

PAKISTAN

Pakistan, the world's seventh most populous country, faces numerous challenges in poverty, governance, climate change and human rights. A history of military rule and weak civilian management has eroded democratic institutions and limited the provision of quality social services.

Significant human rights challenges exist, and women and girls suffer disproportionately in this regard. Pakistan ranks 147th out of 188 countries in the UNDP's 2016 Human Development Index, and 143rd out of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum's 2016 Global Gender Gap Index.

Canada's development assistance in Pakistan addresses one of the country's main challenges. That is gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the protection and promotion of their rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. There are

significant ongoing opportunities for Canada to promote women's economic empowerment and political participation. Canada can also help strengthen women's organizations and address the high prevalence of gender-based violence.

In addition, Canada supports polio eradication efforts, a key priority from a global health perspective. Most of the world's remaining polio cases are found in Pakistan. Despite significant progress, continued transmission in Pakistan and Afghanistan highlights the importance of a concerted effort to ensure:

- adequate surveillance;
- high levels of immunization coverage; and
- rapid outbreak responses.

