

8.0 CIDA's POLICIES

Development assistance is a vital component of Canadian foreign policy. Official development assistance (ODA) and official assistance (OA) programs, which benefit, among others, the developing countries and countries in transition that are members of La Francophonie, take a variety of forms:

- bilateral assistance;
- multilateral assistance through the UN system, La Francophonie and the international financial institutions; and
- support for the initiatives of NGOs and Canadian business firms.

Established in 1968, CIDA is the federal organization primarily responsible for the Canadian international cooperation program. Its mandate consists in applying policies related to the Canadian official development assistance (ODA) program and managing the bulk of its budget. As such, CIDA is responsible for about 78% of Canada's aid. (The other 22% is administered by the Department of Finance and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, which have responsibility for specific aspects of the aid program, such as our contributions to the World Bank and other international organizations.)

CIDA reports to Parliament through the Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie.

The purpose of Canada's ODA is to support sustainable development in developing countries, in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world. To achieve this purpose, Canadian ODA concentrates available resources on the following six program priorities:

- basic human needs;
- women in development;
- infrastructure services;
- human rights, democracy and good governance;
- private sector development; and
- the environment.

Below is the list of African countries eligible for Canadian ODA. CIDA bases the list on the one established by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The Canadian list indicates countries, which Canada may choose to support through the various programs funded by the ODA budget. The disbursements to those countries will be counted officially as ODA by the DAC. Canada may however determine that some of the countries on the DAC list are ineligible on the basis of the status of human rights within the country or Canada's relations with them.