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Canada's Humanitarian Aid to Central Africa

Aid to refugees along the Zaire-Rwanda-Burundi border

The Canadian International Development Agency is providing \$15 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to respond to urgent needs prompted by the conflict in Zaire. The aid will be provided in cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure delivery of emergency medical, water, sanitation and logistical services to the estimated 1.2 million people affected by the crisis in eastern Zaire and the region.

Immediate CIDA activities will be:

- * cooperation with the Canadian Red Cross to deploy up to 40 Canadian medical personnel, water and sanitation technicians, and relief and logistics specialists in the region.

- * support to the International Committee of the Red Cross for relief activities including provision of tents, blankets, jerrycans, soap and plastic sheeting; medical personnel and supplies; water and sanitation services; transportation, including airlifts, of relief supplies; protection and tracing of refugees including family reunification.

- * sponsorship of five mobile teams of water and sanitation experts from CARE Canada. They will install water storage and purification systems to deliver up to 250,000 litres of potable water per day as well as latrines serving up to 100,000 people.

* support to a Canadian Lutheran World Relief program to assist Rwandan refugees in Zaire and Burundi to return to their home communities. This will consist of transportation, agricultural inputs and building materials.

Humanitarian aid to Africa's Great Lakes region since 1994

Since the outbreak of civil war and genocide in Rwanda in April 1994, Canada has provided \$75 million (including the new aid package) in assistance to international agencies and non-governmental organizations to support emergency humanitarian relief efforts in Africa's Great Lakes region.

Of this, \$51 million has been for emergency humanitarian aid to reduce the suffering of people within Rwanda as well as Rwandan refugees in Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire. This includes medical aid, shelter, clean water and sanitation, food, transportation and logistical support. CIDA has been particularly concerned with the plight of children and has targeted much of its assistance at children affected by the war and child-soldiers. This aid has been delivered through international organizations including the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF and the World Food Program, as well as Canadian NGOs including CARE Canada, Médecins Sans Frontières Canada, World Vision Canada, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, CECI, Terre-sans-frontières and Oxfam-Québec.

Since April 1994, CIDA has provided almost \$9 million in humanitarian aid to assist the victims of Burundi's internal conflicts, especially children, and to facilitate the return of refugees. CIDA support has also included emergency food supplies, and provision of clean water and sanitation services. This has been delivered by the International Committee of the Red

Cross and UNICEF, as well as Canadian NGOs including CARE Canada, World Vision Canada and Oxfam-Québec.

Aid for social reconstruction in Rwanda

In addition to support for humanitarian aid, Canada has also supported social rehabilitation and reconstruction in Rwanda, with \$18 million in bilateral aid, delivered through Canadian and international organizations, to tackle the long-term effects of the conflict and to help rebuild Rwandan society. This aid is focused in the following areas::

1. Supporting human rights, democracy and good governance:

- Support to the International Penal Tribunal for Rwanda. Canada has contributed \$1 million to a UN Trust Fund in support of the tribunal for provision of Canadian criminal investigators.
- Promoting respect for human rights through projects that support independent human rights monitoring and documentation.
- Support for the national justice system, including training programs for judges and magistrates; organizing judicial processes for prisoners accused of genocide; drafting and translating key legislation; and a prisoner identification program.
- Reinforcing Rwandan civil society through support to local NGOs and government institutions.

2. Meeting basic human needs:

- Initiatives to rehabilitate children and youth through local adoption, to help them and other refugees reintegrate into their communities through

housing, micro-credit, infrastructure, training and job creation programs.

- Providing management training and other support to eight Rwandan government ministries with social portfolios.

- Supporting small local initiatives to alleviate poverty

3. Integrating women into development:

- Support for women, many of whom are heads of extended households and responsible for their own children as well as those of family members killed during the 1994 genocide. Delivered through women's non-governmental organizations and Rwanda's Ministry of the Family and Women's Promotion, these programs provide training and financial support to help women earn income to support their families.

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Marleau Announces Canada's Support for Projects for Women and Children in Tanzania

Dodoma, Tanzania -- The Honourable Diane Marleau, Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, announced today that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will support projects to provide skills-training for women and to promote children's rights in Tanzania. Madame Marleau is in the East African country to conclude agreements on the two projects during a three-day visit.

The first project, a five-year, \$4.3-million program, will help hundreds of Tanzanian women acquire the skills they need to gain access to senior positions in government and business. Carried out in cooperation with the Tanzanian government, it will provide women with training in law, urban and rural planning, science, technology, management and other fields.

"Bringing skills and knowledge to women empowers them and their society," said Madame Marleau. "Tanzania will benefit from highly-skilled women working in government, business and academic ranks, and women will participate fully in shaping the country's future."

Under the second project, CIDA is providing \$500,000 over two years to set up a fund to support the Tanzanian government's efforts to encourage respect for children's rights, as well as democratic practices and good governance.

"Canada is proud to support this partnership initiative," said Madame Marleau. "It recognizes Tanzania's willingness to promote respect for human rights and good governance, which could serve as a model for other regions of Africa."

Among the efforts planned by the Fund for Good Governance and the Rights of Children are: support to community education programs on child abuse; reinforcing reforms of the legal system and legislative policy on treatment of children in trouble with the law; and building the government's capacity to develop and implement policies and practices which encourage efficiency, accountability and transparency.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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