



CANADA'S AID EFFECTIVENESS AGENDA SECURING THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CIDA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH STRATEGY

Securing the future of children and youth, increasing food security, and stimulating sustainable economic growth are three priority themes that will guide the work of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) going forward.

The welfare of children and youth is a priority because today's generation of children and youth is the largest in history, with nearly half of the world's 6.8 billion people under the age of 25. Among them, more than 90 percent live in the developing world.

With poor access to the services that are crucial to their well-being and survival, many of the world's children and youth face difficult challenges on the road to becoming healthy and productive adults.

In many developing countries, children are 12 times more likely to die before they reach the age of five. Their deaths are often the result of poor water quality and inadequate sanitation, malnutrition, or diseases that could otherwise be prevented.

In many areas, a basic education is beyond reach: 67 million children—53 percent of them girls—have no access to school or other learning opportunities that could give them hope for a better future.

Solutions are urgently needed to help the world's most vulnerable: children and youth growing up in developing countries. By giving

them the opportunity to reach their full potential, we are improving everyone's future.

Through its Children and Youth Strategy, CIDA is putting more effort and resources into areas proven to achieve results.

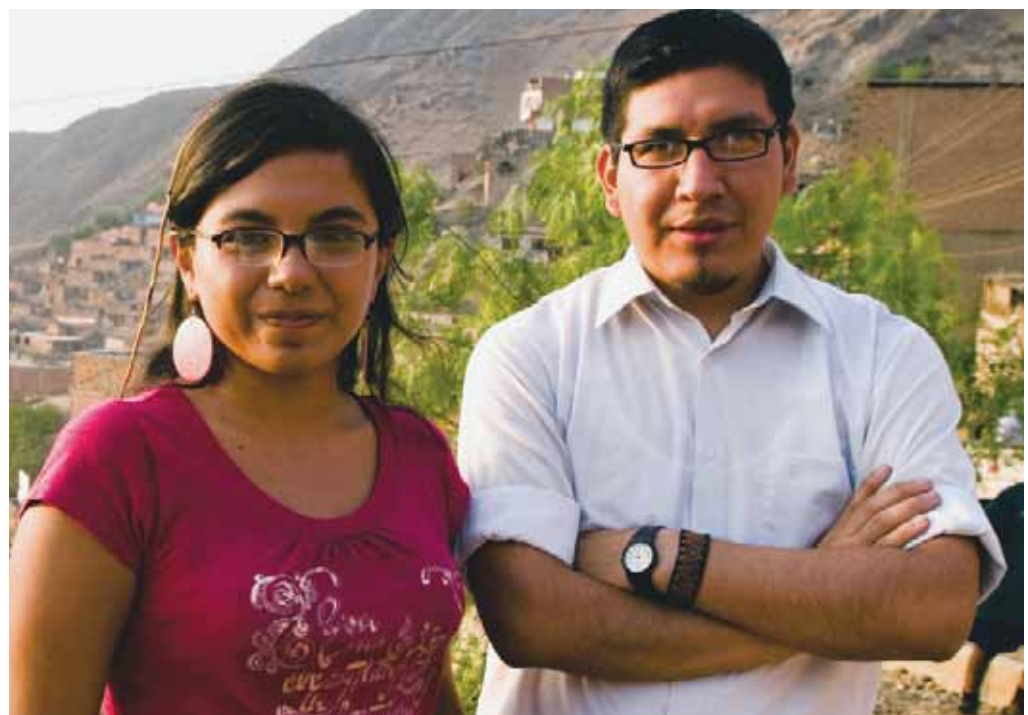
CIDA's efforts in securing the future of children and youth will move forward down three paths:

- child survival, including maternal, newborn and child health;
- access to a quality education; and

- safe and secure futures for children and youth.

CIDA will annually review progress made on securing the future of children and youth, and will report results and lessons learned on a regular basis.

Through CIDA's Children and Youth Strategy, more of the world's children and youth will thrive and make positive contributions to their societies.



ACCESS TO A QUALITY EDUCATION

An educated population is essential to a country's long-term development and the reduction of extreme poverty. Access to education has improved in the developing world. Yet financial, social, health, and security reasons are keeping 67 million children—almost 35.5 million of them girls—from school. Increasing children's school enrolment is a priority, as is their completing the full 10-year cycle of basic education. National education systems need to provide quality education using qualified teachers, a relevant curriculum, and better learning materials. The education of girls has multiple benefits for the health and vitality of their future children, for increased family income, and for community stability.

Our objectives are to create strong education systems that provide more children and youth—girls in particular—with the basic skills they will need to become productive citizens.

To make this happen, CIDA will support initiatives that:

- improve access to basic education, particularly for girls;
- improve the quality of education with particular focus on teacher training, quality relevant curriculum, and improving educational resources; and
- increase learning opportunities and life skills training.

CHILD SURVIVAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH



Scaling up efforts on child survival is a vital necessity at a time when nearly nine million children under the age of five are dying every year, mostly from preventable and treatable conditions. Improving child survival begins with taking care of the health of the mother.

In the developing world, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth every minute of every day. Ultimately, we want better health for mothers and higher survival rates for children; we want reduced deaths from childhood infectious diseases, and national health systems that better meet the health needs of mothers and children under the age of five.

To support child survival and maternal health, CIDA is focusing its support on:

- strengthening sustainable health systems to increase access to health care facilities;
- training health care workers with skills and knowledge to address health challenges of mothers and children;
- child-specific, integrated health interventions, which include immunization and nutritional supplements; and
- the prevention of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and providing cleaner water and sanitation.

If maternal health and child health are good, it is de facto a good health care system.... A society has little chance to thrive if it fails to keep its mothers healthy and its babies alive.

Bridget Lynch, Board Member
Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

(Speaking at the 16th Canadian Conference on International Health, Ottawa, October 27, 2009)

SAFE AND SECURE FUTURES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Investing in adolescent girls is one of the smartest investments that developing countries and donors can make in their pursuit of lasting economic and social development.

Joy Phumaphi, Vice-President
World Bank's Human
Development Network



In many developing countries, millions of children and youth experience violence, exploitation, abuse, child trafficking, sexual exploitation, and assault. Many suffer the hardships of child labour. Girls are particularly susceptible to victimization.

Without addressing protection and security issues, investments in health, education and other areas may not bring lasting improvements to the lives of children and youth. Children have a right to safe and secure environments in which to grow, learn and play.

To help give children and youth safe and secure futures, CIDA will support initiatives that:

- strengthen and implement frameworks to better protect the human rights of children and youth, particularly girls, who are at increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse;
- ensure that schools are safe and free from violence and abuse and are child-friendly learning environments that provide learning opportunities to boys and girls; and
- help youth-at-risk find positive alternatives to violence and crime and engage as productive members of their societies.

CIDA will work with countries to develop and implement the necessary legal frameworks to ensure that more children and youth will be protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse.



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