
\$90 million in bilateral food aid alone, almost doubling last year's allocation. It represents 45 per cent of all such Canadian aid. Another \$14 million will be allocated for international relief organizations. Assistance to Africa through the World Food Program, to which Canada is the second largest donor, will be maintained at its current high levels.

Furthermore, Canada has participated actively in the work of the Second Conference on Assistance for Refugees in Africa to establish guidelines for the development of programs for refugees — guidelines which respect their international legal rights. Canada has indicated an interest in projects with a value of more than \$15 million, destined for at least six countries.

Africa will remain a priority for Canadian development co-operation as it has in the past. More than 40 per cent of Canada's bilateral assistance, representing over \$225 million in 1983-84, is devoted to African countries. In response to the critical balance-of-payments situation of many of Canada's development partners on the African continent, we have made a shift towards program support as opposed to project support, allowing for more rapid and flexible financial transfers. To maintain existing infrastructures, support is increasingly provided for recurrent costs and maintenance costs. Our financing in Sub-Saharan Africa is now primarily in the form of grants. All of these policies will be sustained and improved wherever possible.

We all recognize that agriculture is the primary key to Africa's long-term development. Food and agriculture will continue to be the most important sectoral priority for Canadian official development assistance during the 1980s. We will continue to direct an increasing volume of resources towards the agricultural sector. In 1983-84, 38 per cent of the Canadian International Development Agency's bilateral disbursements in Africa went toward the promotion of food security, agricultural production and related infrastructure. However, we recognize that Canada's contribution can only support, rather than substitute for, efforts on the part of recipient governments to deal with the underlying problems facing food production. It is they who will find the means and devise the strategies to tap Africa's undoubted agricultural potential. As the changes in policies are made, Canada stands committed to further assistance.

Improved co-ordination is also essential for domestic and international efforts in the short and long term. The African countries must play a key role in ensuring that all available resources are utilized effectively. Such a policy requires close co-operation with the donors, with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program to improve co-ordinating mechanisms. There is an indispensable need for an integrated framework. What does that mean? It means that there must be a framework at the country level to guide all donors and that country itself in developing programs of support for structural adjustment. We have made recent progress in this area, and we salute the willingness of many African countries to respond to this challenge.

Moreover, resources are not merely physical and financial, they are human. It is clear to everyone that the human resources' potential within Africa itself must be tapped if long-term development in all of these areas is to succeed. The provision of outside experts on a short-term basis is a mere stop-gap. In order to maintain the momentum which, we hope, will start with this debate, all parties
