

This year, following the creation of the new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), the report has been restructured to provide a more integrated, whole-of-government approach to ODA, and is organized according to Canada's international assistance priorities. As in previous years, the report continues to clearly identify ODA disbursements by federal departments and agencies. In addition, a detailed summary of each organization's activities has been included in an appendix to ensure continuity between last year's edition and the 2013–2014 report.

In 2013–2014, Canada disbursed a total of \$4.56 billion in ODA. The Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's Official Development Assistance provides highlights of the results generated by that expenditure. A second report, the Statistical Report on International Assistance, presents a detailed financial and statistical report of the Government of Canada's international assistance expenditures and will be published on the DFATD website in March 2015.

Upholding the principles of Canada's Aid Effectiveness Agenda, the government is committed to increasing the transparency and accountability of its international assistance.

In addition to this report, the government regularly communicates its international assistance initiatives and results through departmental Reports on Plans and Priorities and Departmental Performance Reports available on each organization's respective website. In addition, an online Project Browser is accessible through the DFATD website. Moreover, Canada reports through a variety of additional mechanisms and agreements, including the Open Data website, the Open Government Partnership and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

In 2013, Canada improved its rank in aid transparency to 8th among donor countries and organizations, up from 32nd in 2012. The ranking is based on information made available on the Government of Canada's websites and Canada's quarterly publication of machine-readable data files compatible with the IATI. The IATI aims to make information about aid spending by donor countries, developing-country governments and non-governmental organizations easier to find, use and compare. Stakeholders who have signed on to IATI commit to publishing more timely, comprehensive, and forward-looking information on international development assistance, allowing those involved in international development assistance to track how aid is being used and what it is achieving.

## OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The *Official Development Assistance Accountability Act* (ODAAA) came into force in 2008. Its purpose is to ensure that all Canadian ODA is focused on poverty reduction and is consistent with aid effectiveness principles and Canadian values. The Act applies to all federal departments and agencies providing ODA, and it requires the Government of Canada to report annually to Parliament on its development assistance activities.

In the context of the Act, ODA is defined as international assistance that is administered with the principal objective of promoting the economic development and welfare of developing countries, or that is provided for the purpose of alleviating the effects of a natural or artificial disaster, or other emergency, occurring outside Canada.

The Act establishes three conditions that must be satisfied for international assistance to be considered ODA. Assistance must:

- contribute to poverty reduction;
- take into account the perspectives of the poor; and
- be consistent with international human rights standards.

The Act requires that a report containing the total amount spent on ODA and a summary of activities eligible under the Act be tabled in Parliament annually in the fall by the Minister of International Development on behalf of the government.

The terms and definitions related to ODA used in this report are consistent with international reporting standards agreed upon at the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.