

Hemispheric Development

The Quebec City Plan of Action represented a broad consensus on the priority development issues facing the Americas. Canada is committed to being an active partner in addressing those concerns. It is working with partners from intergovernmental organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to fulfill commitments made in Quebec City.

Canada's development program is working with developing countries in the Americas to reduce poverty and improve equity. The program reflects the multi-faceted nature of the challenges facing the region. In some countries, the focus is on supporting human rights, democracy and the effective participation of citizens in the decisions that affect them. In other nations, the emphasis is on public sector reform, improving the delivery of basic social services, and increasing the productive and earning capacity of the poor. Activities stress the need to empower vulnerable groups—such as women, children and Indigenous peoples—so that they can participate more actively in the social, political, economic and environmentally sustainable development of their societies. Since the Summit, Canada's development cooperation program has committed CDN\$420 million in financial and technical support to some 120 development projects related to the Summit Plan of Action.

Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, Canada is facilitating the transfer of Canadian knowledge and approaches to partner organizations that are capable of adapting such know-how to meet pressing development challenges.

Canada is working closely with other donor countries to help Honduras implement its Poverty Reduction Strategy, a comprehensive plan developed by the Hondurans to promote their own development. Canada is providing resources to six funds being managed locally to advance sustainable development in agriculture, forestry, environment, health, and water sanitation.

In Bolivia, Canada is supporting the country's efforts to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of poor Bolivians. Sectoral priorities are health, water and sanitation, and government modernization; gender equality and sustainable development are cross-cutting themes.

Canada is also contributing to a social development fund in Haiti to help the most disadvantaged people access high-quality services for health and nutrition, basic education, and measures combatting HIV/AIDS. Canada is working in the Commonwealth Caribbean to improve the ability of key local and regional organizations to combat HIV/AIDS, and has committed CDN\$20 million to this effort.

An example of increasing regional cooperation is provided by the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development of the OAS. Canada was a leader in the establishment of the Agency in 2000 and remains active on its Management Board. The Agency has adopted the priorities of gender equality, environment, civil society participation and results-based programming. Three quarters of its budget supports projects in the fields of education, social development and employment creation in the Hemisphere.

Another regional initiative is the Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Program. This is building the capacity of key national and regional institutions in the Caribbean to better manage government spending, taxation and financial policies.



CIDA Photo: Greg Kinch

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