



**Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy:
CanWaCH's Key Facts
June 9, 2017**

OVERVIEW

The policy commits Canada to a new feminist approach to international assistance that seeks to support the economic, political and social empowerment of women and girls. Recognizing that inequalities exist along intersectional lines, the policy places gender equality as a targeted pillar as well as a cross-cutting theme of action. Canada's [Feminist International Assistance Policy](#) is aligned with Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, and places emphasis on investments, partnerships and advocacy efforts that the government views to have the greatest potential to close gender gaps, eliminate barriers to gender equality and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It centers on SDG 5—achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls—as the entry point to drive greatest impact for Canada's international assistance.

*“Focusing Canada’s international assistance on the full empowerment of women and girls is the most effective way for our international assistance to make a difference in the world. Sustainable development, peace and growth that works for everyone, are not possible unless women and girls are valued and empowered.”
- Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie*

A Feminist Approach Defined: *A feminist approach is much more than focusing exclusively on women and girls; rather, it is the most effective way to target the root causes of poverty that can affect everyone: inequality and exclusion.*

ACTION AREAS	CANADA'S COMMITMENT
<p>The policy focuses on addressing these interrelated global challenges as means to improve the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core Action Area: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls 2. Human Dignity 3. Growth That Works for Everyone 4. Environment and Climate Action 5. Inclusive Governance 6. Peace and Security 	<p>Canada is committed to providing international assistance that is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human rights-based and inclusive 2. Strategic and focused 3. Transformative and activist 4. Evidence-based and accountable

KEY POINTS RELATED TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Under Action Area #1: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls

- Address the unacceptably high rates of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) experienced by women

and girls, including providing psycho-social support for survivors of violence. Health care positioned as one of the sectors needed to support survivors and bring perpetrators to justice. SGBV includes child marriage, forced marriage and female genital mutilation / cutting.

- Engaging a broad range of stakeholders—including men and boys to transform unequal power relations, systemic discrimination, and harmful norms and practices, with special mention of the important to transform the attitudes of adolescent boys.
- Provide better support for local organizations and movements that advance women’s rights.
- Step up commitment to evidence-based decision making by investing in policy research, better data collection and evaluation for gender equality.

Under Action Area #2: Human Dignity

- Area focus is on access of the poorest and most vulnerable to good health care and nutrition, quality education and timely humanitarian assistance.
- Continued efforts include: fighting infectious diseases such as polio, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria—and helping to make these services more accessible.
- Focus efforts on programs and projects that put gender at the heart of efforts to improve health care such as fight infectious diseases through equity-based approaches and a focus on diseases, such as HIV, that particularly affect women and girls, that empower community health care workers, and that address the ongoing challenge of SGBV.
- Follow through on 2015 to 2020 commitment to invest \$3.5 billion in MNCH programs that strengthen health and data systems, improve nutrition and combat infectious diseases
- Work to close persistent gaps in SRHR for women and girls through supporting increased access to a full range of health services, including family planning and modern contraception; comprehensive sexuality education; safe and legal abortion, and post-abortion care; and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections.
- Join global partnerships that promote SRHR for women and girls such as Family Planning 2020 and the Ouagadougou Partnership
- Improved access to nutritious foods and supplements, reducing prevalence of anemia and improving birth outcomes, and advocate for more gender-responsive nutrition policies including through the Scaling Up Nutrition movement.
- Strengthen SGBV prevention and response strategies in humanitarian settings and dedicate a portion of humanitarian assistance funding to providing counselling and psycho-social support.
- Promote use of sex- and age-disaggregated data by humanitarian partners to ensure the needs of women and girls are better understood and responded to.
- Support the full range of women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health needs during humanitarian responses and raise the importance of this kind of targeted assistance with international partners and at international events in the humanitarian system.

“Women’s rights are human rights. This includes sexual and reproductive rights—and the right to access safe and legal abortions. These rights are at the core of our foreign policy.”
– Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Under Action Area #4: Environment and Climate Action

- Women participate actively in the design and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives and resilience-building.

Under Action Area #5: Inclusive Governance

- Strengthen legal systems and promote reforms that eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls that prevent them from realizing their economic, political and social rights

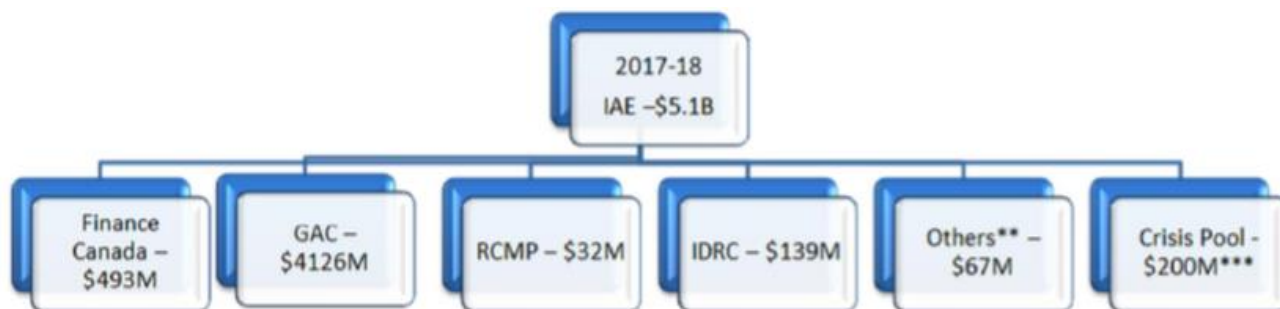
FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESPONSIVE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- Announcement of \$150 million over five years (2017-2022) to a new **Women’s Voice and Leadership Program** that will support local women’s organizations in at least 30 countries. The initiative is designed to support the work of local women’s groups in advancing the empowerment and rights of women and girls, as well as to build their capacity and support their networks.
- Previous funding announcements referenced in this policy include: \$100 million over five years for Small and Medium-sized Canadian CSOs (announced May 9, 2017); \$300 million over five years for the new Development Finance Institute (DFI) to be housed in Montreal (announced March 22, 2017); \$650 million over three years for SRHR (announced March 8, 2017); and \$2.65 billion in climate finance.
- Official development assistance (ODA) financial commitments outlined as an integrated approach that also includes diplomacy, trade, and engaging Canadian government departments and agencies. To increase and diversify the range of contributions, it will implement funding relationships that present a mix of repayable and non-repayable support, private- and voluntary-sector solutions, leveraging the DFI, and introduce repayable contributions.
- Multi-year humanitarian assistance for protracted crises with more assistance directed to local organizations.
- Streamlined and accelerated funding and reporting procedures to reduce the administrative burden on funding recipients and with the objective for more responsive, transparent and predictable assistance.

NEW TARGETS

- No less than 50 percent of bilateral international development assistance is directed to sub-Saharan African countries by 2021-22.
- 15 percent of all bilateral international development assistance investments specifically target gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2021-22. (up from 2% in 2015-2016).
- Invest no less than 80 percent of bilateral international development assistance through GAC for initiatives designed to improve and increase the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across all international assistance efforts.
- No less than 95 percent of Canada’s bilateral international development assistance initiatives will target or integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2021-22.

2017 – 2018 Planned IAE Spending*



NOTES:

*Final Information on IAE spending, including year-end adjustments, will be made public through the Public Accounts of Canada and Canada’s annual Statistical Report on International Assistance. Information on actual accomplishments against plans, priorities and expected results set out in Departmental Plans will be reported in the Developmental Results Report. Planned figures have been rounded.

**Includes \$14M for Environment and Climate Change Canada and \$53M for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

***This amount does not include \$184M that would be re-profiled from unused 2016-2017 Crisis Pool resources.