



August 27, 2019

FACT SHEET Canadian Global Aid

How is Canada's performance in global aid?

Despite perceptions of Canadian leadership in international cooperation, Canada's international development assistance is well below the country's historical performance.

Canada is currently seeking a UN Security Council seat in 2021. Official Development Assistance (ODA) has historically played an important role in deciding elections to the Council. However, compared to its two competitors for a Security Council seat, Norway and Ireland, Canada is well behind in reaching the globally agreed target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI).

There are fourteen (14) OECD countries outperforming Canada's commitments to ODA – and these countries are governed by governments situated throughout the political spectrum. The top five countries are: Sweden, Luxemburg, Norway, Denmark, United Kingdom. [Link](#).

How did previous Canadian governments perform in Official Development Assistance?

Historically, Canada's peak ODA performances came under Conservative Prime Ministers Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark (both at 0.47% of GNI), with Liberal Pierre Trudeau close behind (0.44% of GNI).

The current government's record continues a two-decade downward trend across both Liberal and Conservative administrations.

Didn't the government commit to more ODA already?

Budget 2018 included \$2 billion in new investments to keep ODA consistent – unchanged – as a proportion of the economy over the next five years. With virtually no additional investments in Budget 2019, Canada's ODA will not even keep pace with inflation.

Is anyone else saying that Canada should do more?

- In a major 2018 review of Canada's development and humanitarian approach, the OECD called on Canada to increase its foreign aid flows in line with its renewed engagements. [Link](#)
- On August 24, 2019, Robert Greenhill, Executive Chairman of [Global Canada](#), was a guest on [CBC Radio's The House](#) to comment on Canada's international development funding.

What is the Feminist International Assistance Policy?

The government has set ambitious targets through its [Feminist International Assistance Policy](#) to focus Canada's international assistance on supporting gender equality as an essential element of sustainable development. This internationally acclaimed policy, developed through an extensive consultation process with stakeholders in Canada and globally, has tremendous potential to deliver lasting positive change for people around the world. However, the federal government has yet to establish the funding framework – much less the additional resources – required to achieve the ambitious impacts it seeks.

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How is fair share measured when it comes to development cooperation?

Economies of different sizes have different capacities to contribute to global peace and prosperity. That's why the best way of measuring fair share in development cooperation is by looking at Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a proportion of the total economy, typically measured in Gross National Income (GNI).

What is the 0.7% target?

Fifty years ago, an international commission led by former Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson proposed a target of 0.7% of each donor's economy to be dedicated to international assistance. This target was endorsed by the United Nations in a resolution in 1970. The target was reaffirmed by the United Nations in 2015 when the countries of the world – including Canada – unanimously ratified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals as the global framework for ensuring environmental, social, and economic sustainability and human development.

What does the international development and humanitarian sector represent in the Canadian economy?

Over 2,000 Canadian organizations work in international development and humanitarian response. They employ 14,000 people and mobilize over \$5 billion a year to support inclusive human progress across the globe.

What are the principal Canadian Government aid announcements made since June 2019?

- June 2, 2019 - Canada and partners announce new legacy investments to support women's rights and gender equality at home and abroad. [Link](#)
- June 4, 2019 - Government of Canada makes historic investment to promote the health and rights of women and girls around the world. [Link](#)
- August 22, 2019 - Canada announces increased commitment to Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. [Link](#)