

## CANADA

### The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) [www.cida.gc.ca](http://www.cida.gc.ca)

#### 1. Describe your agency's overall strategy or approach in using ICT for Development

##### *a) Overall Strategy*

CIDA's overall strategy on ICT for development incorporates an approach at two levels; programming and strategic institutional partnerships:

1. **Programming** should focus on, but not be limited to:
  - a. using ICTs as tools for development of the education and health sectors, in particular, the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases;
  - b. building enabling environments through support for policy and regulatory framework advice and development and promoting local capacity development; and
  - c. supporting knowledge sharing and networking with the help of ICTs.
2. **Strategic institutional partnerships** support international initiatives and partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society focused on activities related to knowledge sharing and bridging the digital divide through the Knowledge for Development Fund.

##### *b) Guiding Principles for Use of ICT for Development*

Poverty reduction is a central component to all of CIDA's work. Increasing equal access to, control of, and ability to derive benefits from socio-political and economic information can contribute to the reduction of poverty by providing individuals and communities with the opportunity to expand their choices and improve their livelihoods. This information may range from financially viable markets and income-generating opportunities to the availability of government services and issues of governance to information on health care and delivery, HIV/AIDS care/prevention, education, and skills-development programs.

CIDA will follow these criteria when planning/considering ICT programs and projects:

- Interventions must be demand-driven, with developing/transition countries determining if and how ICTs are a priority for their social and economic development. This might mean greater consideration of ICTs in the Country Development Programming Frameworks (CDPF) process, as well as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs);
- Ensure governments, civil society, and the private sector in developing/transition countries play the lead role in deciding and implementing;
- Use the UN Millennium Development Goals to ensure KD-ICT programming targets the poor, takes into account the differing concerns and resources of various sectors within a target group, and supports achievement of the goals agreed upon by the international community;
- Use the range of technologies available as appropriate—from low technology (radio) to high technology (Internet, e-commerce), including the use of alternative power and delivery technologies, such as solar power and wireless/satellite

technologies. Often a low-technology solution might be the most appropriate application, either on its own or in a mixed technology network; and

- Build partnerships with like-minded donors, other government departments, multilateral organizations, etc. By collaborating, donors can leverage comparative advantages, maximize impact (e.g., through new programming initiatives such as Sector-Wide Approaches SWAs) and reduce duplication of efforts.

In addition, given that typically women and girls have unequal access to ICTs, appropriate attention must be paid, through sound gender analysis, to gender equality, the value of women's knowledge, and to the importance of integrating women into the knowledge society at all levels and in all sectors.

In view of the above criteria, CIDA will look to the following guidelines when forming strategic institutional partnerships:

- engage in global and international policy dialogue —this provides CIDA with the opportunity to share knowledge and best practices, and to influence policy work in the ICT sector;
- support policy research to further our understanding of the links between ICTs and poverty reduction, including gender differences in accessing resources, and the key success factors for good program interventions; and
- promote and facilitate greater donor coordination.

### ***c) Objectives***

The purpose of integrating ICTs into development programming is to enhance the opportunities and maximize benefits for individuals, communities, and nations to access information and knowledge to promote socio-economic development, and to improve their overall well-being.

CIDA's approach is, therefore, to set out a framework to guide CIDA's programming efforts in this sector, particularly considering the efforts underway by the broader international community including the G8 DOT Force, World Bank, and UN. CIDA's existing policy framework identifies infrastructure services as one of the Agency's six programming priority areas. The approach to ICT for Development builds on the Agency's extensive experience in this area, and at the same time establishes a strong link with the Agency's Social Development Priorities and the Strengthening Aid Effectiveness agenda.

### ***d) Areas of Application***

CIDA has been programming in ICTs for over 25 years. A recent review of CIDA's programming in infrastructure services revealed CIDA's interventions were relevant, addressed real needs, and contributed to the balanced development of institutional, human and infrastructure capacity, while adapting well to the rapidly changing dynamics of the ICT sector (which often outpace the regulatory capacities of governments and the courts). These reforms, coupled with the strengthening of institutions, contributed to improved equity and access to services, sector planning, and policy development. ICTs are an important sector within the infrastructure services programming area, and CIDA's work in ICTs is informed by the Agency's approach to infrastructure services.

CIDA has a broad programming portfolio in KD and ICTs. The Agency's work in KD and ICTs can be divided into three categories:

1. ICTs as a sector in itself;
2. using ICTs as tools across sectors; and
3. using ICTs to promote knowledge sharing and networking.

These three categories are linked. For example, investments in the ICT sector create greater opportunity for using ICTs across multiple sectors. Therefore, if an appropriate regulatory and competitive environment is in place for Internet service provision in a developing country, and given appropriate private sector investment, then individuals, organizations, and firms are afforded access to the Internet at reasonable cost and without undue restrictions.

### **1. ICT as a sector in itself**

Infrastructure services, which includes ICTs, is one of Canada's six programming priorities mandated to help developing countries deliver environmentally sound infrastructure services, with an emphasis on poorer groups and on capacity building. Investments in infrastructure are a key component of economic growth and poverty reduction. CIDA's work in the ICT sector focuses on creating an enabling environment through legal and regulatory reform, improving access to ICTs, and building human capacity to use ICTs, as well as ensuring appropriate applications and local content.

CIDA's programming in the ICT sector includes:

- support for modernizing IT and telecommunications sectors through policy development, spectrum management, promoting competition, and instituting legal and regulatory frameworks;
- support for installing a tele-communications, television or radio network; and
- training and capacity development in ICTs.

### **2. Using ICTs as tools**

These projects focus on enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of sectoral interventions. ICTs, by virtue of their cross-cutting nature, impact multiple sectors and therefore lend themselves well to integrated efforts.

CIDA uses ICTs as tools in its programming in the following manner:

- to enhance delivery of education (tertiary education, teacher training, etc.), often through distance education
- to improve and modernize public sector administration systems (taxation, finance, health)
- to manage water systems, environment, and agricultural production through Geographic Information Systems
- for sharing information (e.g., agricultural practices)
- to promote health care

### **3. Using ICTs to promote knowledge sharing and networking**

These projects focus on building knowledge networks, linkages, and sharing knowledge. Many CIDA projects currently use networks —often through the use of ICTs —as a vehicle for achieving positive development outcomes in other sectors.

CIDA programming examples in using ICTs to promote knowledge sharing and networking include linking governments for knowledge sharing and capacity building (south-south, north-south), and linking individuals and experts in various sectors (governance health, agriculture, immigration, parliamentary).

In addition to its programming, CIDA manages the Knowledge for Development Initiative. The Initiative includes a Knowledge for Development Network, and a Knowledge for Development Fund which focuses on various policy level and international initiatives.

***e) References and Web-Links to Any Relevant Strategy Documents or Guidelines***

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ict>

**2. Identify the main modalities for ICT integration in your overall development strategy**

***a) Modalities for ICT Integration and Programme Delivery***

Based on the principle of country ownership, CIDA's strategy is guided first and foremost by the needs and priorities of developing/transition countries. This strategy is intended to guide and inform CIDA's work in the ICT sector, and its involvement in international initiatives over the next three to five years.

CIDA's approach to ICT for Development is at two levels — programming and strategic institutional partnerships:

1. **Programming** should focus on, but not be limited to:
  - a. using ICTs as tools for development of the education and health sectors, in particular, the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases;
  - b. building enabling environments through support for policy and regulatory framework advice and development and promoting local capacity development; and
  - c. supporting knowledge sharing and networking with the help of ICTs.

Projects and programs are funded through a variety of sources, primarily via the bilateral and multilateral branches of the Agency.

2. **Strategic institutional partnerships** support international initiatives and partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society focused on activities related to knowledge sharing and bridging the digital divide through the Knowledge for Development Fund.

The international community has responded by launching concerted initiatives to bridge the digital divide. These activities include global initiatives to strengthen policy development, address gender inequalities, create public-private partnerships to leverage private sector investors, build electronic gateways to link information and resources and create networks to bring stakeholders together to share knowledge on promoting ICTs for development. Increasing co-ordination among these initiatives remains a critical element. CIDA is participating in many of these international efforts, and continues to make policy and program investments in ICTs and knowledge initiatives within the broader context of developing country programming priorities.

***b) Partnership, Including the Private Sector***

**Institutional support through Partnership Branch**

- **AMARC** - The "Association Mondiale des Radiodiffuseurs Communautaires" increases community radio's profile and legitimacy at the local, national, and international levels.
- The **Earth Council**, created to promote and advance the implementation of the Earth Summit agreements uses different ICT mechanisms to strengthen cooperation

by linking Earth Council partners and other organizations of civil society through an electronically dedicated 'Earth Network for Sustainable Development'.

- The Environment Liaison Centre International (**ELCI**) promotes a greater awareness of environmental issues within development programs strengthens the management capabilities and cooperation between NGOs in environment. ELCI uses ICTs in networking and advocacy activities, most notably in their Global Environment Network Information Exchange (GENIE) and ECOFORUM journal.
- **HRI** - Human Rights Internet is an educational organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights. Their web site is used to exchange information within the world-wide human rights community, provides 7 on-line databases and hosts web sites of 26 other organizations.
- **IPS** - Inter Press Service is a "global issues" news agency offering news features and analysis delivered via satellite telecommunications. IPS also provides training, information exchange and helps establish new media networks. Publications in digital and hard copy form (delivered by secured web sites, email and regular post).
- **ICLEI** - The International Council for Local Environment Initiatives strives to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve improvements in global environmental and sustainable conditions through cumulative local actions. ICTs are used to share information and knowledge in this global network (i.e. distributing newsletters).
- **ISTAHC** - The International Society for the Technical Assessment of Health Care is a network established as a multidisciplinary international forum for health care practitioners, policy makers, academic and economic evaluators, and drug and device developers. ISTAHC is the world's leading promoter of Health Technology Assessment (HTA), a key component of evidence-base health care. ICTs are at the base of their Distance Learning Pilot Project.
- **ISIS International** promotes the empowerment of women through information sharing and communication. ICTs are used in campaigning for women in the media, advocacy and publications.
- **ETC** - The Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration works with NGOs, governments and intergovernmental bodies in the areas of research, training, policy development, and advocacy vis-à-vis monopoly patents related to the process and formulae of life, food security and environment. ICTs are used to reach its international community in communications and publications.
- **TI** - Transparency International is the only international movement exclusively devoted to curbing corruption by mobilizing a global coalition to promote and strengthen international and national integrity systems. ICTs are used most notably in their Corruption On-line Research and Information System (CORIS), a fully searchable bibliography of some 8,000 documents related to corruption.
- **IUCN** - The World Conservation Union is a union of sovereign states, government agencies and NGOs concerned with the initiation and promotion of scientifically-based action that will establish links between development, the environment and its conservation, and sustainable development. IUCN has a web site that is a portal to thousand of pages of related material as well as an online bookstore.
- **(Global) Alternatives** - is an organization who's goals are strengthening civil society through community based organizations interested in the most marginalized people (women, youth). ICTs are used in networking with other organizations around important issues. Alternatives also provide youth internship programs in web site design and alternative local and national media.

***c) Participation, if any, in joint or multi-donor ICT for Development Programmes***

## **Contributions (2000-2001)**

- **InfoDev** is a multi-donor World Bank program which provides seed funding in operationalizing global knowledge related goals for developing countries, such as providing better access to ICTs and their applications through establishment of regulatory frameworks, reform of the telecommunication sector, promoting private and public sector partnerships to attract infrastructure investment. CIDA also contributed to the **Global Development Gateway** (now the Development Gateway Foundation) which is a portal for development information as a part of the infoDev contribution.
- **Bellanet** is a multi-donor international initiative that is implemented by a Secretariat housed at IDRC. Bellanet's mandate is to provide ICT-based technical services and advice to development-oriented institutions in developed and developing countries, to facilitate collaborative work and the achievement of their objectives. CIDA is one of the founding donors of Bellanet.
- CIDA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank to focus on collaborative initiatives on the Knowledge for Development, Education and Health sectors, with a contribution to the Bank's **Global Development Learning Network (GDLN)**.
- **Global Knowledge Partnership** is an evolving, global network of public, private and not-for-profit organizations focused the use of information and communications technologies to expand participation of all stakeholders in the production, dissemination, and use of knowledge and information so as to achieve sustainable development. Canada was a founding member of GKP in 1997, and continues to support their work.
- The **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA)** held its Democracy Forum 2001 on "Democracy and the Information Revolution - Values, Opportunities and Threats". CIDA contributed to the event through a workshop.
- **Orbicom** - a UNESCO chair based in Montreal - is developing a model for a Digital Divide Index (DDI) in partnership with Statistics Canada and others.
- **The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** is running training on Sustainable Development Web Communication Initiative.

### ***d) Estimate of a Global Amount of Funding with Indications on the Timeframe***

The most recent estimate on funding for ICT-related projects and programs was made in Fiscal Year 2000/2001 – a minimum of \$20 Million Canadian.

### ***e) Lessons Learned From Your Agency's Experience***

The following are a number of general lessons learned on policy and program approaches to ICTs:

- The most effective role for government is to establish well-regulated and competitive environments conducive to private investment and innovation. This is essential for improving the quality and breadth of ICT services available in developing/transition countries. The trend towards liberalization in the last decade has resulted in lower costs and better ICT services. Many developing country governments, however, are reluctant to forgo revenues (in particular foreign currencies) generated by telecom monopolies. Solutions need to be sought which make such transitions easier and manageable.
- The most effective roles for the private sector are to support investments to build ICT infrastructure (which tends to be very capital intensive), operate ICT networks,

and deliver ICT services. Therefore a fair and transparent regulatory and policy framework is necessary to secure and promote private sector involvement.

- For ICTs to have positive development impact, the various social groups must have equal access to them, particularly disadvantaged groups such as the poor, children, and indigenous peoples. Gender relations, roles, and patterns of resource access should be considered of each of these groups. If country policies and development strategies don't account for these issues, ICTs can exacerbate inequalities, leaving disadvantaged groups lagging further behind. For instance, ICTs may benefit skilled workers, more than unskilled workers, because they do not require additional training. ICTs also tend to benefit urban areas, more than rural areas, since larger cities often have the required infrastructure.
- Sustainable ICT projects must be locally owned and accompanied by human capacity development, to ensure the ability of individuals and communities to use, maintain, and benefit fully from ICTs.

***f) Cases that are Particularly Illustrative / Examples of Best Practices***

Not available.

**3. Describe the institutional arrangements made by your country for mainstreaming ICT within its development strategy**

The Government of Canada responded to the growing concern of the digital divide in the 2001 Speech from the Throne with a commitment to closing the divide through domestic innovations, an ICT agenda, involvement in the G8 Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) and investments in developing countries.

***a) Main Agencies Involved in ICT for Development (e.g. development cooperation agency, ministries, research institutions)***

For Canada, primary government departments include:

- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)
- Industry Canada
- Heritage Canada

Research institutions:

- International Development Research Centre (IDRC) – a Canadian Crown Corporation

***b) The Agencies' Roles in the Various Stages***

N/A

***c) Contact Details of your Country's/Agency's ICT for Development Focal Point***

**CIDA:** Graham Todd, Economic Policy Advisor  
Information and Communications Technologies for Development Economic  
Policies Division, Policy Branch Canadian International Development Agency  
Tel:(819) 994-3817 f:(819) 953-5229, Email;GRAHAM\_TODD@acdi-cida.gc.ca

**4. Country/regional Focus of the ICT-enhanced Development Strategy**

***a) General description of regional and country focus***

CIDA works in many developing countries and countries in transition. There are no specific regions or countries that CIDA has limited its ICT for Development programming to.

***b) More detailed information on main recipients of your ICT-enhanced development strategy***

Recipients are varied – see answer to previous question.