

RESPONDING QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISES



Humanitarian crises, driven largely by protracted conflicts and significant displacement of people, dominated 2015-

2016. In 2015, approximately 65 million people world-wide were forced from their homes. This included more than 21 million refugees. Overall, women and children make up the majority of any given refugee population. Due to a combination of different factors, including gender-based discrimination in access to resources, education and employment, poor reproductive healthcare and exclusion from decision-making processes, refugee and internally displaced women and girls constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in the world.

Yet, they also play a central role in the survival and resilience of families and communities. While some crises in 2015-2016 had a painfully acute impact, such as the Nepal earthquakes, others placed a prolonged and heavy strain on affected populations. These were primarily families facing food insecurity due to the El Niño-related droughts and people displaced by ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

During 2015-2016, Canada provided humanitarian assistance to 57 countries affected by complex emergencies, food insecurity, non-recurrent health epidemics and natural disasters, which alone numbered 27. Canada worked with UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and civil society organizations to provide critical humanitarian assistance in 2015-2016:

- The International Committee of the Red Cross provided 31.3 million people with improved access to water and sanitation facilities.
- The UN World Food Programme reached more than 50 million people in emergency settings, improving their nutrition and food security.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) vaccinated 11.3 million children against measles, and treated two million children for severe acute malnutrition.

NEPAL EARTHQUAKES

In April 2015, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck near Kathmandu, Nepal, and was followed by a series of large aftershocks, including a 7.3-magnitude earthquake shortly thereafter. The disaster affected over eight million people, led to more than 9,000 deaths and temporarily displaced 2.8 million people.

Within days of the earthquake, Canada provided \$10 million in humanitarian assistance and deployed its Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to provide crucial engineering expertise, mobile medical teams, geomatics support teams and liaison officers on the ground.



6. Table 2 represents ODAAA-compliant bilateral disbursements for humanitarian assistance. Figures are preliminary. Funding from all provinces are excluded from the totals. Final amounts will be published on Global Affairs Canada's website by the end of March 2017 in the *Statistical Report on International Assistance*.