

A new agenda

Human security means freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, safety or lives. Canada's agenda focusses on increasing people's safety from the threat of violence. This approach complements both existing efforts focussed on ensuring national security, as well as international efforts to protect human rights and promote human development.

Canada has identified five foreign policy priorities for advancing human security:

Public safety: Our objectives in this area include building international expertise and capacity to counter the growing cross-border threats posed by terrorism, the trafficking in illicit drugs and the spread of organized crime.

Protection of civilians: Our objectives in this area include strengthening legal norms, increasing international capacity and building political will to reduce the human costs of armed conflict, with particular attention to the threat posed by landmines, the plight of war-affected children and the internally displaced, the strengthening of human rights field operations, and the deployment of military forces in extreme situations to stop atrocities and war crimes.

Conflict prevention: Our objectives in this area include strengthening the capacity of the international community to prevent and resolve violent conflicts, and building national and local capacity to manage political differences and social tensions without resort to violence, with particular attention to the proliferation of small arms and to addressing the economic dimensions of civil wars, through means such as the use of targeted sanctions.

Governance and accountability: Our objectives in this area include fostering improved accountability of public and private sector institutions, with particular emphasis on building an effective International Criminal Court, promoting reform of security institutions, including the military, police and the judiciary; reducing corruption; promoting freedom of expression; and encouraging corporate social responsibility.

Peace support operations: Our objectives in this area include bolstering international capacity to undertake peace support operations, with particular attention to issues related to women, peace and security, and to deploying the appropriate range of military, police and civilian experts to support complex missions in situations such as Kosovo, East Timor, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan.

In the following pages, examples of specific priorities within these five categories are set out in greater detail.

Canada's Human Security Program

The Human Security Program of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade was established to address challenges to human security, in fulfilment of a commitment made by the Government of Canada in 1999. This five-year, \$50 million program invests strategically in domestic capacity building, diplomatic leadership and advocacy, multilateral mechanisms and country-specific initiatives that increase people's safety from violence. Through targeted funding, the Program advances human security policy and catalyzes effective human security programming internationally. Since its inception in June 2000, the Human Security Program has contributed to over 250 projects around the world. Program applications are accepted from Canadian and international organizations. For information, please visit: www.humansecurity.gc.ca.

Freedom from fear

Canada's foreign policy
for human security

UNHCR/R. LeMoyné



Refugees from Afghanistan at Nasir Bagh refugee settlement, Peshawar, Pakistan. (2000)