Canadian Development Cooperation

Development policies

The purpose of Canada’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) is to support sustainable development in developing countries, in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world. The measure of its success lies in its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and broader international policy objectives. In 2009, Canadian ODA reached 0.3% of GNI.

Canada provides bilateral assistance to a limited number of countries, while the geographic scope of its multilateral aid is more dispersed globally. Important multilateral partner organizations include, for example, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme and La Francophonie. Projects are carried out in close partnership with Canadian organizations.

Priority countries

Canada supports programmes and activities in key countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Most of the funding will be devoted to low-income countries in Africa. Programming will be firmly rooted in individual countries, but support for regional initiatives will grow as they assume greater importance.

Within the context of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, the Canadian government declared it would reduce the number of priority countries to 20 in 2009. These countries will receive 80% of total bilateral assistance. Of the UNECE member States only Ukraine has been selected as a priority country.

Still, Canada has made significant contributions to programmes in the Balkan countries, South Caucasus and some other countries in Eastern Europe. The following UNECE member States still receive Canadian ODA: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uzbekistan.

Priority areas

The Canadian government has established three priority themes for its development assistance activities:

1. Increasing food security
2. Securing the future of children and youth
3. Stimulating sustainable economic growth

In addition to these priority themes, Canada focuses on three other cross-cutting themes in all of its programmes and policies: environmental sustainability, gender and good governance.

In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia specifically, Canada has supported activities aimed at improving governance structures and institutional capacity, strengthening civil society, promoting peace and security, and enhancing respect for human rights.
and democracy. In the Balkan countries the focus is on social and economic development in support of the region’s transition.

**Coordination and implementation**

Since 1968, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is the implementing institution for most of Canada’s ODA programme. Policy directions remain with the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), but programme delivery has been transferred to CIDA. Since 1995, CIDA has also been allocated the responsibility for the programmes in the former Soviet Union countries and South and Central Europe.

For more information about DFAIT, please see [www.international.gc.ca](http://www.international.gc.ca)

For information about CIDA, please visit [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/home](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/home)