

Canada and MDG 8:

A QUIZ

MDG 8

Develop a global partnership for development

Canada's targets under MDG 8 include:

- Giving more and better aid
- Cancelling the debt
- Ensuring fairer trade rules
- Giving access to affordable, essential drugs

PART I

More and Better Aid

Question 1

Who first proposed that wealthy donor nations like Canada commit an amount equal to 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) each year in aid to developing countries?

- a. Pierre Trudeau
- b. Nelson Mandela
- c. Lester B. Pearson
- d. Kofi Annan

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Canada's Prime Minister from 1963 to 1969, Pearson headed up a World Bank commission on development after he left office.

The Pearson Commission's 1969 report concluded that there was a great need to increase aid to developing countries and proposed that 0.7% of GNI be used as a benchmark for donor countries.

Question 2

Why is the aid target set at 0,7% of GNI?

- a. to meet the MDGs
- b. To invest in crucial program and research areas not directly linked to the MDGs
- c. To ensure human dignity by securing basic rights
- d. All of the above

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Meeting the MDGs by 2015 would cost around \$75 to \$150 US a year for every person that lives in a developing country.

This would also promote vital human rights like access to clean water, food, and shelter.

If all donor countries reached the 0,7% target, they would generate enough funding to meet the MDGs –everywhere. They would also be able to increase investments in other areas that can boost the fight against poverty like protecting global fisheries and managing natural and human-made crises.

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In addition to the 5 donor countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) who have already reached the 0.7% target, 11 others have made firm commitments to reach it by 2015.

Canada is 1 of only 6 OECD donor countries who has not met the 0.7% target or set a timetable to do so by 2015.

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In 2005, all parties in the House of Commons voted in favour of a resolution calling on the government to honour Canada's commitment to the MDGs.

The resolution affirmed that to meet this commitment, Canada's aid budget would have to increase by 12% to 15% each year until 2015.

Question 5

Canada requires countries that receive Canadian aid to spend a percentage on Canadian goods and services. This is referred to as “tying” aid. In September 2005, the government introduced a new policy that “untied” a large percentage of one type of aid. Which type was it?

- a. fuel
- b. communications technologies
- c. food
- d. building materials

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The new policy reduced the percentage of tied food aid from 90% to 50%.

The percentage of aid that is tied is one of several factors that effect the quality of aid as recipient countries cannot hire the services offered by their own people nor buy goods produced domestically.

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In 2004, Canada's first National Security Policy proposed a new role for aid in countering terrorism.

“Better aid” means that aid should be dedicated to fighting poverty.

A faint, light-colored silhouette of a person standing and holding a tablet or document, positioned in the background of the slide.

PART 2

Debt Cancellation

Question 7

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Of the 38 HIPCs around the world, 31 are Sub-Saharan African nations. Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal are also considered Heavily Indebted Poor Countries.

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For Heavily Indebted Poor Countries such as Cameroon and Uganda, debt cancellation has allowed governments to invest more in MDG-related social programs such as health care and education.

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Most of the bilateral debts owed to Canada by the most indebted poor countries are owed to Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Canadian Wheat Board.

The EDC has loan loss reserves, which means that these debts could be cancelled with minimal to zero impact on Canada's budget.

A faint, light-colored silhouette of a person standing, positioned in the background behind the text.

PART 3

Fairer Trade Rules

Question 10

Low income developing countries account for more than 40% of the world's population. What is their share of world trade?

- a. 11%
- b. 8%
- c. 5%
- d. 3%

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If Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and Latin America could each increase their share of world trade by just 1%, potentially 128 million people could be lifted out of poverty.

If Africa as a whole increased its share of the world's export trade by only 1%, it could receive annual revenues equivalent to 5 times the amount they receive each year in aid and debt relief combined.

Question 11

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Exporters of primary commodities have seen their shares of world trade shrink, with sub-Saharan Africa particularly effected by low prices.

Deteriorating terms of trade since the late 1970s have cost Sub-Saharan Africa the equivalent of 50 cents for every \$1 that it receives in aid.

Question 12

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which of the following countries has the most restrictive international trade rules?

- a. Peru
- b. Bolivia
- c. Haiti
- d. Canada

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One study found that trade restrictions imposed on low-income developing countries by Canada costs them 1.6 billion a year, **5 times the annual amount they received from Canada in aid.**

PART 4

Access to Affordable, Essential Drugs

Question 13

The World Health Organization estimates that about 1.3 million HIV/AIDS patients had access to HIV/AIDS antiretroviral drugs in 2005, how many millions of people did not?

- a. 2.1 million
- b. 4.1 million
- c. 3.3 million
- d. 6.5 million

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The epicentre of extreme poverty and the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the world today is Sub-Saharan Africa.

Epidemic diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, which often occur together in poor developing countries, are both causes and consequences of extreme poverty.

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Question 14

In 2004, Canada became the first country in the world to pass legislation (Bill C-9) allowing developing countries to request access to generic drugs made in Canada in order to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. To date, only one country has received drugs under this new Access to Medicines Regime. Which country is it?

- a. Haiti
- b. Bangladesh
- c. Rwanda
- d. South Africa

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Critics of the new regime argue that it is too restrictive and that it needs to be amended to **ensure that drugs are actually delivered** to poor countries devastated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Question 15

Which country produces most of the generic drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS patients in poor developing countries?

- a. China
- b. Canada
- c. India
- d. France

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Most of the antiretroviral HIV/AIDS drugs produced by India are first-generation medications.

Canada could take a lead role in developing next-generation generic antiretrovirals for patient in poor countries once first-generation drugs become ineffective due to mutation, which is likely given the history of the virus.