

A MORE STRATEGIC FOCUS

clear comparative advantage for working in this area. Canada has significant experience in gender-sensitive education and legal reform, the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and ensuring equitable access for women to credit and other financial services. CIDA, in particular, has been a leader among donors in promoting gender equality, both as a global issue and as a practical matter in implementing programs and projects.

Canada has identified gender equality as a crosscutting theme in the sectoral areas of governance, private sector development, health, basic education and environmental sustainability. As the Government's lead in implementing commitments to gender equality and development, CIDA will pursue gender equality results in these sectoral areas in relation to: more equal participation of women with men as decision makers in shaping the sustainable development of their societies; the enhanced ability of women and girls to realize their full human rights; and reduced inequalities between women and men in access to and control over the resources and benefits of development.

Examples of the kinds of results for both integrated and specific programming that might be expected for gender equality as a crosscutting theme include:

- **Governance.** Promoting women's equal participation in all levels of decision making, including government; combatting gender-specific human rights violations such as sexual violence; and building the institutional and technical capacity of government and civil-society institutions to promote gender equality.
- **Health.** Improving access to and affordability of sexual and reproductive health services; strengthening preventive programs that promote women's health; supporting gender-sensitive initiatives that address HIV/AIDS; monitoring and follow-up for women's health; and eliminating discrimination against girls in health and nutrition;
- **Basic education.** Supporting both specific initiatives and systemic reforms to remedy gender inequality in education, particularly girl's access; developing non-discriminatory education, skills development and training; and supporting education in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

- **Private sector development.** Increasing control by women over productive assets (land, capital/credit, technology, skill), and increasing access to decent work; and increasing capacity of partner institutions to design and implement policies, programs and projects related to private sector development that reflect the priorities and interests of both women and men.
- **Environmental sustainability.** Integrating gender equality concerns and perspectives in policies and programs for sustainable development; strengthening or establishing mechanisms at local, national, regional and international levels to assess the differential impact of development and environmental policies on women and men.

GREATER COUNTRY CONCENTRATION

The Government will reorient overall bilateral programming at the country level by placing enhanced focus on long-term bilateral programs with a core group of Development Partners. These countries are selected from among the poorest countries, irrespective of their size, where effective programming to address the MDGs is possible and where Canada can add real value.

Over time, and in consultation with our partners, there will be a shift in resources as some bilateral programs wind down and others are expanded. While Canada's relationship with each country is unique, broadly speaking, country programs will evolve into five different categories, as described in the following section.

Development Partners

Canada has identified a core group of countries to be its main bilateral development partners from among the poorest developing countries. These are countries that have demonstrated they can use aid effectively and the Government can be confident that programs which make effective and prudent use of taxpayers' dollars are possible. They are countries in which Canada is able to bring to bear the resources and expertise necessary to contribute significantly to their development priorities.