

# ADVANCING CANADA'S PRIORITIES THROUGH CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

## CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS

The Government of Canada recognizes and supports the vital role that Canadian organizations play in reaching development objectives, including poverty reduction and democratic governance. When these organizations and the Government partner together, Canada is better equipped to deliver results that benefit the poorest and most vulnerable. Canadian organizations bring their expertise to the partnership, but they also help engage Canadians in international assistance priorities through their awareness campaigns and volunteer opportunities.

In 2013–2014, the Canadian government had partnerships with more than 200 Canadian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, universities, colleges, municipalities, professional associations, cooperatives and the private sector. Working with this wide range of partners at home helps the Government of Canada find innovative solutions to pressing development challenges and deliver concrete results for those most in need, especially women and children, around the world.

Partnerships with Canadian organizations are described throughout this report. The following section summarizes areas of work that span across the Government's international assistance priorities.

### Partnerships for Development with Canadian Civil Society Organizations

The Government of Canada has a long history of working in partnership with civil society organizations. They contribute to development in innovative ways that complement the roles and functions of government, the private sector, and multilateral organizations, especially in addressing the concerns of the most marginalized individuals in society.

For example, the Agha Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) has been a key partner for the Government of Canada since 1981. Seeking to develop and promote creative solutions to problems obstructing social development, the AKFC works actively in a wide range of sectors, including health, education, civil society strengthening, microfinance, tourism, culture and the promotion of private enterprise. In 2013–2014, Canada provided funding to the AKFC for 14 projects.

## Engaging Canadians in International Development

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of engaging Canadians in international development and values the meaningful contribution they can make in the lives of people most in need. Volunteering is one of the most direct ways Canadians contribute to development efforts as their skills build the capacity of developing-country partners and meet local needs in a sustainable manner. Canada has supported international volunteers for more than 20 years, and several programs are in place to engage and mobilize Canadians to participate in international development initiatives in three significant areas: public awareness, education and knowledge, and youth participation.

In 2013–2014, Canada funded a number of volunteer cooperation agencies to mobilize more than 1,900 volunteers (of whom 72 percent are Canadians) to support Canada's international assistance priorities. International volunteering has enabled Canadians to share their knowledge, experience and Canadian values with developing-country beneficiaries, and to learn from them in return.

In addition, through the Global Citizens program, Canada continues to support active Canadian participation in international development through public awareness initiatives, education and knowledge exchange, and youth participation. In 2013–2014, the International Youth Internship program funded 329 internships with 24 Canadian organizations, and more than 80 percent of the youth who participated remained employed in international development and/or continued their participation in international development initiatives.

Canada's support to seven provincial and regional councils for international cooperation helps reach more than a million Canadians every year through a range of public engagement activities that are aimed at increasing awareness of and involvement in international development. In 2013–2014 alone, the seven councils reached more than 2.2 million Canadians through International Development Week 2014 and other outreach activities.