
The following policy framework sets out four key commitments for Canada's ODA program, which have been developed in keeping with the constraints on the Government's resources. They are:

- a clear mandate and set of priorities;
- strengthened development partnerships;
- improved effectiveness; and
- better reporting of results to Canadians.

A clear mandate for Canadian ODA.

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 will concentrate available resources on the following six program priorities:

Basic human needs: to support efforts to provide primary health care, basic education, family planning, nutrition, water and sanitation, and shelter. Canada will continue to respond to emergencies with humanitarian assistance. Canada will commit 25% of its ODA to basic human needs as a means of enhancing its focus on addressing the security of the individual.

Women in development: to support the full participation of women as equal partners in the sustainable development of their societies.

Infrastructure services: to help developing countries to deliver environmentally-sound infrastructure services, with an emphasis on poorer groups and on capacity building.

Human rights, democracy, good governance: to increase respect for human rights, including children's rights; to promote democracy and better governance; and to strengthen both civil society and the security of the individual.

Private sector development: to promote sustained and equitable economic growth by supporting private sector development in developing countries.

The environment: to help developing countries to protect their environment and to contribute to addressing global and regional environmental issues.