



CECO

**Annual
Report**

**2024
2025**

Message from the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director



Marie-Claire Dumas,
CECI Board Chair

In 2024–2025, CECI achieved significant milestones in its organizational development. Its structure and expertise have grown stronger, affirming its international identity and deepening its roots in its programming regions.



Philippe Dongier,
CECI Executive Director

It's worth noting that nearly 50% of our Board of Directors and more than half of our internal leadership committee now come from and are based in these regions—a representation that continues to expand, including within our broader membership

community. This evolution has also been reflected in the decentralization of regional leadership positions, notably in Latin America and Africa, as well as other key management roles.

We are thereby strengthening our capacity and legitimacy to work alongside our partners, drawing on high-level expertise and rich cross-learning within a distributed international team supported by digital innovation.

Together, we are amplifying our impact in advancing the rights of women and girls and in expanding sustainable economic opportunities for women and youth.

We invite you to explore this report, which highlights human stories that illustrate our work. These stories aim to show how CECI's actions concretely strengthen people's agency and contribute to lasting transformations in systems and institutions.

We wish you an insightful read.

Valuable collaborations

CECI owes its success to the dedicated individuals and partners who make our actions possible.

We would like to express gratitude to our 14 financial partners, who provided the funding for 80% of our activities this year.* Your invaluable support not only makes our actions possible, it also enables us to extend our reach and increase our impact on communities.

**For more information, [see our financial statements on page 15](#)*

This year, we collaborated with **226 operational partners and 9 consortium partners** to co-create meaningful initiatives tailored to the needs of the communities we serve. Thank you for placing your confidence in us and helping us create sustainable and inclusive change.

We also salute the unwavering commitment of our teams around the world, our members, our board of directors and all those who work at our side.

Employees, volunteers, consultants and interns: every day, you work passionately to build societies that are fairer, more prosperous and more resilient for all.

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to read this. Your interest and commitment strengthen our collective impact.

Finally, we wish to extend our sincerest thanks to those who have chosen to support our actions financially.

Thanks to the generosity of 1,205 donors, we raised \$167,551 in individual donations in 2024–2025. These include 61 donations of more than \$500. We would also like to highlight the valuable support of the 76 businesses, educational institutions, unions and religious communities that together contributed an additional \$464,758.

A global presence

CECI is active in 18 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas. Our governance and leadership teams are international.

Nearly 50% of our board members and more than half of our international leadership committee members are from and based in the Global South.



Supporting women entrepreneurs

Together with our local partners, CECI is improving women's access to sustainable and climate-resilient economic opportunities. In addition to making economic ecosystems more inclusive, we support businesses that are led by women or create significant opportunities for them.



Chantale



Tambacounda,
Senegal

In 1984, Chantale* was forced to leave her native region due to persistent droughts. Looking for stability and prosperity, she settled in Tambacounda, a village in southern Senegal that enjoyed six months of regular rainfall per year, which would provide natural irrigation for her banana plantations.

Forty years later, local weather patterns have changed profoundly.

Precipitation is now unpredictable, with total rainfall on the decline and droughts becoming longer.

Climate change has forced Chantale to make extraordinary efforts to protect her crops and feed her family.

Many women in the village have similarly struggled to sustain their production of rice, bananas and vegetables. They have been relying on the Women and Resilient Agriculture project** since 2019.

Through the project, Chantale has learned practices that are more suitable to the new climate reality, such as planting banana varieties that require less water and spreading straw around her trees to keep the soil moist.

As a result, Chantale's yields have improved, allowing her to earn more and afford a better life for herself and her family.

At home, she often listens to the radio. When she heard dry conditions were expected for the coming month, she felt reassured knowing that **the irrigation system for the plots has just been repaired as part of a project initiative.**

Between this refurbishment, the renovation of the crop storage building, the new weigh scale—which is more accurate and user-friendly—and the new communal refrigerated truck, Chantale can see that things are changing for women producers.

The village's girls even say that they want to cultivate their own land when they grow up!

**This story is a compilation of experiences reported by project participants.*

***Project implemented by CECI between 2019 and 2025, in collaboration with SOCODEVI and several Senegalese partner organizations, with financial support from Global Affairs Canada.*

Thanks to the Women and Resilient Agriculture project in Senegal:

\$ 4,350 farmers—of which 60% are women and 20% are young people—have developed skills in entrepreneurship, farm management and climate-smart practices.



In the banana and rice sectors, women receiving support from the project have seen their incomes **go up 50%.**

Total figures since the start of the project



Guatemala City,
Guatemala

On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, Teresa* is finishing a busy day in Guatemala City. She has met with suppliers, attended training in e-commerce and completed her regular manufacturing tasks—all before picking up her daughter from school. The hours have flown by!

Teresa started her jewelry design business two years ago. It's something she had wanted to do for a long time, but didn't dare, fearing she wouldn't be able to balance running a business with family life. But she was able to bring her ambitions to life with help from the [We3A project](#), aims to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises owned or managed by women.

Using the [Dreambuilder](#) platform, which was provided by CECI's partners, **she took online courses on business creation and management, digital tools and access to capital**. She was also able to access personalized support and practical tools for organizing and structuring her business.

The project helped Teresa strengthen her leadership skills and improve her business' stability.

At a networking dinner organized by the project, she saw that women-led businesses can thrive, create jobs, and expand into national and international markets. The project supports these growth ambitions, and Teresa knows she'll be able to expand her business when she feels ready.

**This story is a compilation of experiences reported by project participants.*

***Project run by CECI between 2022 and 2025, with financial support from WeFi and IDB Lab.*

Thanks to the We3A project to empower women-led production chains in Guatemala:



1,000 women entrepreneurs* received entrepreneurship training and support, as well as access to capital through the *Dreambuilder* platform.



86% of the businesses* run by the women who received support increased their number of employees

Total figures since the start of the project

Our contributions to women's economic empowerment in 2024–2025

14 projects

TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

More than 15,000 women



are now more active in
the labour market (having
started a business, found
a new job, etc.).

Over 19,000 women



and young women
successfully grew their
assets and gained greater
control over them

145,233 women

REACHED AND SUPPORTED

In our areas of operation, markets have become more inclusive, with more favorable policies being adopted and more women occupying leadership positions in both the formal and informal economies.

Discovering the value of sustainable forest management

CECI works hand-in-hand with institutions and communities to promote sustainable agriculture and food production. With a focus on women's leadership, we strive to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems, organizations, communities and individuals, thereby reducing their vulnerability to climate change.



Port-à-Piment,
Haiti

Adriana and Louis* manage farmland in Port-à-Piment, in southern Haiti. It's a "Creole garden" inherited from their parents. But due to trees being cut down for sale and repeated hurricanes, the once-fertile plot became barren land where nothing grew.

In the village, people said: *la tè pa bay ankò* (the land no longer produces).

In order to feed their family, Adriana and Louis were forced to look elsewhere for wood—and increasingly,

they found themselves having to travel further, only to find that the forests were becoming less dense and fewer and far between.

When the project to combat climate change in Southern Haiti, KLIMA South** offered to help them revitalize their garden, the couple was relieved. Alongside other farmers, they learned about **sustainable forest management**.

They began replanting trees and adopting more environmentally friendly practices.

Today, they leave fallen leaves on the ground to enrich the soil, and use compost produced with support from the project. The wood they harvest is

now turned into charcoal using **modern kilns that are more efficient and less polluting**.

Adriana and Louis are already seeing positive change: **the soil is becoming fertile again, grasses and plants are growing back, and even the birds are returning!** They have also started growing animal fodder to earn a small but valuable additional income.

The regenerated soil and newly planted forests now also help shield their region from harsh weather and erosion.

*This story is a compilation of experiences reported by project participants.

**Project implemented by CECI and Viridis Terra International between 2021 and 2024, with financial support from Quebec's Ministry of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change.

Thanks to the project to combat climate change in Southern Haiti (KLIMA South):



386 hectares of degraded land have been restored since 2018 through the establishment of sustainable energy forests, helping to increase carbon sequestration.



A reduction of 9,405 tons of greenhouse gases was reached, equivalent to the annual emissions of approximately 5,000 households in Haiti.

Total figures since the start of the project





Our contributions to climate change adaptation in 2024–2025

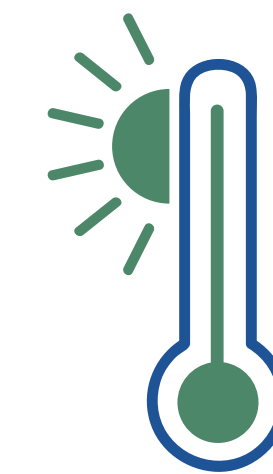
13 projects

TO SUPPORT CLIMATE
CHANGE ADAPTATION

Over
33,000
people



more than half of whom are women (52%), have gained knowledge and skills to better cope with climate change (sustainable agriculture, climate-resilient practices, etc.).



MORE THAN 29,800 PEOPLE

have adopted climate-smart
strategies and practices.

8 CECI offices

conducted a carbon
footprint assessment and
set greenhouse gas (GHG)
emission targets

31 mitigation measures

have been adopted by
the various CECI teams
to achieve their GHG
emissions targets



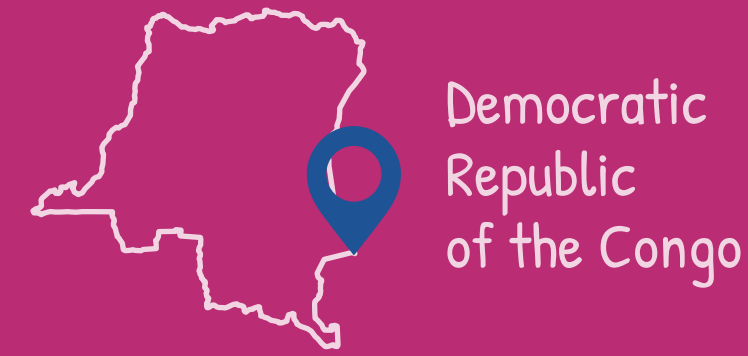
193 tons of GHG

(in CO₂ equivalent) related
to air transport were
compensated for by the
purchase of carbon credits

Education: A fundamental right for every girl

CECI works alongside its partners to uphold every girl's right to education. We help strengthen inclusive local institutions that provide essential services, such as education and health, and ensure they are adapted to the needs of women and girls. In a world where their rights continue to be threatened, CECI champions their leadership. Our efforts promote gender equality, empowerment and the creation of more just, resilient and peaceful societies.

Esther, her son Yusufu and her mother



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Esther* lives in a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

She's just 17 years old, but her life is already very busy. After school, she returns home to care for her young son, Yusufu. Each day brings new learning, with lessons in English and geography like today, her favourite subjects. **It's hard to believe that just a year ago, she was confined to her home, unable to attend school.**

At that time, life was filled with hardship. An unplanned pregnancy had turned her world upside down.

Rejected by those around her, Esther was forced to drop out of school to care for her child.

A turning point came when a neighbour referred her to the Girls' Education for a Better Future in the African Great Lakes Region (ÉDUFAM) project**, which helps girls return to school. For Esther, it was a lifeline.

Through the project, she received a modest scholarship and school supplies. Most importantly, she was guided by a counselor who was attentive to her needs and those of her family. **This support helped her rebuild confidence, stay motivated in her studies, and even join a girls' club, where she could find her voice and strengthen her leadership skills.**

Much has changed since the ÉDUFAM project was launched, both in the camp and in the classrooms.

Girls are treated with greater respect, and their needs are increasingly taken into account.

They now have access to a dedicated space during their menstrual periods, where they can discuss reproductive health with someone who listens and supports them. **Esther feels supported and now believes in her future, which she hopes will be bright.**

Things are also changing around Esther. At a community meeting, her family, neighbours, women's organizations, and village leaders publicly committed—through the project's social contract approach—to supporting girls' education and ensuring their safety.

*This story is a compilation of experiences reported by project participants. **The ÉDUFAM project was run by CECI and the Paul Gérin-Lajoie Foundation from 2020 to 2025 in Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda, working with displaced communities and host communities in refugee camps, with support from Global Affairs Canada.

With the Girls' Education for a Better Future in the African Great Lakes Region (ÉDUFAM) project:

 **2,800 girls and adolescents** were provided with support to enroll in school or return to their studies

 **97% of girls, adolescents and women** now actively participate in governance, coordination mechanisms or discussion forums on education, compared to 19% at the start of the project

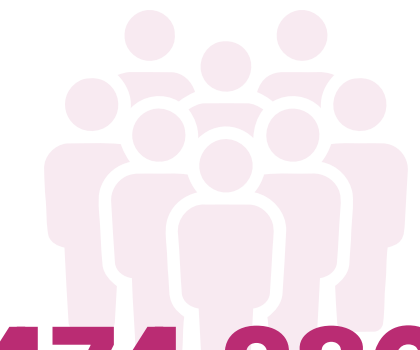
Total figures since the start of the project



Our contributions to advancing the rights of women and girls
in 2024–2025

12
projects

TO STRENGTHEN THE RIGHTS
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS



474,286
people
reached



More than 39 000

women and girls

now have improved access to health services



More than 23 000

women and girls

have greater access to education



More than 22 000

women and girls

have better access to justice

Our support for inclusive governance and peace in fragile contexts in 2024–2025

Nearly 13,000 people

ACCESSED FOOD
ASSISTANCE,



and 6,000

RECEIVED EMERGENCY
SHELTER

7
projects

to support inclusive
governance and
peacebuilding



7
projects

to respond to
humanitarian
assistance

666,217 PEOPLE
reached in fragile
or conflict-affected
contexts in Haiti,
the Sahel and Rwanda.

More than
45,000
people



are now better protected
against gender-based violence
in humanitarian contexts.



Solidarity-based women's entrepreneurship

International volunteering is one of CECI's key levers for action. Motivated by a commitment to advancing women's economic empowerment through green growth, CECI volunteers share their experience and expertise with partners in program countries. Volunteering fosters mutual learning and enrichment—culturally, personally and professionally. The Women Entrepreneurs in Solidarity program deepens this reciprocity by connecting Canadian businesswomen with women in program countries through a mentoring exchange.

Marie-Hélène

Rokhaya Solange



Quebec



Senegal

Marie-Hélène and Rokhaya Solange are two businesswomen.

Marie-Hélène, from Quebec, is a manager in innovation and technology services and served as President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce for Women in Montreal from 2022 to 2024. Rokhaya Solange, from Senegal, is a digital transformation expert and president of FESTIC, the Association of Senegalese Women in the Information and Communications Technology Sector.

Brought together through CECI's Women Entrepreneurs in Solidarity* volunteer program, they exchanged ideas over several months before meeting in person in both Dakar and Montreal**.

Gaining fresh perspectives on their respective environments, they shared best practices and drew on their combined experience to address challenges and explore new approaches.

Central to their work were digital technologies, viewed both as drivers of economic opportunity and as tools to reduce the digital gap for women. Through their discussions, the two business owners came to fully appreciate the potential of these tools to advance women's entrepreneurship and promote digital inclusion.

Having shared an enriching experience of mutual learning, Marie-Hélène and Rokhaya Solange were deeply inspired. They are now more motivated than ever to support the development of female entrepreneurship by promoting women's inclusion in the digital world.

As their discussions deepened, a valuable solidarity emerged—one that often develops among women entrepreneurs when mutual support becomes a driving force. This sense of sisterhood stands in contrast to the more individualistic culture they have sometimes encountered.

Unique in its approach, the Women Entrepreneurs in Solidarity program elevates entrepreneurial solidarity by building bridges across borders and between continents.

Marie-Hélène and Rokhaya Solange were both able to draw inspiration from practices used in other countries, underscoring the complementarity of their experiences and the value of engaging in a spirit of openness, curiosity and solidarity among women.

"We have the opportunity to contribute to the development of entrepreneurship, here and elsewhere. We live in a global village, and we must seize this opportunity." Rokhaya Solange

Discover other stories of women entrepreneurs working together:

- ➔ Elfi Maldonado and Alejandra Marquez in Bolivia
- ➔ Valérie Quenum Ndiaye and Charlotte Fontaine in Senegal (in French only)

*Program implemented as part of the Volunteer Cooperation Program, with financial support from Global Affairs Canada. **Rokhaya Solange's trip to Montreal was made possible through financial support from Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and the Francophonie.



Impact of our volunteer cooperation initiatives in 2024–2025



117

volunteers engaged,
representing

more than

14,119 days



130

assignments

(more than 90% of which were part of CECI's [Volunteer Cooperation Program](#)), including:

82

foreign assignments for Canadian volunteers

37

remote assignments from Canada

11

domestic or international assignments for volunteers from program countries

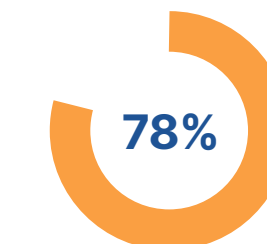
Since 2020, CECI's Volunteer Cooperation Program has contributed to improving the socioeconomic well-being of

29,565

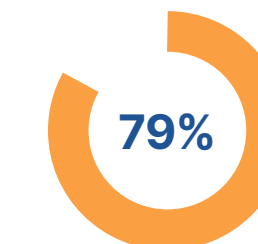
WOMEN

A survey* concluded this year highlighted the program's concrete impact on women's autonomy and leadership, as well as the reduction of gender-based violence.

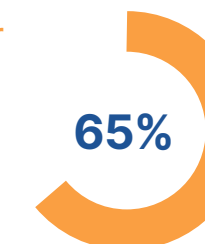
Among the women surveyed:



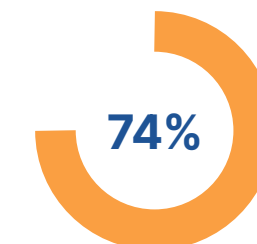
reported an increase in their financial autonomy



have increased their contributions to household income, with 49% serving as the main income source



are more involved in decision-making at work or within their businesses



perceive a reduction in gender-based violence in their community

*Survey conducted between 2023 and 2025, reaching 518 people in eight countries: Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Haiti, Nepal, Rwanda, and Senegal.

CECI offers international volunteer opportunities through:

- The Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP)
- The Quebec Without Borders (QSF) project
- One-off assignments within our projects

Inspiring change

As Rokhaya Solange noted ([see p. 12](#)), what happens in Canada influences the rest of the world—and vice versa. In this spirit of international solidarity, CECI engages people in Canada through awareness-raising and education, encouraging them to contribute to advancing gender equality, environmental action, and the inclusion of marginalized communities worldwide.

Discover our 2024–2025 campaigns, events, activities, and podcasts, highlighting the essential role each person can play in building a more equal world.

Nearly **2,9** million people engaged in awareness initiatives in Canada

1,109 news stories, publications, videos and blog posts to promote our commitment to equality

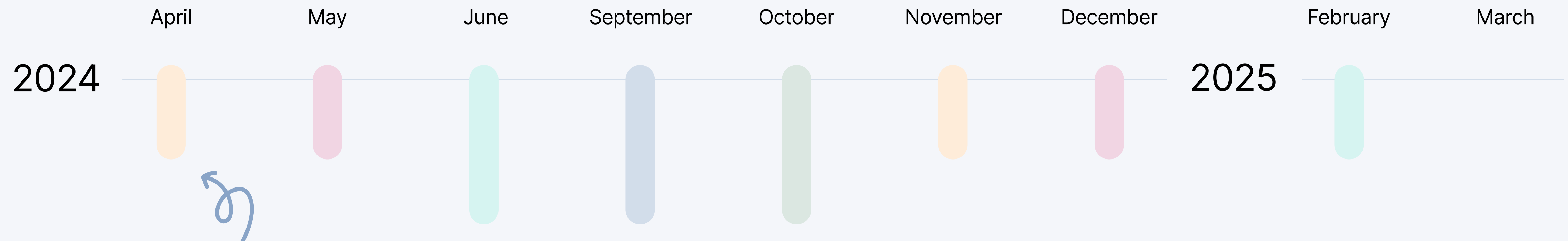
292 fundraising activities

11 episodes of our podcasts *Prendre part* and *À l'écoute des volontaires*

20 media appearances

40 events organized (panels, conferences, webinars, information sessions, etc.)

4 new Canadian partnerships



Click on the icons to discover the activities organized this year!

Consolidated operations

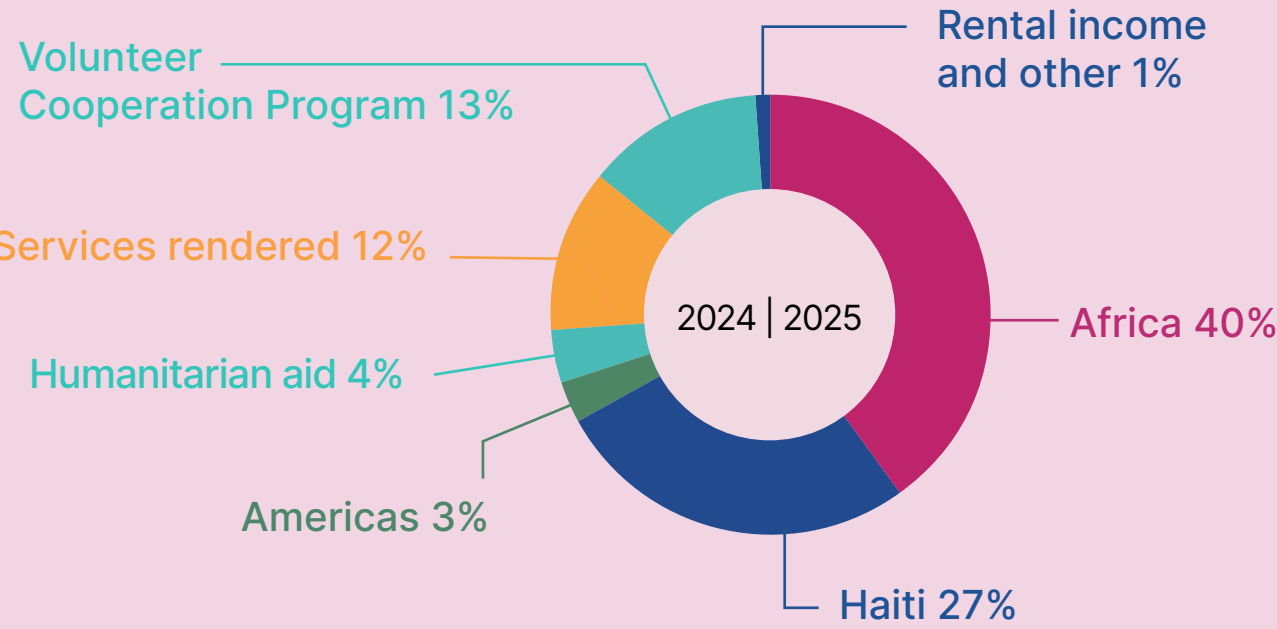
REVENUES	2025 (CAD\$)	2024 (CAD\$)
Global Affairs Canada – partnership	5,391,700	6,293,912
Global Affairs Canada – bilateral and others	18,555,082	19,671,123
Others donors	12,768,778	12,250,584
Donations	1,037,863	483,086
Subtotal	37,753,423	38,698,705
Contributed volunteer services	5,342,781	4,777,717
Other receipts	692,360	633,816
Total	43,788,564	44,110,238

EXPENSES	2025 (CAD\$)	2024 (CAD\$)
Programs	33,642,160	34,647,351
Contributed volunteer services	5,342,781	4,777,717
Programs development	653,172	465,748
Administration	3,399,167	3,431,068
Fundraising	325,535	289,268
Interest on long-term debt	112,046	87,029
Amortization of tangible capital assets	229,565	225,584
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	17,109	
Total	43,721,535	43,923,765
Excess of revenues over expenses before strategic investments	67,029	
Strategic investments	154,977	
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(87,948)	186,473

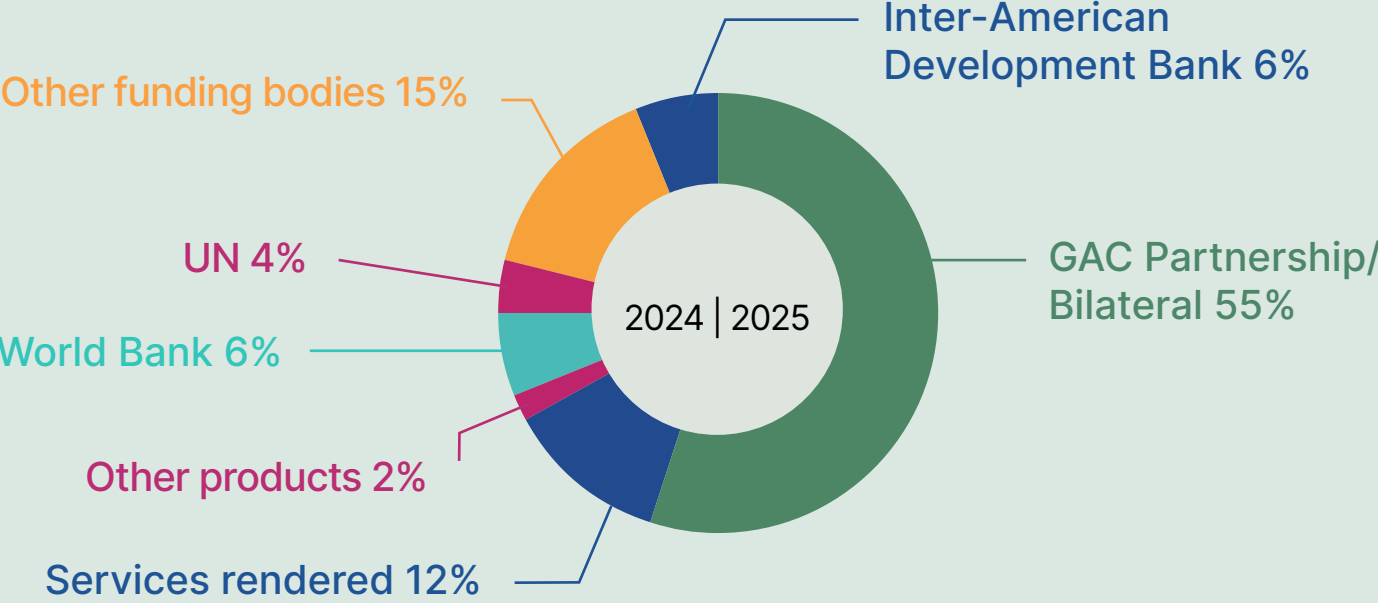
Consolidated financial position

	2025 (CAD\$)	2024 (CAD\$)
ASSETS		
Current	19,983,122	24 040,656
Tangible capital assets	5,611,819	5,747,080
Other assets	1,178,277	929,134
Total	26,773,218	30,716,870
LIABILITIES		
Current	17,108,712	21,682,410
Long-term	1,455,934	809,804
Net assets	8,208,572	8,224,656
Total	26,773,218	30,716,870

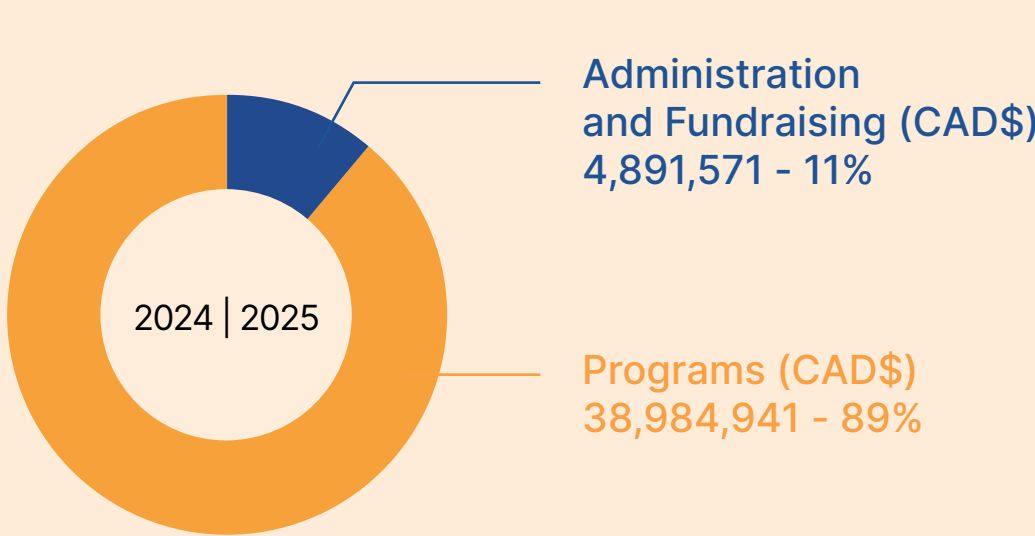
Distribution of total revenues by region and activity



Breakdown of total revenues by donors



Breakdown of expenses



Empowering women. Supporting communities. Promoting sustainable systems.



CECI's activities aim to promote sustainable and inclusive development.

We aspire to a world where women, girls and their communities achieve lasting prosperity and well-being. Together with our partners, we co-create and support innovative solutions that strengthen their power, leadership and resilience to climate change. Through our solutions, we help build economic and governance systems that are inclusive, fair and effective, while also fostering peace.

Our means of action



Sustainable development projects



Innovation, research and scaling



International cooperation

This year



Our projects reached

more than 700,000 people,
60% of whom were women



462 organizations and networks mobilized with us, including 125 civil society organizations, 111 government agencies, 179 cooperatives, trade associations and SMEs, as well as 20 academic institutions



Nearly half (46%)

of the organizations and networks we worked with were led by women



AFRICA

Benin

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Burkina Faso

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