

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2019 Budget

From: Canadian Foodgrains Bank

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List of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the Government increase Canada's spending on global development and humanitarian assistance over 10 years, through predictable 15% annual increases to the International Assistance Envelope (IAE).

Recommendation 2: That, starting in 2019-20, the Government dedicate 50% of bilateral aid to least developed countries (LDCs), low-income countries (LICs) and fragile contexts.

Recommendation 3: That the Government retain the base for humanitarian funding of at least \$738 million (as announced in the 2018 budget), with provision for increase as needed.

Recommendation 4: That the Government dedicate at least 50% of Canada's international climate finance towards investments in adaptation, in the context of increasing climate finance commitments toward reaching our fair share.

Recommendation 5: That the Government deliver Canada's international climate finance, particularly adaptation funding, in the form of grants, through bilateral channels that reach the poorest and most vulnerable.

Recommendation 6: That the Government commit \$100 million over five years to support women's organizations and movements working on climate adaptation and resilience-building in developing countries.

Recommendation 7: That Global Affairs Canada focus on the needs of small-scale female farmers in its implementation of the Feminist International Assistance Policy.

1. Increase the International Assistance Envelope

and

2. Dedicate 50% of aid to poor countries and fragile contexts

Canada's aid level (measured by ratio of official development assistance to gross national income) is 0.26, below the OECD average (0.31), well below the UN target (0.7), and significantly less than Canada's 1970-1995 average (0.46).

Canada's recent steps to leverage development finance from innovative sources have mobilized new funds, but most of this capital has gone to middle-income countries. To reach the poorest and most vulnerable, as stated in Canada's aid policy, aid levels should increase and aid should be focused on the countries where the need is greatest.

3. Retain base for humanitarian funding as announced in 2018 budget

Global humanitarian needs are large and growing. The increase in base funding announced in the 2018 budget was a positive step. This new level (\$738 million/yr) should be viewed as the floor for future funding, not the ceiling. Canada must remain able to respond as needs require.

4. Dedicate 50% of climate finance for adaptation, within Canada's fair share

Canada has not yet achieved its fair share of global climate finance (3.9%, or \$3.9 billion/year from public and private sources by 2020). As Canada plans its contributions for the 2020-2025 window of climate finance, it should increase its commitment of public funds, and develop tools to mobilize private funds for adaptation, to meet the fair share goal.

Canada should allocate at least 50% of international climate finance to adaptation, as per the Paris Agreement's call for a balance between mitigation and adaptation. To date, Canada has allocated 39% or less of climate finance to adaptation; twelve donor countries allocated 50% or more to adaptation. The partner organizations we work with in developing countries indicate that changes already occurring in the climate are negatively impacting livelihoods for poor people, and adaptation is a priority.

5. Deliver climate adaptation finance for the poorest countries as grants

From 2010 to 2020 (from spending and estimates), over half of Canada's international climate finance was in the form of loans, meaning that poor countries struggling to deal with the negative impacts of climate change are now burdened with additional debt. Most of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change originate in industrialized countries, yet the most severe impacts of climate change are borne by developing countries. Canada produces 22 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per capital, while for developing countries, the average is 3 tonnes per capital.

International climate finance is intended to enable poorer countries to deal with a problem they did little to cause. Half of all donor countries provide all climate finance as grants. An increased use of grants should coincide with an increased commitment to target the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

6. Commit \$100 million for women's organizations working on climate adaptation

The Feminist International Assistance Policy recognizes “*that women and girls are uniquely affected by the damaging effects of climate change*” and pledges that “*Canada will support women's leadership and decision making in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, resilience-building and sustainable natural resource management*”.

To achieve this, Canada should create a fund to support women's organizations and movements working on climate change policies and investments, public involvement, and adaptation measures, with an initial investment of \$30 million in the 2019 budget, and commitment to a total of \$100 million over five years.

This fund would be a further expression of the leadership Canada displayed in the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, which integrated gender equality into climate action.

7. Focus aid on small-scale women farmers

To effectively reach the poorest and most vulnerable people, it is imperative to focus on the needs of women, and to invest in farmers and other food producers. Economic growth from agricultural development is at least twice as effective at reducing poverty as growth from other sectors. 79% of women in developing countries report agriculture as their primary source of income, while less than 20% of landholders are women. Investing in small-scale farming enables social and economic empowerment for women. Through their role as care-givers, it also paves the way to improved health and educational opportunities for children.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 churches and church agencies working to end global hunger through international programming, engagement with Canadians and advocacy for policy improvements.