

Health Research. This program reflects Canada's sustained commitment to improving maternal and child health and curtailing preventable deaths by generating relevant, practical, and affordable innovations in sub-Saharan Africa, where maternal and child mortality rates are among the highest in the world. The seven-year (2014–2020), \$36-million program will support research teams in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan and Tanzania.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION



Increasing access to quality basic education is another key priority for Canada to meet its engagement to securing the future of children and youth. Global progress has been made on increasing primary school enrolment and gender parity in education over the past decade. However, in many areas, a basic education is not even an option, with 57 million children—53 percent of them girls—having no access to school or other learning opportunities that can give them hope for a better future.

Canada remains supportive of promoting universal basic education, which is in line with our commitments to the Education For All goals and Millennium Development Goals 2, achieve universal primary education, and 3, promote gender equality and empower women. The Government of Canada is working to improve the quality of education and learning achievement, with a particular focus on teachers and teacher training, relevant curriculum and teaching and learning materials, and with special attention to gender equality. Work in this area also aims to increase access to relevant learning opportunities for male and female youth, both in and out of school.

For example, in Kenya, Canada collaborates with UNICEF and the national government to increase the number of children, especially girls, who receive quality basic education in safe and stimulating learning environments in the northern part of the country. This includes enhancing the quality of teaching and school leadership, fostering the participation of girls and boys in decision making and ensuring that schools are inclusive and non-violent. As a result of the project, 8,000 teachers were trained in best practices on child-friendly school thematic areas. Also, 120 child-friendly school facilitators were trained to mentor individuals in 200 target schools.

In Ethiopia, DFATD supports the Christian Children's Fund of Canada to improve the educational status of girls and boys across three districts by increasing access to quality early childhood education and primary education. As a result of the project, enrolment in early childhood care centres has increased from 8.5 percent in 2012 to 29 percent in 2013, and the number of girls and boys entering Grade 1 has increased from 7.7 percent in 2012 to 19.4 percent in 2013. Moreover, 53 facilitators have been trained in child care and education, and 8,800 parents, village leaders and teachers have been engaged in community conversations to promote access to quality education.

In addition, Canada is a key actor in advancing education globally through strong partnerships, including through institutional support to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The GPE is the only multilateral partnership devoted to getting all children into school for a quality education, and recent results show that it is effective. For example, since 2003, GPE partners have helped to get nearly 22 million more children into school, including 10 million girls. The GPE aims not just to ensure access to education, but to ensure children complete their schooling and learn. The primary school completion rate in GPE countries increased from 61 percent in 2002 to 75 percent in 2011. Moreover, the literacy rates for youth between 15 and 24 years old increased from 77 percent in 2000–2003 to 81 percent in 2007–2010 in GPE countries; this rate grew more rapidly in conflict-affected GPE countries: from 56 percent to 69 percent.

In 2013, through long-term institutional support to UNICEF, Canada also contributed to increasing the number of children in humanitarian situations with access to education, including more than 550,000 children in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey; 124,000 in the Philippines; and 113,000 in Mali.