

MEDIA RELEASE

CIDA's funding delays having a negative impact on Canadian organizations and on developing countries, says report published by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC).

Ottawa, December 6, 2011. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which represents the main source of funding for many Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in international development, is months behind in announcing the results of its last calls for proposals, and it is seriously impacting the sector.

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), an umbrella organization which represents more than 90 CSOs working in international development, has conducted a survey amongst its members - as well as members of the seven regional and provincial councils for international cooperation - to evaluate and illustrate the impacts of the delays in CIDA's funding announcements.

Results of the survey indicate that not only Canadian CSOs are suffering from these delays (having to lay off staff, draw on limited financial reserves and lose credibility with international partners and donations from other funders), but development projects on the ground are also being impacted, affecting the poorest and most vulnerable (with projects being scaled back or shut down, local staff being laid off, and people suffering because urgently needed community development and health initiatives are not being provided).

CCIC President-CEO Julia Sanchez is pressing the Agency to react: "Knowing whether or not they will receive funds to continue their work is crucial for our members. Let's not forget that CSOs are non-profit organizations and therefore do not have significant financial reserves to survive while they wait, and it is putting the work they do in developing countries in jeopardy".

It is worth highlighting that a year and a half ago, CIDA announced profound changes in the way that the Agency funds Canadian CSOs involved in international development, moving from responsive partnership-based funding to a competitive process (with calls for proposals). This change in itself presented new and daunting challenges for many organizations; CIDA not respecting its own deadlines for publishing the results of the last calls for proposals (between two months and three months and a half behind) is adding an extra level of stress and impacting the work done overseas.

"We are asking three things from CIDA," adds Sanchez:

- "that CIDA announce new dates for informing the applicants of its decisions immediately, and respects those dates;
- "that CIDA inform applicants whose proposals have not been recommended for funding at this stage;
- "and that CIDA work on a disengagement/exit strategy consistent with good-partnership principles, for the organizations that will not be awarded funding as a result of this call for proposals process and that have, in many cases, been in a partnership relationships with CIDA (often in an uninterrupted manner) for decades."

- Read the [key findings](#) of the report.
- Read the [full report](#) on survey on the impacts of CIDA funding delays on civil society organizations.
- For more information, media should contact:
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- For more information on CIDA calls for proposal, visit:
<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/ANN-93015497-R99>