

Budget 2026 Toolkit:

**building Canada's future
by investing in our world**



**Welcome to our Budget 2026
Advocacy toolkit!**

This is your guide on how to advocate for Canada to invest
in international aid in the upcoming federal budget.

why is Budget 2026 a critical advocacy moment?

\$2.7B

in international aid is being cut by the Canadian government over the next four years



In the fall, the federal government will release its 2026 budget, which will include Canada's commitments to international aid. Now is the time for our decision-makers to hear the voice of everyday Canadians who want to see Canada play a strong role in tackling global challenges.

The G7 countries*, which provide roughly three-quarters of all aid, are on track to cut aid spending by 28% in 2026 – that's the largest reduction ever recorded by G7 members. The United States is responsible for most of these cuts, but it's a concerning trend among the world's wealthiest countries. These aid cuts are coming at the same time as we're seeing more complex crises around the world that need our attention, including about 800 million people living in extreme poverty.

Instead of stepping up when needed most, the Canadian government announced its own reductions in 2025, cutting \$2.7 billion in international aid over four years. This represents a historic and drastic decline in Canadian funding and goes against Prime Minister Mark Carney's campaign pledge that his government "will not cut foreign aid."

***The G7** is a group of seven countries (Canada, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom) who meet to coordinate global policy.

Did you know?

Aid spending is only a tiny fraction of Canada's overall wealth — **just 32 cents of every \$100 dollars** — but its impact is immense.

While the budget does and must provide support for Canadians in need, especially in tough economic times, a small fraction of our spending must also continue to go to international aid to safeguard our future and save millions of lives.

Reducing international aid is not only harmful to people around the world living in extreme poverty, it also weakens Canada's security and prosperity. Investing in international aid keeps everyone safer by stopping conflicts, preventing the next pandemic, and building stronger economies at home and abroad. While the next budget is being written, we need to remind the government that Canadians care about building a better and healthier world.

Coming off the heels of a drastic decrease in international aid last year, Budget 2026 will set the tone for Canada's approach to international aid going forward. Our ask of the Canadian government is to **stop cutting international aid** and step up as a leader in the face of global cuts. Join us in taking action for this cause!

the importance of international aid and Canada's role

Investments in aid are effective. Since 2000, international aid has helped reduce child mortality by half and lift over one billion people out of extreme poverty. Higher levels of aid spending have also been associated with a decline in mortality for communicable diseases, including 70% for HIV/AIDS and 56% for both malaria and nutritional diseases. **Simply put, international aid saves lives.**

Did you know? International aid spending can also benefit Canadians

prevention is 60x cheaper than war

Crises elsewhere cause global disruptions in trade, migration, and supply chains, directly affecting people in Canada. Aid helps stop conflicts before they begin.

14x yield for every dollar invested

Aid keeps us safe from global pandemics. Every dollar invested in pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response yields roughly \$14 in economic and health benefits.

Canadian innovation

Canadian researchers and manufacturers are studying infectious diseases (see our map), developing innovative health tools, producing emergency food, and so much more. Investing in aid supports their work, boosts our economy, advances domestic innovation, and strengthens resilience.

Canada has played an important role in these global efforts:

US\$7.3B to child mortality

In 2010, Canada spearheaded the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, crowding in funding from other donors to leverage US\$7.3 billion globally towards high impact interventions to reduce child and maternal mortality.

education for 4M girls in fragile contexts

Canada used its G7 presidency in 2018 to champion the historic Charlevoix Declaration, and with a \$400 million commitment, successfully reached 4 million girls in fragile and conflict-affected contexts with quality education.

\$1.42B to global health in 2022-2023

As part of its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada launched a 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights in 2019. This commitment supports the health and rights of the world's most vulnerable people. In 2022-2023 alone, Canada provided \$1.42 billion in funding to global health, improving health outcomes and addressing critical gaps.

This is the strong role we want Canada to continue to have, but recent aid cuts have threatened global progress. Reducing international aid has far-reaching impacts, costing people their lives, deepening cycles of poverty, and causing long-term instability.

We're already seeing the life-threatening impacts of international aid cuts from the United States and other countries, which could lead to:

9.4-22.6M

preventable deaths by 2030

23M

children losing access to education

200,000

more paralytic polio cases every year

10.7M

more tuberculosis cases by 2030

Right now, Canada's international aid is not meeting our global moment of need – but that can change. As other countries make the dangerous decision to reduce their international aid, Canada can choose to stand up in this difficult time and lead with our strong values. Budget 2026 is an opportunity for the Canadian government to **stop the cuts**.

Check out the case studies at the end of this toolkit for more examples of the negative impacts of aid cuts. You can also learn more about Canadian aid on our website.

take action: your voice matters

We're not "in the room" when budget decisions are made, but we can influence those who are. Our Members of Parliament (MPs) work for us, and they listen to everyday Canadians to champion the issues that matter to us. **This means that your voice matters.** You can help us influence the government to stop cutting international aid.

Explore the actions you can take below:

- **priority:** attend a pre-budget consultation and complete an online submission
- email your MP and the Minister of Finance François-Philippe Champagne
- write a letter to the editor
- post on social media and tag your MP and the Minister of Finance

For information to guide your actions, see our key messages below and read Results Canada's 2026 Budget submission.





Attend a pre-budget consultation

In the months before releasing the budget, many MPs host pre-budget consultations in their ridings that you can attend. This is a chance to share what issues you would like to see reflected in the next budget and to raise concerns about the government's cuts to international aid.

Is your MP holding a consultation?

Email your MP to find out if they are hosting a pre-budget consultation or request your own meeting – and let us know what you hear!

Not sure what to say during a consultation?

We've got you! Our [key messages](#) and [case studies](#) give you all the information you need to tell your MP why the government should stop cutting international aid in budget 2026.

Be heard: complete an online submission!

Complete a submission through the [government's online portal](#) by September 8 to make the case for stopping cuts to international aid. Make sure to complete your submission as an *individual* and not representing Results Canada.



Email the Minister of Finance and your MP

It's important to let the Government know that Canadians care about international aid so they can champion this issue as the budget is written. You can email the Minister of Finance to let him know that Canadians don't want to see international aid cut. Make sure to include your MP in the email too!

Not sure what to write?

Check out our [key messages](#) and [case studies](#) below, which give you all the information you need to tell your MP why the government should stop cutting international aid in budget 2026.

Don't know who your MP is?

Enter your postal code in the [House of Commons website](#) to find your MP and their contact information. For more tips on how to email your MP, check out our other guides below:

[how to write to your MP →](#)

[how to communicate a message powerfully →](#)

[suggested MP letter/email layout →](#)



Write a letter to the editor

Writing a letter to the editor (LTE) is a great way to help shape the conversation. MPs read these letters in their local papers, so you can use your LTE to show MPs that their constituents want Canada to stop cutting international aid in Budget 2026. Join our LTE writing challenge [INK for IMPACT](#) before the end of August for the chance to win some awesome prizes!

This toolkit has all the information you may need to write an LTE, including our [key messages](#) and [case studies](#). You can also check out our other guidance on how to get published:

writing a letter to the editor →

10 tips to get your letter to the editor published →

how to communicate a message powerfully →

generate an email list of newspapers to send your LTE to →



Post on social media

Being active on social media is a great way to spread your message! It sends a signal about what Canadians want to see in the next budget. To reach a wider audience and the specific people you want to target, make sure to tag your MPs and the Minister of Finance and use hashtags like #Budget2026 and #cdnpoli. Check out our [social media tips](#) for more advice!

Here are some sample posts you can use or adapt:

- I want the government to step up for a better world in #Budget2026 by stopping cuts to international aid [MP/Minister tag]
- Dear [MP/Minister tag], aid saves lives and fights poverty around the world, while benefiting Canadians by creating economic opportunity, global stability, and preventing the next pandemic. Will you help stop international aid cuts in #Budget2026? #cdnpoli
- Too many countries, including Canada, have recently reduced their aid funding. This poses a real threat to people's lives and global stability as a whole. Let's show the government that Canadians care about the world and make sure aid cuts stop in #Budget2026! #cdnpoli [MP/Minister tag]

key messages to support your action

Global cuts to international aid have been **devastating**. Canada must stop its cuts to international aid in budget 2026.

Canadians care about international aid and Budget 2026 should reflect that.

Security doesn't start and end with defence. International aid promotes global stability and Canadian security by helping to prevent conflicts and pandemics before they start.

International aid supports prosperity around the world and in Canada by strengthening economies and creating new trading partners.

Since 2000, Canadian aid has supported global efforts that have reduced child mortality by half and lifted over one billion people out of extreme poverty. **But international aid cuts threaten this progress.**

Appendix: case studies showing the impact of international aid cuts

On the following pages, you will find three case studies that demonstrate the life-threatening impacts of aid cuts. You can use these examples when attending a pre-budget consultation, emailing your MP, or writing an LTE to show what could happen on the ground to real people if the cuts continue.

The three case studies are:

- the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- women and girls' education in Afghanistan
- child malnutrition and the hunger crisis in Sudan

case study:

the Ebola outbreak: how aid cuts make it harder to prevent the next pandemic



22%

decrease in development assistance for health between 2024 and 2025, with further cuts expected in 2026

40%

projected decrease in funding for infectious disease control between 2024 and 2026

90%

reduction in US funding to the DRC between 2024 to 2026

A crucial part of global health funding is to prevent and prepare for the next pandemic. But this life-saving work has become far more difficult in the wake of recent widespread international aid cuts.

The current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) makes the devastating impact of aid cuts worryingly clear. The United States has historically been a global leader in combating infectious diseases like Ebola, but the shutdown of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2025 has diminished this important work.

- the US dramatically reduced its funding to the DRC by 90%, from **US\$1.4 billion** in 2024 to just US\$146 million in 2026.
- many experts say **the devastating aid cuts slowed the identification of the Ebola outbreak** and the virus could have been spreading for weeks before the outbreak was declared.
- USAID cut funding that previously supported labs and local health workers to recognize signs of Ebola, both of which help identify and contain outbreaks.

Aid cuts have also made the actual response to the outbreak more challenging.

- the US withdrew all its funding from the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2025, which undermines the whole global health system

and the WHO's ability to coordinate a response to outbreaks.

- the lack of funding has made contact tracing more difficult and teams on the ground are facing delays getting personal protective equipment.
- the emergency funding the US has sent the DRC since the outbreak does not make up for their lack of investment in pandemic preparedness, which saves more lives.

By dismantling the very systems that keep us safe and healthy, aid cuts cause more deaths.

And it's not just the US. Canada has contributed to this dangerous landscape by targeting global health in its own international aid cuts in budget 2025.

This deadly Ebola outbreak is a reminder that cutting funding to global health is dangerous for everyone, including Canadians. Diseases do not respect borders and Canada must sustain investments in global health to help prevent the next pandemic in Budget 2026.

case study:

aid cuts have deprived women and girls of education in Afghanistan



30%

expected decline
in international
aid to education
by 2027, following
devastating cuts

167M

adolescent girls
in countries with the widest
gender equality gaps are
among the worst hit by
global aid cuts, impacting
their ability to go to school

85M

children living in
emergencies are out
of school globally

less than one-third

of total funding for
education in emergencies
in 2024 had been
allocated by June 2025

Investing in education is one of the most effective ways to prevent violence, reduce poverty, and improve women and girls' health outcomes. But education was one of the hardest-hit sectors by aid cuts in 2025. Practically, this means that **millions of children have lost their access to quality education and are no longer in school learning.**

As one of the world's largest out-of-school crises, Afghanistan has been hit particularly hard by education funding cuts, which has disproportionately affected women and girls. Afghanistan already experiences immense education inequality fuelled by the Taliban's system of gender apartheid, in which women and girls are systematically barred from education beyond primary school.

In this context, **international aid has been a lifeline.** USAID previously funded programs that supported women and girls' education under the radar of the Taliban, but these opportunities have been lost to aid cuts.

- **in 2025, USAID cut all aid programming to Afghanistan**, removing some of the only alternative spaces for women and girls' education beyond primary school.
- USAID cuts led to the closure of a midwife program in Kabul, which ended the only higher education option for women and girls in the entire country.

- as of December 2025, 2.2 million adolescent girls in Afghanistan were excluded from secondary school, with another 400,000 blocked each year.
- by 2026, these bans are estimated to cause a 25% increase in child marriage, a 45% increase in early pregnancy, and a 50% increase in maternal death.

Education advocates in Canada are also pushing us to do more. After initially spearheading the 2018 Charlevoix Declaration to support education for women and girls in crisis contexts, Canada did not renew its support once the commitment ended in 2023.

If Canada continues to cut international aid, it will contribute to this devastating downward spiral for global education. Aid cuts have long-term consequences for the millions of children who have lost access to education, and for the development and advancement of whole communities and countries.

We are facing an unprecedented crisis for global education — now is not the time for Canada to back away.

case study:

aid cuts push child malnutrition to breaking point in Sudan



under-five mortality

is now projected to rise for the first time this century

32%

projected decrease in international aid for basic nutrition between 2024 and 2026

12M

more children could die by 2045 if health funding decreases by 20%

20M

people in Sudan are experiencing acute hunger – that's 2 out of every 5 people

Since 2000, under-five mortality has declined by more than half, driven largely by expanded and more equitable access to essential health and nutrition services. But this progress is under threat as countries retreat from funding child and maternal nutrition.

Sudan's hunger crisis shows the devastating impacts aid cuts have on child malnutrition.

- Sudan has faced the world's largest humanitarian crisis since the start of the civil war in 2023.
- only 31.5% of funding has been fulfilled for Sudan's 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
- USAID previously supported half of the world's supply of vital nutrition supplements that treat severe acute malnutrition. But cuts have caused a critical shortage, limiting treatment options and ultimately increasing child mortality.

Armed conflict in Sudan was already placing enormous stress on the food system. **Now, aid cuts have made the situation even worse, pushing Sudan's hunger crisis to a catastrophic breaking point.**

- nearly 20 million people in Sudan are experiencing acute hunger – that's 2 out of every 5 people.
- more than 800,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition in 2026.
- malnutrition is set to worsen even more as shrinking international aid, spreading infections, and conflict- and climate-related disruptions further limit access to adequate nutrition.
- humanitarian workers are seeing overcrowded nutrition clinics with a growing number of malnourished children.

Canada has historically played a leading role in global nutrition, including as the largest donor of vitamin A supplementation. But cuts to global health funding announced in 2025 threaten to diminish the progress Canada has supported and further cuts would only worsen ongoing crises like Sudan.

Budget 2026 provides an opportunity for the Canadian government to show leadership and support a healthier world by stopping cuts to international aid.