

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2025 Federal Budget

Results Canada

March 2025

Recommendation 1: That the Government commit to increase the International Assistance Envelope by \$650 million for the next four years (2025-2029) in support of young people, especially young women and girls.

Recommendation 2: That the Government commit to supporting global health research and development efforts to advance women’s health and end infectious diseases like tuberculosis.

Recommendation 3: That the Government invest \$750 million over five years in nutrition to address our world’s urgent hunger crisis.

Recommendation 4: That the Government launch a new global initiative to strengthen education systems, prevent conflict, and build more cohesive and secure communities at home and abroad at the G7 Leaders’ Summit in Kananaskis.

Recommendation 5: That the Government commit to renewing its investment of at least \$1.2 billion over three years in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis.

Canadian leadership amid crises

The near-complete dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is sowing chaos, threatening livelihoods, and jeopardizing decades of progress toward the eradication of extreme poverty. Efforts to end terrible diseases like tuberculosis are imperiled. The ability to contain and eradicate diseases like Ebola, mpox, and polio is severely diminished. Critically needed food aid is rotting in warehouses while famines intensify. These cruel cuts will irrevocably damage and end millions of lives.

Canada alone cannot fill the void left by the American withdrawal from international assistance. But Canada can continue its legacy of global leadership by working with likeminded countries, stepping up and demonstrating leadership by continuing to expand critically needed investments in global health and education.

2024 marked the midway point to the deadline of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. However, “progress on more than 50 per cent of targets of the SDGs is weak and insufficient; on 30 per cent, it has stalled or gone into reverse” imposing enormous costs – both human and economic – which fall hardest on women, children, and those already in poverty.¹ Canadian leadership amid intensifying global crises requires a redoubling of our longstanding commitment to building a world free from extreme poverty.

To see that vision become a reality, action must be accelerated and supported by investments which match the scale of the SDGs. To address growing global needs, Canada’s International Assistance Envelope (IAE) must continue to increase year over year and must do so at an accelerated pace.

Steady, sustained, and transparent increases will assure recipient implementing organizations and countries that Canada’s commitment to a world without extreme poverty is not temporary. It is insufficient to divert development assistance from one area to another, and doing so will actively undermine Canada’s global position as a reliable diplomatic and development partner. The Government must make clear, detailed, flexible and forward-looking multi-year commitments and follow-through on its commitment to steadily increase the IAE to 2030.² As the host of the 2025 G7, it is crucial that Canada to show leadership and invest in tomorrow.

Canada’s IAE should be increased by at least \$650 million for three-years until 2028/29 to honour the Government’s commitment and to fill existing funding gaps.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf>

² <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2021/12/16/minister-international-development-and-minister-responsible-pacific>

recommit to global health R&D

Canada's commitment to global health research and development (R&D) must focus on advancing women's health and combating tuberculosis (TB). Women, especially in low- and middle-income countries, face disproportionate health challenges due to systemic inequalities. TB remains a leading cause of death among women in these regions, and the gender disparities in healthcare must be addressed through targeted R&D efforts. By prioritizing funding for global health R&D, Canada can help bridge these gaps, ensuring equitable access to life-saving innovations such as vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments.

Chronic underfunding for research has hindered progress in developing effective TB diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines. Despite TB being a preventable and curable disease, millions continue to suffer and die each year. Canada's investment in initiatives that focus on accelerating TB research is crucial. Organizations like [Unitaid](#) are working to strengthen global health systems by providing sustainable funding for the development of new TB treatments, improving access to care, and ensuring equitable distribution of health products. Canada's leadership in such partnerships can drive innovation and strengthen the global response to TB, ensuring that new tools reach those who need them most.

Women's health, similarly, remains an underfunded area of global health R&D, despite the enormous burden it places on communities worldwide.³ Historically, health research has failed to account for the unique needs of women, resulting in disparities in the development of treatments, diagnostics, and interventions. For instance, women are often overlooked in clinical trials. Particularly in the context of maternal health, infectious diseases like TB, and conditions that disproportionately affect women, such as anemia and preeclampsia. Canada can make a significant impact by supporting purpose-driven Product Development Partnerships (PDPs) which focus on women's health by ensuring that health products and interventions are tailored to meet the needs of women and girls across their life course.

Moreover, global health challenges like antimicrobial resistance (AMR) disproportionately affect women due to higher antibiotic use and increased pathogen exposure. Unitaid, alongside PDPs like [FIND](#), is working to address these risks through the development of new diagnostic tools and treatments, particularly in maternal and child health. Canada's commitment to funding these initiatives would not only address the urgent threats posed by AMR but also enhance global health security, particularly for women who are more vulnerable to its impacts.

By investing in organizations such as Unitaid and FIND, Canada can play a pivotal role in shaping a more equitable effective global health landscape, ensuring that the most marginalized receive the innovative care they need.

³ <https://www.nature.com/immersive/d41586-023-01475-2/index.html>

fighting malnutrition

One out of 11 people in the world, and one out of every five people in Africa, faced hunger in 2023.⁴ Malnutrition disproportionately impacts women and children, especially girls, with over 1 billion affected. This costs the global economy over US \$761 billion annually and causes nearly half of all child deaths under 5.⁵

Progress against child malnutrition has slowed, due to conflict, climate crises, the aftermath of COVID-19, and rising food prices.⁶ Over 2 million children under 5 die from severe wasting annually, and 146 million suffer from stunting, or low height-for-age, irreversibly affecting their physical and cognitive development.⁷

Between 2020 and 2022, acute malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding women and adolescent girls rose by 25%.⁸ Nearly 40% of pregnant women globally experience anemia, increasing the risk of preterm birth, maternal death⁹ and intergenerational malnutrition.¹⁰ Access to therapeutic foods, early detection, and treatment can end all forms of child malnutrition. By supporting the [Child Nutrition Fund \(CNF\)](#), Canada can scale up these interventions and integrate nutrition into maternal and child health services, including in hard-to-reach areas, through the [Global Financing Facility \(GFF\)](#). Canada, as a pioneer in vitamin A supplementation, committed to increase micronutrient production.¹¹ Scaling up Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (MMS) can save over half a million lives, improve outcomes for five million babies, and prevent anemia in 15 million pregnant women by 2030.¹² Increasing Canada's investments in nutrition would help prevent 6.2 million infant deaths and nearly 1 million stillbirths, delivering \$23 in economic benefits per dollar invested. The Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit hosted by France in March 2025 will mobilize private donors, donor and high-burden countries, and civil society for strong political and financial commitments to tackle malnutrition. The N4G Summit is a key moment for Canada to reassert its leadership and

⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/31af4e18-aaeb-4164-991e-2431fe9d41ca/content>.

⁵ <https://www.nutritionintl.org/learning-resource/cost-inaction-tool/>; <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>

⁶ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

⁷ <https://www.rescue.org/report/no-more-deaths-from-wasting>; <https://www.nutritionintl.org/learning-resource/cost-inaction-tool/>

⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/media/156496/file/Global%20Resilience%20Report%202024.pdf>

⁹ <https://eleanorcrookfoundation.org/resources/unlocking-a-healthier-future-maternal-nutrition-increased-access-to-prenatal-multivitamins/>

¹⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/reports/undernourished-overlooked-nutrition-crisis>

¹¹ https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng

¹² <https://kirkshumanitarian.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MMS-Investment-Roadmap-Digital-B.pdf>

scale up access to cost-effective interventions by investing \$750 million over five years to address our world's urgent hunger and nutrition crisis.

championing education during Canada's G7 Presidency

When crises erupt, schools are the first to close and the last to reopen, leaving generations of children out of school in the most volatile regions of the world. G7 leaders have a choice: fail to invest in education systems and fuel greater instability, vulnerability to radicalization, and insecurity; or lead the way to equip the next generation of children and young people with the opportunities, skills, and knowledge they need to become co-creators of constructive solutions.

Children and young people are calling for a quality education as key to their future economic opportunities and hopes for safer, more peaceful communities.¹³ Yet attention and resources of the international community have primarily focused on responding to crisis and conflict through a reactive military and security lens, rather than from a prevention lens. Investing in prevention through education pays dividends:

- Doubling the percentage of youth with secondary education can cut the risk of conflict in half.¹⁴
- Safe, quality, and inclusive education prevents and reduces violence and conflict, acting as a powerful tool to reduce inequalities between social or cultural groups, which in turn reduces the likelihood of violent conflict.¹⁵
- Conversely, studies have found that in places where educational inequality doubled, the risk of conflict also more than doubled.¹⁶

With increased attention and investments, safe, quality, and inclusive education can play a critical role in strengthening peace and social cohesion both at home and abroad.

Exclusion and inequality in access to education is one of the key drivers of conflict. Expanding access to, and the quality of, education within and between social and cultural groups can be a powerful tool to increase stability and strengthen social cohesion. At the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Canada should launch a new Global Initiative, backed by bold investment strengthen education systems, prevent conflict, and build more cohesive and secure communities at home and abroad.

¹³ <https://image.savethechildren.org/what-do-children-want-in-times-of-emergency-and-crisis-ch11040584.pdf/jvx724k52hyo1se6m773u4ujqjg7i8q8.pdf>

¹⁴ www.un.org/youthenvoy/youth-statistics-education/

¹⁵ <https://www.csis.org/analysis/investing-quality-education-economic-development-peace-and-stability>

¹⁶ <https://www.fhi360.org/resources/does-horizontal-education-inequality-lead-violent-conflict/>

eliminating the deadliest epidemics

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria plays a pivotal role in efforts to end the world's deadliest epidemics and has saved over 65 million lives since 2002. The Global Fund's impact is particularly robust in the quest to end tuberculosis (TB), the world's leading infectious disease killer, providing 76% of all international financing for TB. In countries where the Global Fund invests, TB deaths have plummeted by 36% between 2002 and 2022. A fully funded Global Fund is essential to enabling TB programs to operate at full capacity and reach the 10.8 million people affected by TB every year. The success of the Global Fund's upcoming eighth replenishment in 2025 will largely determine the world's ability to achieve the 2030 target of eliminating AIDS, TB and malaria.

The Global Fund's eighth replenishment is an opportunity for global leaders to invest in a proven mechanism that promotes health equity and prevents unnecessary suffering. A fully funded eighth replenishment would save 23 million lives. Canada has long supported the Global Fund, most recently with a historic \$1.21 billion investment towards its seventh replenishment in 2022. We strongly urge the Government of Canada to maintain its support for the Global Fund as a strategic investment aligned with its commitment to end TB - as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Fight Against TB. Beyond its core mission tackling AIDS, TB, and malaria, the Global Fund's impact extends to promoting human rights, advancing gender equity, and strengthening health systems.

Investments in the Global Fund will support the elimination of the deadliest epidemics confronting humanity, while addressing social determinants of health and strengthening health systems to better prepare for future threats.

[The Government of Canada should commit to renewing its investment of at least \\$1.2 billion over three years in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis.](#)

Canada has an opportunity to play a leading role in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty. This requires that the Government step-up to address immediate and acute crises and remain a reliable and consistent development partner over the long term.