

10 things to know about Canadian aid

1. Canadian aid is effective.

Canada supports projects that are effective at helping those who need it most. In recent years, the number of people living in extreme poverty has significantly decreased, as has child mortality. Health is improving globally, as are education levels, and Canada should be proud of their contribution.

2. Canadian aid is supported by the majority of Canadians.

In a 2015 study, 94% of Canadians said that it is important to improve health, education, and economic opportunity for the people living in the poorest conditions.¹ As well, 62% of Canadians agree that Canada should be one of the leading countries in providing international development.²

3. Canadian aid is feminist.

In 2017, 90% of Global Affairs Canada's aid targeted gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. By 2021, it will increase to at least 95%.³

4. Canadian aid directly supports efforts to combat climate change.

Canadian aid supports those disadvantaged by the changing climate, whether in humanitarian contexts, infrastructure, health, and wellbeing.

5. Canadian aid is used to reach those most affected by poverty.

In Canada, when we deliver aid it must meet three criteria: contribute to poverty reduction, take into account the perspectives of those living in poverty, and be consistent with international human rights standards.

6. Canadian aid is used to help refugees at home and abroad.

Canada resettles 1 out of every 10 refugees in the world. In 2017, 9% (\$483M CAD)⁴ of Canadian aid was spent within Canada on refugee settlement. Abroad, Canada has provided support for refugee education programs, as well as provided critical emergency care, including clean water, sanitation, and health care.

7. Canadian aid is transparent.

Canada has consistently ranked in the 'Good' category of the Aid Transparency Index.⁵ Canadian aid is tracked and monitored by the Organization for Economic Co-operation

and Development (OECD) development assistance committee.⁶ Canada also takes part in peer reviews to improve the quality and effectiveness of development policies and systems.

8. Canada is a team player in international development.

Canada works with over 500 partners to deliver aid to those who need it most. Canada provides funding bilaterally – to specific countries – and multilaterally – to international organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

9. Canada's economic growth is inconsistent with its aid budget.

Though Canada currently has the strongest economy of the G7 countries, the group of the seven largest economies in the world, it ranks near the bottom in aid provision.

10. In 2017, Canada ranked 16th out of the top 20 donors of official development assistance as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI).

Top donors include Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, and the UK, while Japan, Italy, and the United States fall near the bottom.

Updated: February 2020

¹ [Canadian Perspectives on International Development Report of Results 2015](#)

² [Canadian Perspectives on International Development Report of Results 2015](#)

³ [Global Affairs Canada Statistical Report on International Assistance 2017-2018](#)

⁴ [Global Affairs Canada Statistical Report on International Assistance 2017-2018](#)

⁵ [The 2018 Aid Transparency Index](#)

⁶ [OECD - Canada](#)