

public and private organizations to develop and implement policies and programs for poverty alleviation and structural adjustment.

Three distinct program focuses are being pursued under the Country Program Review: initiatives in support of the macro-economic adjustment process in the Philippines; initiatives to strengthen the capacity of national, regional and local government authorities to implement government decentralization; and initiatives to strengthen public and private organizations which enable the poor to gain access to assets and services.

The program also addresses four special programming factors: women in development (WID); environment; the private sector; and NGOs. Environmental and resource degradation concerns will also be addressed by incorporating environmental screening into all pertinent delivery mechanisms, identifying and supporting environmentally focused activities within certain program mechanisms, and directly supporting environmental NGOs in the Philippines. Increased involvement of Canadian NGOs and of Canadian businesses will also be encouraged.

Structural Adjustment

Approximately half of CIDA disbursements are aimed at programs designed to assist the structural adjustment process in the Philippines. Over 80 per cent of these funds are being directed towards commodity assistance for the purchase of fertilizers, potash, paper, vaccines and urea. Another key component of the structural adjustment program is directed at the telecommunications sector. One project currently under way involves the provision of technical assistance and training to the Department of Transportation and Communication and other telecommunications agencies. The other major project in this sector is a joint CIDA/EDC effort to support the import of telecommunications equipment and services from Canada.

Assistance to small and medium-sized business enterprises is currently being envisaged as a strategic component of CIDA programs in the area of structural adjustment. This mechanism is intended to broaden the access of micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises to credit, marketing advice and non-traditional exporting. In addition, CIDA's Industrial

Co-operation Program plays an important role in promoting industrial development in the Philippines through support provided to the Canadian private sector pursuing major contracts, joint ventures and other business arrangements there. Since 1986, Canada has approved more than \$6 million under the Industrial Co-operation Program in the Philippines. Disbursements have gradually increased since 1986 to the current level of approximately \$1.4 million annually. Recent interest has focused principally in the agro-industrial and consumer goods sectors.

Government Decentralization

In keeping with the Philippine government's regional and rural-based development strategies, CIDA is in the process of developing projects to assist the government's efforts toward decentralization of decision-making, revenue generation and control, access to programs, and support to project implementation in three areas of concentration – Western Visayas, Western Mindanao and Southern Mindanao.

Institutional Support for the Poor

Several projects aimed at strengthening organizations which enable the poor to gain access to assets and services are currently being implemented with the participation of Canadian non-governmental organizations and universities. Approximately \$60 million has been allocated to these initiatives. A key project in this sector involves support to selected NGOs in the Philippines (\$30 million over 5 years) to develop and implement programs focusing on poverty alleviation. Education, health and human resources development are important components of other projects currently under way in this area. Another project provides assistance to the National Commission on Women in its work with other government departments to strengthen the capacity of women's groups and NGOs for Women In Development (WID) programming.