

Evaluation of CANADEM

Interviews with international organizations revealed strong support for CANADEM. While most understood the organization is new and needs to be tested, comments such as "extremely beneficial in principle" and "an important and valuable mechanism for rapid reaction" were given in different iterations by the majority of those interviewed.

Two interviewees had personal experience in using CANADEM to obtain resources and were favourably impressed with the professionalism and speed of response. In both cases the opportunity fell through, one due to a funding problem and the other related to UN bureaucratic difficulties.

Funding for deployment was the one qualifying comment. The value of the resource bank to international organizations was cited to be very dependant on the link between nominations and funding. Deployment costs are a critical issue to the selection of personnel. This requires CANADEM forge close relationships with partners in CIDA, DFAIT and the NGO community.

3.2.3 Finances

Has the initiative been cost-effective?

CANADEM is estimated to cost \$256,875 for its first year of operation. Start up activities, as opposed to program delivery, dominated their agenda for much of this period, making effectiveness difficult to assess. They did however respond to 17 requests for personnel and nominated 77 Canadians. One crude calculation of cost effectiveness would indicate that it cost \$3336 to nominate each individual for an international operation.

More precisely, 59 of these nominations took place in the last quarter and taken against three months of operating costs, mean that it cost an average of \$1088 for each nominee. A similar calculation with actual placement data, when available, would be more meaningful.

Comparisons with other roster arrangements was attempted. However, this is difficult due to variations in institutional arrangements, scope and functions. NORDEM, referenced earlier as the model for CANADEM, operates under two Norwegian NGOs and is financed by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. It is estimated to cost \$400,000 annually and employs four people full time. It has approximately 250 people in the data bank, split between a stand by force and experts roster.

While NORDEM deployed 145 people in one year (which would mean an average cost of \$2758), its focus and 79% of deployment was for electoral observation, an activity which CANADEM does not manage.