

ACTION AREAS

GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS



Due to pervasive gender inequality, a disproportionate number of women and girls still face violence, discrimination and socio-economic marginalization.

Canada aims to advance gender equality in a sustainable manner and accelerate its progress across all other priorities. Canada has been investing in dedicated, coordinated efforts to address fundamental and multi-dimensional challenges to the empowerment of women and girls.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the core action area of the Feminist International Assistance Policy. It is also a strategic focus across all action areas through targeted or integrated investments. These initiatives cover a range of issues, including:

- sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- girls' education and women's skills development;
- women's economic empowerment and political participation;
- women, peace and security; and
- gender-responsive humanitarian action and climate action.

In 2017-2018, Canada invested \$27 million in initiatives focused specifically on addressing key cross-sectoral bottleneck issues under the core action area. This amount will continue to increase as initiatives ramp up in future years. Among other things, these contributions under the core action area have resulted in:

- strengthened capacity of women's organizations to drive change in their communities;



- revised mindsets and laws related to sexual and gender-based violence, and child, early and forced marriage;
- improved legal and psychosocial supports for vulnerable or affected women and girls; and
- expanded knowledge and insights about the root causes of gender gaps and inequalities.

By focusing efforts on this core action area, Canada is:

- addressing sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation / cutting;
- supporting and strengthening women's rights organizations and movements; and
- supporting evidence-based policy-making and program delivery for gender equality.