

### Improving Standards of Living through Foreign Aid

- Since WWII, the developed world has been providing aid to the nations of South America, Africa, and Asia in the hopes this money will bring industrialization, development, reduced population growth, and improved standards of living.
  - Many of the countries who receive aid were once colonies of European powers and were left with political and economic instability when they transitioned to independence
  - Foreign aid programs were chosen as a way to foster development in these countries
  - Initially, aid can be given to support political, economic, and/or humanitarian change
  
- The money spent on aid is still dwarfed by the amount spent on armaments
  - For example, in 2015 the US spent approximately \$600 billion on the military
  - A fraction of this total would give universal access to basic social services in all developing countries
    - \$6 billion would give everyone basic education
    - \$9 billion would provide safe water and sanitation
    - \$12 billion would ensure reproductive health for all women
    - \$13 billion would provide basic health and nutrition
    - Meeting all the MDGs would cost \$189 billion (2015)

### Types and Sources of Foreign Aid

- **Bilateral aid:** aid from one country to another
- **Tied aid:** aid is given from one country to another with conditions attached; many criticize that this type of aid benefits the developed country more than the developing nation
- **Multilateral aid:** a number of countries provide aid to a country
- Government agencies such as the **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)** – although CIDA is no longer as of 2013
- International bodies such as the **United Nations (UN)**
  - Aid from government and international bodies is often ineffective: the money goes straight to the government, where it can wind up in the hands of corrupt leaders who ill-spend the money or keep it for themselves
- **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** such as Oxfam, Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, Free the Children
  - NGOs are non-governmental, non-profit organizations that run aid programs and lobby for people's rights around the world
  - Aid from NGOs is usually the most effective source of aid because it goes right to the people who need it most (**grassroots level**) and skills are taught, so when the NGO leaves the project can still continue to be effective
    - helping farmers build rows of hedges to stop the topsoil from being blown away
    - helping a community build a well

## What is Canada's contribution to foreign aid?

- In the 1960s, the UN commission, lead by PM Lester Pearson, set a target that all developed nations should donate 0.7% of their GNP towards foreign aid
  - In 2010, Canada's foreign aid equaled 0.34% of GDP, but by 2014 it had dropped to 0.24% of GDP
  - Harper government froze foreign aid spending in 2015 to focus on the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Initiative, to which he committed \$3.5 billion over 5 yrs
  - The UK has reached the 0.7% commitment, the first G7 country to do so
- Canada is changing its policies on tied aid: in 2008 food aid was fully untied and in 2013 all aid funding was untied
- Canada's development priorities include: increasing food security, security of children and youth, sustainable economic growth, maternal, newborn, and child health, environmental sustainability, gender equality, and governance.

	<b>Countries of Focus</b>	<b>Partner Countries Bilateral Aid programs</b>	<b>Humanitarian Assistance</b>
<b>Americas</b>	Caribbean Regional Program Colombia Haiti Honduras Peru	Bolivia Cuba Guatemala Nicaragua	
<b>Asia Pacific</b>	Afghanistan Bangladesh Burma Indonesia Mongolia Philippines Vietnam	Pakistan Sri Lanka	Burma (flooding) Nepal (earthquake) Philippines (typhoon)
<b>Eastern Europe</b>	Ukraine		
<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>	Jordan West Bank and Gaza	Egypt Iraq Morocco	Syria
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	Benin Burkina Faso D R of C Ethiopia Ghana Mali Mozambique Senegal South Sudan Tanzania	Kenya Nigeria South Africa	West Africa (Ebola)

### ***Distribution of International Aid 2014***

Africa: \$2 billion – 41.1%  
Asia: \$1.4 billion – 29.6%  
Bilateral (unspecified): \$775 million – 15.8%  
Americas: \$558 million – 11.4%  
Europe: \$90 million – 1.8%

#### **Question: Should Canada increase the amount of aid it presently gives?**

##### **Reasons in favour**

- in a global village, we must be concerned about the welfare of people outside Canada
- aid projects have a positive affect on improving people's standard of living
- we are a wealthy nation and must share our wealth globally
- the gap between rich and poor is getting wider, not narrower

##### **Reasons against**

- only 20% of Canadian aid is spent on basic human needs
- we have our own poverty issues in Canada that need to be addressed
- we have our own national debt issue that should take priority over aid
- foreign aid is not working and we are just giving money away

#### **Question: Should aid be given to countries with dictatorships?**

##### **Reasons in favour**

- many cultures have values that differ from the Western world
- the Western world should not push their views on other countries
- change can be brought about best through open dialogue with dictatorship, not diplomatic pressure

##### **Reasons against**

- there is no guarantee that aid will reach those who need it most
- aid might first be used for the military and to support the dictator
- giving money is supporting a dictatorship
- denying aid will bring about change

#### **Question: Should Canada only give aid to those countries that grant human rights?**

##### **Reasons in favour**

- only by denying aid will change occur; granting rights = getting support
- there is no guarantee aid will reach those who need it most
- human rights is an issue important to Canada; we need to promote best practice

##### **Reasons against**

- you can't deny support to those in need just because their government denies them human rights
- to withhold aid means we are forcing our ideas/principles onto others whose culture may be very different
- once there, you can open up a discussion about human rights