

For Miszkiewicz, too, the experience was enriching. "I saw how so many people in the developing world have so many skills and capacities already. They just need some support and resources."

Education and digital opportunities

The needs in terms of education are daunting. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where the number of children out of school is increasing. To achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2015, the region needs nearly 80 million new places in schools. In countries that have eliminated primary school fees, the influx of previously out-of-school children is crippling. In Kenya, average class sizes have risen to 120 from 40.



Photo: CIDA-ACDI/Stephanie Colvey

Computers in schools: harnessing the opportunities offered by technology.

Canada is helping to meet the challenge. Having doubled its support for basic education in Africa, Canada has allocated \$35 million for initiatives to help Africa take advantage of information and communications technologies for economic and social development. One of these, Connectivity Africa, managed by Canada's International Development Research Centre, supports innovative uses of technology through several projects, including a program called Computers for Schools Kenya.

Inspired by Computers for Schools Canada, an Industry Canada initiative launched in 1993 to solicit surplus computers from government and the private sector, refurbish and then distribute them free to schools, the program has provided about 1,000 computers to some 50 Kenyan schools and other institutions, including a home for street children.

"Africans are determined to harness the opportunities offered by technology," says Computers for Schools Kenya coordinator Tom Musili. Apart from supplying refurbished computers, the program has developed related curriculums, trained teachers and principals in the recipient schools and offered instruction at the Kenya Science Teachers College, with good results.

"The students are quite responsive," says Daniel Muturi, a teacher at Naivasha Day Secondary School in Nairobi. "There are students who are very eager to learn."

Agriculture and water

Most of Africa's poor depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. For the architects of NEPAD, improved agricultural performance means not only promoting food security, but also planting the seeds of economic development. Canada has revitalized its support for agriculture in many

A CONTINENT IN FLAMES

When Irish rock star Bono appeared in Toronto last fall, he had a provocative message for Canadians and the rest of the world about working together to help solve Africa's problems. *Canada World View* provides excerpts of what this "rock star with a conscience" had to say.

These are nervous times; they're dangerous times. Things are falling apart, really, for the unlucky many who have to survive on less than a dollar a day. But also for us, the lucky few, because, whether we like it or not, our fate is bound up in their futures.

We need to understand what's going on here. Let's stop for a second to remind ourselves that six and a half thousand Africans died today from a preventable, treatable disease called AIDS. Six and a half thousand died yesterday, and six and a half thousand will die tomorrow. Every day, without a

break for Christmas. That's more people than in this whole room. This is not just a rock star's pet cause, this is an emergency, and this is really why I'm here. Africa is a continent in flames. And, as we all know, fires tend to spread.

Canada is a country that's starting to do something about this. Some of you may know that there's a move to get cheap generic drugs from here to Africa. This is great news. If you follow through on this promise, other countries will have to follow you. This is great news.

In his Nobel address, the great Lester Pearson said that "poverty and distress—especially with the awakening of the submerged millions of Asia and Africa—make the risks of war truly greater." And I would like to add to that the risks of terror. AIDS creates a vacuum. And in that vacuum breeds despair. Despair is the next-door neighbour of anger. Anger is the next-door neighbour of violence.

OK, can any one country make a difference? Yes, Canada can. Canada already has...I have a feeling Canada