COOPÉRATION CANADA

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Channels for Delivering Canadian ODA: How Is Canadian Aid Delivered?

Highlights of the 2025 Canadian Aid Trends Report

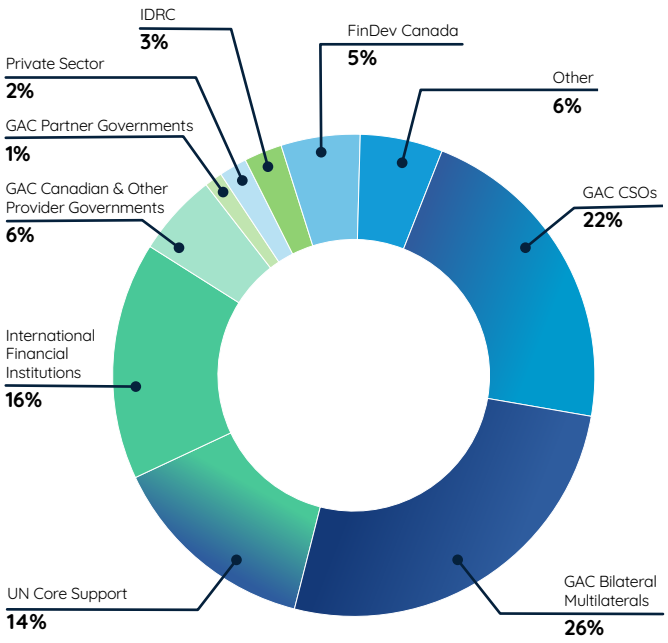
This briefing note examines the main channels through which Canadian official development assistance (ODA) is delivered, including multilateral organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), partner-country governments and the private sector. The analysis shows that multilateral organizations account for the largest share of Canadian ODA, while CSOs represent a smaller but significant delivery channel, particularly for poverty-focused assistance. It also highlights that relatively little funding is delivered directly through partner-country governments or locally based CSOs. Finally, the briefing note examines how funding modalities are shaping the distribution of Canadian government support among CSOs.[1]

Understanding bilateral ODA: Bilateral assistance is not limited to direct government-to-government funding. It also includes assistance delivered through CSOs, as well as earmarked contributions to multilateral organizations for specific purposes or initiatives, often referred to as multi-bi assistance.

1 Multilateral organizations and CSOs deliver more than three-quarters of Canadian ODA

In 2024/25, multilateral organizations and international financial institutions accounted for 56% of Real ODA[2] while CSOs accounted for another 22%. Although the multilateral share has declined from an average of 65% between 2018/19 and 2022/23, multilateral organizations remain by far Canada's largest delivery channel. CSOs also play a particularly important role in bilateral assistance, accounting for 37% of GAC's bilateral ODA disbursements in 2024/25. By comparison, 1% of Real ODA was implemented directly by partner-country governments and 2% through the private sector.

Canadian ODA Channels of Delivery, 2024/25



2 Canada increasingly earmarks its funding through multilateral organizations

Multilateral organizations are also a major channel for Canadian bilateral ODA. In 2024/25, 44% of bilateral ODA was delivered through multilateral

1 This document is part of a Canadian Aid Trends series produced by Cooperation Canada and AidWatch Canada. These highlights provide a snapshot of the analysis; for more detail, consult the full briefing note and related Canadian Aid Trends resources.

2 Real ODA excludes in-donor refugee costs, imputed student costs, and debt cancellation. It is ODA that is potentially directly accessible to country governments and partners in the Global South.

organizations, and is earmarked by Canada for particular countries, sectors or purposes. In 2024, earmarked contributions represented 69% of Canada's total multilateral contributions, up from an average of 45% between 2015 and 2019 and the second-highest share among the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) providers.

International financial institutions are also a major delivery channel, accounting for roughly one-quarter of Real ODA in recent years.

3 Direct support to partner-country governments has reached historically low levels

In 2024/25, GAC disbursed $76.1 million through six partner-country governments. The decline is particularly pronounced for general and sector budget support, which allows partner-country governments to manage resources through their own systems. This support fell from 8% of Real Bilateral ODA in 2008/09 and 6% in 2010/11 to about 1% in 2024/25. Jordan, Tanzania and Moldova were the largest recipients that year.

4 The private sector delivers a small share of Canadian ODA despite growing efforts to mobilize private finance

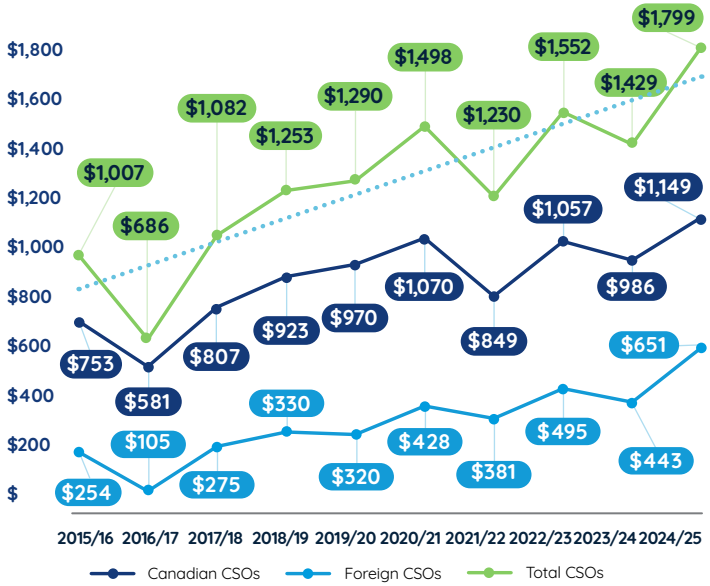
The private sector implemented 2% of Canadian Real ODA in 2024/25. At the same time, Canada is increasingly using FinDev Canada and multilateral development banks to mobilize private investment alongside public development finance. Canada reported US$161 million in mobilized private finance in 2024, down from US$234 million in 2023. Across DAC members, more than 70% of mobilized private finance went to middle-income countries in 2024, compared with 8% to low-income countries.

5 Foreign CSOs, primarily those based in other donor countries, account for most of the growth in CSO funding

Funding delivered through CSOs has increased since 2019/20, but growth has been much faster for foreign than Canadian organizations. Funding through foreign CSOs more than doubled over this period, compared with an 18% increase for Canadian CSOs. As a result, Canadian organizations' share of total CSO disbursements fell from 71% in 2020/21 to 64% in 2024/25. Most foreign CSOs receiving Canadian funding are headquartered in other provider countries rather than in the Global South.

Trends in GAC Disbursements with CSOs, 2015/16 to 2024/25

Millions of Canadian Dollars



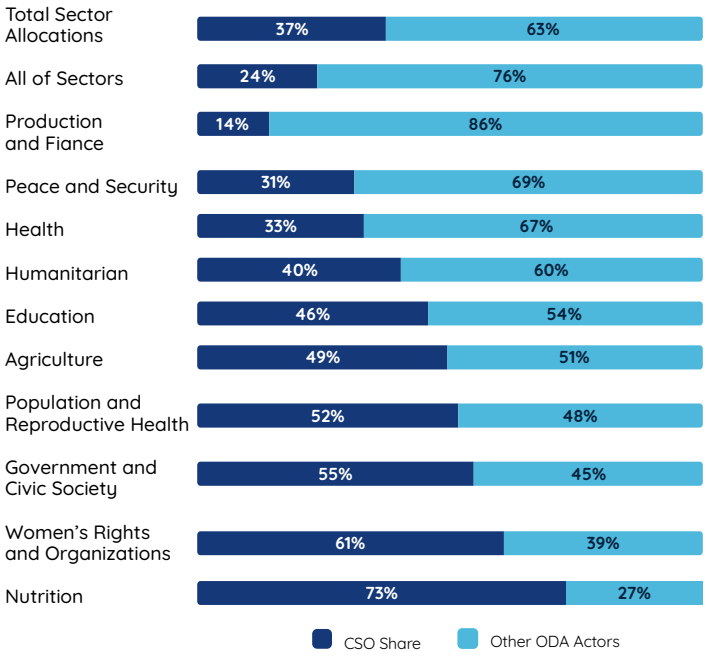
6 CSOs continue to play a major role in delivering poverty-focused Canadian ODA

In 2024/25, CSOs accounted for 34% of Canadian ODA meeting the Core Poverty Accountability Standard criteria, which is examined in a separate briefing note. On average, 70% of Canadian aid delivered through CSOs between 2022/23 and 2024/25 met the criteria.

Their contribution is especially important in several key sectors. In 2024/25, CSOs delivered more than

Impact of Support for Global Public Goods, Humanitarian Assistance and Ukraine

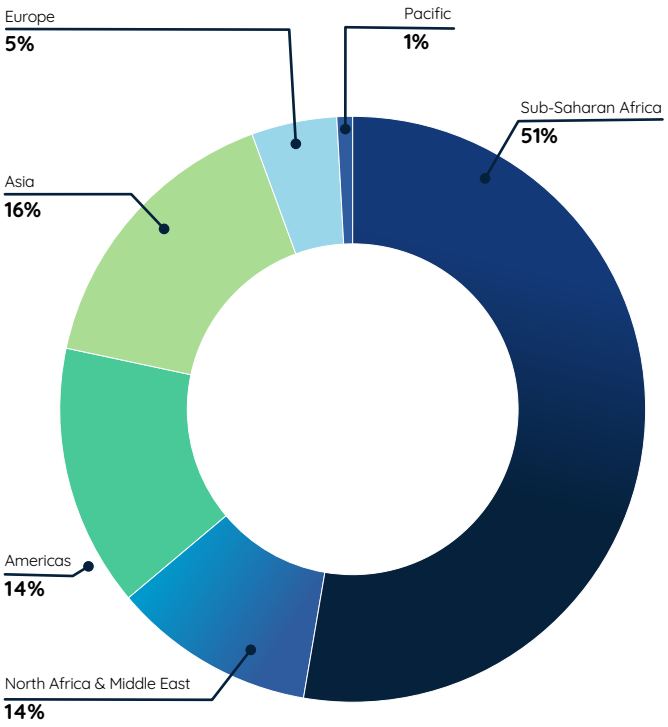
Millions of Canadian dollars



half of GAC's bilateral disbursements in nutrition, women's rights and organizations, government and civil society, and population and reproductive health.

Geographically, a substantial share of CSO disbursements is directed toward countries with significant development needs. Sub-Saharan Africa received 51% of GAC's CSO disbursements, on average, between 2022/23 and 2024/25. Similarly, 51% of country-specific CSO disbursements went to Least Developed Countries, compared with 49% of GAC bilateral disbursements overall, excluding regional allocations.

CSO Disbursements by Regions, 2022/23 to 2024/25 Average



7 A small share of Canada's CSO funding goes directly to organizations in partner countries

Although CSOs implement a significant share of Canadian bilateral assistance, relatively little of this funding goes directly to CSOs based in partner countries.

Between 2022 and 2024, 8% of Canadian ODA channelled to and through CSOs went directly to organizations based in partner countries, up slightly from 7% between 2019 and 2021. This placed Canada 18th among 32 DAC providers. By comparison, Italy, Australia and the European Union directed 31%, 16% and 14% of their respective CSO funding directly to partner-country CSOs.

Initiatives such as the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, Women's Voice and Leadership, and the Equality Fund provide avenues for locally led development. However, much of Canada's support continues to reach partner-country CSOs through Canadian or other international intermediaries. Direct funding figures do not capture resources subsequently transferred to local partners through these intermediaries.

8 Government funding remains concentrated among a small number of Canadian CSOs

The 20 Canadian CSOs receiving the most GAC funding accounted for 56% of disbursements to Canadian CSOs between 2022/23 and 2024/25. This concentration is accompanied by a longer-term decline in the number of Canadian international cooperation organizations receiving federal funding. Among a consistent sample of 237 organizations, the share receiving federal government revenue fell from 56% in 2009 to 43% in 2023, with the sharpest declines among small and very small organizations. These smaller organizations also saw their share of federal government revenue fall from 9% to 4% over the same period. The beginning of this shift coincided with changes in government funding modalities. For more detailed information on these trends, visit the Atlas dashboard.