

Since December 2015, the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie have had discussions and consultations across the country as part of the International Assistance Review. The aim of the Review is to rethink Canada's international assistance policies and programs so as to respond better to the challenges and opportunities of the new global context and refocus assistance on the poorest and most vulnerable. These discussions and consultations will assist Canada in making its approach, investments and partnerships more innovative and effective. They included individual meetings, round tables and high-level brainstorming events, often using social media and Web portals. In March 2016, the ministers of International Development and La Francophonie and National Defense co-chaired the first joint meeting with Canadian partners on humanitarian principles. Global Affairs Canada has also brought together development practitioners from various Canadian organizations to build a vibrant community of practice and share best practices on innovation and the delivery of results. The Minister of International Development and La Francophonie also hosted a roundtable on Gender Equality and the Rights of Women and Girls in early 2016. The discussion focused on lessons learned and opportunities for Canada's leadership and comparative advantage in this area.

MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT IMPACT THROUGH INNOVATIONS

The Government of Canada believes that ODA can also reach the poorest and most vulnerable when organizations invest in development innovation. These innovations will allow for the best use of Canada's resources and maximize benefits for people in need. Innovation will be even more important as we advance with the 2030 Agenda.

In 2015–2016, the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) completed its five-year \$5.7 million government-funded project on water, sanitation and hygiene services for women and children in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Zambia. CAWST teaches people how to get safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation using Canadian technology: household biosand filters. CAWST reached 2.6 million people—more than five times the original target—by building the skills of trainers who in turn train hundreds of local organizations and community workers.

The Government of Canada's ongoing partnership with Grand Challenges Canada has supported the search for innovative solutions to improve the health of women and children. In 2015, Canada committed new support to Grand Challenges Canada's 10-year Innovation Platform for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. This will help develop and test social policy and technology innovations that improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in low- and middle-income countries.

The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF) Phase II, co-funded by Global Affairs Canada and IDRC, helped scale-up cutting-edge innovations that:

- prevent devastating disease outbreaks in crops vital for nutrition and livelihoods,
- enhance the participation and knowledge of women farmers,
- reduce fruit spoilage using nanotechnology, and
- support the search for a five-in-one livestock vaccine in Southern Africa.

Eighteen CIFSRF II projects are now being implemented by 17 Canadian partners, mainly universities, in cooperation with counterparts in southern Africa.

In 2015, the UN recognized Farm Radio International for its innovative use of radio and other technologies like cell phones to support small-scale farmers. In 2015–2016, the Radio for Farmer Value-Chain Development project reached more than 1.3 million farmers in Mali and Ghana. Radio helped inform their decisions on what and when to plant, and how to share techniques and markets. Since the project began in 2012, it has reached an estimated 4.6 million farmers in four countries.

In December 2015, Canada announced that it will contribute \$15.7 million to Oxfam Canada for its Creating Space to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls project, which uses new technology—such as mobile applications—to end violence against women and girls.

After seven years, the International Research Chairs Initiative, a partnership between IDRC and the Canada Research Chairs program, has brought together leading researchers and non-academic partners to address some of the greatest challenges of our time. Awardees have created a range of breakthrough technologies and fostered relationships among communities, governments and private sector partners to strengthen policies and programs. For example:

- In Morocco, the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Université Cadi Ayyad developed a cost-effective approach to reduce the leaching of heavy metals from an abandoned mine site.
- In southern Brazil, McMaster University and the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul jointly developed cutting-edge environmental monitoring techniques and advised on new legislation to restore and preserve aquatic ecosystems.
- In China, York University and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention helped direct major government investment in HIV/AIDS prevention and control in three provinces, using advanced mathematical modelling to analyze incidence and transmission pathways.