

IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Each year 1.5 million children under five die of vaccine-preventable diseases and one in five infants lacks access to routine immunizations. Approximately three million newborns die each year within 28 days of birth: 98 percent of those deaths occur in developing countries. More than 16 million adolescent girls become mothers every year, with maternal mortality being the number one cause of death for adolescent girls aged 15 to 19. Globally, young women aged 15 to 24 have HIV infection rates twice as high as young men.

Canada continues to play a leadership role in improving the health and rights of women and children around the world. In an effort to reduce mortality rates and increase health-related services, Canada worked on the renewed World Health Organization-led Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. This strategy focuses on ending preventable deaths, ensuring the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents, and expanding environments that enable good health. The renewed strategy was launched in September 2015 and, in January 2016, the UN Secretary-General appointed Canada's Minister for International Development and La Francophonie to the High-level Advisory Group for the Every Woman Every Child movement. This global movement helps ensure that all women, children and adolescents can survive, thrive and reach their full potential.

Canada also leads global coordination efforts to improve the health and rights of women and children. Canada is a founding donor and member of the governing body of the Global Financing Facility, a country-driven international partnership that aims to accelerate financing for global health for the poorest, the most vulnerable and the hardest-to-reach populations. In 2015, Canada committed \$200 million to the facility's mission to coordinate and align partners to meet the health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. As a result of Canada's leadership, the Global Financing Facility has begun an unprecedented movement among countries, the United Nations and multilateral agencies as well as public and private sector financiers and civil society organizations. This movement will increase and align funding for countries' health priorities and plans, and drive transformative improvements in the health of women and children around the world.

Canada also took steps to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and children by announcing \$81.6 million in support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This commitment includes:

- \$5 million for its flagship contraceptive supplies initiative,
- \$11 million to prevent adolescent pregnancies in Honduras,
- \$50 million for midwifery in South Sudan where maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world, and
- \$15.6 million in renewed institutional funding to the UNFPA.

CANADA AND THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

Canada supports the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and is its seventh largest donor. The Global Fund, a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, supports programs in more than 140 countries. These programs have saved an estimated 17 million lives to date—mostly in Africa, where the burden of disease is greatest. Since 2002, Canada has committed over \$2.88 billion to the Global Fund. This includes a pledge of \$785 million for 2017-2019, which will help save an additional eight million lives and stop an additional 300 million new infections by 2019.

Deaths and new infections from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria are declining and the Global Fund is on track to saving 22 million lives by the end of 2016. The Global Fund estimates that approximately 55 to 60 percent of its investments benefit women and girls. Gender inequalities, harmful practices, sexual violence and discrimination against women continue to fuel a disproportionate number of new HIV infections in women and adolescent girls.

The Global Fund has also achieved the following results:

- 89.2 million people on antiretroviral therapy for HIV,
- 15.1 million people tested and treated for tuberculosis,
- 659 million mosquito nets distributed to protect children and families from malaria, and
- 3.6 million HIV-positive mothers receiving medicine to prevent them from transmitting HIV to their babies.

As a reflection of the importance Canada places on the work of the Global Fund and Canada's leadership in this area, Canada hosted the Fifth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Montréal, Quebec on September 16 and 17, 2016.

Canada is a long-standing supporter of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which aims to save children's lives and protect health by increasing equitable access to immunization in the world's poorest countries. In 2015, Canada pledged \$500 million for Gavi's 2016-2020 strategy, which seeks to immunize 300 million more children by 2020. Gavi has already immunized half a billion children and saved seven million lives. Canada's support will enable Gavi to save an additional six million lives between 2016 and 2020.