

COMMUNIQUÉ
For immediate release

**The Canadian Minister of International Development and La Francophonie
announces two major mandates in Africa and Latin America awarded to DID**

Lévis, June 13, 2014 – Today, the Canadian Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, the Honourable Christian Paradis, was at the Desjardins Group head office in Lévis to announce the awarding of two major mandates to Développement international Desjardins (DID) aimed at increasing food security and stimulating economic development in several countries of Africa and Latin America. He was accompanied by the Member of Parliament for Lévis-Bellechasse and Les Etchemins and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Honourable Steven Blaney.

The first mandate announced focuses on the setting up by DID of four new entrepreneur financial centres (EFC) in Africa and Latin America. The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) will provide funding of 18.25 million dollars to finance this initiative. This financial assistance will also enable DID to continue strengthening and expanding the four EFCs it is already operating in Zambia, Panama, Tanzania and Uganda. [Read more](#)

The second mandate announced today will have a budget allocation of 15 million dollars from DFATD and is aimed at development of the agricultural finance sector in Colombia. It is specifically aimed at strengthening agricultural finance in the South American country, introducing mechanisms for crop insurance and helping advance farmer financial literacy. DID will carry out the mandate in collaboration with Financière agricole du Québec – Développement international (FADQDI). [Read more](#)

“We would like to thank DFATD for the trust it has once again shown in DID for carrying out such major projects. We are very proud to have the opportunity to put our expertise at the service of food security, private sector development and job creation in the targeted countries”, said Anne Gaboury, President and Chief Executive Officer of DID for the announcement.



About DID

For more than 40 years, Développement international Desjardins (DID) has been sharing the expertise and experience of Desjardins Group, the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and fifth largest in the world, with the goal of providing disadvantaged communities around the world with access to secure, diversified financial services that fit their needs. A pioneer in the deployment and development of microfinance around the world, DID is today a leading contributor to the sector. www.did.qc.ca

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