

Task Force on Increasing Effectiveness (TaFIE)

Last updated – December 2018

WHY

The Task Force on Improving Effectiveness (TaFIE) was created in response to the feedback received by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) during the International Assistance Review that measures needed to be taken to streamline how GAC operates and engages with partners. The role of the TaFIE is to examine ways to simplify and streamline the processes and mechanisms, which guide how GAC and partners work together to deliver international assistance programming and advance the objectives of the [Feminist International Assistance Policy](#) (FIAP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WHO

The Task Force on Increasing Effectiveness is composed of two distinct bodies with representatives from Global Affairs Canada and partner organizations.

The Steering Committee was formed by invitation from GAC, and includes representatives from the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC), L'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals (CAIDP), the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Women, Peace and Security Network – Canada (WPSN-C), as well as Tina Guthrie (previously Vaughn Lantz) and Isabelle Valois of GAC, representing the International Assistance Operations Bureau (IAOB) and Partnership Branch respectively. The Steering Committee identifies and prioritizes areas of mutual interest for potential review. It then identifies individuals to work together as part of a “Solution Team” to develop recommendations for a specific topic.

Solution Teams examine a particular topic, identify potential solutions that address the mutual interests and requirements of all parties, and submit a report with concrete recommendations within an agreed-upon time frame. Solution Teams’ participants are identified by members of the Steering Committee through an open call process to their respective memberships - with an effort to ensure diversity and representation from across the different coalitions.

WHAT

So far, two waves of Solution Teams have been formed, with a first wave addressing four topics (Reporting, the Application Process, Contribution Agreement Content, and Contribution Agreement Negotiation) and a second wave addressing two topics (Ad Hoc Reporting (outside regularly scheduled reports) and Low Dollar Value Projects). All six Solution Teams have now completed their work and submitted recommendations. Many of these have been or are being implemented:

- All ten recommendations of the Solution Team on Reporting, including the elimination of repetitive reporting requirements and a clearer differentiation between operational-level semi-annual reporting and outcome-level annual reporting, were integrated into the new [Reporting Guide for Partners](#) launched in Spring 2018.
- As recommended by the Solution Team on the Application Process, GAC has committed to provide earlier and more detailed notice for calls for proposals, keep calls open for a minimum period of six weeks, and ensure timely and dated publication of answers to questions. Other recommendations are under consideration.
- The Contribution Agreement Template for the International Development Assistance Program was [updated](#) on November 1 with a view towards simplifying certain elements. While the policy framework that governs contribution agreements has not changed, important improvements have been made to the contribution agreement itself. For example, language has been simplified; updates reflect the new reporting requirements; and new clauses were added or updated with respect to a code of conduct to prevent sexual misconduct and ensure non-discrimination, no fraud and corruption, etc.. The content of this agreement template is an ongoing piece of work, and the agreements will continue to evolve.

The next wave of Solution Teams will begin work in winter 2019. The topics that will be addressed will be chosen by the Steering Committee at a meeting scheduled in early December.