



OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The Official Development Assistance Program (ODA) is one of the main instruments at Canada's disposal for promoting social justice at the international level. This co-operative program is designed to support the efforts of developing countries to meet the basic, long-term needs of their peoples by relying on their own resources and values.

Canada has been providing direct support to Francophone countries through its Official Development Assistance Program since the early 1970s. This program, managed by the Canadian International Development Agency, currently benefits 35 member countries of La Francophonie in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Focussing on the needs of the poorest countries and the most disadvantaged groups, CIDA pays special attention to such basic needs as health, food safety and human rights.

Conscious of the increasingly large role being played by international bodies in solving world problems, CIDA today allocates two-thirds of its budget to the multilateral sector (United Nations Organization [UNO],

International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Commonwealth, La Francophonie, etc).

ASSISTANCE IN THE MAJOR REGIONS

A) AFRICA

Despite the budget cuts made necessary by the economic situation, the African continent continues to receive the lion's share of Canadian aid — almost half of bilateral funding.

The document **Africa 21**, published in 1992, defines the key policies that must lead the African continent along the path of sustainable development: democratization, regional integration, and the establishment of mechanisms likely to promote free enterprise.

CIDA's bilateral aid is now concentrated in three regions: northern Africa and the Middle East, western Africa, and central and eastern Africa. This new regional approach promotes analysis, encourages debate, and facilitates co-operation and integration. Thanks to the participation of their populations and a climate more conducive to business, the