

## CANADA'S LEADERSHIP: DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENTS

### IMPROVING MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH



Canada is delivering on its promise to shift the focus to the health and rights of women and children. This includes ensuring that programming is evidence-based and expanded to include sexual and reproductive rights and the full range of health care and services for women. Between 1990 and 2015, the number of women who died each year during pregnancy or childbirth decreased by 43 percent from 532,000 to 303,000. At the same time, the number of children younger than age five who died each year decreased by more than half, from 12.7 million to 5.9 million.

Canada recognizes the crucial importance of quality health care and services for women, adolescents, and children, particularly those in fragile and conflict-affected states. It is these individuals who are often the poorest and most vulnerable. As a result, Canada has committed \$3.5 billion from 2015-2020 to improve the health and rights (including sexual and reproductive rights) of women and children by improving nutrition, reducing infectious diseases, and strengthening health systems.

Through partnerships with multilateral and country partners, Canada helped achieve the following in 2015-2016.

- More than 183 million children under the age of five received two annual doses of Vitamin A. In addition to preventing child blindness, Vitamin A helped save the lives of up to 400,000 children by reducing their risk of becoming ill or dying from severe infections.
- More than 380 million people consumed adequately iodized salt, protecting eight million newborns from iodine deficiency and potential mental impairments.
- Nearly 2.4 million pregnant women received iron and folic acid supplements to help them have healthier pregnancies.
- Almost 6,000 workers in Vietnam were trained in nutrition during pregnancy, pre and post-natal care, family planning and occupational health and safety in the workplace.
- Canada helped more than 10 million children receive life-saving vaccines against leading diseases, such as polio, measles and pneumonia. Timely vaccination continues to be one of the most cost-effective public health interventions available.



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