

Working with governments

To be effective, international assistance must respond to local needs and priorities. Partner country governments at all levels establish these priorities and they are—and will continue to be—primary partners for Canada’s international assistance. Beyond financial assistance, Canada can offer partner governments experience and expertise and the ability to provide timely and relevant technical assistance, including in responding to and reducing the risk of disasters.

Engaging civil society

Canadians have a long and proud tradition of working to improve living conditions for others around the world, whether through work with civil society and multilateral partners or by serving as volunteers. Eager to make a difference, Canadians, including youth and people from our diverse cultural communities, are at the forefront of our international development and humanitarian efforts.

Peaceful and prosperous civil societies are more likely to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, better able to respond to the effects of—and address the root causes of—poverty, and better able to build economies that work for everyone. Civil society organizations possess valuable experience and expertise and have a strong understanding of local challenges and opportunities. New partnerships between Canadian, international and local civil society organizations will foster new ideas and solutions, and ensure that Canada’s international assistance is more effective and yields lasting results.

The government benefits from a robust ecosystem of civil society partners who deliver international assistance programming, contribute to ongoing policy dialogue on global issues and engage Canadians in support of international development, the 2030 Agenda and Canada’s international assistance priorities. **Global Affairs Canada will continue to engage Canadian civil society organizations and ensure our approach to partnerships is aligned with our new policy on partnerships with civil society for international assistance.**

We will also provide \$100 million over five years in dedicated funding for small and medium-sized Canadian civil society organizations so they can develop and implement innovative programming in partnership with local organizations to support the six action areas, notably Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls.

WORKING WITH LA FRANCOPHONIE

Over the next three decades, the world’s francophone population is expected to reach 700 million. By 2050, Africa will have 90 percent of the world’s francophone youth between the ages of 15 and 29, an impressive force for change, innovation and development.

Comprising 84 states and governments and 274 million inhabitants on five continents, La Francophonie is a natural partner for Canada’s international assistance efforts.

As Canadians, we are proud of our linguistic duality, the dynamism of our own francophone communities and the role we play within La Francophonie. By engaging directly with members of La Francophonie, we will continue to promote the values of democratic governance, human rights and the rule of law; expand our support for women’s economic empowerment and their sexual and reproductive health and rights; address climate change; and prevent radicalization.