These priorities are making our efforts more effective, focused, stable and efficient, ensuring that Canada's investments lead to concrete results for the world's most vulnerable.

In 2014–2015, Canada's bilateral development assistance was primarily delivered in 25 countries. The number of development countries of focus increased from 20 to 25 in 2014 and as a result, increased the proportion of Canadian bilateral assistance these countries receive from 80 to 90 percent. New countries added to the list of development countries of focus are Benin, Burkina Faso, Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan, Mongolia and the Philippines.

Canada has demonstrated international leadership in improving maternal, newborn and child health and reducing the number of preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children under the age of five in developing countries. Furthermore, again last year, Canada provided significant contributions in response to global humanitarian needs, to alleviate suffering, and maintain the dignity of those touched by tragedies.

To tackle the last barriers to development and bring people out of poverty in the developing world, Canada works with a variety of partners. A diverse toolkit maximizes Canada's ability to improve the lives of poor and vulnerable people and produce timely and effective results. The government worked with Canadian and international non-governmental organizations to engage their development expertise and initiative, as well as with key partners from the private sector. Canada also supported a number of multilateral development institutions, global initiatives and international humanitarian assistance organizations to fulfill its international development mandate of helping people living in poverty. Working closely with these partners, Canada responded quickly to humanitarian crises and pressing global development challenges. Canada also worked to ensure that these institutions and the multilateral system function effectively, deliver strong results and remain viable mechanisms for building consensus on important global issues. The Government of Canada is committed to increasing transparency and accountability as part of its Aid Effectiveness Agenda, and provides regular reports to Canadians on its international development plans, activities and results throughout the year. This includes making available information on more than 3,000 international development projects funded by the Government of Canada. Since 2011, Canada has been a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), which has developed an international standard to make information about international assistance-spending by donor countries, developing-country governments and non-governmental organizations easier to find, use and compare.

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 eligible activities be tabled in Parliament annually by the Minister of International Development on behalf of the Government of Canada.

ODA-related terms and definitions used in this report are consistent with international reporting standards agreed upon by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC).