

and refugee assistance programmes, and 56 per cent in support of initiatives by Canadian voluntary organizations. Cash contributions by the federal government, provinces, municipalities and voluntary organizations exceeded \$170 million.



*Food aid, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

The matching of public emergency contributions by the Canadian government was administered for the first time ever by a coalition of voluntary organizations, Africa Emergency Aid (AEA). Its nine-member board of directors, representing more than 40 organizations, included the Canadian Emergency Coordinator and a representative of CIDA. In addition to administering the fund, AEA was responsible for coordinating NGO efforts and served as the trustee for donations received from the public. Its other vital function was to monitor the performance of agencies in the field.

The Canadian public has, quite understandably, sought constant reassurance that assistance was getting through to the people for whom it was intended. Minor losses have occurred, but by and large Canadian food and other assistance has reached its destination. Most of the difficulties arose during the early days of the relief effort, when African ports were congested and ill-equipped, deliveries of food were not properly scheduled, and vehicles were in short supply. At the outset, some local organizations were simply not capable of handling a relief effort of this magnitude. In retrospect, the remarkable thing is that so many organizations, private and public, rapidly built up their capacities to help the African people.