

CIDA is providing support for an \$18 million project (1995-2001) in co-operation with the Canadian organization Solidarité Canada-Sahel to strengthen non-governmental organizations in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, particularly in their work to fight desertification.

General Motors of Canada is providing five locomotives for the Dakar-Bamako railway line. In addition to giving Mali an outlet to the sea and increasing regional trade, the project provides training to employees of the railway system and facilitates harmonization between the systems in Mali and Senegal.

Central Africa

There are seven members of La Francophonie in Central Africa: Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African republic, Chad, the Congo and Zaïre. Canada has a presence mainly in Gabon and Cameroon.

In Gabon, CIDA, in co-operation with the CÉGÉP de Saint-Jean, is emphasizing technical co-operation in the areas of education and training, as well as economic co-operation in the rural electrification sector, thanks to the CIDA/EDC (Export Development Corporation) line of credit.

In Cameroon, CIDA's priorities are support to the private sector, the forestry/environment sector, democratic development, human rights and good government. A \$4 million fund (1995-2000) for activities to support and strengthen democracy and the creation of an environment conducive to respect for human rights is administered by a committee consisting of representatives of Canada, of the Government of Cameroon and of the *Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés*.

Eastern Africa

Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda and Seychelles are the member countries of La Francophonie in Eastern Africa. Canada has a particular presence in Rwanda.

Canada is supporting reconstruction efforts in Rwanda. In addition to emergency humanitarian assistance intended mainly for refugees and displaced persons, Canadian assistance has made it possible to restore the electrical system in the capital, Kigali. Projects under way are aimed mainly at social rehabilitation, in particular, assistance to women and children, and reform of the judicial system. For example, CIDA is helping to fund a judicial training project in Rwanda, an initiative of the ACCT.

Panafrican Program

Through its Panafrican program, CIDA is also supporting projects for all of Francophone Africa. For example, it funds the *Programme de renforcement institutionnel en matière technologique en Afrique francophone* (PRIMTAF), announced at the Dakar Summit in 1989. This \$25 million programme (1989-1998) calls upon Canadian colleges and universities to strengthen institutions at the same level in 13 member countries of La Francophonie who do not receive Canadian ODA.