

## Methodological Notes

1. All calculations of Canadian ODA, unless otherwise stated, are in Canadian dollars and are based on figures derived from the annual [Statistical Report on International Assistance](#), the government's [Report to Parliament on the ODA Accountability Act](#), or the annual [Federal Budget](#). Calculation of the annual Gross National Income is derived from the annual [Federal Budget](#) and the [Fiscal Update](#).

2. The budget for Canadian ODA is primarily located in the Federal Budget's International Assistance Envelope (IAE). The IAE includes allocations to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, the Department of Finance and other departments related to international assistance. Not all of the allocations in the Envelope are eligible to be counted as Canadian ODA. Some of the line items of the IAE, such as some disbursements for peace and security, security programs in non-ODA eligible countries, are not eligible for ODA, (as determined by the [criteria for ODA established by the OECD Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) and by the [Canadian ODA Accountability Act](#)).

A number of other budgetary items (e.g. provincial government spending on aid) and non-budgetary imputed items (e.g. costs of students from developing countries studying in Canada), government costs for refugees from developing countries for their first year in Canada, and bilateral debt cancellation are added to ODA in the IAE, to make up total ODA in a given year.

The government also is able to increase the International Assistance Envelope during a fiscal year through Supplementary Estimates for each government department. These [Supplementary Estimates](#) are submitted and approved by Parliament three times each year.

While the International Assistance Envelope is not published in the annual Federal Budget, Table A (International Assistance by Government Source and Channel) in the annual [Statistical Report on International Assistance](#) provides a detailed breakdown of the components of the International Assistance Envelope and the other budgetary and non-budgetary items that are included in Canadian ODA. The Statistical Report is published one year after the close of the fiscal year (e.g. April 2016 for fiscal year 2014/15).

3. The [ODA Accountability Act](#) (ODAAA) is an Act of Parliament passed in 2008 (and amended in June 2013). The Act specifies that a Government Minister who allocates Canadian ODA must be assured that the activities supported by Canadian ODA 1) reduce poverty, 2) take into account the perspectives of the poor, and 3) are consistent with international human rights standards. In the fall of each year the Government must table a [report to Parliament](#) on the implementation of the Act. This report provides a preliminary report on disbursements in the previous fiscal year that fell under the provisions of the Act. These items are also identified in Table A of the Statistical Report (see #2 above).

3. The budget used to calculate the aid money returned to the Treasury in 2012/13 and 2013/14 includes the International Assistance Envelope devoted to aid, and the additional funds approved in the Supplementary Estimates during the fiscal year.

4. Canada no longer publishes its own ODA performance (ODA to GNI ratio). The calculation of Canadian aid performance is based on total aid for a given fiscal year divided by an estimate of GNI for this fiscal year. When Canada reports its aid to the OECD DAC, it does so on a calendar year basis. Therefore the DAC record of Canada's aid performance is based on a different period for the calculation of Canadian ODA and may arrive at a different ODA performance ratio. The DAC statistics are used when comparing Canada to other donors and aid providers.

In recent years a number countries have joined the OECD DAC. There are now 28 donors, with recent additions being the Republic of Korea, Iceland and a number of Eastern European countries. It is important to remove the performance ratios of these latter countries when comparing Canada to historical DAC trends. AidWatch Canada uses for this purpose the 22 DAC members from 2005.

5. The statistics in this regional disbursements analysis have been calculated from DFATD's datasets for each year, [Statistical Report on International Assistance — by Country Spending](#), accessed in August 2015. Calculations for "North Africa, the Middle East, and Europe" aggregate these regions, but exclude non-ODA countries in Europe (Russia, Poland), Turkey, and European Regional disbursements. These calculations also exclude bilateral debt cancellation (see the methodological note for calculating Canadian ODA). The calculations for DFAIT (prior to amalgamation of CIDA and DFAIT) and the Department of Finance (Canadian aid to the World Bank and IMF) have been reduced in proportion to non-ODA assistance to each region, as reported in the annual [Statistical Report](#), using ODA Accountability Act disbursements as the reference point for each Department. Total ODA is therefore an approximation.