Canada's human security agenda:

Protection of civilians

Strengthening legal norms, increasing international capacity and building political will to reduce the human costs of armed conflict

Conflict prevention

Strengthening the capacity of the international community to prevent and resolve violent conflicts

Public safety

Building international expertise and capacity to counter growing cross-border threats from drug trafficking, criminal activity and terrorism

Governance and accountability

Fostering improved accountability of public and private sector institutions for democracy and human rights, and improved international capacity to hold perpetrators of serious human rights violations accountable to justice

Peace support operations

Bolstering the capacity of the international community for a broader range of peace support operations to meet changing requirements

Research and communications

Increasing Canadian and international awareness and understanding of human security issues

Cover photo: Refugees from Afghanistan at Nasir Bagh refugee settlement, Peshawar, Pakistan. (2000) Photo by UNHCR/R. LeMoyne

■ Human security

Canada's human security agenda focusses on protecting people from pervasive threats to their rights, safety and lives, with a particular focus on protecting people from threats of violence. The human security approach places people at the centre of security policy, complementing the traditional emphasis on the security of states. It encompasses a spectrum of approaches to prevent and resolve violent conflicts, to protect civilians where conflicts exist and to increase the capacity of states to enhance security for their populations.

■ Human Security Program

The Human Security Program of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade was established to address challenges to human security, fulfilling a commitment made by the Government of Canada in the 1999 Speech from the Throne. This five-year, $50 million program invests strategically in domestic capacity building, diplomatic leadership and advocacy, multilateral mechanisms and country-specific initiatives that strengthen the global community's ability to respond to threats to human security. Since its inception in June 2000, the Human Security Program has supported over 250 projects in Canada and internationally.

Applications to the Human Security Program are accepted from Canadian and international organizations. For information, please contact:

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Kosovars are admitted into Macedonia at the Blace border crossing in the first days of the NATO air campaign against Yugoslavia, March 1999.