

Taking into account the perspectives of the poor is also critical to Canada's ODA programming. To ensure that local needs are being effectively met, Canada engages with partner governments, civil society organizations and project beneficiaries throughout the project cycle. It also regularly consults with a wide range of international experts, academics and other stakeholders to inform Canada's approach. Stakeholder perspectives that were shared during the International Assistance Review in 2016-2017 played an important role in shaping the new Feminist International Assistance Policy.

For Canada's programming to be consistent with international human rights standards, initiatives must demonstrate, at a minimum, that they reasonably expect to "do no harm." This means exercising due diligence to avoid undermining human rights in the country or community. Many projects specifically target human rights issues as key objectives.

As part of its feminist approach to international assistance, Canada is committed to providing international assistance that is human rights-based and inclusive. Canada recognizes that all people should enjoy the same fundamental human rights and be given the same opportunities to succeed. This is regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, migrant or refugee status, or any other aspect of identity. Adopting a human rights-based approach will mean that Canada contributes to advancing human rights through all its international assistance. Canada will do so guided by the key human rights principles of:

- equality;
- non-discrimination;
- participation;
- inclusion;
- transparency; and
- accountability.