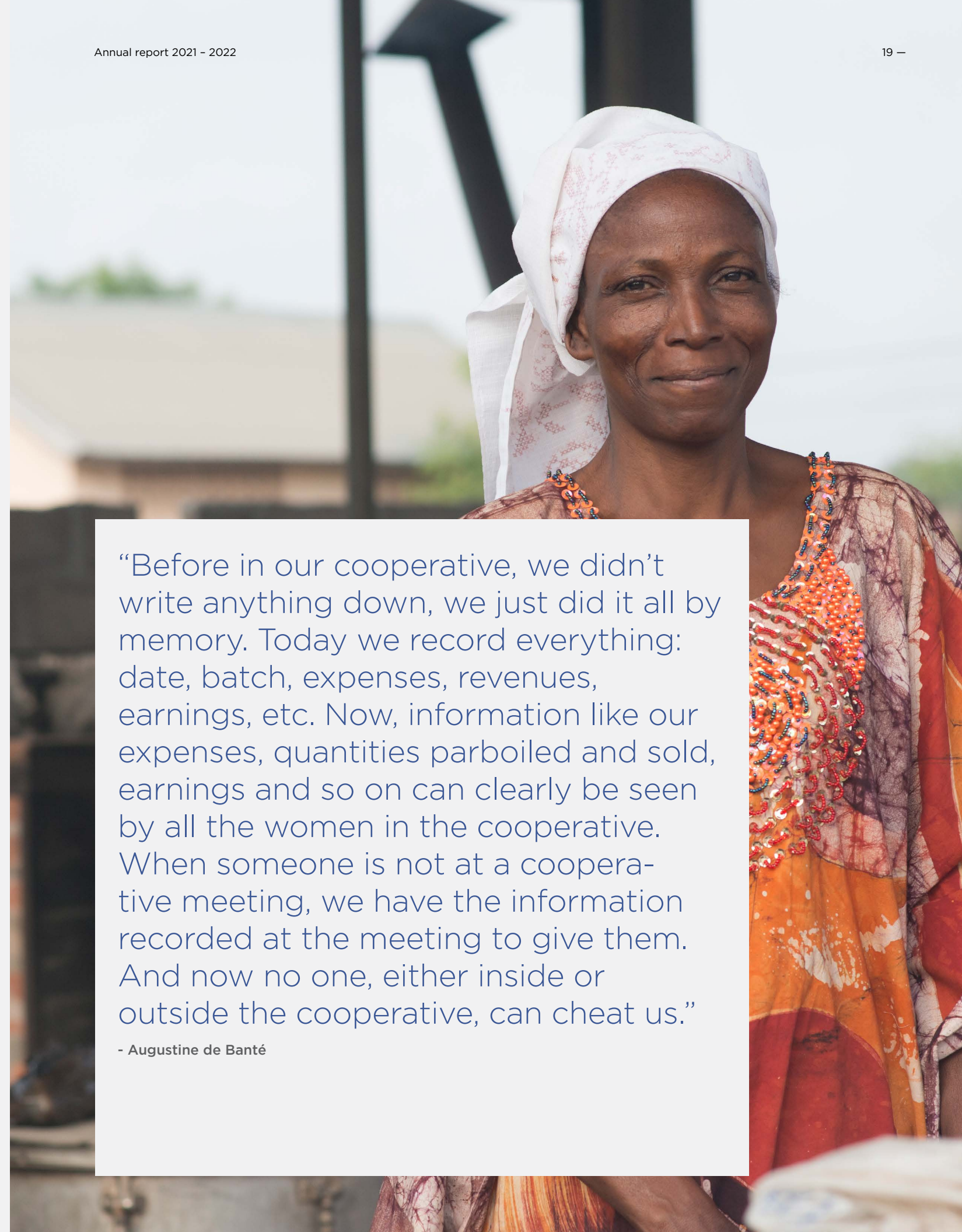
Benin



The Supporting Women Entrepreneurship in the Rice Industry Project (PAEFER) aims to contribute to the creation of wealth by improving the entrepreneurial performance of cooperative structures for women rice parboilers, who are important partners in the rice industry. More concretely, the goal was to strengthen the economic power of 1,500 women rice parboilers and producers.

The network of women rice parboilers, which is composed of six communal cooperatives made up entirely of women, can be proud of their achievements in 2021-2022:

- Improved representation and leadership by women in mixed decision-making bodies in the rice industry at the national level, which have traditionally been dominated by men. A total of 84 elected women participated in decision-making bodies at all levels of governance in the industry.
- Increased capacities in decision-making, management and control of the production chain, and women more empowered to defend their specific interests in the industry.
- Increased professionalization of industry associations through significantly improved governance systems, modernized management systems and processes, and functional literacy training for 778 women rice parboilers and producers.
- Increased ownership by women's cooperatives and their organizational networks: five rice transformation centres with a capacity to transform 500 tons/year and one transformation centre for final processing. The women made important gains in production times, and rice production capacity increased from 30.17 tons/year in 2017 to 630 tons/year in 2020. This means more rice shipped to market.
- Increased availability to credit thanks to a partnership with a local, accessible micro-finance institution, enabling women to directly access and control more than \$2.6 million in the past five years.
- A shift away from traditional methods of rice transformation, which require large amounts of wood for heating and have detrimental effects on the environment and the health of women parboilers. In the Collines Department, the technologies used in modern transformation centres have reduced the consumption of wood from forests by 9.1 tons/year, an important saving when parboiling 1 ton of rice requires about 182 kg of wood.



“Before in our cooperative, we didn’t write anything down, we just did it all by memory. Today we record everything: date, batch, expenses, revenues, earnings, etc. Now, information like our expenses, quantities parboiled and sold, earnings and so on can clearly be seen by all the women in the cooperative. When someone is not at a cooperative meeting, we have the information recorded at the meeting to give them. And now no one, either inside or outside the cooperative, can cheat us.”

- Augustine de Banté

Supporting women and their Peace Fields

Burkina Faso



The Centre-Nord region of Burkina Faso has been greatly impacted by violence due to attacks by armed groups. This has caused a massive internal displacement of people, threatened peaceful cohabitation, and weakened peace and social cohesion between communities. CECI-Burkina Faso and its partners, with funding from the UN's Peacebuilding Fund, implemented "Peace Fields" to support peace consolidation and social cohesion in the region.

This pilot community initiative helps build bridges and foster social cohesion between host communities and the many people internally displaced by conflict. In Koulogo, 100 women - 50 women from the host community and 50 internally displaced women - worked side by side in a pilot Peace Field launched by community action committees made up entirely of women. The harvest will be donated to internally displaced women. This Peace Field is therefore above all a "women's field", showing women's strong desire to bring people together and build cohesion between communities. The initiative strengthened ongoing dialogue between internally displaced and host women in Koulogo. This model for building bridges between communities affected by conflict is being reproduced elsewhere.

An entrepreneurial ecosystem for women and young people

Guinea



The West Africa Governance and Economic Sustainability in Extractive Areas (WAGES) project is helping to lay the foundation for a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem for women and young people in the ten communes of Boké Prefecture, where mining exploitation dominates economic activity. This ecosystem was made possible by the development of technical knowledge and skills in partnership with professional training centres and master craftspeople. Also key was the creation of three community-based business incubators and three entrepreneurship cells.

Progress was also made in resolving problems in accessing funding from economic interest groups by establishing 80 credit unions for village savings and loans associations (GVECs) and their more than 3,000 members, including 1,873 women and 574 young people. This allows members to avoid high interest rates, the costs of travelling to apply for a loan, and the problem of fund misappropriation by officials. Transparency in the management of the collective funds was encouraged, as was learning to save, self-management and self-financing. This initiative is gradually integrating local financial and economic ecosystems, and providing access to banking services for rural populations.

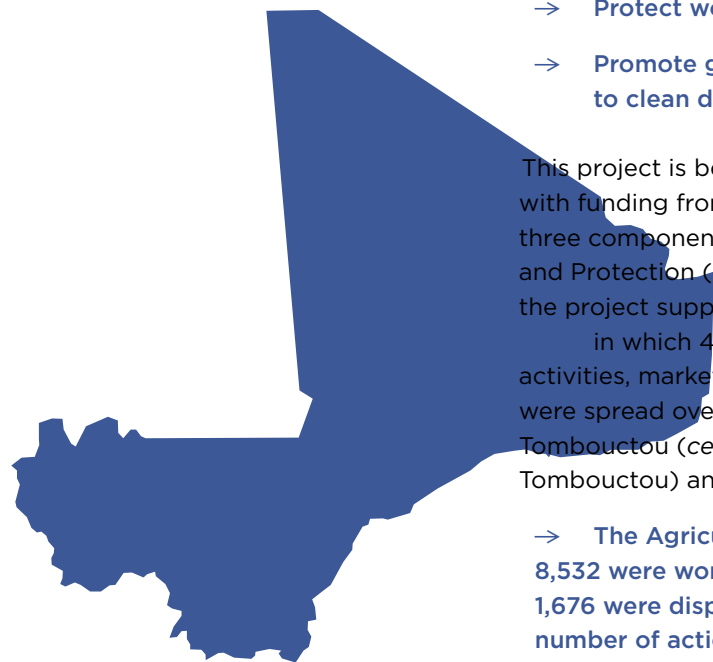
Testimonial of a young woman entrepreneur:

"I really benefited from all the WAGES training programs as well as their technical and financial support for producing and marketing my organic vegetables in the district of Lavage. I was also honoured by young people and women for my work, and I thank them for recognizing the jobs created in Lavage. I was also honoured by the young people, the women and I thank them for the recognition for the jobs created in the district. "

- Bountouraby Sylla

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation for displaced population

Mali



The Project in Support of Vulnerable Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities carried out a number of interventions in agriculture and security in the regions of Tombouctou and Mopti.

These two regions are among the most heavily impacted by the complex crisis in northern Mali, which started in 2012 and has caused a major political, security and humanitarian crisis. There has been a marked deterioration in the security of civilian populations, in particular in the country's north and central regions. Large population movements, difficult access to water and livelihoods, and a high level of food insecurity are ongoing problems.

The situation has worsened due to an escalation in inter-ethnic conflict and increased constraints on humanitarian access. It is a complex environment and the need is urgent. CECI's goals for this project are to:

- Respond to acute humanitarian needs.
- Strengthen the resilience of households by supporting subsistence activities (agriculture, market gardening and livestock farming).
- Protect women in situations of vulnerability.
- Promote good sanitation practices and ensure access to clean drinking water.

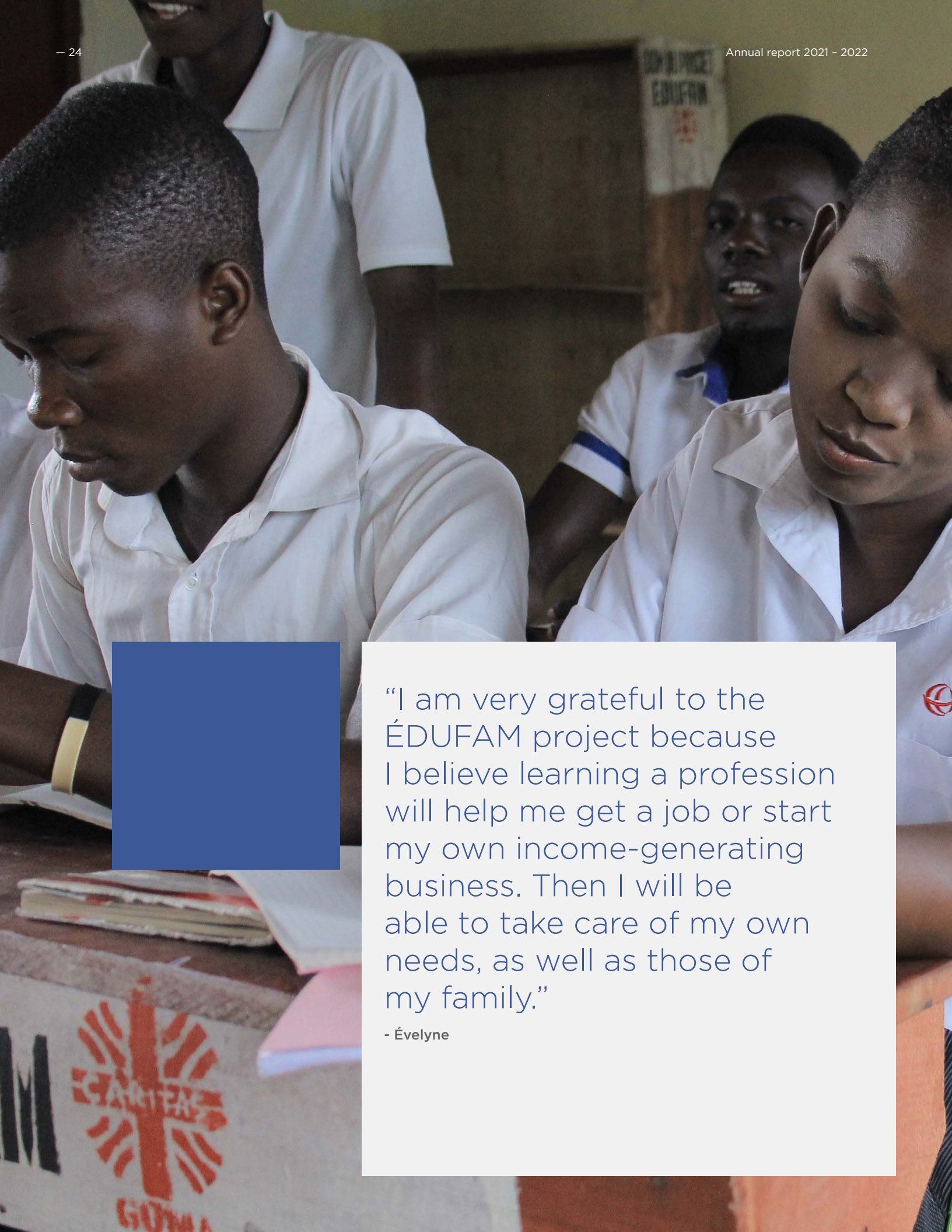
This project is being carried out in partnership with ASG, a local NGO with funding from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. It has three components: Agriculture, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and Protection (against gender-based violence). In 2021-2022, the project supported a total of 5,113 households (36,915 individuals) in which 42% of the women had prior experience with agricultural activities, market gardening and/or livestock production. These households were spread over 34 villages in 12 communes in the regions of Tombouctou (*cercles* of Niafunké, Goundam, Gourma-Rharous and Tombouctou) and Mopti (*cercles* of Djenné and Mopti).

- The Agriculture component benefited 21,332 individuals, of whom 8,532 were women (40%), in a total of 3,047 households, of whom 1,676 were displaced households (11,733 individuals). It supported a number of actions, including the distribution of seeds and tools for grain and vegetable production to vulnerable farming households, the rehabilitation and cleaning of irrigation canals, and training in good agricultural practices.
- The WASH component benefited 14,463 individuals, 5,785 of whom were women (40%). It supported the rehabilitation of domestic, garden and livestock wells to improve the availability of water for households, means of subsistence and livestock production.
- The Protection component benefited 1,120 women, 560 of whom were displaced (50%). Its emphasis was on reducing vulnerability and the risk of threats, in particular during subsistence activities (WASH, agriculture and gardening), and by developing a community support system managed by women.



“We were overjoyed to hear about the training on preventing gender-based violence. It came at just the right time and it was so interesting. Violence against women exists in the community but nobody dares to talk about it. With this training, we are now going to conduct awareness-raising session with the goal of minimizing violence against women.”

- Maimounata Hamadoune, obstetrical nurse at CSCOM de Toya, case orientation committee member



“I am very grateful to the ÉDUFAM project because I believe learning a profession will help me get a job or start my own income-generating business. Then I will be able to take care of my own needs, as well as those of my family.”

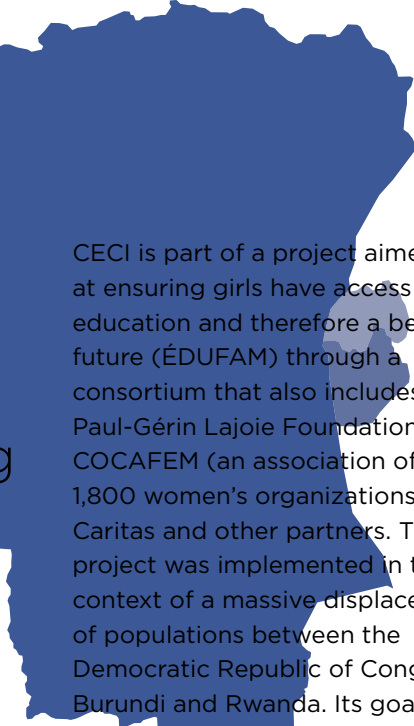
- Évelyne

Community-level social contracts to make educating girls a priority

Great Lakes region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda)

CECI is part of a project aimed at ensuring girls have access to education and therefore a better future (ÉDUFAM) through a consortium that also includes the Paul-Gérin Lajoie Foundation, COCAFEM (an association of 1,800 women’s organizations), Caritas and other partners. The project was implemented in the context of a massive displacement of populations between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. Its goal was to empower more than 22,000 women and girls who are refugees, displaced persons or returnees to their country/region and people with disabilities by providing access to quality, inclusive education adapted to their needs. Faithful to its feminist approach, ÉDUFAM puts women and girls at the centre of its project, working with them to create a more favourable, safer environment, defend their rights, and support them in developing their level of autonomy and power. The voice and leadership of women and girls are strengthened at many levels, enabling them to overcome barriers and identify solutions that promote their well-being and fulfillment. Through its innovative approach and by collaborating with all those involved directly or indirectly in girls’ education, the project is having a significant impact:

- More than 800 girls and teenagers who had dropped out of school for various reasons have returned to school.
- Communities committed to social contracts that make the rights of girls a priority. Today, 99% of parents and community leaders are in favour of educating girls and teenage girls, compared to 87% when the project started.
- Creation of community networks for preventing, reporting and referring victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Personalized accompaniment for girls and teenage girls experiencing specific forms of vulnerability provided by about one hundred women.
- A total of 24 schools transformed into Centres of Excellence and specific training on gender-responsive management and education based on the model of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE).
- Safe spaces for girls and teenage girls adapted to their needs and led by women volunteers who provide advice in sexual and reproductive health. Today, 73% of girls feel safer at school, compared to 44% when the project started.
- Menstrual hygiene kits distributed to girls so they can attend school during menstruation.



Science and local knowledge at the service of women farmers

Senegal



The goal of the Resilient Women in Agriculture (FAR) project is to increase the resilience of agricultural producers in the face of climate change in the rice, banana and market garden sectors in the Kolda, Sédhiou, Tambacounda and Casamance regions of Senegal. Through this project, women farmers benefit from access and control over economically productive resources like high-potential fertile land and water, and also increase their technical and entrepreneurial capacities. They gain access to economic opportunities that are adapted to climate change within these sectors.

In 2021-2022, after receiving training and support through a gender equality (GE) program, the women farmer associations and their allies in women's civil society conducted awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns in Tambacounda. The municipalities granted 25 hectares of land to five women's economic interest groups (EIGs), a crucial step to ensuring women's financial autonomy. This is also a precedent in this region for these associations, which are now cultivating the land with the support of the FAR team.

With the FAR project, CECI-Senegal is facilitating a multi-actor approach aimed at integrating scientific knowledge provided by Quebec's Ouranos and Senegal's Université Assane Seck de Ziguinchor, Agence nationale de l'aviation civile et de la météorologie (ANACIM), Centre de suivi écologique (CSE) and Institut Sénégalais de recherche agricole (ISRA). Combining scientific knowledge with the local know-how of producer associations in the region is generating local solutions adapted to the region's specific climate challenges. The associations have launched Farmer Field Schools (FFSs), where women learn climate-smart agricultural practices for growing rice, bananas and vegetables (peppers and okra). They are learning about new varieties identified by ISRA researchers as more productive and more resistant to water stress and violent winds.



“The GE training is really important to us. It has made us much stronger and today we know so many things. Today we know that we have the same rights as men and that we too can demand certain rights.”
- Anna Ndiolène

Asia



Empowering women and marginalized communities



Nepal



Since its creation, CECI-Nepal has focused on reducing poverty and fostering the economic empowerment of women and marginalized communities in Nepal. The environment and climate change are an integral part of the organization and its activities, and so particular attention is paid to incorporating them into all action.

CECI-Nepal is becoming increasingly effective at integrating climate change into its activities. And while it tackles the effects of climate change on the economic environment of women and marginalized communities, it continues to support the goals that it always has.

CECI-Nepal is sensitizing its team and its partners to climate change. In the past year, it supported research on identifying the differential impacts of climate change on Nepal's three agro-ecological regions, in addition to workshops and training sessions at a number of levels. CECI-Nepal's role in combatting and adapting to climate change is more visible than ever. Communication around the environment and climate interventions is now underway.

Americas



Higher incomes for indigenous women



Bolivia



Six associations made up of indigenous women who produce high-quality handcrafted products have consolidated their presence in local markets. Supported by the Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP), they are now preparing to enter the national market. VCP is helping these associations increase their economic, digital and financial capacities so they can develop their businesses and enlarge their markets. This is contributing to a redistribution of roles within the family and community, which is fostering gender equality and a validation of women's work. The project's achievements included:

1. **Increased protection of tropical rainforest and restoration of areas devastated by fire**

Six indigenous associations led by Chiquitano women focused on apiculture, commercializing oils and seeds from copaiba and cusi trees, and protecting their territory against extractive activities. Over the past five years, fire and extractive activities have devoured more than 500,000 hectares in their region. The businesses created by these women not only provide a means of subsistence, they also raise awareness about pollination at a key element in rainforest preservation. The income they generate is also used to recover and preserve ancestral knowledge, while their children are learning to appreciate the environment and its importance.

2. **Greater gender equality**

The women behind these initiatives are empowered by their work. Through these economic activities, they are developing new social roles within their communities and their territories while also gaining access to decision-making spaces. They are managing their own economic resources, contributing more to their families and communities, and developing leadership and communication skills.



“We [indigenous peoples] have to be an example for how to preserve the forest because it is our home. The good thing is that we are not alone because there are more and more women leaders taking up the fight. We want to develop our business for selling non-wood forest products and we want to do it as a community. And we don't want to stop there, we want our businesses to shine!”

- Ignacia Supepi
Chief, Río Blanco community, Monte Verde Indigenous Territory, and founding member of Las Pioneras, a women entrepreneurs association

Food security, community resilience and preventing the spread of COVID-19

Colombia



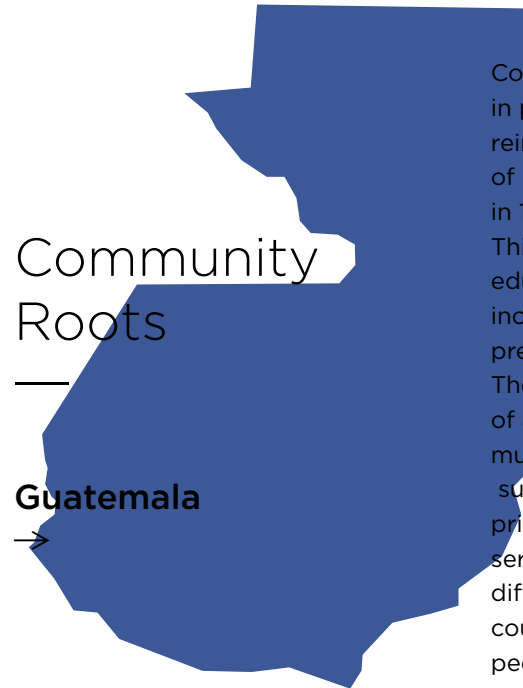
This project aims to support vulnerable women and their families, in particular Venezuelan migrants and refugees living in Colombia, who have lost their means of subsistence because of the global pandemic and so now face food insecurity. In partnership with the Mencoldes Foundation, CECI works to strengthen the resilience of communities and promote solidarity among women. In 2021-2022, the project:

- Established and/or strengthened family gardens in addition to communal and school spaces, leading to positive social impacts and measurable short-term results.
- Increased women's skills and capacities, created and strengthened community cohesion, and succeeded in having gender considered in urban agriculture and community health initiatives.
- Reduced women's economic vulnerability and empowered them by fostering recognition of the economic value of food transformation. Concretely, three groups that lacked access to drinking water were provided with materials to support biosafety and urban agriculture, including tanks for storing water.



Community Roots

Guatemala



Community Roots, an initiative in partnership with USAID, aimed to reinforce the capacity of members of reference municipal commissions in 19 municipalities in three regions. This was done through continuing education on issues of gender, inclusion and diversity, violence prevention and irregular migration. These commissions are composed of a variety of actors, including municipal employees, civil society, support organizations and the private sector. Their purpose is to serve as a point of contact for the different institutions that help the country's most vulnerable young people. This past year saw important progress in several areas:

- The implementation of a training process for violence prevention in 19 municipal networks in three regions with high levels of irregular migration.
- Now 80% of network members have the tools and processes needed to identify young people in need of municipal-run services and opportunities. Network members were familiarized with the referral process in cases of violence that require the attention of competent institutions, in particular cases of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Thanks to training and direct technical support, network members implemented an action plan to address cases of sexual and gender-based violence and so are now equipped to act in a timely manner.

ACOSME: Maternal and child health by and for women

Haiti



The Mother-Child Health Continuum (ACOSME) Project in Haiti is being carried out in partnership with the International Health Unit of Université de Montréal. It supports the Government of Haiti and communities in the Nord Department to improve health services. Its specific goals are to:

- Improve the supply and quality of essential services.
- Improve the use of health services.
- Strengthen the capacity of health workers.
- Train and develop the skills of health workers.
- Mobilize communities.



Women's participation was deemed essential because it is women who are most affected by these issues. The services supported by the project must reflect the needs and the rights of mothers, pregnant women and newborns, while improving women's understanding and use of services. Women's Health Service Users Committees (WHSCs) were created to serve as an intermediary between health institutions and the population. After six years of work, the project is taking off and there are significant, sustainable impacts on mother and child health in Haiti's Nord Department:

- Half a million people reached by the project
- Construction and purchase of equipment for three new health centres and support to 16 institutions in strengthening the availability and quality of care for women
- Decline in infant mortality in the region
- Increased attendance at prenatal clinics and better access to care
- Creation of innovative micro-projects, such as motorbike ambulances

CECI-Canada : Mobilizing the population

Canada
→

CECI relies on the generosity of donors who believe in the relevance of its work. This past year saw a number of activities aimed at rallying donors around our mission.

A big thanks to the 2,119 donors and the religious communities who supported CECI in 2021-2022. Their generous contributions allowed us to continue our mission of combatting poverty, exclusion and inequality.

2021 Sports Challenge

In all, 5 teams and a total of 83 runners raised an impressive \$68,438, of which \$4,200 went to the organization that raised the most funds. An impressive result given the race was held in the middle of a global pandemic!

The five teams were:

- African Great Lakes: EDUFAM Project
- Benin: PAEFFR Project
- Haiti: AVETI Project
- Mali: Armande Bégin Fund and Yves Pétilion
- VCP: International Solidarity Team



Public engagement activities

CECI responded to a number of emergencies this past year:

The earthquake in southern Haiti in August 2021

The devastating wave of COVID-19 in Nepal in spring 2021

The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, in May 2021

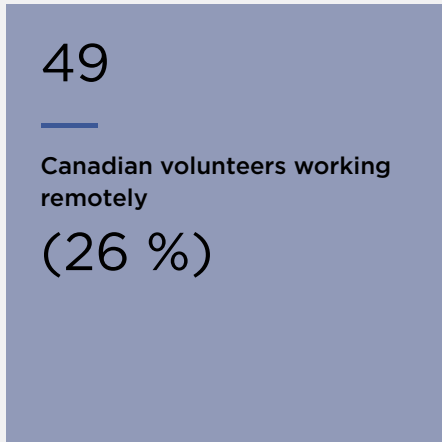
In terms of public engagement within Canada, under the Voluntary Cooperation Program, we reached over 2 million Canadians through our mobilization activities around global issues of gender equality using a variety of awareness-raising and engagement strategies adapted to Canadian diversity.

More than 23 Canadian partners, businesses, civil society organizations and academic institutions who share CECI's objectives for global citizenship education contributed, including the Vues d'Afrique International Film Festival and three regional international cooperation organizations (Carrefour de solidarité internationale de Sherbrooke, Centre international de solidarité du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Comité de solidarité de Trois-Rivières).

Our social media campaign with the hashtag #CECIestmongenre raised awareness and promoted CECI's VCP as a way for Canadians to take action on inequality in the world and on climate change adaptation and resilience. Despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, the majority of VCP's events could be held in-person, including conferences, film screenings followed by discussions, a photography exhibition and training sessions on international solidarity. These activities sensitized a total of 17,384 Canadians to the issues of gender equality, the environment and climate change, and human rights and inclusion.

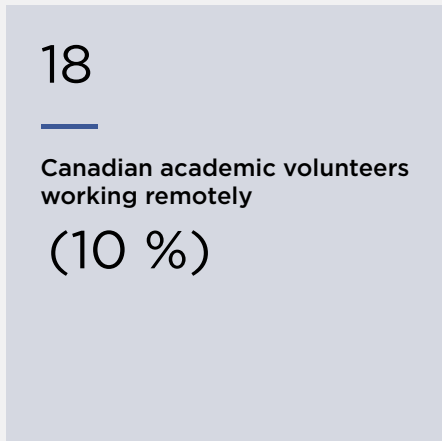
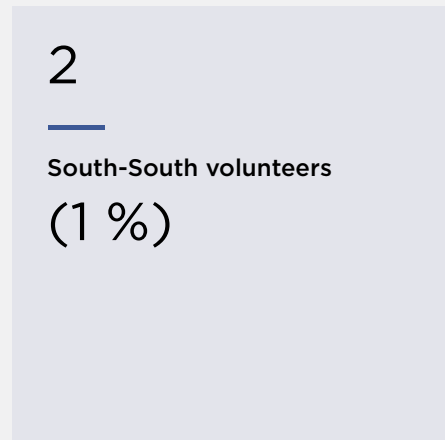
Voluntary cooperation

At the heart of CECI's volunteer cooperation are vulnerable and marginalized women. They suffer various forms of exclusion, now exacerbated by the pandemic and compounded by many factors that make the situation even more complex, including climate change.



Thanks to the flexibility measures adopted by Global Affairs Canada, CECI has been able to adapt and innovate, in particular by offering different kinds of volunteering and favouring complementarity. In 2021-2022, a total of 185 volunteer mandates (117 women and 68 men) were carried out in nine countries: Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Nepal, Rwanda and Senegal. This included 164 mandates under CECI's Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP) and 21 volunteer mandates in different bilateral projects.

By sharing their skills and expertise and by working in close collaboration, these volunteers contributed significantly to improving local partner organizations, all while strengthening women's economic power and role in climate action and adaptation.



CECI collaborated with many different Canadian partners to make this happen, including the Faculty of Social Sciences at University of Ottawa, the MSc program in Management of International Development and Humanitarian Action at Université Laval, and the Master of Development Practice program at the School of Environment, Enterprise and Development (INDEV), University of Waterloo.

Through its 2020-2027 Volunteer Cooperation Program carried out in partnership with the Government of Canada, CECI aims to improve the economic and social well-being of the world's poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable women and girls, and sensitize and mobilize Canadians in support of international cooperation and development.

CECI's volunteers collaborated with 81 local partner organizations, who in turn worked with target groups by:

- strengthening women's economic power
- strengthening women's leadership and participation in decision-making
- ensuring the rights of women and girls are respected, protected and defended
- integrating diversity and inclusion in activities and strategies
- promoting a culture of innovation



In total, VCP's innovation funds supported 18 initiatives that contributed to strengthening women's economic power and gender equality, including six that specifically addressed issues of rights and inclusions, and eight in the area of the environment and climate change adaptation.

The Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), through its Institut des études internationales de Montréal (IEIM) and Observatoire canadien sur les crises et l'action humanitaire (OCCA), mobilized Canadian researchers in efforts to help better understand aid delivery processes in the context of aid localization, in particular those of international volunteering programs.

Our internal audit at the end of Year 2 of VCP showed strong results:

8654

People sensitized by engagement actions in Canada

1034

Canadians sensitized by volunteer actions

116

Fund-raising activities

17 356

Actions carried out by Canadian volunteers

Our collaboration with Equitas (International Centre for Human Rights Education) and Ouranos (Consortium on Regional Climatology and Adaptation to Climate Change) continued in 2021-2022. Serving in an advisory and support role, these organizations helped design and implement strategies and training in their respective areas of expertise, including VCP's Policy on Gender Equality, Rights and Diversity.

10 757

Content shares on social media and our Volunteer Blog

5573

Participants in engagement and awareness-raising activities for regional international cooperation organizations

With the support of volunteers and innovation funds

In Benin, the Association Nationale des Femmes agricultrices du Bénin (ANaF-Bénin), supported by a project funded by VCP's innovation funds, launched a campaign to raise awareness and promote climate change adaptation practices.

With the support of CECI volunteers working in the areas of the environment and climate change and women's economic empowerment, the Association conducted awareness-raising and training sessions on adaptation times and options. It also implemented an innovative new system for disseminating information cheaply and easily: relay women farmers. These awareness-raising and training activities reached a total of 93 farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs, including 81 women, 12 men and 21 young relay farmers.

“Before, we had to wait until the third or fourth month after January to sow, but with the new methods we don't always have to wait so long and risk having no food in the house. Now we sow a little at a time instead all of once, so if the first seeds don't germinate, the next ones will....”

- Mr. Benoît, age 45, rice farmer in Lahotan, Commune of Savalou

In Rwanda, a national television and radio campaign to raise awareness on gender issues and resilience to climate change was launched in collaboration with Rwanda's Ministry of Gender and the National Women's Council of Rwanda.

In Guatemala, the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was accompanied in the organization and holding of a series of online discussions and training. These events aimed to promote an intersectional approach to tackling environmental issues and climate change - one that fosters inclusion and the respect of rights - and to update feminist environmental policy in the country.

In Burkina Faso, five organizations representing people living with disabilities benefited from the creation of a framework for inclusive discussions and consultation as part of an initiative to promote collaborative actions aimed at reducing the inequalities faced by disabled women.

Nouveau Québec sans frontières (NQSF) program

CECI launched a number of innovative initiatives in partnership with NQSF under its Component 1: Support for NQSF's Global Mission, which is funded by Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie for 2021-2024. CECI collaborated closely with four partner organizations in Burkina Faso and Guatemala to consolidate its work in three programmatic priorities and to eventually use what is learned to generate models that can be replicated at a larger scale. Six volunteers were involved in this work.

Here are some tangible results from Year 1:

- The women's entrepreneur network Oxlajuj B'atz was revived and consolidated, and 20 women acquired knowledge and developed skills in entrepreneurship thanks to diploma courses on feminist and sustainable entrepreneurship
- A total of 137 women participated in workshops on political empowerment that emphasized leadership and political participation
- Media reports and three Tik Tok videos were produced to address issues related to sexual violence and violence against women
- A market gardening production unit based on agroecology principles was launched for internally displaced women and young persons and their host communities in Pouswoko
- Twenty educational talks on promoting social cohesion and the role of women in promoting peace were conducted, along with three theatre-fora: one on human rights and humanitarian law, one on the community management of conflict and one on gender-based sexual violence and positive masculinity.



“Being a volunteer has given me the capacity to act and precious tools for contributing to essential conversations around the situation of women. It has also helped me better understand the barriers that women and people from diverse backgrounds face.”

- Klever Descarpontriez, volunteer with CECI-Bolivia

“Since 2017, PAEFFR's training in women's leadership, speaking up, self-confidence, marketing and entrepreneurship, combined with customized functional literacy campaigns, has empowered more than 700 women rice parboilers in cooperatives and increased their economic power and influence in Benin's rice sector.”

- Rosy Cyr, volunteer with CECI-Benin

“Volunteering in Guatemala has helped me to grow as a person and allowed me to use my knowledge. Through my partner COOSAJO and CECI, I have met some extraordinary women and worked on some amazing projects that are empowering marginalized groups and raising environmental awareness.”

- Jennifer Argueta, volunteer with CECI-Guatemala

Financial information

Consolidated results

Revenues

	2022	2021
Global Affairs Canada – Partnership	6,198,520	4,763,716
Global Affairs Canada – Bilateral and other	15,635,546	15,512,686
Other donors	9,571,983	13,360,644
Donations	536,521	551,854
Total	31,942,570	34,188,900

Other

Contributed volunteer services	5,578,891	2,279,805
Other revenues	501,157	483,315
Total	38,022,618	36,952,020

Expenses

Programs	28,222,230	31,134,455
Contributed volunteer services	5,578,891	2,279,805
Program development	382,265	266,368
Administration	3,166,433	2,449,193
Fundraising	258,641	318,851
Interest on long-term debt	69,755	88,632
Amortization of tangible capital assets	232,506	266,298
Amortization of intangible assets	22,347	93,540
Total	37,933,068	36,897,142

Excess of revenues over expenses	89,550	54,878
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Consolidated financial position

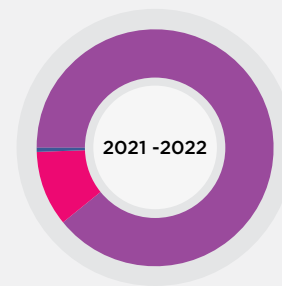
Assets

	2022	2021
Current	16,449,053	14,081,097
Capital assets	5,901,588	6,114,400
Other assets	788,633	772,336
Total	23,139,274	20,967,833

Liabilities

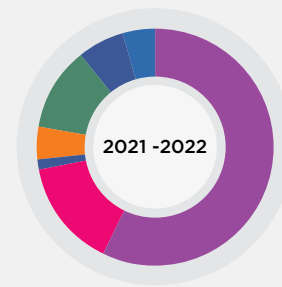
Current	13,498,093	11,315,739
Long term	1,939,635	2,086,241
Net assets	7,701,546	7,565,853
Total	23,139,274	20,967,833

Breakdown of expenses



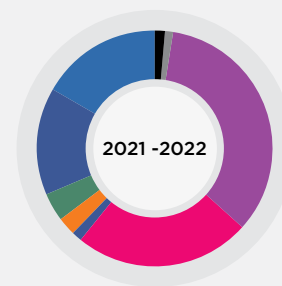
Programs	33,801,121
Administration	3,873,306
Fundraising	258,641

Breakdown of total revenues

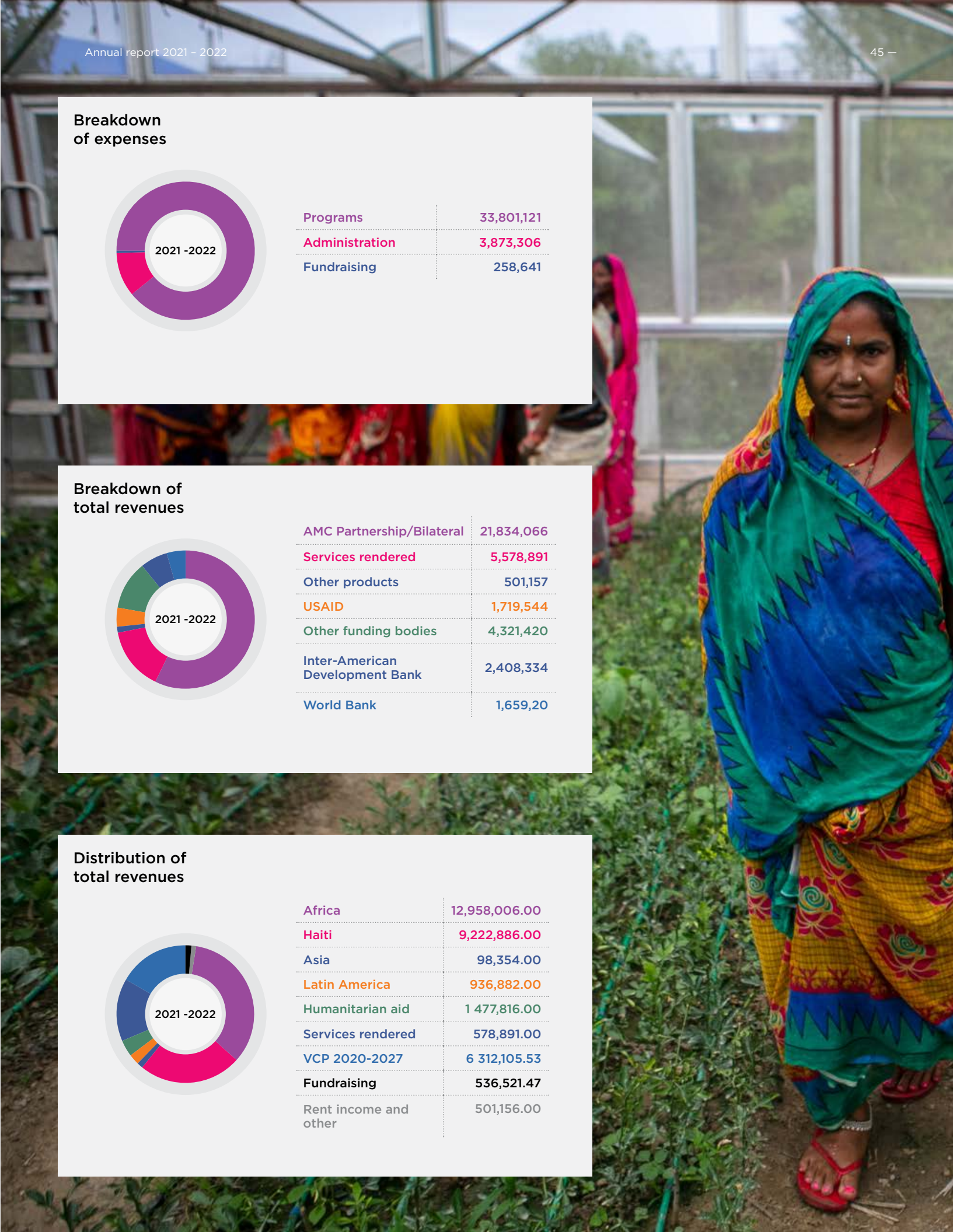


AMC Partnership/Bilateral	21,834,066
Services rendered	5,578,891
Other products	501,157
USAID	1,719,544
Other funding bodies	4,321,420
Inter-American Development Bank	2,408,334
World Bank	1,659,20

Distribution of total revenues



Africa	12,958,006.00
Haiti	9,222,886.00
Asia	98,354.00
Latin America	936,882.00
Humanitarian aid	1,477,816.00
Services rendered	578,891.00
VCP 2020-2027	6,312,105.53
Fundraising	536,521.47
Rent income and other	501,156.00





CECI's climate action, with its focus on increased women's leadership

Context

Climate change is causing more extreme weather around the world, including record heat, irregular precipitation, drought, wildfires, flooding and violent storms. This is severely impacting populations, their environments and their agricultural and food systems. The increase in climate variability often has negative effects on agricultural productivity and is disrupting ecosystems by affecting their ecological balance and biodiversity.

In numerous developing countries, these phenomena are compounded by strong demographic pressures and human practices that cause an unsustainable exploitation and degradation of natural resources. Combined, these effects have negative consequences on cultures, living environments and livelihoods, and further exacerbate the precarious situation of disadvantaged populations.

Women are especially affected because their adaptive capacities are often weaker due to the division of roles in the household and the nature of their productive work. They often have little access to decision-making spaces to promote their interests and know-how, in particular their traditional knowledge in adaptation.

Experts, political and governmental bodies, private enterprises and world public opinion are gradually becoming more aware of the injustice of climate change — how climate change is severely impacting countries and communities that contributed very little to causing the problem.

This motivated the 2015 Paris Agreement and, more recently, the 2030 G7 Nature Compact, to set a goal of mobilizing at least US\$100 billion a year to support climate action and the maintenance of biodiversity in developing countries. The Canadian government also doubled its international climate financing, from US\$2.65 billion for 2015-2021 to US\$5.3 billion for 2021-2026.

A programmatic priority for CECI

It was in this context that CECI made supporting vulnerable communities in climate change adaptation a programmatic priority, especially in fragile contexts and situations of prolonged crises. It does so by working with local organizations and by fostering transformational leadership in women and girls as key actors of change.

More specifically, CECI decided to focus on two essential areas: the adaptation of agricultural and food systems, and the more sustainable use of ecosystem services. CECI's work draws on its extensive experience in the agricultural sector, local development and land management, in promoting gender equality, and in facilitating collective action at the community level. CECI supports its partners in testing innovative approaches and promotes the integration of good practices into national policies and institutional frameworks.

Supporting farmer organizations in adapting agri-food systems

The foundation of agri-food systems in most developing countries is small-scale family farming, which often provides 75% or more of the food needed by cities. Farmer organizations bring actors together and facilitate access to agricultural inputs, innovations, commercialization opportunities, technical support and representation/advocacy. Some of these organizations are informal associations, others are formal, registered cooperatives. Farmer organizations play an essential role in improving productivity and in supporting the transformation and commercialization of products, whether it be through services to individual members, through collective economic action and transactions with other enterprises, or through advocacy and participating in regional and national political dialogue.

These organizations are important partners because they enable CECI to reach local populations with actions that are relevant and responsive to their needs. CECI has a long history of partnering with farmer organizations and their networks to support their effectiveness and reach as well as strengthen the role and influence of women in decision-making bodies. CECI also supports political and institutional structures, both national and decentralized, and spaces for consultation and dialogue that further the goals of farmer organizations.

Farmer organizations are now deeply involved in climate change adaptation. CECI supports them in finding solutions based on the specific needs of their members, in particular by facilitating collaborative relationships with academic and technical institutions.

These collaborations assist in evaluating vulnerabilities, modelling climate trends and analyzing present and future impacts, and identifying effective adaptation strategies, for example, what agricultural inputs or production/livestock systems are best adapted to the changing climate conditions. CECI also supports the development of production, transformation and commercialization infrastructures that improve resilience.

It is farmer organizations that are best positioned to make choices on issues affecting their communities and find solutions based on integrating local knowledge with innovations proposed by technical and academic institutions. In all of its support, CECI is guided by two principles: respect the lead role of farmer organizations in decision-making.

An important focus is promoting women's traditional knowledge and know-how, increasing their participation and power in decision-making, especially around disaster and climate risk management, and growing women's influence and control in the practices and evolution of agricultural and food systems (production, transformation and markets), including nutritional quality.

Supporting collective action to enhance the resilience of ecosystems

Numerous studies have shown that actors in decentralized collective actions play an important role in the sustainable management of common goods like water, forests and, more generally, ecosystems. In 2009, Elinor Ostrom became the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for her work on the management of common goods (or “common-pool resources”). While traditionally management by the private sector or the State has been favoured, Ostrom showed the importance of collective management by users in ensuring an effective and sustainable management of common goods within a framework of informal rules.

Many organizations, including CECI, have for decades supported the collective management of natural resources. In projects aimed at supporting local development, CECI has long promoted the transfer of control, management and use of natural resources from state structures to local populations. CECI and its partners support communities and local organizations in strengthening their rules and processes to ensure their effective and sustainable management, all while strengthening transformational leadership in women.

The support of CECI and its partners facilitate access by community organizations to data and analyses on biodiversity and the state of ecosystems, and helps them identify solutions aimed at strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and the services they provide to communities. Examples include the adoption of methods to restore forests degraded by climate change, exploitation by mining and forest companies, or exploitation linked to meeting the energy needs of communities, in particular wood and charcoal for cooking. An important focus is reinforcing women’s leadership and technical capacities in the management, development and collective preservation of ecosystems and natural resources, including animal and plant diversity.

Project achievements

In 2021-2022, CECI supported a range of climate action initiatives, all with an emphasis on increased women’s leadership. Here is a sampling.



Guatemala

CECI launched two innovative pilot initiatives with local partners under the international solidarity program Nouveau Québec sans frontières (NQSF). These initiatives directly supported the mission of CECI and its local partners.

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- **The Asociación Cooperación Indígena para el Desarrollo Integral (COINDI) network** worked to strengthen the knowledge of Maya communities and increase the capacity of its staff and women leaders in the context of climate change. Their approach harnessed the ancestral knowledge of Maya communities, which it combined with new technologies to come up with concrete actions to help prepare for future natural disasters. With stronger climate adaptation practices in place, they were then able to create a short-term intervention plan that will serve as a model for communities. Water, both its access and the protection of its sources, was identified as the main challenge.

- **Asociación La Cuerda** was founded in 1998 with the goal of launching a feminist publication that would contribute to strengthening democracy after the signing of the Peace Accords. Its vision is to build a society governed by values like cooperation and respect for life, and promote cultural practices in harmony with planet Earth. In its first year of a mobilization initiative financially supported by NQSF and backed by CECI-Guatemala, La Cuerda used creative ways to spread its message of non-violence and respect for nature.



Haiti

The Climate Adaptation and Economic Development of Agricultural Sectors in Haiti (AVETI) Project, funded by Global Affairs Canada, achieved a number of significant results with respect to strengthening women's leadership in climate action. The team noted a real hunger for innovative ways to adapt existing agricultural practices in the face of climate change. More concretely, women were mobilized as facilitators in Farmer Field Schools and as technicians in regeneration projects for agroforestry plots damaged by Hurricane Matthew. These roles strengthened their leadership in this area, both within their community and within their households.

CECI also worked with financial institutions to develop and provide products and services adapted to women's needs. This will ensure women have access to the resources, services and financing they need to develop sustainable and resilient economic activities.

As part of the KLIMA Grand Sud project funded by Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie, and in collaboration with Viridis Terra International, CECI's partners reproduced a technical innovation that had been successfully tested in the Nord department: the creation of plots of energy wood on degraded land through direct seeding. This technical innovation is readily accessible to local communities and less costly than traditional reforestation. It helps reduce deforestation for charcoal production, while also improving land quality in a region hard hit by tropical storms.



Nepal

CECI's work in Nepal involved implementing and formalizing concrete measures in eco-responsibility. CECI-Nepal worked with partners to promote a system of separate garbage bins for easier waste sorting, and the use of single-use plastic objects was banned. CECI also piloted an action with Fair Trade Group Nepal aimed at reducing its environmental footprint and improving its capacities. It supported research on identifying the differential impacts of climate change on Nepal's three agroecological regions, in addition to workshops and training sessions at a number of levels. CECI-Nepal's role in combatting and adapting to climate change is more visible than ever.



Bolivia

In line with our sustainable development policy, CECI-Bolivia created a green committee to strengthen environmental performance under the Volunteer Cooperation Program funded by Global Affairs Canada. It also implemented new environmental management tools and set the goal of carbon neutrality. To engage its various partners in these initiatives, volunteer green liaisons were assigned to each partner organization to accompany and advise them on the path to eco-responsibility. In fact, CECI-Bolivia was the first team in the CECI network to do a carbon footprint audit of all its operations.

CECI-Bolivia's partners are actively engaged in combatting and adapting to climate change, and CECI-Bolivia joined forces with a number of them to organize a series of webinars called "Mujeres Defensoras Enfrentando el Cambio Climatico" (women defenders confronting climate change). These webinars, which are currently underway, provide a platform for the many women activists involved in climate action throughout the country. We believed it essential to facilitate dialogue across regions, social groups and generations, especially given the strength and history of activism in Bolivia.



Acknowledgements

- Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
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- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (DFAT)
- German Embassy in Bolivia
- Global Affairs Canada (MAC)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Kingdom of Belgium
- Millennium Challenge Corporation
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources naturelles et du Développement rural (MARNDR) (Haïti)
- Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec (MELCC)
- Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec (MRIF)
- Ministère des Finances, Fonds d'assistance économique et sociale (Haïti)
- Ministère des Finances, Fonds d'assistance économique et sociale (Haïti)
- Ministère des Travaux publics, du Transport et de la Communication (MTPTC) (Haïti)
- Roncalli International Foundation (RIF)
- United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Bank (WB)





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