

In Tanzania, DFATD's support, through Plan Canada, contributed to an increase in the number of women delivering their babies at health facilities instead of at home, from an average of 50 percent in September 2013 to 72 percent by March 2014. With Canada's support, Tanzania has already reached its Millennium Development Goal target of reducing child mortality to 54 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2015.

Through Canada's support to H4+, a partnership of United Nations agencies working to advance maternal, newborn and child health in Africa and in Asia, 6,629 health care providers were trained in 2013 in quality maternal, neonatal and emergency obstetric care; 141 maternal clinics were provided with equipment and materials in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and six districts in Zimbabwe received emergency obstetrics commodities.

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY IN WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Canada is helping to strengthen accountability in women's and children's health at the global and country levels with particular focus on implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health's 2011 report *Keeping Promises, Measuring Results*. Through funding support to the World Health Organization, 70 of the 75 countries with the highest rates of maternal and child mortality have undertaken, or are in the process of completing, assessments of their accountability systems. Of these countries, 40 have completed, or are in the process of completing, assessments of their civil registration and vital statistics systems.

IMPROVING NUTRITION

By increasing access to healthy and nutritious food and essential micronutrient supplements, Canada improves the lives of mothers, newborns and children by reducing the risk of illnesses and death, particularly for pregnant women and children under the age of five.

Canada's support to the Micronutrient Initiative (MI) has helped to provide an average of more than 180 million children under five with two doses of vitamin A each year, an average of more than 300 million people with iodized salt to prevent iodine deficiency each year, nearly 2 million pregnant women with iron and folic acid supplements for healthier pregnancies each year, and more than 60,000 children with improved treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

The MI works with key nutrition partners in-country, such as UNICEF and Helen Keller International, to deliver the vitamin A to children under five through Child Health Days. Child Health Days are outreach events, held twice annually, that are designed to reach children under the age of five with essential health and nutrition interventions such as vitamin A, immunizations and deworming medication. Canada, through DFATD, has been a significant donor to Child Health Days since 2002.

In Afghanistan, through Save the Children Canada, 7,064 children and 9,495 mothers in 2013–2014 benefited from nutrition-related goods and services provided through more than 150 outpatient therapeutic programs and various in-patient stabilization centres in 2013–2014.

In Ethiopia, through UNICEF, 712,000 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers received iron/folate supplementation and counselling on nutrition during pregnancy, 2,817,936 children received vitamin A supplements and 1,903,643 children received deworming treatment. In addition, a total of 50,546 severely malnourished children were admitted and treated with nutrition services in 100 districts.

CANADA'S ALLIANCE WITH TECK RESOURCES AND THE MICRONUTRIENT INITIATIVE

Canada's public-private-civil society alliance with Teck Resources and the Micronutrient Initiative develops and scales up zinc treatment programs to improve nutrition and help save children's lives, making an important contribution to development. In addition, the Micronutrient Initiative is providing support to small-scale salt producers to form cooperatives, utilize simple iodization techniques that improve health outcomes for women and children, and incorporate a cost-recovery scheme for salt iodization. This provides them with an affordable procurement system and contributes to sustainable economic growth for local producers.

REDUCING DISEASE BURDEN

Canada is supporting the provision of lifesaving medicines, vaccines and actions needed to prevent and treat the prevalent diseases and illnesses that are the main causes of maternal, newborn and child mortality.

In 2013–2014, Canada's support to the GAVI Alliance contributed to averting an additional 900,000 deaths⁵ through the delivery of vaccines, and immunized an additional 48 million children.

Through the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, 21,525 children in Afghanistan were vaccinated against polio across seven districts in Badakshan and more than 18,000 men, women and schoolchildren received training on water, hygiene, sanitation and nutrition.

In South Sudan, through DFATD's support, 1,152,376 children received curative and preventive services for diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhea.

5. Based on World Health Organization estimates.