

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

Results Canada

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 invest at least \$720 million over five years in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to support the lifesaving vaccination of children around the world.

Recommendation 3: That the Government recommit to eradicating polio in the near term by investing \$150 million over 3 years in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

Recommendation 4: That the Government invest \$750 million over five years in nutrition to address our world's urgent hunger crisis.

Recommendation 5: That the government renew its investments to continue the impact driven by the Charlevoix Education Initiative by investing \$650 million over 5 years, and expand the initiative by launching a new global political and financial commitment at the G7 Leaders' Summit to expand education's capacity to prevent violence, foster social cohesion, promote resiliency and recovery, and build a culture of peace.

Recommendation 6: 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

From the impacts of climate change to emerging and widening conflicts, our world is wracked by crises and geopolitical tensions which have slowed progress in eliminating extreme poverty. Last year 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 in amid these crises requires a redoubling of our longstanding commitment to see 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, the 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 more important than ever for 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.

reaching every child with vaccinations

Children born just before or during the pandemic are now moving past the age when they would normally be vaccinated. In 2023, there were 14.5 million children who had not received a single routine vaccine and nearly 3 in 4 young children lived in countries where under-immunization is driving measles outbreaks.³ To prevent deadly disease outbreaks, all children must receive their necessary and regular vaccinations.

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>

³ <https://www.who.int/news/item/15-07-2024-global-childhood-immunization-levels-stalled-in-2023-leaving-many-without-life-saving-protection>

Canada is well-placed to lead the world in reversing this trend and ramp up efforts to reach zero-dose kids and provide access to new vaccines to fight age-old diseases through a substantial investment in [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance \(Gavi\)](#).

Since Gavi's launch in 2002, Canada has contributed more than \$1 billion to its core programming, which has helped immunize a billion children. Our capacity to put an end to preventable child deaths depends on the level of ambition of the investments made to support access to vaccines through Gavi.

By investing in Gavi, Canada will help

- prevent up to 9 million deaths by improving access to existing vaccines like rotavirus, and measles while introducing new vaccines against deadly diseases like malaria, dengue, and tuberculosis.
- Ensure the vaccination of 500 million children, including those living in fragile and conflict-affected countries.
- support the elimination of cervical cancer by improving access to human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, saving 1.5 million lives by 2030.
- catalyze over US\$ 4 billion of financial contributions through domestic co-financing and self-funded vaccine programs.
- generate at least US\$ 100 billion in economic benefits for Gavi implementing countries.

The Government should invest at least \$720 million over 5 years in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to support the lifesaving vaccination of children around the world.

eradicating polio

In 1988, Canada was the first country to contribute to the global effort to eliminate polio through support of the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\)](#) and we have remained a leader since then. Canada's longstanding investment in GPEI's work has contributed toward a vast, well-trained workforce and infrastructure that serves as a backbone of global public health. Since GPEI was founded, polio vaccination has prevented 20 million people from being paralyzed by polio and has successfully reduced wild polio transmission by 99.9%, limiting it to a few regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Regrettably, Canada's current commitment to GPEI came to an end in early 2024, leading to the first-ever gap in funding from Canada. Renewed support is essential to maintain hard-won gains in regions that are now polio-free and to finally achieve global polio eradication.

The Government should recommit to eradicating polio in the near-term by investing \$150 million over three years to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

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fighting food insecurity and 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. Over 1 billion women and children suffer from malnutrition, which costs the global economy over US \$761 billion annually and causes millions of deaths.⁵

Progress against child malnutrition has slowed, with wasting (acute malnutrition) rising due to conflict, climate crises, the aftermath of COVID-19, and rising food prices.⁶ Over 1 million children under 5 die from severe wasting each year, 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 and maternal death.⁹ Undernutrition also has intergenerational consequences, with anemic mothers more likely to give birth to infants at high risk of wasting and developmental delays.¹⁰

Access to therapeutic foods, early detection, and treatment can end child malnutrition, including wasting. 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 over 15 million pregnant women by 2030.¹²

Investing in nutrition is crucial to reasserting Canadian leadership, regaining progress and enhancing the impact of Canada's humanitarian and development efforts. In March 2025, France will host the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, a global event that brings private donors, donor and high-burden countries, as well as civil society together to mobilize strong political 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/>

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

⁷ <https://www.unicef.org/media/120346/file/Wasting%20child%20alert.pdf>

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://kirhumanitarian.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MMS-Investment-Roadmap-Digital-B.pdf>

financial commitments from all to tackle malnutrition. The N4G Summit is a key moment for Canada to step up and 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

The lingering impacts of COVID-19, coupled with conflict and climate changes have devastated global education. The World Bank estimates that 70% of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries are unable to read a simple text.¹³ Equally concerning, the number of young people living in conflict zones today is surging with escalating hostilities in the Middle East and Ukraine. 1 billion children – nearly half of the world’s 2.2 billion children – live in countries at extremely high risk of the impacts of climate change, with 224 million children already living in crisis who are denied their right to access quality education.¹⁴

When Canada last hosted the G7 in 2018, Prime Minister Trudeau led the world by committing \$400 million to the Charlevoix Education Initiative, which catalyzed an additional \$3.2 billion from other G7 partners. Canada’s Charlevoix investments alone reached 4 million girls and young women living in emergencies with quality education, helping them to enroll and stay in school, resist child marriage, contribute to their local community, and to lead and thrive.¹⁵ With conflict and crisis on the rise around the world, it is critical for Canada to step up and commit to ensuring access to quality education. The government should renew investment to continue the impact driven by the Charlevoix Education Initiative by investing \$650 million over 5 years, to ensure progress is not lost.

In 2025, Canada can build off the enormous impact of the Charlevoix Education Initiative and firmly put education back on the G7 leaders’ agenda, by expanding the successful Charlevoix initiative by launching a new global political and financial commitment at the G7 Leaders’ Summit to expand education’s capacity to prevent violence, foster social cohesion, promote resiliency and recovery, and build a culture of peace.

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 59 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 10.6 million

¹³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/foundational-learning>

¹⁴ <https://data.stopwaronchildren.org/>; <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/news-stories/press-releases/number-crisis-impacted-children-in-need-education-support-rises>

¹⁵ <https://inee.org/gender/charlevoix-funding-dashboard>

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. Canada has long supported the Global Fund, most recently with a historic \$1.2 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.