

Perspectives on population issues have been changing in recent years. In 1994, CIDA developed a Statement on Population and Sustainable Development that set out four objectives:

- to promote a better understanding of the impact of population dynamics on progress toward sustainable development;
- to support the development of policies and strategies aimed at addressing the pressure of population growth on sustainable development;
- to support the provision of comprehensive client-oriented reproductive health care for women, men, and adolescents centred on high quality family planning services that include information, education, and communication components; and
- to support development programs that emphasize health, education, and income generation for women, in order to foster population levels consistent with sustainable development.

### **Delivering Effective Population Programming**

Canada recognizes that some programs that affect demographic issues do so only indirectly. For example, economic development has been linked to lower fertility levels across a society.

Canada's direct support for population programming has been approximately \$30 million annually during the last two years. Most of this support went to three complementary programs: the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Fourth Bangladesh Population Project, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

### **Challenges and Next Steps**

Population issues are sensitive. They are at the very heart of human relationships. Canada has been supportive of the steady progress that has been made since UNCED through the Program of Action of the ICPD and, most recently, at the Beijing conference. Canada welcomes the expansion of population issues from the traditional focus on family planning to broader issues of women's health, reproductive health, and the social, educational, and economic factors that influence demographic change.

In its ODA programming, Canada will continue to pursue approaches that are driven by the needs of individuals and that recognize the full range of considerations affecting population levels. To emphasize that support, Canada has committed itself to maintaining and, to the extent possible, increasing its support for population activities. Moreover, this commitment has been made at a time when ODA programming is facing financial constraints.