



CanWaCH
Canadian Partnership for
Women and Children's Health



CanSFE
Partenariat canadien pour la
santé des femmes et des enfants



Written Submission

Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2022 Budget

by

Cooperation Canada

the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health

the Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development

and

the Canadian International Education Policy Working Group

Headline recommendation: That the Government invest \$1.5 billion of new and additional funding in the international assistance envelope (IAE) to reach \$9 billion in Budget 2022-23, which would be about \$1.5 billion above the 2021-22 levels, in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and peace and security, and align with Canada's commitment to increase ODA annually.

Sub-Recommendations

Part I: Support a just recovery and address threatened development progress in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Recommendation 1: that the Government invest in vaccine equity and a coherent plan for COVID-19 response and recovery that supports global health systems and safety of communities everywhere.

Recommendation 2: that the Government of Canada commit to a roadmap for a predictable and adequately funded international assistance envelope by 2030, including a clear five-year timetable for sustained increases, commensurate with Canada's international commitments.

Part II: Honor climate change commitments made under the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Pact

Recommendation 3: that the Government allocates Canada's fair share of resources foreseen under the Paris Agreement and announced in Glasgow. This means increasing funding with climate change mitigation and adaptation as the principal purpose, in addition to the baseline international assistance envelope.

Part III: Invest in a safer, more prosperous world through effective international assistance

Recommendation 4: that Canada's ODA prioritize lower-income countries, while ensuring that at least 25 percent of humanitarian assistance be allocated through local organizations, with at least 15 percent specifically designated for women-led local organizations.

Recommendation 5: that Canada maintain its commitment to invest at least 10 percent of bilateral assistance to education, working up to 15 percent. This increase is commensurate to

the growing global need particularly for the most marginalized children, including girls, refugee and displaced children, and those living with disabilities.

Recommendation 6: that the Government outline a coherent feminist foreign policy that ensures mutually reinforcing role of diplomacy, international assistance, trade, and defense.

Recommendation 7: that the Government undergo a regulatory reform to amend the outdated 'direction and control' regulations for Canada's charitable sector in a way that strengthens their effectiveness and accountability.

Introduction

The coronavirus (hereafter COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in increased inequality and tragic and preventable loss of life. In just the first 25 weeks of the pandemic, 25 years of global progress towards human development were wiped out. 41 million people [risk starvation](#) and half a million people already live in famine-like conditions. The world is also on the brink of a massive [debt crisis](#) with most global economies, including that of Canada, at risk. Our health, economic stability, and the protection of our environment depend on Canada's ability to support coordinated action: we simply cannot afford to ignore calls to invest in global solutions to our challenges.

In 2020, Canada showed strategic global leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, mobilizing additional funding for official development assistance (ODA) and leading multilateral initiatives to promote global coordination. However, Budget 2021 did not account for the mounting global emergency - with insufficient funding allocated to humanitarian and pandemic containment and recovery interventions.

Canada must scale up investments to achieve the objectives of the [Feminist International Assistance Policy \(FIAP\)](#). The most effective and equitable way to achieve this is through local partners who prioritize the most marginalized groups and historically disadvantaged countries. Long-term, sustainable increases to the international assistance envelope must be planned in a way that allows for reinforcing interventions that address the climate crisis and build the resilience of the global population to current and future emergencies.

Headline recommendation: that the Government invest \$1.5 billion of new and additional official development assistance (ODA) in 2022-23 to address the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and peace and security, in line with Canada's commitment to increase ODA annual in support of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Part I: Support a just recovery and address threatened development progress in light of COVID-19

Recommendation 1: that the government invest in vaccine equity and a coherent plan for COVID-19 response and recovery that supports global health systems and safety of communities everywhere.

1.5 billion is only a fraction of Canada's COVID-19 response and recovery and the country's fair share of the \$50 billion global strategic plan needed to end the COVID-19 pandemic everywhere and accelerate the global economic recovery, including that of Canada. This plan has been put forward by an unprecedented coalition of global actors and offers to ensure economic recovery resulting in USD\$9 trillion in returns by 2025.

Investing in international solutions is needed not only to uphold our commitments to human rights, but also to protect the financial investments made in the domestic recovery. Canadians agree: according to a June 2021 poll, 70% of Canadians are thinking about the risk of new COVID-19 variants and following news about the impacts of the pandemic around the world. In fact, 82% are at least somewhat worried that an insufficient global response might slow down Canada's economic recovery. Investing in COVID-19 response is also fiscally responsible: every dollar of international assistance spent on COVID-19 vaccines yields \$100 dollars in return.

Recommendation 2: that the Government of Canada commit to a roadmap for a predictable and adequately funded international assistance envelope by 2030, including a clear five-year timetable for sustained increases, commensurate with Canada's international commitments.

COVID-19 has demonstrated that our health, safety, and prosperity, as Canadians, are directly linked to that of the rest of the world. COVID-19 is not a short-term crisis: our investments in recovery must be long-term and strategic to help solve global challenges impacting Canadian trade, businesses, and livelihoods.

Canada must scale up its investments in global solutions. Far from [the global standard of 0.7 percent of gross national income \(GNI\), Canada's contribution in 2020, which included unprecedented and temporary ODA increases, stood only at 0.3% of GNI.](#) Scaling up ODA in a predictable and a sustainable manner is a question of political leadership and understanding of the global nature of the challenges we are facing. **Doubling ODA over the next five years** would set Canada on a path to reaching its global commitments and ensure that the interventions of the Canadian Government and civil society are planned and delivered in impactful and equitable ways.

Predictable, sustained increases to Canada's international assistance envelope are crucial to contain the pandemic, mitigate its economic repercussions, and deliver on the feminist ambition in the FIAP. These additional resources are needed to address rising food insecurity and malnutrition, inequitable health services and systems, heightened violence against women and children, disruptions to education, shrinking access to essential services, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and pandemic containment in fragile contexts.

Part II: Honor climate change commitments made under the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Pact

Recommendation 3: that the Government allocates Canada's fair share of resources foreseen under the Paris Agreement and announced in Glasgow. This means increasing funding climate change mitigation and adaptation as the principal purpose, in addition to the baseline international assistance envelope.

COVID-19 highlighted the need for strengthened preparedness mechanisms and investment in mitigation of, and adaptation to complex crises and emergencies. As climate change risks exacerbate the scale and the frequency of future crises, Canada must recognize the mutually reinforcing nature of investments in climate action and in development by committing its international fair share in climate finance. In 2021, Canada has made significant progress by announcing doubling of Canada's international climate finance contributions to \$5.3 billion over 5 years. But Canada can and should do more to close the climate finance gap and contribute to climate justice globally.

Canada's increased ODA should reflect the additional financing needed to meet its fair share in bilateral climate finance contributions as part of the current Paris Agreement commitment of US\$100 billion in annual allocations. Based on the size of Canada's economy, this translates to Cdn\$1.8 billion annually. Climate finance is a critical area of investment to mitigate and prevent the impacts of future crises. This investment should be additional to chronically underfunded humanitarian and development interventions, which can and should reinforce climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

To ensure the effectiveness of climate finance, Canada should boost its support for context-informed and locally driven civil society initiatives addressing climate adaptation. At least 50 percent of climate finance should be targeting gender-responsive climate adaptation programs. Canada's climate finance should be grant-based and support countries most at risk of climate

impacts and least able to adapt, including Small Island Developing States and fragile contexts. These efforts should support local civil society and women's rights organizations.

Part III: Investing in a safer, more prosperous world and enabling the effectiveness of Canada's international assistance

Recommendation 4: that Canada's ODA prioritize lower-income countries, while ensuring that at least 25 percent of humanitarian assistance be allocated through local organizations, with at least 15 percent specifically designated for women-led local organizations.

Canada should ensure that 50 percent of bilateral assistance be allocated to low-income countries and interventions in fragile contexts. This is needed to ensure the most marginalized groups are supported and to help save lives and livelihoods in people experiencing humanitarian crises.

In line with [the Grand Bargain principles](#), the [Paris Agreement and Accra Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness](#), the [G7 Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action](#), and the [OECD DAC Recommendation on Engaging Civil Society](#), Canada's international assistance must strengthen the capacity of national actors, including civil society. Localization of humanitarian and development assistance is one of the main requisites for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Civil society, especially [women's organizations, are best placed to provide equitable access to social services, ensure sustainability of humanitarian and development interventions](#), but local CSOs receive [less than 1 percent of bilateral assistance](#). Investments should be made to allow Global Affairs Canada to shift its internal mechanisms in order to align with a growing set of Canada's international commitments to localized interventions.

Recommendation 5: that Canada maintain its commitment to invest at least 10 percent of bilateral assistance to education, working up to 15 percent. This increase is commensurate to the growing global need particularly for the most marginalized children, including girls, refugee and displaced children and those living with disabilities.

Education is a human right and a critical enabler to all other global development goals including gender equality, poverty, hunger, and health, and reduced social inequalities. Despite its importance, access to education continues to be severely threatened by persistent and concurrent crises, including COVID-19, conflict, and climate shocks. Marginalized children are particularly at risk, including girls, refugee and displaced learners and children with disabilities.

Children's mental health has also been impacted, hindering their ability to learn and thrive. Canada can continue to build on its international leadership in global education and increase its commitments in this area in line with growing and unmet needs. Canadian programming should focus on those most at risk of being left behind through systemic and structural inequities, prioritizing flexible and multi-year funding to ensure learning outcomes for the hardest to reach.

Recommendation 6: that the Government outline a coherent feminist foreign policy that ensures mutually reinforcing roles of diplomacy, international assistance, trade, and defense.

Canada urgently needs a coherent feminist foreign policy. The existing commitment to elaborate a feminist foreign policy must be urgently met to allow for a more equitable, inclusive, and just recovery through gender-transformative international assistance, debt relief, a feminist trade agenda, and diplomacy. Such an intersectional policy does not need to exacerbate the fiscal deficit: military savings can and should be re-directed towards solutions to global crises affecting us everywhere. This forthcoming Feminist Foreign Policy must be adequately resourced in Budget 2022 and beyond to ensure that its ambition is realized across all dimensions of Canada's global engagement.

Recommendation 7: that the Government undergo a regulatory reform to amend the outdated 'direction and control' regulations for Canada's charitable sector in a way that strengthens their effectiveness and accountability.

Canada's charities [employ](#) approximately 2 million Canadians, represent 8.1 percent of GDP and make up a core element of Canada's national identity. However, they are increasingly threatened by the outdated legislation mandating the 'direction and control' regulations, which places undue burdens and hinders equitable partnerships.

A reform is urgently needed. In December 2021, the Senate passed [Bill S-216](#), which seeks to amend the Income Tax Act and ensure Canada's charities rely on resource accountability models that reflect realities of the 21st century and the standards of Canada's global partners. The Government should trigger a reform of this outdated legislative framework, in line with the recommendations of the [2019 Report of the Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector](#).

*This submission reflects the positions of the following institutions and their members:
[Cooperation Canada](#), [the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health \(CanWaCH\)](#)
[the Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development \(C4D\)](#) and the Canadian
International Education Policy Working Group.*

These coalitions represent over 150 organizations working nationally and internationally through humanitarian, development, peace and security, public health, environmental protection, and social justice efforts.