

As Asia has developed, Canada has changed its development co-operation programs to reflect the government's foreign policy objectives of promoting prosperity and employment, contributing to global security, and projecting Canadian values and culture. The Canadian International Development Agency provides assistance in Asia through a number of channels: bilateral, covering mainly government-to-government co-operation but also including direct activities with non-governmental organizations and institutions; multilateral (for example, UNICEF and development banks such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank); and Canadian partnership programs with business, institutions and NGOs. Overall, the Asia program is CIDA's second largest bilateral program, with \$270 million allocated for fiscal 1995-96.

The overall approach is to support sustainable development in order to reduce poverty and contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous Asia. CIDA's programs reinforce Canada's broader efforts to foster long-term relationships and help countries address key developmental issues in the core areas of: a) basic human needs; b) the full participation of women as equal partners in the sustainable development of their societies; c) the provision of environmentally sound infrastructure services; d) increased respect for human rights, democracy and good governance; e) private sector development for sustained and equitable growth; and f) environmental protection.

The complexities and evolving differences within Asia have meant that CIDA has had to adapt its programs to these changing realities. CIDA therefore provides support along the full range of the development continuum, from direct grassroots poverty reduction to helping governments improve economic and social policy frameworks, to helping Asian private sectors access expertise and technology from the Canadian private sector. In specific countries where economic growth is strong, CIDA is re-orienting its programs away from a traditional focus on direct poverty reduction to one that sets the stage for mutually beneficial economic co-operation.

In India, CIDA is pursuing three objectives: promoting economic and social policy reforms, supporting environmentally sound development, and building a stronger economic relationship between the private sectors of India and Canada.

In Pakistan, CIDA is supporting the development of more sustainable approaches to social sector development, the implementation of Pakistan's National Conservation Strategy (developed with earlier Canadian support), the development of an economic policy and the private sector, and the introduction of environmentally sustainable energy management.

In Indonesia, CIDA is supporting the implementation of Indonesia's environmental management policies and the improvement of a number of Indonesian universities. It also supports strengthening the equitable role of women in development and developing the Indonesian private sector.