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Africa: Communities in Action Resource Kit  
Includes 27:00 minute DVD and 359 page Instructional Guide on CD  
ISBN 1-897064-37-3

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AFRICA: Communities in Action



School District #83  
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AFRICA: Communities in Action



**The Africa: Communities in Action Resource Kit** is comprised of two resources: a 350 page instructional guide on CD and a DVD of the award-winning Knowledge Network documentary The Gambia: Communities in Action. The DVD is designed as a case study, providing students and teachers with a compelling, positive look at the West African Rural Development (WARD) program and trained community development workers putting their skills in action in rural Gambia, one of the poorest countries in the world. Many development issues introduced here (gender, cultural and religious challenges, poverty, rural-urban divisions) are further explored in the Guide.

The Instructional Guide contains more than 40 interactive, classroom-tested activities in critical development areas with one overarching theme: We all share the same planet with its limited resources and

interconnected environment. We can no longer afford a “them and us” attitude. What affects Africa affects us.

By seeing the human face of Africa in this positive and inspiring documentary, and then exploring global issues further through well-designed, experiential activities, Canadian students will gain a greater appreciation for the global community we are all a part of and become more engaged in solving the human and environmental problems we collectively face. As narrator Mary Bissell concludes in the documentary, “I had come expecting to find a poor nation, but instead I have discovered one that is rich in potential and overflowing with community spirit. Maybe Canadians have something to learn from The Gambia.”

This material was produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as part of their Global Classroom Initiative Program.

“I don’t quite know how the authors and film-makers pulled it off. I only know that it’s an astonishing achievement.”  
*Stephen Lewis*

“Any student who successfully completes this ambitious new course material will be more than ready to become Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.”  
*Gerald Caplan*

AFRICA

A **New** and **Essential**  
Resource for Teaching  
Global Education

Instructional Guide and  
Film Documentary





# AFRICA

Besides the hands-on student activities, the Instructional Guide includes key background readings, information on CIDA and Canadian aid priorities, maps, inquiry-based instructional strategies, evaluation suggestions, and annotated listings of supplementary resources. The activities and background reading address a number of key issues introduced in the documentary: gender and development, child health and infant mortality, general health issues and HIV/AIDS, aid effectiveness, community development and mobilization, causes and effects of poverty, urban drift, globalization, concepts and roots of development and underdevelopment, the role of industrialized countries in helping to alleviate world poverty, fair trade and other trade issues, population, the role of education in development, the importance of girl child education, and development and the environment.

The Instructional Guide was put together by African development specialists with more than 50 years of combined field experience and real educators working with high school and adult students. Part of the inspiration for the project was the recognition that there is very little current, engaging material, print or AV, devoted to the emerging curriculum areas of global education international development. This Instructional Guide and film documentary package will help fill that gap.

The Instructional Guide is provided on a CD in MS Word and PDF format. These specific issues and activities are organized into seven units.

1. Development

2. Poverty

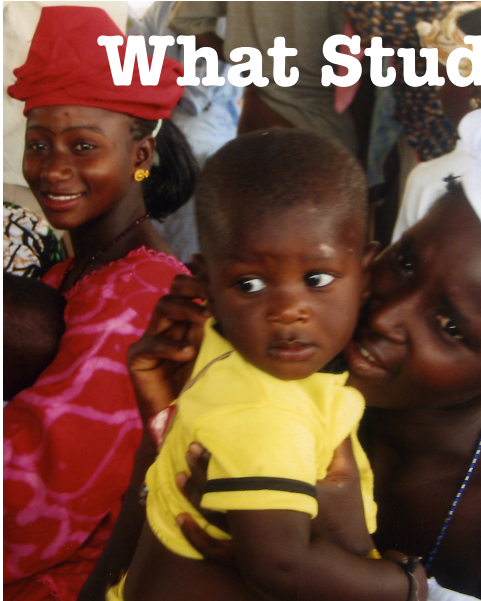
3. Economics

4. Culture
5. Human Development

6. Gender and Development

7. Aid and Development Assistance

**Authors:** Don Sawyer, Graham Gomme, Alpha Jallow, Wayne Fowler.  
Instructional Guide © 2008, SD# 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap); The Gambia: Communities in Action © Knowledge Network, 2005.



## What Students Say:

“Presented the human side of Africa. Poor communities rich in other areas.”

“I liked seeing how Africans live and what a normal life is to them. Our view of normal is so different from their views.”

“My impression that all countries in Africa are poor and always will be was challenged by the documentary.”

“I heard a lot of things about bad stuff in Africa. This documentary showed the good side.”

“The Canadians were not just telling the people what they need. They were helping them get to the point where they can function without the help of other countries.”

“I liked how the main speakers were African people and the results were visible already.”

## Issues & Activities

AFRICA: Communities in Action RESOURCE KIT

CD Instructional Guide PDF and MS Word Format Produced with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

DVD The Gambia: Communities in Action A Case Study Produced with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

two great resources

“This teacher’s handbook and film documentary constitute a startling amalgam of intelligence, insight, creativity and what can only be called unabashed enthusiasm. I was, at first, intimidated by the sheer length of the undertaking. But to absorb the material is to be immersed in every facet of African life, presented with mesmerizing clarity, the buoyant and the painful in equal measure. History, poverty, development, gender, culture... they’re all addressed so thoughtfully, with such a range of examples, that every teacher, every student will be drawn to the project of learning. It’s hard to heap sufficient praise upon this Guide. I don’t quite know how the authors and film-makers pulled it off. I only know that it’s an astonishing achievement.”

**Stephen Lewis**  
Professor in Global Health  
Faculty of Social Sciences, McMaster University  
Former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa

## one great package

“I’m honoured to have a small place in this remarkable project. Any student who successfully completes this ambitious new course material will be more than ready to become Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In fact, I would go further. No member of a Canadian government should be allowed to deal with international issues unless they have seen this DVD and gone through these materials.

What makes this material so impressive and distinctive is its comprehensiveness and its hard-headedness. It offers a tough-minded, complex, realistic view of development issues for both poor and rich countries and makes abundantly clear the great power of rich countries to influence Africa for better or worse. When they have viewed this documentary and completed these activities, students will know how to use that influence for better.”

**Gerald Caplan**  
Professor in Education  
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)  
Broadcaster, journalist, teacher, human rights activist and former consultant on Africa for the UN, WHO, African Union and Economic Commission for Africa