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- **Special programs** promote and support the initiatives of more than 400 Canadian voluntary institutions and organizations wishing to be more active in international development.
 - The **Business Co-operation Program** supports the initiatives of approximately 700 Canadian companies interested in participating in development efforts.

7.2 Canadian Assistance to Developing Francophone Countries

Canada provides development assistance in one form or another to 35 countries that are members of La Francophonie. Of these, 28 are in Africa, three are in the Caribbean and four are in the Middle East, Asia and Oceania.

A. Africa

For administrative purposes, CIDA has divided Canadian aid efforts to Africa into a program for Francophone Africa and a program for Anglophone Africa. Four African member countries of La Francophonie are attached administratively to the Anglophone Africa program: Djibouti, Egypt, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Canada's development assistance program for Francophone Africa was established in the early 1970s. **The priority sectors for development** have been agriculture, energy and human resource development, although substantial aid has also been provided in the areas of transportation, communications, water supply, human settlement, the environment, health and population. In recent years, a greater emphasis has been put on the integration of women into the development process.

In 10 of the Francophone countries of Africa, known as the core countries, CIDA is implementing a multi-year co-operation program, to include major special projects such as the project for the Sahel region and another on the problem of AIDS.

The 10 core countries are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Zaire.