

The CIDA projects favour women's participation in development, the creation of an environment that will help stabilize the population growth rate, regional co-operation and environmental protection.

The Agency is contributing \$2.1 million (1994-99) to, among others, the Women and Economic Activities Project in Benin to improve productivity in the small companies operated by groups of women. The project, created following the Chaillot Summit, was planned and is being managed by the New Brunswick intergovernmental affairs department.

A project for developing democracy and promoting human rights in francophone Africa began in 1993 with a \$6 million budget (1993-96) managed by the Canadian Centre for International Study and Co-operation.

Laval University's International Co-operation Centre for Health and Development was awarded a CIDA contract to manage a \$25.5 million project (1995-2001) to reduce the incidence of HIV in seven West African member countries of the Francophonie.

CIDA has committed \$18 million (1995-2001) to the Canadian organization Canada-Sahel Solidarity that will enable non-governmental organizations to help formulate national plans to fight desertification in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

General Motors of Canada will shortly be providing five locomotives to increase the capacity of the Dakar-Bamako rail line. In addition to giving Mali access to the ocean and increasing regional trade, the \$12 million project (1995-98) will help train employees of the railway network and assist in harmonizing the Malian and Senegalese rail networks.

Central Africa

Central Africa comprises seven members of the Francophonie: Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo and Zaire. Canada is involved primarily with Gabon and Cameroon.

In Gabon, CIDA is emphasizing technical co-operation in education, training and institutional support, and economic co-operation in a rural electrification program financed through the CIDA/Export Development Corporation line of credit. The work is managed by the Cegep Saint-Jean, a junior college in Quebec.

In Cameroon, CIDA's priorities focus on support for the private sector and the forestry/environment sector, as well as for democratic development, human rights and good government. A \$4 million fund (1995-2000) in support of activities that reinforce democracy and create an environment conducive to