

CANADA'S TRACK RECORD DEVELOPMENT AID

What is aid?

International aid is resources, public or private, sent to developing countries. Official development assistance (ODA) is the name of aid that is given by governments. The main goal of aid is to eliminate poverty in the world.

Why is aid important?

- Half of the world's population lives on less than \$2 a day.
- Every 3 seconds, a child dies as a result of extreme poverty.

Poverty prevents people from eating adequately, caring for the sick, and making a living. Focused, quality aid can be the first step to helping millions of people work their way out of poverty.

What do we need? MORE AND BETTER AID

Developing countries need to receive at least \$195 billion in aid annually by 2015 to reach the Millennium Development Goals. This amount is much less than the world military budget of \$900 billion each year.

Donors must remove conditions on aid (called 'tied' aid) for it to be effective in the long run.

- For example, untied food aid reaches up to 50% more people than tied food aid.

Poverty reduction should be the exclusive focus of all aid spending. Security spending is not aid.

Why should Canada act?

Over 30 years ago, Canada promised to give **0.7%** of its Gross National Income (GNI) to international aid. The government has continued to make this pledge to poorer countries, but has never set a timeline to meet the goal.

How well is Canada doing?

Canada has increased its share of international aid in recent years, but we're still far from fulfilling our promises.

- Canada's official development assistance represented **0.3%** of GNI in 2006.
- Despite the increases in aid, Canada will still be billions of dollars short of the 0.7% target in 2010.
- Compared to other countries, Canada still has a very high share of tied aid (in 2003, 48% of Canadian aid was tied aid).

Canada has the resources to respect our commitments to developing countries and the Millennium Development Goals. It's time for action to make poverty history!

To learn more about Canada's record on aid, visit the websites
www.makepovertyhistory.ca/e/aim3.html
www.unmillenniumproject.org/press/07.htm
www.nsi-ins.ca/english/publications/cdr/2005/default.asp