

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD



1 WATER FOR LIFE 53:00 minutes

The need for water, a vital resource, is exploding as a consequence of the population growth and increased agricultural demands. This is especially true in developing countries where access to drinking water is decreasing. Poor management, galloping urbanisation, ill-advised policies and pollution worsen a situation that is already detrimental to public health. Whether it is in Egypt, China, India, Bolivia or Senegal, the problems are about the same. The imbalance continues to deepen with increasing needs for water in the large urban centers, which are developing at a staggering rate, to the detriment of requirements for water for agriculture and for its farmers.

Researchers are examining different projects: water resources development in India, urban agriculture in Senegal, the rejection of the privatisation of water in Bolivia. We come to understand in each case that the development of water resources is inseparable from human rights.



2 THE VOICE OF WOMEN 53:00 minutes

In developing nations, women, who make up more than half of the world population, play an essential economic role through their work, especially in water collection. Yet the patriarchal societies traditionally exclude them from all political and economic power.

In this episode, it is through the efforts of researchers and scientists in Senegal, Morocco and Palestine that we see how training, research and experience help women manage and maximize natural resources to improve their living conditions. Following a cruel civil war in Guatemala, drop-in centers make it possible for women to bear witness to the physical and moral violence which they have suffered: they can thus claim their rights as citizens and reclaim their dignity.



3 THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSIONS 53:00 minutes

The problems of poverty and exclusion are a reflection of inequalities and so we often speak about social justice which cannot exist without satisfying the basic needs of individuals. What social policies are in place to fight these inequalities? Is there a real political will to combat the injustices? In this episode, we learn of IDRC'S contribution to the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and its support of intellectuals and researchers who live under military dictatorships in South America. We also examine the research done by Palestinian sociologists in the West Bank and Gaza's occupied zones and the lot reserved for its young people, who make up the majority of the population. Lastly, we learn that urban development in Rio de Janeiro leaves thousands of people in miserable conditions.



4 HEALTH FOR LIFE 53:20 minutes

Despite the progress toward the elimination and control of malaria, thanks to prevention policies and the availability of pharmaceutical drugs all over the world, this episode shows that we are far from its eradication in developing nations. This is the case in Senegal where the population's poverty level is such that it encourages the spread of this disease. In other countries, such as Vietnam and Peru, the efforts made at the research level have contributed to a net improvement of the health of local populations.

Research supported by the IDRC has permitted the development and implementation of programs for the control and prevention of malaria as well as educational campaigns: the behavioural modifications at all levels have permitted a net decrease of this disease and also a decrease in the number of deaths.



5 BETWEEN CITIZENS :(;) 52:05 minutes

The sharing of information and communication techniques has contributed to sustainable development. Thanks to the cellular technology, Senegalese farmers can access information about agricultural prices. As a result, they can control market prices and use competitive pricing to their advantage. In India, within the framework of the knowledge revolution, the work of local researchers has helped to create rural knowledge centers. The use of electronic messaging has improved the methods of work and living conditions in the often poor and isolated rural populations. Thanks to Canadian support, a learning-software about fishing techniques and adapted to the needs of the populations, was developed in Vietnam and is used to provide students and rural populations with knowledge. In Guatemala, an interactive exhibit provides citizens with a view of different cultures in the country, an effective means to combat discrimination and racism. As such, Canadian support helps with reconciliation between different communities.



6 NEW PARADIGM 54:00 minutes

Experts, researchers in China, Brazil and India, share with us their personal reflections about the future developments of emerging countries. Their economic worth could soon surpass those of the richest countries and their rapid growth rates are upsetting the social, political and economic power structure. Canada provides support to research projects involving innovative national systems in these countries.

Researchers provide possible courses of action toward sustainable development: innovation, environmental protection measures, the role of the State in relation to private businesses, for a more equitable distribution of wealth and the fight against poverty and unemployment . . . What might Canada's role be in the new world order?

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