



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

By Results Canada

Recommendation 1: That the Government invest at least 1% of Canada's COVID-19 response in new and additional Official Development Assistance towards an emergency global response.

Recommendation 2: That the Government commit to a permanent increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) by doubling the current annual ODA from \$6.2 to 12.4 billion over a five-year period to ensure progress towards:

- (i) Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- (ii) Addressing the humanitarian emergencies furthered by COVID-19
- (iii) Ensuring continued support for the secondary impacts of COVID-19 for vulnerable populations

A global response

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis demanding a global emergency response — because no one will be safe until this disease is defeated everywhere. To achieve this, the world needs to mobilize a rapid, coordinated effort to develop and equitably distribute tests, treatments and vaccines at record speed, especially in the poorest countries, while strengthening the health systems needed to deliver them. Canada needs to be at the forefront of this global effort to ensure a just recovery for all.

Without a coordinated and effective global response, the global economy is projected to lose trillions due to the pandemic. The cost of inaction from the global community in low- and middle-income countries could result in a second wave of COVID-19, renewed lockdowns and an additional output loss of US\$1.1 trillion in OECD in 2020.¹

Canada must contribute **at least 1% of its domestic COVID-19 response in new and additional Official Development Assistance to an emergency global response**. This includes funding to directly address COVID-19 in low-income countries including diagnostics, vaccines, treatments and health systems strengthening through the ACT Accelerator and funding to meet global humanitarian needs and address the devastating secondary impacts of the disease.

The [ACT Accelerator](#) is composed of global health actors, the private sector and other key stakeholders. Its goal is to develop and provide equitable global access to “innovative COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines ... in record time and at record scale and access – to save millions of lives and countless trillions of dollars.”² The group has also called for the urgent strengthening of health systems so these tools can be delivered to those who need them and to mitigate the secondary impacts of other diseases. This level of ambition must be met with equally ambitious leadership and commitment to international cooperation, equity and to eradicating COVID-19 everywhere, so that everyone is safe.

Funding to the ACT Accelerator would flow to partners with a proven track record/commitment to transparency, accountability, prioritization of the public good, and impact, such as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI); the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND); Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; the Therapeutics Accelerator, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

¹ [The cost of doing nothing: The price of inaction in response to the COVID-19 crisis](#), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (10 July 2020).

² [Access To COVID-19 Tools \(Act\) Accelerator, A Global Collaboration to Accelerate the Development, Production and Equitable Access to New COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines](#), World Health Organization (24 April 2020).

On June 27th, Canada announced a contribution of \$120 million to the ACT-Accelerator and \$180 million for the immediate humanitarian and development impacts of the crisis. These were positive first steps, but the sheer scale of this global crisis demands more from all countries, including Canada. To end the pandemic, an estimated total of at least US\$31.3 billion is needed for the three ACT-A pillars of tests, treatments and vaccines just for the next 12-18 months in low and lower-middle income countries.³ This figure is expected to grow as vaccine manufacturing and procurement costs become clearer and costs around health systems strengthening are added. While significant, this total is less than a tenth of what the IMF estimates the global economy is losing every month due to the pandemic. This massive economic toll will keep growing without a coordinated and effective global response. A fair share for Canada's contribution to ACT-A would be around CA\$700-750 million in addition to what has already been committed.⁴

Humanitarian emergencies

In addition, the needs of humanitarian emergencies are growing due to COVID-19, enforcing the urgency for a global response. In mid-July 2020, the [UN increased its humanitarian funding appeal](#) for a COVID-19 response for the third time to US\$10.3 billion to protect millions of lives in fragile countries. This increased funding appeal highlights the urgency of addressing food security and nutrition impacts, the disruption of education for millions of children and the particular vulnerabilities of refugees.⁵ For those facing humanitarian emergencies such as famine, conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and fleeing as refugees or displaced persons, COVID-19 has created a double emergency.

Canada recognizes the importance of addressing humanitarian emergencies as has been seen with previous international assistance commitments, with [Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen being the top three recipients of bilateral humanitarian assistance in 2018/2019](#). Now, more than ever, Canada must step up to support those working at the local-level to provide essential services and invest in humanitarian needs urgently. We must continue to play a leadership role globally by addressing the negative effects that COVID-19 is having on those most vulnerable to ensure that we leave no one behind.

Secondary impacts

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, existing vulnerabilities in developing countries have been further exacerbated. While COVID-19 has the whole world's attention right now, it does not erase the challenges in development that existed prior to the pandemic, in fact, it has severe secondary impacts. These include an estimated [265 million people facing acute](#)

³ ACT-Accelerator Consolidated Investment Case. June 26th 2020

⁴ Based on Canada's share of G20+DAC countries' GDP and including a share contributed by the private sector, minus the CA\$160 million already committed to the ACT-A, including to CEPI.

⁵ [UN issues US\\$6.7 billion appeal to protect millions of lives and stem the spread of coronavirus in fragile countries](#). The UN Refugee Agency (7 May 2020).

[hunger this year](#), [rising rates of gender based violence](#), [an estimated 1.1 billion learners being out of school](#), [785 million people who lack access to basic water services](#), and at least [80 million children set to miss their routine vaccinations](#) to prevent other disease outbreaks. It is essential that Canada **commits to a permanent increase to Official Development Assistance** to tackle these secondary impacts and to ensure continued progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Canada's contribution of \$6.2 billion for 2018/2019 stood at [0.27 percent of our gross national income \(GNI\)](#) which is far below the [global fair share target of 0.7 percent of GNI](#).

In 2019, almost 690 million people, or 8.9 percent of the global population, were undernourished.⁶ Despite decades of declining rates of people suffering from hunger, since 2014, the number of undernourished and food insecure people has been slowly increasing.⁷ Food insecurity and malnutrition can be recognized in people in a number of ways including wasting, stunting, obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies – which can have serious, long-term impacts in an individual's life. As a result, the world is off track to achieving the SDG targets for hunger and malnutrition by 2030, and considering the impact of COVID-19 it renders the vulnerable even more vulnerable.⁸

An increase in ODA is essential so those in need can receive the necessary quantity and quality of food for a healthy diet and a prosperous life. Additionally, with the already increasing trend in rates of malnutrition and food insecurity, a permanent increase in ODA is needed to ensure that global progress in nutrition isn't set back even further. Canada must recognize this importance and dedicate new and additional ODA as part of an increase for nutrition funding.

Another secondary impact that has been negatively affected due to COVID-19 is the impact on existing health crises in the developing world. Tuberculosis is an epidemic that has affected the most marginalized and those living in poverty for decades. It continues to be a health concern both within Canada and globally, particularly in developing countries. As it affects certain populations and groups disproportionately, the TB epidemic demonstrates the continued health inequities and disparities in health conditions in our world. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is the top funder for TB programs. A recent survey by the Global Fund suggests that because of disruptions to services caused by the pandemic, TB deaths could be set back to 2009 levels, eliminating ten years of progress.⁹ Further, due to the diversion of resources and movement restrictions from COVID-19, the

⁶ [The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World 2020](#), World Health Organization (13 July 2020).

⁷ [The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World 2020](#), World Health Organization (13 July 2020).

⁸ [The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World 2020](#), World Health Organization (13 July 2020).

⁹ [The cost of doing nothing: The price of inaction in response to the COVID-19 crisis](#), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (10 July 2020).

annual death toll from HIV, TB and Malaria could nearly double if no action is taken.¹⁰ This would have a detrimental impact on the world and poses serious additional global health security risks.

An increase in Canadian ODA could support additional commitments to the Global Fund to ensure that we are not moving backwards in the fight against TB. Further, an increase in resources has the potential to serve a dual purpose to address both the COVID-19 and the TB epidemic, for example by testing for COVID-19 and TB simultaneously, by providing patients with personal protective equipment to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and TB, and by using contact tracing technologies to determine potentially affected individuals. By further investing in ending the TB epidemic, Canada would demonstrate its commitment to achieving health equity in the world, while continuing progress towards SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being Health of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Lastly, COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on education, with school closures affecting [over 60% of the world's student population](#). SDG 4 emphasizes the need for quality and inclusive education for all. Education is also essential for success in other areas of life. Education and gender equality are intrinsically linked, and girls who remain in school have higher incomes, increased labour force participation, 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. Those living in fragile contexts face additional barriers to receiving quality education.

Canada has demonstrated its leadership on this in the past with the historic [Charlevoix Declaration](#) investing in quality education for girls in crisis and conflict situations. An estimated 1.57 billion school-aged children have been affected due to COVID-19 and the longer schools are closed, the more difficult it will become to ensure access to quality education for all. Canada must build upon its previous leadership in education to improve access to quality education during and after the pandemic, so those who were in school prior to the pandemic as well as those who were not can be supported. Through increased ODA, Canada can best address the specific challenges that COVID-19 brings for education.

To ensure a just recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada must prioritize investing in a global response. A virus knows no borders; unless everyone, everywhere is safe, Canadians continue to be at risk from COVID-19. A coordinated and effective global response is crucial to overcome this pandemic for all countries, mitigate the double burdens faced by the most vulnerable, and continue progress towards the SDGs.

¹⁰ [The cost of doing nothing: The price of inaction in response to the COVID-19 crisis](#), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (10 July 2020).