

A Growing Crisis

The world is facing an acute development crisis. Some 1.2 billion people in developing countries live in absolute poverty and more than 800 million people go to bed hungry. In many poor countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, social and economic conditions are getting worse, not better.

An international response: the Millennium Development Goals

In December 2000, in response to the growing crisis, the United Nations launched the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals, endorsed by the international community, set minimum targets to reduce poverty, hunger, illiteracy, discrimination against women, and environmental degradation by 2015.

Canada is committed to the MDGs...

Canada remains strongly committed to achieving the MDGs. It has agreed to increase foreign aid by 8% per year, doubling spending by 2009. It is also retooling aid policies to improve effectiveness and focusing on key social sectors and rural agriculture. Prime Minister Paul Martin, in his September 2004 United Nations speech, acknowledged the urgency of our “responsibility to act”, based on our common humanity and the MDGs.

...But we need to do more to affirm Canadian leadership on global poverty

The MDGs commit donors like Canada to make progress against the UN aid target of 0.7% of Gross National Income. The World Bank estimates that, to achieve the MDGs, foreign aid must increase by at least \$50 billion a year up to 2015. Current aid levels, including those in Canada, are far off this target.

CCIC and its members call upon the new Canadian government to re-commit to the MDGs by adopting the Plan of Action below to reach the UN target of 0.7% by 2015.

A Plan of Action to Improve Canada's Aid Performance

Current Foreign Aid Commitments	What's Needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8% annual increases to 2009 ▪ Investment of \$248M for 2005/06 ▪ Investment of \$1.6B over 3 years ▪ ODA is 0.32% of Gross National Income by 2010 and 0.30% by 2007 ▪ New policies for aid effectiveness ▪ Commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, but no Canadian plan for our fair share to achieve them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12-15% annual increases to 2015 ▪ Investment of \$385M for 2005/06 ▪ Investment of \$2.6B over 3 years ▪ ODA is 0.34% of GNI by 2007, 0.44% by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015 ▪ Targeted aid to key areas for poverty eradication ▪ Greater partnership with civil society in Canada and their overseas partners