

VOLUME 1

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

2022-2023



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

We are pleased to present the *Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance 2022-2023*.

It is important to recognize that despite the focus on results from the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the last 12 months have seen people and communities around the world grapple with the devastating effects of ongoing and new conflicts, including in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan, as well as the overwhelming impacts of large-scale climate disasters. As a result, it is recognized that recent and emerging geopolitical events have resulted in new humanitarian needs and may have impacted the projects and results presented in this report.



In 2022-2023, Canada's [Feminist International Assistance Policy](#) (FIAP) continued to guide the delivery of Canada's federal international assistance programming, which totalled \$15.5 billion in 2022-2023. This was particularly important in a year where deliberate efforts were made to roll back progress on gender equality, and the rights of women, girls and members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. In response, flagship initiatives such as the [Women's Voice and Leadership Program](#) supported women's organizations in developing countries to achieve gender equality, support women and girls—and all marginalized people—and ensure no one is left behind.

Canada is committed to promoting a human rights-based and inclusive approach to how international assistance is delivered. The principles of participation and inclusion, equality and non-discrimination, and transparency and accountability are integrated into all aspects of our international assistance.

We continue to engage with local and international development actors to incorporate innovative approaches, lessons learned and best practices for locally led international assistance. We recognize that partnerships with multilateral institutions, national and sub-national governments, local communities, civil society, the private sector, and academic and Indigenous partners are key to succeeding in our common objectives to eradicate poverty and build a more prosperous, peaceful and resilient world.

In this ever-changing and complex world, there are always opportunities to improve how we communicate to Canadians the work we are doing to advance Canada's interests, priorities and values through international assistance. Through this report, we have sought to strengthen international assistance results reporting, in line with recommendations by the Auditor General of Canada, to present the outcomes of funded projects against the expected goals set out in the FIAP.



As 2022-2023 marked the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 sustainable development goals, we remained committed to ensuring that Canada's international assistance supported efforts to reduce poverty and create real opportunities for the world's poorest and most marginalized people, while promoting global peace and security. It is only through accelerated action that we will meet these goals, and Canada is fully committed to doing so in collaboration with its partners.

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen  
Minister of International Development

The Honourable Mélanie Joly  
Minister of Foreign Affairs





## Message from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Once again last year, Canada took meaningful actions to make the world a safer and better place for all. Through these actions, Canada channeled its international assistance towards building a fairer, safer, and more inclusive and sustainable world.

Canada exercised its leadership by enhancing access to concessional finance for those who need it the most. Canada supported the creation of the IMF's new Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), which provides financing to low-income and vulnerable economies to build resilience to external shocks, including pandemic preparedness and climate change. During the reporting period, Canada became one of the first countries to finalize a contribution to this new trust, equivalent to \$2.4 billion. This builds on Canada's recent \$1 billion contribution to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), which provides financial support to low-income countries. Canada strongly supports multilateral efforts to fight climate change around the world.



As Ukrainians continued to resist Russia's illegal and unjustifiable war of aggression, Canada continued to support them in their fight to defend freedom, democracy, and their homeland. Canada championed the creation of the IMF's Administered Account for Ukraine and was the first country to use this Account. By March 31, 2023, Canada had channeled a total of \$4.35 billion in loans to the people of Ukraine through this Account, with Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands also making contributions. Canada also supported the creation of the IMF's Food Shock Window to allow Ukraine and other eligible countries impacted by Russia's war to receive emergency financing. Finally, with support from Canada and our allies, Ukraine was able to secure a substantial 4-year financing program with the IMF worth US\$15 billion. Canada will always stand with Ukraine and Ukrainians as they fight and will keep providing support for as long as it takes.

In addition, in March 2023 Canada provided \$115 million to help repair Kyiv's power grid. In making this commitment to Ukraine through the World Bank's Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Multi-Donor Trust Fund, Canada became the first G7 country to meet the June 2022 G7 Leaders' commitment to explore opportunities to use revenues collected through tariff measures against Russia to assist Ukraine. In addition, Canada worked with its partners to provide Naftogaz, Ukraine's state-owned gas company, a €300 million loan through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to help keep the heat and lights on in Ukraine during winters.

I am also proud of Canada's leadership role in advancing important reforms to make international financial institutions, such as the World Bank Group, more equipped to address the profound challenges facing developing countries, from climate change and biodiversity loss to fragility and conflict. Canada is highly engaged in multilateral efforts to make sure every dollar of financing is used most effectively towards sustainable development.



I am pleased to present jointly with the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, the *Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance 2022–2023*.

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance



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## Executive summary and highlights

The international assistance report is the Government of Canada's most comprehensive accounting of federal international assistance, reflecting the collective efforts of Global Affairs Canada and 20 other federal departments to deliver international assistance in partnership with a wide range of international and local partners. Canada is grateful for the ongoing collaboration, dedication and service of all its partners, particularly those working in conflict situations.

Despite collective efforts, international assistance results that have been achieved can be minimized or even undone in the context of humanitarian disasters or disasters caused by human activity. In particular, Canada recognizes that the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza and the impact of the Taliban's return in Afghanistan are having a devastating effect on people and infrastructure, and, ultimately, have a negative impact on the sustainability of Canada's international assistance investments in these regions.

Complementing this report is Canada's second Voluntary National Review of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation, which was presented at the UN's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2023. The 2030 Agenda provides a blueprint for addressing today's most pressing challenges—from achieving gender equality and protecting the planet to ensuring equal access to education and health care and building more resilient economies.



Canada remains firmly committed to learning, innovation and expanded partnerships to achieve the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs.

Global progress toward the SDGs has been hindered in recent years by concurrent crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous and protracted conflicts, climate change, high inflation, and food insecurity. As co-chair of the [SDG Advocates](#), Prime Minister Trudeau has been working to inspire a renewed focus on achieving the goals.

In 2022-2023, the Government of Canada continued to direct its international assistance toward the communities and people who needed it most, providing \$15.5 billion to millions of people worldwide. This assistance has helped save lives and alleviate suffering by promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, and building and promoting peace and security.

This report showcases results and stories of change achieved in 2022-2023 by partners around the world. The report is organized in line with the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) and its 6 action areas policies: [Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls](#), [Human Dignity \(which includes Health and Nutrition, Education and Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Action\)](#), [Growth that Works for Everyone](#), [Environment and Climate Action](#), [Inclusive Governance](#), and [Peace and Security](#).

Protecting the rights of women and girls and enabling them to be agents of change is a powerful way to build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. Last year, almost all of Canada's bilateral



international development assistance either targeted or integrated gender equality. In 2022-2023, Canada's international development assistance helped partner organizations to make strides to ensure that more women and girls can access the health services they need and the education they deserve. Canada supported initiatives that strengthened local partners' ability to actively engage in government-led consultations on sexual and reproductive health and rights—and to influence policy change. One in 3 adolescent girls living in poverty has never set foot in a classroom. Canada has continued to help address this inequity by working to transform education systems in developing countries. For instance, Canada is helping to build stronger education systems in more than 90 partner countries through the [Global Partnership for Education](#).

By partnering with experienced and trusted humanitarian organizations, the Government of Canada continued to respond to increased humanitarian needs around the world in 2022-2023. Through its work with UN partners, NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Canada provided more than \$1.3 billion in humanitarian assistance in 2022-2023 and helped to assist and protect some 29 million refugees. Canada has continued to help enhance the economic well-being and economic rights of the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable people, particularly women and girls. For example, in 2022-2023, International Assistance Innovation Program investments helped create jobs for women by providing financing to micro-, small and medium enterprises in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Canada's international assistance also directly supported people affected by natural disasters caused by climate change. For instance, Canada's climate change program with the International Finance Corporation has improved access to renewable energy for more than 4 million people, reducing CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions by 2 megatonnes annually. Canada continues to advocate for and promote the protection of human rights and inclusive democratic governance through initiatives like the LGBTQ2I international assistance program, which aims to improve the human rights and socio-economic inclusion of LGBTQ2I+ populations.

In 2022-2023, Canada also supported approximately 716 projects in 124 countries through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives and under each action area of the FIAP. The world is currently experiencing the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War and Canada's efforts to build a safer world are more important than ever. In 2022-2023, Canada continued its efforts to push for the integration of the [Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers](#) in all UN policies and training materials. This has strengthened UN personnel's ability to protect and promote children's rights in armed conflict.

Although Canada's international development efforts in 2022-2023 have helped change millions of lives for the better, there is still much more to be done, and it will require Canada's partners and the work they do around the globe. For the latest evaluation reports on Canadian international development assistance, we invite you to visit Global Affairs Canada's [Program and project evaluation web page](#). For more information on Canada's international assistance efforts, we invite you to visit the [Canadian funding for international initiatives web page](#).





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## Government of Canada's International Assistance and Official Development Assistance Disbursements by Organization, 2022-2023

The Government of Canada disbursed \$15.5 billion in international assistance in 2022-2023, of which official development assistance (ODA) made up 76% or \$11.8 billion. In 2022-2023, more than 2,900 international assistance projects were active around the world. Each project varied in size, complexity and duration. Below you will find Canada's international assistance efforts in 2022-2023 listed by action area. The [Statistical Report on International Assistance](#) provides further details on international assistance and ODA expenditures.

The Government of Canada delivered international assistance through 21 federal organizations.

Amount disbursed (\$ million) by each of the 21 federal organizations:

Canadian International Assistance 2022-2023				
Department/Source	International assistance	of which		
		Programs funded by the IAE	ODA: ODAAA	ODA: OECD-DAC*
<b>Departments reporting under the <i>Official Development Assistance Accountability Act</i> (ODAAA)</b>				
Global Affairs Canada	6,978.22	6,927.44	6,708.38	6,708.38
Department of Finance Canada**	6,360.15	5,860.15	2,906.07	2,906.07
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada***	1,705.33	1.84	1,705.33	1,705.33
International Development Research Centre	180.04	180.04	180.04	180.04
Public Health Agency of Canada	181.09	-	181.09	181.09
Environment and Climate Change Canada	52.02	40.85	52.02	52.02
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	15.48	15.48	14.57	14.57
Canadian Institutes of Health Research	14.51	-	14.51	14.51
Canada Revenue Agency	6.20	4.01	6.20	6.20
Department of National Defence	8.47	-	8.47	8.47
Employment and Social Development Canada—Labour Program	6.86	-	6.86	6.86
Parks Canada	0.78	-	0.78	0.78
Natural Resources Canada	4.75	4.60	4.75	4.75



<b>Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada</b>	0.94	-	0.94	0.94
<b>Canada Post—Universal Postal Union</b>	0.44	-	0.44	0.44
<b>Statistics Canada</b>	0.16	-	0.16	0.16
<b>Canadian Space Agency</b>	0.11	-	0.11	0.11
<b>Canadian Intellectual Property Office</b>	0.03	-	0.03	0.03
<b>Canadian Museum of Nature</b>	0.01	-	0.01	0.01
<b>Public Service Commission of Canada</b>	0.01	-	0.01	0.01
<b>Transport Canada****</b>	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
<b>Services received without charge by Global Affairs Canada</b>	25.23	10.70	25.23	25.23
Subtotal—Departments reporting under the ODAAA	15,540.82	13,045.12	11,815.99	11,815.99
<b>Percentage of international assistance</b>		84%	76%	76%
Other departments, sources				
<b>Cost of refugees in Canada (first year)—Provinces and territories</b>	461.03	-	-	461.03
<b>Provinces, territories and municipalities</b>	48.03	-	-	48.03
<b>Subtotal - Other departments, sources</b>	509.06	-	-	509.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,049.89</b>	<b>13,045.12</b>	<b>11,815.99</b>	<b>12,325.05</b>
<b>Percentage of total international assistance</b>		81%	74%	77%

\* OECD-DAC: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee. The "ODA: OECD-DAC" figures in this table are presented on a fiscal-year basis, in Canadian dollars, to allow for the comparing and contrasting of 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 provides for reporting on departments' gross disbursements, whereas the OECD-DAC calls for reports on a grant-equivalent basis. Reflows on repayable contributions and loans are disclosed in Table A as information items.

\*\* In 2022-2023, the Department of Finance Canada provided \$4.85 billion in loan assistance to Ukraine to help meet its urgent balance of payments needs and support its macroeconomic stability. As per the OECD-DAC reporting guidelines, only the grant equivalent of these loans is reported as ODA under the ODAAA and OECD.

\*\*\* Includes the cost of refugees in Canada (first year) and other projects. As per the OECD-DAC guidelines, the first year of federal and provincial support to refugees is reportable as ODA. The exceptional increase in fiscal year 2022-2023 is the result of higher numbers of resettled refugees and asylum seekers, and the establishment of the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel.

\*\*\*\* Figures in this table are represented in millions of Canadian dollars, therefore Transport Canada's 2022-2023 contributions are displayed as 0. Its contributions in 2022-2023 totalled \$4,000.





Credits: © UN Women, Morocco

## An evolving international assistance landscape

After decades of unprecedented global development progress, the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts around the world have stalled and even reversed many development gains. The climate crisis and ongoing conflicts are contributing to high levels of global hunger. In 2022, around 735 million people were suffering from hunger—122 million more than before the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of these challenges, Canada is helping to build partnerships and more resilient communities to support development outcomes for the poorest and most marginalized populations. For example, we are focused on delivering international assistance that supports climate-smart food systems to address the needs of those who are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity.

Rising authoritarianism in a number of countries is threatening democratic institutions, shrinking civic space and increasing political polarization. Similarly, progress to promote gender equality and human rights has stalled and is even backsliding in many countries and regions. Canada and other like-minded governments and partners are working on many fronts to counter these trends. At the country level, Canada is supporting change-makers that amplify the voices of marginalized people, and in multilateral institutions, Canada promotes the core values of human rights and inclusion.

World events over the last 12 months are a cause for concern in terms of sustaining the results of Canada's development programming. Results achieved in different contexts can, unfortunately, be undone by humanitarian and environmental disasters or those caused by human activity. The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza and the impact of the Taliban's return in Afghanistan are having a devastating effect on people and infrastructure, and, ultimately, have a negative impact on the sustainability of Canada's international assistance. It is worth noting, however, that while international assistance results may be limited because projects have been suspended, previous activities and results can and often do still have a lasting effect on people's lives that cannot be undone by singular events.

### Changing donor landscape

Growing inequalities within and across countries are driving questions about who shapes and benefits from international assistance. This, in turn, is creating demand from developing countries for reforms to international institutions, many of which have not changed since their creation soon after the Second World War. These countries point to long-standing structural inequities in the international multilateral system that limit their voice, influence and interests. As a result, there is a push for developing countries to have a stronger voice in these institutions.

As a feminist donor country committed to advancing human rights, Canada is actively examining how international assistance can better support more equitable partnerships that are based on respect for local priorities and locally led development.



Of particular concern for donors and developing countries alike is the current state of the international financial architecture—the governance arrangements that safeguard the stability of the global monetary and financial systems. Institutions such as the World Bank Group and regional development banks have come under increasing criticism for failing to respond adequately to the financial needs of developing countries. Canada recognizes that reforms to multilateral systems are needed to support more inclusive and sustainable development. To this end, Canada’s approach to the changing international assistance landscape recognizes that aid effectiveness is built on strong partnerships that foster collaboration and inclusion and promote innovative solutions to meet current global needs and ensure that we leave no one behind.

### Learn more about this theme

- [Statement by the Honourable Chrystia Freeland to the 48th Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee](#)
- [Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister to the 108th Meeting of the Development Committee](#)
- [Donor Statement on Supporting Locally Led Development](#)
- [The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023](#)
- [Moving forward together: Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy](#)
- [Canada’s Federal Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda](#)
- [Canada’s 2023 Voluntary National Review – A Continued Journey for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [The SDG Advocates](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—Financing for Development](#)
- [Canadian Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [The Federal Sustainable Development Strategy](#)
- [International Development Week](#)
- [Canada’s Policy for Civil Society Partnerships for International Assistance—A Feminist Approach](#)





Credits: © UNFPA, Egypt

## Canada at work in the world: International assistance in action

Through its international assistance, Canada helps to save lives and alleviate suffering by working to reduce poverty, create new opportunities for the world's poorest and most marginalized people, and build and promote peace and security. In particular, its international assistance focuses on strengthening women's and girls' rights and working toward the realization of gender equality.

The Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) is the overarching policy that guides Canada's international assistance programming. It includes 6 action area policies: [Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls](#), [Human Dignity \(which includes Health and Nutrition, Education and Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Action\)](#), [Growth that Works for Everyone](#), [Environment and Climate Action](#), [Inclusive Governance](#), and [Peace and Security](#). Canada's international assistance programming is designed to achieve concrete results in support of partner countries' needs and policy priorities, and in line with the 2030 Agenda, the sustainable development goals and global agreements on development effectiveness. Canada takes an integrated approach to delivering international assistance that complements Canada's global trade and diplomacy efforts.

Canada's international assistance is delivered through projects that are implemented by a range of Canadian and international partners. When designing projects, Global Affairs Canada and its partners are guided by the FIAP and its 6 action area policies. Understanding how an international assistance project should be able to achieve results in principle is much different from actually realizing outcomes on the ground. That said, Canada's international assistance is contributing to sustainable development, project by project. Over time, the goal is to use these annual reports to aggregate project results and provide a more comprehensive accounting of results achieved by sector and geography. In this report, the terms results and outcomes are used interchangeably.

It is important to note that this report is not designed to provide an exhaustive accounting of all activities or results achieved through Canada's international assistance investments. Instead, it showcases select results achieved in 2022-2023. Overall, in 2022-2023, Canada's federal departments and agencies disbursed \$15.5 billion to 2,900 projects (for more information, please consult the [DevData Dashboard](#)). Information on the projects being implemented through Canadian international assistance efforts can be found on the [Project Browser](#) web page.

The sections that follow include a selection of the results achieved through Canada's international assistance during 2022-2023, which are presented by FIAP action area and their associated expected outcomes and paths to action. Each section of the report includes an overview of the challenges to which Canada's international assistance was responding, including key Canadian investments, followed by examples of outcomes achieved in the countries or regions in which Canada provided assistance. Stories of change are presented throughout the report to highlight examples of how Canada has had a direct impact on individuals' lives.





Credits: © RCMP, Australia

## Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

**Sustainable Development Goals**

**2** ZERO HUNGER

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls is essential to making progress toward poverty reduction and sustainable development. It requires fostering an enabling environment that is free of sexual and gender-based violence, one in which diverse and inclusive women’s rights movements are thriving, and institutions sustain the economic, political and social empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity. However, in recent years, there have been organized and concerted efforts aimed at undermining global efforts to advance gender equality and the human rights of women, girls and members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. In addition, crisis situations around the world are increasingly associated with more prevalent sexual and gender-based violence.

[Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls](#) is the FIAP’s core action area and a strategic focus of all Canadian international assistance efforts. When factoring in efforts across all action areas, nearly all (98%) of Canada’s bilateral international development assistance in this reporting period either targeted or integrated gender equality.

In March 2023, for the fourth annual report in a row, Canada was ranked amongst the top OECD donors for its share of assistance supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Moreover, as an example of Canada’s leadership in this area, in September 2022, Canada played an active leadership role in creating the [Alliance for Feminist Movements](#). The purpose of this new multi-stakeholder partnership is to mobilize increased, improved and sustained financial and political support for women’s rights organizations and feminist movements globally. As co-chair, Canada has helped to create partnerships with over 375 members from feminist civil society organizations and funds, private philanthropy, national governments and other allies.

In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$241 million in international assistance in the gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls action area, of which \$238 million was official development assistance. This action area aims at contributing to **enhanced enjoyment of human rights for women and girls, and gender equality for all women and men, girls and boys, particularly the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable**, in countries where Canada engages. To do this, Canada is supporting a range of projects and initiatives that seek to achieve outcomes under the following paths to action:




- address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation or cutting
- support and strengthen women's rights organizations and movements so they can effect change in their countries
- support evidence-based policy-making and program delivery for gender equality

Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned paths to action are presented below.

## Achievements in the spotlight

### Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence



In 2022-2023, Canada affected the lives of close to 35 million people (18 million women, 9 million men and 8 million individuals whose gender was not indicated) by helping to prevent, respond to, and end sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting.

For example, Canada's contribution (over \$1.3 million, 2019-2024) to [Digna, the Canadian Centre of Expertise on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(which is hosted by Cooperation Canada\)](#) supported 109 Canadian civil society organizations with the training, tools and partnerships needed to improve how they prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse in their international assistance delivery to partner countries. As a result, more than 75% of these organizations reported that they had integrated the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly of women and girls, into their policies and programs in 2022-2023, an 11% increase over the previous year.

Through the [UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#) (\$30 million, 2019-2023), Canada helped 16 million individuals in households across 12 countries to participate in community discussions about the consequences of, and alternatives to, child marriage. Over 6.3 million adolescent girls were empowered through life skills and comprehensive sexuality education delivered by adolescent safe spaces in communities and schools. In Nepal, for example, among the 57,000 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 who participated in the life skills education program, 64% reported increased self-efficacy to negotiate the delay of marriage and to speak up without fear.

In Iraq, Canada's ongoing support for 2 programs—the [Enhanced Governance for Improving the Well-Being of the Most Vulnerable Women and Girls in Iraq](#) (UNFPA, \$5 million, 2018-2021) and [Work Empowerment for Women in Iraq](#) (Partners Global, nearly \$4 million, 2019-2023)—helped make progress in addressing gender-based violence (GBV). The first project provided 67,982 women and girls access to GBV services, established 2 government-run women's shelters, and built the capacities of the judiciary and law enforcement officers in terms of GBV responses, as well as those of GBV specialists and case managers. The second project increased women's knowledge of workplace rights, including how to address cases of workplace harassment and discrimination. As a result, preliminary data shows that 76% (93/121) of the women who took the training and experienced harassment subsequently took administrative or legal action.

In Morocco, Canada's support for a [UN Women project](#) (\$3.5 million, 2018-2023) is changing social norms and practices regarding GBV. The project supported the implementation of a government bill to



respond to GBV and helped the Moroccan government to organize awareness campaigns in urban centres. It has also resulted in the restructuring of 674 centres for the care and treatment of women victims of violence and enabled 30 trainers to learn how to care for and treat victims (which, in turn, has led to the training of another 440 police officers to date). This has enabled the Moroccan police to better redeploy its officers to respond to occurrences of GBV.

In 2022-2023, Canada helped support a survivor-centred approach to addressing GBV in Mongolia. In particular, the International Development Law Organization's [Strengthening the Gender-Based Response in Mongolia](#) project (\$2.9 million, 2019-2022) gave survivors of domestic and gender-based violence a voice in developing and implementing policy and programs. For instance, the project conducted more than 300 community sessions and workshops across the country in collaboration with 30 Mongolian civil society organizations (CSOs). These sessions educated some 6,600 participants, 71% of whom were female, leading to greater awareness about addressing the root causes of domestic violence and GBV. They also created an opportunity for the CSOs to identify cases of violence and for participants to interact directly with CSO representatives after the event. As a result of these interactions, 2,353 victims received primary legal advice and were guided to referral services.

In the West Bank and Gaza, Canadian-funded projects in 2022-2023 helped to promote women's and girls' rights, including the prevention of and response to SGBV and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). For example, the [Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls in West Bank and Gaza](#) project (UN Women, \$25 million, 2018-2025) gave more than 9,300 women survivors and women at risk of violence access to a variety of services, including shelter and GBV rooms in hospitals, as well as multi-sectoral services for women victims and those at risk of violence. The project also included awareness-raising campaigns on the prevalence of SGBV, harmful social norms and services available to victims and survivors.



## Providing much-needed shelter to SGBV victims in Western Ukraine

In December 2022, the city of Khotyn, in Western Ukraine, opened the first SGBV shelter in the country since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion. With Canada’s support through the [Achieving municipal breakthrough in the effective response to sexual and gender-based violence](#) project (\$14 million, 2021-2025)—and led by UNFPA, the Government of Ukraine and municipalities in key oblasts (provinces)—the shelter now offers a refuge to women and children who are experiencing violence.

The shelter also provides a safe space where survivors can access psychological support or legal advice, employment search support or help finding a new home. It can accommodate up to 12 heads of family, along with their children, for stays of up to 6 months. Since it opened, it has offered safe accommodation and psychosocial assistance to 28 survivors of GBV (19 women and 9 children).

“We have set an ambitious task for ourselves,” says Andriy Dranchuk, the Mayor of Khotyn. “The Khotyn community should become free from violence in all its manifestations and develop a strong network of specialized services to address gender-based violence. This is particularly important during the difficult times of war, when many Ukrainian women, men and children suffer from violence.”




Caption: The city of Khotyn opened the first specialized shelter for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Ukraine since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion.

Alt text: A group of 3 men and 2 women, including Canada’s former ambassador to Ukraine, Larisa Galadza, hold a certificate. There are signs placed directly behind them.

Credits: © UNFPA / Ukraine



## Strengthening women's rights organizations



In 2022-2023, Canada continued to work with women's rights organizations and movements to advance the rights and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity. Canada supported more than 2,900 women's rights organizations and networks to help them improve their institutional capacity, programming and sustainability.

For example, through the [Women's Voice and Leadership \(WVL\)](#) Program alone, Canada provided more than 1,100 women's rights and LGBTQI+ organizations in some 30 countries with flexible core funding and capacity building in areas that are essential to organizational sustainability, such as gender-responsive financial management, resource mobilization, intersectional approaches to operations and programs, and self-care programs to help address the stress, trauma and mental health experienced by women and LGBTQI+ groups. Projects funded by the program in 2022-2023 reported influencing some 150 policies, laws and frameworks at multiple levels, from local organizations to national institutions.

In [Bangladesh](#) (\$6.8 million, 2019-2024), the support WVL provided to a trans women-led organization helped the hijra/transgender community to overcome barriers to political involvement. As a direct result of this support, the community gained the right to stand as self-identified candidates in elections at the national level.

In 2022-2023, the [Equality Fund initiative](#) (\$300 million, 2019-2035)—a consortium of the Equality Fund, World University Service Canada and the Toronto Foundation—provided \$20.5 million to 95 women's rights organizations and feminist funds across 84 developing countries, with funding further distributed to an additional 501 grantee partners. This enhanced women's rights organizations' capacity to advance gender equality and women's rights in ODA-eligible countries. For example, in November 2022, the Honduran government agreed to make partial reforms to its policy banning emergency contraception by legalizing its use for victims of sexual violence. The *Centro de Derechos de Mujeres* (CDM) had been challenging the ban on this contraception since it was first enacted in 2009, registering complaints through the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Through its multi-year equality fund contribution, which it used to support its long-term advocacy strategy, the CDM's early advocacy efforts enabled it to lead the strategic working group that made these legislative changes possible.

Through the [Canada Fund for Local Initiatives](#) (CFLI), Canada supported local women's rights organizations that are fighting to prevent and respond to SGBV and other harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation and cutting. This past year, the CFLI helped 675 organizations in more than 100 countries to increase their capacity to manage and deliver [GBA Plus](#)-informed projects. For example, the CFLI provided funding to the [Centre for Rights Education and Awareness](#) (over \$70,000, 2022-2023) to implement a [project](#) to improve access to justice and healing for SGBV survivors in remote regions of Kenya. This project provided legal support to more than 2,300 SGBV survivors and psychosocial services to some 670 survivors. This improved help-seeking behaviour among survivors through awareness activities and enhanced accountability among duty bearers. Another example is [support](#) to a local NGO in Guinea-Bissau (nearly \$22,000, 2022-2023) that is working to prevent early and forced marriages. Through training, radio debates and awareness campaigns, 1,320 young women, girls, boys and parents learned about the consequences of early and forced marriage and how to prevent it. This awareness raising and increased support for activists aim to help decrease the number of early and forced marriages in the community.

## Providing women in Senegal with a forum to bring about change

In 2022-2023, all 25 partner organizations of [WVL-Senegal](#) (over \$6.3 million, 2018-2023) focused on using innovative approaches to improve the range of services they provide to their beneficiaries. This helped to ensure they meet the specific needs of women, girls and the most vulnerable populations.

For example, the Senegal chapter of the Forum for African Women Educationalists, one of WVL-Senegal's partners, organized a forum and conference in 2 high schools in Dakar and Rufisque that focused on barriers related to child marriage. These activities increased the awareness of more than 600 students of the legal and medical consequences of child marriage and the urgent need to raise the age of marriage to 18. These initiatives led to recommendations being made to the National Education Ministry to integrate a gender-equality approach into national curricula, to set up violence watch and warning groups in schools, and to create groups to listen and provide advice to victims of violence. These recommendations have been accepted and are being implemented.



Caption: President of the WILDAF youth college at the academic forum on women's and girls' vulnerability factors and professional integration opportunities at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD).  
Credits: © Senegal, 2023

## Supporting policy-making that promotes gender equality

In 2022-2023, Canada contributed to more participatory and accountable evidence-based policy-making and program delivery for gender equality by supporting and building the capacities of public and civil society stakeholders. Strong public institutions, gender statistics and accountability mechanisms involving civil society stakeholders play an important role in ensuring policies, laws, budgets, programs and services actively advance gender equality and sustain the economic, political and social empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity.



For example, with Canada's support, the [Strengthening the Rights of Indigenous and Other Discriminated Women in Guatemala](#) project (OHCHR, \$2.5 million, 2018-2023) made significant progress in terms of protecting the human rights of Indigenous women weavers, Indigenous midwives and adolescent girl survivors of a fire in a state-run home. A legislative proposal to Congress in September 2022 on the protection of Indigenous women weavers' collective intellectual property rights introduced a legal mandate for safeguarding ancestral patterns. Efforts addressing discrimination against Indigenous midwives resulted in the National Midwives Policy's Action Plan 2021-2025, congressional approval of a national midwives' day, a stipend and a historic court decision in their favour. Progress continues in terms of seeking justice and dignified reparations for the survivors of and the families of those affected by the 2017 fire in a state-run children's home and implementing the 2016 Sepur Zarco sexual violence and slavery case sentence, which is focused on psychosocial measures and dignified reparations for survivors.

In Lebanon, Canada supported the [Integrating Gender Equality into Lebanese Institutions](#) project (UNDP, nearly \$3.9 million, 2020-2024), which emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming and aimed to integrate gender equality considerations into program delivery and advocacy efforts, among other aspects. Through this project, Lebanon Crisis Response Plan partners' capacity to conduct gender-responsive policy-making is being strengthened in order to ensure that humanitarian and development efforts consider the experiences, needs and contributions of women and girls. Close to 30 capacity-building and mentoring sessions were delivered to 756 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan partners' staff, including 572 women, 182 men and 2 gender-fluid individuals. By strengthening the capacity of partner organizations and engaging in advocacy efforts, Lebanon Crisis Response Plan partners are now better equipped to deliver a more gender-sensitive response to the impact of the crisis and promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Lebanon.

### Learn more about this theme

- [Action Area Policy: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls \(Core Action Area\)](#)
- [Canada's Policy for Civil Society Partnerships for International Assistance—A Feminist Approach](#)
- [Digna: The Canadian Centre of Expertise on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)





Credits: © UNICEF/UNI183025/Nesbitt, Ethiopia

## Human dignity: Health and nutrition



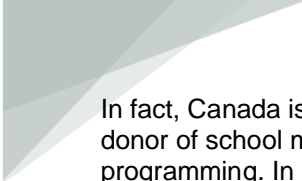
Health and Nutrition are core components of the Human Dignity action area not only because they are basic human rights, but also because investing in health and nutrition is essential to achieving gender equality, reducing poverty and advancing sustainable development, thereby ensuring that people not only survive, but thrive.

In 2022-2023, achieving universal health coverage was more important than ever, as the cost of health services remained out of reach for many. Repressive laws and practices limiting sexual and reproductive rights, as well as concerning levels of insecurity in fragile and conflict-affected states, continued to limit women’s and girls’ access to basic health services, and their ability to exercise their rights, including the right to bodily autonomy. Climate change and global crises contributed to rising global malnutrition rates, especially in children under the age of 5.

In this context, and building on its historical leadership in health and nutrition globally, Canada is working with Canadian and global stakeholders to tackle these major challenges through new and ongoing investments. The current phase of Canada’s leadership in global health is guided by its [10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights](#) (2020-2030). Key global partners such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, [Gavi the Vaccine Alliance](#) and the [Global Financing Facility \(GFF\)](#) support country-led integrated health systems that target women, children and adolescents, with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and nutrition as core components.



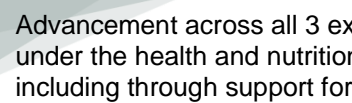
For example, Canada contributed \$90 million to the GFF in 2022-2023, including \$40 million to restore and sustain primary health care systems through COVID-19 Essential Health Services grants. Canada also actively helped strengthen global pandemic preparedness through support to the [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) (\$20 million, 2022-2023) and, as [announced](#) by the Prime Minister at the G20 Summit in November 2022, to the World Bank-hosted [Pandemic Fund](#) (\$50 million). Canada remains a leader in providing funding to treat and prevent malnutrition through close collaboration with partners such as [Nutrition International](#) and the UN [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#).



In fact, Canada is a top global donor of school meals programming. In March 2023, Canada joined the School Meals Coalition so that by 2030, “every child has the opportunity to receive a healthy, nutritious daily meal in school.”

In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$2,256 million in international assistance toward health and nutrition activities, of which \$2,223 million was official development assistance. Policy and programming work in this action area ultimately aims at contributing to **improved health and equal enjoyment of health rights for those experiencing poverty, marginalization and/or vulnerability** in countries where Canada engages. To do this, Canada has invested in a range of projects and initiatives that seek to achieve the following expected outcomes under the health and nutrition path to action:

- increased use of gender-responsive quality health services
- improved healthy behaviours and practices supportive of women’s autonomy and decision making
- strengthened equal protection and promotion of sexual, reproductive and health rights of citizens by governments and key stakeholders



Advancement across all 3 expected outcomes under the health and nutrition path to action, including through support for more equitable, gender-responsive, accessible and high-quality health systems, is essential to improving the health of individuals who are experiencing poverty, marginalization and/or vulnerability, especially women and girls.

Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned path to action are presented below.

## Achievements in the spotlight

### Increased use of gender-responsive quality health services

Ensuring women can access family planning services supports overall health outcomes and empowers women to make decisions about their own bodies.



In 2022-2023, Canadian support (\$5 million) to the United Nations Population Fund Supplies Partnership (\$25 million, 2021-2025) helped to prevent an estimated 8 million unintended pregnancies, 170,000 maternal and child deaths, and 2.2 million unsafe abortions among the hardest-to-reach women and adolescent girls worldwide.

In 2022-2023, Canada's international assistance also helped non-governmental partner organizations to ensure that more women and girls in all their diversity have access to the health services they need. For example, Canada's funding of over \$3 million in 2022-2023 to Oxfam Canada's [Sexual Health and Empowerment](#) project (\$17.9 million, 2018-2024) helped reduce the stigma

associated with sexual health and contraceptive use in 6 conflict-affected and underserved areas of the Philippines. By training health care workers on family planning counselling and how to undertake community discussions to promote healthy sexual and reproductive behaviours, the project successfully increased the number of people using contraceptives by more than 3,800, with a total of 61,453 people accessing contraceptives in partner health facilities in 2022-2023. In Tanzania, Canada also supports [Marie Stopes Tanzania](#) in the [Owning their Reproductive Health Choices: Tanzanian Women and Girls Decide](#) project (\$15.5 million, 2018-2022), working in poor rural and peri-urban communities to provide family planning outreach services to those without access to health care facilities. Thanks to Canada's \$2.5-million investment in 2022-2023, Marie Stopes Tanzania is using outreach vehicles and scooters, among other results, so that nurses are able to reach over 181,500 clients to provide contraceptive services, filling the service gap for people living in the hardest-to-reach regions of the country.

In 2022-2023, Canada, also funded smaller-scale, very-localized and targeted initiatives, helping to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). For example, the CFLI provided \$45,000 in funding to the [Grenada Planned Parenthood Association](#) (2022-2023) to support an [initiative](#) that provided 1,070 people with access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and gender-based violence (GBV) services. Through this project, 19 nurses received training in inserting and removing intrauterine devices (IUDs) and in cryotherapy treatment, 402 clients were provided SRH and GBV services in satellite clinics and 117 people accessed critical HIV testing. Initiatives like this one have improved the ability of local organizations in Grenada to provide quality, inclusive health services for those experiencing poverty, marginalization and/or vulnerability. By working with government agencies and international, regional and local development partners, the association amplified its reach and services, and therefore reinforced meaningful and long-lasting relationships and results.

In Bangladesh, some 3,700 women die every year as a result of pregnancy complications, yet most of these deaths are preventable. Over the past 5 years, Canada's support to UNICEF's [Improving Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Bangladesh](#) project (\$35 million, 2017-2022) has helped ensure that obstetric services at the country's health facilities meet quality standards, especially when dealing with complications during delivery. Over the course of the 5-year project, the number of women who have delivered their babies at a health facility has increased from 38% to 47%. Almost 123,000 women were given life-saving treatments for complications such as eclampsia, and the project has contributed to a significant reduction in the number of women who die during childbirth in Bangladesh each year.





### Midwives: New light to increase facility delivery

UNICEF's [Improving Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Bangladesh](#) project is saving women's lives by ensuring healthy pregnancies and childbirth. For example, during her previous pregnancies, Ms. Shondha Ful did not have access to antenatal care. However, she heard of midwives in the nearby Upazilla Health Complex and decided to visit for a check-up. Thereafter, she regularly visited the clinic and was under the regular supervision of the midwives.

During Ms. Ful's subsequent labour, there were complications and Monita, a midwife who had received emergency obstetric care training through the project, was able to safely deliver the baby.

Before leaving the hospital, Ms. Ful said with a smiling face, "I just wanted a live baby. I visited the hospital regularly and abided by all advice given by midwives. I had full faith in them, and Allah helped me. This time, my little girl is in my arms."



Caption: Woman providing Kangaroo Mother Care for her premature baby. This is a simple, easy method of caring for newborns where the mother uses her own body temperature to keep her infant warm.  
Credits: © UNICEF/Mawa, Bangladesh, 2018

In 2022-2023, Canada contributed to the World Bank's [Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement \(REDISSE\)](#) initiative (\$20 million, 2016-2023). This initiative, led by the West African Health Organization (WAHO), aimed to strengthen national and regional disease surveillance and the response to disease outbreaks in West Africa. WAHO, in close collaboration with relevant country-level health authorities and implementing partners, helped strengthen disease surveillance systems at the health-district level by establishing 107 centres for epidemiological surveillance in 10 West African countries.

Canada also supports access to health services to eliminate 3 key infectious diseases through global initiatives such as [the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis \(TB\) and malaria](#) (the Global Fund). Since 2002, efforts to improve access to antiretroviral therapy, TB treatment and mosquito nets, and to build stronger health systems have contributed to a significant decline in deaths caused by AIDS (-70%), TB (-21%) and malaria (-26%). In 2022-2023, Canada contributed \$333.9 million to the Global Fund, and in September 2022, Canada announced a \$1.21-billion contribution to the Global Fund for the 2023-2025 replenishment period for the response to HIV, TB and malaria, as well as an allocation of \$100 million to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 through the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism.

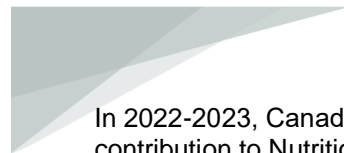


In 2022-2023, Canada continued to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines around the world, including through the [delivery](#) of approximately 14 million surplus vaccine doses to 15 countries through COVAX and bilateral agreements. These in-kind contributions were jointly facilitated by the Public Health Agency of Canada, Global Affairs Canada and Public Services and Procurement Canada.

### Improved healthy behaviours and practices supportive of women's autonomy and decision making

Bolivia has one of the highest adolescent pregnancy rates in Latin America and many young people lack basic knowledge about sexual health and rights. UNICEF has been tackling this issue by introducing comprehensive sexuality education in schools and communities to ensure that adolescents and parents understand the importance of healthy sexuality and GBV. Thanks in part to Canada's support, UNICEF's [Empowering Adolescents to Prevent Unwanted Pregnancies, HIV and Violence](#) project (over \$9.1 million, 2018-2023) succeeded in having a comprehensive sexuality education course introduced into Bolivia's national education curriculum and approved by the Ministry of Education. Through this project, the course has been taught in 76 schools and 537 youth clubs to date. Over the course of the project, girls' level of knowledge regarding contraceptive use, HIV and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has increased by 20% (from 58% to 78%), allowing them to make better informed decisions about their body.

Breastfeeding for the first 6 months of an infant's life has lifelong health benefits. However, many women encounter challenges with breastfeeding, and, in many parts of the world, there are few resources to help them overcome these difficulties. Through its support to [Nutrition International](#) (\$293 million, 2019-2026), Canada is helping to promote recommended breastfeeding practices and to



In 2022-2023, Canada's \$50-million contribution to Nutrition International helped avert 649,000 cases of stunting, over 32,000 deaths in children under the age of 5, 469,000 cases of anaemia in adolescent girls and approximately 8 million cases of anaemia in women of reproductive age.

distribute essential micronutrients, such as vitamin A, iron and folic acid. Canada's [Fund for Innovation and Transformation - FIT](#) (\$18 million, 2018-2024), implemented by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, supported a sub-project that focused on overcoming this health challenge and contributed to women's choice to breastfeed. Last year, [LISS Technologies](#) tested easy-to-use, low-cost, solar-powered breast pumps for mothers with breastfeeding challenges in Somalia. Following a 10-month testing period by women using the breast pumps, 65% were still exclusively breastfeeding compared to 37% who did not use the pumps.

Cultural taboos, poverty and a lack of basic services like toilets and access to feminine hygiene products affect the ability of women and girls in all their diversity to participate fully in their communities. But Canada's support of the [HerWASH: Menstrual health for sexual and reproductive health and rights](#) project (over \$4.8 million, 2019-2023) led by WaterAid Canada is helping to tackle the stigma around menstruation in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Pakistan. The project supported 24,380 community members in 2022-2023 with messaging on menstrual health. By helping schools and health centres to provide latrines and sanitary stations, and local small enterprises to make menstrual hygiene products, women and girls can practice menstrual hygiene outside of the home, allowing them to attend school and participate in community life while menstruating.



### Making menstruation and feminine hygiene less taboo in Sierra Leone

Conversations about menstruation and menstrual hygiene used to be taboo in Sierra Leone's Luawa Chiefdom, until the implementation of the [HerWASH](#) initiative. Before the project, women and girls isolated themselves when they had their periods and could not openly ask for support. They used pieces of clothing for sanitary napkins, regardless of how clean these were.

But workshops hosted by HerWASH, a Canadian-funded project, helped to destigmatize menstruation in the region and increase participants' knowledge of feminine health and hygiene by leveraging the voices of women leaders. Sixty-five-year-old Elizabeth Vandy participated in one of the workshops. She is the Queen Mother of a Soweï, a traditional secret society commonly found in Sierra Leone, in the Luawa Chiefdom. As the head of the Soweï, she leads the traditional initiation ceremonies for girls transitioning into adulthood. She is the voice of women in the Chiefdom and advocates for issues that are important to its women and girls.

Since participating in the HerWASH workshop, Elizabeth has begun sharing information about menstrual health and hygiene in her community—and using her influence as a community leader to reduce the stigma around menstruation. She has participated in radio awareness campaigns and community meetings to emphasize the importance of proper menstrual hygiene.



Caption: Pictured is sixty-five-year-old Elizabeth Vandy, Queen Mother of a Soweï, a traditional secret society commonly found in Sierra Leone, and with her acquired knowledge from the HerWASH workshops is using her influence as a community leader to reduce the stigma around menstrual health and hygiene.

Credits: © WaterAid / Waheed Awnuga, Sierra Leone, 2022

### Strengthened equal protection and promotion of sexual, reproductive and health rights of citizens by governments and key stakeholders

In countries around the world, and in Latin America in particular, hard-won gains in terms of sexual and reproductive rights are being eroded. But Canada's assistance has influenced policies to stop this backsliding. Initiatives such as the [Rights from the Start](#) project (over \$10.8 million, 2020-2024) led by Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights are strengthening the ability of key in-country partners to



actively engage in government-led consultations on SRHR policies and programs and bring about policy change. For instance, in Ecuador, Canada's partnership with Centro Ecuatoriano para la Promoción y Acción de la Mujer (CEPAM) facilitated advocacy efforts on comprehensive care and legalized abortion in cases of rape. CEPAM's key recommendations were approved and have been integrated into the country's national health policies.



## Giving women a voice on health services in Côte d'Ivoire

One of the aims of the [ACT WOMEN: Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls in Tchologo Communities project](#) led by Action Against Hunger (\$5.2 million, 2021-2026) is to improve women's sexual and reproductive health by increasing their participation in local decision making. The local health centres supported by the project had very few women represented on their management committees: just 16%, despite a national target of 30%.

As a result of his engagement in the project, Dr. Siagbe Soungole, the Chief Medical Officer of the Sikolo urban health centre in Ferkessédougou, put forth a proposal that would increase women's participation, breaking with current social norms.

"To address the challenge of women's representation on management committees, it would be more effective to tell community leaders to designate 2 representatives of different genders to join management committees. They would be told to propose 1 man and 1 woman to represent their community."

"Women have long been relegated to the background and are continually being subjected to decisions made by men. Yet men do not always understand the specific nature of women's needs in the areas of sexual, reproductive and maternal health. It is true that problems specific to women's health are not discussed in depth at management committee meetings. This is why they need to actively participate," says Dr. Soungole.

Dr. Soungole's proposal is a concrete example of how positive masculinity can help advance women's rights. Thanks to his recommendations, all of the ACT-WOMEN project's other 14 management committee partners were invited to staff their management committees with 20 members, giving priority to women who would be able to share their perspectives. Through advocacy and training activities, 86 women joined 15 health centre management committees, doubling the proportion of women: from 15% to 30%.



Caption: Dr. Siagbe Soungole, Chief Medical Officer of the Sikolo urban health centre and gender Champion for ACT WOMEN, is committed to positive masculinity and women's representation on health management committees.

Credits: © Action Contre la Faim Côte d'Ivoire / Marie Laure Tohour-Missan, Côte d'Ivoire, 2022



## Global health research

As Canada's federal funding agency for health research, the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#) also supports global health research. In 2022-2023, through its researcher-initiated programming and targeted investments, the agency invested more than \$15 million in global health research that was eligible as international assistance. CIHR's global health research funding focuses on 3 key areas: sex and gender, non-communicable diseases and health emergencies. For example, in 2022-2023, along with its partners, the International Development Research Centre and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, CIHR committed \$9 million over 4 years to the [Women Rise initiative](#), a \$22-million research program that supports women's health and economic empowerment to ensure an equitable COVID-19 recovery.

In 2022-2023, under the umbrella of the [Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases](#), CIHR invested \$10 million over 6 years to research common risk factors across noncommunicable diseases to support prevention. CIHR committed \$3.8 million to [a \\$5.8-million research program](#) over 2 years to respond to mpox outbreaks in Canada and Africa. In addition, CIHR contributed \$1.5 million and was one of the Canadian funding agencies that contributed to a WHO/Ugandan Ministry of Health-led clinical trial to assess the safety and efficacy of 3 candidate vaccines against Ebola. This research will help increase the availability of and access to life-saving interventions in the case of any future Ebola outbreaks.candidate vaccines against Ebola. This research will help increase the availability of and access to life-saving interventions in the case of any future Ebola outbreaks.

### Learn more about this theme

- [Action Area Policy: Human Dignity \(Health and Nutrition\)](#)
- [Canada's 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights: Measuring the progress](#)
- [Small and medium organizations for impact and innovation](#)
- [Grand Challenges Canada - Bold Ideas with Big Impact®](#)





Credits: © UNICEF/UN0773364/Souleiman, Syria

## Human dignity: Education

### Sustainable Development Goals



The world is facing an unprecedented crisis in education. More children and youth are out of school than ever before and the most marginalized are being disproportionately affected, particularly girls and displaced children. In fact, 1 in 3 adolescent girls from the poorest households around the world has never even set foot in a classroom, and 51% of school-aged refugee children—7.5 million children globally—are estimated to be out of school. There were an estimated 2 million more girls out of school in 2022 than there were in 2021. The crisis is largely a result of the exclusion of girls and women from education in Afghanistan, population growth, increased disruption and displacement due to conflict and climate crises, and a lack of re-entry into education after pandemic school closures.

In 2022-2023, given the devastating learning losses experienced during the pandemic, compounded by ongoing crises worldwide, Canada focused its efforts on improving access to quality education for the poorest and most marginalized people, including refugees and women and girls. In February 2023, Canada’s Minister of International Development [pledged \\$87.5 million over 4 years \(2023-2026\) to Education Cannot Wait \(ECW\)](#). This contribution will help 20 million crisis-affected children to access quality education, including girls and adolescent girls living in fragile and conflict-affected regions. This contribution includes \$27.5 million for ECW’s Multi-Year Resilience Programme in Bangladesh, which is addressing the education needs of Rohingya refugees and host communities, reaching more than 350,000 children and youth (aged 3 to 18) with educational opportunities.

The [education](#) action area recognizes that the right to a quality education is a catalyst to improving human dignity and a means through which other rights are realized. Barriers to accessing education persist, especially for women and girls, and particularly those in crisis, fragile and conflict-affected situations. Underlying Canada’s approach to education is the belief that children, youth and adults will be more likely to successfully complete quality primary and secondary education and have better chances of employment if education is accessible, safe, gender-sensitive and innovative, and if it addresses the needs of marginalized and conflict-affected groups.



In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$678 million in international assistance in the education action area, \$550 million of which was official development assistance. Policy and programming work in this action area aims at contributing to **enhanced equal learning outcomes for girls and boys and equal employability of youth, women and men, particularly for the poorest, most vulnerable and most marginalized, in developing countries, conflict-affected and fragile situations and humanitarian settings** where Canada engages. To do this, Canada has invested in a range of projects and initiatives that seek to achieve outcomes under the following paths to action:

- improve gender-responsive quality education systems
- increase access to gender-responsive, demand-driven, quality skills development
- improve gender-responsive quality education and skills development in conflict-affected and fragile states

Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned paths to action are presented below.

## Achievements in the spotlight

### Improving gender-responsive quality education systems

Canada is a key leader in supporting global efforts to strengthen national education systems, particularly through its support of multilateral partners and national ministries of education. For instance, in 2022, Canada's support for [Education Cannot Wait](#) benefited 2 million children and adolescents, helping them to access education in host countries; 50% of these children were girls, 21% were refugees, 14% were internally displaced people and 65% were other crisis-affected children.

Canada is also helping to mobilize partnerships and investments that transform education systems in developing countries. Through funding (\$300 million, 2021-2026) to the [Global Partnership for Education](#) (GPE), Canada is supporting the organization's work to build stronger education systems in more than 90 countries. In 2022-2023, GPE's efforts impacted 107 million students; it distributed 56 million textbooks, trained more than 675,000 teachers and built and/or renovated 8,500 classrooms.

Last year, GPE also successfully helped to transform education systems in partner countries through its [Knowledge and Innovation Exchange](#) (KIX). Implemented by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), KIX funds research and facilitates knowledge sharing among country stakeholders to enhance their education systems using relevant evidence and actionable research. For example, in Yemen, participants in the KIX EAP Learning Cycle used these tools to identify policy options—such as providing incentives to families and offering flexible alternative learning programs—to keep girls in school.

In 2022-2023, Canada's contribution to the [Improving Girls' Access to Secondary Education in Haiti](#) project (World Bank, \$25 million, 2018-2023) helped address the critical need for better access to quality education and gender-sensitive schools. The project helped to strengthen education system governance in the country. Through its support to 60 public community schools and 117 non-public schools, the project enabled more than 57,000 vulnerable students to attend school, including 26,790 girls. In addition, 721 teachers and school principals underwent comprehensive gender-awareness training, thereby instilling the values of equitable treatment for both girls and boys. The project is working with Haiti's Ministry of National Education and Professional Training to strengthen its officials' capacity to consider the specific needs of girls and adolescents, particularly in institutional planning and evidence-based disaggregated budgeting practices.





In the Philippines, Canada's [Animating Change](#) project (\$1 million, 2021-2022) is supporting Big Bad Boo Studios' [1001 Nights Civic Peace Education Program](#). The innovative, multi-platform educational entertainment program uses cartoons to teach conflict-affected children in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao about human rights, democracy, gender equality and non-violent resolution to conflict. The project provided activity books and comics to students across 422 schools, including on geographically isolated islands, as well as equipment and teaching guides to the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education and its teachers. At the end of the project, 209 master trainers and 1,642 teachers, most of whom were women, received training on 1001 Nights curriculum and teaching pedagogies that promote gender equality and inclusion, while 2,902 parents/caregivers were trained on learning outcomes and ways to support their children's home-based learning. For children who completed the curriculum and the post-test, there was a 44% reduction in the number of those with negative views on civic values—an improvement considering that the baseline showed a preference for violence to solve disputes. The civic values that saw the most dramatic decreases were intolerance of different opinions/ideas and gender inequality. Similarly, there was a 46% reduction in the number of children with perceptions of gender inequality, compared to the 10% reduction recorded for the control group. Parents and caregivers also reported a 16% decrease in children engaging in violent and/or aggressive behaviour.

### **Increasing access to gender-responsive, demand-driven, quality skills development**

In Tanzania, the [Teacher Education Support Project](#) (TESP) (Government of Tanzania - Ministry of Finance, \$53 million, 2017-2025) aims to improve both girls' and boys' basic education, including reading, writing and mathematics skills. It focuses on improving the quality and gender sensitivity of primary and secondary school education by investing in effective training for student teachers at 35 teachers' colleges. Since 2017, more than 4,500 student teachers have participated in TESP's professional development sessions. This has increased their ability to provide relevant, gender-sensitive and practical learning experiences to students. As a result of the Canadian-funded project, the percentage of teachers who rate their ability to apply effective and gender-sensitive teaching techniques as being either "medium" or "high" had increased from 66% in 2018 to almost 95% by June 2022. The project also integrated energy-efficient, green building measures, ultimately lowering the college's carbon footprint in a country that is vulnerable to climate change. The project now serves as a sustainable model for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and, potentially, the Tanzanian government in general.

In Jordan, the [Scaling up Professional Development of Teachers](#) project (Queen Raina Teacher Academy, \$19.85 million, 2014-2023) focuses on the professional development for teachers, which plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of education in the country. By improving educators' skills and knowledge, the project is helping to provide a dignified learning experience for all students, including Syrian refugees. In 2022-2023, the project's school network program trained 1,290 teachers and supervisors (780 of whom were women) on instructional practices. Another 451 teachers (275 of whom were women) received training through the project's Advanced Instructional Leadership Professional Diploma. Since the start of the project in 2014, the Queen Rania Teacher Academy has trained more than 36,000 educators across Jordan—two thirds of whom are women. This training has improved instructional practices, empowering teachers to create student-centred learning environments that foster collaboration and innovation. Students, in turn, are actively participating in class and taking ownership of their learning. In 2022, the project received the [Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation](#)'s Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement, underscoring the quality and impact of the project.

In the West Bank and Gaza, 2 Canadian-funded projects have improved access to inclusive education, particularly for girls, women and people with disabilities. The [Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training in the West Bank](#) (GRIT) project (Canadian Lutheran World Relief, over \$9.93 million, 2019-2025) targets women who are interested in vocational training,



while the Inclusive Education for Palestinian Children with Disabilities project (Humanity and Inclusion Canada, \$4 million, 2019-2022) specifically supports children with disabilities. In 2022-2023, a total of 811 women applied for GRIT's course offerings, more than double the number who applied the previous year. In addition, 327 of the women applied to traditionally male-dominated fields. The project has reported not only an increase in participation rates, but also improvements in the graduates' confidence.

The [Learning Through Education and Access to Skills for Employment for Refugees and Host Communities](#) project (World University Service of Canada, over \$13.1 million, 2019-2024) works to increase the enrolment and retention of girls at the upper primary and secondary school levels in the Kalobeyi Settlement and surrounding communities. With Canada's support, it provides gender-responsive technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and scholarships to girls in the settlement and the Kakuma Refugee Camp.

In 2022-2023, 180 young women were given access to gender-responsive, market-driven skills training in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and 81% of participants successfully completed the courses. Another 187 young women were trained on market-relevant business and finance skills, and an additional 173 received digital skills training to enable them to earn an income online. Out of the 20 young women receiving TVET scholarships, 19 are continuing to pursue various courses in Kenya.

Canada continues to support innovative and accessible education through funding to the [Commonwealth of Learning](#) (COL) (\$7.8 million, 2022-2024), which leverages distance learning and technology to achieve improved outcomes in education, skills development and lifelong learning across the Commonwealth. In 2022, with the support of Canada and other donors, COL helped over 12,700 nurses and midwives in Botswana, Eswatini and Seychelles gain access to online professional development courses, fulfilling their continued licensing requirements during and immediately following the pandemic. An additional 13,304 women and girls completed livelihood skills courses through COL support in 2022 in subjects such as motorcycle mechanics, welding, dress making, basket weaving, ICT and digital media marketing.

### **Improving gender-responsive quality education and skills development in conflict-affected and fragile states**

For vulnerable learners who are out-of-school or at risk of dropping out, the [Beyond Borders: Building Safe Spaces for Girls and Improving Education at the Border](#) project (Save the Children Canada, over \$10.6 million, 2020-2022) identified the need to provide alternative learning opportunities to crisis-affected students in the Colombian-Venezuelan border region, particularly girls on the move from Venezuela. Part of the [Charlevoix Education Initiative](#) and the Together for Learning, this project established 24 new Catch-up Clubs, impacting a total of 1,315 children with low literacy levels who were at risk of dropping out. Catch-up Clubs are community-based, accelerated and remedial literacy programs for children in grade 3 and higher who are lacking foundational literacy skills. Social and emotional learning is embedded into the children's activity toolkit to support their well-being. This project established 24 new Catch-up Clubs, impacting a total of 1,315 children with low literacy levels who were at risk of dropping out. Catch-up Clubs are community-based, accelerated and remedial literacy programs for children in grade 3 and higher who are lacking foundational literacy skills. Social and emotional learning is embedded into the children's activity toolkit to support their well-being.

As part of Canada's \$400-million commitment to girls' education through the Charlevoix Education Initiative, the [Adolescent Girls' Education in Crisis Initiative](#) (nearly \$16 million, 2020-2024) promotes gender-responsive learning in South Sudan, Uganda and Syria. Implemented by the World University Service of Canada and the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, the initiative has fostered improved teaching practices among 836 teachers, over half of whom are women, through the introduction of best-practice teaching methods for class preparation, classroom management and instruction that recognizes the unique needs, challenges and potential of both girls and boys. Based on feedback from the students,



this gender-sensitive and responsive teaching approach has had a positive impact on their sense of well-being and safety, and has contributed to a more conducive learning environment, in particular for young girls.

In El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, UNICEF's [Protective Learning and Nurturing Environments for Girls Education \(PLANE\)](#) project (over \$13 million, 2019-2023) has become an effective means of supporting national education systems and learning recovery. PLANE offers various options to ensure the continuity of education, especially for vulnerable children and adolescents, with a focus on psychosocial and psychoeducational support. For example, by the end of 2022 in Honduras, the project established 84 safe learning spaces and a tutorial learning system. It provided some 82,000 adolescents with access to flexible education delivery with blended and distance learning modalities. This included providing psychosocial and psychoeducational support, life and job placement skills, and technical skills and vocational training that are flexible, efficient and tailored to labour market needs. Furthermore, more than 8,400 teachers and facilitators were trained in psychoemotional care and mental health in order to improve the well-being of children and adolescents in formal and non-formal education.



## Removing educational barriers in South Sudan—and opening up a world of possibilities

As part of the Charlevoix Education Initiative, Canada is contributing to the [Girls' Education South Sudan](#) (GESS) project. The project aims to reduce the barriers that are preventing girls from attending school and is investing in teachers through its Accelerated Secondary Education Program (ASEP) (Government of the United Kingdom - DFID - Department for International Development, \$17 million, 2019-2024).

Many teachers in South Sudan have not completed their secondary school education and are therefore not allowed to be certified as professional teachers. The ASEP offers a condensed program that enables primary school teachers to complete their secondary education in 2 years instead of the usual 4 years. Once individuals complete the program and pass their secondary school examinations, they are eligible to enrol in teacher training colleges.

Since October 2022, 571 teachers have taken part in ASEP training. Of those, more than 400 have completed the South Sudan Certificate in Secondary Education examinations.

Betty is one of the teachers who has benefited from the program. Like many young women in South Sudan, she dropped out of school as a child because of financial challenges. Although she had been teaching for years, Betty was not a trained teacher.

“Recently, I completed my secondary education through the GESS Accelerated Secondary Education Program, which is meant for teachers who need to complete secondary education,” she explains. “Now, I can enrol in a teacher training institute if I like, and I will become a professional teacher. I am thinking about that.”



Caption: Betty Michael is a teacher leading children in song. Her class contains over 30 children who are between the ages of 4 and 6.

Credits: © Ggaba Joy, South Sudan, 2023



## Breaking barriers: Ahmad's tale of transformative teaching in Syria

In Syria, most teachers have traditionally lacked training in inclusive education. But through Canada's support of the [Adolescent Girls' Education in Crisis Initiative](#) (AGENCI), teachers like Ahmad have reshaped their teaching approach and adopted gender-responsive teaching techniques.

AGENCI's teacher training focuses on safe, quality, gender-responsive and inclusive approaches to teaching as well as psychosocial support, which empowers adolescent girls and facilitates learning—even in crisis situations. Ahmad's story illustrates the positive impact that investing in teachers can have and how teachers can help foster inclusive education for girls.

"Initially, I refused the ideas and didn't think I should change or grow," Ahmad confesses. "I now see a different way of dealing with children...it has a huge effect on them."

Working with AGENCI hasn't just changed the way the 32-year-old teaches, it has also positively impacted his family life. "What [Adolescent Girls' Education in Crisis Initiative] is doing for me, I'm now dealing with my daughter better too."



Caption: Through the Adolescent Girls' Education in Crisis Initiative, educators like Ahmad are empowered to engage in transformative teaching, fostering inclusive education for girls in Syria.  
Credits: © Aga Khan Foundation / Christopher Wilton-Steer, Syria, 2023

## Learn more about this theme

- [Action Area Policy: Human Dignity \(Education\)](#)





Credits: © RCMP, Democratic Republic of Congo

## Human dignity: Gender-responsive humanitarian action



The scope, scale and complexity of the humanitarian landscape has changed significantly over the past decade. Humanitarian needs have reached record highs, driven by an increase in the number of conflicts and more frequent natural disasters caused by climate change. In 2022-2023, there were more than 345 million people facing acute food insecurity around the world and more than 114 million people forcibly displaced from their homes. In response, the UN’s Global Appeal tripled to more than \$56.6 billion in 2023 to target assistance to more than 245 million people.

In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$1,272 million in international assistance in the human dignity: gender-responsive [humanitarian action](#) action area, \$1,249 million of which was official development assistance. Canada worked with trusted humanitarian partners, such as the UN, the International Red Cross and NGOs. Canada provides humanitarian assistance that is timely, needs-based and people-centred, with a feminist approach that is human rights-based, inclusive, and adheres to humanitarian principles. This action area aims at contributing to **reduced suffering, increased and maintained human dignity, and lives saved in populations experiencing humanitarian crises** where Canada engages in humanitarian programming. To do this, in the context of increasingly complex humanitarian needs, Canada is focusing its efforts to achieve the following expected outcomes under the humanitarian path to action:

- increased access to and use of principled, gender-responsive humanitarian assistance and protection by crisis-affected populations
- improved effectiveness, efficiency and gender responsiveness of humanitarian action and protection by humanitarian stakeholders

Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned path to action are presented below.

### Achievements in the spotlight

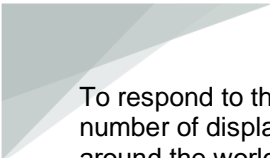
#### Increased access to gender-responsive humanitarian assistance and protection

Canada continued to scale up its response to the increasing number of large-scale and deteriorating humanitarian situations in 2022-2023. For example, it provided more than \$143 million in humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and the surrounding region. This funding helped provide some 22 million vulnerable people with life-saving food assistance and helped 6.6 million children and pregnant and



lactating women who were facing acute malnutrition. In 2022-2023, Global Affairs Canada allocated \$250 million in bilateral humanitarian assistance to partners responding to the Ukraine crises. As a result, its partners were able to reach almost 16 million people with life-saving assistance, such as food, water, shelter and basic health services. To help affected populations in Ukraine face harsh winter conditions, in 2022, Canada supported the distribution of items such as blankets, clothing, heating appliances and fuel, as well as over 1,250 generators for collective centres across Ukraine for internally displaced persons.

Canada also continued to respond to growing global food insecurity, allocating close to \$650 million in humanitarian assistance funding for emergency food and nutrition support in 2022. This assistance helped the WFP reach 160 million food-insecure people. It also enabled the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food assistance to more than 396,000 crisis-affected people and to deliver nutritional assistance to more than 15,000 crisis-affected people across 12 countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.



To respond to the increasing number of displaced people around the world, Canada's federal agencies provided \$127 million in funding to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in 2022-2023. This funding helped assist and protect some 29 million refugees.

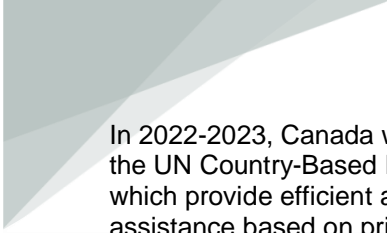
In Latin America, Canada helped to improve the protection of vulnerable migrants and to support transit and destination countries in better responding to and managing large-scale migration and forced displacements in the region. Working with the UNHCR, Canada helped ensure that people in need of protection were identified in an efficient and timely manner. This included support in Costa Rica to identify more than 1,600 people seeking asylum following the implementation of a new refugee determination process. Working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through the Strengthening Government Capacities in Migration Management and

Supporting the Regularization of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean project, Canada contributed to strengthening the capacities of governments in the region. For example, the IOM provided training to around 1,150 Colombian officials, employers and beneficiaries to increase their understanding of how to integrate Venezuelan migrants and refugees into local labour markets. The project also helped Colombia to register nearly 44,000 Venezuelan migrants for temporary protection status in the country.

In 2022-2023, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) continued its commitment to resettle Afghan nationals as part of a special [humanitarian initiative](#). Over half of Canada's commitment focused on the Afghans who closely assisted Canada in Afghanistan as well as their families. Canada welcomed other vulnerable and at-risk groups, including women leaders, human rights defenders, persecuted ethnic and religious groups, journalists and members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. By the end of March 2023, more than 29,500 at-risk Afghans had arrived in Canada. Canada met its commitment to welcome at least 40,000 Afghans by October 2023.

In Ukraine, IRCC mobilized quickly to deliver a multi-pronged response to Russia's full-scale invasion. There were 3 charter flights in 2022 to help facilitate the arrival of nearly 1,000 Ukrainians and their family members to Canada. The Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) measure was introduced in March 2022. In 2022-2023, close to 147,000 people arrived in Canada from through the CUAET, in addition to around 17,000 in-Canada CUAET applicants. Over 147,000 CUAET clients were approved for payments under the Canada-Ukraine Transitional Assistance Initiative and another nearly 15,000 clients received federally funded accommodation for up to 14 nights. Additionally, over 74,000 Ukrainian temporary residents and CUAET clients accessed at least 1 federally funded settlement service.

In 2022-2023, Canada continued to respond to the needs of those affected by rapid-onset emergencies. For example, Canada provided [\\$50 million in response to earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria](#). This included 2 matching funds totalling \$20 million that leveraged the generosity of Canadians to help those affected by these disasters. The Canadian Red Cross and the Humanitarian Coalition used these funds to deliver life-saving services, including emergency food, cash and vouchers, as well as critical water, sanitation and health services. In addition, the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund provided life-saving assistance, including emergency food, water, health care and shelter, to more than 158,000 people in 8 countries.



In 2022-2023, Canada was a top 10 donor to the UN Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs), which provide efficient and timely humanitarian assistance based on priority needs, including support to local stakeholders. In 2022, Canada contributed \$118.8 million to 17 CBPFs, an increase of almost \$41 million over 2021. This funding, along with contributions from other donors, helped support nearly 28 million people in need and engaged 798 partners, 342 of which were local organizations.

Through its humanitarian reserve, the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) disbursed \$637,661 to 17 projects in 2022-2023 in response to various crises around the world. For example, funded projects provided critical support to populations affected by natural disasters, including flooding in Suriname, the Philippines, Pakistan and Mozambique, earthquakes in the Philippines and Türkiye, and Hurricane Ian in Cuba. Other projects included a focus on support and protection for new refugee arrivals in Uganda, initiatives to support internally displaced persons and preventing cholera in Haiti. Overall, the CFLI provided direct humanitarian assistance to more than 58,100 individuals across 11 countries, empowering local organizations to build their resilience and capacity to respond quickly and effectively to help crisis-affected populations.

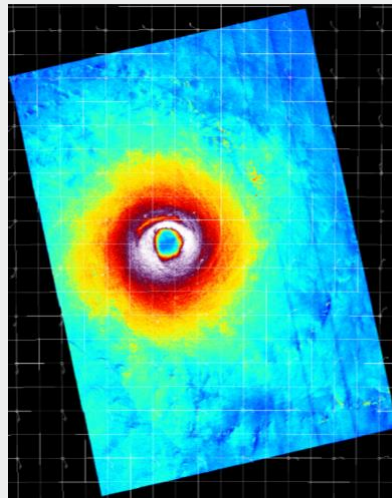
As a member of the [International Charter Space and Major Disasters](#), the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) works with other space agencies around the world to support disaster relief operations at no cost to the end users. For example, Canada contributes valuable data from the RADARSAT Constellation Mission and RADARSAT-2 satellites, both of which have 24/7 emergency call services in case of disasters around the world. In 2022-2023, the CSA provided space data for 51 activations (requests from a country for emergency satellite data), which represented 82% of all activations around the globe. Since April 2022, the CSA has provided RADARSAT Constellation Mission imagery on a weekly basis to the State Space Agency of Ukraine. Between May and October 2022, it also supported the Group on Earth Observations by providing national coverage for agricultural land management in the context of the Russia's illegal war against Ukraine.



### Using space technology in Mozambique to better respond to natural disasters

Cyclone Freddy holds the record for the longest-lasting land cyclone in recent history. Freddy formed in the Timor Sea and travelled more than 9,000 kilometres across the southern Indian Ocean before reaching Africa and dissipating after 38 days.

To support humanitarian efforts and following a request for satellite data from the UN, Canadian satellites from the RADARSAT Constellation mission imaged the flooding that the cyclone caused in Mozambique in March 2023. The RADARSAT satellite provided an image that was used to determine an estimate of the surface damage and the number of people affected by the flood. This type of data significantly enhances the abilities of emergency managers on the ground by giving them a clearer picture of the disaster area, which enables them to make informed decisions in their efforts to act quickly and save lives.



Caption: RADARSAT Constellation Mission imagery.  
Credits: © Canadian Space Agency, Mozambique, 2023

The Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC's) National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS) provides surge capacity to provinces and territories during public health emergencies when their own resources are depleted or not immediately available. However, should there be a surplus in terms of domestic needs, PHAC also donates materials to other countries in need. In 2022-2023, the NESS donated:

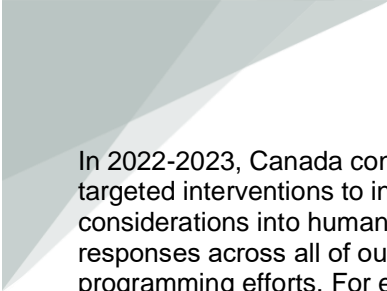
- 9.2 million non-medical masks to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- 345,500 units of supplies such as cots, blankets, mattresses, and towels to the Canadian Red Cross to help respond to humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the surrounding region
- 523,000 face shields and some 1.5 million disposable gowns to the Canadian Red Cross to support international COVID-19 relief and other humanitarian crises
- 2.8 million pairs of nitrile gloves to support Cuba's emergency response to oil tank explosions in Matanzas



## Improved the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian actions

In 2022-2023, Canada continued its work to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the international humanitarian system. This included working constructively through various multilateral forums, including as a signatory to the [Grand Bargain](#) and the [Good Humanitarian Donorship](#) principles. Canada used its governance role in key UN partner organizations to advocate for efficient and effective humanitarian operations that prioritize gender equality. For instance, as a member of the WFP's executive board, Canada was a strong voice for prioritizing a gender approach in the programme's emergency response, and greater gender balance in its workforce. Based on these efforts by Canada and others, the WFP developed the new Cash Policy that aims to put women and girls at the forefront of its policies, which is an important step for further advancing gender-responsive humanitarian action.

Canada also continued to leverage humanitarian diplomacy on the ground. For example, through bilateral and multilateral engagement, Canada encouraged parties to armed conflicts in Ethiopia, Ukraine and Sudan to adhere to international humanitarian law, including the obligation to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, and to respect and protect humanitarian and medical personnel and infrastructure.



In 2022-2023, Canada continued to support targeted interventions to integrate gender considerations into humanitarian emergency responses across all of our partners' policy and programming efforts. For example, Canada contributed over \$25.5 million to NGO partners to provide specialized gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services in emergencies.

This funding helped NGO partners to provide SRH services to some 391,000 people, which prevented death, disease and disability related to unwanted pregnancies, obstetric complications, reproductive disorders and GBV.

Furthermore, to strengthen data and needs assessments within the system, Canada provided financial support to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (\$2 million, 2022-2023), and to the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (\$500,000, 2022-2023). Canada also worked with [Ground Truth Solutions](#) to support accountability to affected populations (\$25,000, 2022-2023). This included conducting quantitative surveys of crisis-affected communities in [Burkina Faso](#) and using the findings to ensure that these communities' voices were heard and to advocate for humanitarian plans to be centred around their opinions and concerns.

### Learn more about this theme

- [Action Area Policy: Human Dignity \(Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Action\)](#)
- [International Charter Space and Major Disasters](#)





Credits: © UNICEF/UNI183054/Nesbitt, Ethiopia

## Growth that works for everyone



Global economic growth has experienced a sharp downturn as a result of the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, skyrocketing inflation, high interest rates and disruptions caused by escalating geopolitical tensions around the world, including Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Many developing countries are experiencing lower rates of economic growth, which could result in a rise in poverty rates—including in countries that are already dealing with high levels of poverty—which affects the poorest and most marginalized people the most, particularly women and girls.

Canada supports interventions in countries that are most affected by persistent and extreme poverty. These interventions challenge barriers to inclusive growth and women’s full and equal participation in the economy, including barriers preventing women from owning assets or accessing financial services, markets or trade opportunities. By working with women and youth entrepreneurs, including smallholder farmers, traders and migrant women, Canada supports marginalized populations to improve their livelihoods, and economic empowerment, rights and opportunities. The Prime Minister made a 5-year commitment of \$100 million to address issues related to unpaid and paid care work in low- and middle-income countries. This commitment recognizes the value of the care economy, following the COVID pandemic, and its inherent gender inequalities with respect to the disproportionate responsibility for care work shouldered by women and girls.

In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$1,358 million in international assistance in the [growth that works for everyone](#) action area, \$1,275 million of which was official development assistance. This action area aims at contributing to **enhanced economic well-being and enjoyment of economic rights for the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls**, in countries where Canada engages. To do this, Canada has invested in a range of projects and initiatives that aim to achieve outcomes under the following paths to action:

- bringing down barriers to women’s economic empowerment
- building more inclusive and sustainable economies
- strengthening economic resilience

Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned paths to action are presented below.



## Achievements in the spotlight

### Eliminating barriers to women's economic empowerment

In June 2021, Canada announced a 5-year commitment of \$100 million to address unpaid and paid care work issues in low- and middle-income countries. For example, in 2022, Canada's investment in the World Bank's multi-donor [Invest in Childcare](#) initiative (\$10 million, 2022-2024) contributed to child care activities in over 28 countries, the majority of which are in Sub-Saharan Africa. This investment included 26 small catalytic grants that helped countries to advance their child care agenda, and 5 larger grants (\$2 million to \$5 million) implemented by national governments in Cote d'Ivoire, Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal and Somalia. The initiatives support data and evidence gathering, knowledge exchange and analytical work on child care, as well as capacity building. These are expected to increase the availability of quality and affordable child care, specifically for the most vulnerable families, and in support of women's economic empowerment.

The International Labour Organization's [Opening doors: more and better opportunities for domestic workers in Peru](#) project (\$3 million, 2020-2025) has contributed to improving the socio-economic conditions of and empowering women care workers, especially domestic workers, in Peru. Partners have facilitated the registration of 3,490 domestic workers by their employers, and carried out workshops with women domestic workers, domestic workers' unions and other women's organizations on building workers' capacities to protect their rights and improve their working conditions.

In Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, projects such as the [Mashreq Gender Facility](#) (Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality, \$3.4 million in Lebanon, and a total of \$10 million for Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, 2018-2024) provided access to skills development and training to improve economic rights and livelihoods, particularly for poor and marginalized women and youth. Through these projects, women entrepreneurs received vocational, entrepreneurial and financial skills training. This led to policy reforms that improved women's access to economic opportunities and decent work and facilitated job placements and self-employment by connecting women with employers. The projects addressed the challenges that women entrepreneurs are facing by making the business-registration processes in Jordan and Lebanon gender-sensitive, and by increasing access to financing for female entrepreneurs in Iraq. Through community education sessions and workshops, the projects increased awareness about the importance of women's economic empowerment and led to innovative business models that supported women-led businesses in the green business, renewable energy and agriculture fields.

In the West Bank and Gaza, several Canada-funded projects focused on increasing employment and entrepreneurship, particularly for women and youth. These projects focused on reducing the barriers that women and other marginalized groups face when accessing economic opportunities, addressing gender-based barriers to participation, and improving decision making and access to resources and training for women and youth. For example, in 2022-2023, the [Generating Revenue Opportunities for Women and Youth in the West Bank](#) project (Cowater International, nearly \$10 million, 2018-2024) helped 659 women entrepreneurs to either find employment or start up micro, small and medium enterprises.

In Lebanon, projects contributed to an improved enabling environment in which women and youth can exercise their economic rights and leadership within their families, communities and in the civil, public and private sectors to secure sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship opportunities. Projects such as [Supporting Women Cooperatives and Associations in the Agro-food Sector](#) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, over \$6.3 million, 2018-2024) assess and address discriminatory legislation and policies that hinder women's economic participation and aim to create an enabling environment by advocating for legal reforms and amendments to promote gender equality. This project emphasizes the importance of stakeholder engagement and awareness building by training various stakeholders, including government officials and women-led businesses, to equip them with the

knowledge and tools they need to support women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship. Through Canada's programming, 675 Lebanese participants (including 631 women) from 257 different cooperatives and informal associations were provided cooperative business school training to increase their capacity to develop business plans and improve their productivity in the agro-food sector. In addition, 45 employees from the Ministry of Agriculture were trained on gender mainstreaming within the country's agriculture cooperative movement, equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to support women's economic empowerment in Lebanon.

### Inspired by the bees, a mother and daughter become Vita-Bee queens

Theresa and Maria Nehme are a mother-daughter beekeeping duo from Northern Lebanon who found passion and a promising source of income in the world of bee colonies. They were part of a UNDP and Canada-supported [project](#) (\$10 million, 2018-2023) that trained close to 250 women in beekeeping and provided them with the tools and equipment they needed to venture into establishing their own businesses. Maria said: "From 3 hives to 100, your push helped us build an independent operation, grow and insist on achieving our highest goals." Their raw honey and honey-infused skin-care products became increasingly popular, and they are working on launching their website, "Vita-Bee," so they can export abroad. Inspired by the hard work and fierce determination of their bees, Theresa and Maria are voicing their support for women's economic participation across all sectors and fields.




Caption: Theresa and Maria Nehme, mother and daughter, showing the bee wax collected from their hives.  
Alt text: A mother and daughter standing back-to-back wearing beekeeping outfits. The daughter, on the left, is holding a hive frame.

Credits: © UNDP / Rana Sweidan, Lebanon

### Building more inclusive and sustainable economies

In 2022-2023, Canada's contribution to inclusive and sustainable economic growth included the SOCODEVI-led [Development Program for Inclusive and Sustainable Model Cooperatives](#), which helped strengthen the financial security and economic resilience of members of 5 model cooperatives in Senegal, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. As a result of the project, 3 of the 5 cooperatives (1 in Senegal and 2 in Côte d'Ivoire) have seen an increased uptake (between 20% and 100%) of products and services by their members, which has helped improve cooperative performance and the members' living conditions.





Canada's International Assistance Innovation Program delivered \$237.5 million in international assistance in 2022-2023, helping to create jobs for women and promoting sustainable economic growth through innovative finance.

Canada's support for the [Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa fund](#) unlocked \$98 million in financing for 5,000 women-led small and medium-sized enterprises, enabling them to access loans ranging from \$3,000 to \$1.5 million.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the [2X Canada: Inclusive Economic Recovery](#) project, implemented with FinDev Canada, invested \$15 million in LocFund Next, a fund that invests in microfinance institutions so they can provide financial services to low-income and vulnerable populations. This increased the number of institutions receiving funding—from 32 microfinance institutions to more than 70. At least 200,000 microfinance clients received funding, half of whom were women, and an estimated 2.4 million people benefited by being able to access financial services (such as loans) that were previously unavailable to them.

Canada's contribution to the [Sustainable Opportunities for Employment in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru](#) project (\$6 million, 2022-2024), led by CUSO, resulted in employment opportunities and increased financial stability for vulnerable Venezuelan refugee and migrant populations. The project successfully engaged close to 5,000 participants through partnerships with the private sector. As a result, about 75% of participants secured employment (almost 63% of whom were women, 81% were young people and almost 10% were victims of conflict). Supporting participants' transition to the formal economy increased their job security and stability, promoted gender equality in the workforce and enabled access to social security. In addition, the project's private sector partners recognized that working with individuals from traditionally under-represented groups has benefits, such as increased competitiveness, innovation and productivity.

## Looking to insects to support farmers in Kenya and Uganda

Insects are proving to be a source of affordable protein for farmers in Kenya and Uganda who are dealing with the skyrocketing prices of traditional poultry and livestock feeds. [The Cultivate Africa's Future Fund](#) (CultiAF)—a \$35-million partnership between Canada's International Development Research Centre and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research—has supported research that has clearly demonstrated the profitability of large-scale insect farming to provide feed.

Doreen Mbaya Ariwi is a poultry farm owner in Kenya who was facing bankruptcy because of rising feed costs. But with the help of CultiAF, she co-founded Bug's Life, a business that provides insect feed for her 3,000 chickens. She also sells 1 tonne of insect feed per month to a local pet food producer.

"Insects gave me the opportunity to revive my business," she says. "[The chickens] fatten up faster and I get a better price for them than I used to."



Caption: Doreen Mbaya Ariwi, co-founder of Bug's Life, showing crickets used in animal feed in Machakos, Kenya. Using insects as feed on her farm helped revive her business.  
Credits: © Georgina Smith, Kenya

## Strengthening economic resilience

Through the [Making Trade Work for Women in Eastern Africa](#) project (\$15 million, 2018-2023), Canada's partnership with TradeMark East Africa contributed to the economic empowerment of women traders in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Border crossings were eased by legislative reforms, which improved the mobility of participating small and informal women traders. In addition, 9 new recommendations submitted by women traders' associations were adopted by the relevant decision makers (primarily government officials). The project helped to form a cooperative for women with disabilities and, in total, supported over 63,500 participants. Close to 70,500 traders and farmers were connected to new markets and trading opportunities, which surpassed the project's target by around 15%. About 22,800 women cross-border traders switched from informal trade to formal trade with the assistance of associations and cooperatives set up at targeted borders. Transitioning to formal trade also helped to increase their monthly sales from an average of US\$328 to US\$468.



## Giving women entrepreneurs a leg up in Northern Nigeria

Through Canada's support to the [Mennonite Economic Development Associates](#) organization's [Youth Entrepreneurship and Women's Empowerment in Northern Nigeria](#) project (over \$15 million, 2017-2023), women entrepreneurs are learning key business skills.

Rakiya is a peanut processor in the Durum community of Bauchi State and one of the women who took part in this project. Six years ago, she started making peanut cake and oil. The work was extremely labour intensive, but with little profit.

However, a couple of months after she took part in the project's entrepreneur savings and loan group, Rakiya became the woman sales agent in her group. She received training in business development and digital finance, and applied for a loan to acquire grinding and oil extraction machines.

"I took a loan for these machines from 1 financial institution called Rahama at the rate of NGN340,000 (approximately \$560) to be paid back within the period of 6 months, but I have decided to repay the loan within 3 months," she explains.

Two months after starting to use the machines, her production increased and she is now confident that she will repay the loan within a month. Her packaged products are now selling well at the university campus and Air Force Barracks Mami market, and she is able to pay the private school fees for her 3 children.



Caption: Rakiya, a peanut processor in Durum community of Bauchi State, Nigeria, with her peanut cake and oil products.

## Learn more about this theme

- [Action Area Policy: Growth that Works for Everyone](#)
- [Sharp, Long-lasting Slowdown to Hit Developing Countries Hard](#)







Credits: © WFP/Dana Houalla, Lebanon

## Environment and climate action



Climate change and biodiversity loss pose a growing threat to the planet and to all people. Climate change is exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and contributing to insecurity. It is expected that climate-related geopolitical challenges will continue to increase, including conflicts over arable land, water and food resources, and climate-induced human displacement. Developing countries are the hardest hit and the least equipped to prevent and cope with the consequences. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) also face structural and systemic vulnerabilities. Increasingly exposed to the impacts of climate change, they suffer from the effects of high-emitting countries in the form of dangerous and intense natural hazards such as flooding, drought and coastal erosion.

While nearly half of the world's population is directly dependent on biodiversity and natural resources for its livelihood, biodiversity loss is projected to continue with up to 1 million species being threatened with extinction, causing disastrous socio-economic impacts globally. Nature is responsible for essential ecosystem services, from the pollination of crops and the protection of coasts from flooding and erosion to water supply, timber production, fisheries and carbon storage. According to the World Wildlife Fund, if we continue in our business-as-usual ways, these services will disappear and the global economy will lose at least US\$479 billion a year, and nearly US\$10 trillion by 2050.

In line with the Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada prioritizes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in its efforts to advance progress on climate change and environmental degradation, and to promote sustainable natural-resource management.

The [environment and climate action](#) action area is at the heart of Canada's development efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to protect the planet from degradation and to promote sustainable natural-resource management. Long-term development gains are diminished when the environment is threatened, because poor and vulnerable people are disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental degradation, and their livelihoods and well-being depend on having access to a healthy and sustainably managed environment. In its support for developing countries, Canada focuses on areas of high impact, with respect to both environmental and poverty-reduction outcomes. In particular, Canada has committed to supporting



developing countries in their efforts to transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and nature-positive world. It is supporting initiatives that will reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve climate adaptation and resilience, and protect and sustainably manage ecosystems and their services. Canada's previous \$2.65-billion climate finance commitment (2015-2021) is expected to reduce or avoid over 200 megatonnes of GHG emissions. This is the equivalent of taking about 57 million cars off the road a year and will help more than 6 million people adapt to the impacts of climate change by 2030. In 2021, Canada doubled its international climate finance to \$5.3 billion (2021-2026).

In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$1,242 million in international assistance in the environment and climate action area, \$1,230 million of which was official development assistance. This action area aims at contributing to an **improved state of the environment and climate resilience for marginalized and vulnerable populations and future generations, particularly women and girls**, in countries where Canada engages. To do this, in 2022-2023, supported by Canada's climate finance commitments and other environmental and climate programming, Canada focused on significantly increasing assistance to achieve outcomes under the following paths to action:

- enhance environmental governance and women empowerment
- mobilize businesses for environmental performance
- increase environmental practices that support healthy, resilient and adaptive communities

Moreover, at the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Montréal, Canada announced \$350 million in new and additional funding (2023-2026) to support developing countries in implementing the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned paths to action are presented below.

### Achievements in the spotlight

#### Strengthening gender-responsive environmental governance around the world

Under its climate finance program, Canada supports the development of gender-responsive climate governance solutions that address the specific needs and challenges of women and girls around the globe. For example, Canada is helping to increase people's knowledge and their ability to develop and implement actions to address climate change through the following targeted initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean:


- [Community Resilience Building](#) (Canadian Red Cross, nearly \$4.8 million, 2018-2022) in Belize, Suriname, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- [Support to the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica](#) (\$3.7 million, 2019-2024)
- [Empowerment of Women for Climate Action in Honduras](#) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), over \$6.6 million, 2018-2023)

As of 2022-2023, a total of 9,752 people, including some 5,400 women (direct beneficiaries), were provided training to increase their knowledge of how to develop, implement and participate in climate change governance mechanisms and solutions. This included training on disaster response, water management and gender awareness. Project activities are helping beneficiaries to respond to the effects of climate change. For example, under the Gender Responsive Community Resilience building project, 18,389 community members (indirect beneficiaries) in Belize, Suriname, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have increased their disaster resilience as a result of training and the incorporation of gender equality and climate change adaptation into community plans.



Canada is helping local governments to improve their climate governance. For example, in Indonesia, the [Land4Life: Sustainable Landscape for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods](#) project (World Agroforestry Centre, \$17 million, 2021-2025) has enabled the provincial governments in South Sumatra, South Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara to plan and implement climate change and adaptation action as part of their sustainable land-use and development policies. In all 3 provinces, the project has facilitated the adoption of gender-sensitive approaches, helping local governments to identify women's specific concerns, including those related to their access to resources and services. The project is expected to support 1,800 people, including 720 women, to improve their knowledge and capacities in climate-smart agriculture and food-system solutions. Since the beginning of the project in 2021, 147 people, including 78 women, have substantially improved and applied their knowledge of climate-smart agriculture. The project's action in Indonesia demonstrates a scalable model for climate-smart development that can be replicated in other regions.

The [Energy Efficiency Hub](#) (EE Hub) is a voluntary platform of 16 countries that encourages government-to-government collaboration and exchanges on regulating and implementing energy efficiency policies. This platform has hosted several workshops to share best practices, some of which included the participation of Canadian experts, resulting in the improved effectiveness of these policies in the construction, industry, appliance and transport sectors. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) represents Canada on this platform and provided Canada's \$120,000-contribution in 2022-2023, which supported the [EE Hub's ongoing activities](#), including its 5 working groups. These groups are a forum for subject-matter experts to exchange information about their countries' current energy-efficiency policies and to discuss emerging fields.



In 2022-2023, Canada continued to partner with international organizations to develop and implement strong environmental policies and frameworks. Through its membership on the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF) Council and its contribution of \$241.8 million to the GEF-8 Replenishment (2022-2026), Canada is helping developing countries to address the increasingly negative impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution while helping them to meet their obligations under the 5 environmental conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, Minamata and Stockholm) the GEF serves.

Mitigating the causes of climate change is a core priority for the GEF and is fundamental to progress in all focal areas. The GEF promotes technological innovation and leverages all sources of public and private climate finance for low-emission technologies. GEF funds also support nature-based solutions that enhance land and coastal carbon stocks. In 2022-2023, GEF investments reduced GHGs by 147.3 million tonnes.

Canada uses its seat on the Council to monitor progress on gender equality and to advocate for the inclusion of women and girls in all partnerships. Canada advocates for enhanced reporting measures, knowledge-sharing opportunities and capacity building for gender equality across GEF projects. Frameworks have been established to monitor and track sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive indicators and results at the program and project levels. For example, the Resilient Food Systems program developed a program-level gender monitoring framework that is supported by the development of monitoring guidelines.



## Putting local communities at the heart of Madagascar's forest conservation

Given the role that Madagascar's forests play in biodiversity and in mitigating climate change, they are critical environments to conserve. Yet local people's voices are not reflected in discussions on how to protect these forests and tackle climate change.

The [Forest4Climate&People](#) project, supported by a partnership between the U.K. and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), has put local people at the centre of decisions on forest conservation and restoration. The project's aim is to ensure the effectiveness of forest carbon programs, while ensuring these programs do not negatively impact the poorest and most vulnerable people.

The project team developed a video highlighting the experiences of forest-edge communities that has been widely used to support discussions and engage policy-makers. It brought local voices to the UN's COP26 Framework Convention on Climate Change and reached international audiences on BBC Radio 4. More recently, ongoing engagements between the research team and the government prompted Madagascar's Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development to invite the research team to help review and update key conservation policies related to engagement with forest-edge communities.



Caption: Government officials and local community members participating in a tree-planting activity as part of a discussion on the challenges of forest conservation.

Credits: © Forest4Climate&People, Madagascar


In 2022-2023, Canada continued to support the [International Model Forest Network \(IMFN\)](#), the world's largest network dedicated to sustainable landscape governance. Through [RESTAURacción: Wildfire Restoration in Latin America](#), NRCan's Canadian Forest Service's IMFN Secretariat focused on strengthening women's leadership in sustainable land use and working with 8 model forest partners in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru to restore degraded forests.

In 2022-2023, the IMFN Secretariat also implemented [Scaling-up Nature-based Leadership Platforms](#). This 4-year, \$18.7-million investment uses IMFN's partnerships in ODA-eligible countries to scale up forest and landscape restoration, enable inclusive landscape governance and equip the next generation of forest leaders to address climate change and biodiversity loss. In its inaugural year, IMFN Climate enabled a regional Costa Rican model forest partner to create 7 scholarships. Four of these were for women (2 in Brazil, 1 in Peru and 1 in Honduras) and 3 were for men (1 in Peru, 1 in Ecuador and 1 in Costa Rica). These scholarships will strengthen the research capacity of the next generation of forest leaders. Technical assistance was also provided to Brazilian and Guatemalan model forests in terms of governance approaches to forest landscape



restoration and in terms of promoting the sustainable management and use of resources at the landscape level.

### Mobilizing businesses to enhance environmental performance



The [Canada Climate Change Program](#) (\$350 million, 2011-2030), a partnership between Canada and the International Finance Corporation, has improved access to renewable energy for more than 4 million people, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by 2 megatonnes annually—the equivalent of taking a half a million cars off the road a year.

The program promotes private sector financing for clean energy projects, through the use of concessional funds to catalyze investments in renewable, low-carbon technologies that would not otherwise happen.

Canada's international climate finance is increasing access to clean energy solutions and technologies, supporting the reduction of GHGs and creating jobs in the renewable energy sector in developing countries. For example, as of 2022, [Phase I](#) (\$75 million, 2013-2040) and [Phase II](#) (Asian Development Bank, \$200 million, 2017-2044) of the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia have created jobs for over 12,500 people. They are helping to improve women's empowerment by giving them employment opportunities in the construction and operation of renewable energy projects like solar power and hydropower plants, where women are significantly under-represented. By increasing access to reliable clean energy, the Canadian funds help improve the lives and empowerment of women and girls by enabling them to move into more productive activities. For example, in households with electricity, studies show that women spend less time on household chores and are more likely to participate in income-generating activities, and girls have higher educational attainment.

In 2022-2023, the International Assistance Innovation Program's ongoing support of the [Energy Access Relief Fund](#) (\$28 million, 2022-2025) in Asia and Africa ensured that 75 off-grid solar energy companies received low-interest loans. This prevented some of the companies from filing for bankruptcy and enabled them to provide clean energy to some 3 million people, half of whom are women. Last year, more than 14,800 entrepreneurs, including 5,600 women, used this clean energy to support their businesses, preventing 3.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions—the equivalent of taking over 1 million cars off the road a year.



## Supporting sustainable economic growth through solar power in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the [Sustainable Energy and Economic Growth in the Boucle du Mouhoun Region](#) project (Cowater International Inc., over \$17 million, 2017-2023) is stimulating economic growth by focusing on improving access to renewable energy, local economic development, and governance and capacity building. The project provided 90 individual producers and 38 women's groups with irrigation, conservation and production facilities that operate using solar energy.

Two of these women's groups have benefited from a pilot project that provided hybrid engines running on solar energy to supplement existing diesel engines used for their agriculture activities. Thanks to the project, the village of Touruba now has 2 hybrid engines that power a grain-hulling machine and a flour mill. As a result, the women's groups have seen both their fuel and repair costs decrease. The flour they produce is also finer and no longer smells of fuel.

"The hybridization really reduced the drudgery of the women's work and increased their revenues. The solar-hybrid platform really makes our work easier. You just have to push a button and it starts, unlike the other platform, which needed a lot of time, and especially strength, to start it," says Mandé Bibata, a member of the Touruba group.

Using this solar-powered system also contributes to gender equality because the women no longer need to depend on men to provide the fuel. Equipping women's groups with solar pumping systems means that the women are more independent and, importantly, not marginalized when fuel is scarce.

The women's groups are now developing other solar powered activities, such as producing and selling natural juices and ice, and providing telephone charging services. The cooperatives use this revenue to grant repayable loans to their members so they can engage in their own revenue-generating activities.



Caption: Mandé Bibata, a member of the Touruba group.  
Credits: © Jade Production, Burkina Faso, 2023

### Investing in environmental practices that support healthy, resilient and adaptive communities

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Canada's climate finance is helping smallholder farmers to adopt practices and technologies that enable them to adapt to climate change and reduce their GHGs. As of 2022-2023, more than 6,400 people, including almost 2,200 women, have improved their knowledge and capacities to develop and implement climate-smart agriculture and food system solutions. For example, since 2018, the [Climate Adaptation and Economic Development of Agricultural Sectors in Haiti](#) project (Centre for International Studies and Cooperation, \$13 million, 2019-2025) enabled almost 3,400 farmers and cooperative members in Haiti, including 1,321 women, to adopt climate change adaptation practices in the country's cocoa- and yam-based agroforestry systems, which is expected to improve technical proficiency and agricultural productivity.

Canada supports projects that leverage nature-based solutions by protecting and restoring ecosystems, while also generating benefits for biodiversity. For example, the [Natural Infrastructure for Water Security in Peru](#) project (United States Agency for International Development, \$16.2 million, 2018-2023) is improving the country's water security and climate risk resilience by promoting the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of natural ecosystems, or "natural infrastructure." Since its inception in 2017, the project has facilitated the development of 38 laws, policies, regulations and standards that address climate change adaptation in Peru. This project has improved the climate change resiliency of over 6,000 people, including by using climate information systems, taking risk-reducing actions and implementing more sustainable water management.

Canadian support to the [Bolstering Reconstruction in Iraq through Development, Growth and Employment](#) project (World University Service of Canada, \$14 million, 2020-2026) helped address environmental pollution hotspots in 7 governorates across the country. It mitigated and addressed environmental challenges through cooperation between different levels of government and stakeholders. For example, in 2022, the project trained government officials to identify, monitor and address over 80 pollution hotspots, which impacted 55,000 vulnerable individuals.

The [Aswan Skills Development Program](#) (Aga Khan Foundation Canada, nearly \$19 million, 2015-2022) and the [Improved rural women nutrition in Egypt](#) project (FAO, over \$2.7 million, 2021-2023) are supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies that focus on nature-based and locally led solutions. Thanks to Canada's support, both projects are mobilizing businesses to improve their environmental performance and promote gender-responsive, climate-smart solutions. By providing training, workshops and entrepreneurship programs that focus on environmentally sustainable practices, these projects have facilitated the adoption of nature-positive climate change-mitigation and adaptation strategies and have empowered more than 4,000 women entrepreneurs across both projects. For example, the nutrition project integrated environmental considerations into value chains such as livestock, dairy processing and horticulture production. It helped set up 20 greenhouses and tunnels that are making produce available all year round. The choice of vegetables planted was informed by a nutritional analysis conducted under the project. This has ensured that women are able to not only sell the produce to generate income but also improve nutritional outcomes for themselves and their households by consuming what they grow.

In 2022-2023, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) continued to help local NGOs in 40 countries to develop and implement strong environmental strategies, plans, frameworks and services. The goal is to engage women and people in vulnerable situations as active leaders and participants in addressing climate change and environmental degradation. For example, thanks to CFLI [funding](#), more than 3,000 primary school students and 263 teachers from 26 schools and organizations received hands-on experience with Namibia's Giraffe Conservation Foundation (over \$30,000, 2021-2023). By reconnecting young Namibians with their local environment, this project is helping to create a generation of environmentally literate citizens who will be motivated to protect their natural environment and make informed decisions about sustainable living.



Although Small Island Developing States (SIDS) make negligible contributions to global GHG levels, they find themselves on the front line in the fight against climate change—and are the most vulnerable to its impacts. The aim of the [Climate Finance Access Network](#) (CFAN) is to support the most climate-vulnerable developing countries, including SIDS, and help them to build their capacities to structure and secure public and private finance for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Canada has announced a \$5.25-million contribution to the CFAN over the next 2 years, building on Canada's initial \$9.5-million contribution in 2020-2021. This support will enable CFAN to help developing countries, including SIDS, to do the following:

- improve the efficiency and coordination of global climate finance initiatives
- expand the pipeline of climate adaptation and mitigation projects
- improve the integration of gender considerations into climate finance project proposals

To date, CFAN has reduced CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions by more than 153,000 tonnes and has helped more than 221,000 beneficiaries in 8 Pacific Island countries to reduce their vulnerability to climate change impacts.





## Funding sustainable agribusinesses in East and West Africa

The [Acumen Resilient Agriculture Fund](#) (ARAF) (Green Climate Fund, 2018-2030) is a US\$58-million impact-equity fund that aims to enhance the livelihoods and climate resilience of 10 million people in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. ARAF invests in early and early-growth stage agribusinesses that help smallholder farmers in these countries become more resilient to climate change.

With an anchor investment of US\$26 million from the Green Climate Fund and sponsored by Acumen, ARAF is supported by investors and funders. Canada is the eighth-largest contributor to the Green Climate Fund, with a total contribution of \$1.05 billion. As of 2021, ARAF had directly benefited approximately 320,000 farmers, 40% of them women.

One business that has benefited from ARAF is SunCulture, a Kenya-based solar irrigation company that aims to improve local farmers' access to water. It uses off-grid solar technology to provide reliable access to water, irrigation, lighting and mobile phone charging. SunCulture's water pumps allow farmers to grow crops throughout the year, even during droughts, and to increase the amount of land under cultivation. The pumps improve productivity by eliminating the need to walk to the river to collect water for crops and livestock, and increase farmers' yields, resulting in increased incomes, food security and resilience to climate change.

"Since buying SunCulture's pump, I'm very happy. It has really helped me save the money that I was using on fuel because it only requires sunlight. And now, instead of going all the way to the river, I am able to fetch water just outside the door," says one smallholder farmer in Nanyuki, Kenya. Loise is reaping the benefits of solar-powered irrigation by spending less time on fetching water and less money on fuel, which translates into greater productivity and higher crop and livestock yields, and ultimately more income and food security for her family.



Caption: Loise Wangui, a smallholder farmer in Nanyuki, Kenya, tending to her crops.  
Credits: © Little Big Films/ Cesar Lopez Balan, Kenya



## Introducing innovative aquaponic systems to farmers in Honduras

The [Empowerment of Women for Climate Action in Honduras](#) project (FAO, over \$6.6 million, 2018-2024) is working to improve the quality of life of rural and Indigenous women and youth whose livelihoods depend on forest resources. The project has helped 281 people (including 164 women) in 12 Western Honduras municipalities to access climate-smart agroforestry technologies.

Doña Sonia is one of the women who benefited from this project. She has a family garden plot that has integrated an aquaponic system, which is an integrated agriculture approach that incorporates both fish and the organic production of vegetables in order to manage water more efficiently and improve the resilience of gardens. The aquaponic system uses fish water as fertilizer for the plants, while the plants clean the water for the fish.

“I was trained by the project’s technicians in the management and use of aquaponics. This was a pilot project and from here others have emerged from various communities,” says Sonia.

In her small aquaponic space, Sonia harvests yerba buena, cilantro, chard, cucumbers, endives and cherry tomatoes. She now sells her organic produce at the market in Gracias, Lempira. Sonia says this farming method reduces the time women like her spend growing the produce.

“We don’t have to be constantly cleaning and spraying fungicides.”

In fact, by implementing better farming methods, the project has helped 400 women like Sonia to save 400 hours of work annually per household.



Caption: Doña Sonia explaining to visitors how the aquaponic system in her family vegetable patch works. She is able to grow organic herbs, vegetables and fish in less time and increase her family’s income by selling excess produce at the local market in Gracias, Lempira.

Credits: © FAO Honduras office, Honduras, 2022

## Learn more about this theme

- [Action Area Policy: Environment and Climate Action](#)
- [IDRC Annual Report 2022-2023](#)





Credits: © UN Women Egypt/Mahmoud Abdel Latif, Egypt

## Inclusive governance

**Sustainable Development Goals**

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY

**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

Governance includes the formal and informal mechanisms that determine how decisions are made about the management of public affairs in a country, influencing the rights of individuals and the delivery of public services. To be inclusive, governance must allow all people, including those who have been traditionally left out or marginalized—such as women, young people, people with disabilities, transient and migrant populations, and racial, ethnic and religious groups—to influence political processes and to hold government authorities to account.

This is a vast, cross-cutting issue and in the past year, governance concerns have exploded on the international stage. The following have been the most notable:

- challenges stemming from regional instability and conflict
- the decline of democracy
- the erosion of human rights protections and the growing anti-gender movement
- the increasing risk of debt crises in the poorest countries
- global competition on rules for international taxation, the regulation of artificial intelligence and access to critical minerals

Canada continues to advocate for and promote the protection of human rights and inclusive democratic governance when engaging with multilateral institutions and through initiatives like the LGBTQ2I international assistance program, which aims to improve the human rights and socio-economic inclusion of LGBTQ2I+ populations in countries that receive ODA.

With its focus on improving state capacity and accountability, inclusive governance is essential to achieving all of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$485 million in international assistance in the [inclusive governance](#) action area, \$444 million of which was official development assistance. This action area aims at contributing to **improved equality and the enjoyment of human rights for the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable people, particularly women, children and youth**, in countries where Canada engages. To do this, Canada has invested in a range of projects and initiatives that aim to achieve outcomes under the following paths to action:



- promote and protect human rights
- provide equitable access to justice
- enable participation in public life
- ensure public services work for everyone

Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned paths to action are presented below.

### Achievements in the spotlight

#### Promoting and protecting human rights

Through the [Canada World: Voice for Women and Girls](#) project, led by Journalists for Human Rights, Canada is working to enhance the human rights of women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tunisia and the Syrian diaspora in Türkiye. By providing support and training to the media industry, the project has achieved notable results in both improving and promoting women's rights and in the ongoing development of the media. For instance, in Kenya, 6 local media organizations adopted standardized sexual harassment and affirmative action policies. The Nairobi City County Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Management and Control Bill was improved to extend protection to more victims, and 4 Kenyan academic institutions adopted a new journalism curriculum. The curriculum provides journalism students with fundamental knowledge on human rights, the health, safety and protection of journalists, ethics and human rights reporting, and gender-responsive reporting. Following the curriculum will give media and journalism students the knowledge they need to report ethically and professionally on human rights issues.

Furthermore, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a result of this project, the legal fees that prevented victims of sexual and gender-based violence from filing a complaint were eliminated. The project successfully advocated for and contributed to a new electoral law under which political parties that submit candidate lists of at least 50% women will be exempt from paying the required deposit fees. This is the first time that an electoral law in the Democratic Republic of Congo has explicitly prioritized gender equality. Finally, this project established a network of media managers to improve coverage of women's issues in the media.

Through the Labour Funding Program, Employment and Social Development Canada provided financial assistance to 4 new multi-year technical assistance projects in Malaysia, Ukraine, Mexico and Colombia in 2022-2023. The overall goal of these projects is to promote compliance with internationally recognized labour rights and principles. For example, in Mexico, the project focused on enhancing the quality of legal services that are available to trade unions to help address union boards' obligation to ensure gender parity. In Malaysia, gender equality was considered in the design of project activities that aim to provide leadership training for women trade unionists. The project also supported the assessment of services provided to victims of forced labour and the gender responsiveness of labour policies.

In Colombia, the project led or contributed to the full participation of key organizations that advocate for gender equity and women's rights, so the resulting labour reform is expected to meet international standards and practices on gender equality. Finally, in Ukraine, the project helped support ongoing legislative reforms that are opening a window of opportunity to effectively address the gender pay gap.



## Working with researchers to build a global index on responsible AI

In December 2022, the International Development Research Centre and Global Affairs Canada launched the [Global Index on Responsible Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#), led by the South African-based think tank Research ICT Africa. The index is benchmarking the current state of responsible AI development and use across 120 countries. It will then use this information to track international commitments to promote human rights.

Ultimately, the index is designed to influence national policy and practices by providing policy-makers with independently verified data to help them plan how to better foster accountability, assess the impact of AI use and encourage regional and international cooperation on and regulation of AI issues.

The index was selected for the Scale-up Program at the 2022 Paris Peace Forum, and in early May 2023, the index was [selected](#) as one of the top 100 solutions for the SDGs by the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence.



Caption: Rachel Adams of Research ICT Africa, lead on the Global Index for Responsible AI, speaks with Francis Nuwame, the facilitator of a November 2022 workshop in Senegal on responsible AI supported by Canada's International Development Research Centre.  
Credits: © Research ICT Africa, Senegal

## Ensuring equitable access to justice

Through the [Access to Judicial Services in Haiti](#) project (over \$21.6 million, 2017-2024), undertaken in partnership with Avocats Sans Frontières Canada, Canada funded a legal aid and assistance program that has helped almost 3,500 vulnerable individuals to defend their legal rights. Following 2 appeals lodged with the support of the project's legal assistance program, 151 people, including 59 women, who were arbitrarily detained in the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince obtained their freedom. Furthermore, amid a rise in abusive pre-trial detention, the project supported a national awareness campaign that informed some 18,600 people of the impact of abusive pre-trial detention on women and girls in Haiti through radio broadcasts, theatre productions and the publication of photos, videos, posters and articles on social media networks.



### Enabling all citizens to participate in public life

In 2022-2023, Canada supported the [International Foundation for Electoral Systems](#)' (IFES's) work in Ukraine through the [Ensuring Meaningful Engagement Through Reform for Gender Equality](#) project (nearly \$7 million, 2018-2023), which aimed to provide a holistic strategy to help civil society, lawmakers, the media, and government and academic institutions bring about reforms that cultivate inclusive governance, gender equality and the empowerment of women. Responding to Ukraine's needs following Russia's invasion, IFES is supporting Ukraine's electoral management bodies, public institutions and civil society organizations to address the rapidly emerging needs resulting from the war. For example, women's political representation has steadily dropped, as Russia's war is continuing to negatively affect women and other vulnerable groups in Ukraine. IFES is working in close coordination with the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, local civil society organizations and women's groups to develop concrete legal amendments aimed at strengthening the political participation of women and minority groups.

Through Canada's financial contribution to UN Women, it has helped the [Enhancing Women's Political Leadership and Decision-Making in Kenya](#) project (\$5 million, 2021-2025) to increase women's participation in elections—as voters, candidates, electoral administrators and party supporters. Through the project's advocacy initiatives, Canada has supported more than 1,000 women leaders, including young women and women with disabilities. This has been achieved by ensuring political parties in Kenya adhere to the constitutional rule that a maximum of two thirds of electoral or appointive body members can be of the same gender.

Violence against women in public life deters many women from entering politics in Kenya. To address this, Canada has provided support to enable 500 women survivors of violence to take part in elections. This included providing legal aid, counselling and medical services as well as police support. As a result of these and other Canadian-funded initiatives, the rate of women candidates standing for election in Kenya increased from less than 9% in 2017, to 12% in 2022. Furthermore, 65% of women members of parliament opted to run again in Kenya's national election in 2022. The election of 7 women governors in 2022 (including 2 first women governors elected in 2 counties) demonstrated the importance of supporting women so they can seek high-level positions and participate in political processes and activities.

In Lebanon, projects such as [Expanding the Social Safety Net](#) (World Food Programme, \$45.5 million, 2020-2025) have contributed to increased participation in democratic processes, enhanced accountability and transparency in public service delivery, and improved access to public services—particularly for marginalized groups, including women, youth and refugees. This project enhances food security and social assistance for the most vulnerable Lebanese families impacted by the Port of Beirut explosion in 2020 and other multi-faceted crises. It provides technical assistance to improve governance of Lebanon's National Poverty Targeting Program by enhancing the program's selection criteria, targeting, transparency, monitoring and accountability. Through this project, Canada has played a leadership role in ensuring the development of a social safety net based on a unified social registry. In so doing, Canada's support has scaled up cash assistance for 15,000 households across Lebanon and will continue to integrate gender considerations into programming.



## Celebrating progress in Iraq’s Women’s Advisory Boards

With Canada’s support, the [Supporting the Participation of Women’s Advisory Boards in Local Governance](#) project (over \$5.1 million, 2018-2022) has convened Women’s Advisory Boards (WABs) in the 5 most ISIS-affected provinces in Iraq—Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salahaddin—with the goal of increasing women’s participation in local governance. The WABs seek to increase women’s participation in local governance and engage with local decision makers to advance projects and policies that are important to women, girls and all Iraqis in their communities.

Much like women’s rights organizations, WABs seek to increase women’s participation in local governance and engage with local officials to improve the lives of people living in vulnerable situations.

More than 100 members of the WABs gathered for a celebratory conference in Erbil to discuss progress made on community projects such as rehabilitating parks, making public buildings more accessible and facilitating art competitions to raise awareness about issues that affect women and girls. The group’s 190 local initiatives were shared with government officials, members of parliament, representatives of foreign governments, and local and international nonprofit organizations.

One WAB gave a presentation that was particularly impactful and showed just what can be accomplished when women work together. For the presentation, a group of women from different backgrounds sat on the floor holding signs representing issues they faced, as 1 woman entered the room wearing the Iraqi flag and holding a banner with the WAB logo. She then reached out to each of the other women to help them stand up as they dropped their signs; in the end, the women were all standing together, symbolizing the eradication of issues by the WAB’s collective efforts.



Caption: WAB members and guests came together for a policy formation and advocacy workshop in Erbil to celebrate their progress and to share ideas to further elevate women’s influence in policy-making.

Alt text: A group of women, with the front row sitting and others behind them standing, displaying their certificates.

Credits: © National Democratic Institute, Iraq, 2022

## Ensuring that public services work for everyone

In 2022-2023, Canada continued to support the Government of Mongolia in implementing reforms to create a more professional, merit-based civil service, and to improve gender equality in public administration. The [Moving Towards a Professional and Citizen-Centred Civil Service in Mongolia](#) project (UNDP, \$7 million, 2018-2022) helped newly formed ministries to adopt results-oriented and



competency-based job descriptions. The project helped to develop a competency framework for public administration employees, and tested methods and tools for applying this framework to human resources functions, which will be important for cultivating a merit-based civil service. The project also organized human resources training for more than 2,500 human resource practitioners and senior officers.

As a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Canada Post helps support the UPU's technical cooperation programs. These programs help to reduce the postal divide between industrialized and developing countries. Among its other goals, this assistance supports the implementation of postal-reform plans that are based on national analyses, training and the purchase of equipment. Between April 2022 and December 2022, Canada Post paid almost \$2,488,968 in UPU dues and \$42,119 in contributions to the UPU's Quality of Service Fund.

Recognizing that strengthened tax capacity contributes to improved outcomes for strategic government planning and inclusive program delivery, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) participates in efforts to enhance the effectiveness of partner country administrations. In 2022-2023, the CRA supported efforts to address international tax challenges through Tax Inspectors Without Borders, a joint Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and UNDP project. For instance, the CRA provided expert assistance in risk assessment, and audit and transfer pricing techniques related to taxation on the forestry industry in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the mining industry in Guinea. With the CRA's assistance, PNG's Internal Revenue Commission launched 3 audit files focused on transfer pricing in the forestry sector.

In 2022-2023, the Public Service Commission of Canada (PSC) worked with representatives from public service organizations in Ghana, Mongolia and Peru to improve their understanding of gender equality, the recruiting and hiring of public servants, recruitment services and programs, personnel assessment, modernization and oversight. Through an initiative funded by the World Bank, the PSC worked with Ghana's Public Services Commission as part of a project that aims to improve its efficiency and accountability in delivering vital public services. As part of a long-standing relationship with Mongolia, the PSC has been in discussions to possibly provide advice and expertise to help that country reform its public service legislation. The PSC is also participating in the Modernization of Peru's Civil Service Project to support efforts made by the country's National Civil Service Authority to improve the civil service. Through this project, the PSC will provide technical expertise on capacity building, youth recruitment and gender equality in the public service.





## Strengthening the ethics and integrity of South Africa's public service

Through the [Strengthening Ethics and Integrity in South Africa Project](#) (SEIP) (Covater International Inc., over \$5.9 million, 2018-2025), Canada helped build the capacity of South Africa's [Department of Public Service and Administration \(DPSA\)](#) to deliver gender-responsive services to the public. This support allowed the department to provide ethics and integrity training and technical assistance to more than 300 people within 22 government departments at the national and provincial levels.

The project also supported the design and operationalization of a new specialized unit: the Public Administration Ethics, Integrity and Management Unit (PAEIMU). Covater International is currently piloting initiatives with the DPSA and the PAEIMU to address issues such as sextortion and sexual harassment in the public service.

For instance, during South Africa's national Women's Month, SEIP organized a training session on sexual harassment in the workplace, with government officials from the Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Western Cape provinces participating.

The training has already strengthened South Africa's capacity to address and manage sexual harassment in the workplace, and aims to create a working environment that is free of sexual harassment, favours, intimidation and victimization.



Caption: Ms. Musawenkosi Tshuma (far left), Global Affairs Canada project officer, joined by representatives from Cowater International, the DPSA and Western Cape government in Cape Town.  
Credits: © DPSA / Mr. Khuliso Dzhivhuho, South Africa, 2022



### Helping Tunisian communes prepare gender-responsive annual investment plans

For Tunisian communes, annual investment plans (AIP) are an obligatory exercise in which they decide how to allocate the funds they have been granted by the central administration. Communes have a certain amount of leeway to fund projects that the community has presented. In 2022-2023, the Canadian-funded [Program for Municipal Leadership Inclusive of Women in Tunisia](#) (PMLI) project (nearly \$6.9 million, 2018-2022) supported 5 partner communes in this exercise, to encourage them to prepare more inclusive AIP.

"I learned how technical studies are carried out for projects proposed by citizens, how to catalogue them, how to carry out a feasibility study and how to draw up schedules for estimating execution," explains Radhouen Harbaoui, Secretary General of the commune of Sidi Bourouis. "In terms of communication, I learned how to convince citizens to take part in the planning process, and to inform them of the role of technical and financial diagnoses in identifying projects proposed by the population."

The project not only helped the communes to decide how to allocate funds and develop AIPs, but also encouraged them to think about how to do it in a more gender-responsive way.

"We learned to take gender into account throughout the process, using more inclusive language and developing communication activities specifically targeting women," says Harbaoui. "The positive effects of this PMLI support are being felt even at the level of public opinion and in neighbouring municipalities."



Caption: Radhouen Harbaoui, Secretary General of the commune of Sidi Bourouis, Siliana, Tunisia.

Alt text: Man seated off centre looking to the right, wearing a black, white and red plaid button-up shirt with short sleeves.

Credits: © Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Tunisia

### Learn more about this theme

- [Action Area Policy: Inclusive Governance](#)






Credits: © RCMP, Mali


## Peace and security

### Sustainable Development Goals

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



Through its peace and security international assistance programming, Canada provides gender-responsive support to address global peace and security challenges. With increasing fragility and instability around the world—leading to increasingly violent conflicts, and irregular migration and terrorism—it is more essential than ever that Canada continue its peace and security efforts. From responding to Russia’s aggression and illegal occupation in Ukraine to addressing security threats in Haiti, Canada is making sustainable and impactful efforts toward supporting peace and security around the world. There is also a need for increased capacity to address emerging cross-cutting peace and security issues. The new NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE) that Canada hosts in Montréal may contribute to this capacity once it becomes fully staffed and operational in late 2024.

In 2022-2023, Canada invested \$307 million in international assistance in the [peace and security](#) action area, \$219 million of which was official development assistance. This action area aims at contributing to **increased peace and security for Canadians, and for the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls**, in fragile and conflict-affected settings and situations where Canada engages. To do this, Canada has invested in a range of programs that seek to achieve outcomes under the following paths to action:

- address violent conflict and fragility
- reform security systems and reduce security threats
- strengthen international organizations’ peace and security efforts

Canada’s objective in the first path to action is to prevent and stabilize conflict situations by focusing on political inclusion, security, justice and respect for human rights to address group grievances and horizontal inequalities in situations of rising tensions, violent conflict and transitions to peace and stability. For the second path to action, Canada’s objective is to specifically target security threats and support the improvement of security systems in partner countries by taking a gender-responsive approach to responding to security challenges. This is to address certain security threats, such as organized crime, weapons proliferation, terrorism and cyber-violence, which frequently contribute to conflict and violence. For the third path to action, Canada’s objective is to strengthen the multilateral system to prevent, mitigate and respond to violent conflict, security threats, insecurity and fragility more effectively.



Selected examples of outcomes achieved under the above-mentioned paths to action are presented under the Achievements in the spotlight section below. These outcomes are achieved through programs including the following:

- [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](#)

## Achievements in the spotlight

### Addressing violent conflict and fragility around the globe

Through Canada's [Support to Mozambique Peace Process](#) project (United Nations Office for Project Services, \$1.5 million, 2022-2023), significant progress has been made on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the country, which are all key elements of the 2019 Maputo Peace Accord and Mozambique's efforts to end decades of conflict through national reconciliation. In 2022-2023, the project's activities led to the closure of 4 additional military bases and the demobilization of some 1,600 former combatants. By the end of March 2023, Canada had contributed to the closure of 15 out of a total of 16 military bases and helped to demobilize almost 4,900 ex-combatants. The project has also helped to establish assembly areas to provide ex-combatants with reinsertion kits that include housing, agricultural and hygiene materials, as well as clothing. All ex-combatants have received a 1-year stipend to support their transition into civilian life. In addition, the project conducted further monitoring missions of closed bases and found no evidence of resumed activity at the 2 bases visited. Through this project, Canada, the UN and the Peace Process Secretariat have supported Mozambique's pursuit of definitive peace and national reconciliation.

In Colombia, Canada's support (over \$4.7 million, 2018-2023) to KAIROS's [Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security](#) project has helped to reduce internal conflicts over natural resources in the Magdalena Medio region by working with women human rights defenders and women's rights organizations. For example, with the project's support, the number of women victims or survivors of human rights abuses who have participated in peace processes has increased significantly, from 44% in 2018-2019 to 93% in 2022-2023. The project trains women to engage on key issues, protect the environment, address climate impacts and build peace in the Magdalena Medio region, which is rich in natural resources and a focal point for internal conflicts. The project prepared women peacebuilders and land defenders to speak out about climate justice at COP27 in Egypt in November 2022. In addition, the Colombian women-led partner, Organización Femenina Popular, was selected as a recipient of Global Affairs Canada's [Women, Peace and Security, Civil Society Leadership Award](#) in 2022 for its Guardianas de la Vida (guardians of life and nature) program.

In 2022-2023, Canada supported approximately 65 projects in 40 countries through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). Many projects were implemented by grassroots organizations to promote inclusive and gender-responsive peacebuilding in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

For example, through CFLI [funding](#) (nearly \$42,000, 2022-2023), Syrian journalists' awareness of the powerful role ethical journalism can play in strengthening civil peace was promoted with workshops involving 98 Syrian professionals,



43% of whom were women. Participants gained a better understanding of their ethical responsibilities in media coverage, especially when covering conflict and building peace. Through participation in such activities, journalists and activists have contributed to consolidating ethical journalism in the Syrian media and strengthening positive media speech that calls for peaceful coexistence and a distancing from hatred and discrimination. Through projects like this, the CFLI has helped to build the capacity of local organizations and individuals to build peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

In 2022-2023, the [Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine](#) project (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, \$15 million, 2021-2026), supported by Canada and other donors, played a crucial role in responding to Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine. By engaging with 51 communities in Ukraine, the project focused on repairing and restoring 25 war-damaged public buildings, including hospitals, schools and community infrastructure. Thanks to this support, children have been able to return to schools, patients have received life-saving medical care and cultural centres have become hubs for community engagement. The project has empowered local governments to provide essential services in these communities, significantly enhancing their resilience and recovery.

Through the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOPs), Canada and Alinea International Ltd. have contributed (over \$9.7 million, 2019-2023) to the [Support to the Canada-Ukraine Police Development Project](#), which was expanded to enhance the police reform support that Canada has provided to Ukraine since 2016. This was done through professional development, building trust in police and advancing the role of women in law enforcement. This project has contributed to the operation and expansion of training programs at 3 police academies, including distance learning, scenario-based training and the integration of gender strategies into practical operations. It has supported advocacy of gender equality throughout policing operations and the promotion of women leaders through the sustainability of the Ukrainian Association of Women in Law Enforcement as a professional network with hundreds of members. The project has also created a national psychological health strategy and a network of police psychological health peer practitioners who continue to provide support to front-line officers. It has expanded understanding and the role of police in their response to heightened incidents of domestic violence by developing learning resources and building the capacity of police to work with local stakeholders (shelters, social services, legal advisers, etc.) when addressing domestic violence.

In response to Russia's attacks on Ukrainian nuclear facilities, Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program funded (\$2 million, 2022-2024) the [Strengthening nuclear security, safety and safeguards in Ukraine](#) project through the International Atomic Energy Agency. This support has enhanced the effectiveness of Ukrainian regulators and operators in terms of safeguarding nuclear sites in the country by providing technical expertise and equipment to reduce security threats, especially at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

As part of Canada's cooperation through the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism, the Office of Human Rights, Freedoms and Inclusions funded (\$785,000, 2022-2023) the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) to launch the Info Integrity Ukraine project. This is a multi-stakeholder crisis-response network made up of G7 governments, social media platforms and civil society organizations to support the integrity of the Ukrainian information environment in the face of Russia's unprecedented information war. The project pinpointed 27 solutions (more than double the target) to challenges faced in countering disinformation, including capacity building for improved influence monitoring, media literacy, and international networking and knowledge sharing, as well as online tools. The network now includes 70 representatives from 49 organizations in Ukraine and around the world.



## Reforming security systems and reducing security threats

With Canadian funding, civil society organizations work to combat impunity and corruption linked to gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination. In 2022-2023, almost 12,500 people, including close to 9,000 women, received training and public legal education on human rights and gender equality from legal mobile clinics.

Canada funded the [Supporting Justice and Peace in Mali](#) project (\$16.1 million, 2021-2025) in partnership with Avocats Sans Frontières Canada. The project aims to empower women, girls and other individuals living in vulnerable situations by enabling them to access the justice system, defend their human rights and participate in national reconciliation, peace-building and consolidation processes. Twelve cases of human rights violations have been brought before Mali's courts and other international bodies as a

direct result of this project. Canada's support has also played an important role in the success of Mali's Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, and contributed to 2 chapters on GBV in its final report, which incorporated elements from victims' participation in the Commission's fourth public hearing. Canada's financial support to the International Criminal Court in its administration of the Trust Fund for Victims in Mali also contributed to the formal recognition of the specific harms that women have suffered, and as a result, women were given the same right to benefit from reparative measures as men.

Canada's [PSOPs](#), in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), funded the [Supporting and Reinforcing the Establishment of the Haitian National Border Police](#) project (\$6.9 million, 2017-2023), which contributed to Haiti's efforts to strengthen its security sector, namely the Haitian National Police (HNP), and reduce community violence in vulnerable Haitian communities. This included the following: support to the HNP's border security enforcement and management of the flow of migrants crossing land borders, support to the HNP to increase the number of women police officers within its ranks, and the means to address youth violence in Haiti by engaging and empowering youth and young adults to have a voice in community decision making.

In Iraq, the [PSOPs](#), in partnership with the IOM, supported the [Community Policing in Liberated Areas of Iraq](#) project (\$9 million, 2018-2023) by funding a range of activities aimed at rebuilding trust between law enforcement officials and communities in the Anbar, Diyala and Ninewa governorates. This project enhanced law enforcement officials' ability to partner with communities to address security issues such as gender-sensitive policing, counter-trafficking measures and integrated border management. In the targeted communities, 97% of community members (30.1% of whom were women and 65.7% of whom were youth) and 100% of law enforcement officials reported a substantial improvement in trust and perceptions of security, exceeding the initial 30% target. Through the Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program, and in partnership with the UN and the Government of Iraq (GoI), Canada also supported the GoI's National Strategy to Combat Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (\$5.1 million, 2022-2024) to establish a coordination mechanism for addressing the repatriation of Iraqi nationals from northeast Syria. In 2022-2023, the [project](#) successfully met its annual targets, with 70% of stakeholders reporting an increased knowledge and understanding of how to implement the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) strategy in at-risk communities, along with improved awareness of gender mainstreaming in PVE programming. This learning opportunity led to increased stability and security in Iraq while reducing the risk of renewed violent extremism.

In 2022-2023, Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) supported Avocats sans Frontières by funding the [Capacity building of institutional actors involved in the fight against human trafficking](#) project (\$1.1 million, 2020-2022) to strengthen the protection of human trafficking victims in Colombia, with a specific focus on women, children and members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. This collaboration has resulted in the adoption of 4 new gender-sensitive practices that align with



international standards. This includes delivering training workshops on effective, gender-based care for direct and indirect victims of human trafficking to the government employees who are responsible for their assistance, as well as implementing new practices at the Defensoría del Pueblo that are in line with international standards and a gender-based approach to combatting human trafficking in Colombia. In addition, 94% of Defensoría officials now recognize the importance of combatting human trafficking. Most notably, 85% of government institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) reported significant improvements in the protection of victims' rights, which exceeded the initial target of 75%. Eighty-six percent of survey participants also noted substantial improvements in institutional responses, particularly those related to gender analysis for preventing and prosecuting human trafficking (survey respondents included civil servants and CSO representatives).

In 2022-2023, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) maintained its contribution to the Office of the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) through Op PROTEUS. The USSC was established in 2005 with a mandate to support Israeli-Palestinian security coordination and lead international assistance for PA security sector reform and capacity building. In 2022-2023, Canada remained the largest contributing nation to the USSC, sending 21 CAF personnel, 3 Canadian police officers, 1 Canadian civilian member who works within the Law Enforcement Directorate, 1 customs and border control officer and 1 legal adviser. Op PROTEUS promoted institutional reform within the Palestinian Authority Security Forces (PASF), empowered the Ministry of Interior and facilitated coordination between PASF and the Israeli Security Services. In 2022-23, Op PROTEUS focused more specifically on enhancing various PA security and emergency response forces' operational capabilities, with specific emphasis placed on communications (developing radio capabilities), logistics (human resources reforms), policing (community policing), customs policing and legal frameworks (pension). There was also an increased emphasis on collaborating with Global Affairs Canada to enhance alignment of the Government of Canada's programming in the region. Canada's contribution to the USSC supported the PASF's ability to establish and maintain peace and security, which was a precondition to enabling sustainable development that could include women's participation.

Through the Canadian Police Arrangement, the RCMP's International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations program deployed a total of over 60 Canadian police personnel through 9 international missions in 11 countries last year. These Canadian personnel directly supported efforts to prevent, address, investigate and prosecute sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). For example, Canadian personnel deployed to the Specialized Police Team on SGBV within the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo supported local law enforcement efforts to counter SGBV among vulnerable populations. Furthermore, Canadian police officers deployed to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti provided mentorship and strategic advice on gender mainstreaming and SGBV to senior and mid-level HNP management.

### **Strengthening international organizations' peace and security efforts**

The Elsie Initiative was launched by Canada in 2017 to increase women's meaningful participation in UN peace operations. As the initiative's co-chair and its biggest donor, Canada continued to support the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations in 2022-2023. This included providing financial incentives to countries contributing troops and police units with a high percentage of women in operationally significant roles. For example, the Senegal National Police deployed a gender-strong unit to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali in August 2022, and the Ghana Armed Forces deployed a gender-strong unit to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in September 2022. Both units included substantial representation of women overall, including in leadership positions.



In 2022-2023, Canada continued to advocate for the integration of the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in all UN policies and training materials. This advocacy led to a revised *Handbook for Child Protection Staff in UN Peace Operations*, which includes new force commander's directives on child protection and early warning indicators.

This helps strengthen the child protection staff's capacity to fulfill its sole responsibility to protect and promote the rights of children in armed conflict.

## Building global capacity for protecting and assisting victims of human trafficking

Thanks to its numerous training courses, Canada's ACCBP has strengthened the skills and knowledge of those involved in protecting and assisting victims of human trafficking, particularly women, girls and members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities, through the [Capacity building of institutional actors involved in the fight against human trafficking](#) project.

In 2022-2023, a total of 554 civil servants and CSO representatives were trained on how to better support victims, far exceeding the target of 70. Just less than half of the participants were assessed before and after the training using evaluation questionnaires to determine their level of knowledge on victim protection and assistance. The results showed that 145 participants (92 women, 2 non-binary people and 51 men) out of the 221 evaluated acquired new knowledge on the subject, far exceeding the target of 40 people.

Civil servants were also trained on how to provide effective, gender-based support for direct and indirect victims of human trafficking. It was found that many had never received training in this area.



Caption: Training for civil servants, Cartagena, Colombia, August 22 to 23, 2022.  
Credits: © Avocats sans frontières Canada, 2022





**Learn more about this theme**

- [Action Area Policy: Peace and Security](#)

