

## SECURING THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Canada is a long-standing champion of child rights and takes a holistic approach to creating a better future for children and youth in developing countries. Through its Children and Youth strategy, Global Affairs Canada helps children and youth become healthy, educated and productive members of society. Its work on improving the health and rights of women and children, education and child protection helps children to survive and thrive as they progress into adolescence and young adulthood. This includes access to care and protection services, and opportunities to learn, work and participate in decision-making. While important gains have been made, millions of children and youth still face obstacles that prevent them from realizing their full potential and safely moving into adulthood. This is especially true for adolescent women and girls, who face particular challenges in the realization of their full human rights.

Canada supports children and youth as both beneficiaries and as agents of change. Canada's work builds on international human rights commitments, including the 2030 Agenda, which calls for a world that "invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation." The 2030 Agenda contains explicit references to the rights and development of children and youth (girls and boys) in six out of the 17 goals that deal with hunger and nutrition, health, education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, climate change and healthy environments, and in targets on violence, exploitation and harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage.

### IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The global community has achieved significant progress in improving the health of women and children around the world. Yet, every day approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth and 16,000 children under the age of five die, half of them due to conditions that could have been prevented or treated with access to simple affordable interventions.

In response to this global challenge, Canada has committed \$3.5 billion from 2015-2020 to improving the health and rights of women and children. This now recognizes the full range of women's health needs, including sexual and reproductive health services. Canada led global efforts by supporting the renewed Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. In 2016, Canada's Minister for International Development and La Francophonie was appointed by the UN Secretary-General to the High-Level Advisory Group for the Every Woman Every Child movement. Canada is a leader in mobilizing action on women's, children's and adolescents' health and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As a founding donor of the Global Financing Facility and a member of its governing body, Canada also leads global efforts to coordinate financing for the health and rights of women and children.



Country: Tanzania © Global Affairs Canada

### IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION

Education is a fundamental human right. Investments in education lead to successful outcomes in other areas of sustainable development, including governance and clean economic growth as well as the health and rights of children and youth, particularly girls and young women.

In 2015, Canada welcomed the inclusion of a dedicated goal for education as part of the 2030 Agenda. This goal shifts the international priority from access to education to ensuring higher quality education and learning outcomes.