

Monday, March 21, 2011

# PRESS RELEASE

**Freezing aid tomorrow will undermine Canada's investment in saving lives**

*No new aid ties Canada's hands in responding effectively to global needs*

When a major player on the global stage freezes funding for aid, the lives of children and families living in poverty hang in the balance. World Vision is urging the Canadian government to reconsider the decision to freeze aid in tomorrow's budget. Children around the world—whether they are benefiting from aid dollars spent on health or living through a natural disaster—shouldn't be at the mercy of our bean counters trying to trim budgets.

After five years of steady and modest increases to aid spending, Canada has shown global leadership in responding to poverty. The decision to freeze aid in tomorrow's budget doesn't jive with this leadership role or the state of the world today. Our strong work on development projects must be coupled with the ability to be nimble and respond when humanitarian emergencies push people further into poverty. Successful development work relies on both the long-term work and the quick responses to disasters. Budget trimming with only hamper Canada's ability to do both effectively.

The UK's budget recently reaffirmed that country's commitment to increasing aid and effective long-term development work. Tomorrow, Canada should do likewise.

## Background

- Canada stepped up as a global leader in responding to poverty issues by increasing overseas aid in previous budgets, providing funding for food security, child and maternal health and the Global Fund.
- The previous steady increases in aid budgets have allowed Canada to respond to emergencies and match the donations of individual Canadians.

## How do Canadians feel about supporting development?

- More than 600,000 Canadians support long-term development work through World Vision, including supporting 500,000 children who are sponsored by Canadians.
- Canadians have also stepped up in emergencies—for example, when Haiti was hit by an earthquake last year, individual Canadians donated \$220 million.
- Leading up to the Canadian G8 an Ipsos Reid poll of Canadians showed that a majority (85%) want Canada to be known as a global leader in finding solutions to poverty and protecting the world's children.

*"You can't sugar coat it—aid dollars help save lives. Canada's aid funding for things like child and maternal health and our response to disasters have literally saved lives. But by cutting off aid increases, we are deciding the fate of the victims of the next natural disaster and maybe even the families who are already struggling because of record high food prices. Canada must keep the ability to sustain long-term development and help when lives are at stake in unpredictable emergencies. That's just good development work."*

—Caroline Riseboro,  
Vice President of Public  
Affairs, World Vision  
Canada

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World Vision is a leading Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.