
STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Canada's international assistance initiatives—and those of its partners—need to be informed by a strong evidence base. This improves responses to the specific needs of women and girls, and men and boys, and advances gender equality. Supporting policy research, better data collection and evaluations for gender equality are several ways to strengthen the evidence base.

In 2016-2017, with Global Affairs Canada's support, the Inter-Parliamentary Union undertook research and evidence-based analysis on prejudice, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians. Fifty-five women parliamentarians from 39 countries and 42 parliaments provided data. This analysis was done to support the equitable and inclusive participation of women and other marginalized and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes.

IDRC's Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women program is filling gaps in the evidence base on women's economic empowerment, gender equality and economic growth in low-income countries. This \$17.5-million, five-year program (2013-2018) was jointly funded with the U.K.'s Department for International Development and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. It supports 14 research projects in 50 countries aimed at generating knowledge on how best to overcome key challenges. These include deeply rooted restrictive social norms that limit women's choices and access to opportunities. They also include the lack of recognition and value given to women's dual roles as caregivers and breadwinners.

Canada successfully advocated for the further integration of gender-equality programming and results in the work of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala. Canada's support enabled the commission to develop studies on human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The commission also studied organized crime and violence against women. Both studies are proving to be key contributions to the policy and programming discussions on these issues.

In 2016-2017, Canada worked to combat gender stereotypes and discrimination by strengthening gender equality standards in journalism in Ukraine. The Strengthening Investigative Reporting in Ukraine project supported the development and implementation of gender equality policies in five partner newsrooms. This resulted in a steady increase in gender-balanced and inclusive media content, reaching a prospective 14 million viewers.