

Ending violence and harmful practices against children is a priority for Global Affairs Canada. Child protection is highlighted as an objective of the 2030 Agenda. It aims to eliminate harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and cutting. The 2030 Agenda urges immediate action on the worst forms of child labour and an end to child labour in all forms. It also seeks action to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children, including the torture of children.

The expertise of Canadian organizations helps achieve results for children and youth around the world. Canada's \$9 million support for Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education has helped nearly 1,000 children strengthen their leadership skills to build safer, more equitable communities with greater respect for human rights and democracy in Tanzania, Senegal, Haiti and Colombia. Their participation has helped combat discrimination and violence against women and girls and has empowered them to be agents of change on issues affecting children and youth.

Canada's support for Save the Children in Iraq has helped protect children from violence and exploitation, via the creation of four child-friendly spaces where 2,381 children were enrolled, the rehabilitation of

six schools attended by 550 children, and case management support for 181 children requiring child protection.

Investments across the Children and Youth strategy are critical to ending the practice of child, early and forced marriage. Canada's \$3 million contribution to Plan International Canada is helping combat child, early and forced marriage in Bangladesh by training teachers and school management committee members on prevention and the creation of safe spaces where peer mentors provide support and disseminate information on life skills, sexual and reproductive health, and child, early and forced marriage.

Canada also conducted high-impact advocacy at home and abroad to build support to end child, early and forced marriage in high-prevalence countries and raise awareness among key stakeholders. This included co-hosting a side event with Bangladesh at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2016, and hosting multiple launches of the exhibit "Girls' Voices: Speaking Out Against Child Marriage" at the 26th African Union Summit, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2015 and the First African Girls' Summit.

WINS FOR GIRLS - WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

Canada is contributing \$7.5 million as the lead donor to WinS for Girls – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools for Girls, a multi-country program and partnership led by UNICEF and the UN Girls' Education Initiative. This initiative seeks to increase the number of girls completing primary school and entering secondary schools by supporting girls' menstrual hygiene needs. Inadequate facilities at schools and a lack of access to feminine hygiene products force millions of girls around the world to miss class during menstruation. The project is being implemented in 14 countries, with 10 projects funded by Canada in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Zambia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, and Bolivia.

With the support of the Government of Canada, ministries of education in all participating countries have established menstrual hygiene management working groups. In addition, a Web-based learning program has helped WinS for Girls network members strengthen their capacity for research and action on menstrual hygiene management. A basic package of water, sanitation and menstrual hygiene management interventions is under development and will be rolled out in 100 schools in all 14 countries by the end of the project. These activities will help reduce one of the most significant barriers that adolescent girls face in completing their education in developing countries.



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