

ENGAGING CANADIAN YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through initiatives such as the Volunteer Cooperation Program, the International Youth Internship Program and the International Aboriginal Youth Internships initiative, Canadian volunteers in professional fields and youth have supported capacity building in developing countries and built ties as global citizens. In 2015-2016, approximately 1,200 volunteers were deployed across 47 countries by 15 Canadian volunteer-sending partners. Through the International Youth Internship Program and the International Aboriginal Youth Internships initiative, more than 355 Canadian youth participated in development internships in 39 countries, through 22 Canadian organizations.

The Government of Canada has long-established partnerships, including with provincial and regional Councils for International Cooperation, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Canadian Red Cross. These partnerships familiarize Canadians with Canada's development priorities and help engage them in international development.

The eight provincial and regional councils organized a range of public engagement activities across the country, including events with a focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. International Development Week provided a valuable platform for information and exchange to reach over 3.6 million Canadians in 2016, notably youth, sharing knowledge about poverty reduction.

The Canadian Red Cross's Faces of Humanity online exhibit illustrated how Canadian aid workers routinely respond in crisis situations by providing life-saving assistance. In particular, it showcased the personal accounts of 13 Canadian Red Cross aid workers who responded to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, and the surge of refugees fleeing war in Syria.

The Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health was strengthened in 2015-2016 with the addition of 32 new Canadian organizations (a 40 percent increase in its membership). The network, with approximately 100 Canadian partners, works to save the lives of vulnerable women, newborns and children in the developing world and undertakes activities like knowledge sharing, public engagement and improved data collection to support international development.

