

Already, Canada is increasingly using its ODA to facilitate private sector investment aligned with achieving the SDGs. One example is Canada's work through Convergence, an online platform that supports greater use of blended financing by public, private and philanthropic partners. Promoting the design of innovative finance vehicles, connecting investors and deals, and sharing experience and knowledge are ways to encourage the uptake of blended finance. Another example is the Canada-Asia Trade and Investment for Growth Program, an Asia-Pacific regional development assistance program designed to engage the private sector in support of the action areas of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. The program is engaging in private sector partnerships that can attract co-financing and investment, and leverage knowledge and expertise. These partnerships can also help identify and test innovative solutions to address development challenges and reduce poverty.

In 2017-2018, Canada continued its investment in the Global Financing Facility in support of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH). The facility employs various innovative financing tools such as development impact bonds, performance-based loan buy-downs, and co-financing grants to mobilize domestic and private sector capital and drive country-level progress toward SDG 3

(health) and achieving universal health coverage. In 2018, the World Bank launched a series of Sustainable Development Bonds specifically for RMNCAH, which raised \$1.2 billion in private capital, primarily from Canadian investors. Through these bonds, the facility will use its grants to support countries in accessing this financing for their RMNCAH projects.

Canada also participates in the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership, which contributes to financing the SDGs. It aims to mobilize \$100 billion in private financing by improving and enhancing risk mitigation tools to reduce political, regulatory, credit, currency and liquidity threats.

Canada is also supporting innovative approaches to promoting financial inclusion. For example, in 2017-2018, the Government of Canada partnered with the Mennonite Economic Development Associates on a \$16-million project to support women in Myanmar's Shan and Kayah States. The goal was to increase their income and status as economic actors and leaders in their communities. So far, over 8,500 women small producers, farmers, savings group members and village leaders have increased their capacity. They have also benefited from market linkages with the private sector and access to credit, inputs, markets and new technologies through an innovative matching grants program.

FINDEV CANADA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In February 2018, Canada launched its Development Finance Institute Canada, branded as FinDev Canada. It aims to fill the gap between development assistance and commercial financial support. Established as a wholly owned subsidiary of Export Development Canada, FinDev received \$50 million in 2017-2018. This is the first injection of a planned total capitalization of \$300 million over five years. FinDev Canada will support sustainable development, women's economic empowerment and gender equality, and climate change mitigation and adaptation through its financial services to the private sector in developing countries. This is consistent with the Feminist International Assistance Policy. Women's economic empowerment is an overarching priority for FinDev Canada.

In March 2018, FinDev Canada made its first transaction. It was an investment in M-KOPA, a Kenya-based company providing clean energy to off-grid homes with important positive impacts for women.

In partnership with the U.K.'s development finance institution, CDC, FinDev Canada provided a \$10-million equity investment that will allow M-KOPA to expand its market and bring power to another 1 million households over the next five years. Access to power is a major issue across Africa and women stand to gain the most from this investment. Reliable electricity can have a transformative impact on their daily lives. In 2015, due in part to its use of mobile payment services for all of its transactions, M-KOPA was featured as one of the world's top 10 most innovative companies in Africa. It also offers quality jobs to women. Women account for 52% of M-KOPA's 800-plus East African work force of permanent employees and 44% of its commissioned sales agents. This, combined with its innovative approach to data and consumer mapping, makes M-KOPA a leader in development innovation.

While FinDev Canada's Development Impact Framework aligns with the objectives of the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act, Canada is still examining how to include FinDev in financial reporting for the Act. As such, the investments described here are not reflected in the financial tables included in the present report.