



Humanitarian Assistance

Helping those in need

Decades of war have forced Afghans into neighbouring countries, where they have lived as refugees. Since 2002 more than five million Afghans have returned to their homeland; however, not all of them have been able to go back to their home villages. Continuous war and landmines have displaced thousands of Afghans inside the country, giving them the status of internally displaced people. The need for food aid and health services in Afghanistan has increased significantly as a result.

What Canada is doing

Canada supports the World Food Programme to distribute food to those who need it the most. Families are therefore better able to have access to food and to ensure their children get the nutrients they need.

Polio is still endemic in Afghanistan. Canada's support helps the World Health Organization and UNICEF in their efforts to eliminate polio through nationwide vaccination campaigns that target approximately seven million children throughout Afghanistan.*

Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. Canada is working closely with United Nations Mine Action Service and the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan to help clear the country of its mines. Since 2006, more than 300 km² of land have been cleared of mines, returning the land to communities for farming and other uses.

Since 2002 more than five million Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland, but many are still displaced.

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* The eradication of polio is one of Canada's three signature projects; the other two projects focus on education and the repair of the Dahla Dam and its irrigation system.

