



Backgrounder

Canada's Aid Effectiveness Agenda

In 2008, the Government of Canada developed a new action plan, the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, and has since announced several important initiatives that are resulting in Canadian development assistance that is more effective, more focused and more accountable.

In April 2008, Canada untied 100 percent of its food aid—a decision with immediate results. Instead of sending food purchased in Canada to developing countries, Canada provides funding to multilateral organizations such as the World Food Programme, leading to faster procurement, reduced transportation costs, and relief provided more quickly to those in need.

In September 2008, Canada announced that it would untie all of its development assistance by 2012–2013. This untying policy will provide Canada's partners with the flexibility to find the best deal on commodities, including buying locally and regionally, helping strengthen the development of local markets and stimulating the economies of developing countries.

In February 2009, the Government of Canada announced it would focus its bilateral development efforts on 20 countries. The 20 countries were chosen based on their needs and their capacity to use development aid effectively and efficiently, and in support of Canada's foreign policy priorities.

The 20 Countries of Focus are:

Bolivia	Vietnam
Caribbean Region	Ukraine
Colombia	West Bank and Gaza
Haiti	Ethiopia
Honduras	Ghana
Peru	Mali
Afghanistan	Mozambique
Bangladesh	Senegal
Indonesia	Sudan
Pakistan	Tanzania

The majority of CIDA's bilateral resources will be targeted at countries of focus. The balance of CIDA bilateral resources, as well as other funding channels, including partnership programming, multilateral programs, and Canadian humanitarian aid, will continue to be provided in parts of the world where support is needed.

In May 2009, five new international assistance thematic priorities were introduced to guide development programming. CIDA's three priority themes will be Economic Growth, Children and Youth, as well as Food Security, while other departments will focus on Advancing Democracy and Ensuring Security and Stability.