

“For a Strong Canadian Cooperation in Support of Health Interventions in Haiti”

Call to Action for Strong Canadian Cooperation in Support of Haiti’s Health System

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (hereinafter Global Affairs Canada) and Canadian Organizations and Institutions Working in the Health Sector in Haiti

Preamble

We, Global Affairs Canada and Canadian organizations and institutions working in the health sector in Haiti,

1. Principles

Guided by Sustainable Development Goal #3, namely to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all Haitians at all ages,

Bearing in mind the aid effectiveness principles as set out in the Paris, Accra and Busan Declarations,

Convinced that promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be constant concerns guiding the development and implementation of our interventions in Haiti,

Cognizant of the Haitian government’s leadership in establishing development priorities for Haiti’s health sector, and that those priorities must guide our actions,

Cognizant of the Haitian civil society’s role in identifying the country’s development priorities and their role in advocating and strengthening communities for improving the functioning of the health system,

Recognizing that support for the civil society organizations and institutions fulfilling those roles must be among our priorities, notably for helping to strengthen the accountability mechanisms between the government and its citizens,

Determined that our actions be evidence-based and follow international best practices in order to maximize the impact of our interventions,

Cognizant of the prevalence of the legislation and regulations governing the work of foreign organizations and institutions in Haiti,

2. Context

Recognizing that, despite the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in recent years, access to quality health services remains a significant challenge,

Recognizing that Canada’s health presence in Haiti, made up of multiple players, includes organizations and institutions with differing mandates, objectives and funding, and that their support is recognized by Haiti’s government and Haitian civil society,

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Recognizing that the multiplicity of players is an asset for Haiti and for Canada, and makes it possible to provide substantial support and a wide range of expertise for developing the various aspects of Haiti’s health sector,

Recognizing that Haiti is regularly afflicted by natural disasters that represent a further challenge to improving the population’s well-being and that Global Affairs Canada and Canadian organizations and institutions are frequently called upon to respond urgently to humanitarian assistance efforts,

Noting the coordination mechanisms in place in the health sector, which contribute to collaboration with Haiti’s government, non-governmental players, including Haitian civil society and international cooperation, and of the active participation of Global Affairs Canada and Canadian institutions and organizations in those mechanisms,

Noting that health is the result of multiple socio-economic factors, including education level, the environment, and household income, and noting in particular the devastating impact of gender-based violence,

Noting Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy, which is aimed at combating poverty and inequality and puts gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the core of its actions,

Noting that promoting human dignity is one of the action areas of that Policy and that Canada intends to ensure that those most vulnerable have access to a resilient and effective health care system that delivers equitable health care services, including reproductive and sexual health services,

Noting the efforts of Global Affairs Canada to increase collaboration among Canadian organizations and institutions working in the health sector in Haiti, and noting the unanimously expressed willingness to continue those efforts and work together to set up structured mechanisms for collaboration among us on a regular basis,

Noting our mutual observation that by increasing our collaboration, the impact of our actions to strengthen the health system in Haiti can be improved, including through the sharing, application and transfer of knowledge,

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3. Objective

Declaring our intention to work together towards the sustainable strengthening of Haiti’s national health system in order to effectively contribute to improving the health of Haitians,

Recognizing that achieving the above objective depends on strengthening the mechanisms for coordination, collaboration and sharing of best practices among us,

Declaring our intention, in order to achieve that objective, to step up our efforts towards i) greater complementarity and synergy in our actions; ii) more systematic sharing of best practices and capitalizing on the expertise of each of us; iii) encouraging the pooling of resources when possible and appropriate,

We agree that our respective contributions towards achieving this objective will be guided by our particular mandates and resources.

4. Intervention Principles

We agree to respect the following intervention principles in order to contribute to the objective of this Call to Action:

- **FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA**

Carry out its representation and advocacy work with the Haitian government by clarifying and disseminating its strategic vision and a program for the health sector in keeping with its feminist policy and Haiti’s priorities in the sector,

Take into consideration the interests of all Canadian organizations and institutions when carrying out its representation and advocacy work with the Haitian government,

Participate in assistance coordination mechanisms with the Haitian government, non-governmental players, including Haitian civil society and international cooperation, and represent the interests of all Canadian organizations and institutions when appropriate and necessary,

Facilitate the establishment and monitoring of mechanisms for dialogue among Canadian organizations and institutions in order to help implement this Call,

Factor into its programming and advocacy the views and interests of women and girls, in partnership with Haitian civil society organizations, including women’s organizations, and with the Ministry of the Status of Women and Women's Rights.

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- FOR CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Share with the appropriate stakeholders in the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population and departmental health authorities all relevant information about our current and planned interventions in Haiti’s health sector. Ensure that approval from the appropriate national institutions is secured before undertaking those interventions,

Share with Global Affairs Canada relevant information about our current and planned interventions in Haiti’s health sector,

Participate in the technical coordination mechanisms in place in the health sector and commit to the objectives pursued through those mechanisms,

Strengthen consideration of the views of Haitian civil society organizations, including women’s organizations, within their activities.

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5. Action Plan

In order to contribute to achieving the objectives of this declaration, we will jointly implement the following Action Plan.

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ACTION PLAN FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA AND CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR IN HAITI

ACTIONS

1. Set up and maintain an information bank on Canadian initiatives

Objective: strengthen the capacity to analyze the coverage and impact of Canadian actions by preparing a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the interventions of all Canadian organizations and institutions working in the health sector in Haiti.

Activities: set up an information bank on all the initiatives of Canadian players in Haiti, publicly available online, which will provide basic information on the main interventions supported by Global Affairs Canada and by Canadian organizations and institutions.

Approach: These data will help strengthen knowledge sharing and conduct an in-depth analysis of the impact of Canada’s presence on improving the health and well-being of women and children in Haiti, and guide the other actions presented below. This mapping will be shared with Haiti’s Ministry of Public Health and Population at both central and decentralized levels, as well as with the other players involved at the national level.

Responsibilities:

- Canadian organizations and institutions will provide ongoing updates on their projects in the *Project Explorer*, managed by the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children’s Health (CanWaCH), in order to gather in one single place all projects carried out in Haiti, regardless of funding source.
- Global Affairs Canada will make ongoing updates to its Project Browser (publicly available online), in order to improve the availability of information on projects funded by the Department in Haiti.

2. Structure the network of Canadian organizations and institutions

Objectives: i) strengthen partnerships and relations among Canadian organizations and institutions, and ii) document and promote Canada’s contribution to the health sector in Haiti.

Activities: CanWaCH will help to establish a virtual networking platform. CanWaCH will engage its members in: i) setting up a file-sharing system for distributing—among other things—protocols of Haitian health authorities and the tools (methodologies) used in previous projects; ii) producing outline reports based on analyses of Canadian theme- or issue-based interventions; iii) promoting dissemination through the media of achievements and testimonials highlighting Canada’s contribution to Haiti’s health system.

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Approach: This network will allow to identify lessons learned by Canadian organizations and institutions, document project outcomes, and make recommendations for improving the effectiveness and impact of our interventions. It will also increase the visibility of our actions for improving the health of Haitians and their communities.

Responsibilities:

- Global Affairs Canada, at the start of each year, will ensure that the inventory of Canadian organizations and institutions is up to date;
- Canadian organizations and institutions will register with CanWaCH to become members and to access all services and resources. They will keep their information up to date and share key documents;
- Global Affairs Canada and Canadian organizations and institutions will identify their reporting requirements;
- Global Affairs Canada will consult reports, achievements and testimonials in developing its communication and policy dialogue strategies and for informing its planning and programming;
- Canadian organizations and institutions will regularly contribute to the virtual platform’s activities, and will hold activities on the sidelines of the Canadian Conference on Global Health by the Canadian Society for International Health or the CanWaCH General Meeting.

3. Hold regular consultation meetings

Objective: i) discuss the main issues facing the organizations and institutions in carrying out their interventions, and to identify joint or individual ways of addressing them; ii) discuss common themes and identify innovative approaches and best practices; iii) present policy dialogue activities to the Haitian government and technical and financial partners in health.

Activities: Hold in-person meetings and/or virtual working groups at least four times a year (or more if needed). The meetings will be conducted interactively and informally, to foster constructive discussions. The virtual approach will be based on flexible and dynamic tools such as videoconferences, webinars, and collaboration software, which will enable organizations to communicate and collaborate in real time.

The themes addressed may include: gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; sexual and reproductive health; improving accountability and reporting mechanisms in the health sector and civil society’s role in that respect. As required, Haitian and international stakeholders involved in those themes will be invited to attend the meetings.

Approach: Global Affairs Canada and CanWaCH will organize these discussions with support from the organizations and institutions themselves, based on their areas of expertise. The discussions will help to review recommendations from project evaluations, encourage the sharing, application and transfer of knowledge, and identify innovative approaches and best practices for increasing the effectiveness and impact of all stakeholders’ interventions. The discussions will also help develop a common

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understanding of challenges and opportunities, consider potential action strategies, and develop a Canadian position when appropriate.

Responsibilities:

- Global Affairs Canada, in partnership with CanWaCH, will survey organizations at the start of each year to identify the themes and issues to be discussed during the coming year and to establish a meeting schedule;
- Global Affairs Canada will facilitate biannual meetings in Haiti and annual meetings in Canada;
- Canadian organizations and institutions, with support from CanWaCH, will initiate virtual or other meetings on a biannual and ad hoc basis;
- Canadian organizations and institutions, with support from CanWaCH, will prepare the minutes of those meetings;
- Canadian organizations and institutions, with support from CanWaCH, will identify aspects for joint advocacy that can be incorporated into Global Affairs Canada’s policy dialogue.

4. Active engagement in multi-partner coordination activities

Objective: ensure that Canadian organizations and institutions contribute, based on their availability, to technical coordination mechanisms in Haiti at both the national and departmental levels, and that they benefit from them.

Activities: Canadian organizations and institutions will be called upon to participate—or to appoint an organization to represent them: i) in various technical coordination bodies in the health sector, at both the national and departmental levels, including meetings of departmental sectoral tables, and meetings of the *Cadre de Liaison Inter-ONG* (CLIO) and CLIO’s health commission; ii) in consultation activities and any other relevant activities that may be undertaken to develop a partnership framework in the health sector.

Approach: this participation will help on one hand to promote the position of Canadian organizations and institutions on the main issues to be discussed at those fora, and on the other hand to benefit from the information shared by the other participants for enhancing their interventions.

Responsibilities:

- Global Affairs Canada will inform Canadian organizations and institutions about the coordination mechanisms in place nationally and departmentally;
- Global Affairs Canada will maintain a list of Canadian organizations and institutions for sectoral tables and technical coordination groups (at the national and departmental levels). That list will be shared with the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the CLIO.
- Canadian organizations and institutions will use the virtual discussion platform set up by CanWaCH to identify among them the organizations and institutions willing and able to participate in those mechanisms, and to identify, if necessary, one or more joint representatives;
- Canadian organizations and institutions participating in the mechanisms will use the CanWaCH virtual discussion platform to identify common messages to be presented at the meetings and to report to others on the discussions and potential conclusions.

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5. Strengthen accountability in the health sector through Canadian leadership

Objective: assert Canada’s leadership in the health sector in order to effectively contribute to the sustainable strengthening of the national health system in Haiti and to improving the health of Haitians.

Activities: Global Affairs Canada will continue to actively participate in coordination mechanisms in the health sector with the Haitian government and other technical and financial partners. It will also maintain a dialogue with Haitian authorities and other organizations and institutions on sectoral issues.

Approach: Global Affairs Canada will advocate strongly with the Haitian government for Haitian leadership, accountability towards the Haitian population, and greater government funding of the health sector. Global Affairs Canada will also promote the development of a partnership agreement between the government and technical and financial partners in the health sector, the adoption of a national health sector funding strategy, and Haitian membership in the Global Financing Facility.

Responsibilities:

- Global Affairs Canada will participate in an active and structured way in the health sector coordination mechanisms, and will maintain dialogue with sector players;
- Global Affairs Canada will indicate its availability for co-chairing the Health Cluster and will work with other technical and financial partners to advance these objectives;
- Canadian organizations and institutions will be called upon to help enhance Canada’s policy dialogue through the various activities presented above.

STATUS REPORT

An annual review will be conducted at one of the regular consultation meetings. This will help gauge the effectiveness of the mechanisms put in place and the actions undertaken to implement the Action Plan, and make any necessary adjustments.

A status report will be prepared no more than 24 months after this Call comes into effect, to identify progress achieved and potential changes to the Call, and to ensure that its objective is being met. An effort will be made to assess the Call to Action’s impact on the work of the Canadian organizations and institutions.

DURATION AND AMENDMENT

The Call to Action will remain in effect for as long as Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian organizations and institutions will consider it relevant.

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This Call to Action is endorsed by the following organizations and institutions:



Affaires mondiales
Canada

Global Affairs
Canada



HOPE International
Development Agency



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20 ANS
AU CANADA



SOIGNE
AUSSI
L'INJUSTICE



THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ DES OBSTÉTRICIENS
ET GYNÉCOLOGUES DU CANADA



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Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)
Centre for International Cooperation in Health and Development (CCISD)
Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)
Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
Consortium d’appui en médecine Canada-Haïti (CAMCH)
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
International Development Research Center (IDRC)
Canadian Red Cross
Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie
Grand Challenges Canada
Hope International Development Agency
Humanity & Inclusion Canada
L’Œuvre Léger
Doctors of the World Canada
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
Nutrition International
OXFAM Québec
Canadian Partnership for Women and Children’s Health (CanWaCH)
Partners in Health Canada
Plan International Canada
Réseau francophone international pour la promotion de la santé - Amériques (RÉFIPS)
SPES-Haiti
SUCO
Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC)
Team Broken Earth
University of Montreal

“For a Strong Canadian Cooperation in Support of Health Interventions in Haiti”

University of Sherbrooke

Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Université Laval

McGill University