

Canadian Official Development Assistance for the Countries and Institutions of the Francophonie

Canadian official development assistance to developing member countries of the Francophonie takes various forms: bilateral aid (government to government), multilateral aid (through the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and institutions of the Francophonie), and support for initiatives by non-governmental organizations or Canadian businesses in the countries of the Francophonie.

The purpose of the development aid program, managed mainly by the Canadian International Development Agency, is to support sustainable development in the developing countries in order to reduce poverty and make the world more secure, more equitable and more prosperous. With this in mind, Canadian ODA focuses the available resources on six priority areas: meeting basic human needs; women's participation in the sustainable development of their societies; infrastructure services; human rights, democracy and good government; development of the private sector; and environmental protection.

Bilateral Aid to Africa and the Middle East

Reducing poverty and promoting peace and security are the two main themes of CIDA's programs in Africa and the Middle East. In the fight against poverty, the programs in this region focus on food security and agriculture, poverty, equity between men and women, meeting basic human needs, and developing the private sector and the infrastructure. As for the promotion of peace and security, CIDA emphasizes democratization and human rights advocacy, conflict prevention, environmental protection, the reduction of military expenditures and greater complementarity between humanitarian assistance and sustainable development.

North Africa and the Middle East

Countries in this region that participate in the Francophonie are Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

In Egypt, the CIDA program focuses on promoting sustainable management of natural resources and supporting economic and social reform.

One example is the \$13.9 million (1993-99) contribution for a project to protect and improve the Nile River that will help Egypt to reduce the losses arising from water pollution and deterioration of the river bed and banks. The project, carried out by SNC-Lavalin, will enable the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources to carry out strategic research. There are also plans to set up a central laboratory and a program of secure inspection and management, and to support the Nile River Research Institute.