

THE STORY BEHIND THE RESULTS: ONE LITTLE IRON FISH IS MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

Christopher Charles and Gavin Armstrong from Guelph, Ontario

Christopher Charles spent five years in the villages of Lvea Aem and Preak Khmeng in Cambodia. He saw first-hand the effects of anemia among pregnant women. This deficiency causes premature labour, hemorrhaging during childbirth and the impaired brain development of their babies.

Charles knew that a small chunk of iron added to water could release a life-saving iron supplement, but this idea wasn't popular with women, who do most of the cooking. They were much more receptive to his idea to use a piece of iron fashioned in the shape of a local fish, which was believed to bring good luck—the "Lucky Iron Fish." Lo and behold, rates of anemia in the village fell dramatically.

To help put an iron fish in every cooking pot, another Canadian, Gavin Armstrong, formed a social enterprise named The Lucky Iron Fish. With the support of Grand Challenges Canada, this enterprise produced and distributed 6,600 Lucky Iron Fishes in Cambodia as at February 2015, potentially benefiting over 30,000 men, women and children.



shape the World Bank's priorities and work program in the poorest countries. The negotiations resulted in outcomes that align with Canadian priorities. For instance, IDA has been increasing its focus on the most challenging frontier areas and is working toward greater private sector mobilization and stronger, more targeted investments in gender equality. In addition, the IDA17 policy package negotiated by Canada includes a range of policy and performance commitments. The policy package explicitly aligns IDA's activities and results monitoring with the World Bank Group Strategy; enhances the focus on outcome and quality indicators, including tracking IDA's operational effectiveness and organizational efficiency; strengthens IDA's accountability to clients and shareholders through greater use of beneficiary feedback and public disclosure; and places greater attention on managing and reporting the costs of delivering results. IDA17 funds, including Canada's contributions, will help IDA countries in a variety of areas, including providing electricity for an estimated 15 to 20 million people, life-saving vaccines for 200 million children, microfinance loans for more than one million women, and basic health services for 65 million people.

The implementation of all IDA commitments is being monitored by the [World Bank Group Corporate Scorecard](#). In 2014, the Corporate Scorecard highlighted results across many investment areas, such as institutions and governance, human development and gender, infrastructure, agriculture and food security, climate change and the environment, and finance, private sector development and trade. Examples of development results achieved through the World Bank Group's support between 2012–2014, include the following:

- 64.7 million people, microenterprises and small and medium enterprises gained access to financial services.
- 36.7 million people were provided with access to an improved water source.
- 12.5 million people were provided with direct access to electricity.

The Government of Canada, through the Department of Finance Canada, also provided \$51.2 million to the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) through the World Bank Group. Debt relief under the MDRI contributes to poverty reduction by freeing up resources, which would otherwise be used to service sovereign debts, for social expenditures. This initiative contributed to decreasing debt service payments in recipient countries and enabled them to increase their poverty-reducing expenditure.

Canada's Contribution to Multilateral Environmental Organizations

Canada recognizes the significance of international cooperation on environmental issues, and environmental sustainability is an essential element for global economic and social well-being. For developing countries that depend on ecosystem goods and services such as food, water, timber, and air purification for their livelihood, environmental changes caused by over-exploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation harm their most vulnerable populations. However, efforts to preserve and improve the environment in developing countries lead to enhanced fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards, and a safer, more prosperous future.

In 2014–2015, Environment Canada provided official development assistance mainly through support for multilateral environmental organizations that provide technical cooperation and capacity-building to developing countries to improve environmental conditions and the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in these countries. For example, annual support is provided to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, which works to ensure that the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances does not adversely affect the economies of developing countries. In 2014–2015, Environment Canada's contribution to the Multilateral Fund totaled \$1.1 million.