

PEACE AND SECURITY



The SDGs underscored that “there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.” The SDGs include SDG 16, which aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy recognizes the centrality of Goal 16 to the achievement of Agenda 2030. To achieve the SDG 16 targets, Canada has been collaborating with its many partners. It has operated in fragile and conflict-affected states to advance the rule of law, access to justice, and more transparent and accountable public institutions that support peace and effective security systems. In 2017-2018, Canada worked to advance SDG 16 in many parts of the world. This includes Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali and the Sahel region, Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine.



INNOVATION Canada also continued to demonstrate policy leadership on peace and security issues in 2017-2018. In November 2017, Canada launched its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2017-2022). It builds on the 2011-2016 plan and puts women and girls at the centre of efforts to prevent and resolve conflict. Canada also spearheaded the Elsie Initiative on Women in Peace Operations. This innovative pilot project was launched in November 2017 and aims to spur transformational change. It will achieve this by increasing women's meaningful participation in UN peace operations in uniformed military and police roles.

In 2017-2018, Canada invested \$148 million in official development assistance initiatives in the peace and security action area. Among other things, these contributions have resulted in:

- increased capacities of peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions, including to address gender issues;
- increased capacities of local partners and populations to prevent and stabilize conflict situations; and
- more effective, accountable and gender-sensitive policing, judicial and corrections institutions.



PEACE AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DEMINING IN COLOMBIA

Following years of conflict, Colombia is still littered with landmines. In 2017-2018, 1,216 people (46% women) living in mine-affected zones participated in mine risk education. Demining teams (36% female staff) cleared 29,000 square metres, and destroyed 42 explosive devices, benefiting almost 2,000 people in five of Colombia's most mine-contaminated departments (regions).

Eliana, a single mother with two daughters, works as a demining team leader in Cauca, Colombia, where the Government of Canada supports demining work through the HALO Trust, a charity. In just 13 months on the project, she completed demining training and further training to become a paramedic deminer. She was then promoted to the leadership position that she now holds. “Working for HALO has been a very positive experience. This work has enabled me to better provide for my daughters, both materially and emotionally. I have been able to pay for my daughters' education, and to ensure that they have enough home comforts to feel cared for and loved. I feel I am making a contribution to the community, and, as such, to my country. In my own small way, I am helping the peace process in Colombia.”

