

CANADA'S FEMINIST INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, launched in June 2017, seeks to eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world. Based on overwhelming evidence, Canada recognizes that promoting gender equality and investing in empowering women and girls is the most effective approach to reducing poverty. Women and girls are powerful agents of change. They have the ability to transform their households, communities and the economies of their countries.

This new vision for international assistance supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The policy adopts an integrated approach to development, humanitarian, and peace and security assistance through six action areas:

1. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (core action area)
2. Human dignity, which includes:
 - health and nutrition
 - education
 - gender-responsive humanitarian action
3. Growth that works for everyone
4. Environment and climate action
5. Inclusive governance
6. Peace and security

These action areas take into account Canada's experience and comparative advantage. They represent interrelated global challenges that, when addressed, can make a significant difference in the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable citizens, particularly women and girls.



In the Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada has committed to working to maximize the effectiveness of its international assistance. This includes:

- providing more integrated and responsive assistance;
- investing in innovation and research;
- increasing transparency;
- delivering better reporting on results;
- developing more effective partnerships; and
- concentrating on those regions of the world where Canada can make the greatest difference in reducing poverty and inequality, particularly for women and girls.

Prioritizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls represents a significant evolution in how Canada approaches international assistance. In 2017-2018, Global Affairs Canada took important steps to reorient its programming to align with the policy and its targets. For example, 99% of Canada's new bilateral international development assistance programming in 2017-2018 targeted or integrated gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.