

In Kenya, Canada funded the Kenya Technical Teachers College, whose Canadian-trained staff teach teachers how to deliver courses in many practical fields - ranging from carpentry to auto-mechanics to accounting - helping Kenyans become self-reliant contributors to their society. We run a similar project in Malawi - where the Natural Resources College provides instruction in natural resources management.

In the Caribbean, we have upgraded 22 airports for the 13 island members of the Commonwealth, providing them with the safety and security infrastructure required for their crucial tourism and trade industries.

Many of our ODA projects are of a smaller scale, chosen by our Ambassador to meet specific local needs. That is called the Canada Fund Program.

In Bangladesh, the Canada Fund supported a group of poor women who wished to set up a quilting business. That business is booming and the co-operative's work is now known world-wide.

In Gaza, a small grant was given to the Save the Children Fund which demonstrated to local farmers new trellising techniques for grapes. Grape production has now tripled.

And in Kenya, the Canada Fund provided \$8,450 to local farmers to install an electric fence around their community. That fence has increased food production by 60%. The project worked so well that other settlements in the area have copied it.

Often Canada benefitted directly from ODA research. The International Development Research Centre does co-operative research on canola with the Chinese. Farmers in Western Canada will soon be growing canola incorporating genes from Chinese rapeseed varieties - seeds which will be resistant to the devastating root diseases that have hurt Canadian production.

These projects and many others have made Canada a respected contributor of ODA. Last year we spent 0.43% of our GNP on ODA -second to France among our G-7 partners. But we are by no means in the lead around the world. Proportionately, Norway spends over twice as much and the Netherlands and Denmark nearly double Canada. Among the 24 developed Western economies of the OECD, we are in about the middle of the pack.

In 1959, in Vancouver, John Diefenbaker talked about the then-young Canadian aid program which began with the Colombo Plan, the Commonwealth's imaginative initiative to assist the newly independent countries of Asia. Our contribution to that program then had its critics and its supporters, as does the ODA program today.