

VOLUME 1

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

2023-2024



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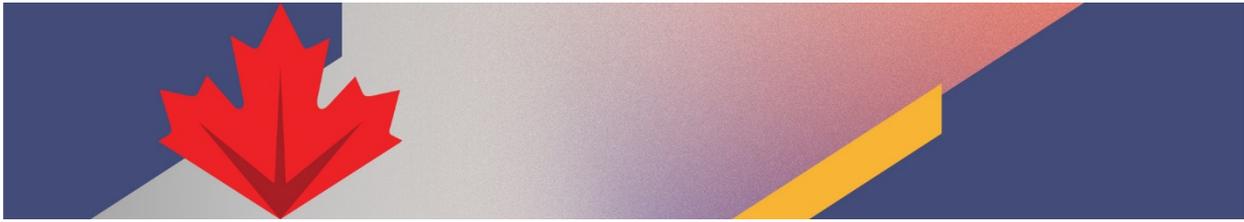
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Message from the Secretary of State for International Development and the Minister of Foreign Affairs

We are pleased to present the *Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance 2023-2024*. This report highlights Canadian international assistance initiatives and outcomes achieved during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.



In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada contributed \$11.1 billion in international assistance to advance development, humanitarian, and peace and security objectives globally. This includes \$2 billion in loans to stabilise Ukraine and nearly \$800 million for humanitarian needs in 134 countries.

Canada's international assistance supports developing countries on key challenges, including those which impact us all. International development benefits Canadian security and prosperity because what happens abroad – poverty, inequality, conflict, natural disasters, diseases – also affects directly Canadians at home.

Through this assistance, the Government of Canada coordinated efforts with other nations, locally led organizations, as well as multilateral and international organizations and Canadian civil society.

Programming addressed immediate humanitarian needs worldwide. Investments helped to stop and reverse biodiversity loss and fight climate change. The Government of Canada contributed to global initiatives to support gender equality, promote food security, education, inclusive governance, peace, and global health to mitigate growing poverty rates and the loss of development gains globally.

The Government of Canada remains committed to pursuing an inclusive, human rights-based approach to international assistance and the principles of transparency, accountability, equality and non-discrimination and inclusive partnerships. We will continue to work with our partners and allies to achieve results based on empathy, equality and respect for democracy.

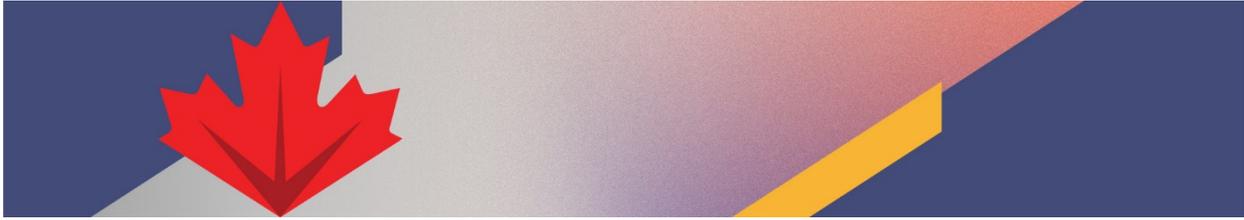


We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners, whose work and devotion have advanced peace, prosperity and equality in difficult times. Through it all, their constant efforts delivered effective international assistance.

The Honourable Randeep Sarai
Secretary of State for International Development

The Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of Foreign Affairs





Message from the Minister of Finance and National Revenue

Year after year, Canada helps make the world a better place. Our international development assistance helps reduce poverty in many countries and meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Canada's actions are anchored in a firm commitment to multilateralism and general principles of good governance. Our investments promote sustainable and inclusive economic development around the world and foster stability in the global economy.

Over the past year, the international community, including Canada, has continued to take steps to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia's unjustifiable and illegal invasion. As part of Canada's commitment to provide \$2.4 billion in financial assistance to Ukraine for 2024, Canada provided \$2 billion to Ukraine during the reporting period through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Administered Account for Ukraine. This account, championed by Canada, is a demonstration of global support for Ukraine that has helped its government maintain its operations and provide essential services to its citizens.



Canada also worked closely with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to finalize the terms of a €4 billion capital increase to provide ongoing support for Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. Canada has been, and will remain, a strong advocate for Ukraine.

We remain equally committed to meeting the challenges facing the world. For example, during the reporting period Canada and the IMF signed an agreement for an additional SDR 700 million loan (equivalent to \$1.3 billion) to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, which provides concessional financing to low-income and vulnerable IMF member countries. Furthermore, we committed to purchase USD 200 million of hybrid capital from the World Bank Group's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This initiative will provide up to USD 1.6 billion in additional lending capacity over 10 years, enabling the World Bank to increase its development impact while ensuring cost-effectiveness. Canada's investments illustrate our commitment to supporting efforts to reduce global poverty, build global economic resilience and combat climate change.

Our international commitment doesn't just have an important impact abroad. Canadians benefit from it too. A healthy, stable global economy helps create jobs in Canada, while promoting price stability for goods and services and improving our collective standard of living.



2024 marked the 80th anniversary since Bretton Woods, which led to the establishment of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This post-war rules-based order has upheld peace and allowed for greater prosperity and rising living standards around the world. Eighty years on, despite an uncertain global context, we uphold our strong commitment to international development and respect of international law. This is integral to our collective peace and prosperity.

I am pleased to present jointly with the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State (International Development), the *Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance 2023–2024*.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Finance and National Revenue



Contents

Executive summary	8
Government of Canada's International Assistance and Official Development Assistance Disbursements by Organizations, 2023-2024	11
Canadian International Assistance Results	14
Humanitarian action	14
Education	18
Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls	22
Global health and nutrition	27
Inclusive economic growth	32
Climate and environment	36
Inclusive governance	43
Peace and security	49





Executive summary

The Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance highlights the impact of our international assistance efforts over the past year, including the collective efforts of Global Affairs Canada and 21 other federal departments. The Government of Canada appreciates the unwavering collaboration, dedication and service of all its partners delivering this assistance, especially those operating in difficult areas.

In 2023-2024, Canada's federal departments and agencies disbursed \$11.1 billion to more than 3,000 projects. This report provides examples of the results achieved with a focus on the following areas: humanitarian action, education, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, global health and nutrition, inclusive economic growth, climate and environment, inclusive governance, and peace and security.

You can find more information on the government's international assistance projects results on the [Project Browser](#) web page. For the latest evaluation reports on Canada's international development assistance, we invite you to visit Global Affairs Canada's [Program and project evaluation](#) web page.

Working with our partners to build a better world

As one of the founding members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada has been providing official development assistance to developing countries for more than 50 years. In 2023, official development assistance from OECD members rose to an all-time high of more than US\$223 billion. Canada was the 6th highest donor, contributing approximately US\$8 billion. This funding has adapted to the shifting global development landscape, by addressing rising conflicts, increasing geopolitical tensions, escalating climate impacts, and to mitigate the loss of development gains.

In 2023-2024, Canada's federal international assistance remained aligned with global agreements on aid effectiveness. This means that Canada's assistance is aligned with global priorities, emphasizes country ownership, and focuses on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability. Our efforts supported the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is now past the halfway point. Despite recent setbacks, the Government of Canada remains committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



In 2023-2024, the Canadian government played an important role in promoting global peace, security, and governance through its range of international assistance programs. These include the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program, Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program, and Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program, which support conflict prevention, demining, and provide direct assistance to conflict-affected populations in regions such as the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe. By working with other government agencies, the Government of Canada helps build local and regional capacities, counter threats, and support global stability and democracy.

As natural disasters become more prevalent due to climate change, the Government of Canada actively supports those most affected. Last year, more than 7.7 million people benefitted from climate change adaptation initiatives supported by the Canadian government. To help developing countries fight climate change and biodiversity loss, the government hosted the Seventh Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in August 2023. At this Assembly, the government announced its commitment of \$241.8 million to the GEF's eighth replenishment (2022-2026) to support high-impact investments that are driving significant global environmental outcomes. This commitment allowed the GEF to be on track to achieve its 10 environmental results targets. In support of coordinated efforts, the Government of Canada helped launch the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to strengthen biodiversity management, planning and governance.

Supporting the needs of the most vulnerable

In recent years, the number of conflicts and natural disasters globally has surged by over 80%, significantly expanding the scope, scale and complexity of humanitarian needs. Recent and ongoing conflicts in Gaza, Haiti, Lebanon, Sudan and Ukraine have been devastating, severely impacting both people and infrastructure.

To address this unprecedented need, the Canadian government contributed humanitarian assistance in response to conflicts around the world. In 2024, according to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Canada ranked as the 13th largest humanitarian assistance donor globally. The Government of Canada provided about \$800 million in humanitarian assistance in 2023-2024, mainly through UN partners, Canadian and International non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This financial support contributed to assisting and protecting over 19 million refugees and internally displaced people globally.

Promoting gender equality and the rights of women and girls

Protecting the rights of women and girls, and empowering them to be agents of change, continued to be a focus throughout 2023-2024. Nearly all of Canada's bilateral international development assistance targeted or integrated gender equality. The Government of Canada continued to follow through on its [10-Year Commitment](#) (10YC) to advance the health and rights of women and girls around the world. In 2023-2024, under the 10YC, the government provided over \$1.48 billion to



global health initiatives, including \$702 million to projects that are advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The government continued to support women's rights organizations, which are increasingly having their voices suppressed and access to resources restricted. To counter this, the Canadian government supported over 3,000 of these organizations globally last year, including through the Women's Voice and Leadership program and the Equality Fund. This support helped to build the capacity of women's rights organizations in developing countries to come together to address a range of issues including gender-based violence, economic empowerment and political participation.

The Government of Canada also remained committed to ensuring people around the world, including women and girls, have equal access to quality education. In 2023-2024, Canada's support to the Global Partnership for Education helped 120 million students worldwide access education. This support resulted in 481,000 teachers receiving critical training and more than 6,700 classrooms being renovated or built. The Canadian government continued to implement its \$100 million commitment to address inequalities with unpaid and paid care work. This initiative is helping to transform social norms in low- and middle-income countries in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

Improving the delivery of assistance to partners

Although Canada's international development efforts in 2023-2024 have helped to improve millions of lives, there is still work to be done. To achieve Canada's vision for a safer, more prosperous world for all, continued collaboration with Canadian and international partners around the world is essential. The government is working to improve the delivery of assistance to its partners. In September 2023, the Government of Canada launched the [Grants and Contributions Transformation Initiative](#) to improve collaboration with our implementing partners. This initiative aims to reduce administrative burdens and improve their access to funding.

For more information on accessing Canada's international assistance funding, 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, 2023-2024

The Government of Canada disbursed \$11.1 billion in international assistance in 2023-2024. In this report, international assistance includes all financial resources and activities provided by the Canadian federal government to support development in other countries, primarily in the developing world, but excludes FinDev Canada’s capitalization. In other reports, international assistance may refer to assistance as support from all levels of government (federal, provincial territorial or municipal) and include FinDev Canada.

The government reports eligible funding as official development assistance to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) once it is allocated. To be counted as official development assistance funding must be administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective. Of the \$11.1 billion, official development assistance made up 81% or \$9 billion.

Below you will find Canada’s international assistance efforts in 2023-2024 listed by federal government department. The government’s annual Statistical Report on International Assistance provides further details on international assistance and official development assistance expenditures provided by all levels of government.

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

Canadian International Assistance 2023-2024				
Department/Source	International assistance	of which		ODA: OECD-DAC*
		Programs funded by the IAE	ODA: ODAAA	
Departments reporting under the <i>Official Development Assistance Accountability Act (ODAAA)</i>				
Global Affairs Canada	6,009.72	5,954.33	5,167.41	5,167.41
Department of Finance Canada**	2,595.74	2,595.74	1,320.24	1,320.24
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada***	2,138.56	1.50	2,138.56	2,138.56



International Development Research Centre	176.19	176.19	176.19	176.19
Environment and Climate Change Canada	59.52	53.04	59.28	59.28
Public Health Agency of Canada	51.79	-	51.79	51.79
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	20.36	20.36	18.78	18.78
Department of National Defence	19.08	-	19.08	19.08
Canadian Institutes of Health Research	13.81	-	13.81	13.81
Employment and Social Development Canada—Labour Program	11.39	-	11.39	11.39
Natural Resources Canada	9.36	9.36	9.36	9.36
Canada Revenue Agency	6.06	-	6.06	6.06
Parks Canada	0.93	-	0.93	0.93
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada	0.93	-	0.93	0.93
Canada Post—Universal Postal Union	0.42	-	0.42	0.42
Statistics Canada	0.31	-	0.31	0.31
Canadian Space Agency	0.04	-	0.04	0.04
Canadian Museum of Nature	0.01	-	0.01	0.01
Justice Canada	0.01	-	0.01	0.01
Public Service Commission of Canada	0.01	-	0.01	0.01
Canadian Intellectual Property Office	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
Services received without charge by Global Affairs Canada	28.54	11.04	28.54	28.54
Subtotal—Departments reporting under the ODAAA	11,142.81	8,821.57	9,023.17	9,023.17
Percentage of international assistance		79%	81%	81%
Other departments, sources				
FinDev Canada	650.00	-	-	650.00



Cost of refugees in Canada (first year)— Provinces and territories	454.25	-	-	454.25
Provinces, territories and municipalities	45.54			45.54
Subtotal - Other departments, sources	1,149.78	-	-	1,149.78
Total	12,292.60	8,821.57	9,023.17	10,172.96
Percentage of total international assistance		72%	73%	83%

* 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 2023-2024, the Department of Finance Canada provided \$2 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 increase in fiscal year 2023 to 2024 is mainly due to special measures to support Afghans and the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel.

**** Figures in this table are represented in millions of Canadian dollars and values under \$5,000 will display as 0.00.



Canadian international assistance results



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Humanitarian action

One in 73 people worldwide were forcibly displaced and 311 million were in need of life-saving assistance and protection according to the 2024 Global Humanitarian Overview. The Canadian government continues to be a leader in the international humanitarian system, delivering timely, needs-based, gender-responsive, and predictable humanitarian assistance where most needed. In calendar year 2024, against rising global humanitarian needs, Canada was the [13th largest humanitarian donor](#) according to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Canada's humanitarian programming aims at **reducing suffering, maintaining human dignity, and saving lives in populations affected by humanitarian crises**. To do this, the Government of Canada focused on achieving the following expected outcomes:

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

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested close to \$800 million in this action area, all of which is considered official development assistance. This assistance was mainly channeled through UN partners, Canadian and international NGOs, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to respond to humanitarian needs in 134 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of the combined results achieved of several initiatives in this area.

Achievements in the spotlight

Increasing access to and use of principled, gender-responsive humanitarian assistance and protection by crisis-affected populations

With the support of Canada and other donors, partners delivered life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection to those affected by conflicts and natural disasters. For example, the World Food Programme assisted 152 million people (80.1 million of whom were women and girls) in



calendar year 2023. This assistance was delivered through direct food assistance and cash-based transfers, helping to treat and prevent malnutrition and famine. Additionally, the government's funding helped enable key partners like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide assistance and protection to over 19 million refugees and internally displaced persons in 2023.

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada allocated more than \$105 million to address humanitarian needs arising from the crisis in Gaza and the West Bank. These funds have allowed partners to respond to urgent needs, assisting 2.2 million Palestinians in Gaza and 500,000 people in the West Bank. This assistance helped deliver critical, life-saving supplies and services, such as emergency food, water, health services and protection services, including support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. It has contributed to the establishment of a field hospital in Rafah and enabled the Canadian Red Cross to send surgical equipment, medicines, diagnostic equipment and personnel. Through the Humanitarian Coalition Matching Fund, Canadian NGOs leveraged the generosity of Canadians to deliver life-saving assistance to civilians in urgent need. This included emergency food and nutrition assistance, multi-purpose cash, and child protection. They also provided shelter, water, sanitation, and health and medical services.

In calendar year 2023, the Government of Canada worked with partners such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to address the critical health needs of crisis-affected and vulnerable populations. This enabled MSF to conduct over 2.2 million primary health consultations and provide life-saving sexual and reproductive healthcare to around 70,000 patients in 8 countries. The organization also supported 128 health facilities in underserved, remote and hard-to-reach communities. For example, in response to increased conflict in Sudan in 2023, MSF quickly deployed a modular field hospital. This hospital provided medical care to more than 189,000 refugees. In Bangladesh, MSF was a key provider of comprehensive healthcare services to Rohingya refugees at two hospitals with a total of 172 beds.

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada continued to provide emergency medical supplies to countries in need through the Public Health Agency of Canada's [National Emergency Strategic Stockpile](#). These stockpiles offer surge capacity to Canadian provinces and territories during public health emergencies and to other countries when there is a surplus. For instance, in 2023-2024, the National Emergency Strategic Stockpile donated the following supplies to support Ukraine:

- 180 surplus ventilators to Maple Hope Foundation
- 100 surplus ventilators to Canada-Ukraine Foundation
- 8,240 units of one-time use supplies associated with ventilators such as breathing circuits, suction tubing or ventilator cartridges, delivered through the Department of National Defense

As part of Canada's contribution to address global refugee crises, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada continued to resettle Afghan nationals in 2023-2024. To date, Canada has welcomed over 54,000 Afghans since the fall of Kabul, exceeding its commitment to welcome 40,000 people. Over half of these were individuals who had closely assisted Canada's mission in



Afghanistan, as well as their families. Canada also welcomed other vulnerable and at-risk groups, including women leaders, human rights defenders, persecuted ethnic and religious groups, journalists, and members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. While intake has now closed, the Government of Canada continues to process existing eligible applications received under these special measures on a priority basis.

Improving the effectiveness, efficiency and gender responsiveness of humanitarian assistance and protection by humanitarian stakeholders

The Government of Canada contributed \$73.9 million (for 2023-2025) to leverage the UN Country-Based Pool Funds (CBPFs) to support more coordinated and effective humanitarian action, as well as more localized and inclusive responses. Through these funds, the Government of Canada enabled local organizations to deliver life-saving assistance tailored to their communities' unique needs, often in hard-to-reach or crisis-affected areas. For instance, the funds provided a total of US\$429 million in 2023, with 39% directly reaching local partners. As the eighth-largest donor, the Canadian government reaffirmed its commitment to locally led humanitarian action. In particular, this funding facilitated emergency relief in high-need and hard-to-reach areas such as Yemen, Syria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, addressing critical areas such as food security, health and protection.

As a founding member of the [International Charter: Space and Major Disasters](#), the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) collaborates with space agencies worldwide to support disaster relief operations at no cost to emergency responders. When the Charter is activated (meaning a country requests emergency satellite data), Canada provides valuable data from the RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) and RADARSAT-2 to support disaster response efforts. From April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, the CSA provided satellite data for 44 activations, which represented 80% of all Charter activations.

Additionally, since April 2022, the CSA has provided imagery on a regular basis to the State Space Agency of Ukraine to support agricultural land management in the context of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

[Action Area Policy: Human Dignity \(Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Action\)](#)

Examples of projects highlighted in this section

- [Coordination of Humanitarian Response by the Country-Based Pooled Funds – OCHA](#)
- [West and Central Africa, CAP 2023-24 – ICRC](#)
- [East Africa Matching Fund 2023 – Humanitarian Coalition](#)
- [Gaza Crisis, Regional Humanitarian Response – ICRC](#)
- [Deployment of Health Emergency Response Units – Canadian Red Cross](#)



- [Humanitarian Sexual and Reproductive Health Assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa – UNFPA](#)
- [Gaza Interagency Flash Appeal – WFP](#)
- [Bangladesh, Response to Food Insecurity – WFP](#)
- [Global Multi-Country – UNHCR](#)

Story of change

[Using space technology to better respond to natural disasters](#)





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Education

Education is a human right, a means to build peaceful and just societies, and a catalyst to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, barriers to accessing quality education persist, especially for women and girls, refugees, and those in crisis, fragile and conflict-affected situations.

According to the [Global Education Monitoring Report](#), 251 million children are currently out of school globally, and many of those left behind are the hardest to reach. Conflict, climate and health emergencies have reversed many of the educational gains made in recent years. For many children who remain in school, low levels of learning have worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, in some sub-Saharan African countries, only one in 10 students finishes primary school with the ability to read or do basic mathematics.

Canada's international assistance in this area seeks to support a world where every child can access a quality education in a safe, secure, and respectful environment. Our 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 the Government of Canada engages. To achieve this, the government supports Canadian partners and multilateral organizations that have the global reach to effectively deliver results and promote educational opportunities for all. The government invests in a range of projects and initiatives in partner countries that seek to achieve outcomes in the following areas:

- 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

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested approximately \$493 million in this action area, the vast majority of which is considered official development assistance. Our education programming supported 134 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of projects and their impact in this area.



Achievements in the spotlight

Improving gender-responsive quality education systems

In Jordan, through the Ministry of Education, 96,000 educators and teachers (Government of Jordan, more than \$75 million, 2018-2023) received professional development support, of which almost 63% were women. This [initiative](#) supports quality education outcomes and contributed to a 14% increase in student enrollment and close to a 60% increase in the number of students entering grade 12. In addition, high school completion rates increased by 21%, with a more significant increase for girls.

The government's education support to Jordan also improves access to inclusive and equitable formal and non-formal education (Government of Jordan, \$5 million, 2021-2023). This [initiative](#) particularly benefited Syrian and other refugee children (Iraqi, Sudanese, Somali, Yemeni), as well as children with disabilities, by providing free tuition, textbooks, and other necessary support, such as transportation and assistive learning aids. In 2023-2024, the project exceeded its targets by reaching almost 152,000 Syrian children and more than 3,000 other refugee children. Additionally, it offered non-formal education opportunities, including dropout and catch-up programs, which saw high enrolment and completion rates. For instance, 1,484 students (42% female) participated in the catch-up program, and 4,020 students (56% female) joined the dropout program. These results support the commitment of out-of-school refugee and vulnerable students to continue their education and transition back to the formal system. The project also focused on enhancing the quality of education by:

- training teachers on social and emotional learning
- increasing access to counselling
- improving e-learning skills among teachers
- placing 122 new community mobilisers across the 42 directorates

In Mozambique, the Government of Canada helped improve education systems by supporting a [project](#) that enhanced learning processes and outcomes for children in 62 primary schools in 2023-2024 (Canadian Organization for Development through Education, more than \$16.8 million, 2015-2024). Teachers received training at four Teacher Training Institutes in Maputo, Tete, Cabo Delgado and Niassa provinces. In particular, the project focused on:

- equipping student teachers with interactive and gender-sensitive teaching methods
- training school directors and school councils on their roles, responsibilities, and gender equality issues
- producing and distributing pedagogical manuals
- supporting the Ministry of Education in implementing their Gender Equality Strategy in the areas of teacher education and primary schools
- promoting life skills, girls' education, and awareness and prevention of child marriage, and gender-based violence



Collectively, these efforts have contributed to improving the availability of accessible, safe, high-quality, and gender-sensitive education, especially for girls from pre-primary to secondary levels. Last year, the project supported the graduation of more than 4,500 student teachers, half of whom were female. Additionally, all 38 teacher training institutes in the country received gender-sensitive pedagogical manuals, which were also published online, to ensure broader access and educational continuity.

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

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts district of Bangladesh, a Canada-funded [project](#) aimed to significantly improve learning outcomes and employability for vulnerable and low-income Indigenous and Bengali girls, adolescents and women, including people with disabilities (BRAC, \$5 million, 2020-2024). Over the four years of this project, it provided almost 1,000 teachers with subject-based training, enabling them to better meet the needs of struggling students and deliver higher-quality instruction. Academic performance improved by 52% in government primary schools and by 50% in non-government secondary schools during the project, while 77% of government primary school teachers and 61% of secondary school teachers are now able to identify at least three ways their teaching or leadership style has changed. The project helped ensure that 881 out of 889 young women graduated from skills training. Additionally, 45 out of 73 women learners with disabilities completed skills training.

In Senegal, the Government of Canada is supporting a [project](#) that is contributing to the empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized women by increasing their active participation in the economy and in their community development (Colleges and Institutes Canada, \$18 million, 2020-2026). This is being achieved by:

- developing tailored vocational training
- supporting women in business development
- training ministry officials on gender equality and promoting women's roles in economic and social spheres

As of March 2024, the project collaborated with the Senegalese government to set up 23 employment and entrepreneurship centres that act as one-stop shops to select the participants and place them in technical schools. These centres offered a range of services, such as providing information on project financing and scholarships, training gender focal points, and selecting 713 women for certification in 22 different trades such as electrical work, solar panel installation and animal husbandry.

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



In Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, the Government of Canada supported educational opportunities in a [project](#) where quality education and skills development were improved for children experiencing conflict and instability (UNICEF, \$9 million, 2022-2024). Over its two years, the project has supported the enrollment of almost 793,000 Venezuelan, displaced and host community children in the three countries. Partners worked with the Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Social Services to improve the referral of children to specialized services such as mental health and child protection. Almost 21,000 children received mental health and psychosocial support services during the project, with another 900 able to access child protective services. Additionally, more than 4,000 education authorities, the majority of whom were women, were trained on the delivery of quality, gender-responsive, and inclusive education services. The project strengthened regional cooperation, leading to the development of integrated frameworks. These frameworks are used to ensure greater integration of Venezuelan and other migrant children in transit across the Andean region.

In Somalia, a [project](#) enhanced access to quality education for marginalized and vulnerable groups, including nomadic girls, girls with disabilities, and those affected by conflict (CARE Canada, more than \$11 million, 2020-2023). The project's activities improved access to safe, quality, and gender-sensitive education, even in challenging humanitarian contexts. As of March 2023, the project had rehabilitated 48 classrooms and conducted enrolment campaigns that reached thousands of families. It awarded scholarships to nearly 3,000 girls, including 32 girls with special needs, ensuring continued access to education despite ongoing instability in the country. The project promoted classroom attendance and supported the education of girls and those with disabilities by:

- providing almost 3,500 girls with sanitary kits
- providing 800 girls with uniforms
- sensitizing 70 communities on menstrual hygiene
- providing support to just over 1,000 children with disabilities

Additionally, the project created safer learning environments by maintaining water supply to 14 schools in the Somali state of Jubaland. This effort helped mitigate the ongoing impact of drought.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

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

Story of change

[Adelle's story](#)





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Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

The Government of Canada remains committed to protecting and advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls. This work is increasingly important with the rising number of global conflicts and crises, which have amplified existing gender inequalities and exacerbated sexual and gender-based violence. Coordinated movements threaten to roll back the rights of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, including laws and policies that support gender equality.

Canada's international assistance policy and programming in this area seek to **enhance the 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 the Government of Canada engages. To do this, the government supported a range of initiatives aimed at achieving results including:

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

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested approximately \$261 million in this action area, of which \$249 million is considered official development assistance. Our gender equality and empowerment of women and girls programming supported 136 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of projects and their impact in this area.

Achievements in the spotlight

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada reached more than 40 million people through projects that addressed sexual and gender-based violence.

Through signature initiatives like the Women's Voice and Leadership Program and the Equality Fund, the government supported the work of more than 3,000 women's rights organizations and feminist movements. In 2023-2024, the Equality Fund granted \$21.9 million to women's rights and feminist organizations in some 100 countries to build their capacity to drive changes in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in their communities. The Government of



Canada renewed its support to Women's Voice and Leadership, committing \$195 million over five years, and \$43.3 million each year thereafter. This assistance will help women's rights organizations and LGBTQI groups in more than 30 countries.

Addressing sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation or cutting

In 2023-2024, Canada's contribution to the [UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation](#) supported the empowerment of women and girls to understand and assert their rights to bodily autonomy and change social and gender norms (United Nations Population Fund, \$7.5 million, 2023-2025). As the largest global program addressing the harmful practice of female genital mutilation, the program works to advance women's and girls' rights, health, and well-being.

Last year, more than a million girls and young women in 17 countries participated in activities provided by this program. These activities focused on the health and well-being of women and girls. This participation far exceeded the annual target of just over 400,000 participants. This was achieved, in part, through girls' clubs that provided space to discuss ways to take action to promote gender equality and prevent female genital mutilation in their communities.

In 2023-2024, the program empowered more than 50,000 religious, community and traditional leaders to publicly denounce female genital mutilation. In addition, it established surveillance systems that prevented approximately 162,000 girls, aged 14 and younger, from undergoing this harmful practice. The program enhances the capacity of national health, education, and child protection systems to provide appropriate services to girls and women. This support enabled more than 900,000 girls and women to receive female genital mutilation or cutting prevention and protection services. It led regional, national and local movements to advocate for the elimination of the practice. For example, in Eritrea, the program supported collaborations between the National Union of Eritrean Women and government ministries, which resulted in 16 subregions declaring that they were female genital mutilation-free.

In 2023-2024, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) provided almost \$44,000 to an [initiative](#) that enhanced sexual and gender-based violence survivors' access to quality care and psychosocial support services in Nigeria (\$420,000, 2023-2024). While modest in size, the project delivered support to almost 2,000 individuals, offering training to first responders, law enforcement officers and sexual and gender-based violence case managers to improve care for these survivors.

By increasing sexual and gender-based violence survivors' access to counseling and justice services, the project has helped survivors regain self-esteem, rebuild their lives and restore hope. In many cases, the initiative enabled victims to escape their abusers, receive counseling, and break free from the cycle of abuse.



Supporting and strengthening women's rights organizations and movements to drive change in their countries

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada continued to support local women's rights organizations in Kenya through a [project](#) aimed at enhancing governance, management, programming, and sustainability of these organizations (CARE Canada, \$8 million, 2019-2024). This support has enabled partner organizations to better serve and advocate for women and girls at a time when Kenya is witnessing a rise in gender-based violence and femicide as well as increased attacks on the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

In 2023-2024, the project funded 113 women's rights organizations and seven feminist networks. These organizations support diverse groups such as rural women, youth, 2SLGBTQI+ women, ethnic minorities, widows, women with disabilities, and sex workers. As a result of the project, the organizations have improved their governance, organizational development, strategic planning, negotiation skills, risk management, and resource mobilization. For example, one of the organizations, CRAWN Trust, successfully worked with its partners to influence six national policies to improve the lives of Kenyan women and girls, demonstrating the effectiveness of its advocacy work and engagement.

Since January 2019, a [project](#) in Sri Lanka has helped 62 women's rights organizations improve their governance and management systems (The Asia Foundation, more than \$2.8 million, 2019-2023). Over the five years of the project, these organizations have adopted best-practices resulting in:

- improved project, organizational, and human resource management
- enhanced leadership and opportunities for staff
- better reports and financial accountability
- increased visibility of women's rights organizations to other donors
- increased partnerships with other organizations and government
- increased fundraising
- better approaches to addressing women's rights
- increased capacities in project proposal development, donor engagement, workplans, timelines, and monitoring and reporting

At the community level, women's rights organizations raised awareness of gender dynamics and women's rights, and increased women's participation. They contributed to the National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, adopted by the Sri Lankan government in March 2023, and the National Plan of Action on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, approved by the Sri Lankan Cabinet on July 11, 2024. As a result, 33 women's rights organizations reported better engagement in national and regional platforms, contributing to the advancement of gender equality in Sri Lanka.

Supporting evidence-based policy-making and program delivery for gender equality



With support from the Canadian government, a [project](#) improved protection for Venezuelan migrant and refugee children in Brazil, particularly vulnerable adolescent girls and 2SLGBTQI+ youth in the North (UNICEF, \$5 million, 2022-2024). In 2023, more than 234,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees entered Brazil, 29% of whom were children and adolescents. More than 5,000 of these young people were undocumented, unaccompanied, and/or separated from their families, a 25% increase from the previous year. Thanks in part to the government's \$5 million investment, this UNICEF-led project successfully facilitated the adoption of new national standards for the protection of migrant children. It improved guidance for local authorities on upholding migrant children's rights to documentation and citizenship.

Through this project, a case management system was introduced, helping more than 15,000 Venezuelan children and caregivers. By creating safe spaces and supporting mental health initiatives, such as the [Super Panas](#) program, the project has provided gender-sensitive services for adolescent girls and 2SLGBTQI+ youth. It has bolstered gender-based violence prevention and promoted children's and women's rights through campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence.

In Lebanon, the Integrating Gender Equality into Lebanese Institutions [project](#) in 2023-2024 conducted gender reviews and assessments of national institutions, including ministries and security agencies (UNPD, nearly \$3.9 million, 2020-2024). This resulted in 10 gender assessments and policy papers. The project also delivered 20 gender capacity-building sessions for 151 staff members, leading to the development of eight gender-sensitive policy papers and tools to improve evidence-based policymaking.

The project also worked with Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) partners to enhance gender-based responses to Lebanon's ongoing crises. For instance, the project supported the development of 28 projects that incorporate gender and provided gender capacity-building training to almost 248 LCRP partners. The project's efforts have contributed to a more inclusive and equitable institutional environment as:

- 93% of the staff at targeted institutions perceived that their respective capacity on gender equality and women's empowerment was strengthened
- 90% of LCRP sectors have improved their gender and age inclusivity, achieving the highest possible rating on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee gender and age marker
- 78% of targeted LCRP partners reported integrating gender analysis and responses into their programming

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada, through the International Development Research Centre, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Social Sciences and the Humanities Research Council of Canada, worked with 23 research teams from low- and middle-income countries on an [initiative](#) called Women RISE to improve women's health and socio-economic well-being (\$24 million, 2023-2024). The initiative examines how women's health and work (paid or unpaid) intersect in the context of COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery across developing



countries. Last year, Women RISE research findings influenced a range of policies in the countries where this project is active to strengthen social protections, improve working conditions and ensure better preparedness for future crises for women. In Ecuador, for example, the municipal government of Cuenca has improved labour regulations to reduce the exposure of waste pickers to biohazardous material, thereby improving their health. In Uganda, the district of Busia has introduced new services to provide young women working in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector with identity cards to enable them to access financial loans and health care. In Ghana, a Women RISE project is helping to form a nationally recognized association of bushmeat traders and hunters. This enables female traders to benefit from government social support initiatives, including affordable health care and alternative livelihood opportunities.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

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

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

Other

[Digna, Canadian Centre of Expertise on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(hosted by Cooperation Canada\)](#)

[About Digna - Digna](#)

[Home - Equality Fund Fonds Égalité](#)

[Women's Voice and Leadership Program](#)

Story of change

[A Breakthrough for Women and Politics in Mongolia](#)





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Global health and nutrition

In 2023-2024, the global health context remained challenging with multiple factors affecting the health of populations and country health systems around the world. Ongoing conflicts and crises, rising inflation and food prices, and climate change-driven events and conditions had a significant impact on the well-being of the poorest and most vulnerable. This impact was especially severe for women, adolescents and children. Health systems, still rebuilding from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to struggle with—and better prepare for—existing and emerging infectious disease threats. In addition, ongoing conflicts have disrupted childhood vaccination programs, resulting, for instance, in polio reappearing in regions that were previously polio-free.

In 2023, the number of people facing hunger and food insecurity globally reached approximately [733 million](#). This constitutes one in 11 people worldwide, and one in five in Africa. Food insecurity is even more pronounced among women and girls, who often eat last and least. Within this context, the Government of Canada continued to work with Canadian and global stakeholders to advance global health and rights.

The current phase of Canada's leadership in global health is guided by its [10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights](#) (10YC, 2020-2030). It commits Canada's global health spending to increase to \$1.4 billion by 2023-2024, with \$700 million dedicated to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Canada's \$520 million pledge over 5 years (2021-2024) to support gender-sensitive interventions for the poorest and most vulnerable made under our [Tokyo Nutrition for Growth \(N4G\) Summit](#) commitment is a key component of the 10YC global health investments.

Canada's policy and programming work in Health and Nutrition ultimately aims at contributing to **improved health and equal enjoyment of health rights for those experiencing poverty, marginalization and/or vulnerability** in countries where the Government of Canada engages. To achieve this, the government has invested in a range of projects and initiatives aimed at the following expected outcomes:

- increased use of gender-responsive quality health services
- improved healthy behaviours and practices that support women's autonomy and decision-making



- strengthened equal protection and promotion of sexual, reproductive and health rights of citizens by governments and key stakeholders

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested approximately \$1,402 million in this action area, of which \$1,400 million is considered official development assistance. Our global health and nutrition programming supported 141 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of projects and their impact in this area.

Achievements in the spotlight

Increasing the use of gender-responsive quality health services

The disruption of childhood vaccination coverage in fragile, conflict-affected, and vulnerable countries has resulted in a resurgence of polio in a number of countries. The Government of Canada supported the Global Polio Eradication [Initiative](#) (GPEI) to continue to reduce polio cases worldwide, especially in countries where the disease is regularly occurring ([UNICEF](#), \$50 million, 2021-2023 and [World Health Organization](#), \$100 million, 2021-2024).

The Government of Canada's support contributed to approximately 120 polio immunization campaigns in 30 countries in 2023-2024 to reduce polio cases through house-to-house immunization methods and awareness-raising activities.

The Government of Canada also provided focused support in [Afghanistan](#) (2021-2024, \$15 million), where UNICEF and the WHO implemented community engagement and communication strategies that supported the vaccination of 11.9 million children. Over 25 million people were reached through social media channels to increase awareness and support for vaccination campaigns. The Government of Canada also contributed to the deployment of over 9,000 social mobilizers who were essential for community engagement and mobilization in hard-to-reach and high-risk areas. This initiative provided other critical health services to the Afghan people such as distributing 2.2 million bars of soap to promote hygiene practices and prevent the spread of other diseases.

In Benin, Burkina Faso, and Haiti, the Government of Canada funded a [project](#) that has helped to increase access to sexual and reproductive health care for marginalized and vulnerable people, particularly adolescent girls and young women (Doctors of the World Canada, \$33.3 million, 2021-2027). Accessing quality sexual and reproductive health services can be challenging for many adolescent girls and young women. This is due to a lack of services and restrictive social and cultural norms. However, since the start of the project in September 2021, there has been a 71% increase in sexual and reproductive health consultations by young people in 44 project-supported health facilities in Burkina Faso. In 2023-2024, training provided to some 500 healthcare providers played a key role in this change, as it focused on the specific needs and rights of adolescents and youth. The project is one of 11 Canadian-funded initiatives resulting from the [Health and Rights for](#)



[Women, Adolescent Girls and Children](#) call for proposals under Canada's [10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights](#).

Access to gender-sensitive nutrition is key to ensuring positive health outcomes. For example, in Haiti, a [project](#) improved integrated health services for women, teenage girls and children by providing essential health services, focusing on gender-sensitive nutrition support for vulnerable children (UNFPA, \$26 million, 2018-2023). Since the project began in 2018, supported facilities treated over 12,000 children for malnutrition, addressing more than 3,700 cases of severe acute malnutrition and just over 8,500 cases of moderate acute malnutrition. By strengthening the capacity of local health centres and using a community-based outreach strategy, through a network of 137 community health workers, the project extended nutrition services to households in remote areas. These efforts targeted the poorest and most marginalized children who face heightened risks of malnutrition-related health complications.

Innovation is also key to improving access to essential services. Under the [Canadian Small and Medium Organizations \(SMOs\) for Impact and Innovation Initiative](#), 12 SMOs tested innovative solutions through the [Fund for Innovation and Transformation \(FIT\)](#) in 2023-2024. For example, in Ethiopia, a [FIT project](#) tested mobile ultrasound services in select health centres for pregnant women in remote areas (Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief, \$250,000). While small in size, this investment supported an innovation that improved prenatal care access for 2,795 pregnant women, surpassing the initial goal by 23%. The project also helped reduce undetected pregnancy complications from 20% to 6%.

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

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada continued to invest in initiatives that ensure children under five receive vitamin A supplements, an essential strategy to support child survival. For example, the government invested in a [project](#) that aims to improve the equity and effectiveness of vitamin A supplementation delivery to children in 15 African countries (UNICEF, \$34 million, 2023-2025). As a result of this initiative, almost 42,000 women's groups, across nine African countries, were provided with the knowledge, skills and social support to improve child nutrition. In addition, the project launched eight nutrition literacy and gender-related awareness campaigns in three countries, reaching more than 1.9 million women and 1.2 million men. These efforts helped ensure that 33.8 million children received their two doses of vitamin A supplements. This was done in conjunction with training almost 28,000 health workers and managers on gender equity and gender-related barriers to supplement delivery.

Through funding to Nutrition International (NI), the Government of Canada continued to promote nutrition interventions for women and children in over 60 countries. The [initiative](#) provides technical expertise to governments, the African Union and other regional organizations to reduce malnutrition rates (Nutrition International, \$280 million, 2019-2025). For example, in 2023-2024, NI provided 157



million children with vitamin A supplementation. Through its support to over 1,000 community groups, it helped increase the decision-making power of women and girls. This was achieved, in part, through support to community groups, such as girls' clubs and pregnant women support groups, to talk about gender-based constraints and advocacy. Work with these groups included developing or amending over 41 evidence-informed, gender-responsive behaviour change intervention strategies.

The [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) continues to invest in global health research, focusing on three key areas: sex and gender, non-communicable diseases, and health emergencies (\$13.9 million, 2023-2024). This funding is enabling the generation and translation of knowledge that will improve the quality of life for people in developing countries, Canada and around the world. In partnership with the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research awarded a grant for a new [project](#) (\$2 million, 2024-2029) that will support the implementation of a tailored intervention in underserved areas in Tamale, Ghana, and Montréal, Canada, aimed at promoting physical activity in urban settings and improving the delivery of primary non-communicable disease prevention services in urban health systems.

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

In 2023-2024, support for a project in the Tchologo region in Côte d'Ivoire (project available [here](#) and [here](#)), is enabling women and adolescent girls to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and improve their health and that of their children by supporting stronger and more inclusive governance and gender equality in health (Action Against Hunger, \$6.2 million, 2021-2026). This project trained 18 public administration officials and 46 community leaders, as well as increased the participation of women on various management committee meetings in 13 of the 15 health centres supported by the project. These efforts enhanced women's and girls' influence over health services and increased their involvement in decision making and management. Last year, this project conducted awareness raising activities that reached over 192,000 people, 60% of whom were women and adolescent girls. This outreach was complemented by support to health facilities and efforts to improve the quality of care through staff training and the upgrading of their infrastructure.

In 2023-2024, a Canadian-funded [project](#) contributed to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in sub-Saharan Africa including in Tanzania and Senegal (MSI Reproductive Choices, \$10 million, 2023-2027). The project helped almost 188,000 clients in Tanzania receive family planning and safe abortion services, 21% of whom were adolescents. In Senegal, the project conducted more than 5,000 client visits, providing some 1,600 family planning and safe abortion services. In both Senegal and Tanzania, an estimated 19,500 couples were reached with family planning services. In both countries, the project continues to work with governments and various partners to review and develop guidelines that aim to create a more enabling environment for realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Canada's [investment](#) in the [Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents](#) (GFF) contributed to important structural advancements that enhanced the ability of partner governments to protect and promote health rights, including sexual and reproductive rights (IBRD Trust Funds – World Bank, \$150 million, 2021-2025). By 2023, 33 out of 36 partner countries had finalized investment cases that implemented strategies prioritizing actions for women's, children's, and adolescents' health. In 2023-2024, three countries initiated work to adopt legislative reforms on sexual and reproductive health and rights:

- Niger adopted legislative reform to include comprehensive sexuality education in schools
- Cameroon reversed legislation preventing pregnant girls from attending schools
- Benin adopted legislation increasing access to contraception and youth-friendly services for adolescents

Since joining the Global Financing Facility (GFF), partner countries have invested 38% more of the World Bank financing in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition than before joining the GFF. This has helped unlock more than US\$4 billion in additional World Bank financing for high-impact interventions for women, children and adolescents. These funds are aimed at improving the health of women, children and adolescents in partner countries, focusing on health priorities that might not have otherwise received funding. GFF partner countries continue to scale service delivery faster than countries that are GFF eligible but not yet supported. All partner countries currently supported by the GFF have shown declines in adolescent birth rates and maternal mortality. Almost all have seen declines in under-five mortality, neonatal mortality, and stunting in children under five years of age.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

[Action Area Policy: Human Dignity \(Health and Nutrition\)](#)

Report

[Canada's 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights: Measuring the progress](#)

Other

[Global Health Innovation - Grand Challenges Canada](#)

Story of change

[Doctors making a difference in Bolivia](#)





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Inclusive economic growth

This action area aims at contributing to **enhanced economic well-being and enjoyment of economic rights for the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable, including women and girls, and people with disabilities.** This area supports interventions in countries where the Government of Canada engages and that are affected by persistent and extreme poverty. To do this, the government funded a range of projects and initiatives under this action area that aim to achieve outcomes related to the following areas:

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

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested approximately \$952 million in this action area, of which \$828 million is considered official development assistance. Our inclusive economic growth programming supported 140 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of projects and their impact in this area.

Achievements in the spotlight

Bringing down barriers to women’s economic empowerment

In Ethiopia, the Government of Canada invested in a [project](#) that enhances decision making, resource control, and leadership among women entrepreneurs (IBRD Trust Funds – World Bank, \$16 million, 2019-2024). The project improves women’s access to finance by providing innovative financial options through banks. It supports programs and policies that address specific challenges and barriers facing women entrepreneurs. As of the end of March 2024, the project launched a total of 14 pilots, surpassing the original target of 12. This included seven focused on business support services and seven on financial services tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs. The financial services provided through the project included:

- financial management or accounting application
- uncollateralized digital lending
- digital payments
- climate adaptation financing for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises



So far, four financial institutions are offering cash flow-based lending (loan tied to business income), psychometric-based lending (loan assessment using personality traits), and revenue-based financing (loan repaid as a percentage of business revenue) to women entrepreneurs. In total, six Ethiopian financial institutions are now providing innovative financial services that are helping women entrepreneurs who otherwise, would not have had access to capital to advance their business initiatives.

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested in a [project](#) that enhanced the economic empowerment and resilience of women farmers in Senegal's Casamance region by increasing the availability and access to financial products and services tailored to their needs (SOCODEVI, over \$9.8 million, 2021-2026). The project works with grassroots cooperatives and regional financial institutions to enhance their capacity to develop and implement innovative business models for distributing agricultural insurance to women and women's groups.

Last year, the project trained almost 8,000 women in financial education, surpassing the initial target of 7,000. To meet the needs of women farmers, 155 organizations, including agricultural cooperatives and decentralized financial systems, were offered climate-smart services such as agricultural insurance and climate information. This was more than three times the number of organizations reached in 2022-2023. Through the project, an estimated \$1.2 million in loans were granted to women and covered by agricultural insurance in the southern and central target zones. The project aims to build the capacity of Senegal's national agricultural insurance company and national financial institutions to develop and provide products and services that meet the needs of women. In 2023-2024, more than 844,000 policyholders were registered, including some 258,000 women. The direct beneficiaries represent 7,000 women members of 150 agricultural groups in the rural regions of Casamance.

The Government of Canada invested in a [project](#) in Egypt that supports women's economic empowerment (UN Women, \$8.9 million, 2019-2026). More than 7,500 Egyptian women were trained in post-harvest skills in 2023-2024, including 214 women with disabilities. Seventy-nine per cent of the women who received training were then able to gain employment. In addition, more than 300 women entrepreneurs received coaching on sustainable business models. Nearly 800 more women were provided access to financial and non-financial services. The project helped create more than 500 new job opportunities, with 94% of new hires being women. Eighty-eight per cent of these jobs are with businesses that use eco-friendly processes such as recycling and resource efficiency. Last year, in terms of institutional support, the project had enhanced gender-responsive services delivery across various ministries to improve their business support services and gender-responsive planning and budgeting. This was achieved through a series of workshops that provided hands-on skills in problem analysis and program development using the logical framework, incorporating gender equality and women's empowerment principles. In collaboration with the National Council for Women, UN Women provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance to develop innovative financing tools, with a special focus on gender-responsive bonds under Egypt's Sovereign Sustainable Financing Framework. Additionally, they supported the gender-responsive



budgeting intervention in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and nine other ministries.

Building more inclusive and sustainable economies

In East and West Africa, a [project](#) on leadership and investment enhanced economic opportunities for marginalized groups to improve their social and economic well-being. (Acumen Fund Inc., \$4.8 million, 2020-2025). In 2023-2024, the project positively impacted 15,100 individuals, half of whom were women. This included support to social enterprises delivering essential goods and services. This enabled early-stage companies in Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya to grow and create new job opportunities. Last year, more than 240 emerging business leaders from 11 countries participated in the project's development programs and 70 entrepreneurs participated in specialized accelerator programs. Almost all the participants indicated that they had benefited from the program, including expanding their professional networks. Overall, the companies supported by this project reached more than 56.9 million people with innovative solutions, exceeding the target of 40 million people. In addition, 84% of those impacted by the project reported an improved quality of life.

In 2023-2024, a Canada-funded initiative improved access to work and self-employment opportunities for the poorest and most marginalized in the West Bank, particularly women. The [project](#) facilitated access to both domestic and international markets for women-led micro, small and medium enterprises (Cowater International Inc., \$9.9 million, 2018-2024). Last year, it supported women producers by connecting them with local and export market opportunities. This included markets in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Israel, and Canada. This support contributed to a more inclusive economy by helping women entrepreneurs grow their businesses and increase their incomes.

The project is also fostering the growth of a green economy in the West Bank by supporting women-owned businesses in the renewable energy sector. It has helped establish a female-owned energy audit company, with two more companies in the authorization process. It focused on enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of women-led enterprises by strengthening the technical, business, and managerial capacities of women-led micro, small and medium enterprises.

In 2023-2024, the Canadian government helped improve the protection of vulnerable migrants in Latin America. It helped origin, transit, and destination countries better respond to and manage the region's large-scale migration and forced displacements. For instance, in Costa Rica, the Government of Canada worked with the International Organization for Migration and others to support legal reforms to expand the Labour Migration Traceability System. The system monitors the transit of migrant workers and provides identity documents in real-time, giving workers migratory status in Costa Rica. The reforms expanded the sectors included in the system from agriculture to construction and cargo or people transportation. This has helped ensure that migrant workers have better access to services and economic opportunities.



Strengthening economic resilience

In Cuba, the Government of Canada is supporting a [project](#) that enhances financial security and economic resilience for Cuba's poorest and most vulnerable, particularly rural women, by strengthening three fruit production chains (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], \$7.5 million, 2017-2024). Despite ongoing economic challenges, in 2023 the project empowered almost 1,900 fruit farmers, including more than 500 women, to improve their yields. For example, fruit production surged in the town of Alquizar, with mango yields increasing by 116% and guava by 328%. Agrofrutales prioritized gender inclusivity, doubling the number of female presidents of cooperatives and elevating women's representation in decision-making roles to 51%. The project supported 12 women-led enterprises and installed micro-industries that processed 2.4 tons of fruit per hour, adding over \$2.7 million in value. By facilitating the processing of surplus fruit, Agrofrutales enabled farmers to reduce post-harvest losses and secure new revenue streams. In addition, the project provided comprehensive training, equipment, and technical assistance. It gave rural women the tools to withstand economic shocks, diversify their income, and contribute meaningfully to Cuba's food security and resilience.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

[Action Area Policy: Growth that Works for Everyone](#)

Story of change

[Her Time to Grow](#)





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Climate and environment

Climate change and biodiversity loss pose a growing threat to the planet and all people and species. The climate crisis is exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and contributing to insecurity. It threatens long-term development gains in [health](#), [food security](#) and [the economy](#). Developing countries are often the hardest hit and the least equipped to prevent and cope with the consequences of climate change.

The financing needed to address climate change and biodiversity loss is immense. According to the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance, estimates suggest that up to [US\\$6.5 trillion](#) is needed annually, for all countries, by 2030 to meet the goals of the [Paris Agreement](#). According to the [Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), [US\\$700 billion per year](#) is needed to close the finance gap in order to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and protect vulnerable species. However, public finance alone will not meet this level of needed investment. The private sector must play an important role in global efforts to reach the investment levels required to create low-carbon and climate-resilient communities.

In 2023-2024, Canada's climate finance supported national and local governments around the world, especially in the Caribbean, to strengthen 290 laws, policies or programs in areas such as economic development, housing, agriculture, and natural resource management. The Government of Canada also supported the development or adoption of an additional 53 laws, policies or programs specifically focused on [nature-based solutions](#). These new laws, policies and programs strengthened climate actions related to the [circular economy](#), conservation, pasture management, transboundary water management, and monitoring progress toward [nationally determined contributions](#).

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 the Government of Canada engages. To do this, the government invested in a range of projects and initiatives that seek to achieve outcomes in the following areas:

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



In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested approximately \$1,342 million in this action area, of which \$877 million is considered official development assistance on a grant equivalent basis. Our climate and environment programming supported 138 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of key projects and their impact in this area.

Achievements in the spotlight

Canada's funding in the climate and environment area enabled developing countries to reduce, avoid or remove an expected 282 megatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere. It supported climate change adaptation initiatives that benefited 7.7 million people.

The Government of Canada has established bilateral climate funds with the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Group, and the World Bank Group. These funds are designed to catalyze public and private sector investment that would not otherwise happen due to market barriers in developing countries. These barriers include low returns on investment, the innovative nature of the proposed climate-related technology or perceived versus actual risk, which are partly due to political or social instability. These climate funds were a large part of the private sector mobilization for Canadian climate finance in 2023, which mobilized \$1.19 for every dollar spent.

Enhancing environmental governance and women's empowerment

The effects of droughts, floods and other climate-related disasters is felt disproportionately by the poor, including men and women farmers in rural communities. Climate risk insurance can assist recovery when disaster does strike. Climate disasters affect women and men in different ways, and risk insurance products must meet the needs of both. In 2023-2024, the Support to the African Risk Capacity Agency (ARC) [project](#) (World Food Programme, \$17 million, 2023-2026) and the Centre of Excellence on Gender-smart Solutions [project](#) (German Society for International Cooperation, \$2.3 million, 2021-2026) worked together to provide training on gender issues in agriculture and climate disaster risk insurance to 1,350 insurance adjusters and risk assessors. They linked trainees with experts from academia, the private sector, and the World Bank to:

- build skills in designing gender-sensitive risk insurance products
- develop policies that address gender gaps and promote inclusive risk insurance
- build women's leadership capacity in insurance regulatory organizations

In 2023-2024, a Canada-funded [project](#) helped improve livelihoods for women in remote rural regions of Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania through the use of agroecological approaches (SeedChange, nearly \$15 million, 2021-2026). The project provided support to women's rights and agricultural-based organizations to:

- advance climate adaptation
- increase food security



- enhance gender equality
- reduce sexual and gender-based violence

Last year, the project trained more than 7,500 individuals in agroecological strategies, technologies and practices to reduce climate vulnerability and build knowledge about women's empowerment. As a result of the project, 55 rural community organizations and private sector actors started offering financial and technical support to women farmers. Since the project started in 2021, it has helped ensure that 78% of community members practice the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity resources. This includes on-farm and community seed bank conservation systems, seed multiplication, agroforestry, and the selection and breeding of locally adapted crop varieties.

Last year, the Government of Canada continued to deliver support to the [International Model Forest Network \(IMFN\)](#), the world's largest network dedicated to sustainable landscape governance. In 2023-2024, the IMFN Secretariat implemented the second year of its [platforms](#) to scale up nature-based leadership (\$18.7 million, 2022-2026). Last year, IMFN Climate funded 10 partners across Africa, Asia and Latin America, which resulted in:

- over 240 hectares of land being restored or rehabilitated using gender responsive, nature-based solutions
- over 800 people being trained on how to develop and implement nature-based climate solutions
- 47 next-generation forest leaders being awarded scholarships

These investments have enabled young leaders to pursue graduate studies in fields related to forest and landscape restoration, climate change and sustainable forest management. These emerging leaders now have the potential to positively impact their communities, landscapes, and global narratives for climate and biodiversity action.

Mobilizing businesses for environmental performance

The [Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in the Americas](#) initiative [Phase 1](#) (IDB, \$250 million, 2012-2037) and [Phase 2](#) (IDB, \$223.5 million, 2019-2044) provides loans at below-market rates combined with extra financing from the Inter-American Development Bank to stimulate private sector climate investments in Latin America and the Caribbean. This helps to start large projects in renewable energy, energy efficiency, biofuels, or sustainable agriculture and forestry. Because of their innovative nature, these projects would not be bankable if dependent on standard commercial loans. As of December 2023, the IDB has approved 35 climate change projects in 15 Latin American countries and one project in the Caribbean. They are expected to prevent 9.2 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. They provide employment to women and minority groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). A third phase of the initiative, the [Canadian Net Zero and Climate Resilience Accelerator Fund](#), was announced in March 2024. The fund will continue to incentivize private-sector investments in projects that will help economies in Latin America and the Caribbean become less carbon-intensive, more climate resilient and more



inclusive. The Fund is expected to attract an additional US\$2.7 billion from both private and public sectors. For every dollar invested, the aim is to generate eight dollars in total investments, with two of those dollars coming from the private sector.

In addition, the Government of Canada has contributed to the Gigaton [Fund](#) (Mirova Gigaton Fund S.A., \$42 million, 2023-2038) which supports private investment into small and medium enterprises in developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. This funding helped boost economic growth and reduce poverty. As of December 2023, the Fund contributed to providing over 260,000 people with new or improved energy access and supported over 1,400 jobs, while mobilizing approximately \$34 million in private capital.

Canada's support to the [Africa Renewable Energy Initiative \(AREI\)](#) has helped to improve sustainable energy access and climate resilience across Africa, with a focus on gender-responsive solutions (International Finance Corporation, \$150 million, 2017-2040). AREI is mobilizing Africa's renewable energy potential to generate 300 GW of additional capacity by 2030. To date, \$80 million has been invested in solar, hydropower and mini-grid projects across the continent.

In 2023-2024, the initiative provided US\$25 million in concessional financing to a private sector venture for modular solar PV and battery storage solutions in Chad and Cameroon. This will add a combined 71 MW to national grids and reduce annual carbon emissions by 62,200 tonnes. Another US\$10 million concessional loan enabled the [Facility for Energy Inclusion](#) to provide debt financing to companies in decentralized renewable energy sectors, including mini-grids and small independent power producers. Last year, AREI established an [Energy2Equal program](#) that worked to address gender gaps and boost women's participation in leadership and technical roles in the renewable energy sector. By combining clean energy expansion with efforts to improve inclusion, Canada's partnership with AREI is leading the way for business solutions to the climate crisis and its impact in Africa.

Canada's investment in a sustainable energy project (project link [here](#) and [here](#)) in Jordan has enhanced the livelihoods of women, youth, and marginalized groups in poor communities of the Jordan Valley region through renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions (Cowater International Inc., \$24.4 million, 2016-2023). By improving skills and employment prospects in the renewable energy sector, particularly for women and youth, the project accelerated growth in this sector. Over the past eight years, the project has increased access to and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions in the Deir Alla and Ajloun regions. This improved access to clean energy for nearly 77,000 people. The project improved both the knowledge of clean energy solutions and employment opportunities for skilled workers in Jordan's renewable energy and energy efficiency sector. Through the project, 315 individuals have found employment, including 1,243 women. Some 1,500 individuals have received training, including more than 50 women and some 1,000 youth, increasing their capacities to develop and implement solutions to transition to clean energy. The project's activities resulted in the introduction of five policies, mechanisms or procedures aimed at supporting the growth of the micro and small renewable energy sector in Jordan.



Increasing environmental practices that support healthy, resilient and adaptive communities

The Government of Canada is helping those living along rivers and coastlines in developing countries to improve methods of managing invasive species, strengthen the management of marine protected areas and watersheds, restore mangroves and rehabilitate reefs. For example, in 2023-2024, a Canada-funded [initiative](#) supported 22 nature-based solutions projects that aimed to strengthen climate change resilience, economies and communities in 14 Pacific Island States (Agence Française de Développement, \$10 million, 2020-2027). These projects rehabilitated, protected, conserved or sustainably managed more than 27,500 hectares of terrestrial or marine environment. They enhanced the adaptive capacity of over 10,500 people, including 4,000 women. Kiwa has trained more than 200 people, 60% of whom are women, in the following areas:

- gender equality and social inclusion
- marine ecosystem management
- environmental and social safeguards
- design and implementation of nature-based solutions projects

The project has supported 165 community-based organizations to take leadership roles in applying ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine protected areas, watershed biodiversity, and community-based fisheries. It has supported their ability to lead reef and mangrove restoration, prevent poaching, and to develop ridge-to-reef adaptation as a rehabilitation approach.

In Nicaragua, the Canadian government financed a [project](#) that boosted investment in gender-responsive, sustainable technology to improve equitable and sustainable livelihoods for women and men smallholder farmers (WFP, \$3 million, 2020-2024). This has transformed resilience and economic empowerment in the country—especially for women farmers in traditionally male-dominated rural areas. One of the achievements was a 27% reduction in the use of emergency methods of survival by households, surpassing the initial target by 7%. Of the more than 2,500 beneficiaries, 90% were women, highlighting the project's success in enhancing women's economic stability. In addition, the project also:

- enabled more than 4,500 farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture
- doubled the number of female presidents in farmer organizations, boosting women's representation in decision making
- established 30 women's economic empowerment groups, involving some 1,000 women, fostering essential skills in financial education and commercialization
- enabled almost 370 women to engage in value-addition activities, achieving an average profit margin of 30% and reducing dependence on climate-sensitive crops

By empowering women and enhancing community resilience, the project has successfully fostered sustainable, gender-responsive agricultural development, leaving beneficiaries better equipped to face economic and environmental challenges.



Last year, in Indonesia, a climate-resilient focused [project](#) contributed on integrating green growth strategies into provincial development plans by providing training to civil society and women's rights organizations (World Agroforestry Centre, \$17 million, 2021-2025). For example, in South Sumatra, South Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara, strategic environment assessments were improved by incorporating green growth, gender needs, climate change mitigation, sustainable land use, and food security. Through Canada's support, the project also:

- completed two forest management plans
- developed three hydrology databases
- produced two technical reports on analysis of identification of ground water and critical area for watershed management
- established 52 community-based, women-led agroforestry enterprises
- created 42 demonstration plots and 60 communal kitchen gardens

Forest management plans and hydrology databases in these critical ecosystems strengthen approaches for sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity protection, and water management. These tools build capacity for communities and local authorities to make informed decisions for enhanced water security, climate and disaster resilience, and sustainable farming practices.

These initiatives have significantly contributed to advancing sustainable landscape management practices. Working at provincial and community levels at the same time has helped to ensure that provincial officials have the policies, tools and knowledge necessary to support local people. This support aids them as they switch to climate-smart agriculture practices and make their local supply chains more climate-proof.

Alongside Global Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) provides climate finance to developing countries under Canada's \$5.3 billion climate finance commitment to support activities that help vulnerable communities mitigate and adapt to climate change. In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada announced several initiatives under this commitment, totalling over \$998 million in funding to address climate change internationally. This included:

- \$16 million for addressing loss and damage
- \$175.25 million for adaptation
- \$8.8 million for inclusive climate governance
- \$24.2 million for mitigation
- \$773.93 million in cross-cutting support

Canada's climate finance has produced a measurable impact since the launch of the \$2.65 billion commitment in 2015. The program expects to reduce or avoid over 514 megatonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and provide over 14 million people with increased resilience to climate change.



This financing is building resilience to climate impacts, improving disaster preparedness and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other climate pollutants. This includes transitioning away from unabated coal power. Projects funded through Canada's climate finance also help facilitate developing countries' access to climate finance, promote inclusive governance of climate action, and support international collaboration and research on environment and climate action.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

[Action Area Policy: Environment and Climate Action](#)

Story of change

[Action Beyond Words: RESTAURacción](#)





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Inclusive governance

As it focuses on improving state capacity and accountability, inclusive governance is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it is a broad issue, with notable challenges in many countries, including:

- regional instability and conflict
- the decline of democracy
- the erosion of human rights protections and the growing influence of the anti-gender movement
- the increasing risk of debt crises
- global competition on the rules for international taxation, the regulation of artificial intelligence, and responsible critical mineral supply chains

The Government of Canada continues to advocate for inclusive democratic governance and the protection of human rights. The inclusive governance 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 the Government of Canada engages. To do this, the government has invested in a range of initiatives to:

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

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested approximately \$481 million in this action area, of which \$397 million is considered official development assistance. Our inclusive governance programming supported 149 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of projects and their impact in this area.

Achievements in the spotlight



Promoting and protecting human rights

The Government of Canada continued to expand the role labour migration plays in creating stable and inclusive growth in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries through the TRIANGLE in ASEAN [project](#) (International Labour Organization, \$9.5 million, 2015-2025). The goal of the project to maximize the contribution of labour migration to development in the ASEAN region through more equitable distribution of benefits – was achieved by strengthening labour migration governance frameworks and empowering migrant workers to identify and demand their rights to decent work. In 2023-2024, the project helped bring about the adoption of three key policies at regional and national levels, including an ASEAN declaration on protecting migrant workers in crisis situations, and associated guidelines for their implementation. Other key results included:

- supporting 59 training events and opportunities, which reached more than 2,500 government, employer, worker, and civil society trainees at regional, national, provincial and local levels
- reaching more than 1.5 million people in the ASEAN region on the issue of equitable migrant labour through knowledge products, advocacy and other communication materials
- contributing to the recommendation at the 16th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour to make legal migration pathways more equitable and inclusive by addressing violence and discriminatory barriers towards vulnerable workers

Globally, 2SLGBTQI+ people, communities and organizations continue to face discrimination. The Government of Canada is working to support the protection of human rights of 2SLGBTQI+ people in developing countries. The government supported a [project](#) with the Commonwealth Equality Network's (TCEN) secretariat (Kaleidoscope Trust, \$625,000, 2021-2026), which exemplifies the transformative power of collective action and strategic partnerships. For example, in 2023-2024, through its work with local partners in Botswana, the project successfully advocated for the adoption of 2SLGBTQI+ responsive healthcare policies. In addition, the project successfully:

- provided training to TCEN member organizations on advocating for the protection and advancement of 2SLGBTQI+ human rights in Commonwealth fora
- conducted research on the diverse lived experiences of 2SLGBTQI+ people in developing countries
- provided technical advice to government officials that highlights 2SLGBTQI+ human rights and issues in Commonwealth countries

Recognizing that fundamental labour rights are an integral part of human rights, the Strengthening Labour Inspection in the Cambodian Garment Sector project made significant strides in advancing human rights by improving working conditions in its travel goods and bag factories in 2023-2024. Funded by Employment and Social Development Canada and implemented by Better Factories Cambodia, the project focused on fostering health and safety compliance in the garment industry through 10 capacity development activities. These activities included training sessions on:

- assessment processes and tools



- needs assessments
- effective workshop design and delivery for trainers
- gender-based violence and harassment awareness for trainers
- curriculum design
- freedom of association, gender equality, and communication and facilitation skills

These activities directly benefited some 100 participants, including 44 provincial labour inspectors, 32 national labour officials, 15 National Institute of Labour trainers, and nine officials from the Textile, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia and the Cambodia Garment Training Institute. By empowering these individuals, the project has helped strengthen the capacity of labour, occupational safety, and health inspectors to conduct effective inspections, thereby promoting safer and more equitable working environments in Cambodia's garment factories.

Providing equitable access to justice

In 2023-2024, a [project](#) in Honduras advanced equitable access to justice for women facing gender-based violence as well as marginalized groups such as the 2SLGBTQI+ community (Avocats Sans Frontières Canada, \$16.8 million, 2018-2026). The project fosters a legal environment where vulnerable groups can seek fair and equitable justice. For instance, the project enabled the defence of 92 cases, including 34 new cases this year, through sustained support to four dedicated legal offices. This benefited more than 900 individuals, including nearly 450 women. These efforts improved marginalized groups' access to essential legal supports and directly addressed barriers to justice that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

Canada's support enabled Avocats Sans Frontières Canada to provide critical support to local organizations that document cases of human rights violations against Afro-descendant Garifuna women and those living with HIV. This led to ground-breaking legal actions, including a case on forced sterilizations. This project enhanced the capacity of local organizations to:

- advocate for victims of intersectional discrimination and violence
- champion the rights of marginalized women and hold perpetrators accountable
- establish themselves as recognized legal actors

Through advocacy and strategic partnerships, Avocats Sans Frontières Canada facilitated the repeal of restrictive decrees that had previously hindered corruption investigations. This indirectly promoted a more transparent and accessible justice system in the country.

In 2023-2024, a [project](#) in Iraq improved access to fair, inclusive, and gender-responsive formal or informal justice institutions and services (UNICEF, nearly \$1.8 million, 2022-2024). Through the government's support, the project provided training to 53 government-supported youth centre staff on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse promoting more inclusive youth development initiatives. This increased participation in government-supported youth centres and fostered the integration of gender perspectives into youth empowerment programming. For example, the project selected more than 900 young people, more than half of whom were girls, to take part in youth



advisory groups in Anbar, Baghdad, and Basra. Involving youth in civic engagement activities and community-based initiatives enhanced their access to inclusive and gender-responsive services and empowered them to advocate for their rights and those of their peers.

Enabling participation in public life

Last year, the Government of Canada supported a [project](#) that contributed \$1 million to a multi-donor pooled fund that helped ensure transparency and inclusivity in Sierra Leone's 2023 electoral cycle, particularly for women, youth, and persons with disabilities (UNDP, \$1 million, 2023-2024). In particular, the fund supported capacity building, public awareness promotion, and civic engagement of election management bodies including the Electoral Commission, judiciary, and police. Key activities included:

- training 90 female political hopefuls to increase women's participation and address gender disparities in politics
- engaging over 32,000 youth through sensitization activities
- training 1,800 local electoral education committee members to enhance community engagement and support the participation of persons with disabilities in elections

The project made use of a digital platform that fact-checked 270 requests from the public on various questions related to the electoral process. This helped combat misinformation and disinformation and promote fact-based public discourse. As the result of these elections, 41 women have been elected as Members of Parliament, a significant increase from the 17 women elected in the previous elections. Another 167 women were also elected to local councils, the highest percentage in the country's history.

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada supported an [initiative](#) that helped increase political empowerment and enjoyment of rights in Pakistan (Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability, \$5 million, 2019-2023). Specifically, this project targeted young women, marginalized groups, and those at risk. In 2023-2024, the project enabled more than 59,000 women to obtain their official identity documents and register as voters, which brought the total number of women supported to almost 300,000 since the project began.

Ensuring public services work for everyone

In South Africa, the Government of Canada supported a [project](#) to strengthen ethics and integrity (Cowater International Inc., \$5.9 million, 2018-2025). The government helped to establish South Africa's Public Administration Ethics, Integrity, and Management Unit. More specifically, the Government of Canada assisted the new unit in creating a business model, securing funding, and hiring the necessary staff. As of March 2024, the project has helped the South African government by:

- providing technical support to 36 departments
- training over 2,500 public servants



- establishing national anti-harassment policies
- developing a conflict-of-interest guide
- creating a disciplinary management strategy and launching a dedicated website

Through these efforts, and enhancing ethics management, policy compliance, and advisory capabilities on corruption, the project contributes to strengthening the public service.

In Lebanon, Canada's support to several projects is enhancing decision making, participation and leadership for women and youth as well as promoting gender equality and social inclusion. In 2023-2024, these projects have each achieved targets that have benefited the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in Lebanon, including women, young girls, and children. For example, a [project](#) supported women cooperatives and associations in the agro-food sector (FAO, more than \$6.3 million, 2018-2024). It had a significant impact on women's economic participation and leadership within cooperatives, fostering their decision-making roles in local economies. By supporting 143 small-scale agri-food enterprises, this project benefited more than 2,700 individuals, the majority of whom were women. This resulted in a 177% increase in volume for the businesses and a 191% increase in revenue.

In Ghana, a [project](#) to improve efficiency and accountability in the delivery of services of 13 selected entities, including the Public Service Commission of Ghana, received critical support in 2023-2024. This support came from \$35 million in World Bank funding and technical assistance provided by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Canada. Among other things, the PSC hosted a delegation from Ghana for a study tour in October 2023. This provided the delegation with a better understanding of the strategies the Government of Canada has adopted to integrate gender mainstreaming and inclusion, and merit-based inclusive recruitment. These activities assisted the Ghana Public Services Commission to identify gaps in its gender implementation policy. It also resulted in progress toward the expected outcome of mainstreamed gender in the Ghana public service and gender inclusion at all levels. As of the project's conclusion in June 2024, all six institutional gender action plans, including one for the Ghana Public Service Commission, were implemented and completed.

As a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Canada Post supports the UPU's development and cooperation activities. These activities improve the quality of mail service around the world and help to reduce the postal divide between industrialized and developing countries. This includes conducting training for regional postal staff as well as providing postal equipment to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states. The goal is to address logistical gaps and improve their operational readiness for e-commerce. In 2023-2024, funding also went toward the UPU's disaster risk management and emergency assistance activities. For example, Ukrainian Post received funding to procure the equipment needed to restore its postal services. Projects were also launched to restore Pakistan's postal network after flooding in 2022 and to restore services in areas of Türkiye and Syria affected by the 2023 earthquake.



Since the Government of Canada launched the [Knowledge Sharing Platform for Tax Administrations](#) (KSP_{TA}) in 2016, it has helped build technical proficiency. It also helped advance professional development for tax administration staff working in developing countries. Led by the Canada Revenue Agency, the program provides access to a wide range of content contributed by leading tax administrations from around the world. The project offers virtual training, access to a community of tax experts and learning materials that provide guidance on best international practices in areas such as gender equality, diversity, inclusion and governance. Another key initiative in 2024 was the regional training on International Taxation and the Extractives Sector, hosted by the OECD and the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, in partnership with the African Tax Administration Forum and the Asian Development Bank. This training provided over 550 participants the opportunity to learn about recent international tax developments applicable to the extractive industries. It also offered practical ideas to improve mining revenue collection and fostered open discussions with government officials from other countries. The KSP_{TA} currently has over 36,000 registered users, represented by 209 jurisdictions and 30 regional or international organizations.

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada also provided support to developing countries to address tax challenges and enhance domestic resource mobilization. Last year, the Canada Revenue Agency hosted a delegation of six officials from the Direction Générale des Impôts de la Côte d'Ivoire for a four-day study visit. It focused on increasing revenue mobilization and taxpayer compliance, including the use of tools and software. The CRA hosted a delegation of nine officials from the Ghana Revenue Authority for a two-day study visit to increase Ghana's capacity in customer engagement and voluntary tax compliance. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the Canadian experience in voluntary tax compliance, exchange knowledge about Canada Revenue Agency's service delivery approach, simplified tax processes, and taxpayer education. These study visits increased knowledge and strengthened tax capacity and tax systems in the two countries. Since the Ghanaian delegation's visit, the Ghana Revenue Authority has provided training to its officials on empathy and client service, as well as shifted its enterprise priorities to focus on voluntary tax compliance and client service excellence.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

[Action Area Policy: Inclusive Governance](#)

Others

[Technical Assistance Partnership Program – Department of Justice Canada](#)

[Technical Assistance Partnership Program – Federal Judicial Affairs Canada](#)

[Technical Assistance Partnership Program – Natural Resources Canada](#)

Story of change

[Mobilizing excellence: Tapping into Canadian expertise to respond to needs for technical assistance](#)





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Peace and security

In recent years, armed violence, humanitarian crises, and the threat of terrorism and transnational crime have intensified around the world. Conflicts in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe have displaced millions of people, destabilized local governance and undermined democracy, safety, infrastructure and economic stability. As chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, as well as cyber threats, grow amid geopolitical instability, there is ongoing and growing need for international assistance to support peace and security objectives.

The Government of Canada has a long history of contributing to global peace, security, and stability. To effectively address evolving security threats and crises, the government provides this assistance through the following specialized programs:

- [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](#)

These programs work in collaboration with the security branches of other government departments and agencies. This collaboration equips Canada with a unique ability to contribute to international stability and achieve its national security and foreign policy priorities. As geo-strategic contexts evolve, these programs continuously adjust to address security challenges, aligning with Canadian interests and priorities.

Through its peace and security programming, the Government of Canada builds local and regional capacity to respond to emerging and evolving issues. This includes engaging directly with fragile and conflict-affected states and addressing proliferation challenges associated with particular states. Peace and security programming is also addressing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and enhancing cybersecurity, countering terrorism and transnational organized crime, advocating for electoral integrity and fostering global stability and democratic resilience.



Ultimately, this action area aims at **increasing 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 the Government of Canada engages. To do this, the government has invested in a range of programs and initiatives that aim to achieve outcomes in the following areas, ensuring a gender responsive and human rights-compliant approach:

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

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada invested approximately \$306 million in this action area, of which \$208 million is considered official development assistance. Our peace and security programming supported 151 countries in 2023-2024. The following section provides examples of projects and their impact in this area.

Achievements in the spotlight

Addressing violent conflict and fragility

In 2023-2024, Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Program contributed to improving accountability for conflict-related sexual violence. In Ukraine, a [project](#) (UNDP, more than \$4.5 million, 2023-2024) helped to support the rights and needs of conflict-related sexual violence survivors. It also involved civil society and women-led organizations in improving system-wide responses at both national and community levels.

Through this project, the Government of Canada helped various UN entities to enhance policies, guidance, and tools to implement conflict-related sexual violence support and the peace and security agenda, as well as to address the root causes of this type of violence against women. In 2023-2024, the project implementers organized scenario-based workshops on strengthening victim-centred accountability for conflict-related sexual violence crimes in Ukraine. During these workshops, 75 investigators, prosecutors and judges from seven regions gained a better understanding of how to investigate and prosecute cases within their national legal framework and in alignment with international best practices. Legal reforms in Ukraine included drafting law 9351, the Law on the Protection of Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. This law advocates for the inclusion of "crimes against humanity" provisions in the Criminal Code to strengthen justice for conflict-related sexual violence violations, and efforts to improve procedures for pre-trial investigations and court proceedings in criminal cases. Furthermore, 192 media and communication experts, two-thirds of whom were women, received training on survivor-centred, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed media and on the reporting of conflict-related sexual violence cases in an ethical manner. During this training, participants also discussed developing a national clinical management protocol and forensic procedures for rape. Through the project, the WHO trained 230 primary healthcare doctors across 10 regions of Ukraine on conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence services.



In 2023-2024, Canada's [Office of Human Rights, Freedoms, and Inclusion Program](#) funded a project (Transparency International [TI], nearly \$2.3 million, 2023-2026) that enhanced political finance transparency and gender equality in Indonesia and Venezuela.

In Indonesia, the program engaged almost 44,000 individuals in a pre-election monitoring campaign across 11 cities. This campaign revealed discrepancies between reported and actual political party funding, including gender-based financial inequalities. This resulted in the formation of a coalition to push for greater accountability in Indonesia's 2024 general and regional elections, with 14 media outlets reporting on findings. In Venezuela, TI initiated a broad scale pre-election skills-building program aimed at better informing citizens based on evidence and strengthening accountability mechanisms for a fair election. The project enabled 40 civil society members to use monitoring tools to highlight state resource abuses and electoral fraud. The program led to the documentation of over 300 state neutrality violations. Almost 500 individuals, civil society members, political party representatives, and independents participated in a series of 28 workshops on political finance violations and accountability. Collectively, these processes resulted in better informed citizens and strengthened accountability mechanisms.

By September 2024, the program conducted five regional consultations involving 52 TI chapters as well as a global event involving 26 organizations. It resulted in policy recommendations on implementing a new Global Standard on Political Finance Integrity and Gender Equality. The recommendations were based on expert reviews of incumbency abuse, financial barriers for women, and illicit financing.

In 2023-2024, the Government of Canada continued to meet its commitment to build a more secure world through the Canadian Policing Arrangement. As part of this arrangement, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) [International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations \(IPP\) Program](#) deployed over 40 Canadian police personnel to 12 international missions in ten countries. These deployments helped rebuild or strengthen police services in countries experiencing conflict or upheaval. For example, personnel deployed to the Specialized Police Team on sexual and gender-based violence in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo delivered 23 training sessions to more than 400 members of the Congolese National Police. These training sessions enhanced the capacity of local law enforcement to aid victims of gender-based sexual violence, while also maintaining and promoting peace and security and the protection of all civilians.

In Mozambique, the Government of Canada supported a [project](#) to strengthen the resilience of both internally displaced people and host communities (UN-HABITAT, \$2 million, 2022-2025). The northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado has been suffering from an armed insurgency since 2017, resulting in thousands of deaths and over a million people displaced. With the support of local authorities, the project worked with displaced women and girls in the city of Pemba to help them deal with the challenges of a massive population increase. In 2023-2024, this included such activities as:



- facilitating participatory and gender-inclusive neighbourhood-level planning
- supporting social services provision and management
- promoting community construction of prioritized infrastructure and public services
- building the capacity of local authorities and communities

This project has improved living conditions for vulnerable women and girls within host communities. For example, the project led to the completion of designs for eight community buildings to house internally displaced people and host communities in Pemba. It resulted in the implementation of community-based mental health and psychosocial support activities for displaced populations and host communities. In addition, the project trained 200 women from Pemba's Mahate neighbourhood on economic empowerment, particularly business management and local associations creation.

In 2023-2024, a [project](#) helped to empower women, girls, and other vulnerable individuals in Mali by promoting human rights, gender equality, and peace (Avocats Sans Frontières Canada, \$16 million, 2021-2026). The project supports over 500,000 people through education campaigns, legal and psychological services, conflict prevention and legal training. As of March 2024, more than 12,000 people were able to improve their capacity to advance human rights and another 28,500 used mobile clinic services. As a result of the project:

- 12 human rights violation cases are now in progress
- 12 civil society organizations were supported
- 62 advocacy actions were carried out
- 46 radio broadcasts raised awareness about forced marriage and sexual violence
- 575 change agents were trained on advocating for gender equality and human rights in their communities

Though ongoing political instability and security challenges necessitate continued efforts to empower women and ensure their voices are integral to reconciliation processes in Mali, the project progressed in promoting the participation of women, girls, and other vulnerable populations in peacebuilding and decision-making processes.

Reforming security systems and reducing security threats

In 2023-2024, Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program continued to strengthen the global response to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, as well as threats posed by conventional weapons. For instance, the Government of Canada partnered with the World Institute of Nuclear Security on a cross-regional [project](#) to improve the management of nuclear and radiological security threats by nuclear security professionals (World Institute for Nuclear Security, nearly \$4.8 million, 2021-2023). It focused on providing equitable opportunities for women in the nuclear security sector. As of January 2024, a majority of participating survey respondents (75% of women and 81% of men) reported that they had improved their overall performance as nuclear security professionals as a result of the project. Moreover, 88% of respondents on the project's cybersecurity courses and 83% of survey respondents on its transport security courses reported



improvements in their ability to address threats and risks in these areas, thereby reducing the risk of nuclear and radiological materials being diverted to malicious uses.

Last year, the Government of Canada continued to actively cooperate with like-minded partners to address security threats around the world. The Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program funded a [project](#) (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC] and Canada Border Services Agency, nearly \$3.1 million, 2023-2026) to address the global synthetic drug problem. It provided training and equipment to frontline officials and forensic experts to improve national and regional responses to counter the synthetic drug threat in Latin America and the Caribbean. By 2023, 13 countries had conducted 58,000 drug scans using new machines provided through this initiative. This led to a significant increase in large-scale drug seizures (88 kg in 2023 versus 11.6 kg in 2022) and the identification of 92 new psychoactive substances. Through the project:

- 195 forensic experts from 12 countries were trained
- 590 forensic and law enforcement personnel were reached through online tools
- nearly 1,900 participants were provided online learning

In addition, the project played a part in legislative changes in Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago, leading to the control of 44 new synthetic drugs.

Through the Counter-terrorism Capacity Building Program, the Government of Canada funded a project (project link [here](#) and [here](#)) (International Criminal Police Organization [INTERPOL], over \$2 million, 2023-2025; INTERPOL, over \$1.8 million, 2023-2025) to foster capabilities against terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa. The project delivered specialized training, technical support, and equipment to law enforcement officers from across the Middle East and North Africa. As a result, almost 350 frontline officers from Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, and Algeria received training on INTERPOL's capabilities, tools and equipment and participated in three regional operations, which resulted in:

- over 12 million crosschecks
- 70 terrorism-related hits against INTERPOL databases
- over 3,000 kg of cocaine seized
- the dismantling of several criminal networks linked to the production of fraudulent travel documents and the trafficking of illicit firearms and luxury cars

By working with multilateral organizations to support targeted regional or country programs, the Government of Canada enhanced the capacity of beneficiary states to investigate and respond to threats posed by terrorism and transnational crime.

Strengthening international organizations' peace and security efforts

In 2023-2024, Canada's assistance increased access to pre-deployment peacekeeping training and improved the ability of peacekeepers to perform their in-mission duties. The Government of Canada's support to the [Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations](#) enabled the UN to address



barriers to the meaningful participation of uniformed women in UN peacekeeping operations. For example, Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Program funded a [project](#) to develop, implement and integrate gender-responsive designs and guidelines in UN camp accommodations (United Nations Department of Operational Support, nearly \$10 million, 2021-2026). As of September 2023, a total of 13 UN missions reported implementation of many of the design recommendations, such as gender-responsive improvements to living accommodations, bathing areas, and recreational spaces. These improvements promote inclusive UN missions for uniformed women, contributing to well-being and meaningful participation in peacekeeping missions.

Through the Elsie Initiative, the Government of Canada supported a [project](#) to promote gender-sensitive strategies, policies and training for peacekeeping through the UN's Department of Peace Operations (DPO, over \$5.2 million, 2022-2025). In 2023-2024, in the context of this project, UN peacekeepers were trained on the measures and strategies needed to accelerate progress on gender parity, diversity and inclusion as well as the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse of uniformed and civilian personnel. According to the DPO, this project has significantly contributed to the sharing of knowledge and the strengthening of policy and guidance. It has improved data collection, analysis and dissemination on gender and women in peace operations across UN Departments of Peace Operations, Operational Support, Management and Compliance.

In 2023-2024, the RCMP's [IPP Program](#) continued to exceed the UN's target of 30% participation for uniformed women in peacekeeping missions by 2028. In fact, last year, women personnel accounted for approximately 42% of all deployed police officers in the RCMP's IPP Program. The program includes Pre-Selection Assessment Assistance Training (Pre-SAAT) to enable women police officers to apply for UN peacekeeping missions. Examples of courses include:

- one Pre-SAAT course that was held in Djibouti, with 268 international participants attending
- an all-female Pre-SAAT course that was held in Rwanda, attended by 110 international women officers

Through the delivery of these courses, the RCMP assisted the UN in increasing the number of female police officers deployed on missions.

Learn more about this theme

Policy

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

Others

[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](#)

Story of change

[Combatting disinformation in elections held in West Africa](#)

