

IV

Canada and the Francophone World

CANADA'S OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Varied Nature of Canadian Development Assistance

As approved by Parliament the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Program is one of the main instruments with which Canada advances the cause of international social justice.

The assistance program seeks to support the efforts of developing countries to meet the basic needs of their peoples over the long term by relying largely on indigenous resources and values.

In 1984-85 Canada allocated \$2.1 billion to international cooperation. This contribution, equivalent to 0.49 per cent of the Gross National Product, places Canada among the principal donors on the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is responsible for implementing the large part of the Canadian development cooperation program, managing about 75 per cent of the total ODA budget. The Agency's goal is to support the efforts of the peoples and countries of the Third World to achieve self-sustaining social and economic development. CIDA focuses its efforts on the

poorest countries and pays special attention to three crucial aspects of development where the needs are immense: agriculture (including fisheries and forestry), energy, and human resource development.

Assistance is provided through four main channels:

- **Bilateral (government-to-government) Programs**, which use about 40 per cent of CIDA's budget to finance more than 900 projects in over 90 developing countries. Aid is used for such programs as infrastructure projects, rural and agricultural development, food aid, lines of credit and technical assistance. In 1984-85, about one-quarter of bilateral assistance consisted of food aid to countries afflicted by drought, famine and food deficits.
- **Multilateral Programs**, which support the development efforts of some 85 international organizations, including United Nations agencies, development banks, humanitarian institutions and other international groups seeking solutions to the problems of world development. These programs represent 33 per cent of total Canadian ODA.