Leaving no one behind: Canada’s approach and priorities

Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy for development co-operation makes an explicit commitment to leaving no one behind which advocates for poverty eradication and a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world.

Canada addresses leaving no one behind through a feminist approach which aims at protecting and promoting human rights for all, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, and at increasing the participation of these groups in decision making. Through this human rights-based and inclusive approach and its commitment to achieving SDG 5 for gender equality and empowering women and girls, Canada believes it will also drive progress towards the other Sustainable Development Goals given their interdependence. Canada applies its commitment to leaving no one behind in other policies that have a potential impact on developing countries, e.g. trade, climate and migration policies.

Canada is mainstreaming leaving no one behind in its development programming and project cycle. It conducts broad country contextual analysis for programme and project planning and selection. It uses specific analytical tools such as the Multidimensional Poverty Index as a data and evidence base for identifying and targeting needs.

Financial flows from Canada to developing countries

Figure 17.1. **Net resource flows to developing countries, 2006-16, Canada**

![Net resource flows to developing countries, 2006-16, Canada](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933791949)

Figure 17.2. **Net ODA: Trends in volume and as a share of GNI, 2006-17, Canada**

![Net ODA: Trends in volume and as a share of GNI, 2006-17, Canada](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933791968)

Canada’s performance against commitments for effective development co-operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Alignment and ownership by partner country (%)</th>
<th>Predictability (%)</th>
<th>Transparency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of country-led results frameworks</td>
<td>Funding recorded in countries’ national budgets</td>
<td>Funding through countries’ systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>-</td>
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Note: Please refer to Annex B for details on the indicators. Data on untied ODA, retrospective statistics and publishing to the IATI have been updated according to the latest information available.
Canada’s official development assistance

In 2017, Canada provided USD 4.3 billion in net ODA (preliminary data). This represented 0.26% of gross national income (GNI) and an increase of 4.1% in real terms from 2016 due to an increase in its humanitarian assistance, in-donor refugee costs and climate financing. In 2017, in-donor refugee costs were USD 467 million and represented 10.9% of Canada’s total net official development assistance (ODA), compared to 9.9% in 2016. Canada’s share of untied ODA (excluding administrative costs and in-donor refugee costs) was 95.6% in 2016 (down from 98.5% in 2015), which is above the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average of 81.2%. The grant element of total ODA was 97.8% in 2016.

In 2016, 68% of bilateral ODA was provided bilaterally. In 2016, Canada allocated 32% of total ODA as core contributions to multilateral organisations. In addition, it channelled 30.5% of its bilateral ODA for specific projects implemented by multilateral organisations (multi-bi/non-core).

In 2016, 29.3% of bilateral ODA was programmed with partner countries. Canada’s share of country programmable aid was lower than the DAC country average (46.8%) in 2016 and project-type interventions accounted for 44% of this aid. Twenty-six per cent of Canada’s bilateral ODA was categorised as “other and unallocated”.

Figure 17.3. ODA composition in 2010-16 and distribution of multilateral ODA in 2016, Canada

In 2016, USD 780.2 million of bilateral ODA was channelled to and through civil society organisations (CSOs). Aid channelled to and through CSOs increased as a share of bilateral ODA, from 24.9% in 2015 to 28.9% in 2016.

Figure 17.5. Gross bilateral ODA disbursements to and through CSOs by type of CSO, 2010-16, Canada
In 2016, bilateral ODA primarily focused on sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. USD 913.4 million of bilateral ODA was allocated to sub-Saharan Africa, and USD 283.1 million to the Middle East.

Figure 17.6. Share of bilateral ODA by region, 2016, gross disbursements, Canada

Note: Twenty per cent of bilateral ODA allocated was unspecified by region in 2016. This share is not represented on the map.

In 2016, 25.3% of bilateral ODA went to Canada’s top 10 recipients. Canada’s support to fragile contexts reached USD 1.1 billion in 2016 (41% of gross bilateral ODA). Support to fragile contexts was distributed mainly between contributions to pooled funds (49%) and project-type interventions (41%).

Figure 17.7. Bilateral ODA to top recipients, 2016, gross disbursements, Canada

In 2016, 30.7% of gross bilateral ODA disbursements were allocated to the LDCs, amounting to USD 830.3 million. The share has decreased from 33.1% in 2015 but remains higher than the 2016 DAC average of 21.9%. The LDCs received the highest share of bilateral ODA in 2016, noting that 42% was unallocated by income group.

At 0.09% of GNI in 2016, total ODA to the LDCs was lower than the UN target of 0.15% of GNI.

Figure 17.8. Bilateral ODA by income group, 2010-16, gross disbursements, Canada
In 2016, 37.5% of bilateral ODA commitments were allocated to social infrastructure and services, amounting to USD 1.5 billion. There was a strong focus on support to health (USD 652.2 million) and government and civil society (USD 381.9 million). Humanitarian aid amounted to USD 1 billion. In 2016, Canada committed USD 6.4 million (0.2% of bilateral allocable aid) to the mobilisation of domestic resources in developing countries. It also committed USD 531.1 million (15.8% of bilateral allocable aid) to promote aid for trade and to improve developing countries’ trade performance and integration into the world economy.

USD 2.3 billion of bilateral ODA commitments supported gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in 2016. In 2016, 68.9% of Canada’s bilateral allocable aid had gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as either a principal or significant objective (down from 71.7% in 2015), compared with the DAC country average of 36.5%. Canada has a strong focus on gender in all sectors.

USD 1.2 billion of bilateral ODA commitments supported the environment in 2016. In 2016, 36.7% of Canadian bilateral allocable aid supported the environment and 18.7% (USD 628.5 million) focused particularly on climate change (up from 10.6% in 2015), compared with the respective DAC country averages of 33% and 25.7%.