

INCREASING FOOD SECURITY – \$727.80 million*



Hunger and malnutrition continue to be among the most pressing global development challenges. Worldwide, approximately 842 million people face chronic hunger, and 45 percent of child deaths are attributable to undernutrition. For the men, women, and children who are hungry and malnourished, a lack of access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food impacts their health and limits their ability to learn and work.

Canada recognizes the importance of investing in food security as one of the foundations for peaceful and prosperous societies. This is why the Government of Canada has made food security a priority of its international development assistance, with the objective of reducing hunger and improving nutrition of the most vulnerable people in developing countries.

Canada's development assistance in food security is focused on increasing the availability of and access to quality nutritious food, increasing stability of food security by strengthening sustainable management of the food value chain, and supporting improved governance of the global food system for increased coordination and accountability on food security issues.

To address both immediate and long-term food security objectives, Canada targets three priorities: sustainable agricultural development, food assistance and nutrition, and research and development. The following sections highlight Canada's efforts in increasing food security in 2013–2014.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



Canada helps address the food security needs of vulnerable populations by helping smallholder farmers to increase their agricultural production, and assisting partner governments to develop stronger policies, make their institutions more accountable and promote access to nutritious food. Canada also works to improve smallholder farmers' resilience to extreme climate conditions and increase their use of improved technology and techniques.

In Honduras, with DFATD's support, 6,000 smallholder farmers from that country's drought-prone region have been trained in sustainable agricultural practices and technologies aimed at the recovery and improvement of local agriculture production systems (including food storage conditions and post-harvest techniques) in 2013–2014. Smallholder farmers in this region currently apply three or more of these best practices in their own plots.

Through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, Canada helped promote climate-smart agriculture in Bangladesh by introducing farmers to new, climate-adaptive production technologies and agronomic practices. This also helped to reduce pressures on the environment. In 2013–2014, more than 310,000 farmers were reached through the program's support, bringing the total number of farmers reached to 439,085 since 2010.

In 2013, with long-term institutional support from Canada and other donors, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) helped more than 4.46 million people receive training in crop production practices and technologies, and 5.48 million people benefit from enhanced access to rural financial services. Canada is also a founding donor of IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Program (ASAP), which is the largest climate-resilience initiative for smallholder farmers worldwide. ASAP is helping more than 3 million poor smallholder farmers and their households to receive timely and accurate weather forecasts, agro-meteorological forecasts, seasonal forecasts or early warning information.

* Figures are preliminary. Final amounts will be published in the Statistical Report on International Assistance by the end of March 2015 on the DFATD website.