

A long-standing partner of the Government of Canada for more than 30 years, Plan Canada has successfully fought for child rights and enabled children, their families and communities in developing countries to escape the poverty cycle and be able to build efficient and sustainable solutions for improving their own lives. In 2013–2014, Canada supported Plan Canada's work in eight operational projects focusing on both humanitarian assistance and long-term child protection programs. In Colombia, DFATD collaborated with Plan Canada to strengthen the capacity of government and non-governmental actors to safeguard the rights and protection of conflict-affected and vulnerable children and youth. Approximately 1,400 children, adolescents and parents have received training on how to prevent sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation, enhancing their ability to create a protective environment for vulnerable girls and boys, as well as young women and young men.

Protecting children in emergencies also remained an important priority for DFATD in 2013–2014. For instance, with the department's support, UNICEF worked to strengthen the capacity of the international humanitarian community to implement the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. These efforts helped ensure that Canada's humanitarian partners, including the Red Cross Movement, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF continued to improve the quality, predictability and accountability of their child-protection responses, including in the Central African Republic and Colombia, and in the Philippines after the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan.

Save the Children Canada, Mercy Corps and World Vision Canada are key partners of the Government of Canada in supporting the "No Lost Generation" initiative to educate and normalize the lives of Syrian conflict-affected children and their families. DFATD is supporting these organizations to implement protection and education interventions to help restore hope to children affected by the crisis. This includes establishing and operating child-friendly spaces, creating and strengthening child-protection committees, and providing cash assistance to vulnerable refugee households to purchase basic necessities so that children are able to attend school. For more information on the Government of Canada's work in Syria, see the section "Responding Quickly and Effectively to International Humanitarian Crises" in this report.

In addition, DFATD supported community dialogue between community leaders and members of parliaments in Ghana to address the practice of child, early and forced marriage. Parliamentary workshops and community-based focus group discussions helped convey critical messaging on the harmful effects of child, early and forced marriage and identify practical, sustainable solutions. These community dialogues were rolled out in all 10 regions of Ghana, and attracted an average of 500 members per community.

