

In southern Africa, which includes the Commonwealth countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, CIDA programming priorities include basic human needs; women in development; infrastructure services; human rights, democracy and good governance; private sector development; and the environment. In addition, food aid and humanitarian assistance in response to drought and wars represent a significant proportion of CIDA funding to southern Africa. In the area of basic human needs, emphasis will be placed on the social aspects of economic reform, primary education and the fight against AIDS. Support for the private sector has long been a feature of the southern Africa program and will be increased with major projects being planned for Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the environmental sector, a major initiative is planned for the Zambezi River Basin. In South Africa, CIDA programming targets good governance, human resource development, civil society and economic development.

In eastern and central Africa, which include the Commonwealth countries of Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda, CIDA's main goal is to address basic human needs and specific infrastructure constraints. Following budgetary reductions in 1992, CIDA is now reinstating modest programs in the region and continuing a number of existing projects, such as the strengthening of the Tanzania Railway Corporation to improve the transportation of agricultural and other products. In Uganda and Kenya, CIDA supports initiatives that deal with primary health, AIDS and poverty reduction.

CIDA also supports Africa-wide projects through its Pan Africa Program. This program supports a number of African organizations and institutions, with which Commonwealth countries are involved, such as the African Economic Research Consortium and the African Medical and Research Foundation.

Bilateral Assistance for Asia and the South Pacific

While much of Asia enjoys relatively good economic performance compared with other regions of the world, progress varies. Poverty remains a major problem in parts of the region, particularly in southern Asia.

CIDA programming has evolved to meet the region's changing needs and aims to promote sustained and equitable economic growth, to improve the well-being of poorer groups and strengthen their participation in the sustainable development of their countries, to promote gender equity, to broaden participation in decision making and respect for human rights, to broaden the base for private sector development, and to contribute to the prevention and resolution of environmental problems by supporting environmentally sound policies and programs.