

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act (ODAAA). The report summarizes the Government of Canada's official development assistance (ODA) spending and activities in fiscal year 2016-2017 (April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017). It highlights the efforts of 19 Canadian federal departments and agencies that have provided ODA in accordance with the ODAAA and with overarching policy objectives to:

- help the poorest and most vulnerable, and support fragile states;
- promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and
- help build a more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous world.

During 2016-2017, the Government of Canada disbursed \$5 billion of ODA in over 100 countries.

In a world that faces evolving and significant development challenges, it is vital that Canada continues to innovate and adapt. Doing so ensures that Canada's international assistance is strategically targeted and employed to maximum effect. During the international assistance review, Canada heard from more than 15,000 people from over 65 countries. People repeatedly said that helping women and girls is the key to solving many of the world's development challenges. This review explored innovative and effective international assistance delivery, based on evidence and best practices. Canada formulated its new Feminist International Assistance Policy, which was launched on June 9, 2017.



The Feminist International Assistance Policy provides the guiding framework for Canada's international assistance until 2030. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will be the core area of work. But this feminist approach does not limit the focus of our efforts to women and girls. Rather, Canada believes it is the most effective way to target the root causes of poverty that can affect everyone: inequality and exclusion.

To ensure that Canada achieves significant results in sectors where it has a comparative advantage, it is concentrating its international assistance in six new interrelated action areas. The core area of focus is gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The other action areas are human dignity, growth that works for everyone, environment and climate action, inclusive governance, and peace and security. The action area of human dignity supports access to quality health care, nutrition and education, and needs-based humanitarian assistance. Canada will concentrate international assistance in parts of the world where poverty and vulnerability are most acute and where Canada's support can make the biggest difference.