

judicial systems can carry out their work without interference from the Executive.

23. CIDA assisted the Jamaican Magistrates Association to support members on a study tour on the administration of justice in Atlantic Canada, thus exposing them to how Canadian courts resolve legal conflicts. Another CIDA grant allowed developing country magistrates to attend the continuing judicial education program of the Commonwealth Magistrates Association in Cyprus. CIDA also provided funds to permit some South African participants to attend the Black Lawyers and Jurists Conference in Toronto. This conference dealt in part with the legal aspects of the struggle against apartheid.

24. In the developing world, legal services are most lacking in the rural areas. Through the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists, IDRC has sponsored numerous workshops and conferences in Africa, aimed at studying the reasons why there is so little service available to the rural populations, and the ways to solve the problem. Such conferences have involved both activists and officials and have led to a sharper analysis of the problem, as well as to pilot projects designed to develop a service delivery model.

25. A very important organization operating in this field is the Inter-American Legal Services Association (ILSA) based in Bogota. It stimulates and conducts research on legal services, publishes a newsletter, holds conferences, and acts as a clearinghouse for information for many legal clinics in the region. CIDA has provided substantial funds for its general operations for a number of years. In addition, it has provided money to ILSA to facilitate the upgrading of legal services in two countries in the region. A grant was made to help establish a non-profit corporation to operate the Belize Legal Aid Service, to set up a "store front" clinic under the direction of an attorney, and to provide free or low cost legal advice to the poor. Another grant to ILSA allowed it to help the Kingston (Jamaica) Legal Aid Clinic extend services to the rural areas. The clinic deals with questions such as land tenure, landlord and tenant relations, and family conflicts. IDRC has made a research grant to ILSA to compile a manual suitable for teaching legal aid workers about ways in which clinics can achieve a development impact in their communities. This involves eight studies of cases where a clinic has gone beyond the provision of standard lawyer-client services, and moved to working with groups attempting to improve their communities through social action.

26. A major comparative study of legal aid clinic models by the Centro de Investigacion y Educacion Popular in Bogota and Osgoode Hall Law School at York University is being funded by IDRC. It is designed to scientifically test the effectiveness of traditional professional clinics serving individual clients, compared to community-run, development-oriented clinics. The study is looking at the ways in which the clinics determine community needs, enhance the relations between community members and authorities, and resolve disputes within the community. The study hopes to elaborate an internationally-appropriate research model which clinics can use to evaluate their own structures and programs.