

## SECURING THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH – \$1,008.09 million\*



Today's generation of children and youth is the largest in history, with nearly half of the world's population of 7 billion

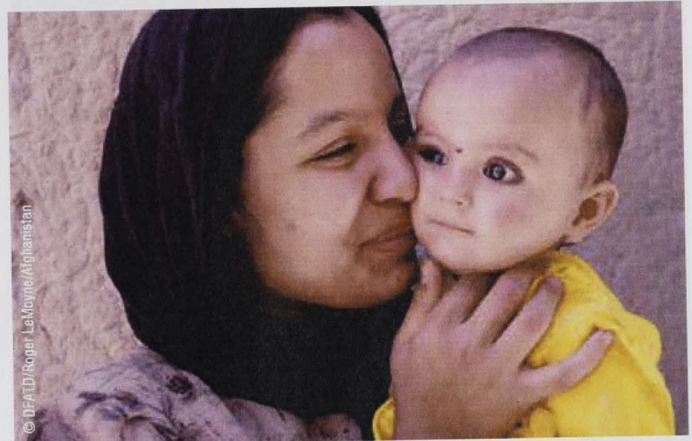
under the age of 25. Among them, more than 90 percent live in the developing world. With the right care and development, children and youth have the potential to become active and productive young women and men. But for too many of them, difficult challenges stand in the way.

No matter where they are, children and youth are entitled to live in safe environments, free from the violence and discrimination that affects far too many in the developing world. Canada understands this basic principle, and is working to improve the futures of children and youth not only because it upholds Canada's commitment under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), but also because it helps young people reach their full potential and contribute to the social and economic development of their societies.

Canada's work supports young women and men to become healthy, educated, and productive citizens of tomorrow by encouraging efforts to improve maternal, newborn and child health; improving the equitable access of children and youth to quality education and learning opportunities, with a special emphasis on girls; and helping ensure the rights and protection of children and youth from violence, exploitation and abuse.

Canada's children and youth programming focuses its assistance on three priorities: improving child survival, including maternal health; improving access to quality education; and ensuring safe and secure futures for children and youth. The following sections highlight Canada's work in securing the future of children and youth in 2013–2014.

### IMPROVING CHILD SURVIVAL, INCLUDING MATERNAL HEALTH



Improving maternal, newborn and child health is key to securing the future of children and youth. While maternal mortality rates have fallen by almost 45 percent and child mortality rates have fallen by nearly 50 percent around the world, improvement in women's and children's health has been uneven, with the slowest progress occurring on the African continent. Today, 289,000 women lose their lives during pregnancy or childbirth. About 6.6 million children die before their fifth birthday, and of these, 2.9 million die in their first month of life.

Canada has shown leadership on improving maternal, newborn and child health through the G-8 Muskoka Initiative, the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, and the United Nations Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, which Prime Minister Harper co-chaired with Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete. Canada continues to exercise its leadership in this area and is committed to ensuring that maternal and child survival remains a key development priority.<sup>11</sup> At the Saving Every Woman, Every Child: Within Arm's Reach summit, held in Toronto on May 28–30, 2014, the Prime Minister announced Canada's commitment of \$3.5 billion to improve the health of mothers and children for the period of 2015–2020, demonstrating Canada's continuing commitment to support global efforts to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborn and children younger than the age of five.

In addition to the spectrum of programming to support advances in maternal, newborn and child health, Canada is also contributing to important research in this area. For example, in 2013–2014, a new Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa program was launched through the Global Health Research Initiative, a partnership between the Government of Canada, DFATD, IDRC, and the Canadian Institutes of

\* Figures are preliminary. Final amounts will be published in the Statistical Report on International Assistance by the end of March 2015 on the DFATD website.

11. For additional information about Canada's commitment to maternal, newborn and child health, see pp. 5–6.