



VOLUME 1

REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

2020-2021



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Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : *Rapport au Parlement sur l'aide Internationale du gouvernement du Canada*

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Cat. No. FR2-28E-PDF



Message from the Minister of International Development and Minister of Foreign Affairs

The past year was undeniably a difficult one. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating social and economic impact on many countries. In 2020-2021, the world witnessed the first increase in extreme poverty in 2 decades. We saw food insecurity grow to unprecedented levels, education disrupted on a global scale, and the emergence of a “shadow pandemic” as reports of sexual and gender-based violence increased around the globe. Further, we witnessed an increase in the circulation of disinformation and threats to democracy at large.



In response, Canada has advocated for fair and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines. We have continued to address financial stresses caused by the pandemic and support global efforts to stabilize the economies of developing countries. Notably, last year Canada doubled its international climate finance commitment to help developing countries meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

"The pandemic has brought into sharp relief the interconnectedness of our world and reinforced the importance of global collaboration and the value of a rules-based multilateral system."

Canada and our partners have worked tirelessly to respond to the needs of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly women and girls, through support for food security, education, humanitarian responses, equitable economic growth, and peace and security. Displaced communities and those affected by conflict have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic and Canada has played a leadership role to address the devastating impacts of crises and conflict in countries such as Myanmar, Bangladesh, Haiti, Afghanistan and Venezuela. And, most recently Canada has provided steadfast humanitarian support to Ukraine and its people following Russia's brutal attack, working with our international partners.

Beyond this, events close to home and around the world have highlighted the importance of doing more to fight racism and promote greater diversity and inclusion. In response, Canada launched a number of ambitious initiatives to reduce inequality and apply a human rights based approach to all the work we do.

Of course, none of our work would be possible without our partners. The Canadian international development sector plays a critical role in designing, delivering and monitoring our international



assistance programming— and we know that this year was a difficult one for them. Their resilience and adaptability in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed Canada to respond quickly and effectively to the extraordinary operational challenges the pandemic has presented.

This report highlights the significant results achieved in 2020-21 by Canada's international assistance as we continue to implement the Feminist International Assistance Policy. Over the past year, Canada's international assistance has focused on stopping the pandemic and responding to its social, political and economic effects in developing countries, while making every effort to maintain momentum toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We are proud of the work we have accomplished this year and the concrete results that have been achieved—on behalf of all Canadians—to promote an inclusive and sustainable pandemic recovery, and ultimately, build a world that is more peaceful and prosperous for all.

The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development
The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs





Message from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Canada is committed to building a stable, peaceful, and more prosperous world that protects human rights, advances gender equality, upholds justice, and helps grow prosperous communities and economies.

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy has helped more than 30 million vulnerable people by funding projects aimed at eliminating child, early, and forced marriage; and preventing, responding to, and ending sexual violence, including female genital mutilation. Canada has committed to allocating no less than 95 per cent of its bilateral international assistance to projects advancing gender equality by 2021-22. These efforts are generating results, such as the world's first investment by a donor country focused on paid and unpaid care work, which Canada made in 2021.



Urgent action is needed to support people living in regions of the world that are most vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change. That is why, in 2021, Canada doubled its international climate finance commitment to \$5.3 billion over five years and called for its international partners to follow suit.

In the wake of Russia's barbaric and ongoing war in Ukraine, there is a dire need today for emergency international assistance. Russia's war has forced millions of Ukrainians to flee their homes, causing the greatest migration crisis in Europe since the Second World War. Canada will continue to stand with Ukraine and work with its international partners to uphold peace, democracy, and the rules-based international order.

Together with the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development, and the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, I am pleased to present the *Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance 2020–2021*.

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance



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Executive summary and highlights

The world has witnessed a series of cascading crises this past year—from the COVID-19 pandemic to threats to international peace and security to the increasing difficulties of the climate crisis. Despite these challenges, Canada has continued to improve the lives of millions of people and address global inequities through international assistance programming.

Supporting the global response to the pandemic

Canada has been a leader in the global effort to stop COVID-19 and address its devastating health, social, economic and security impacts. To date, Canada has committed \$2.7 billion in international assistance to fight the pandemic. In 2020-2021, Canada provided \$1.97 billion in humanitarian and development assistance, including reprioritizing \$370 million for international partners to pivot project activities to address pandemic-related needs. Canada made an additional \$1 billion available for International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans to low-income countries to promote an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery from the pandemic and help low-income countries facing liquidity challenges. Complementing this funding, Canada's leadership as part of the [Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative](#) focused on identifying concrete policy options to guide global economic recovery efforts.

Facilitating equitable access to vaccines

The pandemic exacerbated inequalities between nations, as citizens in the richest countries quickly received life-saving vaccines, while those in developing countries were left waiting. Canada has played a leadership role in the ACT-Accelerator and its COVAX Facility by committing \$1.3 billion to promote equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines. Canada is working with international partners to improve the global capacity to manufacture vaccines. For example, by supporting the establishment of the South Africa Technology Transfer Hub in October 2021, Canada is building Africa's capacity to develop and produce mRNA vaccines and technologies in the future.

Bringing about change through the Feminist International Assistance Policy

The Feminist International Assistance Policy commits Canada to direct 95% of its bilateral international development assistance toward projects that advance gender equality. These efforts are generating significant and lasting results. In the last 2 years, Canada has reached more than 34 million people through projects aimed at ending sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and cutting.



Canada has taken steps to safeguard women's and girl's rights, strengthening the ability of some 2000 women's organizations and movements in more than 100 countries to promote gender equality, end discrimination and empower women and girls. In 2020-2021 Canada provided \$23 million to [Women's Voice and Leadership](#) initiatives and dedicated \$195 million for support to the [Equality Fund](#). In addition, Canada has worked with women's rights organizations to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services and raise awareness of the heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

The Sustainable Development Goals – more important than ever

Since the beginning of the pandemic, extreme poverty has spiked for the first time in 3 decades and 320 million people lack access to adequate food. More than a billion children have experienced schooling disruptions. These trends illustrate the urgent need to redouble our efforts to advance progress toward meeting the SDGs by 2030. In 2021, UN member states, including Canada, re-committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the blueprint for building back better after the pandemic. In February 2021, Canada released its national strategy for the 2030 Agenda, [Moving Forward Together](#), which details our plan to work with civil society, the private sector and all stakeholders to advance the SDGs in Canada and abroad. It lays out a clear strategy for how Canada can play its part in building a world that works for everyone – a world that leaves no one behind.

Addressing humanitarian crises during the pandemic

A recent increase in the number and intensity of armed conflicts and natural disasters has resulted in unprecedented levels of humanitarian need. In 2020-2021, Canada worked with trusted partners to provide life-saving assistance—such as food, clean water and sanitation, and health care—to those who need it most. For instance, Canada provided close to \$1.2 billion to meet the humanitarian needs of some 115 million people around the world.

Responding to crises and conflict-affected countries

Increasingly, protracted and long-standing crises contribute to regional instability and increased poverty and human suffering. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly devastating for displaced populations and those affected by conflict as they often live in poor and crowded conditions with limited access to health services.

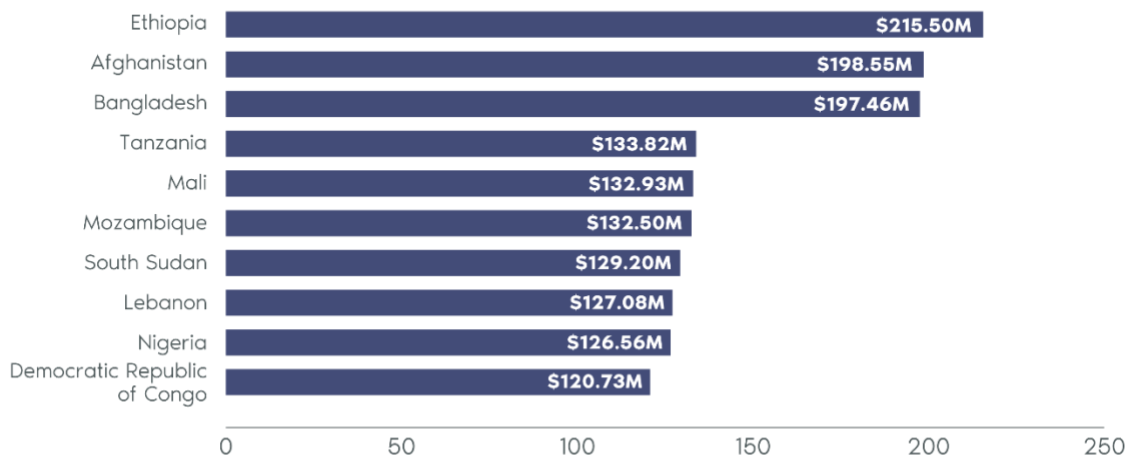
- Canadian support for the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh helped improve the living conditions for vulnerable and conflict-affected populations in Myanmar, as well as refugees in camps and settlements in Bangladesh, and helped assist host communities. Canada sought to address root causes of both the coup and the Rohingya crisis and has led on international efforts for accountability and ending impunity.
- Canada has also responded to humanitarian, development and stabilization needs resulting from the crisis in Venezuela. This included responding to needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants across the Latin America and Caribbean region.
- As the second largest donor in Haiti, Canada provided assistance to address food insecurity, sexual reproductive health and rights, education and the COVID crisis as well as reinforcing institutions to strengthen the security sector.
- In Afghanistan, Canada supported stabilization, development and humanitarian efforts, focusing on the security sector, education, health, as well as human rights and the rights of Afghan women and girls.



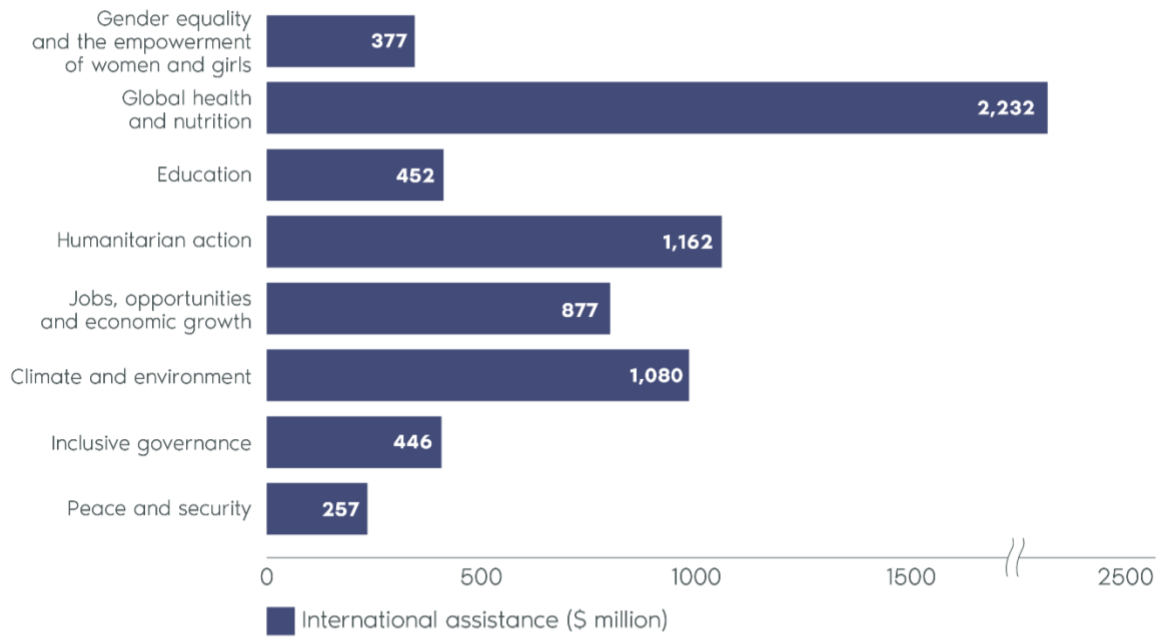
Working together with Canada's partners for a more sustainable future

Canada is proud to work collaboratively with our many Canadian and global partners, and countless dedicated and inspiring individuals, who play an integral role in ensuring Canada's international assistance achieves results and reaches those in the greatest need. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Canada has issued a series of flexibility measures to facilitate project delivery. Canada recognizes that partners have continued to deliver international assistance effectively and achieve results in the face of the unique operational challenges the pandemic has posed.

TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



Disbursements by action area of the Feminist International Assistance Policy





Government of Canada's International Assistance and Official Development Assistance Disbursements by Organization, 2020–2021

The Government of Canada disbursed \$8.1 billion in international assistance in 2020-2021, of which official development assistance (ODA) made up 98% or \$7.9 billion. The Statistical Report on International Assistance provides further details on international assistance and ODA expenditures.

The Government of Canada delivered international assistance through 20 federal organizations.

Amount disbursed (\$ million) by each of the 20 federal organizations:

Canadian International Assistance 2020-2021				
DEPARTMENT/SOURCE	International assistance	of which		
		Programs funded by the IAE	ODA: ODAAA	ODA: OECD-DAC*
Departments reporting under the ODAAA				
Global Affairs Canada	6,970.27	6,954.15	6,846.08	6,846.08
Department of Finance Canada	511.50	511.50	503.95	503.95
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**	354.49	-	354.49	354.49
International Development Research Centre	152.74	152.74	150.79	150.79
Environment and Climate Change Canada	17.17	9.46	15.30	15.30
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	14.14	14.14	14.14	14.14
Canada Revenue Agency	7.29	5.25	7.29	7.29
Department of National Defence	7.02	-	7.02	7.02
Natural Resources Canada	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32
Employment and Social Development Canada - Labour Program	1.75	-	1.75	1.75



Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada	0.90	-	0.90	0.90
Parks Canada	0.83	-	0.83	0.83
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	0.57	-	0.57	0.57
Canada Post - Universal Postal Union	0.55	-	0.55	0.55
Statistics Canada	0.13	-	0.13	0.13
Canadian Space Agency	0.09	-	0.09	0.09
Canadian Intellectual Property Office	0.06	-	0.06	0.06
Correctional Service Canada	0.04	-	0.04	0.04
Canadian Museum of Nature	0.02	-	0.02	0.02
Services received without charge from Public Services and Procurement Canada	25.07	11.28	25.07	25.07
Subtotal - Departments reporting under the ODAAA	8,066.94	7,660.85	7,931.38	7,931.38
% of international assistance		95%	98%	98%
Other departments, sources				
Cost of refugees in Canada (first year) - provincial governments	229.88	-	-	229.88
FinDev Canada	100.00	-	-	100.00
Imputed foreign student subsidies	-	-	-	-
Provinces, territories and municipalities	32.96	-	-	32.96
Subtotal - Other departments, sources	362.84	-	-	362.84
Total	8,429.78	7,660.85	7,931.38	8,294.22
% of total international assistance		91%	94%	98%

* The "ODA: OECD-DAC" figures presented in this table are shown on a fiscal year basis, in Canadian dollars, in order to compare and contrast reporting under the ODAAA versus the ODA reported to the OECD-DAC. When Canada reports to the OECD-DAC, figures are reported on a calendar-year basis in U.S. dollars. Their depiction in this table is for illustrative purposes only. The ODAAA reports on departments gross disbursements, whereas the OECD-DAC reports on a grant equivalent basis.

** Includes costs of refugees in Canada (first year) and other projects.





Credits: © PAHO, WHO, Colombia

Canada's global response to COVID-19

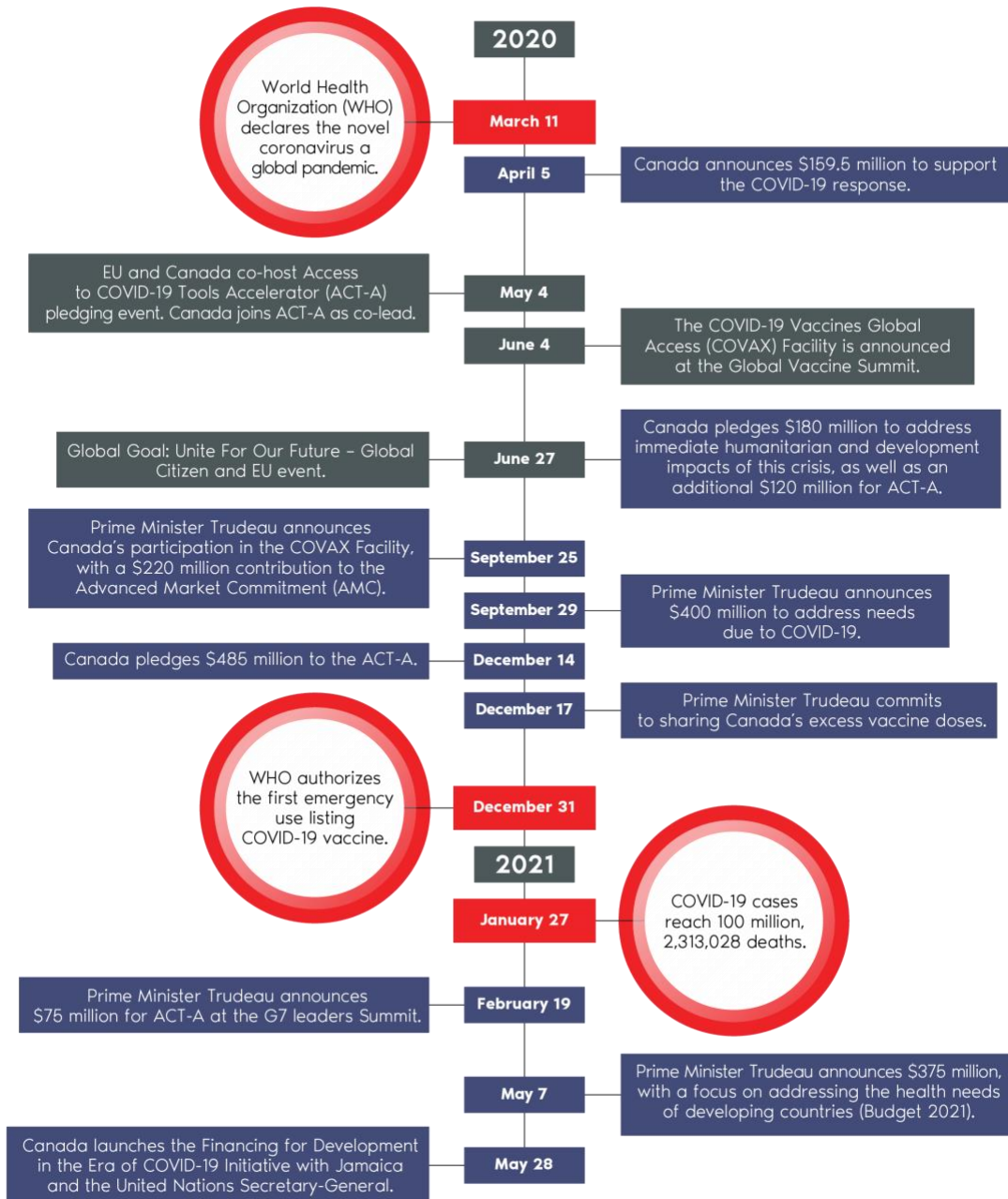
Since the pandemic was officially declared by the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) in March 2020, Canada has committed more than 2.7 billion dollars in support. COVID-19 has touched every country—resulting in millions of deaths globally and devastating social and economic impacts. Health systems have been stressed and many countries have been unable to deliver essential services such as immunizations for children and access to family-planning.

The pandemic has set back development gains across all sectors and has exacerbated inequalities, both within and between countries. More than 1 billion children have experienced disruptions to their schooling and another 320 million people went without access to adequate food for the first time.

In 2020-21, Canada responded by:

- **contributing \$1.97 billion in international assistance to fight the global COVID-19 pandemic, including 370 million in repurposed funding** to help our partners in developing countries address urgent health needs
- **leading discussions at the United Nations (UN) as part of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative**
- providing an unprecedented level of funding for crisis response and economic recovery in developing countries through multilateral development banks, with the World Bank Group alone committing more than US\$157 billion between April 2020 and June 2021
- **making an additional \$1 billion available for IMF** loans to low-income countries
- providing more than \$80 million in temporary debt service relief for the poorest countries through the G20 and Paris Club agreed Debt Service Suspension Initiative

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE: KEY EVENTS TIMELINE



Canada's key COVID-19 commitments

Canada took a leading role in responding to the pandemic, organizing its response around 3 pillars:

- addressing COVID-19's immediate health impacts and providing support for testing, treatments and vaccines
- supporting an equitable economic recovery by focusing on enabling financial liquidity and stability for developing countries
- working to help the most vulnerable by addressing the pandemic's socio-economic effects, including through support for humanitarian assistance, education and food security

Fighting the pandemic

In 2020-2021, Canada co-chaired the Development Ministers' Contact Group on COVID-19 and participated in the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19. Canada acted quickly to address the acute phase of the pandemic. This included support for the [Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#), a platform launched by the WHO and health partners to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 medical interventions. Canada joined the global ACT-Accelerator platform as a co-lead and co-hosted its first pledging event in May 2020.

Over the course of 2020-2021, Canada committed \$940 million to the platform and reallocated US\$25 million to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) through the completion of an AMC related to pneumococcal disease. The reallocation was part of the seed funding to which GAVI donors agreed to in support of the launch of the COVAX AMC in June 2020.

The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women and girls in developing countries. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, sexual and gender-based violence has emerged as a shadow pandemic, with the number of reports of domestic violence skyrocketing around the world. As a direct result of the pandemic, 10 million more cases of child marriage are expected in the next decade. Global maternal and fetal outcomes have worsened, with the number of maternal deaths and stillbirths increasing.

To enable women to access the support and services they need during the pandemic, Canada committed more than \$9 million in funding to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage, and to access contraceptives and safe abortion services. In recognition

Canada has been a strong advocate for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines. **The government contributed \$90 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations** and acted as the co-lead of the vaccine pillar ([COVAX](#)) under the ACT-Accelerator to speed up the development, testing and licensing of vaccines. Canada co-hosted a vaccines and therapeutics pledging conference alongside the European Union and Japan, raising US\$8 billion to better test for and treat COVID-19, particularly in vulnerable countries.



of the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 crisis has had on women and girls as frontline workers and caregivers, Canada has called for greater attention to the issue of paid and unpaid care work.

Safeguarding and supporting critical health services

Throughout the pandemic, Canadian partners have played an important role in supporting the health sectors in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Haiti. In total, \$52.8 million was committed in 2020-2021 to projects working to:

- support the dissemination of science-based information and increase public awareness of COVID-19
- strengthen community-based health and social services to minimize the gendered impact of the pandemic on health systems, social services and economic activity
- support health-care staff through additional training on COVID-19 screening, detection and prevention
- provide health-care workers and community health volunteers with appropriate protective gear
- improve water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities and project areas

Through this support, more than 48,000 health-care workers were trained and some 10 million men and women were provided with information on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence.



Managing stresses and stabilizing economies

Canada provided debt relief to the poorest countries through the Paris Club and the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative. In 2020-2021, Canada successfully advocated for a broad set of countries to be included in these initiatives, including least developed countries and small island developing states.

To help meet the unprecedented demand from low-income countries for financial support, Canada increased its loan commitment to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust from \$2 billion to \$3 billion. Canada has been a leading advocate for the continued free flow of essential goods and services. This included acting as chair of the Ottawa Group on World Trade Organization reform, which endorsed a COVID-19 action plan focused on trade facilitation, and trade and health.

Supporting the most vulnerable and reinforcing recovery

Canada drew international attention to the pandemic-related food security crisis through its leadership in the UN's Group of Friends for Food Security and Nutrition, the G20 and the G7. Canada invested almost \$159 million in agriculture, food security and nutrition response programming. Canada allocated \$99 million to respond to educational disruptions and school closures. In February 2021, Canada launched the [Together for Learning campaign](#) to promote quality education and lifelong learning for children and youth who are refugees, forcibly displaced or living in host communities.

Canada provided critical support to address humanitarian needs as needs continued to grow throughout the pandemic. Canada was one of the first countries to provide ongoing flexible funding to humanitarian partners such as the WHO's [Central Fund for Emergencies](#), which allowed the WHO to rapidly scale up its initial response to outbreaks in vulnerable regions. With the support of Canada and other donors, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund and Country Based Pooled Funds were able to allocate more than US\$490 million to humanitarian partners in 48 countries. These funds provided US\$226 million to



international and national NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and other local partners who provided the frontline response to the virus.

Results in focus

Canada provided a total of \$90 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to research, develop and deploy vaccines. Through support from Canada and other donors, CEPI developed the world's largest portfolio of COVID-19 vaccine candidates, including 4 that showed clinical efficacy in preventing severe disease and 2 that received WHO emergency use licences. CEPI has invested in the “next generation” of vaccines to respond to new emerging variants.

Canada is a leading supporter of COVAX Facility's Advance Market Commitment window, which focuses on supporting low- and middle-income economies. As a supporter of the facility, Canada helped ship more than 37 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 53 Advance Market Commitment countries and territories between February 24 and March 31, 2021. Through our participation in the ACT-Accelerator diagnostics pillar, Canada has helped to:

- reserve **120 million rapid antigen tests** for low- and middle-income countries



- procure more than **32 million molecular tests** and **32 million rapid antigen tests** for low- and middle-income countries



- train more than **23,000 health workers** in almost 200 countries



Canada supported partner countries and organizations' response to COVID-19 in a variety of ways, including:

- providing **400,000 items of PPE**, valued at \$3 million, to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, which were distributed to 27 member countries
- providing **690,000 items of PPE**, valued at \$4.5 million, to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and 6 ASEAN member states
- providing more than **4.5 million items of PPE and critical medical supplies** to 23 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean thanks to \$7.5 million allocated to the Pan-American Health Organization
- providing a \$5 million grant from the Weapons Threat Reduction Program (WTRP) to the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide **27 COVID-19 diagnostics toolkits** to 25 partner countries



- helping acquire PPE and other critical supplies for the Institut Pasteur de Laos and **fully equipping 20 mobile diagnostic laboratories** for the National Health Laboratory Service in South Africa

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Getting supplies to those in need

In May 2020, the UN's Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued an appeal for assistance to transport urgently needed medical and humanitarian supplies to countries around the world. In response, in July 2020, the Canadian Armed Forces airlifted and delivered 82,500 kg of COVID-19 related humanitarian and medical supplies to various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on behalf of the World Food Programme and the WHO. Canada was one of only 3 countries that responded to the UN's global request for assistance.



Credits: Bangladesh, 2021. © UNICEF / Chakma

Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond

Through the [Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative](#), Canada led discussions, alongside Jamaica and the UN, to promote an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery. Launched in May 2020, this initiative identified more than 250 concrete policy options to help guide global economic recovery efforts. To date, Canada has co-hosted 3 meetings of heads of state and government to galvanize joint action for the least developed countries and small island developing states.



Responding to local needs

Operating in more than 130 countries, the [Canada Fund for Local Initiatives](#) (CFLI) has strong connections with local civil society organizations. When the pandemic began, this allowed Canada to respond quickly to requests for assistance from local partners and repurpose funding to focus on COVID-19. In 2020-2021, a total of 315 CFLI projects supported local organizations in 114 countries to prepare for, respond to or recover from the pandemic.

Tackling pandemic misinformation

Canadian media partners worked with Journalists for Human Rights to address misinformation regarding the pandemic in 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. Canada also partnered with BBC Media Action in 4 countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa to address the primary and secondary effects of COVID-19 in local communities. Both projects involved engaging with trusted and influential local media organizations and led to results such as:

- 300 journalists receiving training and mentoring
- producing 1,200 scientifically sound local stories
- producing radio and television segments looking at the effects of the pandemic on marginalized groups and those facing vulnerabilities, with a specific focus on women and girls
- updating and sharing reports with humanitarian actors and organizations

Providing tax administrators with tools during the pandemic

Through the [Knowledge Sharing Platform for Tax Administrations](#) (KSPTA), tax officials from more than 200 jurisdictions and 25 international and regional organizations share information and make use of tools hosted on the platform. In 2020-2021, the KSPTA helped provide tax officials with information on emergency initiatives, business continuity and resumption plans in response to the pandemic.

Protecting those facing vulnerabilities

In response to the pandemic, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada provided funding to the International Organization for Migration to deliver COVID-19 pre-departure medical services for all refugees resettling in Canada. This included providing testing, isolation services, pre-boarding health checks and vaccinations, where available.

Studying the long-term impact of the pandemic

In 2020-2021, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) invested nearly \$55 million in COVID-19 programming in more than 65 countries. These investments have focused on priorities ranging from health protection for marginalized people to supporting adaptations in education, with a particular focus on gender equality and inclusion. More than 60 IDRC-supported research projects are currently studying the impact of the pandemic as well as developing and testing effective interventions.



Providing policing support during the COVID-19 pandemic

At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the Canadian Police Arrangement made the difficult decision to repatriate many of its police officers from overseas peace operations. However, not a single mission was completely closed down. Instead, the RCMP's International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations program reduced deployment numbers or continued their activities virtually. Those officers who were deployed during the pandemic were provided enhanced medical screening, COVID-19 specific training, in-mission support and PPE supplies.

Supporting civil society partners' COVID-19 response

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) have been at the forefront of Canada's global response. Partners pivoted to deliver international assistance programming remotely and engaged more with local partners. Canada streamlined processes to amend projects, top-up projects' budgets and approve new projects focusing on COVID-19. In 2020-2021, Canada allocated close to \$166 million in COVID-19 international assistance funding to more than 60 Canadian CSO partners. This funding was used to adapt or implement close to 100 projects addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic in a range of sectors. As a result, Canadian partners were able to:

- support health systems to prevent the spread of infection and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic
- provide support for education, including distance learning, teacher training, child protection and psychosocial support
- work to prevent sexual and gender-based violence
- support for the safe return to school
- combat COVID-19 disinformation

Canada's support for World Vision Canada's Enhancing Nutrition Services to Improve Maternal and Child Health in Africa and Asia (ENRICH) innovative initiative had significant results in 2020-2021. These included:

- training more than **6,000 health workers and volunteers** on COVID-19 prevention and case management in Bangladesh, Kenya, Myanmar and Tanzania
- **equipping 13 facilities with telehealth communication equipment** and connecting them to telemedicine services
- **reaching some 4.9 million people** through radio ads about sexual and gender-based violence and COVID-19 prevention
- providing more than **4.5 million people with COVID-19 health promotion** and sensitization information

Canada supported the [Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's](#) (PWRDF's) COVID-19 response activities in Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania. Working with 4 local partners, PWRDF focused on aggressive measures to interrupt transmission, identify and isolate cases, trace contacts, as well as continue maternal, newborn and child health services. In addition, 2.5 million people were able to



access health services and more than 75 health facilities received PPE, medical supplies and training for their employees.

Addressing the global financing gap

International financial institutions are helping to deal with an annual financing gap to achieve the SDGs and promote a green recovery. The UN estimates this gap could total up to US\$3.7 trillion annually. To address this, the IMF has provided 90 countries with more than US\$170 billion in financial assistance since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. Canada provided more than \$1.4 billion to multilateral development banks in 2020-2021. This included more than \$423 million to the International Development Association of the World Bank, which has used the funding to deliver a swift, targeted and agile response to the pandemic in low-income countries.

Stories of change

Promoting health in the streets of Buenos Aires



Credits: © Embassy of Canada to Argentina

People experiencing homelessness in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, have faced unique challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only has their access to critical services been reduced, they have been at higher risk of infection with nowhere to safely isolate. Through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), Canada helped Médicos del Mundo to provide homeless men, women and children in the city with tailored access to basic health services as well as mental health support.

In addition to offering 40 basic health-care sessions, the organization developed an early warning system for COVID-19 cases in areas where homeless people frequently spend the night. It developed a guide that listed where homeless people suspected of having COVID-19 or other respiratory diseases could find public health services. In total, the project provided 1,250 vulnerable people with critical health services and helped to prevent and treat cases of COVID-19 throughout the city.



Using the power of radio to fight COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa

In 2020-2021, Canada increased funding for Farm Radio International's Scaling Her Voice on Air project. This enabled 140 radio stations in sub-Saharan African communities to raise public awareness about COVID-19 and dispel myths about the virus.

David Bondo, the director of Ratego Radio, a community station based in Kenya's Siaya county, says that the programming focused on "the importance of using government and World Health Organization messaging...and of not spreading rumours." For example, one radio program talked about the stigmatization and discrimination faced by those who test positive for COVID-19.

"Like rumours, stigmatization is dangerous. It prevents other people from getting tested and seeking care," explains Bondo.

Without Canada's support of Farm Radio International's programming, he says his station would have had to rely on government information, which focused less on prevention strategies and more on statistics about new and recovered cases.

"Those are important," Bondo says. "But they are not as helpful to listeners as advice."



Credits: © David Bondo



Working on the ground to fight COVID-19 in Bangladesh

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, the Bangladeshi NGO BRAC was busy working on the frontlines to respond. Through 35,000 community health workers, it distributed masks and shared life-saving health-education messages about how to prevent COVID-19 and the benefits of vaccination.

Mahmuda Zannat is among thousands of BRAC health workers who conducted regular household visits to support families in Rajshahi, a rural region in northwestern Bangladesh that has been hit hard by COVID-19.

“Whenever I go to a household, I try to assure them that it is safe to inform me if anyone in the household is sick,” she explains. “My pre-existing relationship with these households has enabled me to build trust. People know I am here to help, not to get them in any trouble.”

With Canada’s \$1.5 million seed funding, BRAC is now working to reach 81 million people across 35 districts in Bangladesh. Through the Community Fort for Resisting COVID-19 (CFRC) project, Canada’s support is helping to build resilience at the community level, addressing 4 main pillars to tackle the pandemic: fighting misinformation, promoting mask-wearing, responding to infections and promoting vaccination efforts.



Credits: © BRAC

Canada helped to encourage additional like-minded donor countries to contribute to the CFRC fund. These contributions have allowed BRAC’s community health workers to conduct more than 1 million door-to-door visits to screen potentially infected individuals and help them to connect to free telemedicine services, in addition to various other resilience-building activities.



Working in Latin America to provide fast, versatile, and accessible COVID-19 testing

With support from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), researchers at the University of Toronto adapted a portable glucose meter-based test to detect COVID-19. The test builds on previous work funded by IDRC and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to detect Zika virus infections in Latin America. The team, led by Assistant Professor Keith Pardee, adapted their lab-in-a-box platform to use for COVID-19 diagnostics and antibody testing. This low-cost and programmable platform has now been tested with small businesses in Canada and with diagnostic labs and others in Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile and India.

"Support from IDRC was critical for our group to quickly launch the COVID-19 diagnostics effort in the lab and has been instrumental in establishing a global network of collaborators for trials of the technology," says Pardee.



Credits: © Steven Southon

In addition to responding to the COVID-19 crisis, the team's long-term goal is to build flexible technologies for future pandemics. Because these testing technologies are small and portable—and have the potential to give results rapidly outside of centralized facilities—they are much more accessible. They can simplify the detection of COVID-19 infections in workplaces, schools and communities, enabling more rapid public-health responses.

Drawing upon the work of research teams in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia, these diagnostic tools could play a significant role in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a partnership with the National Research Council of Canada, the technology is now being paired with point-of-use RNA extraction for community-based detection of variants of concern.



Learn more about this theme

Evaluations

[COVID-19 Global Coalition for Evaluation](#)

Others

[Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#)

[COVAX](#)

[CEPI](#)

[Canada's ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Canadian Armed Forces airlift support to the United Nations for COVID-19 concludes](#)



Canada in the world: International assistance in action

2030 Agenda and the SDGs

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) is a global framework that includes 17 indivisible and interrelated SDGs as well as their targets and indicators. These goals work together to balance the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In 2021, Canada released a national strategy to guide efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. Canada is committed to taking a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to implementing the agenda at home and abroad. Global Affairs Canada has developed a departmental strategy to promote greater coherence and effectiveness in supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda internationally.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UN member states, including Canada, recommitted to the 2030 Agenda as the blueprint for recovery. They reaffirmed the goal of reaching the SDGs to build more sustainable, peaceful, just, equitable, inclusive and resilient societies, and to address the inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Continuing our commitment to realizing the SDGs globally

Canada engages bilaterally and multilaterally to advocate for and contribute to the 2030 Agenda. These international efforts recognize the importance of working with governments, Indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector, academics, the non-profit and voluntary communities, and other stakeholders.

In February 2021, Canada released [Moving Forward Together – Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy](#). It aims to foster an enabling environment for whole-of-society participation in implementing the 2030 Agenda and advancing the SDGs in Canada and abroad. The strategy builds on the 30 actions and 5 core principles outlined in the [Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy](#), and lays out how the government will contribute to advancing the strategy.

To monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, Canada has implemented a [Canadian Indicator Framework](#) to complement the Global Indicator Framework. It lays the foundation for Canada to track and report on progress toward achieving the SDGs at home. The data is publicly available on the [Statistics Canada SDG Data Hub website](#).

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

In 2020-2021, the [Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program](#), which supports Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy, assisted projects that helped to:

- increase public awareness of the SDGs
- facilitate improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for Canadians
- advance Canada's implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda in general

Internationally, Canada's Feminist Foreign Policy, Feminist International Assistance Policy, Inclusive Approach to Trade, and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security all worked toward



achieving the 2030 Agenda. Canada's emphasis on supporting the poorest and most vulnerable in addition to our focus on gender equality aligns with the 2030 Agenda's commitment to leave no one behind.

Monitoring and evaluating progress

Statistics Canada co-chairs the UN's Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators that developed and is implementing the global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda. During 2020-2021, the group shared experiences and best practices on monitoring the SDGs, reviewing methodological developments and developing a work stream on data disaggregation. Statistic Canada prepared and presented a report on COVID-19 and the SDG indicators for the UN's Statistical Commission, which examined the effects of the pandemic on progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Moving closer to achieving the SDGs

In July 2020, Canada participated in the UN's High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, the UN's first major virtual conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada's Ministers of International Development, as well as Children, Families, and Social Development presented a [joint national statement](#) by pre-recorded video. Canada's delegation included federal government officials and non-governmental stakeholders, including Indigenous representatives and youth.

In 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched a departmental strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The goal was to apply a sustainable development lens to all of Canada's international engagement efforts to accelerate progress to achieving the SDGs during the [Decade of Action](#).

Learn more about this theme

[Moving forward together: Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy](#)

[Canada's Federal Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda](#)

[Canada's Voluntary National Review](#)

[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

[United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)





Credits: © Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment (iSEE)

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Gender inequality remains pervasive in many parts of the world, resulting in discrimination, violence and socio-economic marginalization. This prevents women, girls and gender-diverse people from being powerful actors and agents of change in their own lives and in their communities.

The pandemic has further stalled progress and exacerbated gender inequalities. School closures, economic stress, service disruptions, early and unwanted pregnancies and parental deaths are putting the most vulnerable girls at increased risk. According to UNICEF, this could result in an additional 10 million more child marriages over the next decade. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the [World Economic Forum estimates](#) that the time it will take to reach gender equality globally has increased by a generation—from 99.5 years to 135.6 years.

Across all areas of our work, almost 93% of Canada's bilateral international development assistance investments targeted or integrated gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

At its core, Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy adopts an intersectional approach, advancing gender equality that empowers women and girls so that all people, regardless of their sex, gender identity or expression, can enjoy the same opportunities. Through this policy, Canada aims to break down barriers to achieving gender equality by:

- addressing sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation or cutting
- supporting and strengthening women's rights organizations and movements that advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
- supporting evidence-based policymaking and program delivery for gender equality

Key commitments

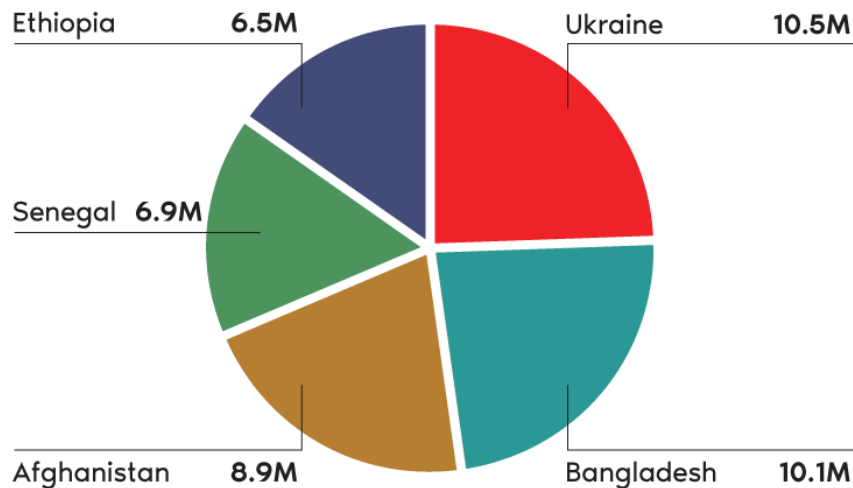
In 2020-2021, the Government of Canada invested \$377 million in international assistance to advance gender equality and support the empowerment of women and girls. Of this, \$375 million was official developmental assistance. These investments are part of the following commitments:



- \$150 million over 5 years to Women's Voice and Leadership to support local women's organizations that advance women's rights and gender equality
- A total of \$300 million to the 15-year Equality Fund initiative to strengthen women's organizations and movements in developing countries through a unique government, philanthropy, private sector and civil society partnership
- \$95 million in 2020-2021, of which \$33 million in COVID-19 response funding, toward eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation or cutting, part of Canada's commitment to reach \$700 million a year for sexual and reproductive health and rights by 2023-2024

Results in focus

TOP 5 RECIPIENTS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS



In 2020-2021, Canada, along with other multilateral and global partners, contributed to achieving the following results:

- reaching almost **35 million people** through projects that help **prevent, respond to and end sexual and gender-based violence**, including child, early and forced marriage and/or female genital mutilation, with an additional 18 million people reached through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- enabling more than **1,900 women's organizations and networks** to expand their activities and strengthen their capacity to advance women's rights and gender equality, with an additional **3,350 women's organizations and networks** supported through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- providing **\$248 million to women's rights organizations and movements**, including the last \$195 million of a \$300 million contribution to the Equality Fund, a 15-year investment that will generate sustainable funding and provide grants to women's rights organizations and movements over several years to come

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Engaging in global initiatives to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence

In 2020-2021, Canada and our partners made significant progress toward enhancing the response to and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. Canada provided \$12 million in additional funding to the [UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women's](#) COVID-19 emergency response. This enabled frontline civil society and women's rights organizations to meet the urgent needs of women and girls. Key results included:

- enabling fund grantees to provide services to more than 31 million people
- directly supporting more than 240,000 women and girls to bring about transformative changes in their lives
- providing services to more than 26,500 women and girls who are survivors of violence

Canada's support to the [UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#) enabled it to adapt its programming to the COVID-19 crisis. The funding helped provide digital solutions in 12 countries in Asia and Africa, resulting in:

- more than 4 million adolescent girls participating in life skills and comprehensive sexual education interventions
- 160,000 adolescent girls receiving support to enrol or remain in school
- more than 6 million boys and men being reached with messages about harmful masculinities and gender norms



Through long-term institutional support to UN organizations, Canada contributed to the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, including by:

- providing more than 1.7 million girls with UNFPA-supported prevention or protection services and care related to child, early and forced marriage
- providing direct support and services to more than 7,800 girls and 6,800 boys in Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Niger and Mali, with a primary focus on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence and keeping girls in school
- enabling more than 5,300 community-based organizations to fight both the pandemic and its “shadows”—domestic violence, human rights abuses, racism, xenophobia, stigma and other forms of discrimination
- saving more than 350,000 girls from female genital mutilation or cutting and providing more than 930,000 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence with essential services
- contributing funding to the [Global Safe to Learn Campaign](#) to enable a technical gender equality expert to integrate gender equality, diversity and inclusion into the campaign's work

Supporting women's rights organizations and movements

Women's Voice and Leadership Program

The [Women's Voice and Leadership program](#) has been a “game changer” when it comes to how Canada supports and strengthens local women's rights organizations. In 2020-2021, Canada provided more than 800 organizations across 31 countries with direct funding or capacity-building assistance. In total, the program directly reached more than 700,000 people through its activities and services. Some 24 million people benefited indirectly from its media and advocacy outreach.



In 2020-2021, Canada began using a Feminist Evaluation Framework for the program. This included bringing together all relevant stakeholders to identify and prioritize the program's evaluation questions, its approach to data collection and which case studies should be included.

Equality Fund

In 2020-2021, the [Equality Fund](#) provided small grants to 93 women's organizations and movements across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Canada's \$300 million contribution to the fund continues to leverage and generate funds from various sectors to support grantmaking to women's rights organizations and feminist movements.



Generation Equality Forum

In 2020, Canada became the co-leader of the Generation Equality Forum Multi-Stakeholder Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership. At the first virtual [Generation Equality Forum](#) in March 2021, Canada was part of a call to action to establish a Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements. The Alliance's aim is to sustain, increase and improve financial and political support for women's rights organizations around the world.



Enhancing the evidence base to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

As part of the [Evaluation of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Middle East](#) initiative, Canada helped to develop a new data collection tool to assess women's empowerment. Incorporating feminist elements of participation, inclusivity, intersectionality and empowerment, the Empowerment Measurement Tool focuses on ensuring that women's voices are at the centre of the evaluation.

Stories of change

Countering discrimination and violence against women and people with disabilities in Haiti



Credits: © Mouvement pour l'Intégration et l'Émancipation des Femmes Handicapées (MIEFH) in collaboration with the Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale

Canada's Women's Voice and Leadership in Haiti project has helped local women's rights organizations to counter violence that targets women and people with disabilities. Canada's financial and technical support enabled organizations to hold workshops on women's rights and on providing psychological assistance to women who have survived sexual and gender-based violence.

The Movement for the Integration and Empowerment of Women with Disabilities is one of the organizations that received support. It works with women with disabilities to improve their self-esteem and economic independence. With Canada's support, the organization was able to carry out activities such as sexual and gender-based violence awareness and human rights information sessions. Through these sessions, the organization provided 80 participants with the tools they needed to better assert themselves and demand their rights.

"In Haiti, all too often, the rights of people living with disabilities are ignored, especially for women who face intersecting discriminations related to their condition as women and to their disability," explains



Régine Zephirin Diègue, the organization's coordinator and founder. "Our collaboration with the Women's Voice and Leadership project has been a source of strengthening for us. It has allowed our organization to be better structured."

Strengthening the rights of women and girls in Senegal



Credits: © Tostan International

The When She Leads, Everyone Succeeds project (*Quand elle dirige, tout le monde réussit*), led by Tostan International, promotes women and girls as agents of change in Senegal. The project aims to enhance their well-being and the well-being of their communities. It focuses on ending harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation or cutting.

With Canada's support, the project has been able to reach thousands of people, including women and girls, through human rights awareness-raising and advocacy activities. This has provided participants with a better understanding of their rights so that they can participate fully in community discussions regarding the issues that matter most to them.

The project has educated Senegalese men and boys to be more open to listening to women and girls, and to consider their needs and viewpoints when making community decisions. In addition, many municipal councillors, including women, were trained on child- and women-sensitive participatory budgeting, which is helping to promote decisions that support women's and girls' rights within their communities.



Relaunching the CNP-EGAL as a platform for discussion and advocacy in Tunisia



Credits: © PLMI

The *Comité national pour la promotion de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes dans la gestion des affaires locales (CNP-EGAL)* works to coordinate, unite and monitor efforts to promote equality between Tunisian women and men in managing local affairs. It brings together ministries and other government agencies, the *Fédération Nationale des Communes Tunisiennes* (National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities), civil society and multilateral organizations.

CNP-EGAL was somewhat dormant before it was relaunched by the Program for Municipal Leadership Inclusive of Women (PMLIW) project. Led by the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) with funding from the Canadian government, the project helps women who are active in local public life to develop the skills needed to be agents of change in their communities.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, CNP-EGAL members were able to adopt an action plan and publish a declaration denouncing violence and intimidation, which affects many women in politics. In 2020-2021, the committee continued to apply a gender lens and make recommendations on statutes and regulations.



Strengthening women's voices in the tea estates of central Sri Lanka

Nestled in the hills of Sri Lanka is a small organization run by a group of dynamic women. The Social Welfare Mandram (SWM) provides everything from social services to advocacy on women's rights. This community-based women's rights organization has been working for more than 30 years to empower women from Hambegamuwa, in the country's central province. Years of working with women in this plantation community to address their day-to-day problems has provided the organization with a strong understanding of the issues facing them.

Canada's Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project in Sri Lanka has enabled SWM to support self-governed women's societies in selected tea estates, and help women understand their social, political and economic rights.



Credits: © Social Welfare Mandram

Canada's support enabled SWM to continue working in the plantations even during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020-2021, the organization helped 300 women in 10 tea estates to form or strengthen women's societies. This not only provided a strong voice for the women of Hambegamuwa, but also paving the way for young women to develop the skills and confidence needed to become leaders in their community.



Advocating for women's health and promoting breast cancer prevention in Ukraine

Breast cancer is the number 1 cause of cancer deaths among Ukrainian women over the age of 30. The main reason for this is late diagnosis. Most women are not aware that regular self-examinations are an effective way of detecting breast cancer, a disease that can be treated effectively if diagnosed early. However, the women's rights organization "Stopcancer" is working to change this with the support of Canada's Women's Voice and Leadership Ukraine program.



Credits: © Ukrainian Women's Fund

Maria Adamchuk-Korotytska is a breast cancer survivor from Lutsk, Ukraine, who was first diagnosed 10 years ago. Adamchuk-Korotytska and other cancer survivors have created the NGO "Stopcancer", which works in the Volyn region to promote breast cancer prevention awareness and vaccination against the Human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes cervical cancer.

Funding from the Women's Voice and Leadership Ukraine initiative enabled Adamchuk-Korotytska and others to provide social advocacy training. The organization received a grant to organize an awareness-raising campaign on the importance of self-examination for early breast cancer detection.

Within 6 months of forming "Stopcancer," Adamchuk-Korotytska and her colleagues had already reached thousands of women in remote

areas of the region. In fact, a quarter of the communities targeted by the campaign have already developed relevant programs and will approve funding for them by the end of 2021. Now, she and her colleagues have an ambitious plan to start an all-Ukrainian coalition of women's rights organizations to advocate for similar programs at the national level.

Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls Action Area Policy](#)

Evaluations

[Evaluation of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Middle East](#)

Others

[Canada's participation at the Generation Equality Forum gathering in Mexico](#)





Credits: © ASOPARUPA, Colombia

Global health and nutrition

In most countries around the world, COVID-19 has disrupted essential health services—and vulnerable and marginalized groups have been the most severely affected. Many people have not been able to access treatments for diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis B and C, and have experienced disruptions in cancer screening, family-planning and contraception, as well as increases in malnutrition and mental health issues.

Many people, especially women and adolescents, have been more reluctant to seek health care due to lockdowns, lack of financial resources and fear of infection. As a result, fewer people are visiting health clinics for services such as family-planning, sexual health and childbirth—particularly women and girls, who already face barriers to accessing health care.

Key commitments

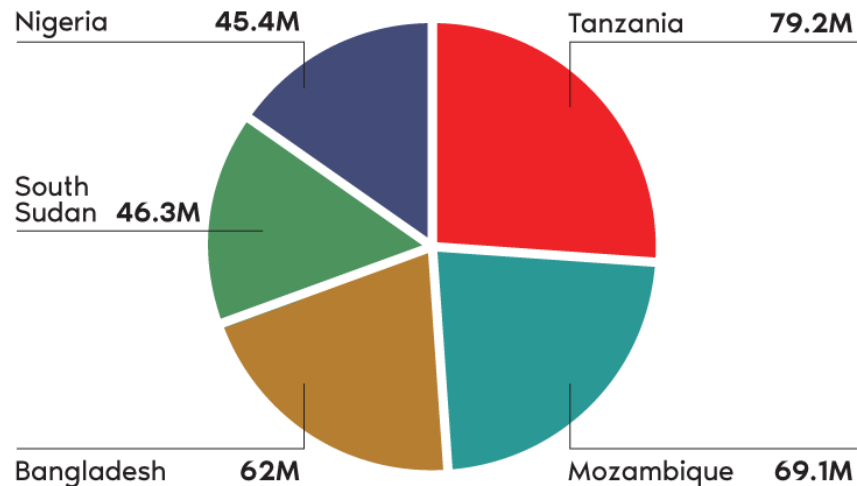
Canada's 10-year commitment to global health and rights (between 2020 and 2030) will raise our health funding to an average of \$1.4 billion annually by 2023. This investment will help support women's, children's and adolescents' health around the world. Half of this annual investment will directly support sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as maternal, newborn and child health.

In 2020-2021, Canada invested \$2.23 billion in international assistance in global health and nutrition, of which \$2.21 billion was official developmental assistance.

Results in focus

In 2020-2021, Canada worked with partners to directly reach more than 10 million people with critical health and nutrition services. Canada provided assistance to some 5,000 health-care facilities and funded training for more than 140,000 health-care workers.

TOP 5 RECIPIENTS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Canada's assistance, along with that of other multilateral and global partners, contributed to achieving the following additional results:

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

- providing safe abortions and post-abortion care to more than 76,000 women in 17 countries through 14 projects
- providing more than 2.3 million women and 85,000 men with family-planning services in 28 countries through 24 projects
- preventing close to 9.5 million unintended pregnancies, including by providing more than 2.6 million abortions, saving the lives of more than 25,000 women and 150,000 children

Nutrition

- providing growth monitoring and promotion services to almost 333,000 children in 5 countries through 7 projects
- delivering nutrition counselling to more than 785,000 adults in 15 countries through 15 projects
- providing more than 98 million children with 2 annual doses of vitamin A, preventing the deaths of more than 78,000 children and 425,000 cases of stunting



Health services

- providing more than 1.1 million women with antenatal care
- ensuring that more than 580,000 women had safer deliveries
- providing more than 490,000 women with postnatal care in 17 countries through 19 projects

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Health was at the forefront of people's minds throughout 2020-2021. While focused on helping partners respond to the pandemic, Canada continued to provide support to address other critical health issues during this challenging period.

Providing essential health services in a challenging time

The aim of the Born on Time public-private partnership is to reduce infant deaths in Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Mali. Between 2016 and 2021, the partnership significantly increased the percentage of women who delivered at a health facility in the 3 countries. This involved working on both the supply and demand side of health services, with a particular focus on adolescent girls. The partnership improved the attitudes of health-care workers and increased awareness of services, which played a significant role in influencing women's decisions to seek health care.

Through the Enhancing Nutrition Services to Improve Maternal and Child Health in Africa and Asia program, Canada continued to expand universal coverage of essential health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, through equipping static health facilities and training community and other health workers.

For example, the project trained more than 2,000 health workers and almost 4,000 community health workers on providing gender-responsive sexual health and nutrition services.



In Tanzania, the Uzazi Uzima project helped to significantly reduce maternal and newborn deaths by addressing the barriers many women face accessing the health care they need. In 2020-2021, the project provided more than 16,000 clients with comprehensive family-planning services and more than 25,000 clients with integrated services. As a result of this integrated approach, the project successfully prevented an estimated 36 maternal deaths, 446 child deaths and more than 5,000 unsafe abortions.

Addressing gender and health equity

In 2020-2021, the Inter Pares Strategic Interventions to Build Momentum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights project in Bangladesh, El Salvador and the Philippines provided free counselling, reproductive health-care services, family-planning supplies, and follow-up at clinics and mobile clinics. For example, in the Philippines, the NGO Likhaan provided free access to rights-based sexual health and family-planning services to more than 6,700 women and girls who experience poverty and stigmatization. In Bangladesh, the NGO Nijera Kori established a hotline that delivered sexual health and family services



to more than 7,500 women and girls, helping them to make informed decisions during COVID-19 lockdowns.

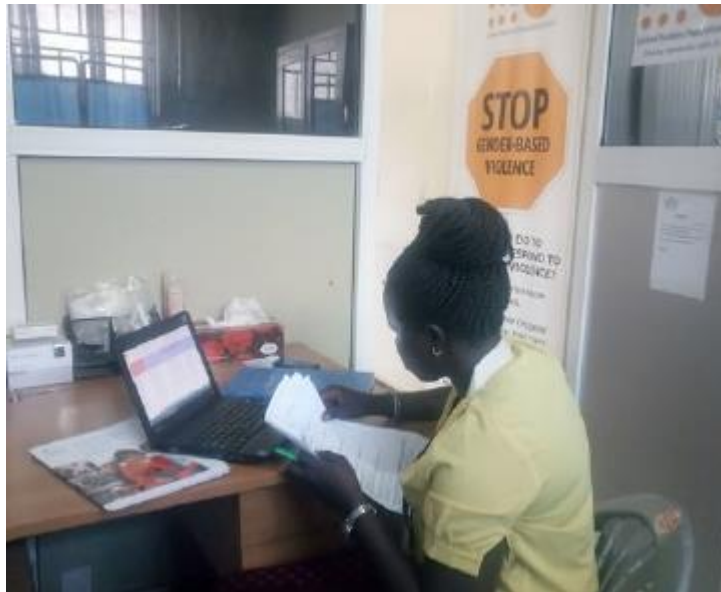
Advocating for rights-based health services

In 2020-2021, the Protecting Access to Safe Abortion and Contraception project created opportunities for dialogue at the district, regional and national levels to advocate for safe abortion services for women. For instance, workshops with government officials in Nepal increased awareness among decision makers regarding the need to reduce barriers preventing women from accessing safe abortions and sexual health services during the pandemic.

Stories of change

Providing a “one-stop centre” for sexual and gender-based violence survivors in South Sudan

Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) often need assistance from different service providers. In South Sudan, Family Protection Centres are enabling survivors to access a range of services under one roof—thanks in part to funding provided by Canada through UNFPA.



Credits: © UNFPA South Sudan / Juma Delu

The first one-stop centre for SGBV survivors opened at the Juba Teaching Hospital in 2017. Eight more centres have opened their doors since then. Each year, more than 1,800 survivors access services from the 9 centres across the country. The centres have played a significant role in the conviction of 106 perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, a major achievement in a country where formal legal services are still not widely used.

“Providing support for SGBV survivors has a lot of challenges but is something that should be a priority and should be sustained under any circumstances. Interventions should be extended beyond the centres where services are being provided. This is why services of the Family Protection Centre extend beyond its walls,” says Fatuma, a response officer at the Juba Teaching Hospital’s Family Protection Centre.

In a country ravaged by conflict, there is a risk that SGBV could be normalized and survivors silenced. But these one-stop centres are providing a safe space for women to seek professional assistance—and begin healing and reintegrating into their community.



Supporting Moroccan women's sexual and reproductive rights

Started a little over 2 years ago, the aim of the Promoting the Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Women and Girls project is to increase gender equality in Morocco by ensuring, among other things, that women have control over their own fertility. Although the project's goals are ambitious, they are realistic and critical for the equality of women in the country.

To date, the project has supported the development of a national sexual and reproductive health policy statement based on a law that takes gender equality into account. The National Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health 2021-2030 differs from the previous policy in that it includes, for the first time, a sexual health component that is based on human rights. The project helped the Ministry of National Education develop and integrate the first sexual and reproductive health curriculum into classrooms.

In 2020-2021, a training program on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and gender equality was developed for Islamic education officials and will be delivered as soon as COVID-19 health restrictions are lifted.

Getting fathers involved to increase vitamin A coverage in Tanzania



Credits: © Nutrition International

In Tanzania, many fathers view the delivery of vitamin A supplements (VAS) to their children as their wife's responsibility, but Canada's support to Nutrition International is helping to change this view.

In December 2020, Anatory Nyahunge, a community health worker in Lagangabilili village, began directly engaging men to involve them in the country's vitamin A supplement program. During market days, Nyahunge and other health-care workers shared educational materials with fathers and emphasized the importance of VAS services for their children. In addition, radio stations played audio clips featuring a man seeking VAS services. In more remote areas, male community leaders were approached to become influencers within their communities.



Due to this exposure, Nyahunge says men's attitudes have shifted. "With time, they [men] are wondering why they are not responsible for their children. With time, they want to be involved in all health issues for their children."

Nutrition International provided cooking demonstrations, in which Nyahunge was able to get men to participate. "Engaging them in planning brings good change to the community," says Nyahunge. "They are becoming agents of change."

In addition to encouraging fathers to help their children access key health and nutrition interventions, the project is inspiring men to take a more active role in household tasks such as cooking or collecting water.

Providing training on the power of zinc to save children's lives in Bangladesh

Family Welfare Assistant Gita Rani, along with her colleagues at the Dhalhara Community Clinic in Bangladesh, had been sharing health messages about diarrhea management, hygiene promotion and nutrition in the community. Their efforts were making a difference, as deaths due to diarrhea decreased, especially among children under 5, but rates began to stagnate as oral rehydration salts alone were not sufficient to treat, contain and cure the high number of diarrhea cases in the country.

The game changer ended up being zinc supplements. Zinc helps children recover from diarrhea faster, resist the disease for longer periods and have fewer episodes each year. To support the Bangladeshi government's effort to monitor and supervise zinc delivery, Nutrition International trained health workers in 14 districts on the latest strategies for managing diarrhea. This training helped health-care workers realize zinc's potential as a life-saving micronutrient.



Credits: © Tareq Salahuddin, Nutrition International

Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Health and nutrition](#)

Evaluations

[Evaluation of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Initiative 2010-11 to 2017-18](#)

[Formative Evaluation of the Innovation Platform for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health \(IP4MNCH\) - Executive summary](#)



Credits: © UNHCR / Shawkat Alharfosh

Education

Despite recent progress, barriers to accessing education persist. These barriers are deeply rooted in power dynamics and social inequalities, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Feminist International Assistance Policy commits Canada to supporting access to quality education for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, with a focus on women and girls.

Gaps in knowledge, limited access to evidence and weak systems to support innovations are at the root of inequalities in education systems in many parts of the world. Insufficient teacher training, a lack of gender equity, varying access to learning opportunities and the absence of data to inform planning are barriers to achieving [SDG 4 - Quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all](#).

Crisis, conflict and fragility exacerbate existing inequalities in access to quality education and skills training for girls and women, especially those with disabilities. The pandemic has prevented many children from attending school and getting the education they deserve. It is estimated that due to the pandemic, anywhere from 11.2 million to more than 20 million girls and young women could drop out of school over the next year. Many of them will never return and, as a result, will be at higher risk of early marriage and teenage pregnancy.

In 2020-2021, Canada focused on addressing the educational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring continued access to education. Our rapid response to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on education was based on 3 pillars:

- continued learning
- a fair, healthy and safe return to school
- fighting against systemic obstacles to education

Canada's investments in education are helping children and youth, particularly girls and women, access safe, quality, gender-responsive and innovative education. Ultimately, the aim is to improve learning outcomes for girls and boys and enhance the employability of youth, women and men, particularly for the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable people. This includes people living in crisis, fragile and conflict-affected and humanitarian settings.

Key commitments

In 2020–2021, Canada invested **\$452 million in international assistance in education**, of which \$451 million was official developmental assistance (ODA).

Canada is committed to allocating 10% of its bilateral international development assistance budget to basic education. In early 2021, Canada launched [Together for Learning](#), an international campaign to ensure that all refugee, forcibly displaced and host community children and youth get a quality education. Some of its significant commitments in recent years include:

- \$400 million between 2018 and 2021 in support of the Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education, including \$50 million to Education Cannot Wait between 2019 and 2021
- \$185 million to the Global Partnership for Education between 2018 and 2020, as well as the recently announced multi-year commitment of \$300 million for 2021-2025

In 2020-21, Canada allocated almost \$79 million in new funding to address the effects of the pandemic on education, including:

- \$35 million for the Global Partnership for Education
- \$12.5 million for Education Cannot Wait
- \$9.4 million to fund Canadian civil society organizations

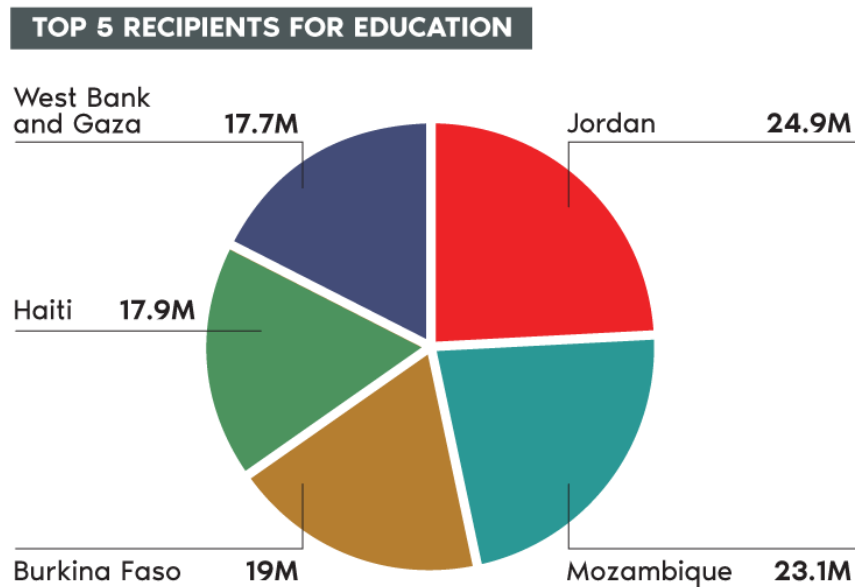
Founded in 2002, the World Bank's Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the largest multi-stakeholder partnership and fund dedicated to improving education in the world's poorest countries. It works with partner governments and organizations at the country level to develop, fund and implement comprehensive national strategies and initiatives to improve education systems and learning outcomes. The GPE targets countries with large out-of-school populations and a high percentage of youth facing vulnerabilities. Canada is a long-time supporter of the GPE and currently ranks 11th among its donors.

Education Cannot Wait is the primary multilateral organization addressing gaps in capacity, coordination and financing for education in emergencies, conflict and fragile situations. With a focus on girls' education, it currently operates in more than 29 countries facing emergency, crisis and conflict situations. Canada has been highly involved in the organization since its inception in 2016 and is currently its sixth-largest donor.

Through programs such as these, Canada is working to remove barriers to education for refugees, forcibly displaced children, and children and youth living in host communities. In 2020-2021, we launched a call for concept notes for Canadian organizations entitled "[Education for Refugee and Displaced Children and Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)." Valued at approximately \$40 million over 5 years, the campaign will fund projects designed to increase access to education for refugee and displaced children and youth.



Results in focus



In 2020-2021, Canada, along with other multilateral and global partners, contributed to achieving the following results:

- **training more than 85,000 teachers** according to national standards and/or an approved teacher training program, with an additional 354,000 teachers trained through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- helping almost **5,000 schools to create welcoming spaces** that meet the specific needs of girls, with another almost 49,000 schools making these changes through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- providing almost **14,000 people with demand-driven, technical and vocational education and training**
- enabling more than **680,000 learners to enrol in formal or non-formal education**, with another 22 million learners reached through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners



Key initiatives in the spotlight

Fulfilling Canada's \$400 million Charlevoix Education commitment

In 2020-2021, Canada fulfilled its pledge to contribute \$400 million over 3 years as part of the [Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries](#). This initiative supports 55 projects across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, reaching more than 4 million girls and women. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, and the closure of schools around the globe, these projects have been able to pivot their activities. Some were even able to scale up in response to the crisis.



Credits: South Sudan, 2020. © UNICEF / Chol

Ensuring quality education for all in conflict regions

Canada's support is helping to ensure that women and girls in fragile, crisis and conflict-affected settings continue to have access to quality education. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, War Child Canada's Making Waves project is providing gender-inclusive education through radio broadcasting. This project helped develop a ministry-approved radio education curriculum for 3 levels of education, enabling students to access distance education during the COVID-19 pandemic using the radio. It provided school materials and supplies to some 2,000 students, over half of whom were girls. The project reached almost 2,400 other beneficiaries through training and awareness-raising programming.



Canada supported the UNESCO Institute of Statistics to develop and provide gender-disaggregated data collection in developing countries, including conflict-affected and fragile states. In 2020-2021, the Institute made 9 new methodological data resources available to monitor equity in education globally.

Supporting gender-responsive education

Canada's support to Right to Play's Gender-Responsive Education and Transformation project is helping to promote inclusive education in Ghana, Mozambique and Rwanda. In Ghana, the project helped school-management committees and parent-teacher associations to address gender-specific problems through the development of action plans. Approximately 80% of schools were able to either partially or fully execute these plans. In Rwanda, the project trained 400 volunteers to lead gender equality awareness campaigns in 200 villages. These campaigns reached more than 40,000 parents and 27,000 children through broadcast messages. In Mozambique, the project helped more than 1,200 teachers integrate gender-responsive learning methods into the classroom.

Making a difference through multilateral initiatives

Canada's participation in multilateral education initiatives continues to play a key role in improving national education systems and addressing education in emergencies.

For instance, with funding from Canada and other donors, Education Cannot Wait enabled more than **9 million children and youth** in 33 crisis-affected regions to continuously access education by providing:

- distance, online and radio learning
- information campaigns on health and hygiene
- risk communication and community engagement in local languages
- psychosocial and mental health support
- water and sanitation facility upgrades in schools and learning centres



In 2020-2021, the Global Partnership for Education provided US\$500 million to its 66 partner countries to deliver their COVID-19 response plans. This funding enabled 355 million children to either access remote learning or safely return to school in countries where they had reopened.

Canada provided \$2.6 million in institutional support to the [Commonwealth of Learning](#) (COL) to foster open, distance and technology enabled learning. From 2015 to 2020, COL helped almost 2.8 million people access and make use of quality learning opportunities. Its GIRLS Inspire project provided more than 100,000 women and girls in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Mozambique and Tanzania with life skills training to help prevent, respond to and end sexual and gender-based violence and child, early and forced marriage.

Understanding what undermines education systems

In 2020-2021, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) launched regional hubs as part of a \$100 million joint endeavour with the Global Partnership for Education to deliver [the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange](#) (KIX). Dedicated to bridging the knowledge gaps that undermine education systems in developing countries, KIX funds research and supports knowledge sharing. In



November 2020, it launched a COVID-19 observatory to collect, synthesize and mobilize information on the impacts of and responses to the pandemic in primary and secondary education systems in Africa.

Stories of change

Developing lifelong readers by better preparing teachers

Like many of its neighbours, Mozambique suffers from a teacher shortage. In an effort to not only increase the number of teachers but the quality of their teaching, the [Better Education Through Teacher Training and Empowerment for Results](#) program in Mozambique works to better prepare teachers through one-on-one literacy mentoring.



Students learn in Chitima, Tete province. Credits: © Elsa Goia, Teacher Trainer at the Chitima Teacher Training Institute

Through this initiative, student teachers learn to teach reading and writing to children from local primary schools while under the careful supervision of teacher trainers such as Elsa Goia.

Goia believes that the project has increased the capacity of educators to deliver student-centred, gender-sensitive primary teacher education. She says the mentoring initiative did not just improve the teaching practices of the student teachers she worked with; it introduced her to new teaching strategies, such as using images to illustrate stories and adopting a guided reading program in the classroom.

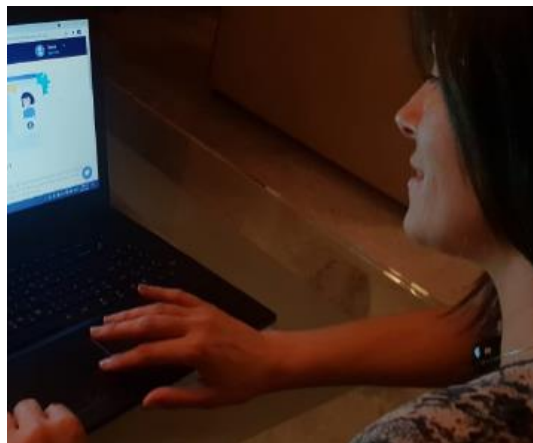


Supporting the transition to online learning during times of crisis

In 2019 and 2020, Lebanon faced a series of economic, sanitary, social and political crises. In addition, the move to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic created a significant challenge given the country's infrastructure and technological obstacles.

With support from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Lebanon's Ministry of Education and Higher Education provided public school teachers and students with digital learning resources, and the training they needed to adapt.

Diana Amin is a math, physics and chemistry teacher at the Intermediary Public School of Jbeil. She had very little preparation to teach online, but thanks to the Online Learning and Assessment Pedagogies course she and her colleagues learned ways to make the most of online schooling.



Credits: © International Education Association

Using virtual technologies to strengthen Colombian adolescent women's right to participate



Credits: © Isabel Cano, Fundación Plan

At the beginning of the pandemic, when schools closed in many parts of the world, learning moved online. In Columbia's Pacific region, one of the most conflict-affected areas in the country, this was no easy task—especially for young women like 14-year-old Marta from Quibdó, 15-year-old Natalia from Tumacom and 16-year-old Fernanda from Buenaventura.

Before their schools closed in March 2020, the 3 girls attended school in the mornings, although they rarely participated. In Natalia's words: "At school, we girls weren't taken into account. The men felt they were the best... we couldn't give an opinion, if we did, right then and there, they would stand up and tell us to stop talking."

Virtual learning seemed impossible due to the region's lack of internet access and students' limited access to technology. Nevertheless, in June 2020, these 3 adolescent women began participating in the Canada-funded Leading for Peace project's virtual Training for Participation strategy. It provided adolescent girls with the tools to connect, receive training and regularly engage with their peers across the Pacific region.

Thanks to this strategy, the girls now know their rights and have discovered skills that they did not know they had. According to Martha: "During the pandemic and the virtual processes, I discovered my talent. I discovered that I was good at making videos, so when they gave me activities at school and in groups I did them; when the videos were with other people, I would be in charge of editing them, and so on, well, I really liked it."



"I learned the importance of knowing our rights, but above all to speak out for girls who cannot do so in my territory," says Fernanda.

Implemented by Plan International Canada, the project has made a difference for thousands of young women in Colombia's Pacific region, many of them survivors of violence. Like Marta, Natalia and Fernanda, they now have newly gained confidence, strength and knowledge of human rights and gender equality.

Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Education](#)

Evaluations

[Evaluation of Canada's International Education Strategy](#)

[Summary report: Formative Evaluation of the Canadian Francophonie Scholarship Program \(CFSP\) Phase VI - Development Component](#)

Others

['Together for Learning' - Education for refugee, other forcibly-displaced and host community children and youth](#)

[Charlevoix Education Initiative](#)





Credits: © Omar Albam / UNICEF

Humanitarian action

Through our humanitarian assistance, Canada helps to save lives, alleviate human suffering and maintain the dignity of populations affected by humanitarian crises in developing countries. However, an increase in the number and intensity of armed conflicts and the scope and frequency of natural disasters, have resulted in unprecedented levels of humanitarian need.

That is why Canada is actively engaged in multilateral and multi-stakeholder initiatives to improve the international humanitarian response system and strengthen the international refugee policy regime.

Canada's gender-responsive approach to humanitarian action considers pre-existing vulnerabilities and intersectional discrimination—such as sex, race, ethnicity, age, ability and refugee status. This allows humanitarian actors to better respond to the needs of those affected by crisis, particularly women and girls.

In particular, Canada works to increase the gender-responsiveness of humanitarian action through targeted and crosscutting approaches in 4 key areas:

- humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law
- sexual and gender-based violence in the context of humanitarian crises
- sexual and reproductive health during humanitarian interventions
- the empowerment of women and girls

Through our UN partners, NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Canada provides assistance for food and nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, protection, health services (including sexual and reproductive health services) and other urgent assistance.



Key commitments

In 2020-2021, Canada invested **\$1.16 billion in international assistance in humanitarian action**, of which \$1.16 billion was official developmental assistance, through UN partners, NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

This assistance:

- helped meet the humanitarian needs of more than 115 million people
- included more than \$370 million to address the humanitarian implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

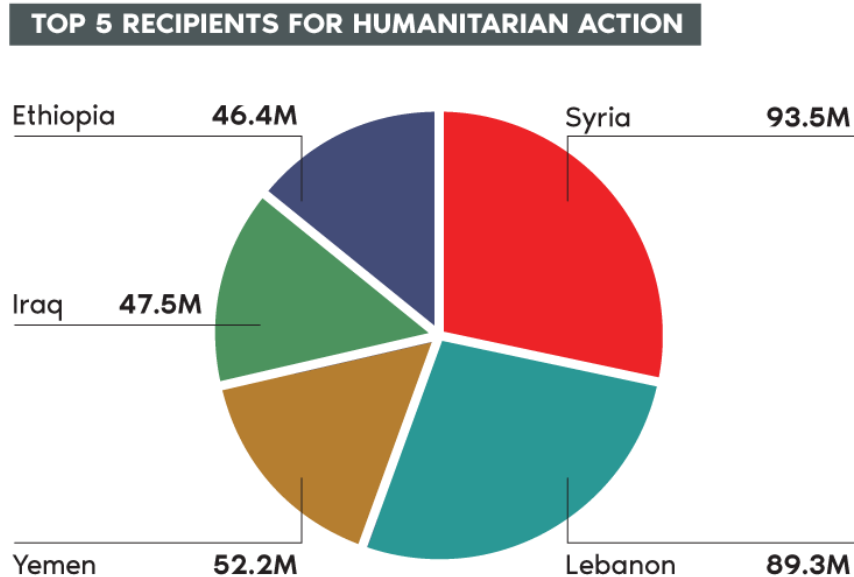
Canada remains strongly committed to advancing the [Grand Bargain](#) commitments to provide more flexible and predictable humanitarian funding. In 2020-2021, Canada provided more than 35% of its humanitarian funding as unearmarked or softly earmarked, and 58% of its funding through multi-year agreements.

Through our Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), Canada's approach is focused on empowering women and girls, meeting their assistance and protection needs, and reducing incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2020-2021, 97% of Canada's bilateral development humanitarian assistance projects integrated gender equality considerations. As lead of the [Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies](#), Canada helped to develop a 2021-2025 Strategic Road Map. Canada spearheaded joint statements on behalf of the Call to Action's 87 partner states, international organizations and NGOs. This included advocating for the recognition of sexual and gender-based violence services as being essential and life-saving in all humanitarian responses to the pandemic.

Canada provided \$41.7 million in support to sexual reproductive health services as part of its humanitarian assistance programming. This support helped to prevent death, disease and disability related to unwanted pregnancies, obstetric complications and reproductive disorders, and sexual and gender-based violence.



Results in focus



In 2020-2021, Canada, along with other international donors, provided support that:

- directly **assisted more than 115 million people** by supporting the World Food Programme's emergency food assistance and nutrition programming
- provided more than **39 million refugees and internally displaced persons with COVID-19 related assistance** through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- provided **food to more than 4 million people** as well as **water to 35 million people**, through the International Committee of the Red Cross

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Supporting those living in protracted crises

In 2018, Canada committed \$300 million in funding over 3 years to respond to the Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh. This included \$124 million in humanitarian assistance. In 2020-2021, this humanitarian funding enabled Canada's partners to:

- deliver emergency food assistance to more than 1.3 million Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, and 560,000 people in Myanmar



- provide health care services to more than 1.2 million refugees and host community members in Bangladesh and 520,000 vulnerable individuals across Myanmar
- provide shelter and supplies for 855,000 Rohingya refugees and 250,000 people living in Myanmar

Addressing sexual and gender-based violence and SRHR through humanitarian assistance

Through its support to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Canada helped provide essential sexual and reproductive health and sexual and gender-based violence services to women, girls and vulnerable populations throughout the Middle East.

In Syria, the program funded integrated sexual and reproductive health services in almost 200 health facilities. In Jordan, Canada's support helped provide more than 130,000 people with sexual and reproductive health services, including antenatal care, safe deliveries, counselling and psychosocial support. In Ethiopia, Canada provided support to address the humanitarian needs of people affected by conflict, displacement, locust infestation and other weather-related crises. Assistance of \$3 million in flexible funding was provided to partners to enable them to respond quickly to the growing needs of people affected by the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region.

Providing critical assistance after disasters

Following the Beirut port explosion in August 2020, Canada quickly responded with a \$30 million contribution to meet the city's immediate humanitarian needs and support early recovery efforts. Among other initiatives, support provided through the [Lebanon Matching Fund](#) has helped the Humanitarian Coalition's members:

- distribute monthly food parcels
- provide cash assistance to families who lost their homes
- deliver essential medical supplies
- offer physical rehabilitation to injured people
- help disaster-affected children improve their coping skills

Supporting rapid emergency response during crisis

Canada delivered grassroots support for rapid emergency response through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. It provided \$550,000 in direct funding to local partners to support 15 projects aimed at responding to sudden-onset emergencies around the world. For example, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Nicaragua, more than 1,100 Indigenous families affected by the storms were provided hygiene products, water, food and basic housing reconstruction kits.

Providing assistance to the West Bank and Gaza

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is mandated to assist millions of Palestinian refugees across its 5 areas: West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Canada's continued support to the program enabled the delivery of basic health, education and social services, including:



- providing more than 5.7 million primary health care consultations
- reaching more than 530,000 children with basic education services
- providing more than 8,700 youth with technical and vocational education
- providing more than 390,000 people with social safety net assistance such as cash and food
- issuing microfinance loans to more than 21,000 people
- providing more than 7,000 Palestinian refugees with disabilities with services, either directly or through partnerships with community-based rehabilitation centres
- delivering vital cash assistance to more than 415,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria
- providing in-kind food assistance to more than 145,000 vulnerable refugees
- providing psychosocial support services to more than 18,000 refugees

Canada helped to improve food security for small-scale breeders and mixed farming households living in the West Bank. Last year, Canada's support helped 117 households to repair greenhouses, 120 households to reconstruct sheds and 127 households to rehabilitate their land. Canada worked to address the water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in the region, with more than 700 people assisted through the distribution of water storage tanks in 7 communities.

Stories of change

Helping Venezuelan girls, boys and adolescents start of a new life in Peru

Two years ago, Genesis had to leave her home in Venezuela with her family to come to Peru. When she arrived in Lima, she says she kept thinking about her name, "It means the beginning of everything, a new awakening, like a new dawn."

The move has definitely been a new beginning for her—and full of surprises. "I never thought I could make so many friends. I was scared at first," she explains. But she says those fears quickly faded because of the many new Peruvian and Venezuelan friends who helped her feel at home.

Before the pandemic, Peruvian and Venezuelan adolescents like Genesis would meet on the second floor of the Lord of Miracles chapel in Lima's San Martín de Porres district. They gathered there to participate in the "Todos somos chéveres, súmate a la integración" ("We're all cool, join us in integration") program. It is run by UNICEF in partnership with the



Credits: Peru, 2020. © UNICEF / Mandros D.



NGO Warmi Wasi as part of the Canada-funded Integrating Venezuelan Girls, Boys and Adolescents in Peru project.

"I love coming here," says Genesis. "Peruvians and Venezuelans support each other and share our stuff with each other. There's none of that 'you're not from here' thing. We're all very united and I like that. It makes me feel that I belong here."

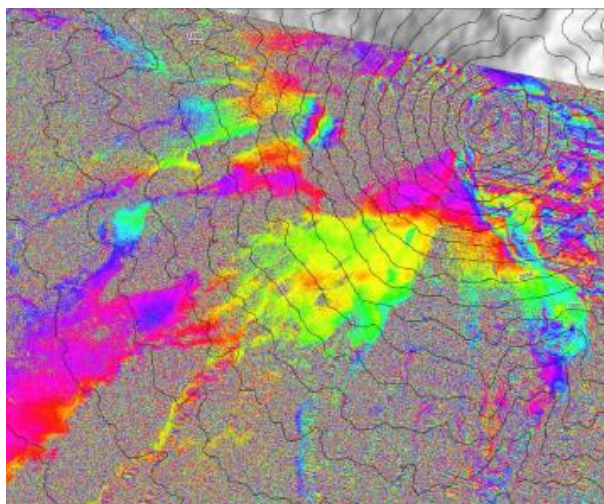
Genesis says that after she finishes helping her mother at home, she has some free time. "That sometimes makes me think I'm locked up and sad memories come back to me." When this happens, she picks up her bag and walks to the chapel. Genesis and her friends hang out and help each other without thinking about where they were born.

"Here, we have a group where unity, respect, friendship and love allow us all to be ok," she explains.

Using space technology to better respond to disasters

[The International Charter: Space and Major Disasters](#) is an international effort to use space technology to help emergency responders and rescue crews to deal with major disasters. Member space agencies, including Canada's, cooperate on a voluntary basis and devote resources to help alleviate the effects of disasters.

For example, in November 2020, the charter helped 500 people living on Indonesia's Mount Merapi to evacuate following warnings that the volcano could erupt. The Canadian Space Agency provided 7 scenes from RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) data to support Indonesia's disaster intervention activities.



Credits: © Natural Resources Canada

Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action](#)

Evaluations

[Evaluation of the International Humanitarian Assistance Program, 2011/2012 to 2017/2018](#)

[Evaluation of International Assistance Programming in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2012-13 to 2018-19](#)

[Evaluation of Canadian International Assistance Programming in Ukraine, 2009/2010 to 2017/2018](#)

Others

[Canada's international humanitarian assistance](#)



Credits: © GAC, Nicaragua

Jobs, opportunities and economic growth

Inclusive economic growth is critical to achieving the SDGs. Canada's support for the Growth that Works for Everyone Action Area contributes to eradicating poverty, promoting gender equality and economic growth, building resilient infrastructure and supporting sustainable industrialization.

Canada is committed to ensuring that economies thrive and economic growth benefits more people by helping to:

- eliminate barriers to women's economic empowerment
- build more inclusive and sustainable economies
- strengthen economic resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened pre-existing gender inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social and economic systems. It has decreased women's employment by more than 4%.

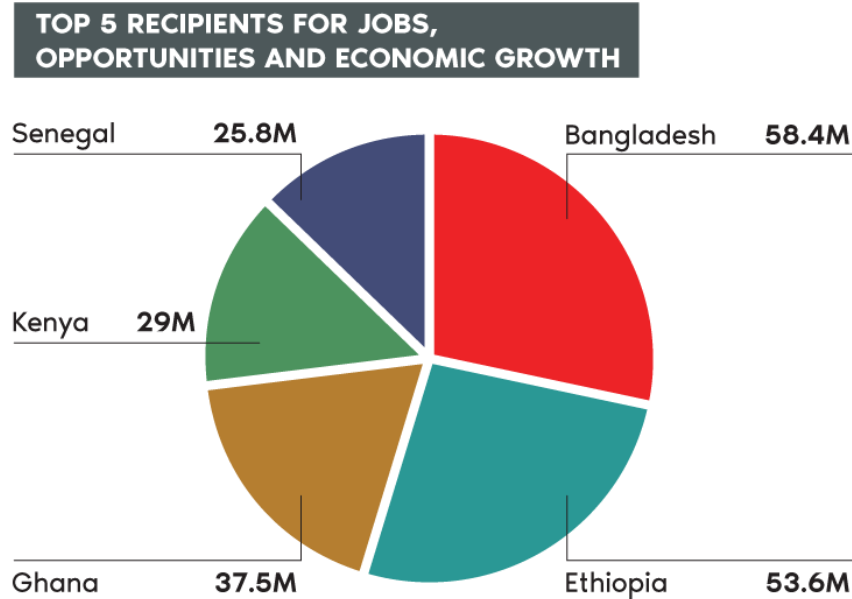
To support developing countries as they recover from the pandemic, it is critical that we work together to build a future that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Canada is committed to addressing the financial stresses of those most in need and helping to alleviate the negative effects the pandemic has had on developing countries' economies.

Key commitments

In 2020-2021, Canada invested **\$877 million in international assistance**, of which \$869 million was ODA, toward Growth That Works for Everyone initiatives.



Results in focus



In 2020-2021, Canada, along with other multilateral and global partners, contributed to achieving the following results:

- **reaching almost 6 million people** through projects that support women's economic empowerment, with an additional 3.4 million people reached through projects funded through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- providing almost **7 million entrepreneurs, farmers and smallholders** with financial and/or business development services, with another almost 1 million provided services through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Providing support to Pacific Alliance nations

In 2020-2021, Canada's support helped Pacific Alliance governments to sustainably manage and regulate their natural resource sectors. More than 130 public servants from Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru participated in certification and diploma programs offered by Canadian post-secondary institutions. As part of the Pacific Alliance Education for Employment Program, 1,600 public and private-sector participants, civil society representatives and international experts from these countries and Canada participated in the International Forum on Technical and Vocational Education and Training. This training strengthened regional dialogue and led to the exchange of best practices on economic development, prosperity, labour market demands, management of natural resources and environmental stewardship.



Supporting women entrepreneurs through the We-Fi Initiative

The We-Fi initiative provides assistance to women-owned or led businesses in developing countries. Last year, more than 3,300 businesswomen benefited from financial and non-financial support from the initiative. In addition, it provided more than 3,000 women-led businesses with access to finance through almost \$78 million in loans and grants. More than 1,500 businesses gained access to entrepreneurial support programs through the initiative and 15 pieces of legislation or regulations were created to support businesses owned or led by women.

Enabling women to take part in commercial activities

Canada's support of the Agricultural Training and Support Program for Youth Entrepreneurship in Peru project has increased the number of women taking part in commercial activities in the country. In doing so, it has helped to transform traditional social norms and provided women with more opportunities to produce and sell their products. The project has enabled more than 10,000 farmers, half of whom were women, to increase their family income by 27% by transitioning from subsistence agriculture to commercial production. The project helped to create 35 new collective commercial enterprises, associations and cooperatives and 78 family businesses.



Engaging in income-generating activities

Through support of the Livelihood Support and Women's Empowerment project, Canada is helping women in Bangladesh to become more financially independent. The project has enabled 3,600 women improve their living conditions and 2,700 youth (half of whom were girls) and 6,300 women to engage in income-generating activities. These included skills training, market links and apprenticeship-based training. More than 1,200 women and youth have been able to find work because of the skills they developed through the project.

Succeeding in the technology sector

In the West Bank and Gaza, Canada's support to the Technology Enabled Careers Harnessing Untapped Potential project is enabling youth, especially young women, to get the training they need to succeed in the technology sector. Almost all the program's participants reported that it had provided them the skills to start a sustainable online business, and 92% of women and 94% of men said it reduced barriers to entrepreneurship and employability. One year after graduation, all of the 153 program graduates reported that they were continuing to earn a sustainable income (approximately US\$300 per month).

Helping farmers in Ethiopia learn new practices

In Ethiopia, Canada's participation in the Agriculture Growth Program has helped thousands of farmers to make use of new agricultural practices such as fertilizer and better irrigation for small-scale farms, and gain access to markets. By the end of 2020, this flagship initiative had assisted more than 1.5 million people, including almost 640,000 women farmers. It has resulted in Ethiopians eating a more varied diet, including more legumes, meat and dairy.



Stories of change

New lives and new opportunities for Venezuelan migrants

Four years ago, Isabella Perez began the longest trip of her life. The 34-year-old woman fled Venezuela with her 2 daughters in search of better living conditions. Shortages of food and a lack of essential commodities forced Perez to leave Venezuela and migrate. She was experiencing violence in her home.

A trained hairdresser, Perez, who was hopeful that she would find work in Colombia, experienced fierce competition in the local hairdressing sector, an industry hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Perez was able to get work as a part-time hairdresser, a cleaner and an attendant at a gas bar. Although she was happy to have the work, she knew that she needed to find more stable employment to support her family.

The SCOPE project has directly benefited almost 15,000 people. Among them, more than 10,000 youth and almost 4,000 victims of the Venezuelan conflict.

Thanks to her participation in the Canadian-funded SCOPE project, Perez found the job stability she had been desperately searching for. The project provides both technical and soft skills training, as well as tailored assistance to people like Perez so they can secure a job in the formal labour market. It offers workshops on occupational integration and on-the-job follow-up support.

Making business ownership a reality for women in Gaza

Care Canada's Women and Youth Entrepreneurs Leading Change, West Bank and Gaza (OBADER) project is making young women's dreams of owning their own business a reality.

Enas Skaik has a BA in business administration, but the high unemployment rate in Gaza kept her from finding a permanent job. With the support of the OBADER project, she and some friends were able to start a small business making embroidery and handmade products.



Credits: © GAC

Skaik had initially launched her business "SABAYA" in May 2013, promoting her products on Facebook and other social media platforms, but sales were limited to her friends and family. In order to grow her business, she decided to join the OBADER project.

Through OBADER, she accessed business development services that helped her to expand SABAYA. Skaik now operates her own sewing and embroidery training centre and employs 4 full-time women employees and 8 part-time sewing and embroidery trainers. She has an additional 30 women on-call, working from home.

During 2019, Skaik averaged US\$2,600 in monthly sales, but with OBADER's support, her sales increased by 25%. Her profit margins increased because she is now able to do in-house product finishing

in addition to offering training services. Not only has she been able to become financially secure, but she has been able to employ other women in a region with a high unemployment rate.

Helping young entrepreneurs get a start



Credits: © Save the Children Canada

The Empowering Young Palestinian Women Entrepreneurs in the Agricultural Sector (She Succeeds) project, implemented by Save the Children Canada, is helping young women succeed as entrepreneurs.

Twenty-eight-year-old Ghada is one of the many young women from Gaza who has benefited from the program. In 2020, she participated in the entrepreneurship training workshop offered by the MA'AN Development Center. Through the workshop, she learned how to tap into her talents by making handicrafts. She improved her business management skills and developed a plan for a new business. She was then able to use these skills to secure funding to start her own business creating design/décor from recycled material.

"I advise every woman to reveal her entrepreneurial skills and use them to find her business opportunity so she can create a job for herself and other youth, instead of being trapped in traditional job seeking," says Ghada.



Mentoring women entrepreneurs in Indonesia

The Women Mentorship Program component of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership project is helping women in Indonesia realize their dreams of being business owners—women like Hayati, from Indonesia.

Through the mentoring program, Hayati received the support she needed to start a business that sells traditional Batik clothes. She had no formal business training, but the mentorship program provided her with the guidance that she needed to go from just “making ends meet” to expanding and diversifying her business.

Her mentor, Nav, provided Hayati with tailored advice on business planning and growth. Hayati benefited from the goal setting that she did with Nav throughout the year of their mentoring relationship. This enabled her to achieve milestones such as participating in international clothing exhibitions in Cape Town, Shanghai and Perth, launching a dedicated website for her business and distributing a survey to her clients to determine which products were most popular.



Credits: © Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC)

Hayati says that the lessons she learned during the program enabled her to adapt during the pandemic by shifting to producing masks to respond to growing needs among her clients.

Testimonials such as Hayati’s show the short- and long-term impacts of the mentorship program. Not only do women entrepreneurs gain tangible business skills, but their relationship with their mentor encourages and challenges them to achieve business goals that they may not have thought possible.

Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Growth that works for everyone](#)

Evaluations

[Evaluation of the International Business Development Strategy for Clean Technology \(2017-2018 to 2020-2021\)](#)

[Evaluation of Canada's International Education Strategy](#)

[Improving Skills Training for Employment Program - Executive summary](#)

[Formative Evaluation of the Advancing Specialized Skills for Economic Transformation Project - Executive summary](#)

[Formative Evaluation of the Women’s Economic Linkages and Employment Development \(WE-LEAD\) \(P002120\) and Launching Economic Achievement Program \(LEAP\) \(P002121\) Projects in Jordan – Executive summary](#)



Credits: © Carlos Ly, SUCO, Peru

Climate and environment

Climate change and biodiversity loss pose a fundamental threat to the health of the planet and people around the world. Developing countries are often the hardest hit and the least equipped to prevent and cope with the consequences of these environmental changes. For example, small island developing states are facing structural and systemic vulnerabilities due to their vulnerability to increasingly dangerous and intense natural disasters. These countries need solutions that specifically address their interests and strengthen their ability to play a role in safeguarding the planet.

Addressing the growing environmental and climate threats facing the world today requires concerted global, national and local efforts from both the public and private sectors. Climate action needs to be entrenched in pandemic recovery in order to slow temperature increases, avoid biodiversity collapse and leave a healthy planet for generations to come.

Canada remains committed to supporting developing countries as they work toward reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement. Canada participates in a range of initiatives that support ambitious action on climate change mitigation, adaptation and nature, including the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, the Global Ocean Alliance and the Leaders Pledge for Nature. Canada is focused on transitioning toward climate sustainability, halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, and to being carbon neutral by 2050.

Canada is working along 3 pathways to improve the state of the environment and boost climate resilience for marginalized and vulnerable populations by enabling them to:

- ensure equal access to, sustainable use of, and protection of natural resources, land and water
- adapt to climate change
- mitigate the impacts of climate change

By supporting local involvement, knowledge-building and ownership of environmental practices, infrastructure and technologies, Canada is enabling those who are marginalized or facing vulnerabilities to adapt more effectively to climate change. These efforts include the sustainable use and management of natural resources, support for sustainable agriculture development and food systems, and the use of nature-based solutions.

Canada recognizes the harmful effect of some subsidies on the environment and the need to reform policies. Therefore, Canada is looking for opportunities to increase the use of renewable energy, phase

The Feminist International Assistance Policy helps to guide Canada's efforts to support a global transition to low-carbon, resilient and nature-positive economies that empower women.

out carbon-based energy and increase energy efficiency, to support greater access for people living in developing countries to access affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.

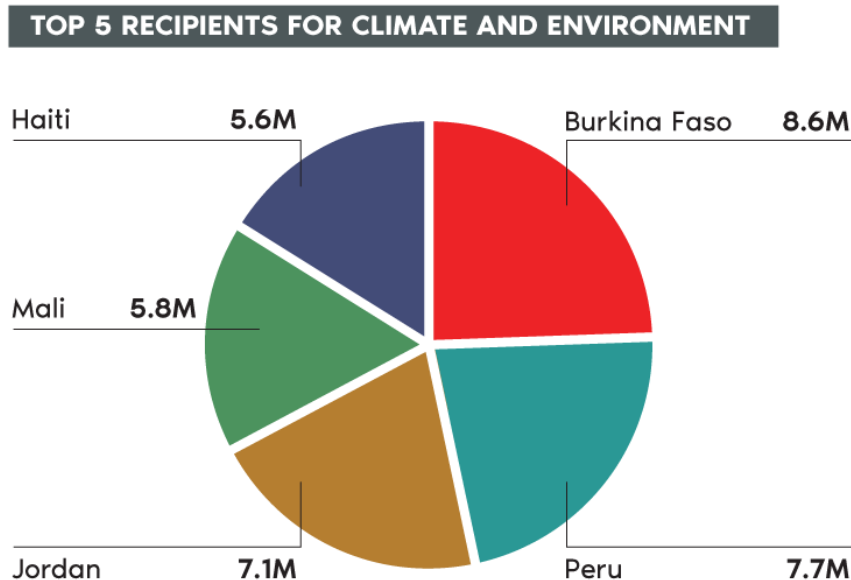
Key commitments

In 2020-2021, the Government of Canada invested **\$1.08 billion in international assistance**, of which \$1.08 billion was ODA, toward environment and climate action initiatives.

Canada has fully delivered on its commitment to provide \$2.65 billion over 5 years to help developing countries tackle climate change. As of 2022, the programs and projects supported under this commitment are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 228 metric megatons and help at least 6.6 million people adapt to the effects of climate change and mobilize important climate finance contributions from the private sector.ⁱ

In 2021, Canada doubled its previous commitment to international climate finance, pledging \$5.3 billion over the 5-year period from 2021 to 2026. This includes increasing funding for climate change adaptation and allocating of increased funding to projects that leverage nature-based climate solutions and contribute to biodiversity co-benefits.

Results in focus



In 2020-2021, Canada, along with other multilateral and global partners, contributed to achieving the following results:

- delivering climate adaptation projects that **benefited more than 2.8 million people** and an additional 67 million people through projects funded through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- **reducing or avoiding 4.16 metric megatons of greenhouse gas emissions**, with Canada's support to multilateral and global partners contributing to reducing an additional 1,313 megatons of gas emissions
- **employing almost 2,900 people** in the environment sector, including in technical, supervisory and management roles

Over the past 5 years, Canada has delivered \$350 million of our \$600 million commitment to the Green Climate Fund, a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) financing mechanism. This funding is part of Canada's commitment to help developing countries transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. In 2020, the fund approved an additional 46 projects and 92 readiness grants in 91 countries.

These projects are expected to eliminate 918 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and increase the resilience of nearly 147 million people.

Last year, Canada remained the sixth-largest donor to the Global Environment Facility, the global financial mechanism that helps developing countries to meet their obligations under 5 multilateral environmental agreements. This support contributed to protecting biodiversity, managing international waters, adapting to and mitigating climate change, preventing land degradation and addressing the disposal of chemicals and waste. In 2020-2021, an additional 109 projects were approved which are expected to:

- help 3.2 million people adapt to climate change, half of whom will be women
- foster climate resiliency for 1.3 million hectares of land
- lead to 89 million hectares of terrestrial and marine protected areas
- improve practices to protect biodiversity in 76 million hectares of marine habitats
- avoid 385 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Combating land degradation with gender-responsive approaches

Canada is providing \$6 million to support the implementation of the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's \(UNCCD's\) Gender Action Plan](#). This contribution is helping to integrate gender-transformative approaches within the Convention, with a focus on land tenure and sustainable land



management technologies and practices. In 2020-2021, the UNCCD's Global Mechanism supported the development of strong gender analyses in the design phase for programs in 13 countries.

Supporting adaptation through climate-smart agriculture

With the help of Canada and other donors and investors, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is supporting smallholder farmers to adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, Canada provided \$25 million in institutional support grants to IFAD as well as \$270 million for a concessional climate finance loan. This funding is helping farmers become more resilient to economic and climate shocks, to adopt gender-sensitive practices and to reduce their carbon footprint. In 2020-2021, IFAD projects reached more than 128 million people, with about 35% of projects being climate-focused.

Strengthening climate risk management in Africa

The Strengthening Climate Risk Management project helps the African Risk Capacity Agency to enable member states to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters such as drought, floods and cyclones. In 2020-2021, 11 countries benefited from this initiative, including Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe and Madagascar. For instance, Madagascar received more than US\$2 million to cover anticipated losses from a crop failure in the just-concluded farming season. This funding enabled the Government of Madagascar to respond quickly to the drought and provide:

- 15,000 vulnerable households with unconditional cash transfers and “cash for work”
- 2,000 children under the age of 5 years with nutritional support
- 84,000 households with water

Boosting climate resilience in developing countries

In 2020-2021, Canada provided \$1.6 million to the InsuResilience Global Partnership's Centre of Excellence on Gender-Smart Solutions to quickly move toward gender-smart climate and disaster risk finance and insurance. The project identifies emerging good practices and effective strategies on gender approaches and provides policymakers and practitioners with guidance. It provides a platform where they can collaborate and a directory to connect with those who have expertise in climate change and gender approaches.

Canada's support of the Community Resilience Building initiative is helping to ensure communities in Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname are better prepared to manage disasters. By strengthening comprehensive disaster management at the national and local levels, the project is helping vulnerable communities to prepare for natural disasters and crises. In 2020-2021, the project:

- helped more than 2,000 people to become more disaster resilient
- trained 460 people in disaster response
- enabled more than 400 people to participate in designing and implementing 10 community micro-projects that address natural disaster preparedness, climate-smart agriculture, waste disposal, recycling and reuse, and nature-based solutions for vector-borne diseases




Strengthening climate governance to help countries adapt

The National Adaptation Plan Global Network, implemented by the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Winnipeg, is a multi-donor global initiative that helps developing countries build national climate adaptation processes. In 2020-2021, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Somalia and Kenya were able to improve the effectiveness and/or gender-responsiveness of their processes by participating in the program. As a result, 2.25 million people in these countries, half of whom were women, benefited from climate adaptation initiatives.

Supporting initiatives to mitigate climate change

Established in March 2017, the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia II is a \$200 million fund designed to attract private sector investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. The fund works in low- and lower-middle-income countries as well as upper-middle-income small island developing states in Asia and the Pacific. By December 2020, more than US\$84 million in concessional financing had been distributed to 8 projects in 7 countries, with more than US\$895 million mobilized in third-party financing.



These projects are expected to reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 20 million tons and to generate 587.6 MW of installed renewable energy capacity.

Supporting sustainable forest management in Latin America

The [International Model Forest Network](#) (IMFN) is the world's largest network dedicated to sustainable forest management practices. In 2019, the IMFN Secretariat at Natural Resources Canada-Canadian Forest Service and 8 International Model Forest partners in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Guatemala joined together to deliver RESTAURacción.

The aim of the project was to ensure women played a leadership role in restoring ecosystems after devastating fires in the Amazon. It promotes longer-term investments in sustainable land use. Through RESTAURacción, 51 training workshops, courses and knowledge sessions were held to support women's leadership and empowerment, as well as environmental governance. These activities allowed some 1,000 people, more than half of whom were women, to access accurate information on gender gaps and their consequences, and to identify potential solutions to reduce them.

Reducing short-lived climate pollutants to address climate change

In 2020-2021, Canada delivered on its commitment to provide \$10 million to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, an international initiative aimed at reducing short-lived pollutants that cause significant near-term climate change. These pollutants include methane, hydrofluorocarbons, black carbon and tropospheric ozone. Canada is a founding partner of the coalition and actively supports initiatives to reduce these pollutants from the agriculture, transportation, cooling and municipal solid waste sectors.

Protecting biodiversity and the natural world

The [Canadian Museum of Nature](#) is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Through this organization, the museum's scientists collaborate with other museums, NGOs, universities and research institutes around the world to better understand the natural world and the challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and low scientific literacy. The museum is part of an ongoing IUCN initiative that is seeking funding to digitize the collections of natural history museums

around the world so that the data can be used to advance knowledge, and inform public policy and industrial development.

Stories of change

Addressing Peru's climate challenges with nature-based solutions



Credits: © John Michael Ramon Taya, Peru

Peru is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change and water security issues. In 2020-2021, Canada continued to collaborate with the United States Agency for International Development to implement the [Natural Infrastructure for Water Security](#) project. It aims to increase the resilience of communities to climate risks, such as floods, droughts and landslides by helping to conserve, restore and recover natural infrastructure such as wetlands and forests.

The project seeks to strengthen women's participation and leadership in decision-making and ensure gender considerations are integrated into national climate and water policies. In 2020-2021, a US\$214 million investment was developed in collaboration with water users, government partners and the private sector to improve nature's capacity to capture, filter, store and deliver water. The project has resulted in the adoption of some 15 new legal and policy instruments on climate adaptation, including 5 specific to gender equality and fighting discrimination against women and girls. It has developed technical tools for better decision-making in this area.

The project enabled some 900 participants and 1,400 professionals to increase their knowledge about water resources management. "Peruvian women are the ones managing the water; we are connected to this resource," says one of the women participating in the project's leadership program for women in water management.

Peruvian water users are paying a monthly fee that is being reinvested in ecosystem recovery projects in Peru's mountains to address water shortages for local residents. For example, Milloc, located 4,500 metres above sea level, has been threatened for years by the illegal extracting of organic wetland soil. A



project to recover the natural ecosystem in Milloc is now benefiting the people who live there as well as the 10 million people who reside in Metropolitan Lima.

The project has led to partnerships between ancient cultures, rural populations, urban communities, scientists, private and public sectors and international organizations. In addition, Peru's government is now looking to natural infrastructure as a way to address water risks more generally.

Pioneering an innovative solar project in Gaza

The first private sector investment in domestic power supply is happening in the West Bank and Gaza—thanks to Canada's assistance to the Palestine Real Estate Investment Co's (PRICO) solar project. The project is developing, financing, constructing, operating and maintaining a 7.3 MWp (Megawatts-peak) rooftop solar photovoltaic power plant located inside the Gaza Industrial Estate.

Gaza is particularly affected by acute power shortages and relies heavily on diesel-fuelled generators for basic needs like cooking. The innovative PRICO solar project is bolstering the region's power supply and jump-starting its use of renewables. It is addressing clean energy access and critical infrastructure needs in an area with extremely limited generation capacity.



Credits: © Wissam Nassar, IFC

The solar project is already having a positive impact in a fragile economy that is afflicted by unemployment, poverty and political instability, by providing a more stable energy supply in a region where power shortages frequently affect schools, hospitals, homes and businesses. Because of its innovative approach, the PRICO solar project was selected as a winner of the 2021 [UN Global Climate Action Awards](#).

Mitigating the effects of climate change in the Caribbean

In the Caribbean, climate change has already had a negative impact on agriculture, fisheries, health, tourism, water availability and energy—and women and girls and other vulnerable groups suffer the most. Canada's Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) project is helping to address these impacts.

The project is supporting gender-based climate resilience analyses in several Caribbean countries. By dissecting the gender-based needs and capacities of highly vulnerable groups, the aim is to ensure targeted actions are taken to improve the region's climate adaptation and resilience.

One of the main recommendations coming out of the analyses is the need for key sectors to invest in gender-responsive adaptation strategies, action plans and policies. For instance, St. Lucia has already developed a project proposal to support marginalized groups within the agriculture sector—such as women and youth farmers, and farmers with disabilities—by developing and using aquaponics. Through EnGenDER, Jamaica is working toward making sure that their transportation, housing and climate change policies take gender into account.



Credits: © Talk Up Yout Media, UNDP Jamaica

“This is necessary to ensure that we work steadily and seamlessly toward achieving the gender-responsive outcomes which we seek, as we strategically navigate the inter-linkages between gender and climate change,” explains Sharon Coburn Robinson of Jamaica's Bureau of Gender Affairs.



Helping to re-establish wood bison around the world

In April 2020, Parks Canada took part in a unique international conservation initiative to relocate 30 wood bison from Alberta's Elk Island National Park to Lenskiye Stolby Nature Park, in the Sakha Republic of the Russian Federation. This is the fourth bison transfer between Parks Canada and the Sakha Republic. It is the result of many years of scientific and cultural cooperation, and international conservation



Credits: © Parks Canada

leadership between the Governments of Canada, the Sakha Republic and the Russian Federation.

Reintroducing and translocating bison is part of Canadian and international efforts to restore the species—as well as the ecosystems and habitats that depend on them. The return of bison from near-extinction is one of Canada's conservation success stories. Through our efforts, populations of plains and wood bison have been re-established across North America and around the world.



Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Environment and climate action](#)

[Action area policy on environment and climate action](#)

[Climate Finance Projects](#)

Evaluations

[Evaluation of the International Business Development Strategy for Clean Technology \(2017-2018 to 2020-2021\)](#)

[GCF results](#)

[GEF scorecard](#)

Others

[UNFCCC](#)

[Paris agreement](#)

[Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

[G7 Nature Compact](#)

[Ocean Plastic Charter](#)

[Charlevoix blueprint for healthy oceans, seas and resilient coastal communities](#)

ⁱ These figures reflect only projects delivered as part of Canada's \$2.65 billion climate finance commitment from FY2015-2016 through FY2020-2021. Canada's climate finance includes projects supported by Global Affairs Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada. Results associated with some multilateral initiatives (e.g. Green Climate Fund) have been pro-rated based on the percentage of Canada's total financial contribution to those initiatives for the purposes of reporting against the \$2.65 billion climate finance commitment. These results represent expected estimates and may be subject to change as the multilateral initiatives approve more projects and as actual results become available through the project implementation cycle.





Credits: © Youth Bridge Foundation (YBF)

Inclusive governance

Inclusive governance is fundamental to long-term sustainable development. However, the institutions, processes and values that underpin inclusive governance are increasingly being undermined. Civic space is shrinking, polarization and autocratization are growing, and the rule of law and elections are increasingly being manipulated. The digital spread of disinformation and the use of new technologies to control citizens threaten open, democratic and inclusive societies.

Governance affects how power is exercised, how resources are allocated and how stakeholders are heard. It affects how states manage complex challenges such as inequality, migration, urbanization, violence, natural resources and climate change. To be inclusive, governance must effectively serve and engage all groups, take gender into account and consider other facets of personal identity. All institutions, policies, processes and services must be accessible, accountable and responsive to all members of society.

By focusing on inclusion, countries can unlock the potential of their diverse populations and advance the 2030 Agenda. The following 4 broad paths are essential for inclusive economic growth, social progress and environmental sustainability:

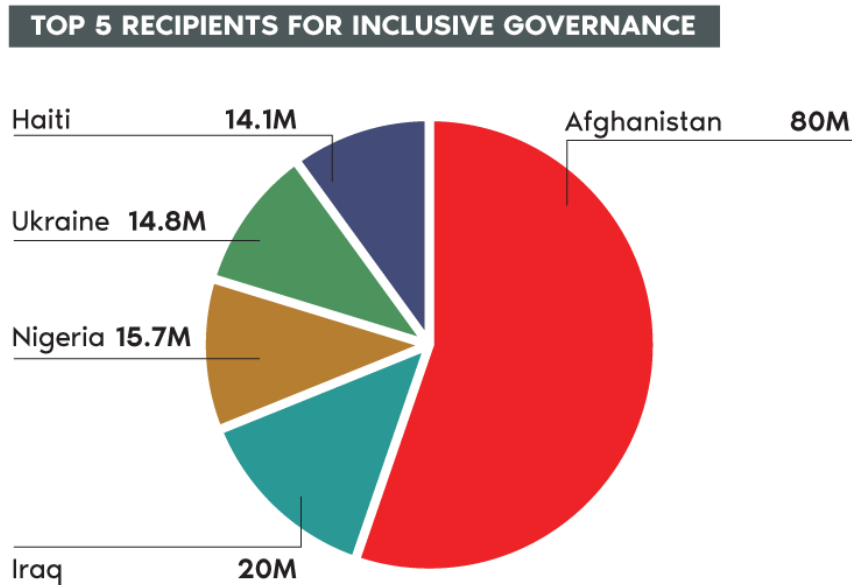
- promoting and protecting human rights
- providing equitable access to justice
- enabling participation in public life
- making public services work for everyone

Canada's approach to inclusive governance reflects a longstanding commitment to gender equality. This includes championing [gender-based analysis plus](#) (GBA+) internationally and adopting a human rights-based approach. By partnering with local grassroots organizations, Canada focuses on advancing the human rights of marginalized persons and those facing vulnerabilities, including LGBTQ2 people and those living with disabilities.

Key commitments

In 2020-2021, Canada invested **\$446 million in international assistance in inclusive governance**, of which \$442 million was official developmental assistance.

Results in focus



In 2020-2021, Canada, along with other multilateral and global partners, contributed to achieving the following results:

- providing approximately **230,000 people with support** to enhance their capacity to advance human rights, with an additional 51,000 women receiving assistance through Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- **enhancing the capacity of 70,000 people to deliver justice and/or legal services**, and improving the ability of an additional 11,500 people to deliver these services as the result of Canada's long-term support to multilateral and global partners
- promoting women's participation and leadership in public life by increasing the awareness, knowledge and/or skills of **more than 173,000 people**
- **supporting more than 2,500 national, regional and local institutions** to improve their capacity to deliver inclusive, responsive and sustainable public services

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Promoting and protecting human rights

In 2020-2021, Canada supported several initiatives to promote and protect the rights of LGBTQ2 persons. These included:



- providing financial and other types of support to local partners worldwide through [OutRight Action International's COVID-19 Global LGBTI Emergency Fund](#) to mitigate the negative consequences of the pandemic
- protecting LGBTQ2 people in developing countries from violence, discrimination, stigma and criminalization as well as providing emergency response to LGBTQ2 individuals and organizations through the [LGBTI Global Human Rights Initiative](#)
- advancing the rights of LGBTQ2 people in Commonwealth countries and promoting inclusion in all aspects of society through the [Commonwealth Equality Network](#)

Combating discrimination and violence against women

Through assistance provided to the Combating Discrimination and Violence against Women project, Canada enabled the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to protect approximately 36,000 women and girls. It expanded access to justice for approximately 580 people, including LGBTQ2 and Indigenous groups who had petitioned for assistance in resolving violations of their rights.

Increasing equitable access to a functioning justice system

In Iraq, the Work Empowerment for Women project trained 62 lawyers on legal representation and consulting victims of gender-based harassment and discrimination in the workplace. It provided training on the Iraqi Labour Law, including monitoring, reporting and advocacy training on gender-based labour law violations in the workplace.

In Ukraine, Canada's support helped the Council of Judges to adopt a new regulation to prevent and resolve conflicts of interest. Ukraine's National School of Judges completed a gender equality analysis of the procedures used to select judges and provided recommendations on how to make interviews and selection procedures gender neutral. Canada supported a new judicially-assisted dispute resolution process, which has resolved 26% of cases through a more efficient civil court process. This new process will help reduce the significant backlog in civil court cases in Ukraine.

Increasing engagement in the legal system

In East Africa, the Inclusive Resource Development project, implemented by the Canadian Bar Association, worked with law societies to advocate for legal reform to reflect the principles of transparency, gender-sensitivity and accountability in the extractive industries. The project has increased community participation, particularly by women, in the legal system to advance human rights.

Enhancing democratic processes

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Canada's support enabled the *Projet d'éducation civique et électorale* project to reach nearly 40% of the electorate to raise awareness on the importance of elections and participation in democratic life. The project produced textbooks on civic and electoral education that were adopted by the Ministry of Education.

Supporting women in leadership

Canada's support to UN Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership project helped remove discriminatory candidacy requirements in the Central African Republic, enabling women to run for leadership positions. The project helped mitigate violence against women in Nigeria's elections and



mainstreamed gender equality in the Constitutional Review Process in Liberia. In Guinea, it supported the adoption of a law stating that women must make up half of the candidates in elections.

Improving the transparency of legislative work

In Latin America and the Caribbean, ParlAmericas trained members of 10 national parliaments on increasing the transparency of legislative work. In addition, Canada's support enabled 15 parliamentarians to take action on gender equality and strengthen cooperation between parliaments and civil society by adopting 19 inter-parliamentary statements. Through the project, parliamentarians in the region participated in 71 capacity-building activities to increase transparency.



Removing barriers to women's empowerment

In Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines, Oxfam Canada's Creating Spaces project worked with community leaders and youth to advance women's leadership and rights, and to improve access to services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. In 2020-2021, 64 public declarations and actions were undertaken by influencers to end violence against women and girls as well as child, early and forced marriage.

Strengthening the capacity of the public service

In 2020-2021, Canada worked to make the delivery of public services more accountable and transparent through support to the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation's international program. The program trained more than 700 national audit professionals in Guyana, Rwanda, Senegal and Vietnam to enhance their national auditing capacity.

In Ghana, Canada's support of the Mobilising Domestic Revenues for Inclusive Poverty Alleviation project increased the revenue collection by local authorities by 66%. The project helped to set up social audit committees in 60 local authorities and trained 300 members in social auditing and gender-responsive planning and budgeting.

Improving local governance

In 2020-2021, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities shared Canadian expertise with municipal and local government associations in Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Vietnam, Cambodia and Bolivia. As a result, 9 municipalities were able to promote local economic development by making sustainable changes in their policies, services and practices. The project provided training to more than 250 elected officials and municipal government staff to enable them to develop policies and programs to support their local economies.

Enhancing evaluation and professional training

In 2020-2021, Canada collaborated with the new Global Evaluation Initiative. It works with evaluation capacity development providers and experts from around the world to develop the necessary evidence to contribute to better policies and, ultimately, better lives for people in developing countries.



In partnership with the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#), Canada supported a collaborative training program for patent examiners in Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama.

Stories of change

Providing services close to home in conflict-affected Ukraine



Credits: © Vitalii Shevelev, UNDP In Ukraine

In October 2020, the community of Severodonetsk, in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine, received a modern and convenient mobile administrative service centre. The centre can travel to remote corners of the community, bringing critical public services close to the homes of its most vulnerable residents.

Severodonetsk is one of 10 communities in eastern Ukraine that received a centre through Canada's Mobile Service Delivery project, implemented by the UNDP. The wheelchair-accessible, 4 x 4 truck is equipped to deliver more than 70 administrative and social public services, such as registering for social benefits, registering a business or property and obtaining a birth certificate.



Credits: © Vitalii Shevelev, UNDP In Ukraine

The remote village of Borivske has benefited from this “service centre on wheels.” The village’s 6,000 residents, half of whom are of retirement age, are often unable to travel to the regional centre to access government services.

“Being able to receive administrative and social services near my home means that local authorities are thinking of me and my neighbours and taking into account our specific needs,” says Kateryna Ahafonova, a 71-year-old resident of Borivske.



Helping young voters participate in Ghana's elections

In the lead up to the 2020 Ghanaian general election, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) supported the Youth Bridge Foundation to implement the first-time voters campaign. The project helped young Ghanaians better understand how to make their voices heard by taking advantage of their right to vote.



Credits: © Youth Bridge Foundation (YBF)

"I got to the stage in my life where the decisions that our leaders make have a greater impact on me and voting is a way of exercising my power of choosing which decisions I think are best for my future and the generations to come," says one young first-time voter who participated in the project.

The project's message to youth was not only to get out and vote, but to make sure their vote was backed by informed decision-making. To help build awareness among these young voters, the project created videos on electoral processes and voting rules. It produced politically neutral research and presented it in youth and disability-friendly formats.



Supporting women working at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis in Jordan



Credits: © UN Women / Lauren Rooney

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many women in Jordan have played a key role in responding to the crisis. For instance, women from the security forces, health and education sectors, as well as community workers, were at the forefront, providing support to vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees.

Najah and Wedad Oweidat are 2 women leaders from community-based organizations who went above and beyond to assist other women and girls in need during the pandemic.

"My motivation to become a humanitarian and work in this field was simple: to support those in need," says Najah, President of the Al Keram Charity Association in Mafrq.

As an active member of the Jordanian National NGO Forum, Najah worked alongside 20 other women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) to develop an emergency response plan to support the government's response efforts in Mafrq. Their goal was to promote community-based interventions that build on CSOs' expertise in managing humanitarian crises and connecting with the communities they serve.

Wedad is a community worker who started the Al-Rafid Women's Agricultural Society in the rural community in Irbid. She quickly recognized the importance of community-based organizations in responding to the COVID-19 crisis, changing the course of her organization's activities to raise awareness about preventive measures and self-sufficiency, while still continuing to promote women's empowerment.

As a member of the Jordanian National NGO Forum, Wedad contributed to dialogue on "Gender Dynamics in Times of Crisis." Launched in partnership with the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development and UN Women, the initiative's goal was to develop a gender-sensitive response plan that supported the government's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Inclusive Governance](#)

Research and Reports

[World Development Report 2017: Governance and the Law](#)

[OECD 2021 What does "inclusive governance" mean?](#)





Credits: © Cpl. Judith Bertrand (RCMP)

Peace and security

In today's increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, violent conflict, fragility and insecurity have widespread and lasting effects. The number of protracted conflicts has increased significantly over the last decade and threats to global peace and security continue to change as politics, economics and technology evolve. The COVID-19 pandemic has further undermined global peace and security by reversing development gains, increasing inequality and challenging collective efforts to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Canada's foreign policy and Feminist International Assistance Policy guide our engagement on SDGs 5 and 16 by setting out a gender-responsive and an integrated approach to global peace and security challenges. We work to address the long-term, systemic drivers of conflict and insecurity through programs such as the:

- Peace and Stabilization Operations Program
- Office of Human Rights, Freedoms and Inclusion
- Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program
- Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program
- Weapons Threat Reduction Program

This approach is aligned with the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It recognizes that protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls is critical to building a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. In particular, Canada works to promote peace and security by:

- supporting inclusive and gender-responsive violent conflict prevention, crisis response and sustainable peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings
- supporting gender-responsive security threat reduction and security system reform
- improving multilateral management of peace and security challenges

Canada and the international community recognize that boosting economies and alleviating poverty are critical to building lasting peace, political inclusion and access to opportunity—particularly among marginalized groups and those facing vulnerabilities. However, these steps are not enough on their own. **The 2030 Agenda underscores that, “there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.”**

Canada is supporting key multilateral system reforms including pivoting from crisis management and response to conflict prevention, as well as averting violence before it escalates. Through our humanitarian-development-peace nexus work, Canada is improving the coherence between humanitarian assistance, development and peace programming.

Key commitments

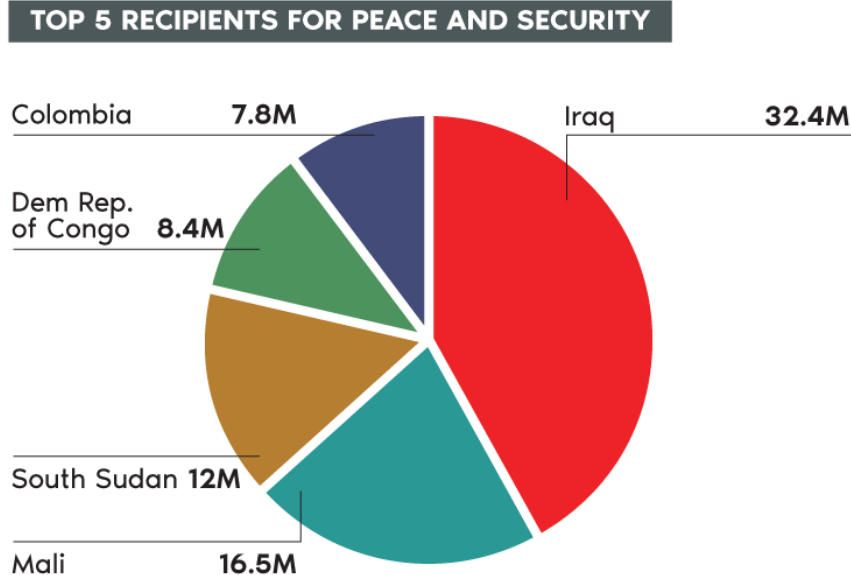
In 2020-2021, Canada invested **\$257 million in international assistance** in peace and security, of which \$167 million was official developmental assistance.

Canada delivers on its peace and security commitments through dedicated programs and initiatives such as:

- Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations
- Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
- Peace and Stabilization Operations Program, with additional funding for key priorities such as Afghanistan and the Middle East Strategy
- the Weapons Threat Reduction Program
- the Anti-Crime and Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Programs, with additional funding for key priorities including the Middle East Strategy
- the Office of Human Rights, Freedom and Inclusion (OHRFI)



Results in focus



In 2020-2021, 35% of Canada's bilateral international assistance, or \$2.2 billion, went to fragile and conflict-affected settings. This is a decrease from previous years, as our total international assistance increased significantly last year due to new commitments to address the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Canada directly supported:

- more than 200 initiatives to prevent, detect or respond to crime, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons, including weapons of mass destruction and related materials
- the training of almost 13,000 military, police and civilian personnel in peacekeeping competencies, including gender equality, and addressing sexual and gender-based violence, and sexual exploitation and abuse
- 13 projects and 10 assessed contributions supporting international and national efforts to investigate and prosecute crimes committed in situations of violent conflict, including those involving sexual and gender-based violence
- more than 200 civil society organizations, including women's organizations, to increase the participation of women in peace negotiations and conflict prevention efforts

In addition, more than a quarter of Canada's projects targeted gender equality, while almost three-quarters integrated gender equality.



Key initiatives in the spotlight

Canada disbursed \$133 million toward the promotion of peace and stability in fragile and conflict-affected settings in 2020-2021. This included initiatives in Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Building a more peaceful and stable world during the COVID-19 pandemic

In 2020-2021, Canada's support to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue helped mediate and resolve conflicts in fragile and conflict-affected settings. This included support for the UN Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire to provide COVID-19 health and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations. In Mali, Canada helped bring about a new peace agreement between the Fulani, Dafing and Dogon communities in February 2021.

The Weapons Threat Reduction Program played a central role in Canada's international response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020-2021, the program participated in a range of activities including providing \$5 million to enable the International Atomic Energy Association to enhance 21 partner countries' capacity to rapidly detect COVID-19.

In Ukraine, Canada supported police reform through its funding to Alinea International. In 2020-2021, Alinea responded to the increase in domestic violence during the pandemic by developing a domestic violence hotline, expanding awareness campaigns and building the capacity of Ukraine's National Police to quickly respond to domestic violence reports.

Promoting democracy and human rights

In 2020-2021, Canada's Office of Human Rights, Freedoms and Inclusion disbursed more than \$11 million toward initiatives to promote and protect democracy, its values, institutions, and processes, and to build societal resilience globally.

In Cambodia, support provided to the Canadian NGO IFEX has helped to launch a public call for the government to increase measures to protect survivors of gender-based violence during lockdowns. Due to the shutdown of democratic civic spaces during the pandemic, the call draws attention to the abuses faced by women, children and LGBTQ2 individuals in Cambodian quarantine centres and in abusive homes. It sets out a clear list of recommendations for government officials to ensure women can speak safely about their abuse without fear of reprisals or retaliation and to establish safe reporting systems, including online ones.

Increasing women's participation in peace operations

Canada continues to champion the participation of uniformed women in UN peace operations through the signature [Elsie Initiative](#). In 2020-2021, Canada continued to co-chair the UN Elsie Initiative Fund steering committee. The fund announced its first recipients, which included armed forces or police institutions from Senegal, Liberia and Mexico. All recipients have committed to identifying and addressing barriers to women's participation in uniformed peacekeeping roles. An innovative tool—called the Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations methodology—was developed to help military and police identify barriers and solutions for women's meaningful participation in UN peace operations. Published in October 2020, the methodology is being piloted in 7 countries.



To mark the 20th anniversary of the landmark [UN Security Council Resolution \(UNSCR\) 1325](#), Canada dedicated \$5 million to help grassroots women peacebuilders to address gaps in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Canada created an annual Women, Peace and Security awards program to highlight excellence in research and civil society leadership. In addition, Canada launched a year-long global advocacy campaign to recognize, support and protect the important work of women peacebuilders.

In 2020-2021, Canada's funding to the [Supporting the Implementation of Jordan's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325](#) project helped increase the number of uniformed women in Jordanian security sector agencies, as well as the number of Jordanian women participating in UN Peacekeeping Missions. The project enabled Jordanian security sector agencies to develop gender mainstreaming strategies and to create structures to oversee and report on the implementation of the strategies. The project focused on addressing sexual and gender-based violence by:

- providing funding to 4 women's rights organizations to develop awareness campaigns and services
- training 113 judges, prosecutors and police officers on handling sexual and gender-based violence cases
- providing almost 12,000 women survivors with access to services, including psychosocial assistance, legal advice and shelter



Addressing and responding to nuclear and radiological threats

In 2020-2021, Canada continued to support nuclear non-proliferation initiatives around the world. Since 2018, Canada has contributed \$19 million to support international efforts to contain and confront the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's illicit nuclear weapons program. In fact, Canada remains the largest contributor to the monitoring and verification activities of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

After the port explosion in Lebanon in August 2020, Canada provided support for INTERPOL's Chemical and Explosive Terrorism Team to assess the blast site and collect forensic intelligence. Canadian funding supported the installation of equipment at Jordan's Queen Alia International Airport to help prevent, detect and disrupt attempts to smuggle nuclear or radiological materials. Within the first 3 months after installation, this new equipment scanned more than 40,000 shipments.

Detecting and disrupting the trade of illicit goods and weapons

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Canadian support to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Container Control program improved the capacity of customs and law-enforcement officers to detect and disrupt the flow of illicitly trafficked goods. In 2020-2021, the program conducted more than 320 seizures of illicit substances, including some 100 cases of cocaine, firearms, ammunition and chemical precursors. This included the seizure of 250 kilograms of cocaine destined for Canada.

In 2020-2021, Canada supported efforts in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger to monitor the illicit cross-border trafficking of small arms and light weapons by armed and terrorist groups. This support improved the capacity of law-enforcement and security agencies in these countries to collect and analyze data for criminal and terrorism investigations, including 16 investigations linked to terrorism in Mali.



Mitigating the risks of explosive devices

Through a \$1.5 million project with the UN Mine Action Service, Canada increased Burkina Faso's capacity to safely and effectively mitigate risks posed by improvised explosive devices, particularly in 5 vulnerable regions of the country. This project provided:

- more than 1,700 National Police and Gendarmerie with training on explosive devices
- more than 200 security personnel with a better understanding of gender and human rights
- approximately 15,000 people living in high-risk regions with risk education

Supporting peace and stability through overseas deployments

In 2020-2021, more than 33% of the 170 Canadian police officers deployed to peace missions were women. These officers were engaged in missions in the West Bank, Ukraine, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In fact, female contingent commanders headed two of the missions. Two Canadian police officers were deployed to the UN's Institute for Training and Research to integrate gender considerations and a conflict-sensitive approach into its training materials. These officers helped to develop capacity-building initiatives on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence.

Canada continued to support the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Trust Fund in 2020-2021. As many as 12 deployed Canadian police officers helped to expand MINUSMA's operational capacity in the region.

Correctional Service of Canada continued to deploy corrections specialists in peace operations. In December 2020, Canada assumed the co-chair role for the Group of Friends of Corrections in Peace Operations alongside Sweden and Burkina Faso. Through its participation in this group, Canada is providing expert advice and technical assistance for implementing corrections mandates in peace operations, developing policy, guidance and training materials, and establishing and strengthening links with the UN and external partners.

Facilitating security coordination in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza

Through Operation PROTEUS, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) continued its longstanding contribution to the Office of the United States Security Coordinator. The office's mandate is to support Israeli-Palestinian security coordination and oversee international assistance for reform and capacity building in the Palestinian Authority security sector. Canada is the largest contributing nation, and 23 CAF personnel and 2 civilian police members currently support its mission.

In 2020-2021, under Operation PROTEUS, Canada focused on enhancing the various Palestinian Authority security and emergency response forces' operational capabilities. In particular, the initiative concentrated on communications, logistics, policing, customs policing and work on their legal frameworks.

Enhancing the capacity to recognize and report crimes in Honduras

Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building program provided more than 5,200 Honduran teachers with training on cyber security, cyberbullying, sextortion, human trafficking and child sexual abuse material. This training increased teachers' understanding of how to go about reporting these crimes to local justice and security authorities.



Stories of change

Providing critical training to deployed peacekeeping personnel

Through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Canada funded peacekeeper training in life-saving medical field techniques and psychological trauma support. In 2020-2021, UNITAR successfully conducted 8 tailored 3-week trauma courses for uniformed medical and para-medical personnel. These personnel were from the top 20 troop and police contributing countries, and were deployed to the most hazardous UN peacekeeping missions (in the Central African Republic, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan).



Credits: © UNITAR

Funded through Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Program, this project trained 161 peacekeepers in 2020-2021. It helped to develop and implement an online platform to provide advice and mentoring to participants throughout their deployment. Training like this continues to be critical for the safety and security of peacekeepers, which is one of the pillars of the UN Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping agenda.



Ensuring war crimes are investigated promptly and professionally



Canadian official, Valérie Price, was deployed to JRR under the Civilian Deployment Program. Credits: © Valérie Price

Justice Rapid Response (JRR) started as a small initiative, with an unwieldy Excel spreadsheet, but it has evolved into a sophisticated, gender-balanced roster of more than 700 experts from 100 countries. Since its creation, JRR has deployed 434 experts to investigate genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious human rights violations in some of the world's most violent conflicts.

Under Canada's Civilian Deployment Platform, a Canadian government official was placed at JRR for 4 years with a focus on supporting JRR's efforts to strengthen its organizational capacity in 2 key areas: results-based management and resource-mobilization.

organization, JRR is '...now focused on results rather than processes. These have had, in turn, an evident effect on the organization's capacity to speak of its value-addition and results, to build confidence among our donors and to attract new funding.'

Canada's assistance "... has had a profound impact on the organization," says Samuel Emonet, JRR's director of operations. Following a restructuring of the

This initiative is part of Canada's commitment to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as it enabled JRR to continue deploying highly specialized experts to end impunity for sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated in conflicts. JRR staff are now able to effectively integrate gender considerations in all deployments and more than half of the experts on JRR's roster are women.



Helping to establish a National Police Academy in Haiti

In Haiti, Canada's support of the *Formation des cadres de la police nationale* project increased the professionalism of the Haitian National Police by helping to establish a National Police Academy. To date, 482 commissioners and inspectors have graduated from the Academy.

The Academy has achieved a level of autonomy when it comes to management and teaching that enables it to deliver a high-quality training program to the Haitian National Police's commissioners and inspectors. In addition to mainstreaming and implementing gender-sensitive practices, the Academy now has a full range of policies and tools to deliver training and instruction to new recruits.



Credits: © Anonymous, Police nationale d'Haïti à Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Learn more about this theme

Feminist International Assistance Policy

[Peace and Security](#)

Evaluations

[Evaluation of the Canadian Police Arrangement and the International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Program](#)

[Evaluation of the Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force \(START\) and Global Peace and Security Fund \(GPSF\)](#)

Others

[Women, Peace and Security](#)

[Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security](#)

[Security capacity-building programs](#)

[Peace and Stabilization Operations Program](#)

[The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers](#)

[Global Affairs Canada YouTube Channel](#)





Credits: © SOCODEVI, Bolivia

Moving forward: Partnerships, innovation and inclusion

Collaboration with Canada's partners

In 2020-2021, Canada fostered a variety of inclusive, innovative and effective partnerships through multilateral mechanisms and by collaborating with national, international and local organizations abroad. These partnerships play an integral role in designing, delivering and monitoring Canada's international assistance programming. By providing the technical expertise, logistical knowledge, advocacy skills and necessary reach, they enable Canada to support the most vulnerable people in partner countries.

Civil society

The [Policy for Civil Society Partnerships for International Assistance – A Feminist Approach](#) continues to guide Canada's engagement with all civil society organizations, whether national, international or local.

Canadian civil society

In 2020-2021, Canada delivered more than **\$1 billion in international assistance through more than 200 Canadian civil society organizations** (CSOs) such as NGOs, colleges and universities, and think tanks working in 132 countries. With this assistance, more than 30% of the CSOs specifically targeted gender equality and almost all integrated gender equality into their work.

Just over half of this assistance was delivered in sub-Saharan Africa. Assistance to Canadian CSOs this past year:

- **enabled 350 local CSOs** to advocate for human rights and inclusive governance
- supported more than **750 women's organizations and networks**
- provided more than **8,600 graduates** with technical and vocational educations
- supported more than **590,000 entrepreneurs, farmers and smallholders** with financial and business-development services

Canada strengthened the international assistance sector by funding the [Digna](#) project. It enables Canadian CSOs to implement measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2020-2021, the project launched its website and organized its first annual conference to share policies and good practices.

Canadian civil society partner's expertise and networks help expand the reach of Canadian international assistance. Since 2017, the [Small and Medium Organizations \(SMOs\) for Impact and Innovation initiative](#) has provided almost \$70 million to 40 Canadian SMO development projects. This has resulted in [9 potentially innovative solutions](#) being tested through the Fund for Innovation and Transformation. Additionally, the [Spur Change program](#) has improved the capacity of Canadian organizations to provide inclusive, gender-responsive, sustainable and innovative programming.

Total dollar amount in disbursements: over \$1 billion

Number of organizations worked with: more than 200 CSOs

Learn more about this theme

[Canada's Policy for Civil Society Partnerships for International Assistance – A Feminist Approach](#)

[Funding guidance](#)

[Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation](#)

[Inter-Council Network \(ICN\)](#)

[International Aboriginal Youth Internships \(IAYI\) initiative](#)

[International Development Week](#)

[International Youth Internship Program \(IYIP\)](#)


[Volunteer Cooperation Program \(VCP\)](#)

Local civil society abroad

Canada's partnerships with local organizations demonstrate the value of lived experience and local expertise in meeting development challenges. Through local partnerships, Canada can improve the responsiveness of its international assistance to local needs and priorities. In 2020-2021, Canada continued to fund local civil society organizations directly through programs such as the [Canada Fund for Local Initiatives](#), [Women's Voice and Leadership Program](#) and the [Equality Fund](#). Canada launched a call for concept notes entitled [Education for Refugee and Displaced Children and Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), which will provide grants to local organizations.



The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) enables Canadian missions abroad to work directly with local partners to deliver small-scale, high-impact projects. During the pandemic, this connection with local organizations was a critical source of information on the evolving needs of difficult-to-reach communities. For example, in Honduras, local partners kept Canada's diplomatic mission informed on how the pandemic was affecting rural communities and vulnerable women workers, as well as the ongoing risks facing LGBTQ2 human rights defenders.



In 2020-2021, the CFLI provided more than \$33 million to 662 projects in 134 countries—with 80% of these projects being implemented by local organizations.

Total dollar amount in disbursements: \$574 million

Number of organizations worked with: more than 1,200 foreign CSOs

Multilateral engagement: Organizations, summits and forums

In 2020-2021, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation to ensure an impactful and wide-reaching response and recovery.

The G7 and the G20 have traditionally served as platforms for Canada to advance its international assistance priorities. In 2021, international assistance was a special focus for the United Kingdom's G7 presidency and it put forward an ambitious program of development work.


During the 2020 Saudi Arabian G20 presidency, and in the lead-up to the 2020 Riyadh Summit, Canada actively participated in negotiations on the Development Working Group's 5 deliverables. Canada's alliances with key partners within the group helped to ensure that women's empowerment and gender equality considerations were included in many of the G20's deliverables.

Please see the [G7](#) and [G20](#) pages for more details on Canada's role in these organizations.

United Nations organizations

Canada continued to pursue a multi-track approach to engaging with UN partners in 2020-2021. This consisted of bilateral meetings, strategic dialogues and regular exchanges through governing boards and executive committees. Each of these settings provide Canada with a platform to collaborate with multilateral partners to identify international assistance objectives and outcomes, in addition to governance and reform objectives.

Our close partnerships with development and humanitarian entities such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNHCR and the World Food Programme provide an effective way to address complex global development problems and humanitarian situations.



In 2020-2021, Canada continued to leverage the experience, expertise and convening power of the UN system to reach the poorest and most vulnerable, and to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

In 2020-2021, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie's (OIF's) programming prioritized support to empower Francophone youth and women. This was achieved through projects carried out in partnership with nearly 800 local civil society organizations, mainly in Africa. In addition, Canada's support to specific OIF initiatives, such as [La Francophonie avec Elles](#), helped to enhance women's and girls' access to economic development, education and health care, and to protect them from all forms of violence. In 2020, 14,000 women and girls benefited from this funding through almost 60 projects in 20 Francophone countries.

To learn more about Canada's collaboration with the OIF, please visit the [Canada and La Francophonie](#) website.

Commonwealth

Through our support to the [Commonwealth](#), Canada helped to improve the lives of vulnerable and marginalized groups in 54 member countries in 2020-2021. This support enabled progress in areas such as the empowerment of women, inclusive governance, climate action and the rule of law. It helped to address the unique needs of small states and strengthen their voices in multilateral forums.

In 2020-2021, Canada contributed \$6.91 million in institutional support to the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#) and another \$1.22 million to the [Commonwealth Foundation](#) in assessed contributions.

International financial institutions

International financial institutions (IFIs) include multilateral development banks and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These institutions are among Canada's largest and most important international partners for delivering development results given their scale of operations, track record, technical and financial expertise, and convening role. They support economic growth and poverty reduction, and promote regional cooperation and integration. The IMF also focuses on fostering global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability and facilitating international trade. Member countries, including Canada, provide these institutions with capital, grants, loans and guarantees. IFIs use these resources to provide preferred interest rates to borrowing members and private-sector partners, as well as concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest countries, while delivering critical policy advice and capacity development to developing countries.

Canada is a member of several IFIs, including the IMF, World Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Inter-American Development Bank. Canada provides core contributions to support these institutions' operations, activities and specific projects. Through our membership on IFI boards of governors and boards of directors, Canada actively contributes to developing policies and overseeing financial activities.

More information on Canada's relationship with IFIs is available through the [Partnerships and Organizations](#) webpage. Volume 2 of this report provides additional information on Canada's participation in the IMF, the World Bank and the EBRD.



Stories of change

Sowing seeds of hope in Jordan



Credits: © UN Women / Lauren Rooney

Syrian refugee women participate in the commemoration of International Women's Day at the UN Women Oasis in Za'atari refugee camp, Jordan (9 March 2020).

Through Canada's support of UN Women's Gender Mainstreaming in the Government of Jordan's Systems project, Canada is empowering women and helping them become more economically self-sufficient. In 2020-2021, the project was behind the opening of 17 Oasis Centres that provide training and funds for women in Jordan. This support has been particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic as the crisis is disproportionately affecting women's ability to make a living.

Siham Al Qatameen is a 54-year-old Syrian refugee living in a rural community in southern Jordan. For more than a decade, Al Qatameen has been the sole provider for her 11 family members. She is one of the many women who enrolled in an agriculture training program at the Oasis Centre.

"I used the skills I learned to cultivate herbs and vegetables in my home garden, which I gave to neighbours who are struggling financially [during the height of the pandemic]," says Al Qatameen.


The training she received through the Oasis Centre further inspired her to share her knowledge with other women in her community, as she has taught them how to grow their own produce.



Anti-racism, diversity and inclusion

As a global leader on intersectional feminism in international assistance, Canada applies an inclusive and human rights based approach to promote better practices on assessing and responding to intersectional discrimination—from a country to a global level. Over the past year, events around the world have brought the issues of systemic racism, intolerance, discrimination and other forms of exclusion to the forefront—both in Canada and globally. Recent calls for racial equality, justice and inclusion demonstrate that these issues run deep and will require effective responses across the government’s operations, policies and programs.

Since 2015, Canada has been implementing an intersectional approach to its international assistance, which recognizes that individuals have multiple and intersecting identities that shape how they experience discrimination.



Along with Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy, the [Feminist Approach Guidance Note](#) seeks to clarify and put into use the analysis and elimination of systemic discrimination on the basis of sex and gender identity, age, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and religion.

Key initiatives in the spotlight

Promoting inclusion and respect for diversity

In 2020-2021, Canada’s funding through the Inclusion, Diversity and Human Rights Fund of Global Affairs Office of Human Rights, Freedoms and Inclusion (OHRFI) included:

- \$2.5 million for human rights and human rights defenders
- more than \$2 million to promote freedom of religion or belief
- more than \$500,000 to promote inclusion and respect for diversity

For example, Canada’s funding to New York University’s Center on International Cooperation (CIC’s) Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is helping participating states combat inequality and exclusion. Canada is proud to be one of the “Pathfinders,” a group of 39 UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships and civil society partners working together to accelerate progress on the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+).

The International Youth Aboriginal Internship (IAYI) initiative offers Indigenous youth, between the ages of 18 and 35, opportunities to gain professional experiences in international development. As a result of the pandemic, the program was adapted to enable future virtual internships opportunities, thus continuing to provide Indigenous youth with the opportunity to develop their skills and competencies to prepare them for future employment or to further their studies.

Addressing inequality and exclusion

Through OHRFI, Canada is supporting the [Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion](#), one of CIC’s main initiatives. Most of the countries in the Grand Challenge have either recently undergone democratic transitions after periods of conflict or authoritarian rule, or have faced civil strife in the past. Throughout 2020 and early 2021, the Grand Challenge worked to identify and conduct research on the immediate and

longer-term policy priorities needed to tackle inequality and exclusion. This included 9 policy briefs on how to support an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020-2021, Canada provided support to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Words into Action project. This project applied a holistic approach to addressing antisemitism and other forms of racism, xenophobia and discrimination, including hate crimes.

Ensuring dignity for all people

Canada's contribution to the International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights project helped to increase awareness of the impact that the armed conflict in Colombia had on LGBTQ2 people, particularly trans and lesbian women. As a result of Canada's support, more than 30 people working with LGBTQ2 organizations have been trained on how to document human rights violations. Another nine people were trained on how to develop advocacy campaigns for Afro-LGBTQ2 victims of the armed conflict.

Canada provided funding to the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF) managed by Equitas. ACTIF aims to advance the protection and realization of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two-spirit and intersex (LGBTQ2I) persons in ODA-eligible countries in collaboration with local organizations. The Fund launched its first call for proposals and is providing funding to 7 selected collaborative initiatives involving Canadian and southern partners spanning 17 countries across the globe.

Stories of change

Providing opportunities to Indigenous youth



Credits: © Verónica Sacalxot

The Indigenous Peoples Professional Experience Program was first launched in Guatemala in 2017, and was replicated last year at the Canadian Embassy in Peru. This program gives recent university graduates who self-identify as Indigenous a 6-month opportunity to work in the 2 embassies. The program has enabled Canada to advance discussions on Indigenous peoples and their rights in both countries.

Program graduates provide analysis, research, training and other skills from an Indigenous perspective while they gain valuable experience in international relations and development work. The program represents a concrete commitment to integrate an Indigenous worldview into Canada's international engagement and advance Canada's policy on diversity and inclusion in the workplace.



Kanek Nimwitz, from Guatemala, and Juan Segundo Escobar, from Peru, are 2 of the program's graduates. They contributed to reports on the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous peoples in Guatemala and Peru.

A similar program is currently being developed at the Canadian Embassy in Bolivia. This will help Canada to continue to build a valuable network of Indigenous professionals in the Americas who have experience working with Global Affairs Canada and expertise in Indigenous rights.



Credits: © Juan Segundo Escobar

Photos:

Top - Photo of Kanek Nimwitz, from Guatemala. Kanek is Maya-Mam, from Todos Santos, Huehuetenango, Guatemala and has a degree in Architecture. The picture was taken in Guatemala by Verónica Sacalxot, Audiovisual producer from Casa Ixmayab.

Bottom - Juan Segundo Escobar, from Peru. Juan Segundo is Nomatsigenga from the Junín department in Peru and has a degree in Environmental Engineering.

Innovative development financing

The financing gap to reach the SDGs widened in 2020-2021 as a result of an increase in spending to address the COVID-19 crisis, coupled with a decrease in external private financing. In fact, it is estimated that this gap will increase to US\$3.7 trillion annually.

The [International Assistance Innovation Program](#) and the [Sovereign Loans Program](#) are 2 pilot programs totalling \$1.59 billion over 5 years. These 2 programs are expanding the use of new repayable funding mechanisms.

Canada's innovative development financing seeks to catalyze additional public and private sector resources to support sustainable development.

Key initiatives in the spotlight

African Guarantee Fund

Through the International Assistance Innovation Program, Canada contributed \$12.5 million to the [African Guarantee Fund](#) to create a business line dedicated to African women entrepreneurs as part of the [Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa initiative](#).

Created by the African Development Bank, this pan-African initiative aims to reduce market risk perceptions for African women entrepreneurs and narrow the estimated US\$42 billion financing gap that they face. By contributing to this initiative, Canada is helping to deliver dedicated guarantees to African financial institutions that lend to women entrepreneurs.



For every dollar of capital the African Guarantee Fund receives, it is able to provide up to \$4 in guarantees to African financial institutions. This increases local currency financing to women entrepreneurs.

Since 2012, the fund has:

- issued US\$1.1 billion worth of guarantees to more than 160 African financial institutions
- benefited almost 21,000 small and medium-sized enterprises, 30% of which are women-owned
- helped to create almost 130,000 jobs across 40 African countries

Canada-Africa Development Bank Climate Fund

In March 2021, Canada announced a contribution of almost \$133 million to establish the [Canada-Africa Development Bank Climate Fund](#). The fund aims to enhance women's economic rights and participation in climate action and to mobilize private capital to fill the climate investment gap in Africa. Canada's contribution is partially repayable, with the goal of providing concessional loans to climate change-related projects that use a gender lens.

Supporting development finance institutions

In 2020-2021, [FinDev Canada](#), Canada's Development Finance Institution, continued to respond quickly to the changing needs of investees as a result of the pandemic. In Budget 2021, the government authorized a \$300 million recapitalization of FinDev Canada over 3 years, starting in 2023-2024. This will allow FinDev Canada to continue to deliver on its mandate, achieve financial sustainability and grow its portfolio.

This past year, Canada committed to working effectively with development financial institutions and multilateral development banks to respond to the COVID crisis by signing onto the [Tri Hita Karana \(THK\) Statement on the Role of Development Finance Institutions, Multilateral Development Banks and Shareholders in Building Back Better in the Wake of COVID-19](#). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with the recommendations of the THK statement, FinDev Canada is co-investing with other institutions to distribute risk more broadly and pool resources to increase available financing.

In 2020-2021, Global Affairs Canada provided \$75.9 million to FinDev Canada for the 2X Canada: Inclusive Economic Recovery Facility. The Facility aims to support COVID-19 economic recovery in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and will apply a gender lens to all of its investments to actively support women's economic empowerment.

Private sector engagement

Canada recognizes the fundamental role that the private sector plays in driving innovation, productivity and inclusive economic growth, as well as achieving development results. In 2020-2021, Canada collaborated with the private sector and other stakeholders to develop the [Private Sector Engagement for Sustainable Development Strategy](#). The strategy will encourage private actors to engage in international assistance initiatives in new, more innovative and adaptable ways to solve social, economic and environmental problems globally and support the 2030 Agenda.



Stories of change

From illicit crops to legality: Transforming lives with cocoa



Credits: © Sebastián Camelo, SOCODEVI, Colombia

For decades, Colombia has struggled with the increase of illicit crops, but through a program funded by Canada, there is a glimmer of hope.

Cocoa has become a profitable alternative for agricultural producers such as Euber Rodríguez, a farmer from La Hormiga, Putumayo. More than a decade ago, he stopped growing illicit crops and became a cocoa farmer. In December 2020, he won the Golden Cocoa Regional Contest, which recognizes the producer of the best cocoa in the Putumayo region during the past year.

“Before, I did not live with tranquility, you cannot live peacefully with those crops. But since I started with cocoa, my life has improved in all aspects”, says Rodríguez. “This award was possible thanks to the support of the Agroemprende Cocoa project. Since they arrived, the quality of my crops has improved substantially and the profitability has multiplied.”

The project is co-financed by Canada and the national petroleum company Ecopetrol and is implemented by SOCODEVI. It has benefited the cocoa sector by using a unique project funding model called Results-Based Financing (RBF), which seeks to maximize results from a cost-efficiency perspective. The cocoa project is the first time Canada has piloted this innovative funding approach.

Now, thanks to cocoa, Canadian support and innovative thinking, the lives of thousands of people are changing for the better in conflict-affected territories of Colombia.



Learn more about this theme

[A Canadian Approach to Innovative Financing for Sustainable Development \(Guidance Note\)](#)

[Convergence Blended Finance](#)

[Canada Forum for Impact Investment and Development](#)

Development innovation and experimentation

The Feminist International Assistance Policy recognizes development innovation as critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda. It commits Canada to being an innovator and improving the effectiveness of its international assistance. Please consult the [open data portal](#) for a list of projects implementing innovative solutions.

Canada's [Guidance Note on Innovation in International Assistance](#) defines innovation as “a process, mindset, and means to enable new or improved locally driven solutions for better results and greater impact, which benefit the most vulnerable, including women and girls.” Canada's approach to innovation reflects [the G7 Whistler Principles to Accelerate Innovation for Development Impact](#). These principles underscore the importance of:

- fostering innovative partnerships
- collaborating across public, private and civil society sectors
- supporting local innovators
- increasing experimentation
- measuring impact to achieve better development results

During 2020-2021, 23 partners implemented 30 new innovations that generated better results in more than 25 countries. As of March 2021, more than 50 Canadian-funded partners were working to test more than 330 potential innovations.

Experimentation, or testing and comparing, is a method Canada uses to help verify that projects and services are achieving the best results—for both our partners and Canadians. Rigorously testing an approach before it is rolled out on a larger scale increases the chance that it will achieve its intended results. Experimentation can reduce risk and maximize impact.



Countries where innovations are being implemented with support from Global Affairs Canada and its partners



Key initiatives in the spotlight

Grand Challenges Canada

Since 2010, Canada has contributed \$601 million to [Grand Challenges Canada](#) (GCC). This includes \$200 million in new institutional funding announced in 2020 to support innovators in low- and middle-income countries. This funding will help to develop and transition innovations that improve the health, human rights and well-being of women, adolescent girls and children in the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations.

Innovations funded through GCC's current Innovation Platform for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health initiative have improved the lives of close to a half a million people and saved the lives of almost 14,000 others. This was more than double the number of people who benefited from the initiative in 2019-2020 and surpassed the project's targets for these indicators.

In 2020-2021, 2 Canada-funded innovators stood out. [Hewatele](#) provides quality medical oxygen to health facilities in Kenya and saw a notable increase in sales during the COVID-19 pandemic. The company was the recipient of the [Rotman Innovation of the Year Award](#) in 2020. Another notable innovation was South Africa's [Sinapi Biomedical](#) use of its uterine balloon tamponade to treat postpartum hemorrhage in low-resource health facilities.

Fund for Innovation and Transformation

In 2020-2021, Canada continued to support the [Manitoba Council for International Cooperation](#) in implementing the [Fund for Innovation and Transformation](#) (FIT), including funding 9 new projects. FIT funds Canadian small and medium-sized organizations that partner with local organizations to test innovative solutions to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

As of the end of March 2021, 18 organizations were testing potentially innovative solutions in 12 countries to determine their impact and results when it comes to development. These solutions included testing a self-sampling method to increase screening for human papillomavirus (HPV)



and cervical cancer among rural women in India, and expanding the Healing in Harmony music therapy program in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The program helps men and boys in the DRC deal with trauma from violence and conflict, develop positive masculinity and become more knowledgeable about gender equality.

Global Innovation Fund

Through Canada's contribution to the [Global Innovation Fund's Innovating for Gender Equality Sub-Fund](#), Canada is supporting the testing and scaling of 3 innovative solutions: [StrongMinds](#), [No Means No Worldwide](#) and [Breakthrough India](#). These solutions aim to transform unequal gender relations and empower the world's poorest women and girls. In 2020-2021, almost 19,000 people graduated from the No Means No Worldwide sexual violence program in Uganda, South Africa, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

The Global Innovation Fund is using a new impact methodology framework to forecast and measure the social impact of initiatives that advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The framework was developed for the Gender Equality Sub-fund and is now being applied to all of its investments.

Engaging with international stakeholders

In 2020-2021, Canada continued to be an active member of the [International Development Innovation Alliance](#) and a key supporter of integrating innovation into the work of the OECD-Development Assistance Committee. In fact, Canada has taken the lead on a proposed approach to track innovation in official development assistance reporting. For the first time in 2020-2021, Canada identified innovative projects in its reporting to the committee and demonstrated the value of tracking innovation to other committee members.

Community of Practice on Development Innovation

In 2020-2021, Canada continued to work with Canadian civil society organizations through the Multi-stakeholder Community of Practice on Development Innovation. It supports collective capacity development by exchanging knowledge on good practices, new approaches and tools for development innovation. For example, in April 2020, Global Affairs Canada and the [Digital Opportunity Trust](#) co-hosted a session called "Innovating During Crisis: Lessons from the First 30 Days." This event led to the sharing of innovative practices, collective experiences, challenges and learning regarding how to continue to work toward the SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accelerating Access Initiative Joint Financing Arrangement

The Scaling Up Access to Formal Education project in Jordan uses a Joint Financing Agreement to respond to the protracted refugee crisis in Jordan and support refugee education, rather than stand-alone and disconnected interventions. It demonstrates the value of this type of funding mechanism, which can be implemented in any sector where refugee populations are using national systems along with national populations. A similar funding mechanism has been implemented in the health sector through the creation of the [Jordan Health Fund for Refugees](#).

This approach puts Jordan's Ministry of Education in the lead in supporting the country's landmark commitment to allow all children, regardless of their nationality, access to formal education. At the same time, it allows for international burden and responsibility sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. This approach has allowed donors to move away from costly parallel systems and directly channel their resources to a functioning national system, which in turn contributes to strengthening these systems.



Empowering Kenyan women to sustainably grow more food

In 2020-2021, the [More Food: Empowering Kenyan Women Farmers](#) project, implemented by Farmers Helping Farmers, adopted approaches to improve the dietary diversity of farming families in Kenya. This included providing grow bags to women farmers in Meru County.

Grow bags provide a large supply of nutritious vegetables in a very small footprint. Each bag replaces a 100-foot row of vegetables and reduces the time and effort needed to weed, water and harvest the plants. These bags can be filled with enriched soil and compost, enabling their use in areas with poor soil where growing food would not otherwise be possible.

Women farmers taking part in the project reported that training sessions on establishing seedling nurseries for grow bags had improved their sustainable agricultural skills. They were able to improve their incomes as they produced more food, which could then be sold at local markets.

Supporting environmental protection on traditional Karen lands

The Inclusive Democratic Development in Burma/Myanmar project helps ethnic minority groups in Myanmar to create environmentally minded solutions for local problems. With Canada's support, the project enabled the first ever customary land title to be issued to a collective of 6 ethnic Karenni villages in 2020. This helped to strengthen environmentally conscious regulations and practices in these communities.

The project led to the creation of the Salween Peace Park—a community-driven initiative that provided the local ethnic Karen community to become custodians over their traditional lands. This enabled the community to support local ecosystems through environmental practices and provide sustainable livelihoods for its inhabitants. In 2020, the Salween Peace Park received both the Goldman Environmental Prize and the Equator Prize as recognition for its contribution to environmental protection.

Supporting experimentation

Over the past 3 years, Global Affairs Canada has expanded its use of experimentation and is continuously working to strengthen institutional and partner capacity to support experimentation. To this end, the department is increasing the level of awareness and knowledge of experimentation as well as the availability of expert advice for designing and implementing experiments. In 2020-2021, we continued to:

- gather data on experiments planned or underway
- integrate experimentation into departmental governance bodies and decision-making processes
- develop an internal-experimentation community of practice
- dedicate sustained human and financial resources to experimentation

Learn more about this theme

[International Development Innovation Insight Guides](#)

[COVID-19 innovation in low and middle-income countries](#)

[Innovation Marker Pilot Report](#)

