

**RESULTS**  
**Canada**

the power to end poverty

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of  
the 2020 Budget**

**By: RESULTS Canada**

**Recommendation 1:** That the Government of Canada 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 the Government of Canada effectively realize its recent annual commitment of \$1.4B to women and children's health by:

- a. Investing in global immunization through the maintenance of support and funding for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
- b. Maintain a strong focus on nutrition programming, maintaining Canada's role as one of the leading donors in nutrition spending.

## Executive Summary

RESULTS Canada is a global movement of passionate Canadians committed to raising their voices to end extreme poverty. For over thirty years our volunteers have harnessed the enormous power of advocacy by engaging with their Members of Parliament and their fellow citizens from all across Canada.

The Committee has invited Canadians to share their priorities for the 2020 Federal Budget. We believe that greater investment in international assistance is a strategic investment for Canada and other countries around the world.

To that end, we urge you to prioritize increasing Canada's support for official development assistance (ODA) in the 2020 Federal Budget. Specifically, the Government of Canada must increase our ODA by 15% and plan for comparable increases in coming years in order to contribute our country's fair share to eradicating poverty and fighting inequality.

Increasing environmental sustainability is one of Canada's key commitments. With the Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada recognizes the destabilizing effects of climate change for the world's poorest and most vulnerable. Without urgent action, an additional 100 million people could be pushed into poverty by 2030 due to climate change.<sup>1</sup> An increase in ODA would better support programs and policies to address the challenges of climate change, protect access to basic necessities and bolster economies.

2020 will mark just 10 years left of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet, Canadian ODA is on its way to being at its lowest level in 50 years, at an estimated 0.26 percent of GNI despite Canada being the one to lead the pledge to contribute 0.7 percent of GNI to ODA back in 1969.<sup>2</sup> To achieve this internationally agreed target and meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Canada must increase its ODA.

Canadian leadership in combatting global poverty is both valued by and advantageous to Canadians. In a 2015 study, 94% of Canadians said that it's important to improve health, education and economic opportunity for the world's poorest people.<sup>3</sup> Through ODA, Canada can invest in key global sectors to stimulate economic growth, boost the global labour force, and reduce treatment and healthcare costs associated with disease and malnutrition.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/overview>

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.oecd.org/oda/net-oda.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [http://mcic.ca/pdf/Canadian\\_Perspicitves\\_on\\_International\\_Development\\_REPORT\\_OF\\_RESULTS\\_-\\_April\\_2015\\_-\\_FINAL\\_for\\_web-2.pdf](http://mcic.ca/pdf/Canadian_Perspicitves_on_International_Development_REPORT_OF_RESULTS_-_April_2015_-_FINAL_for_web-2.pdf)

## **What can an increased investment in ODA deliver?**

We welcome the Government of Canada's announcement on June 4, 2019 that it would scale up its investment to reach \$1.4 billion annually by 2023 for 10 years to promote the health and rights of women and girls around the world. There are some key commitments that can be made to ensure this historic investment has the greatest impact, including a focus on polio eradication and routine immunization.

### *Polio eradication*

Canada has been a leader in the fight to eradicate polio for decades. Canada has made major financial commitments to protect every child against polio, including to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). This partnership, established in 1987 has had incredible impact. 18 million people are walking today who would otherwise be paralyzed and by the end of 2023, another 3 million will not be suffering from severe disability because of polio. Canadians themselves have also been integral in raising awareness and funds, leading us to the closest we've ever been to eradicating this disease.

If we stop now, within ten years, polio will have regained strength to once again become a massive global health security threat, with 200,000 new cases a year across the globe and thereby wasting Canada's past investments of C\$750 million.

Canada should maintain its leadership in polio eradication and extend its funding to GPEI through 2023 in order to eradicate polio in the last two countries where it remains endemic – Afghanistan and Pakistan. By pledging C\$215 million to the GPEI, Canada can play an integral role in eradicating only the second disease in history, ensuring no one will suffer from this debilitating but preventable disease.

### *Immunization*

Immunization is one of the most cost-effective interventions in public health and development. Low- and middle-income countries that are unable to provide health services such as immunizations, are becoming increasingly vulnerable given the impacts of climate change.<sup>4</sup>

If global vaccination coverage were to improve, an estimated 4.5 to 5 million deaths could be prevented every year. We can improve immunization coverage by using ODA to strengthen investments in the affordability and delivery of immunizations. As a long-term partner of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Canada has provided over C\$1 billion resulting in millions of lives being saved. In 2020, Gavi will be looking for support to fulfill its five year strategy (2021-2025).

Since its creation in 2000, Gavi has helped countries to vaccinate over 700 million children with new and under-used vaccines, saving more than 10 million lives. Gavi works with countries to strengthen their health systems, and its unique co-financing model helps to ensure long term sustainability and support for vaccine delivery. Gavi is also a leader in innovation and the development and roll-out of new vaccines. For example, Gavi has been instrumental in getting 1.5 million girls vaccinated against cervical

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechangeandhealth#1>

cancer by rolling out the human papillomavirus (HPV) in countries who need it most. This will help decrease the 266,000 women who die every year from cervical cancer, of which more than 85% live in low-income countries.<sup>5</sup>

We hope to see Canada make a strong pledge to continue its support to Gavi in 2020.

### *Ending the tuberculosis epidemic*

Infectious diseases continue to run rampant in our world, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable populations. Tuberculosis (TB) is a preventable and curable disease, yet it continues to be an epidemic, demonstrating the global health inequity that persists in our world.

ODA is necessary to fill the gaps of national health budgets in order to fund an effective response to TB. Even within Canada, TB is a concern, particularly for marginalized populations such as the Indigenous peoples of Canada. Diseases like TB don't respect borders; the only way to keep Canadians safe is to continue to invest in health systems and R&D. This will also help us to address the global US\$2.3 million annual funding gap needed to meet our 2030 goals to eradicate TB. We cannot be complacent about infectious disease epidemics; we must continue to invest to ensure that progress is not lost, and so the health of all people is at the forefront.

### ***Position Canada as a leader in ensuring health and nutrition of women, adolescents and children***

#### *Investing in Human Capital*

Almost one in every three people around the world have too little to eat or are malnourished—the vast majority of whom live in developing countries.<sup>6</sup> Undernutrition has been identified as the largest health impact of climate change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>7</sup> When crops are detrimentally impacted, this furthers the risk of malnutrition, stunting (low height for age), impaired cognitive function, a weakened immune system, and significant decreases in future earning power—irreversibly continuing the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

As one of the world's largest donors to basic nutrition programs, Canada has been a global leader in supporting critical nutrition programs. Access to quality and nutritious food is fundamental for child survival and development. The World Bank calculates that malnutrition costs the global economy US\$3.5 trillion annually, or US\$500 per person annually. The cost to prevent, however, is a mere US\$10 per person, per year. Investing in nutrition can lead to enhanced economic growth through job creation, increased productivity, and resource savings. Children with access to proper nutrition as adults earn 20% more in the labour market and are 10% more likely to own their own businesses.<sup>8</sup> For every dollar invested toward malnutrition, the cost-benefit ratio for low- and middle-income countries is \$16 and addressing the funding gap would save 3.7 million lives.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gavi.org/library/news/press-releases/2014/1-5-million-girls-set-to-benefit-from-vaccine-against-cervical-cancer/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www1.wfp.org/zero-hunger>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechangeandhealth#1>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.results.org.uk/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Key-messages-designs-FINAL1.pdf>

There will be an opportunity for leadership by Canada in 2020 with the Nutrition for Growth Summit hosted by Japan. Donor and recipient countries will come together to make policy and financing commitments to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030.

***Position Canada as a leader in advancing a feminist agenda that supports women and girls – at home and abroad.***

*Provide inclusive, quality education*

Research shows that educating women and girls can be a solution for climate change, ranking six out of a list of 100 solutions developed by Drawdown, as it is both a population intervention and a greenhouse gas reduction intervention.<sup>9</sup> If women and girls receive quality education, not only is it more likely that they will pursue smaller families, but they will have a greater knowledge and understanding of how they can help their families and communities mitigate and adapt to climate change.<sup>10</sup>

Today, there are 75 million children and youth out of school in 35 crisis-affected countries. In crises, girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school, making them vulnerable to violence, discrimination and exploitation. In addition to the security that education can provide in crises-contexts, it can also improve labour force participation and increase incomes by 2-3 times for women with secondary and tertiary education. Further, girls who remain in school are more likely to marry later, less likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth, likelier to have healthier children and more likely to send their own children to school. The societal and economic benefits of education are clear. With increased ODA invested in quality, inclusive, and long-term education, particularly for women and girls, our future will be remade for the better.

*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)*

Globally, girls and women spend up to 200 million hours per day collecting water.<sup>11</sup> The impacts of climate change such as the increased frequency and length of periods of drought and erratic rainfall, puts added pressure on women and girls' as they work to secure water for their families.<sup>12</sup>

At the current rate of progress, many countries will not provide all of their populations with even basic water and sanitation services by 2030, let alone the safely managed WASH services that are the goal of SDG 6. The issue of toilets and use of water for personal and domestic purposes can be life giving or life taking. Gender inequalities combined with social and biological requirements make the lack of access to water, sanitation and good hygiene even more acute for women and girls. Urgent action on WASH, including menstrual hygiene is required to reduce gender inequalities and promote gender justice, full participation, and respect for the dignity and health of women and girls worldwide. Increased ODA contributions in this area can help to address these gaps.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/women-and-girls/educating-girls>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-collecting-water-often-colossal-waste-time-women-and-girls>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.actionaidusa.org/2011/07/how-drought-affects-women>

## **Conclusion**

The benefits of an increased Canadian ODA investment are monumental for global health, poverty, inequality, and for addressing the most serious impacts of climate change. The Government of Canada has made significant steps towards refocusing Canadian aid on the poorest and most vulnerable, however it continues to represent a small portion of our budget. Further, the amount allocated for ODA in previous federal budgets doesn't adequately reflect Canada's commitment to achieving the SDGs by 2030. A renewed promise of leadership in international development is necessary to foster the collaborative global partnerships that will allow Canada to meet its strategic goals. To achieve this, Canada must increase its ODA in Budget 2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the 2020 pre-budget consultations. We would welcome the opportunity to present our recommendations before the Standing Committee on Finance's pre-budget consultation hearings.