

CONTEXT



CONTEXTE

Canada-Haiti Assistance

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with a per capita GNP of \$370 U.S. a year. It is the second most-populous nation in the Caribbean, with 6.6 million people.

Canada suspended bilateral (government-to-government) assistance to Haiti in October 1991 following the coup which ousted democratically-elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Since then, however, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has committed some \$31 million in humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people through multilateral and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), CARE Canada, the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) all participate in the delivery of food and drugs, and in sanitation, self-help and reconstruction projects. Humanitarian assistance is also provided through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) -- a small-grants program administered by the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Canada suspended sanctions against Haiti on August 27, 1993, along with the United Nations (UN) and the Organizations of American States (OAS). With the lifting of sanctions, however, Canada declared that any failure to comply with the terms of the Governors Island Agreement on the transition to democracy and the return of President Aristide would trigger the reimposition of sanctions.

Sanctions were reimposed at midnight, October 18, 1993 due to the failure of Haitian authorities to comply with the terms set out in the Governors Island Agreement. These sanctions remain in force.

When the democratic government of Haiti is able to exercise its mandate, the Canadian bilateral assistance programme plans to provide support to the Haitian government in addition to current food aid, NGO and multilateral projects.

The bilateral aid program will focus on the strengthening of local development groups, institutional reform of the Government of Haiti and economic development. The first phase of the new program, emphasizing reconstruction, will be carried out by Canadian non-governmental organizations with experience in Haiti. It will aim to