



CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- * Canadian development assistance in the Middle East was initiated in 1950 with our first contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Canadian Major General Howard Kennedy was its first Commissioner General in 1949.
- * Since then, over \$770 million in development assistance has been directed to the Middle East through a range of programs.
- * Our total assistance to the Middle East in general has averaged \$50 million per year.
- * Canada will contribute \$55 million to Gaza and the West Bank over the next five years in support of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization Peace Accord. This represents a 40 percent increase in Canada's direct assistance to the West Bank and Gaza.

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

- * Canadian bilateral assistance was a result of our strong support for the Camp David Peace Accords between Egypt and Israel. This led to our first bilateral program in Egypt in 1976.
- * In the mid-1980s, Canada responded to Jordan's increasingly important role in the region with a development program initially centred around efforts by Petro Canada International to assist Jordan in natural gas exploration and in diversifying its resource base. Assistance to Jordan since then has averaged \$7 million per year.
- * The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (or Canada Fund) amounts to \$3.5 million annually and complements the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) bilateral programs with a locally administered, rapid, flexible fund to respond to grass-roots needs. The fund is administered by Canadian embassies in Amman, Ankara, Cairo, Damascus, Riyadh, and Tel Aviv (for the Occupied Territories).

MULTILATERAL

- * Canadian multilateral assistance also has been an integral part of our support for peace and stability in the region. Our total multilateral assistance has averaged \$30 million per year.
- * This assistance is channelled through such agencies as the International Committee of the Red Cross (approximately \$1 million per year for activities in areas including Lebanon and the Occupied Territories); the Middle East Council of Churches (approximately \$700,000 per year) and others.
- * Our contribution to UNRWA, which channels its assistance to the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, averages \$11 million per year.

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