

# INVEST IN AID, SECURE THE FUTURE: Canadian Leadership in a Deeply Insecure World

International Development Week  
February 4th - 10th 2024  
#IDW2024

The world we have taken for granted for decades is being disrupted. And not in small ways. The basic pillars of democracy are being undermined, humanitarian needs are on the rise, hard-won rights are under attack, and we are witnessing the reversal of decades of progress on development, especially for the world's most vulnerable.

These challenges pose direct threats to Canada and Canadian interests, by increasing global insecurity and stifling global prosperity.

## Canada's Legacy of Global Leadership

When Canada has stepped up to deliver its values-based leadership internationally, including through international assistance, our efforts have had demonstrable impacts. We've done this because it's the right thing to do. But also because it's the smart thing to do.

Canadian governments of all political stripes have taken bold leadership on international cooperation. The Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Prime Minister Harper's leadership initiative at the 2010 G7, contributed to preventing 1.3 million deaths of children under five years of age. Signature initiatives of the Trudeau government have been equally consequential: Canada's 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights made in 2019 has reached over ten million people every year, and the 2018 Charlevoix Education Initiative has impacted the lives of over four million girls.



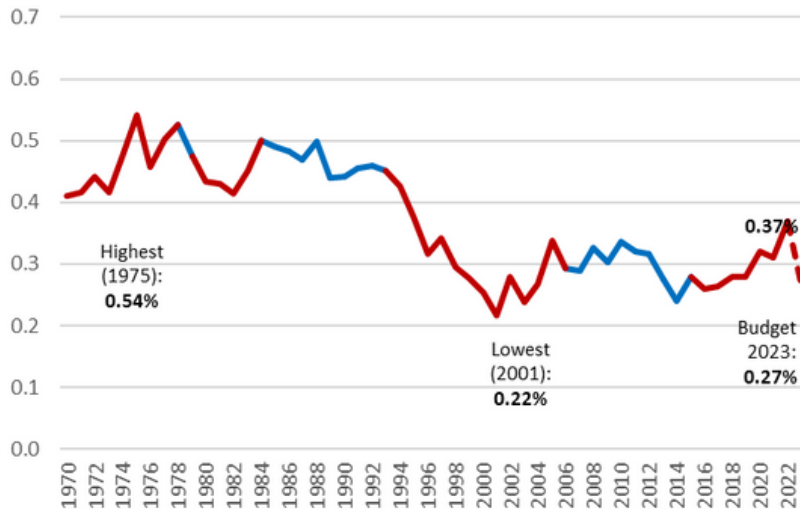
### THE WORLD IN 2024

Nearly **300 MILLION** people in 72 countries will require humanitarian assistance and protection in 2024.

Globally, **783 MILLION** people – close to twice the population of Canada and the U.S. combined – suffer from hunger.

**72%** of the world's population – 5.7 billion people live in autocracies.

## Canada's Share of Gross National Income (GNI) Spent on Official Development Assistance (ODA)



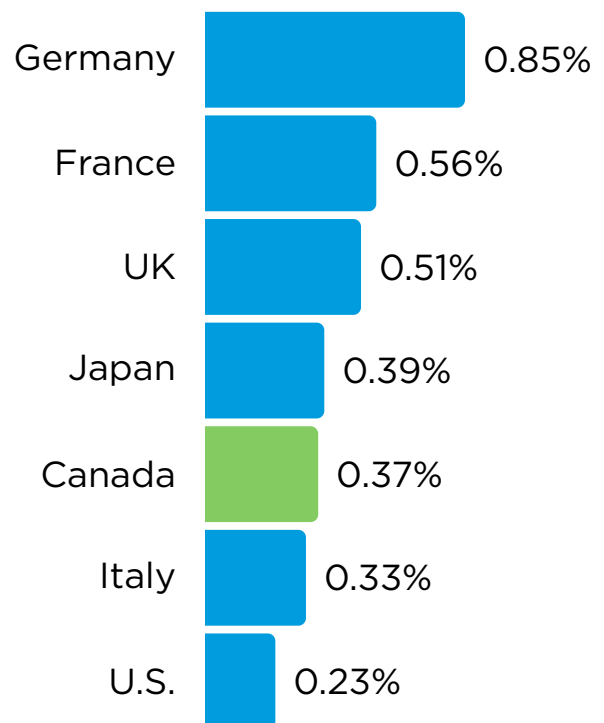
Liberal Government  
Conservative Government

### Canada Must Match Words with Action

Canada is deeply connected to the stability and prosperity of the world and must ensure that our words on global partnership and engagement are matched with action. Despite the rising level of global conflict, instability and humanitarian need, Canada's commitment to international assistance has fallen short. While the aid budget had been steadily increasing since 2015, we saw a 15% decrease in the federal budget announced in March 2023. And when compared with its G7 peers, Canada does not rank well.

This declining investment in international assistance at a time of immense global need sends the wrong message to our allies, partners and rivals around the world. It leaves Canada at risk of being left out of critical global conversations and coalitions. And it means that Canada is not doing its fair share to contribute to a safer, more stable and more prosperous future - for Canadians and people around the world.

### G7 ODA National Income Performance Ratios 2022



## What Can Canada Do?

Canadian aid is having life-saving and life-changing impacts around the world. It's also an effective and strategic pillar of Canadian foreign policy. Our investment in international assistance must reflect and respond to the gravity of global instability and global need.

In 2024, Canada should make vital, strategic investments to protect and advance the extraordinary progress Canada has contributed to on global health, gender equality, education and climate change. These investments are essential for responding to the immense global needs, advancing our own strategic interests, and positioning Canada in the world we want to see for generations to come.

## RECOMMENDATION

We call on the government to commit an **additional \$400 million per year for 2024-25, and \$650 million per year thereafter** in support of women and girls in humanitarian emergencies and protracted conflicts and crises, and human rights, civil society and democracy, for a total commitment of \$3 billion over five years.

- Invest an additional \$100 million/year for five years to double down on the impacts being driven by the **Charlevoix Education Initiative**.
- Invest an additional \$150 million in 2024-25 and \$275 million/year in humanitarian and development funding for an additional four years to **support women and girls** in humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises and conflicts.
- Invest an additional \$150 million in 2024-25 and \$275 million/year for an additional four years in programming that supports **human rights and democracy**.

We acknowledge that International Development Week 2024 falls during Black History Month and that Canadian international cooperation organizations need to take concrete steps to address the international cooperation sector's legacy of racial bias and colonialism. We encourage all engaged in and committed to international cooperation to be inspired and guided by Anti-Racist Cooperation Framework for Canada's International Cooperation Sector.

Cooperation Canada is Canada's national, independent coalition for Canadian civil society organizations working in international development and humanitarian assistance. With over 100 members, we work alongside our members and partners, in Canada and around the globe, for a fairer, safer and more sustainable world for all.

