

9. Canadian Official Development Assistance

No topic has had as much attention over the last few years than Canada's aid programme, and the way that we do foreign assistance. In poll after poll, Canadians have shown support for continuing Canada's aid programme.²⁸ Yet, there has been so much public and bureaucratic criticism of CIDA, and of the

Table 1

Top ten recipients of Canadian bilateral official development assistance (\$million) selected years

	1975-76	1980-81	1985-86	1989-90	1993-94
India	98.90	Bangladesh 74.40	Bangladesh 100.10	Bangladesh 125.30	China 60.30
Pakistan	63.90	Pakistan 38.10	Indonesia 74.90	Indonesia 52.40	Bangladesh 43.10
Indonesia	36.70	Sri Lanka 37.80	Pakistan 66.70	SADCC 39.10	India 34.90
Bangladesh	29.50	India 29.50	India 45.50	Pakistan 36.50	Indonesia 34.50
Tanzania	24.40	Tanzania 29.20	Jamaica 28.80	China 35.20	Phillipines 34.10
Ghana	17.60	Egypt 22.10	Sri Lanka 26.50	Jamaica 33.30	SADCC 32.40
Niger	17.50	Cameroon 20.20	Niger 26.30	Cameroon 32.90	Ghana 26.50
Tunisia	16.40	Sahel 19.60	Tanzania 24.30	Ghana 32.60	Mali 23.80
EAC	15.70	Turkey 18.90	Kenya 22.40	Tanzania 30.60	Senegal 19.80
Malawi	14.90	Indonesia 17.90	Senegal 20.60	Morocco 28.40	Egypt 16.20
Total top ten	335.50	307.70	436.20	446.30	325.90
Total bilateral	521.70	581.50	816.20	1026.30	766.90
% top ten	64.30	52.90	53.40	43.50	42.50

Source: Morrison, op. cit., CIDA, Various Annual Reports

criteria and delivery mechanisms for dispensing aid, that this public goodwill is often forgotten.

Canada's official development assistance to developing countries has been substantial over the last thirty years (see Table 1 for bilateral government-to-government assistance), peaking at over \$2.1 billion in fiscal year 1991/92 on a

²⁸ The Foreign Affairs survey on foreign policy activity (November 1995) showed 89 per cent of respondents expressed support for the continuance of a foreign aid programme. In terms of public perception of Canada's international reputation, foreign aid ranks second behind peacekeeping as Canada's most important contribution to the world.