

Mapping our Momentum:

LOOKING BACK ON A YEAR OF

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT







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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) acknowledges that Indigenous peoples are the traditional guardians of Turtle Island, on the land also known as Canada. We recognize their long standing and ongoing relationship with this territory, which includes unceded and traditional land, and acknowledge our duty to walk with and alongside reconciliation and decolonization efforts.

We recognize that keepers of traditional Indigenous knowledge can be found in every community.

We believe that as settlers on this land, we have a responsibility to continually engage along our journey to meaningfully enact allyship, to reassess and reconsider our positionality in the spaces we occupy, and to use our voice to speak out against systemic injustices experienced by Indigenous peoples.

Reconciliation is an ongoing process, requiring unlearning colonial practices, history and relearning our shared past, present and future. We are committed to working in partnership to pursue a more inclusive, collaborative and respectful path forward grounded in the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR





DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS.

It is both a challenging and rewarding time to be in the global health sector. Climate change, global conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic have caused many setbacks, something CanWaCH member organizations continue to grapple with every day. Two billion people worldwide don't have access to safe drinking water. World hunger is on the rise after a decade of steady decline. An estimated 250 million children under five in low and middle-income countries are at risk of not reaching their developmental potential, while 14 million children the same age suffer from severe acute malnutrition. These realities, coupled with high employee turnover across the sector, limited resources and political uncertainty, have altered the landscape considerably.

At the same time, the trials of the last few years have created a powerful united force. CanWaCH member organizations, partners and advocates have come together to traverse this new landscape together. Those who once saw each other as competitors funding scarcity tends to do that — started to see each other as collaborators instead. The result is a renewed energy toward achieving collective goals unlike any I have seen in recent years.

I feel this energy at the board table as well. For the first time in CanWaCH history, we have filled all 15 board seats, encompassing a diverse array of perspectives that mirror the rich tapestry of the communities our members serve. This growth at the board table not only reinforces our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, but our commitment to challenging old ways of thinking.

The world has changed, and we must continually change alongside it. That means looking ahead with a critical eye, planning for the worst-case-scenarios with

the same rigor as the best, and putting intentionality at the center of every decision. Looking back on all CanWaCH's activities this past year, every move, big and small, I see countless examples of that same approach.

The team's thoughtful experimentation paved the way for the first Global Health Impact Summit and another successful CanWaCH Academy. Calculated risks led to deeper connections with both sector partners and high-level decision makers, including at the United Nations General Assembly. An eye to the future helped earn CanWaCH the invite to deliver the workshop for Global Affairs Canada's inaugural Report on the 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights.

That doesn't mean that everything went exactly to plan (does it ever?). But when I take a step back to appreciate the achievements of the past year, I see a wildly intelligent, mission-driven organization that does not shy away from big ideas. I see a group who believe deeply that women and girls everywhere deserve nothing less.

Thank you to all of the CanWaCH members and partners who have stood by us with unwavering support. Together, we form an alliance that transcends borders, cultures and backgrounds, united by the shared belief that a healthier world for women, children and youth is within reach.

Yours with renewed determination,

Onome Ako

REFLECTING ON THIS YEAR, my favourite scene approach was woven into much of our decision from Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* comes to mind. It's making this past year, particularly through our events, the scene where the Barbies are accepting their and is likewise reflected in the breakdown of this awards with a kind of grounded confidence. 'Yes, report. But I would be remiss not to add another piece I do deserve this. I worked hard,' says one Barbie to the puzzle: the right tools. while accepting her Nobel Peace Prize. All of the other Barbies cheer because she *did* work hard and of course she deserves the credit for it.

To support our members in the incredible work they do all around the world, we took great care this year to develop the right resources for the job, This scene tries to poke at the way women in and ensure they reached the right audiences. We particular are encouraged to downplay success. To are continuously searching for new ways to bridge avoid bragging and wave away any suggestion that the knowledge gaps and dismantle the silos that we went above and beyond. This allows impact to hinder the global development sector so that women, seem like an accident. But that attitude doesn't serve children and adolescents can realize their right to us, and it doesn't serve the women and girls we stand thrive in full health. behind who show up for their communities each and I've seen firsthand how convening the right people, every day.

Humility is important, but so too is recognition. So here we go: it was a great year at CanWaCH. It was a great year because of the thoughtfulness that every member, and every staff person, put into it. It was a In solidarity, great year because we all designed it that way.

The theme of this year's annual report is intentionality, because that is what all our achievements boil down Julia Anderson to — the careful planning behind the scenes, the thoughtful contributions of every employee and partner, and the sharp foresight to see the potential that lay outside of the box. It's through those qualities - not good fortune or congeniality - that we will continue to move the needle on advancing the health and rights of women, children and adolescents globally.

At CanWaCH, we often talk about getting the right people, in the right room, at the right time. That

FROM THE CEO

in the right room, at the right time with the right tools, creates unstoppable momentum. I hope this past year, and this report, is a testament to that.

Arderson









our privilege to support and amplify their work, build and other resources and events you'll read more powerful and unexpected connections between them about in this report. and represent their interests at the highest levels. With ongoing sector challenges in mind (including Members also made great use of the CanWaCH blog high employee turnover and limited new project — relaunched as Write to Thrive – to share their own funding), we made sure to keep member care and stories, discuss important issues and projects and support at the forefront of our activities this year. learn more about what others are doing in the sector.

capacity building through training (including our

CanWaCH would not exist without its members. It's **Gender Equality** training), webinars, **data sharing**

We shared nearly 300 member job postings through We ended the year with 100 members on the dot. our popular Jobs and Opportunities page — leading This number has fluctuated over the years, but we one member to call us "the Indeed.com of our are confident that these 100 members are the right sector". Behind the scenes, we connected members fit, with a shared, confirmed commitment to improving whose work was well aligned, forming invaluable the health equity and outcomes for women and girls partnerships and sparking new initiatives. Throughout everywhere. We look forward to bringing even more the year, we offered professional development and organizations into our partnership in the coming year.

WESTERN CANADA 17%

60%

45

OF MEMBERS IDENTIFY AS A SMALL/MEDIUM ORGANIZATION (UNDER \$5 MILLION ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET)

CanWaCH MEMBER **ORGANIZATIONS HAVE** REPRESENTATIVES ON ONE OF OUR WORKING GROUPS.

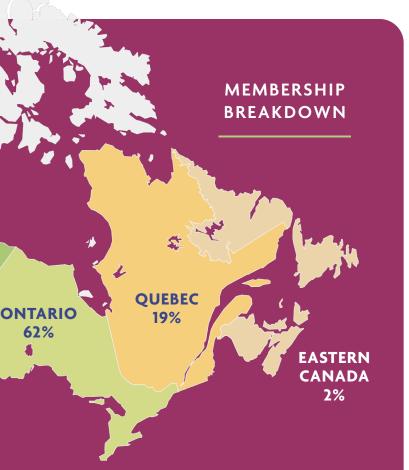


WORKING GROUPS

thoughtful collaboration is paramount. One by contributions from: important way we have combined the benefits of collaboration with the diverse expertise within member organizations is through our working groups. These working groups include representatives from different member organizations as well as relevant CanWaCH staff, enabling us to share ideas, resources and perspectives that benefit everyone.

- **Oracle Product Engagement Working Group**
- The Metrics Working Group
- ♦ The Youth Working Group
- The Public Opinion Research Working Group (ad hoc)
- The Project Explorer Data Use Working Group (ad hoc)

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- We've learned that for membership to thrive, Many CanWaCH initiatives in 2022-2023 were strengthened
 - The Gender Equality Working Group
 - The Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Working Group

EQUAL FUTURES NETWORK

organizations working to achieve health equity around the world, CanWaCH is proud to coordinate the Equal Futures Network which is paving the road to help build digital communications strategies to gender equality right here at home. Through the power of coalition building, the Network has built a unique community of over 530+ organizations who are committed to sharing knowledge, resources and expertise, and working in partnership to accelerate progress for gender equality (GE) and social justice in their communities.

This year, the Network produced a number of informative blog posts and robust resources, all culminating in the second annual Gender Equality

In addition to our incredible coalition of Canadian Summit. Together with the On Canada Project, we produced Designing Digital Dialogue - a comprehensive public engagement toolkit created grounded in inclusivity, solidarity and partnership building. Throughout the year, we continued to convene the GE sector through its Incubator Sessions, drawing on experts within the Network to host conversations on timely GE topics, including a special session to mark GE Week celebrating the important work being done to drive progress for gender equality in Canada.

> Read more about the Equal Future Network's work in the Power of Coalitions report.

2SLGBTQ+ -led Black or POC-led Immigrant, new Canadian or refugee-led Indigenous-led Small/grassroots organization Volunteer-led Women-led Youth-led Other 100 200 300 0

EQUAL FUTURES NETWORK ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



MAPPING OUR MOMENTUM: LOOKING BACK ON A YEAR OF INTENTIONALITY Annual Report CanWaCH 2022-2023



"THIS YEAR I FELT MYSELF CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS ON A DEEPER, MORE PERSONAL LEVEL."

- CanWaCH staff







OUR MEMBERS have long told us they appreciate and benefit from CanWaCH events. Results from our most recent Member Engagement Survey suggest this holds true, and we're committed to keeping it that way.

At CanWaCH, events are about more than simply putting stakeholders in a room together. We believe in gathering with purpose and creating the best environments to build meaningful connections and start productive conversations. This year, that meant reimagining old events and introducing new ones, while experimenting with fresh and unique formats.













CanWaCH DIALOGUES

In March, CanWaCH embarked on its tour of five Canadian cities for our first Dialogue series. Each stop gave us an opportunity to break ground and break bread with local members and stakeholders. The Dialogues brought us to Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, where attendees shared important reflections on their respective efforts to advance the health and rights of women and children and to end poverty around the world, among other issues.

Vibrant evenings of discussion and networking led to new partnerships, memorable stories and reconnections between leaders, professionals and practitioners in global health.

GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACT SUMMIT

In April, we hosted our first Global Health Impact Summit (GHIS) in Ottawa. A rich two days of programming saw CanWaCH member and partner organizations participate in a series of live workshopping sessions while presenting active projects on the neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Attendees took a deep dive into project implementation, exploring the challenges, successes and impact of project efforts.

We also welcomed Patricia Peña, Assistant Deputy Minister of Partnerships Development and Innovation (Global Affairs Canada), and Robert Greenhill, Executive Chairman of the Global Canada Initiative, to the GHIS for fireside chats with our CEO.



"SOMETIMES THE MOST IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS HAPPEN IN THE SPACES BETWEEN THE SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING."

- CanWaCH staff

GENDER EQUALITY SUMMIT

In May, CanWaCH's Equal Futures Network hosted its in rural, remote and Northern communities, finance, second annual Gender Equality Summit in Whitehorse, food systems and gender based violence. Yukon. Over two days, we welcomed attendees from every province and territory, both in-person and New this year were the Curated Conversation sessions which created spaces for participants to delve into pertinent topic areas related to advancing gender equality and social justice. These intimate and engaging conversation-style sessions created space for all participants to share the thoughts, or lived experience. In the post-event feedback, participants were not shy to tell us just how much they enjoyed and appreciated these uniquely-

online. Participants were able to take in a variety of programming including practical workshops, highlevel panels, in-depth peer-to-peer discussions and networking opportunities. Highlights from the summit included the opening challenges and solutions emerging from their work welcome and keynote addresses by Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief Amanda Leas, Women and Gender Equality Minister Marci len and Brandi Morin, as well as panel discussions focused on advancing leadership formatted and compelling conversations!









"I LOVED MEETING ALL THE DIVERSE CHAMPIONS DOING INCREDIBLE WORK IN CANADA, ESPECIALLY HOW DIVERSE THE AGE RANGE AND WORK EXPERIENCES WERE!"

- CanWaCH member (on the networking reception for Women Deliver)

CanWaCH ACADEMY

June saw the return of our annual flagship capacity building event - the CanWaCH Academy. Over the span of four days, members and partners were invited to attend a variety of virtual crash courses taught by experts in their respective fields. This year's sessions were curated to best fit the needs expressed by our members and aligned with emerging trends. Highlights included sessions on leveraging artificial intelligence, parliamentary engagement and engaging men and boys for gender equality.

WOMEN DELIVER ROUNDTABLE

In July, CanWaCH was privileged to host a ministerial roundtable at the Women Deliver conference in Kigali, Rwanda. CanWaCH members joined the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development, the Honourable Marci len, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, along with Members of Parliament Arielle Kayabaga and Leah Taylor Roy. It was a deep discussion tackling topics like what successful Canadian engagement could look like at Women Deliver 2023 and beyond, how Canada's role as a global champion for women and girls' health and rights is needed more than ever, and how Canada can show up to these global spaces to make them more inclusive.

This event, made possible with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, showcased the depth and breadth of expertise and passion within our membership while creating a platform to provide a solid evidencebase to inform good decisions, policies and diplomacy.

In addition to the roundtable, we were grateful for the opportunity to participate in a side event on community health workers co-hosted by two CanWaCH members (Results Canada and UNICEF Canada), hear and learn from gender equality advocates and host a networking reception that connected members and sector partners in attendance.





SOCIAL MEDIA THE RIGHT TIME

SOCIAL MEDIA is all about timing. It's not enough to know what to say, you have to know when. Sometimes that means knowing the most strategic time of day to schedule an Instagram post, other times it means knowing when the iron is hot on an issue and seizing the moment to speak out.

Our members expect this of us, and this past year, we delivered. Our social media followers grew across every platform for a total audience growth rate of 19.5 per cent. Engagement was also high, with a 32 per cent increase year over year. Followers especially appreciated our timely updates on Government of Canada and other sector announcements.





"THE DIGITAL WORLD IS ALWAYS EVOLVING. OUR JOB IS TO EVOLVE ALONGSIDE IT."

- CanWaCH staff



TOP 5 POSTS

Here are five of our top social media posts this past year:

Click each social media icon to read more!



Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health + Follow

1. CanWaCH joins fellow coalition members of the Future Planning Initiative to #RiseUpForSRHR.

Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development, announces that the Government of Canada will sharpen its focus on the most neglected areas of SRHR within the existing 10 year commitment to advance the health and rights of women and girls around the world:



ப் Like

Comment A Share



CanWaCH + Follow

2. Emphasizing the critical importance of investment in SRHR.

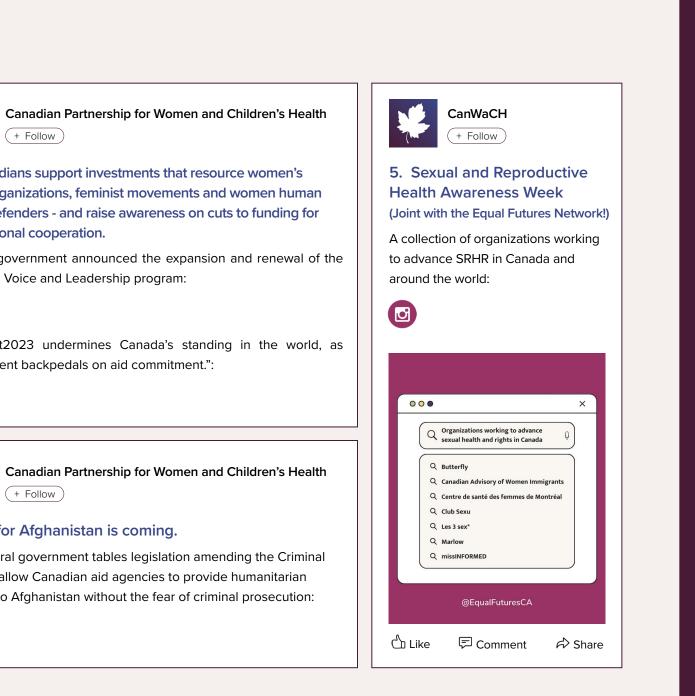
CanWaCH CEO Julia Anderson spoke at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development on the critical importance of investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world:

(in) J



戸 Comment ப்Like A Share





3. Canadians support investments that resource women's rights organizations, feminist movements and women human rights defenders - and raise awareness on cuts to funding for international cooperation.

Federal government announced the expansion and renewal of the Women's Voice and Leadership program:



"#Budget2023 undermines Canada's standing in the world, as government backpedals on aid commitment.":





4. Aid for Afghanistan is coming.

The federal government tables legislation amending the Criminal Code to allow Canadian aid agencies to provide humanitarian support to Afghanistan without the fear of criminal prosecution:



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MEDIA

TO MAXIMIZE our reach and get the right CanWaCH contributed opinion pieces featured message to the right audience, we leveraged in iPolitics Future of Good the Hill Times Policy several communications platforms. Our CEO was Options Magazine and the Ottawa Citizen. a guest on multiple podcasts where she spoke about a wide range of issues that matter to our In the final quarter, CanWaCH began sharing members: Canada's role on the world stage, sector challenges, SRHR, policy implications and more.

CanWaCH was also sought out with increasing regularity for background and comment by different news outlets covering international development. In digital and print media,

our CEO's long-form reflections on LinkedIn. We started using LinkedIn's Creator Mode for thought leadership opportunities that might not otherwise fit the mould of news media, yielding thoughtful responses and engagement from members and others in the sector. Look for more reflections on this platform in the coming year!

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

CanWaCH's Public Opinion Research Working Group (PORWG) includes representatives from several member organizations who share a common goal: to better understand public perceptions on key issues. This past year, the PORWG sought to establish a new baseline on Canadian perspectives of Canada's role on the global stage.

International cooperation has changed a lot in the past few years. With help from Abacus Data, this polling dove into how Canadians' feelings have changed with it, and what factors might be influencing their evolving opinions. We learned that despite real domestic concerns including the cost of living and housing affordability, Canadians expect their government to maintain its history of supporting those in need. Results of the survey were shared publicly through a news release and a joint op-ed by CanWaCH CEO Julia Anderson and Abacus CEO David Coletto.

KEY FINDINGS:



RESOURCES THE RIGHT TOOLS

SOME of the greatest assets CanWaCH provides to members are the tangible resources, reports and tools meant to support their important work. But as with any project, not just any tool will do. We believe in going deeper.

This year we focused our attention on the knowledge gaps and opportunities with the biggest potential, as identified by what we heard from members, and what we saw in the sector.



PROJECT EXPLORER 2.0

CanWaCH's Project Explorer provides the most robust collection of detailed information on a wide range of development, humanitarian, human rights and gender equality projects across Canada and the world. It is the only tool in Canada of its kind, and this past year, we made it even better!

With invaluable contributions from the Data Use Working Group, we've improved the user experience while streamlining data input. The new Data User Guide provides users with everything they need to make the best use of this robust tool, while the newly updated Project Explorer User Portal allows users and their



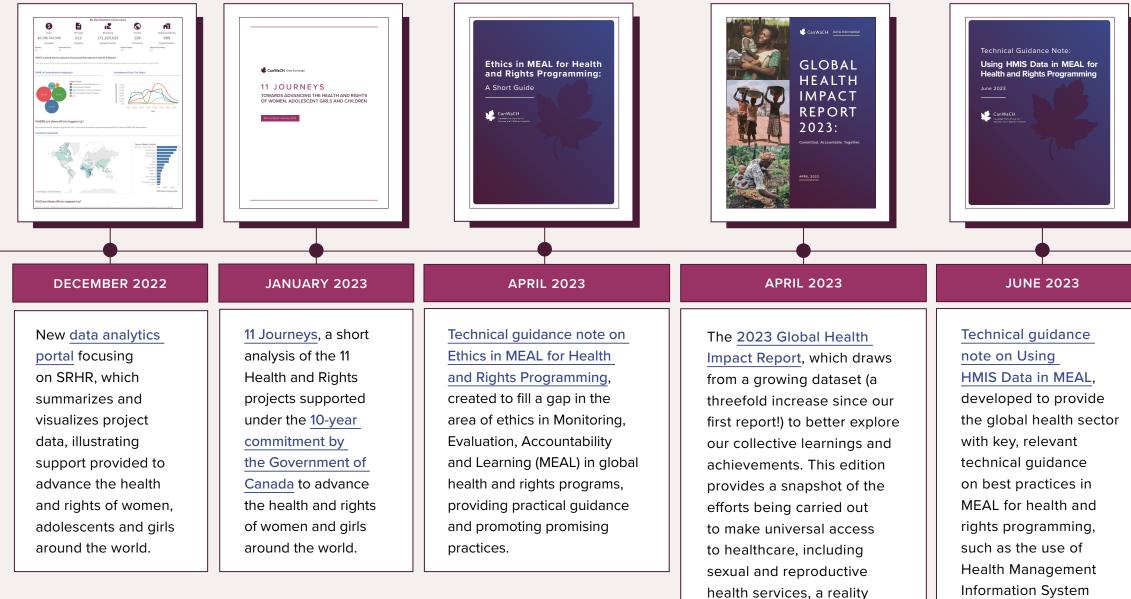


- CanWaCH member

organizations to enter new projects as well as update existing data more easily. It also allows users to collaborate on content, providing a way for users to manage their organization's projects more efficiently between teams.

As of writing, there are 1500+ projects across 158 countries in the Project Explorer showing key details, maps, results and highlights. All data and visuals are open-access and exportable for use in research, planning, reports, presentations and more. We hope that with the improvements made this year, our members and stakeholders can dive deeper in the data, make stronger connections and build unstoppable momentum!

TIMELINE OF MAJOR RESOURCES LAUNCHED THIS PAST YEAR



everywhere.



(HMIS) data.

JUNE 2023

The Canadian Collaborative for Global Health: One Year In (webinar). Bringing together global partners and partners in Canada, the second iteration of the **Canadian Collaborative** for Global Health aims to generate solutions to urgent data challenges in global health and gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health, gender and nutrition data gaps and research dissemination.

BOARD SECRETARIAT, WORKING GROUPS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Onome Ako, Action Against Hunger Canada (Chair)

Margaret Biggs, Queen's University (Vice-Chair)

Mark Brender, Partners in Health Canada Bill Chambers, (retired)

Christina Dendys, RESULTS Canada Timothy Evans, McGill University

Lindsay Glassco, Plan International Canada

Danny Glenwright, Save the Children Canada

Barbara Grantham, CARE Canada Nilima Gulranjani, ODI (Overseas **Development Institute**)

Ky'okusinga Kirunga, (formerly of Amref) Jocelyn Mackie, (formerly of Grand Challenges Canada)

David Morley, (formerly of Unicef) Nadia Pollaert. Médecins du Monde Canada | Doctors of the World Canada Eva Slawecki, Independent consultant

(formerly CAGH)

CanWaCH SECRETARIAT

Julia Anderson, Chief Executive Officer Megan Aikens, Director, Strategic Partnerships & Gender Equality

Claudia Gongora Boles, Director, Finance & Operations

Alli Bunting, Director, Programs & Operations

Charmaine Crockett, Director, Stakeholder Engagement

Jessica Ferne, Director, Global Health Impact

Sophie Arseneault, Policy and **Government Relations Officer**

Tucker Barton, Financial Administrator

Deborah Dahan, Gender Equality Officer

Nicole Jamrozinski, Manager, Development & Engagement

Erin Jex, Manager, Strategic Partnerships for Gender Equality

Tina LaRochelle, Corporate Services & Information Systems Officer

Hudson Biko Mwalagho, Senior Communications Officer

Imaeven Okon. Manager. Data Management & Digital Learning Amber St. Louis, Senior Writer and Editor Julianna Stonehouse, Manager, Programs and Operations Lauren Trancoso, Digital Media Assistant Andrea Walsh, Project Assistant

We are grateful to these former team members who contributed to our work over the past year:

Jennifer Boyce, Senior Advisor, Government Relations & Policy Erica Fotheringham, Manager, Learning

and Gender Equality Sabrina Grover, Strategic Issues Advisor Ericka Moerkerken, Senior Advisor, MEAL

Lauren Murray, Manager, Communications Dr. Segun Ogundele, Research Analyst

GENDER EQUALITY WORKING GROUP

Rebecca Boyce, Canadian Red Cross

Society (Co-Chair) Ajita Vidyarthi, Plan International Canada (Co-Chair)

Analia Agudelo Restrepo, Humanity & Inclusion Canada

Meaghan Anderson, Digital Opportunity Trust

Nalini Andrade, International Development Institute, Humber College

Samantha Ash, UNICEF Canada Saifullah Chaudhry, Development Impact Solutions

Jeanine Cudmore, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

Jennifer Donville, Consultant

Elizabeth Dvke. PhD. Consultant

Sherry Ellis-Leonard, Adventist

Development and Relief Agency of Canada Élisabeth Fluet-Asselin, Santé Monde

Sarah Flyng, World University Service of Canada

Annick Gillard-Bailetti, Verdae Consulting Juanita Gnanapragasam. School of Public Health, University of Alberta

Merydth Holte-McKenzie, World Vision Canada

Morag Humble, Alinea International

Alex Husband, International Development Institute, Humber College

Melina Kalamandeen, Amref Health Africa in Canada

Doug Kerr, Dignity Network Canada Michelle Kim, UNICEF Canada

Dominique LaRochelle, Save the Children Canada

Rebecca Lee, Global Affairs Canada Laura Lortie-Maurel, Cuso International Rozana Majumbar, Action Against Hunger

Cassandra Morris, HealthBridge Foundation of Canada Julian Muturia, World Renew Canada

Francoise Nduwimana, Global Affairs Canada

Andrea Papan, Independent Consultant Rachel Pell, Right To Play Sarah Pentlow, Nutrition International Rameesha Qazi, Aga Khan Foundation Canada

Paula Richardson, Salanga

Alison Riddle, Bruyere Research Institute, University of Ottawa

Jennifer Savidge, Cowater International Clare Szalay Timbo, Orbis Canada

Emmanuel Trépanier, Global Affairs Canada

Alex Valoroso, Valoroso Consulting Emily Wiseman, CARE Canada

Sindy Zemura-Bernard, Southern Africa Embrace Foundation Maggie Zeng, MCIC-FIT

Erin Jex, CanWaCH secretariat

METRICS WORKING GROUP

Pablo Acosta-Zamora, HOPE International Development Agency Behnoush Ahranjani, HealthBridge Foundation of Canada

Zuhra Aman, Action Against Hunger Canada

David Amaya, Right To Play Canada Kaia Ambrose, Global Affairs Canada Luay Basil, Canadian Red Cross Society Catherine Bertrand, Mission Inclusion Danielle Bishop, Nutrition International Rudy Broers, Plan International Canada Marnie Davidson, Global Affairs Canada Bart Dickinson, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

Elsabe Du Plessis, University of Manitoba - Institute for Global Public Health

Angel Foster, University of Ottawa

Ilene Hyman, University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Centre for **Global Health**

Naren Keita, Santé Monde

Sundus Khan, University of Calgary, **Cumming School of Medicine**

Sara Marshall, WaterAid Canada Diwakar Mohan, Johns Hopkins

Bloomberg School of Public Health Annie Montcalm-Cardinal, Oxfam-Québec

Jakub Nemec, Salanga Kristin Neudorf, Grand Challenges Canada Thomas Orr, Aga Khan Foundation Canada

Alison Riddle, Bruyere Research Institute, University of Ottawa

Victoria Sauveplane, University of Toronto Clarissa Teixeira, CARE Canada Sara Wuehler, Nutrition International Jessica Ferne, CanWaCH secretariat

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Deanne Berman, Seva Canada (Co-chair) Terry Chemij, World Vision Canada (Co-chair)

Sanga Achakzai, Maternity Today Mélissa Cabana, Médecins du Monde Canada

Joao De Franco, Global Affairs Canada Denise MacDonald. Results Canada Kate MacRae. Save the Children Canada Léa Pelletier-Marcotte, Oxfam-Québec Kamilla Pinter, HealthBridge Foundation of Canada

Rosemary Quipp, Aga Khan Foundation Canada

Minerva Saddler Gray, ONE Global Prachi Shailendra, SOS Children's Villages Canada

Cassie Smith. Canadian Association of Midwives

Mehak Srivastava, Plan International Canada

Sophie St-Laurent, World University Service of Canada

Melissa Sundardas, Centre For Global Child Health, SickKids Tina Sweeney, Cuso International Marie-Alix Talhouët, Médecins du Monde Canada

Fatou Thiam, Humanity & Inclusion Charanya Thiyanavadivel, Canadian Feed the Children

Association of Midwives

Lauren Alcorn, One Drop Foundation Christopher Armstrong, Plan International Canada

Canada

Martin Fischer, World Vision Canada Ramina Ghassemi, UNICEF Canada Nyambura Githaiga, CARE Canada Ekatha John, Results Canada Mark Leclair, Nutrition International Tina Lines, Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases Emily Neilson, Canadian Red Cross Society Jennifer Slawich, Right To Play

International Healy Thompson, Stephen Lewis Foundation

Julie Truelove, WaterAid Canada Megan Aikens, CanWaCH secretariat Sophie Arseneault, CanWaCH secretariat

YOUTH WORKING GROUP

Clèche Kokolo (Co-chair) Hani Rukh E Qamar (Co-chair) Bryanna Brown Medeatrice Fonyuy Mary Gebre Zein Hindawi Sania Julian Eva Kamimura Sophia Mirzayee

INTENTIONALITY

BACK ON A YEAR OF

MAPPING OUR MOMENTUM: LOOKING

Annual Report

2022-2023

CanWaCH

Alexander Wysocki-Najar, Canadian Charmaine Crockett, CanWaCH secretariat Biko Mwalagho, CanWaCH secretariat

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY WORKING GROUP

Chloé Cébron. Médecins du Monde Canada Dominique Denoncourt, Results Canada Kianna Dewart, SOS Children's Villages

Zoey Nesbitt Christina Nguyen Leah Peer Andrea Rodriguez Ayala Maryann Rogers Sanam Sekandary Simron Sidhu Lauren Wiebe Alli Bunting, CanWaCH (Secretariat)

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Louis Belanger, Bigger Than Our Borders Jessica Bryant, Save the Children Canada Martin Fischer, World Vision Canada Cédric Garnier, Aga Khan Foundation Canada Spencer Henson, Guelph Institute of Development Studies

Gabriel Karasz-Perriau, Cooperation Canada

Anjum Sultana, Plan International Canada Rudy Broers, Plan International Canada Tina Sweeney, CUSO International Charmaine Crockett, CanWaCH secretariat

EQUAL FUTURES NETWORK **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Julia Anderson, CanWaCH (Co-chair) Genesa Greening, Vancity Community Foundation (Co-chair) Clèche Kokolo, Youth Representative, CanWaCH Youth Working Group

Angela Marie MacDougall, Battered Women's Support Services Association Agata Michalska, UWEO

Jenny Nam, YVR Sydney Piggott, Shopify Hani Rukh E Qamar, Youth Representative, CanWaCH Youth Working Group Samantha Rockbrune, Kawartha World Issues Centre

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