



CIDA photo: Roger LeMoine

Every 10 years since 1961, it has also adopted International Development Strategies recommending measures to reduce the gap between the poor and rich countries.

But it is mainly through agencies and specialized programs that the UN works to achieve its mission in the economic and social fields. The United Nations Development Programme is the spearhead of this effort. This is the program that funds most UN development activities, operating in 174 countries and territories, with an annual budget in the order of more than US\$1 billion. In addition, the activities it supports generate added annual investments of over US\$9 billion from donor countries, specialized agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

The United Nations Children's Fund works with children so that they are protected and can live in conditions allowing them to flourish. With an annual budget of nearly US\$1 billion, UNICEF is active in 150 countries; its programs deal with such needs as vaccination, health care, nutrition and basic education.

Many other UN agencies are working on development in conjunction with governments and NGOs. For example, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) promotes preservation of the natural environment and measures to combat pollution throughout the world. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the main international food aid provider.

In the area of population, when developing countries need assistance they go

first to the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF). As for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements or UNCHS (Habitat), it works to improve housing conditions for some 600 million people living in unhealthy surroundings.

Last, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) promotes international trade, especially by seeking to increase the integration of developing countries into the world economy. Section 8 of this Guide provides a detailed description of the mandates, objectives and activities of these agencies and programs.

In addition, 16 specialized UN institutions, connected with the United Nations by special agreements, develop standards and directives, help draft policies, and provide technical and other forms of practical assistance in virtually all areas of economic, social and developmental life. These institutions include the World Bank (IBRD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). These institutions and their activities are described in Section 9 of this Guide.

Canada is a very active participant in all the major United Nations programs, commissions and committees, and in the activities of specialized UN agencies and institutions, in part through its development assistance program managed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Agency contributes about \$150 million a year to the core