

## Canada–Mozambique Relations

- Canada established diplomatic relations with Mozambique after its independence in 1975. Both countries are members of the Commonwealth.
- Mozambique is a member of the Implementation Committee for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an African-initiated program of action to further develop the continent. The relationship between Canada and Mozambique grew closer during 2002 when Canada chaired the G8 and that organization developed the Africa Action Plan to support NEPAD.
- Mozambique is an increasingly important partner for Canada. Consistent with the Canadian International Development Agency's policy on strengthening the effectiveness of aid, in December 2002, Mozambique was selected as a country of focus for Canadian development assistance programming. This means that Canada will increase its aid investment in a number of sectors that support Mozambique's national plan for poverty reduction. For instance, in 2002 Canada committed an additional \$50 million over five years for education programming in Mozambique.
- Canada is working closely with the Government of Mozambique to eliminate the threat posed by over a million anti-personnel landmines buried there — a legacy of its 17-year civil war. The two countries continue to co-operate on implementing the 1997 Ottawa Convention, an agreement that banned landmines and required the destruction of existing ones. Canada has provided about \$10 million for activities ranging from surveys and mine clearance to victim assistance and education programs dealing with mine risks. Mozambique has been a leader in the campaign to ban anti-personnel mines, hosting in Maputo in May 1999, the first meeting of parties to the 1997 Ottawa agreement. On Feb. 28, 2003, Canada assisted Mozambique in destroying its final stockpile of landmines, allowing it to meet its four-year stockpile destruction deadline under the agreement.
- Canada strongly supports debt relief for many poor nations in Africa and in 1999 helped design improvements to the World Bank's initiative to provide faster, broader, and deeper debt relief for nations it terms Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). Although Mozambique has no debts owing to Canada, it has benefited from HIPC initiatives, receiving debt relief in 1999 and 2001. Total debt relief for Mozambique amounts to about \$4.3 billion US, reducing its debt burden by over 73 per cent.