

INTRODUCTION

Canada's official development assistance (ODA) plays a critical role in improving the lives of those most in need around the world. Through our ODA, we reduce extreme poverty, create environments conducive to long-term prosperity and security, and provide relief in the context of humanitarian crises. Canada's contributions provide a tangible expression of Canadian values and principles, such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In order to advance its aid effectiveness agenda and to ensure that international assistance resources are delivered with a clear focus, the Government of Canada established five priority areas for action:



Stimulating sustainable economic growth



Increasing food security



Securing the future of children and youth



Advancing democracy



Promoting stability and security

Canada advances its priorities by working closely with a variety of partners. The government works with Canadian and international non-governmental organizations and private sector partners to leverage their development expertise in support of poverty reduction. Canada also works closely with key multilateral development institutions, global partners and international humanitarian assistance partners to tackle critical humanitarian needs and development challenges that are too large for one country to manage.

We work closely with our developing-country partners, and in 2013–2014, the vast majority of Canada's bilateral ODA was focused on 20 countries.¹

This report is a requirement of the *Official Development Assistance Accountability Act*, and presents a summary of the Government of Canada's ODA activities. It describes the collective efforts of 13 federal departments and agencies which—along with our key partners—worked to advance Canada's ODA priorities in 2013–2014. When available, results specific to 2013–2014 are included. In cases where data for 2013–2014 is not yet available, longer-term development outcomes are referenced.

1. The Government of Canada announced in 2014 that it has increased the number of countries of focus from 20 to 25 in order to deliver the greatest results for those in need. These countries were chosen based on their real needs, their capacity to benefit from development assistance, and their alignment with Canadian foreign policy priorities. The Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's Official Development Assistance 2014–2015 will present relevant results for these new countries of focus.

