

soldiers to 18.

World Vision Canada has contributed to a study sponsored by Graça Machel of Mozambique on the impact of war on children. It has published a brief on the situation of children in the Gulu region of northern Uganda, and appeared before Parliamentary committees on this issue. WVC is currently planning workshop with a particular focus on girls in extremely difficult circumstances.

5. Peacebuilding

Policy goal: Contribute to a safer world for all people by collaborating with all sectors of society to place common security and peacekeeping as core objectives for Canadian defence policy and to foster locally-rooted peacebuilding options for war-torn and war-threatened societies.

Current capacity and activities

There are several initiatives and a great deal of dynamism in this area. Currently at the centre of this is the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC). The CPCC was first organized in 1994 on an ad hoc basis by NGOs exploring work together in coalition on peacebuilding. Following a conference of over 150 NGOs in 1995, it was decided to make the CPCC a more structured coalition. The steering committee is currently composed of the CCIC, the Mennonite Central Committee, Project Ploughshares, the Peace Fund, CARE Canada, CUSO, Médecins sans Frontières, the Local Capacities for Peace Project, the Centre for Days of Peace, Global Affairs, IDRC, the North-South Institute, the Parliamentary Centre, and individual academics. Membership stands at about 200 organizations and individuals.

The CPCC engages in policy dialogue with DFAIT and CIDA on the Peacebuilding Fund, and Canadian policy coherence. The CPCC is working to set up task forces on specific conflict zones, such as Guatemala, the Great Lakes region of central Africa, and Cambodia. These task forces are to be composed of NGOs, government officials, and academics; their purpose will be to carry out research and analysis, and to consider options for action and how to generate public support. It is hoped that the task forces will generate pilot projects, such as civil society capacity building in Guatemala.