

More than ever



QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN THIS BULLETIN

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- What was achieved through this collaboration?
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- What will be lost by this funding reduction?
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CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR

**Development
and Peace**

SPECIAL INFORMATION
BULLETIN

MAY 2012

The impact of CIDA's funding reduction to DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

CIDA's ongoing support of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE's international development work since 1968 has permitted the organization to advance significant changes in the Global South by providing institutional support to grassroots and civil society organizations that are actively working to ensure that poor and marginalized communities have a voice in society. These groups include women, indigenous people, youth, peasant farmers and other segments of the population that suffer the most from the effects of poverty due to unjust laws and structures that perpetuate exploitation and an unequal distribution of wealth.

How did DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE collaborate with CIDA?

- Development and Peace has been working in partnership with CIDA for over 40 years to address poverty in Global South. It has been a fruitful relationship, where both partners have had the opportunity to share expertise and develop comprehensive programs that incorporate the input of local communities. Most recently, with the collaboration of CIDA, Development and Peace put in place a 5-year program from 2006 to 2011 that aimed to: strengthen civil society organizations; promote alternative development models that address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people; encourage democratic development and citizen participation especially by women; empower women and women's organizations; and contribute to conflict resolution and peace-building.
- This program provided support to approximately 250 civil society organizations in 33 countries. The long-term goal of this program was to contribute to the fundamental social change needed to establish social justice, promote dignity, and build lasting peace.
- Through support to these organizations, millions of people saw improvements in their lives and communities.

What was achieved through this collaboration?

- Increased incomes, improved livelihoods, and improved social conditions among poor communities (benefiting tens of thousands of women, small farmers, youth, urban poor) in all program countries;
- Through the work of partner organizations on accountability, different levels of government responded positively to needs identified by communities, became more transparent and became more open to citizen participation;
- Institutional or government policies and practices changed for the better as a result of partners' advocacy, and dialogue with government;
- Communities became better informed about important issues, increasing their understanding of government decision-making processes, contributing to the democratic life of their countries, and generating more effective dialogue with governments, elected officials and other institutions;
- Communities achieved greater peace and stability in their respective countries.

What are some examples of these achievements?



Burundi

In Burundi, support to **COSOME** (*Civil Society Coalition for Election Monitoring*), which trained and deployed over 5,000 election monitors in the last elections of 2010, contributed to credible and recognized electoral results in this new democracy.



Bolivia

In Bolivia, the organization **FENATRAHOB** helped pass a law that protects the rights of domestic workers, one of the most vulnerable groups in the country.



Brazil

In Brazil, after substantial lobbying by many DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner organizations, (**MST, MAB, MPA, MMC, CPT Nacional, CPT-Goias, FASE**) several important policies were introduced that ensure farmers have a market for their produce, and opened up economic possibilities for women.



Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, **NMJD** (*Network Movement for Justice and Development*) supported women in securing their rights to inherit land. Between June and December 2010, for example, they successfully assisted 19 women with land evaluations and other steps necessary to gain secure title to their land.



Indonesia

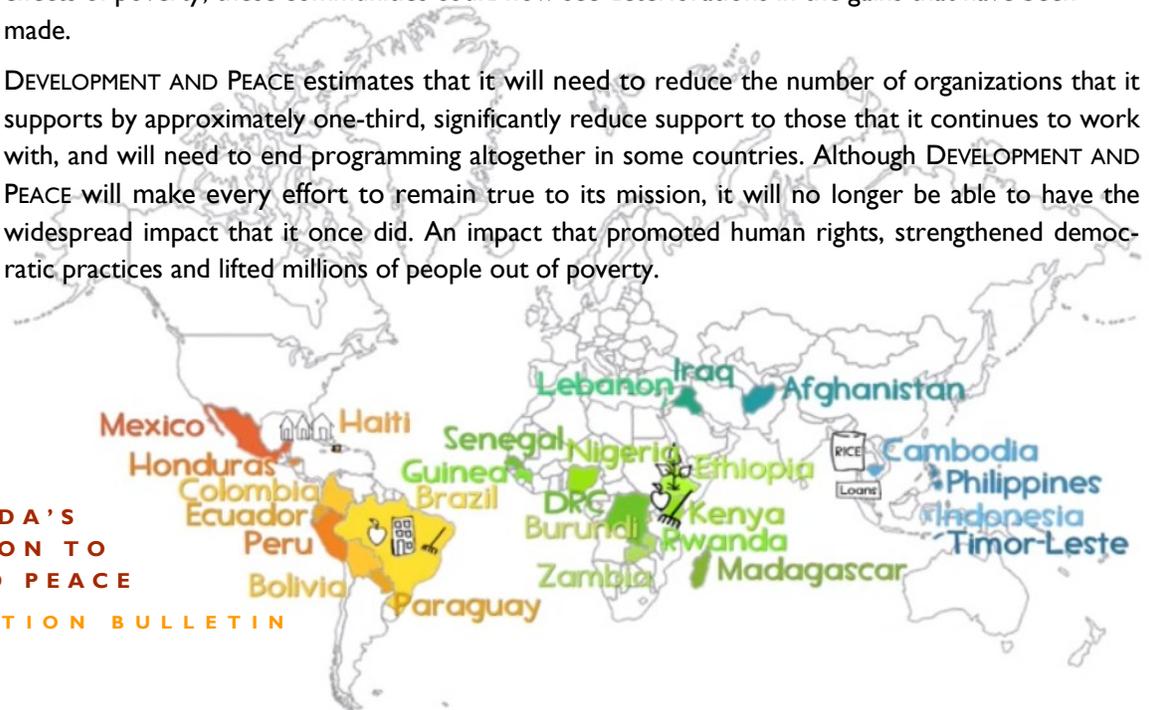
In Indonesia, **Pewart** worked with 3,500 peasants, each of whom received a parcel of 0.15 to 0.25 hectares of land following successful land redistribution. This enabled each farmer to increase rice production by 1,000 - 2,000 kgs per year, thus improving household food security and family incomes.

What will be lost by this funding reduction?

The above are just a few examples of the important social changes fostered by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE through its collaboration with CIDA. The decision by the Canadian Government to reduce funding to DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE by 65% brings to a halt much of the progress that has been made in these countries, as many of these organizations will no longer have the capacity to continue to assist communities. Instead of continuing to eliminate the vulnerability of communities to the effects of poverty, these communities could now see deteriorations in the gains that have been made.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE estimates that it will need to reduce the number of organizations that it supports by approximately one-third, significantly reduce support to those that it continues to work with, and will need to end programming altogether in some countries. Although DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE will make every effort to remain true to its mission, it will no longer be able to have the widespread impact that it once did. An impact that promoted human rights, strengthened democratic practices and lifted millions of people out of poverty.

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What this means in real terms for our partners?

Nigeria's *Justice Development and Peace Commission* — Ijebu-Ode

"We may face a great regression of human rights in Nigeria owing to the fact that civil society groups may no longer have access to means for the struggle for human rights. In terms of international solidarity, the challenge will be how to organise ourselves, both in the North and South, strategically for maximum impact with minimum means?"



Brazil's *Pastoral Land Commission*

"Without DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE's support, we will need to reduce the few staff that we have and cut back on the support that we are able to provide poor farmers. Stopping this work will be catastrophic."

Nigeria's *YARAC youth group (Youth, Adolescent, Reflection and Action Centre)*

"Every feat YARAC has achieved over the years is the result of the tremendous financial and moral support received from Development and Peace. YARAC strongly believes that the awareness and consciousness of civil society groups in Nigeria today is largely due to the support enjoyed over the years from the Canadian government and people. We recall that during the last phase of the military dictatorship in Nigeria, it was the Canadian government and people that stood by Nigerians to ensure that the struggle for democracy was successful".

East Timor's *Empowering Young Women Association (FKSH)*

"FKSH supports grassroots women's groups and trains them to develop small businesses in four remote districts by providing these young women with technical support, intensive training, small loans and hands-on mentoring. Without the financial support of Development and Peace, all the gains we have made will be lost."

