

Canada and the G20: Global Health

This is the second year that global health has been discussed broadly at the G20 Summit. Addressing complex global health challenges contributes to inclusive economic growth, gender equality and women's empowerment, and requires collaborative, whole-of-society approaches.

The Health Track of Argentina's G20 Presidency prioritizes several global challenges, including:

- antimicrobial resistance (AMR);
- malnutrition, with a focus on childhood overweight and obesity;
- health systems strengthening;
- the responsiveness of health systems to disasters, catastrophes and pandemics.

Canadian priorities

Canada collaborated with other G20 countries this year on health issues to advance shared objectives of protecting public health, promoting gender equality, and empowering women and girls. The G20 Meeting of Health Ministers [Declaration](#), adopted by consensus, included these priorities.

Throughout its 2018 G7 Presidency, Canada called for collective action on key global health issues, a call reiterated in the Charlevoix G7 Summit [Communiqué](#). Canada encouraged continued G7 cooperation on AMR, global health security, and strengthening health systems to achieve universal coverage. Canada's active participation in this year's G20 Health Track advances important work on key issues outlined below.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

AMR is a significant threat to development and public health in all nations. Canada worked with its G20 partners to maintain global momentum on AMR, and to address this complex issue through an approach that involves multiple sectors, including healthcare, agriculture and environment.

Canada plays a key role in the Global AMR Research and Development Hub. The May 2018 launch of the Hub fulfilled a key commitment included in the 2017 G20 Leaders' Declaration. Canada participates actively in the Hub and was elected its Board Vice-Chair in September 2018. During this year's G20 Summit, Canada promoted continued work on the Hub to improve the coordination of international efforts on AMR.

Canada continues to address AMR both domestically and globally. The Government of Canada partnered with provincial and territorial governments to launch a pan-Canadian framework for action on AMR in September 2017, for example, and provided more than \$9 million to support global efforts.

Tackling childhood overweight and obesity through an integrated approach to healthy living

Malnutrition, including childhood overweight and obesity, is a growing public health and economic threat in both high-income and lower/middle-income countries. This year, for the first time, Canada and its G20 partners committed to tackling issues related to malnutrition, with a focus on childhood overweight and obesity, by enhancing multi-sectoral efforts and partnerships in physical activity and nutrition, and by increasing prevention and promotion efforts. These commitments also support outcomes from the 2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases.

Reducing childhood overweight and obesity in Canada is also a priority. The Government of Canada works with all levels of government, along with non-governmental organizations and other partners, to advance innovative policies and projects that promote healthy eating and physical activity. The Government of Canada also supports initiatives and community efforts in partnerships across the country to encourage physical activity.

Strengthening the global community's preparedness to prevent, detect and respond to public-health risks and emergencies

Today, more than ever, public-health risks in one part of the world can threaten the health of people worldwide, as well as impact the economy and development. The ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo speaks to the importance of continued G20 commitments to strengthening the responsiveness of health systems to pandemics. Through the G20 Health Track, Canada supported the ongoing, collective commitment to the International Health Regulations and the critical role they play in preventing, detecting and responding to global health threats.

Building on discussions at the 2017 G20 Leaders' Summit, Canada also advocated for the World Health Organization's (WHO) central role during health emergencies, and the importance of sustainable financing for emergency efforts through mechanisms such as WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE). Canada has contributed a total of \$3 million to the CFE, including \$1 million in March 2018.

Gender equality

Canada is a leading advocate for the health and rights of women and girls. A cross-cutting theme of both the G7 and G20 summits during 2018 was the promotion of gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls.

Health systems that improve the health and well-being of women and girls contribute to gender equality and to a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. During the 2018 G20 Summit, Canada has strongly advocated the importance of gender equality in improving health, and highlighted that strong, accessible, sustainable and gender-sensitive health systems are key to better health and greater well-being.

The Global Fund

The Global Fund was founded in 2002 to accelerate the end of epidemics in tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS. The Fund is a multi-stakeholder partnership, and draws its board members from donor and implementer governments, civil society, the private sector and disease-affected communities. To date, the Global Fund has saved an estimated 27 million lives through investments of nearly US\$4 billion per year in a total of more than 100 countries.

In countries where the Global Fund invests, the number of deaths caused by AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined has fallen by one-third each year since 2002. Canada has supported the Global Fund since its inception, providing a total of more than \$2 billion. The last Global Fund replenishment, hosted by Canada in 2016, raised \$13 billion, including \$804 million (for 2016 – 2019) from Canada. France will host the next Global Fund replenishment in October 2019, while India will host a pre-replenishment meeting in February 2019. The Global Fund makes an important contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.