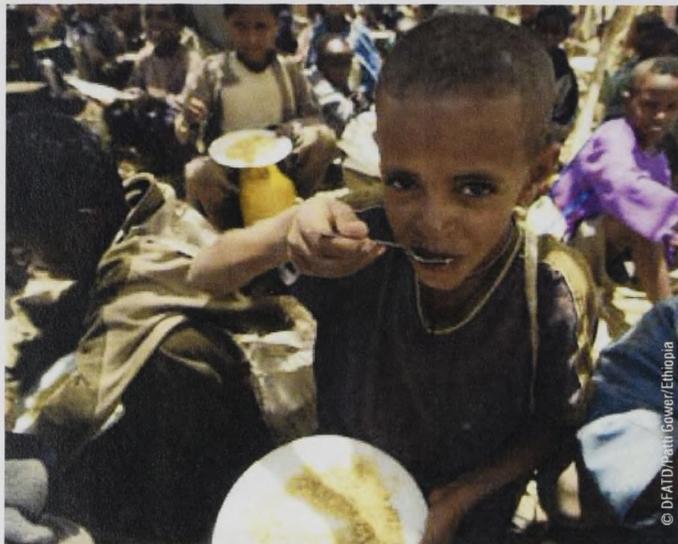


FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NUTRITION



Canada works to improve access to sufficient quantities of nutritious food and enhance the quality and effectiveness of food assistance and nutrition programming by providing emergency food assistance and supporting social safety nets to meet the food needs of vulnerable populations.

Canada has supported efforts to improve nutrition in developing countries for decades, helping to shift the world's development focus to include nutrition interventions that reduce child mortality and improve nutrition for women and children. Canada's approach to nutrition focuses on increasing availability and access to quality, nutritious food, and on investing in direct nutrition interventions such as vitamins and minerals, which are making a difference. As a result of our active and effective efforts to improve nutrition, Canada was recognized as the top donor to nutrition-specific interventions in a 2013 report by Development Initiatives, an organization based in the United Kingdom.

The Government of Canada is a party to the new Food Assistance Convention, which came into force on January 1, 2013. The objectives of the Food Assistance Convention are to save lives, reduce hunger, improve food security and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable. Canada pledged a minimum annual commitment of \$250 million to meet the needs of the world's hungry. In 2013, Canada fully met its minimum annual commitment, in line with our policy of paying what we pledge. Since 2006, Canada has also exceeded its commitment to the Food Aid Convention, which was superseded by the Food Assistance Convention in 2013.

With Canada's long-term institutional support, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank implemented programming that benefited approximately 1.3 million people in 42 countries. Through its long-term institutional support and project funding, Canada contributed to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) distributing 3.1 million metric tonnes of food and US\$506 million in cash and vouchers to more than 80.9 million people in 75 countries.⁹ The vast majority of the WFP's beneficiaries—67.9 million—were women and children. Canada is the third-largest contributor to the WFP.

Canada's support to the Micronutrient Initiative (MI)¹⁰ helps provide essential vitamins and nutrients to children and pregnant women. For example, in 2013, MI programs provided zinc and oral rehydration solution treatment for diarrhea to 8.2 million children, two doses of vitamin A tablets to 149 million children, iodized salt to an additional 386 million people, and iron and folic acid supplements to an additional 1.8 million pregnant women. These interventions help to reduce illness and improve child survival and development.

In 2013–2014, Canada continued to deliver on the commitments made by the Prime Minister under the 2012 G-8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition by disbursing \$87 million to support agriculture programming in Ghana, Ethiopia and Senegal, and help smallholder farmers increase their productivity and benefit from market access.

Also in 2013–2014, in Ethiopia, DFATD supported the Productive Safety Net Programme reach 6 million chronically food insecure beneficiaries across eight regions of Ethiopia. The program is designed to provide timely transfers of food or cash to beneficiaries during certain periods of the year when food is not readily available. The beneficiaries receive the food or cash in exchange for their labour on small, community-based public works projects that contribute to the well-being of the community involved. As a result, DFATD's investment helped provide 33,545 metric tonnes of food to chronically food-insecure households, and the construction or rehabilitation of 10,515 kilometres of rural roads.

9. Note that the figures provided are taken from the WFP's 2013 Annual Performance Report, which covers the 2013 calendar year, and provides reporting in US dollars.

10. Additional information on Canada's support for the Micronutrient Initiative can be found on p. 6 of this report.