

MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS

- Programming through multilateral channels represents about 35 percent of the international assistance budget.
- Canada supports a wide range of multilateral and regional organizations as a way of addressing global problems, while promoting Canadian policy and programming priorities.
- Multilateral co-operation enables the international community to pool its resources, and this results in greater cost-effectiveness and impact. It also allows the donor community to address issues that are best dealt with collectively.
- Multilateral programs supported include international financial institutions, the United Nations, the Commonwealth and la Francophonie, food aid and humanitarian assistance.
- These programs address such major themes as emergency and humanitarian assistance; food security; the health and social sectors; the global environment; good governance; and economic management.
- CIDA is the lead government agency in providing emergency aid to developing countries. Emergency assistance takes many forms, and meets needs related to health, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter and transportation.
- Food aid is another important form of multilateral assistance, though CIDA also provides bilateral food aid. In fact, Canada is the largest per capita food aid donor in the world. Food aid has many uses. It meets emergency needs and can also be used in food-for-work programs and as balance-of-payments support.