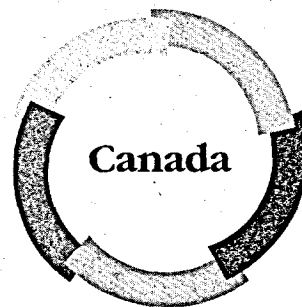


Canadian Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the Countries and Institutions of La Francophonie



Canada has provided direct support to Francophone countries since the early 1970s through its official development assistance program, managed mainly by CIDA. Thirty-five member countries of La Francophonie in Africa, Asia and the Americas thus currently benefit from Canadian assistance.

Here is a brief description of Canada's development assistance program in these three regions.

Africa

Africa is a priority for Canada and continues to receive 45 percent of bilateral funds despite the budget cuts made this year as part of the government expenditure reduction program.

In February 1992, CIDA published a strategy document entitled Africa 21, which defines the key policies that must lead the African continent along the path of sustainable development: democratization, regional integration, and the establishment of mechanisms likely to promote free enterprise on the continent.

In accordance with its strategic programming, CIDA has concentrated its bilateral aid in three regions: western Africa, central Africa, and northern Africa and the Middle East. Favouring a regional approach, CIDA seeks to act as a catalyst to promote analysis, to encourage debate and to facilitate programming that supports regional co-operation and integration. This strategic programming recognizes the importance of grass-roots participation and the role of entrepreneurship. CIDA is thus in a better position to support African countries in their progress toward sustainable development.

Northern Africa and the Middle East

The member countries of La Francophonie in this region are Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

Given the principles of sustainable development and Canada's interest in peace and security, the program for this region was mainly developed around three areas: economic reform, environmental sustainability and institutional capacity building.

Western Africa

In western Africa, the member countries of La Francophonie are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

For CIDA, this region consists of the 13 countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECWAS). CIDA is about to approve a new strategy regarding western Africa. Among other things, this strategy would focus on democratization, unity and entrepreneurship, increased growth in the main coastal countries to stimulate job creation, regional and international market development, technological advances, and regional co-operation and