



INCREASING CLIMATE RESILIENCE, PRODUCTIVITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN GUATEMALA'S DRY CORRIDOR

"Before Canada and the World Food Programme came to our community, women could not be leaders or have an opinion. Now, we have trained and worked hard to do something for our community and we are respected. Their help has brought us great satisfaction." Doris Fajardo lives in El Progreso, Guatemala's "dry corridor", an area affected by drought and food scarcity. As a widow, she is the sole provider for her four children. Doris and other women in her community received support to implement techniques such as irrigation ditches, terracing, erosion barriers and composting. Doris now produces enough crops to feed her family and has some surplus to sell. She also guides other mothers in her community, helping them to learn about and implement new practices.

In December 2017, the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank approved the Beijing Air Quality Improvement and Coal Replacement Project. The project improves air quality and reduces pollution by replacing coal with natural gas in rural villages in Beijing's outskirts. Upon completion, the project will provide gas service connections to roughly 200,000 rural households, and reduce coal consumption by 650,000 tons annually in Beijing. Canada became a full member of the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank in March 2017 and is now on the bank's board of directors. Canada will continue to support policies and projects like this that promote sustainable infrastructure development in Asia.

ADOPTING ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT HEALTHY, RESILIENT, ADAPTIVE COMMUNITIES

Canada has long championed the adoption of environmentally sound practices to build resilience, strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation, reduce pollution, and improve sustainable natural resource management.

These goals are being achieved by supporting the leadership and ownership of women, youth and vulnerable groups. Support helps them to develop local practices and technologies, such as climate-smart agriculture, and equips them to plan, prepare and respond to sustainability challenges. This approach has harnessed traditional ecological knowledge and practices. It has also incorporated disaster-risk reduction, including strategies to improve climate resilience.

The UN's Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 has guided Canada's efforts. Canada is making sure that its international assistance reduces disaster risk and builds disaster resilience while increasing preparedness to respond to disaster impacts. Canada hosted the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (Montréal, March 2017). It was a successful, ministerial, high-level event, and it adopted the first regional action plan for disaster risk reduction in the Americas.

Canada, through ECCC, has been contributing annually to the World Meteorological Organization. This includes voluntary contributions to World Meteorological Organization-managed trust funds that help developing countries fortify their national meteorological and hydrological services. This ensures that their citizens receive important information about climate.

Through ECCC, Canada has contributed to the international Group on Earth Observations. This group helps developing countries build national capacity by investing in human, technical and institutional capacity. Canada also supports the global Climate Risk Early Warning Systems Initiative. This initiative aims to reduce human and economic losses associated with meteorological and climate-related hazards.

Canada pledged \$85 million for the 10th replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development from 2016 to 2018. Canada also provided a \$100-million grant to the Climate Investment Funds' Pilot Program for Climate Resilience. This program supports climate adaptation and resilience pilot projects. The UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development has relayed sizable support to poor farmers, thanks to contributions from Canada and other donors. These funds reached over 97 million people in rural areas—half of whom were women. The fund's work on inclusive rural finance allowed over 23.8 million people to more easily obtain rural financial services. In addition, the fund provided training to 2.5 million people in crop and livestock production practices and technologies to ramp up their agricultural productivity.

Canada is channelling \$30 million to the Global Environment Facility's Least Developed Countries Fund between 2017 and 2020. The fund supports the world's most vulnerable countries in their efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change. As an example, the fund has improved climate information in the Gambia by helping nine meteorological stations to be built. It has also trained staff from media outlets on sharing weather information.