



CIDA/DFATD Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

1. Overview of CIDA/DFATD support for CSOs

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been key partners in development cooperation with CIDA/DFATD (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development) over the past 45 years. These partnerships have evolved from one-off grants in support of CSO projects in the 1970s to significant and diverse programmatic funding relationships since the mid-1980s.

However, in July 2010, the Minister for Development Cooperation [decided to end programmatic funding for many Canadian CSOs](#). Since this policy shift in 2010, DFATD implemented a number of competitive "calls-for-proposals," which benefited some organizations able to apply and successful in their bids. But for many organizations long-standing partnerships with CIDA/DFATD have not been renewed, and funding from this source has declined.

The sources of funding for CSOs have derived from three Branches of CIDA/DFATD. Today these Branches in the [Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development \(DFATD\)](#) are

- 1) Partnerships for Development Innovations Branch,
- 2) Geographic Branches (supporting the priority countries), and
- 3) Global Issues Branch.

a) Partnerships for Development Innovations Branch (PDI) Since 1968, a wide diversity of Canadian and International CSOs have received primary support through a dedicated Partnership Branch of CIDA, since renamed Partnership with Canadians Branch (2010) and then Partnerships for Development Innovations Branch (2014).

b) Geographic Bilateral Programs Branch In the mid-1980s, the President of CIDA, Marcel Massé, initiated bilateral "country focus" programs through which CSO-initiated large-scale projects received support from a variety of bilateral country programs in CIDA/DFATD Geographic Branches. While initiated by CSOs, these projects have been consistent with CIDA/DFATD's bilateral country priorities and strategies and are considered part of the portfolio of Canada's bilateral country-to-country programs.

c) Global Issues Branch CSOs also have received support for emergency and humanitarian assistance programming through CIDA's Multilateral Branch, now DFATD's Global Issues Branch. In recent years, a number of Canadian CSOs, with considerable humanitarian experience, have had a standing relationship with the Branch for quick disbursement of funds in sudden-onset emergencies.

The following Charts provide an overview of the level of disbursements to CSOs from each of these three Branches of CIDA/DFATD from 1985/86 to 2013/14.

Chart One: Value in Current Canadian Dollars

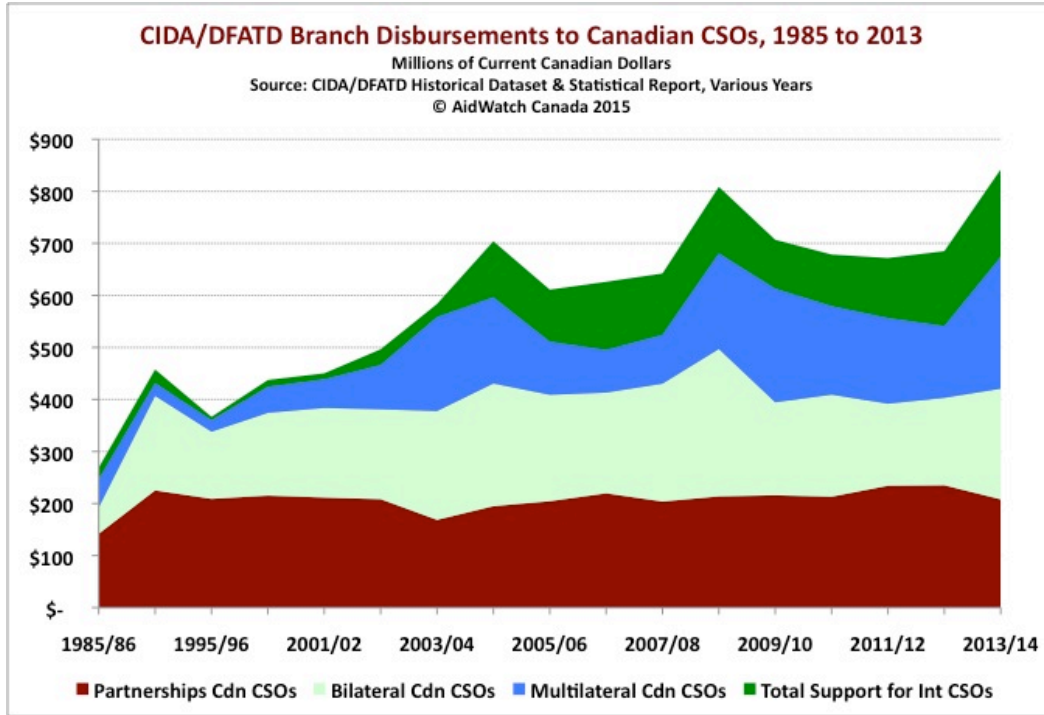


Chart 2: Value in 2010 Canadian Dollars

