

Glossary

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA): The federal agency charged with planning and implementing most of Canada's international development program in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world.

Deforestation: The loss of forests due to over-cutting of trees.

Developed Country: A basic classification of countries with a high level of per capita income, industrialization, and modernization. Such countries usually have lower levels of population growth.

Developing Country: A basic classification of low- and middle-income countries in which most people have a lower standard of living with access to fewer goods and services than do most people in developed countries.

Ecological Footprint: A measure of how much land and water is needed to produce the resources we consume and to dispose of the waste we produce.

Environmental Degradation: The change in environmental conditions to a lower condition, quality or level.

Fair Trade: A trading method committed to social justice in which employees and farmers are treated and paid fairly, sustainable environmental practices are followed and long-term trade relationships are fostered.

Food Security: A state where all people, at all times, have enough food to eat and the food meets their overall nutritional requirements.

Gender: Culturally defined roles and responsibilities for females and males that are learned, may change over time, and vary among societies.

Global Citizenship: Awareness of the world as a global community and recognizing the rights and responsibilities of citizens to take action with a global consciousness.

Globalization: The idea, popularized in the 1960s, that the entire world and its inhabitants are becoming one large community with interconnected needs and services.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year.

Human Development Index: An annual ranking of countries in which the health, education, and wealth of each nation's citizens is examined. Life expectancy, educational achievement, and standard of living are measured.

International Development: Efforts to assist nations, and their citizens and institutions, to develop a higher quality of living. This is often done through social or economic programs.

Microfinance - Small loans that help poor people who wish to start or expand their small businesses but, lack the assets for banks to lend to them; sometimes also called micro-credit.

Millennium Development Goals: The eight goals all 191 United Nations member states have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015.

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): An organization that is not part of the local, state or federal government.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): An agreement implemented in 1994 committing Canada, the US and Mexico to the elimination of all tariffs, quotas and other trade barriers between them before 2009.

Poverty: The state of being without, often associated with need, hardship and lack of resources across a wide range of circumstances.

Subsistence Agriculture: A type of farming in which livestock is raised and crops are cultivated for local food and energy requirements rather than for sale.

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Sustainable Livelihood: The capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living that can be maintained into the future, recover from shocks and does not compromise natural resources.

United Nations: An international organization formed in 1945 to promote peace and economic development.