

where the capacity to provide adequate public goods and services is already limited.⁴⁵ Driven mostly by large-scale displacements, the United Nations' global humanitarian appeal has grown nearly 10-fold in just 25 years, rising from \$2.7 billion in 1992 to \$22.2 billion in 2017.⁴⁶

At the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, the international community committed to a change in how humanitarian assistance is provided. For its part, Canada committed to providing more flexible and predictable funding in response to humanitarian crises, including the use of unearmarked and multi-year funding for longer-term crises.

When humanitarian crises hit, women and girls shoulder a heavier burden of care for both families and the community at large. Women and girls are also at higher risk for abuse, exploitation and violence—including sexual violence—with little protection and limited legal recourse. It is estimated that one in five

refugees or displaced women have experienced sexual violence, and given the barriers to reporting, this figure is likely to be an underestimation.

Because of the specific risks that humanitarian crises create for women and girls, Canada also commits to increase its support for women and girls in its humanitarian response efforts and for local groups providing emergency assistance, including local women's organizations.

Women and girls have the potential to be powerful agents of change in crisis situations. They are often uniquely positioned to take on leadership roles, determine priorities and influence more effective humanitarian responses. When women and girls are included in the planning and implementation of humanitarian responses, it improves humanitarian outcomes overall. These efforts also prepare women to lead post-crisis recovery and reconstruction.

