

News Release

For immediate release

Canadian aid hasn't really bounced back, says coalition

Ottawa, April 14, 2016. Provisional aid numbers for 2015, released today by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), show that Canadian Official Development Assistance (ODA) increased in 2015 in real terms from \$4.240 billion the previous year to \$4.965. The ODA to Gross National Income (GNI) ratio, which had hit 0.24 in 2014 – a low in the past two decades – bounced back to 0.28 percent. Reacting to the OECD report, the Canadian Council for International Co-operation suggested the numbers do not tell the whole story.

“Although it is encouraging to see Canada bounce back relative to last year, unfortunately this recovery is overstated,” said Julia Sánchez, President-CEO at the Canadian Council for International Co-operation.

“Our Official Development Assistance in 2015 grew because of two one-off increases to Canadian aid – a concessional loan to Ukraine and a double payment to the World Bank because of a technical change to how we make our payments,” she explained.

The most recent Statistical Report on International Assistance for 2014-15, released at the end of March by the Canadian government, also signaled that Canadian aid was on this rise - confirmed by today's OECD figures. However, the international assistance envelope (IAE) – a more accurate measure of our real aid commitments to reducing poverty in developing countries – still remained flat-lined that year.

“It is good to see the aid envelope growing in Budget 2016 after several years of decline. However, for Canada to really be back as a leader on the global stage, we need to see a timetable of annual and predictable increases to the IAE,” she added.

The Canadian international development sector has been asking for predictable increases to the International Assistance Envelope, with the target of meeting the long-established, internationally-agreed target of 0.7 percent of GNI going to ODA. Expectations to see such a timetable and growth of the IAE in Budget 2016 were high, but numbers presented included only modest increases to the assistance envelope for the next two years (\$128 M per year).

“While CCIC welcomes the Canadian Government's commitment to renewed engagement on the global scene, much more needs to be done if we are to address key development challenges of our times,” said Julia Sanchez. “Canada needs to commit additional and substantial resources to promote human rights and women's rights, tackle climate change, protect the environment, and address the needs of the most vulnerable” she concluded.

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For further details, see <http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-aid-rises-again-in-2015-spending-on-refugees-doubles.htm>

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