

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

Canada can make a difference in three main ways. First, our commitment to support short-term humanitarian relief will continue. Realizing that crises disproportionately afflict the poor and vulnerable, we will respond rapidly to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies, deploying our Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). We will also provide coherent financial and technical support through international agencies and Canada's network of expert non-governmental organizations. Without this assistance, weeks of turmoil can undermine years of progress.

Second, in failed states wracked by civil war, Canada can help lay the initial groundwork by establishing stability and then providing development assistance to further processes of state building.

Third, in stable but poor countries, Canada's traditional development assistance framework will be most applicable. We will focus on a set of basic building blocks—functioning markets, effective governance structures, and robust health and education systems—that can create a “virtuous cycle” of economic growth and social progress. Here the Government will work in partnership with others to reinforce good governance, improve social conditions and resources, and bolster the impetus for economic growth.

Canada's current bilateral development programs are more widely dispersed around the world than those of any other donor country. Of the 155 countries that currently receive development assistance from Canada, only 18 receive assistance valued at more

than \$10 million annually, and 54 receive less than \$1 million annually. This wide dispersion of our aid program makes it more difficult to develop the knowledge and contacts in any one place to ensure that our dollars are used effectively. In addition, the proliferation of small-scale programming on the part of donors like the Canadian government puts a greater coordination and cost burden on recipient countries. Finally, the fragmentation of aid programs increases the management and overhead costs of the Government itself.

To achieve measurable impact, we must make choices. By refocusing our development strategy and moving away from an extremely broad but often thinly spread presence, Canada will strive to make a greater difference in fewer places. In so doing, we will further the interests of our development partners, the international community at large and Canada itself. Priority will be given to Africa, the region where the needs are most pressing.

The Government will reorient overall bilateral programming at the country level by placing enhanced focus on long-term bilateral programs with a core group of 25 “Development Partners.” These countries are selected from among the poorest, where effective programming to reduce poverty is possible and where Canada can add real value. This does not mean that we will abandon our established relationships with other countries. Instead, we will assist countries through a transition period during which our relationship will graduate from a focus on development assistance to a

## PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Establish Canada Corps as a key mechanism for providing governance assistance to developing countries

### KEY INITIATIVES

- Use Canada Corps to develop collaborative partnerships across government, and with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and Canadian citizens
- Create coherent governance assistance programs with a focus on sharing Canadian expertise in the rule of law and human rights
- Create a single portal for Canadians to access international volunteer opportunities