

In June 2017, Canada announced the launch of a new CDN \$150M/ 5 years Women's Voice and Leadership Program to support local women's organisations and movements that advance women's rights and gender equality in developing countries. The Program will be implemented in over 30 countries where Canada has a development presence. Local women's organizations that advance women's rights and gender equality, particularly at the grassroots level, play an important role in raising social awareness, mobilizing communities to change laws, attitudes, social norms and practices, and holding governments accountable. Yet, globally such organizations face significant gaps in funding. The Women's Voice and Leadership Program will strengthen institutional capacity, support activities, and promote network and alliance building. Canada has announced Women's Voice and Leadership projects in Haiti (CDN \$8.3M) and Ukraine (CDN \$4.75M), as well as regional projects in the Middle East (CDN \$5.5M), and Pan-Africa (CDN \$7M). Canada is also seeking to increase the impact of the Women's Voice and Leadership Program by engaging with philanthropic organizations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which committed US \$ 20 M to support local women's organizations in the fall of 2017.



Digital Skills Training in Ethiopia.  
Credit: Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT)