RESPONDING QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISES
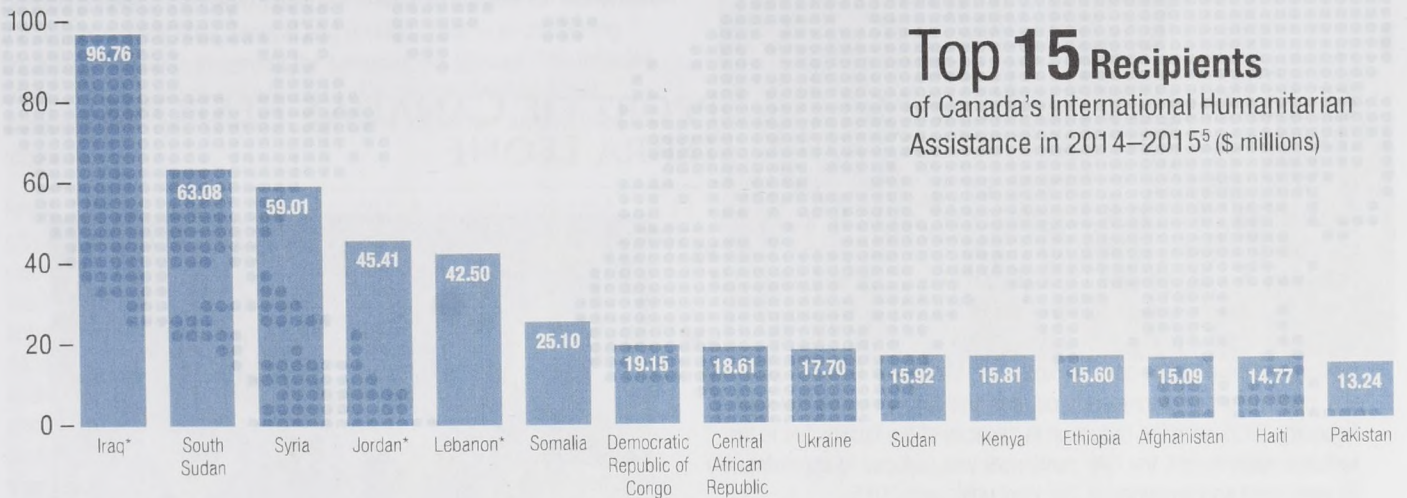
The past 10 years have seen a growing need for humanitarian assistance due to the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and the civilian impact of ongoing conflicts around the world. The period 2014–2015 was no exception. Global humanitarian needs reached even higher levels. This was mainly due to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa as well as the intensification of conflict in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and the Central African Republic that led to global levels of displacement not seen since the Second World War.

In 2014–2015, Canada provided humanitarian assistance in response to complex emergencies (including conflict, food insecurity and non-recurrent health epidemics) in 52 countries and responded to 23 natural disasters.

Canada worked through partners, such as Canadian civil society organizations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which have the mandate and capacity to respond to priority needs and are able to reach those who need help the most. With the support of Canada and other donors, the International Committee of the Red Cross assisted 7.7 million internally displaced persons in 2014.

Canada also supported humanitarian agencies of the United Nations, as these organizations can have a significant global reach. For example, with the support of Canada and other donors, the World Food Programme provided emergency food assistance to 80 million people, while the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees assisted over 43 million displaced people and refugees throughout the world.

Top 15 Recipients of Canada's International Humanitarian Assistance in 2014–2015[5] ($ millions)

Recipient	$ millions
Iraq*	96.76
South Sudan	63.08
Syria	59.01
Jordan*	45.41
Lebanon*	42.50
Somalia	25.10
Democratic Republic of Congo	19.15
Central African Republic	18.61
Ukraine	17.70
Sudan	15.92
Kenya	15.81
Ethiopia	15.60
Afghanistan	15.09
Haiti	14.77
Pakistan	13.24

* Assistance was provided as part of Canada's response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

5. This table represents ODAAA-compliant bilateral disbursements for humanitarian assistance. Figures are preliminary. Funding from all provinces are excluded from the grand total. Final amounts will be published on DFATD's website by the end of March 2016 in the *Statistical Report on International Assistance*.