

# technical note: Canadian funding for microenterprises

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) has funding that goes toward microenterprises, but they do not report on it. GAC does, however, publish data on its funding for “semi-formal and informal financial intermediaries (SFIFI)”, “agricultural financing (AF)”, and “business development services (BDS)”, which offer funding support for microenterprises (and can also include support for higher income entrepreneurs).

## GAC Funding for SFIFI, AF and BDS

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
In millions of C\$	26.11	25.99	28.79	23.64	16.84	19.25	22.72
As % of GAC total aid	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%

Source: *Statistical Report on International Assistance, Government of Canada*

**The data speaks loudly:** funding for microenterprises is a low, and increasingly a lower priority for GAC. Even when other categories of funding are included, which in part may support microenterprise development, such as “business support (BS)”, “small and medium enterprise development (SMED)”, and “formal financial intermediaries (FFI)”, funding commitment remains very low. The table below adds to our previous numbers 50% of the funding for BS, SMED and FFI.

## GAC Funding Microenterprise Support, including 50% of funding for BS, SMED & FFI

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
In millions of C\$	65.155	66.985	61.64	73.345	85.22	75.945	74.055
As % of GAC total aid	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%	1.9%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%

Source: *Statistical Report on International Assistance, Government of Canada*

Even with an expansive definition of microenterprise support, data shows that GAC support for the low-income businesses is low and dwindling. It has not been a programmatic priority of Canadian foreign aid.