

Canadian Public Opinion Regarding International Development Issues
An Angus Reid Institute – World Vision Canada Partnership Project

Today's survey is about Canada's role in the world and your own views on some different international issues. We're not looking for experts here and are very much interested in people's own personal perspectives. As always, there are no right or wrong answers – just your own views.

A -- Development Issues Deep-Dive

Getting started, we're going to consider some different issues in the world today and ask a few related questions about them.

[Randomize presentation of issues A1 through A7]

A1. Now, let's consider: Extreme poverty in places like Africa and South Asia.

A1A. In your view, would you say this issue is improving or getting worse?

Improving
Getting worse
Staying about the same
Don't know/Can't say

A1B. Do you believe that aid and assistance from other countries and international aid organizations can make a meaningful impact in addressing this issue?

Yes, aid can make a meaningful impact on this issue
It might help, but not with a major or lasting impact
No, aid can't really impact this issue

A1C. When it comes to Canada and this particular issue -- what do you think we should be doing? Should Canada:

Take a leadership role
Participate, but no more than other countries like us
Canada should not be involved on this issue

A1D. How personally concerned are you about this issue?

Very concerned
Concerned

Not too concerned
Not concerned at all

[Repeat above question series for Issues A2 through A7]

A2. Now, let's consider: The occurrence of natural disasters such as the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean or flooding in South Asia.

A3. Now, let's consider: Human rights issues, such as the treatment of women or religious minorities in some parts of the world.

A4. Now, let's consider: Economic development in poor countries, including things like infrastructure for clean water.

A5. Now, let's consider: Healthcare and disease control for things like tuberculosis and the Zika and Ebola virus outbreaks in poor countries.

A6. Now, let's consider: Children's safety and well-being, including education challenges and child labour in many countries.

A7. Now, let's consider: Refugees fleeing war and conflict such as has been happening in Syria and some parts of Africa.

{End randomization}

A8. We've been talking about some specific issues and problems in the world. Now, let's think for a minute about specific parts of the world. Which places do you think should get the most focus in terms of international aid efforts? (Please select one or two regions.)

[Randomize regions]

The Middle East and North Africa (including countries such as Syria and Egypt)

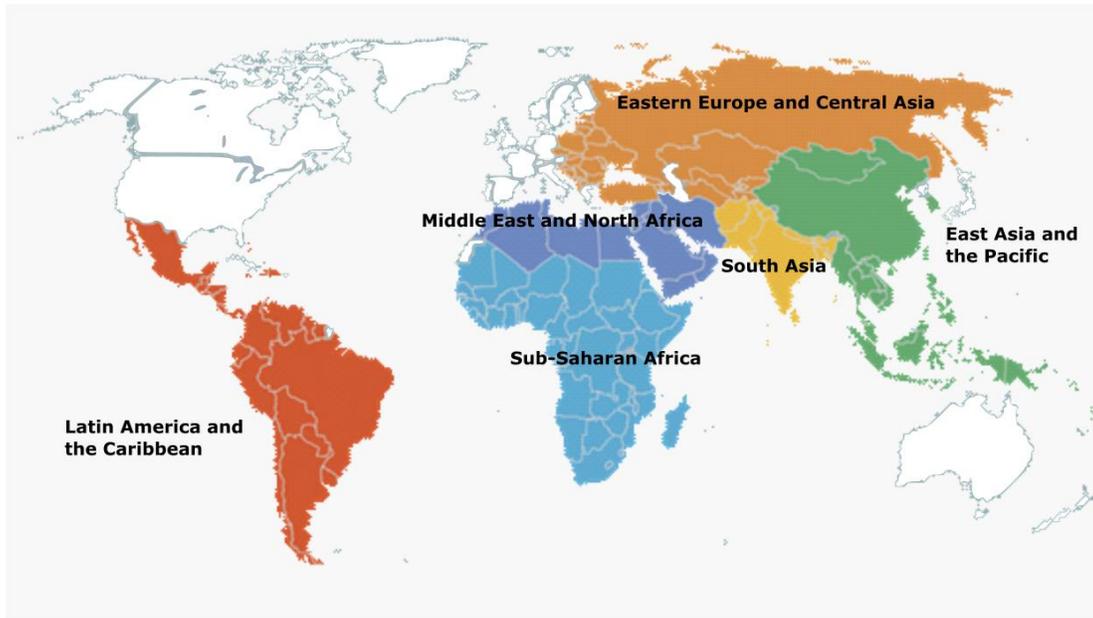
Latin America and the Caribbean (countries such as Peru and Haiti)

East Asia and the Pacific (countries such as Indonesia and Philippines)

Eastern Europe and Central Asia (countries such as Armenia and Ukraine)

South Asia (countries such as India and Bangladesh)

Sub-Saharan Africa (countries such as DR Congo and Somalia)



A9. Some people are more interested than others in these types of international development issues. When you come across news stories about these kinds of challenges in poorer countries and regions and efforts to improve these situations -- how likely are you yourself to tune in to these stories?

Definitely tune in, very interested in these issues

Probably

I'd take a look and see if it looks interesting

Probably not

Definitely not tune in, not interested in these issues

B-- Canada's Official Development Assistance

Now we want to get people's views on Canada's involvement in international aid efforts. Let's define international aid broadly to include any support Canada provides to development assistance efforts in poor countries, whether it's direct Canadian government involvement or through providing funding to international agencies (like the UN) or charitable organizations involved in international development projects.

B1. The United Nations has set a goal for wealthier countries like Canada to contribute 0.7% of their gross national income to international aid. If you had to estimate or guess, how do you think Canada's current spending on international aid compares to this UN target? Do you think Canada spends:

Above the UN target

On that target, or close to it

Below the UN target

No idea/Can't guess

B2. In fact, Canada's current official development assistance accounts for 0.26% of this country's gross income, which is roughly one-third of the UN target of 0.7%. That works out to 5.4 billion dollars per year. (For comparison purposes, Canada's defense spending is almost four times that amount.)

In your opinion, should Canada spend more on international development assistance, spend less, or is the current spending level about right?

Should spend more
Should spend less
Current is about right

B3. How do you think Canada's international development spending should compare to other wealthy nations like us? Should Canada:

[Rotate options]

Join the countries (like the UK, Germany, and some other countries) that meet the UN target for aid spending

OR

Stay more in line with those countries (like the US) whose aid spending is below the UN target

B4. As noted, Canada currently spends \$5.4 billion per year on international development aid, including many different types of projects and efforts.

a) What do you think are the most important benefits of Canada's international development involvement and activities? (Select your top two benefits from the list below. If your choice isn't here, please type it in.)

- Helping people/reducing suffering
- Getting these countries/societies on their feet
- More global stability/peace
- Reduce terror threat
- Building bonds/unite different cultures
- Opportunities for Canadian businesses
- Don't see any benefits
- Other, specify: _____

b) And what do you think are the negatives or drawbacks of Canada's international development involvement and activities? (Select your top two drawbacks from the list below. If your important one isn't here, please type it in.)

- Canada can't afford to be spending this money
- Too much is wasted or used inefficiently
- These projects don't work/not enough impact
- Incompetence/projects aren't done well
- Corruption/Aid doesn't reach the poor
- Less money to address our own local problems
- Don't see any negatives
- Other, specify: _____

C -- The NGO Community

Much of Canadian development aid is delivered through charitable or non-profit agencies known as "non-governmental organizations", or "NGO's" for short.

There are literally thousands of Canadian NGO's involved in all kinds of different causes within Canada (for example, Cystic Fibrosis Canada, The United Way, or Canada Without Poverty).

NGO's also play a major role in overseas development efforts as they organize and deliver projects and assistance funded by the Canadian government and also by individual private Canadians making donations to overseas causes. Some of the major international aid NGO's operating in Canada include: the Canadian Red Cross, CARE Canada, Unicef Canada, World Vision Canada, and many others.

C1. Thinking broadly about the various Canadian NGO's involved in overseas development aid, we want to know if you think each of the following statements describes: the vast majority of these NGO's, most of them, only some, very few or none of them?

(Even if you don't have direct experience, we're interested in your impressions – if you feel you really can't say then just choose that response.)

[Randomize statements]

Can be trusted to do what they say they will with the donations they receive

Trustworthy when it comes to money management

More amateurish than professional

Their top focus is helping those in need

Know what they're doing

Waste too much money on their own salaries and admin

Have a proven record of success

Too often have overly religious motivations

The impact of their work is very clear

They do a good job delivering development aid to poor people in poor countries

Vast majority

Most of them

Only some

Very few

None

Really can't say

C2. Overall, when it comes to your own level of trust in charitable organizations, generally speaking, which do you yourself tend to trust more:

Charities focussed on local Canadian issues

Charities focused on international development issues in other countries

Trust both equally/Make no distinction when it comes to trust

D -- Underlying attitudes

D1. Here are some different statements people might make about these issues we've been talking about in this survey. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

[Randomize statements]

Rich countries like Canada have a moral responsibility to assist poor countries

Helping just one village or even one family is worthwhile – “the bucket is filled with drops”

My own personal faith has a strong influence on my views of charitable activities

I would rather give to an organization working in Canada than one working abroad

Canada's got enough problems of its own. We should deal with these first, before trying to solve problems in other parts of the world

Canada's development aid efforts make me more proud to be Canadian

Images of poor starving people make me feel guilty and depressed – so I tune them out

These foreign countries often get too dependent on aid and charity – above all, they need to help themselves

Political corruption and dishonesty is such a huge problem in these poor countries, it's pretty much pointless to send money or people over there

Corruption in their own systems is the single biggest obstacle to development in most of these poor countries

Strongly Disagree
Moderately Disagree
Moderately Agree
Strongly Agree

E – Personal involvement/Spotlight on donors

Wrapping up, a few questions about you and whether you have any involvement with these issues – we do realize lots of people won't have any.

E1. Are you personally involved in any way with these international development issues we've been talking about in this survey?

(Select any that apply)

Follow some charities/Receive mail info
Know people involved in this (working/volunteering/fundraising)
Donate money to overseas aid charities/projects
Send money to family living in a developing country
Not involved in any of these ways [Exclusive]

E2a. Have you ever been to a developing country?

Yes
No

[If Yes, ask B and C:]

E2b. Have you seen up close any of the types of development issues we've been talking about?

Yes
No

E2c. Did you visit a development project?

Yes
No

[Questions for Donors Only:]

E3. You've indicated you have donated some money to overseas aid charities or projects. A few quick questions about this.

a) Which type(s) of development efforts are you most interested in supporting? Please select all that apply:

Extreme poverty
Natural disasters
Human rights/women
Economic development/infrastructure
Healthcare and disease
Children's issues
Refugees

b) Typically, when you donate to these efforts, is it:

A somewhat spontaneous response to a specific crisis or charitable appeal

Or

Do you have more of a regular giving plan for your donations to these efforts

c) Approximately how much money have you donated to overseas development charities or projects over the past couple of years? Even if you're not exactly sure, a rough estimate is fine.

Under \$50
\$50 to \$100
\$101 to \$250
\$251 to \$500
\$501 to \$1000
Over \$1000
Can't say/prefer not to

F: Socio-demographic and other profile info

Finally, we have some quick additional questions that will help us with our survey analysis.

F1. Were you born in Canada or in another country?

In Canada
In another country

F2. Would you say you are a member of a visible minority (in terms of your ethnicity/heritage/race)?

Yes

No

F3. Which one of the following best describes your religion?

Roman Catholic
United Church
Anglican
Lutheran
Presbyterian
Baptist
Pentecostal
Other evangelical Christian
Other Christian
Muslim
Hindu
Jewish
Sikh
Buddhist
No religious identity
Other (Specify)

F4. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week
Once a week
Once or twice a month
A few times a year
Seldom
Never

F5. Which party's candidate did you support in the 2015 federal election?

Conservative Party of Canada
Liberal Party of Canada
New Democratic Party
Green Party
Bloc Quebecois
Other Party
Did not vote in that election
Prefer not to say/Can't recall

Region

Gender

Age

Formal education

HH income