

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

2

What are Canada's priorities for global development?

Canada has a Feminist International Assistance Policy with a focus on MNCH and SRHR; increasing emphasis on climate change and humanitarian assistance

In June 2017, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) published a new Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) following consultations with Canadian civil society and the public at large. The FIAP seeks to "eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, more inclusive, and more prosperous world" through promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls. The new policy therefore applies a human rights-based approach to its core action area, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as five other action areas:

1. human dignity (including health education, humanitarian assistance, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and food security);
2. inclusive economic growth,
3. environment and climate change;
4. inclusive governance; and
5. peace and security.

According to the policy, by FY2021-2022, 95% of Canada's ODA will support gender equality and women's empowerment: 80% of ODA will go towards projects that integrate gender equality and 15% to projects which specifically target the issue. By the same year, no less than 50% of ODA will be directed to sub-Saharan Africa, with the aim of "helping the poorest and most vulnerable and supporting fragile states".

Global health, now under the banner of 'human dignity', is a key priority of Canada's development policy. Within health, Canada places a strong focus on sexual and reproductive rights and health (SRHR) and on maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) showing strong international leadership in this area. It pledged CAD3.5 billion for MNCH for 2015 to 2020 (US\$2.7 billion). Under the FIAP, the Canadian government has become a champion of SRHR, pledging CAD20 million (US\$15 million) at the 'She Decides' conference in Brussels in 2017 for five organizations that support SRHR globally: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Ipas, International Planned Parenthood Federation Global, Marie Stopes International, and Population Services International. The same year Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau announced an investment of CAD650 million (US\$501 million) over three years for SRHR.

Canada's key development priorities under its Feminist International Assistance Policy:

- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- Human dignity;
- Inclusive economic growth;
- Environment and climate change;
- Inclusive governance;
- Peace and security.

In February 2019, GAC released key performance indicators to track and monitor progress achieved in the FIAP's six action areas, as well as indicators on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advocacy, and in-house gender equality at GAC. In late 2018, GAC also launched a monitoring framework for the CAD650-million SRHR commitment, with a focus on 1) comprehensive sexuality education, 2) sexual and reproductive health services, 3) family planning and contraception, 4) sexual and gender-based violence, 5) safe, legal abortion, and post-abortion care, and 6) advocacy and public engagement.

LGBTQ2 rights are another emerging focus of Canada's emphasis on human dignity and inclusive economic growth. In February 2019, Canada announced that CAD30 million (US\$23 million) in funding over the next five years dedicated to advance human rights and improve socio-economic outcomes for LGBTQ2 people living in developing countries. These funds will support Canadian LGBTQ2 organizations in their efforts to collaborate with partner organizations in developing countries. In addition, at the Equal Rights Coalition Conference in August 2018, Global Affairs Canada announced up to CAD1 million (US\$770,000) for projects supporting rights of LGBTQ2 and intersex people during violent conflict.

Under PM Trudeau, Canada has championed the application of a gender lens to climate change. It led the first-ever Gender Action Plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted by countries at COP23, the UN Climate Change Conference held in Bonn in 2017, and hosted a summit of women climate leaders during its 2018 group of seven (G7) presidency. Canada committed CAD2.7 billion (US\$2 billion) by 2020 for climate change-related programs. This includes

integrating food security and agricultural policies into a more holistic approach for clean economic growth. Canada has also demonstrated an interest in climate resilience, having committed CAD100 million (US\$77 million) to strengthening women and girls' resilience against natural disasters in Caribbean states.

Additionally, in late 2018, FinDev Canada, Canada's development finance institution (see Key Question 4, 'Who are the main actors in Canada's development coopera-

tion?') signed an agreement with the African Development Bank to collaborate on climate action, gender equality, and women's economic empowerment, suggesting future investments could be expected in these areas in Africa.

Finally, Budget 2018 included a further CAD20 million (US\$15 million) over five years to bring refugee women and girls from certain conflict zones around the world safely to Canada.