

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The Official Development Assistance Accountability Act (ODAAA) came into force in 2008. The Act ensures that Canada's official development assistance (ODA) focuses mainly on poverty reduction, in a manner consistent with Canadian values and aid effectiveness principles. For precise details, read the [full text of the ODAAA](#).⁵

The ODAAA identifies three conditions that must be satisfied for international assistance to be reported to Parliament as ODA. It must:

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

Canadian ODA can also be directed toward humanitarian assistance.

The ODAAA requires that an annual report summarizing Canada's ODA spending and activities be tabled in Parliament by the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie on behalf of the Government of Canada.

This is the ninth report on Canadian ODA since the ODAAA came into force on June 28, 2008.

This report meets the reporting requirements of subsections 5(1) and 5(3) of the Act.

Also, in accordance with the Act, an annual statistical report on international assistance is produced for all Canadian ODA disbursements. The next statistical report will be available on the Global Affairs Canada website in March 2018.

Canada's ODA reporting is consistent with international reporting standards agreed upon by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This committee ensures that ODA is used to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Unlike the OECD definition, reporting under the ODAAA does not cover assistance from provincial or municipal sources.

The ODAAA criteria also apply to Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE CONDITIONS OF THE ACT

The central objective of Canada's ODA is poverty reduction. Canada's ODA promotes the economic development and welfare of developing countries, with particular focus on helping the poorest and most vulnerable.

Going forward, Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy will target the root causes of poverty that can affect everyone: inequality and exclusion. The policy's core emphasis is on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This is the best way to address poverty's many dimensions and build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world.

5. <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/O-2.8/FullText.html>