

Canada is also investing in preventive and responsive health-related initiatives in the region. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is supporting the Caribbean Community in creating a pan-Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), which will integrate existing regional health institutions into a single, self-administered, integrated health agency. By improving the governance structure of these institutions, Canada is investing in their capacity to address public health issues and respond to pandemics. Another initiative is the IDRC's and CIDA's \$6.2 million support to combat dengue fever in the region by generating a set of good practices to assist affected countries in fighting the mosquito-borne disease.



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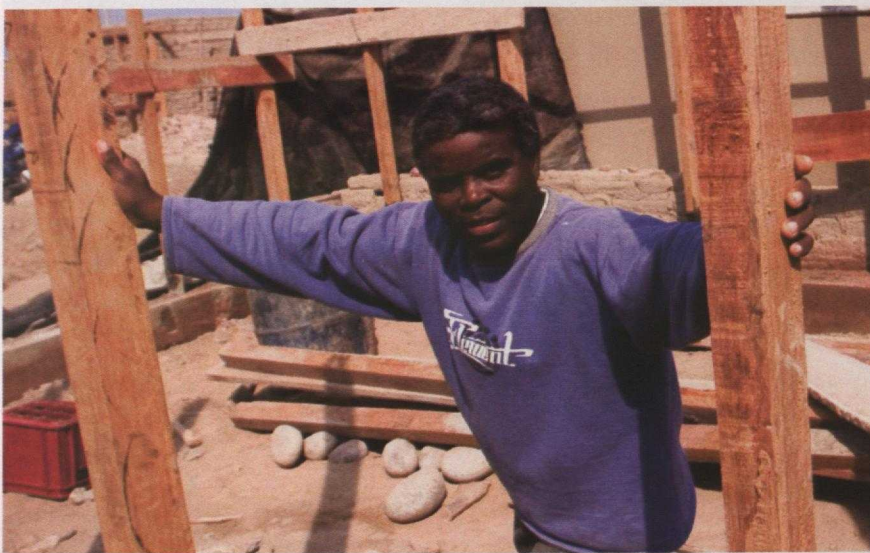
Through CIDA funding, Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) volunteers help remote families gain access to health services, Huallanca, Peru

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods can hinder and even reverse a country's development. Canada has

provided assistance by contributing more than \$10 million to assist Haiti in the wake of the three major hurricanes in 2008 – Gustav, Hanna and Ike. The ship HMCS *St. John's*

delivered humanitarian aid in the aftermath of these three hurricanes. Moreover, CIDA has contributed \$20 million to build a new Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility within the World Bank and \$20 million to the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program.

Canada has also worked to improve defence and security cooperation in the hemisphere. Five Canadian Defence attachés are posted in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their primary objectives are to manage Canada's bilateral defence relations with the 22 countries where they are accredited, provide information collection, initial analysis and reporting capabilities, assist with international operations and bilateral defence material cooperation, and provide advice on military matters to Canadian heads of missions.



CIDA funding helps to rebuild homes after earthquakes and other natural disasters, Chincha, Peru

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