

FAO - CANADA

Partnership for a world free of hunger



Canada



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Introduction

Canada is a key partner of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the fight to end hunger. Thanks to timely contributions from the Government of Canada, FAO has been able to rapidly respond to agricultural threats and emergencies across the globe, helping farmers, pastoralists and fishers get back on their feet as quickly as possible, while working to ensure long-term food and nutrition security.

Canada recognizes the importance of increasing food security in developing countries. It is one of the thematic priorities guiding its international assistance. Canada's investments help drive agricultural transformation, improve nutrition and unlock sustainable economic growth in developing countries.

Canadian funding has gone towards a wide range of activities – from increasing domestic fodder production in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to strengthening governments' response to animal disease outbreaks to providing young women and men in South Sudan with training and tools to start a new life in farming, livestock rearing or fishing. Canada is also supporting longer term development such as the Special

Programme for Food Security, which promotes sustainable land use practices and better access to food, health and nutrition, as well as important policy and standard setting projects.

These and other activities, such as rebuilding vital community infrastructure and improving women's and men's access to quality inputs, services and markets, go a long way to improving the food and nutrition security of vulnerable communities. They also help build their resilience to cope better with shocks in the future.

This brochure features highlights of some of the FAO projects and initiatives that have been partially or entirely funded by Canada. In 2011 alone, Canada provided more than USD 36 million for FAO's work in emergencies – in addition to over USD 23 million for longer term development projects and technical initiatives and approximately USD 20 million through its annual core budget contribution. Canada's continued support to FAO's work underscores its firm commitment to a world without hunger.



Pakistan 2010 Floods: Delivering Help Where and When It Is Needed Most

Pakistan's severe nationwide floods in 2010 affected more than 20 million people – around 80 percent of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Beyond the staggering USD 5.1 billion in agricultural damages, farming families suffered huge personal loss and risked losing much more without rapid support to keep their animals alive and meet critical planting deadlines once conditions permitted.

Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), supported the massive coordination efforts of the Agriculture (and later Food Security) Cluster – laying the foundation to rapidly and effectively reach people most in need, based on what they need most. The contribution was particularly important and appreciated by the international community due to its timeliness – just in time for the 2010 winter planting season. Moreover, the CIDA funds were flexible, which meant support could be quickly directed where it was most urgent.

Within six months, FAO's joint flood response programme had helped to restore the livelihoods of around 900 000 families, including the production of enough wheat (650 000 tonnes) to feed 4 million people for at least six months.

CIDA funding was also vital to work undertaken in collaboration with the Pakistan Upper Atmosphere Research Commission to generate data products and maps using satellite imagery and analysis. These tools were crucial to aligning response options with the evolving situation and needs on the ground, providing answers to key questions: At what rate were flood waters receding? Where would planting wheat (Pakistan's main staple food crop) be possible?

In addition, the CIDA-FAO partnership provided direct support to Sindh, the southern-most province, which had received the least assistance due to access and

funding constraints. Standing water remained for up to six months – longer than in any other area – largely preventing wheat cultivation. CIDA funding provided vital livelihood support to 326 680 people (40 835 farming families) in the province.

Animal feed rations kept livestock alive and productive; around 9 in 10 people reported up to 50 percent increase in milk yield. Rice and vegetable seed packages offered a critical second chance for farmers, enabling them to plant crops and provide nutritious foods again to their families and local markets. The kitchen vegetable gardens – managed primarily by women – also helped in bridging the food gap prior to the spring harvest, with surplus production generating on average USD 52 per family.

CIDA provided USD 5.8 million to FAO's joint flood response programme.

Canadian funding also supported the Multi-agency Detailed Livelihood Assessment in 2011, coordinated by FAO, to investigate how households affected by the 2010 floods were recovering and to identify priorities for continued assistance.



South Sudan: Addressing the Root Causes of Food Insecurity

Conflict and low productivity continue to undermine food security in South Sudan. In 2012, almost 5 million people will not have enough food to meet their needs, 1 million of whom will face severe levels of food insecurity.

With support from CIDA, FAO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization are working together to help South Sudan's farmers and herders secure their access to vital water resources, reduce conflict and increase production and incomes. The project focuses on two of the country's most food-insecure and conflict-hit states: Jonglei and Upper Nile.

Canadian funding will be used to build water collection infrastructure (locally known as hafirs) and help set up local committees to manage water and other natural resources. This means herders – mostly young people who accompany the animals to “cattle camps” – will not have to travel in search of water for their livestock.



Enabling herders to access water within their own communities will help to reduce conflicts with neighbouring communities over the use of water during the dry season and contribute to peace building efforts. This support is particularly important as 140 000 people in Jonglei were affected by violence in early 2012, and Upper Nile hosts an estimated 70 000 refugees. With better local-level water availability, farmers and herders will be able to access water without fear or intimidation.

Young people, particularly young men, are heavily involved in these conflicts and this CIDA-funded initiative will provide them with alternative sources of employment and income. Through pastoral or farmer

field schools, young men and women will receive the training and tools they need to start a new life in farming, livestock rearing or fishing. Food security in their communities will be enhanced thanks to improved production practices and yields.

Skills in value addition will be passed on through these “field schools”, meaning participants learn how to process their products to gain better market prices or to ensure a greater shelf-life for food items. Basic business skills will also be taught, enabling participants to start and manage their own enterprises.

Women, who make up the majority of subsistence farmers in South Sudan, are particularly targeted by the project. Their access to knowledge and training are hampered by the large burden of household duties placed on them, particularly when other family members travel with livestock in search of water.

Women's links to local markets are also limited. With greater access to water at the community level, household members are more likely to remain at home, easing the burden on women and freeing their time to participate in skills-building activities. They, too, will participate in farmer and pastoral field schools and will receive the support they need to set up small-scale enterprises, including through access to grants and credit facilities.

Overall around 4 700 people will benefit from innovative extension services (farmer or pastoral field schools) thanks to Canadian funding. This will help increase their farm production and productivity, which is vital given that in 2011, South Sudan's farmers produced enough food to meet just half the country's cereal needs.

CIDA contributed a total of USD 15.7 million to these activities.



West Bank and Gaza Strip: Building More Resilient Livelihoods

Since 2008, CIDA has been FAO's most dedicated resource partner in helping communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip build a more food secure future. The programme addresses major challenges – particularly the lack of access to natural resources, agricultural inputs and livelihood opportunities – which prevent Palestinian families from producing enough food and income to meet their basic needs.

Through two interventions, CIDA's outreach in 2011–2012 has focused on rural families at risk of losing their livelihood assets, including animals and small farms – often their only source of income. Overall, the projects' aim was three-fold: to save, protect and strengthen these endangered livelihoods. One intervention provided emergency fodder rations and veterinary support, which have kept animals alive. To ensure herders can provide for their animals in the future, CIDA funds are also increasing domestic fodder production and water availability through the distribution of drought-tolerant shrubs and seeds, as well as the repair and construction of water cisterns.

Not only are these activities safeguarding vital production assets, they are also bringing significant cash savings to families that previously had to rely on purchasing water and livestock feed at very high prices. Beyond subsistence, the support is helping livestock-holders increase their production, profit and product quality, as well as their chances of retaining access to their land. Activities range from reintroducing artificial livestock insemination (using improved genetic material) to supporting women dairy producers to improve the quality, hygiene and market-potential of homemade products.

Importantly, CIDA projects have a strong gender focus to ensure that interventions address the needs, interests and contributions of Palestinian men, women, girls and boys. A second project in 2011/12 worked especially with women and youth – those hardest hit by unemployment and food insecurity. The intervention is helping vulnerable households set up viable, small-scale farming systems and cottage industries. 'Backyard' or urban 'rooftop' production greatly helps families with limited resources to improve their food security and income levels.

The technical support and agricultural packages are allowing a wide range of livelihoods to flourish – from vegetable gardening to fish farming and raising small animals, such as sheep, rabbits and chickens. Rainwater collection and wastewater treatment systems and drip irrigation networks are being installed to increase resilience to frequent water shortages. The project also engaged around 700 girls and boys from 22 schools in a school-year-long programme introducing good agricultural and life practices and entrepreneurial skills. Using Junior Farmer Field and Life School principles developed by FAO, young people are being coached to contribute toward their own, and their communities', economic and social development.

As of early 2012, CIDA contributions amounted to USD 9.9 million in ongoing projects. Further to the 5 620 households reached in 2011-2012, CIDA funding allocated to FAO in March 2012 will bring livelihood assistance to an additional 7 000 families in need during 2012-2013.



Sri Lanka: Helping Conflict-affected Communities Rebuild their Livelihoods

Over 300 000 people fled their homes in the final stages of Sri Lanka's 26-year civil conflict. The vast majority were farmers and fishers from the north and east who – after security was restored in mid-2009 – returned to farmland and damaged infrastructure, without the means to begin producing food again. In the districts of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, the entire population was displaced by the end of the conflict, with most having lost all productive assets, their home, access to land and family members.

CIDA is supporting a wide range of critical work to help returnees and host community families begin rebuilding their lives and food security in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Jaffna districts. FAO's "Northern Integrated Agricultural Recovery and Growth Project" is working in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to restore three crucial sources of livelihood: horticulture, livestock and fisheries production.

The project is providing horticulture packages and training to around 7 000 families, including individual and commercial fruit growers. The packages comprise fruit plants such as banana, mango, guava, lime, papaya, pomegranate and sweet orange. Revitalizing nurseries will provide employment opportunities to many, while ensuring the availability of quality fruit plants for future seasons. Small-scale producers are also receiving support in vegetable seed production to increase access to quality seeds.

The project also focuses on livestock production and training, delivering cattle and goat packages to 592 and 700 households, respectively. The high-breed



animals will generate regular earnings from the sale of milk and meat, and play a major role in boosting family nutrition. Another key focus is supporting a livestock artificial insemination programme, involving government and private sector partners, to improve herd genetics and help increase milk and meat production in the longer term.

Prior to the conflict, fisheries played a key role in the national economy and contributed substantially to the income and nutrition of local communities (both coastal and inland). To revive this vital sector, the project is rehabilitating landing centres for fishers, and supporting fishers through a number of other safety-at-sea, production and value-adding initiatives.

CIDA has contributed a total of USD 4 million.

Honduras: Developing Long-term Food Security

CIDA is supporting work to improve the food security of vulnerable households in the poorest municipalities in Honduras, by promoting their access to food, health and nutrition.

Through partnerships with public sector organizations, national and international non-governmental organizations and the private sector, FAO's Special Programme for Food Security is working to institutionalize and scale-up good and sustainable land use practices.

The Canada-FAO Food Security Programme in Honduras has reached, as of February 2012, 46 137 people – 53 percent of whom are women -

totaling 14 300 families in 29 municipalities, accounting for 41 percent of the rural poor in the municipalities covered by the programme.

Under the programme, a number of best practices that deal with improved natural resource management are being systematized. Key and complementary areas of activity include: the elimination of ploughing using mulching and direct planting with natural tree regeneration in cropping areas; savings and loan groups and rural cooperatives; homestead improvements including improved stoves, kitchen gardens and post-harvest grain storage and water source management.

Canadian support is enabling the work to expand into new areas of the country and to add new components: maternal and child health; nutrition education; on farm diversification linked to market potential; and the building of resilience to climate instability including local community group insurance schemes.

To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, there is an emphasis on developing the capacity of community leaders and government officials at all levels, who will take over the work. To this end, training is being provided to local government institutions to incorporate food security and nutrition objectives within their development plans; community leaders are being trained on food production and nutrition (with a focus on women's associations and groups); and workshops and technical support are being provided for non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations for micro-business promotion.

The project also provides technical support to the Nutrition and Food Security Technical Unit of the President's Office, which is responsible for supervising the state of food security in the country and ensuring that action by line ministries impacts the Government's strategic priorities.



In January 2011, CIDA dedicated USD 17.3 million over four years to support FAO's Special Programme for Food Security, making it one of the largest programmes currently implemented by FAO Honduras.

Senegal: Working with Farmers to Increase Food Security

CIDA is supporting a development project entitled 'Strengthening Food Security in the Niayes and Casamance Regions' in Senegal, one of CIDA's countries of focus. The two-year project, launched by FAO in March 2011, aims to identify, and subsequently implement, technical solutions to increase food security.

The project is focused on strengthening technical and organizational capacities of farmer organizations, supporting crop production and assisting farmers to add value to their products. In 2011, project

activities benefited 1 250 farmers in Niayes and 486 in Casamance. Overall, approximately 17 360 people indirectly benefited from the project.

In the Niayes region, the project provided farmers with access to agricultural inputs and land to grow onions, cabbages, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers and parsley. In the Casamance region, access to cultivation services and inputs enabled farmers to prepare 375 hectares; farmers received over 100 tonnes of seed used in the past growing season.





In Niayes, 1 025 farmers from six farmer organizations were trained in production techniques through Farmer Field Schools. In Casamance, four Farmer Field Schools with mainly female participants have assisted in testing best agricultural practices and cultivating rice and vegetables.

In 2012, the project will focus on strengthening the organizational capacity of farmer organizations by strengthening a revolving fund within their organizations that will enable them to purchase agricultural inputs and provide services to their members. Additionally in 2012, the project will provide value-addition to rice farmers by strengthening their marketing capacities.

In 2011, CIDA contributed USD 5.5 million to the project.

The Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health: Improving Governments' Response to Animal Disease Outbreaks

The Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) assists countries threatened by animal disease emergencies. Transboundary animal diseases threaten livestock and livelihoods, and some – such as avian influenza and the H1N1-2009 variant of zoonotic influenza – directly impact upon human health. The CMC-AH deploys rapid, coordinated and strategic missions, using the world's best experts, to assist affected governments and enable them to improve their response.

The CMC-AH, established in 2006 with support from the Government of Canada, is based within FAO. It provides needed support to countries when responding to quickly evolving disease emergencies with impacts on livelihoods, health and trade. The CMC-AH taps into FAO, the United Nations and other international partners, governments and non-governmental organizations to assemble the right team for the task at hand.

Internationally-acknowledged experts from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, academia and private practice were members of mission teams to Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Laos for anthrax, *peste des petits ruminants* and highly pathogenic influenza. These are just a few examples of Canadian collaboration during more than 50 missions deployed over the past five years which led to the Centre visiting Canada to discuss arrangements for closer partnership in the future.

The Incident Command System (ICS), utilized currently by many countries worldwide to manage a large range of emergencies and implement crisis response, is adapted for the CMC-AH to ensure a number of best practices.

The Centre utilizes the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) to track the prevalence and spread of animal diseases and plan for potential deployment when animal disease emergencies appear imminent. GLEWS is a joint system that builds on the added value of combining and coordinating the alert and response mechanisms of FAO, the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health with respect to animal disease threats. It does this through information sharing and epidemiological analysis.

The Government of Canada's ongoing programme of support to both the ICS platform and missions being deployed is USD 2 million.



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification: Providing a Common Understanding of Food Insecurity

To sustainably end hunger through well designed and well targeted interventions and policies, it is essential to have a clear, reliable and commonly-agreed picture of food insecurity. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a framework to analyse and classify the severity of a food insecurity situation according to international scientific standards.

It is also a forum involving Government, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and civil society that gather to work together and reach technical consensus, at national, regional and global levels. The result is a map communicating five phases, from green to red according to the severity of food insecurity, which depict clear and evidence-based information, comparable over time and space.

During the recent food crisis in the Horn of Africa, the IPC, which is housed in FAO, was used as a scientific reference to declare famine in July 2011 for some regions in Somalia. The IPC classification ensured elite coordination among partners, effective targeting of humanitarian assistance and joint, thorough monitoring.

Lessons have been learned from practice, the technical rigour of the tool has been strengthened, hundreds of analysts have been trained and the IPC is now being used in close to 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Central America, becoming a sustainable and autonomous process chaired by Governments

Thanks to Canada's support, the IPC is now an international reference for food security analysis and classification. The IPC has also started working on analysing chronic food insecurity, in order to fight the root causes of food insecurity and to break the vicious circle of recurrent emergencies and protracted crises.

CIDA has been one of the first donors to believe in and support the IPC from its initial stages providing more than USD 378 000 over a period of approximately four years ending in 2011.



Ensuring Food for the Future

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The genetic diversity of our crops is the very foundation of food security. Diversity is needed for all breeding efforts everywhere, whether to maintain productivity in the face of ever-evolving pests and diseases, or to adapt our crops to changing climates.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources is a legally binding international agreement. The Treaty and its Secretariat operate under the auspices of FAO. The Treaty helps to conserve and use the crops that produce our food and facilitate access to them for research, training and breeding activities.

With the overall goal of food security, the Treaty allows governments, gene banks and agricultural research centers to pool plant genetic resources in an

innovative system that promotes their use. At present under the Treaty, member countries and international agricultural research centres make more than 1.5 million crop samples available for sharing that are crucial for food and agriculture like rice, wheat, maize and potato.

Genetic resources in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) contribute to the gene pool from gene bank collections maintained in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Harrow, Ontario; and Fredericton, New Brunswick. As early as July 2008, it started to share them worldwide using the Treaty's Standard Material Transfer Agreement.

AAFC has been one of the major financial supporters of the core budget of the Treaty, contributing more than USD 600 000 over the past five years; the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

also provided some additional funds. Moreover, Canada was the first member to make a voluntary payment to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty following the commercialization of a superior line of triticale – a wheat variety.

Global Crop Diversity Trust

While the Treaty establishes the global rules on how genetic resources can be conserved and shared, the Global Crop Diversity Trust is an international organization that aims to ensure the conservation and availability of crop diversity, forever. The Trust is formally an element of the funding structure of the Treaty.

CIDA was one of the very first supporters of the Trust and agreed to provide CAD 10 million over ten years, starting in 2003. This early support from Canada was vital to the Trust. The investment has yielded spectacular rewards as the Trust is now supporting work in some 90 countries and has raised a further USD 220 million. “Canada has been a model donor. Supportive, long-term, and bravely backing an idea... our job would have been immeasurably harder without CIDA’s support,” noted Cary Fowler, the Trust’s Executive Director.





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