

General information about CIDA

1 - What is CIDA?

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is the federal agency charged with planning and implementing most of Canada's development cooperation program in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world.

CIDA administers approximately 80 percent of the aid budget. The other 20 percent is administered by the [Department of Finance](#), the [Foreign Affairs Canada](#) and the [International Development Research Centre](#). CIDA supports projects in more than 150 countries, which represent four fifths of the world's population. CIDA works in partnership with developing countries, Canadian organizations, institutions and businesses, as well as international organizations and agencies.

CIDA and other development agencies around the world are working in ever-greater coordination to achieve together what none of them could individually. At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders agreed on a set of goals to guide and coordinate international development efforts. The [Millennium Development Goals](#) set out an ambitious agenda to:

- 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2) achieve universal primary education
- 3) promote gender equality and empower women
- 4) reduce child mortality
- 5) improve maternal health
- 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7) ensure environmental sustainability
- 8) develop a global partnership for development

These goals are linked to measurable targets, such as cutting in half the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day, halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water, and reducing by two thirds the mortality rate of children under 5—all by 2015.

2 - Why does Canada help people in developing countries?

Peace, human security and sustainable development go hand in hand. Canada, through CIDA, believes that helping to spread peace in the world will remove the many sources of human insecurity that are the roots of fear, and the barriers to sustainable development. By helping people overcome hunger, illiteracy, resource scarcity, illness and human rights abuses, CIDA is providing families and communities with the means to lift themselves out of poverty and build a better life.

3 - What is CIDA's governance and management structure?

CIDA reports to Parliament through the [Minister for International Cooperation](#). The [President](#) of CIDA provides the Minister with advice on policy, program and management issues. Administratively, CIDA is organized into [eleven branches](#).

4 - When, how and why was CIDA created?

In the early years, most Canadian aid took the form of contributions to the United Nations and its agencies. This was done via the Department of External Affairs, now known as the [Foreign Affairs Canada](#). In 1959, the Department of Trade and Commerce set up an Economic and Technical Assistance Bureau to look after developing countries' growing needs for international assistance.

In 1960, through an Order in Council, under the *Public Service Rearrangement and Transfer Duties Act*, the bureau's functions were transferred to the Department of External Affairs to form a consolidated External Aid Office. Its creation was integral to Canada's role in international development, since foreign aid was continuously growing.

Finally, in 1968, the Canadian International Development Agency was created by Order-in-Council, replacing the External Aid Office.