

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Canada's official development assistance programming is wide-ranging and diverse, reaching deep into the developing world to improve lives and create the conditions that allow societies to become more self-sufficient. We contribute because we are among those countries fortunate enough to have the resources to make a difference, and also because the ideals of caring and compassion are deeply woven into the fabric of who we are. The generous response of Canadians to matching fund campaigns, most recently during the Sahel crisis in the fall of 2012 and in support of the Pennies for Polio campaign in 2013, demonstrates their unwavering commitment to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Canada's international assistance priorities are to stimulate sustainable economic growth, secure the future of children and youth, increase food security, advance democracy, and ensure security and stability. This calls for a whole-of-government approach in which various federal departments and agencies work together to provide official development assistance (ODA) according to their respective mandates and competencies.

The June 2013 amalgamation of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade marked a significant turning point in Canada's approach to development. The new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development enhances coordination of international assistance with broader Canadian foreign policy objectives, putting development on equal footing with trade and diplomacy. It also allows us to ensure that Canadian tax dollars keep delivering the tangible, sustainable results that help more people overcome poverty. The new department will continue to foster sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation in developing countries. In addition, the government will maintain its capacity to respond to crises and provide humanitarian assistance when required.

Last year, 14 departments and agencies provided critical ODA to the developing world. Among CIDA's most noteworthy accomplishments was the establishment of the Canadian International Institute for Extractive Industries and Development, a world-class facility that mobilizes Canadian and international expertise in responsible governance of the extractive sector, an important driver of economic growth in many developing countries.

CIDA also played an important role in keeping children safe from disease, including helping to immunize millions of Afghan children against polio. Canada was one of the first countries to respond to the food and nutrition crisis in Africa's Sahel region, providing six million people with food and nutrition assistance.

To enhance security and stability, the former Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provided vital expertise to support peace operations, justice sector reform, and whole-of-government crisis response planning and engagement in Africa, Haiti, the Middle East, and various other countries and regions around the world.

Other departments and agencies that provided ODA last year include the International Development Research Centre, which funded researchers in developing countries to identify solutions to pressing development challenges in such areas as improving health care systems, family nutrition, and educational reforms. Citizenship and Immigration

