



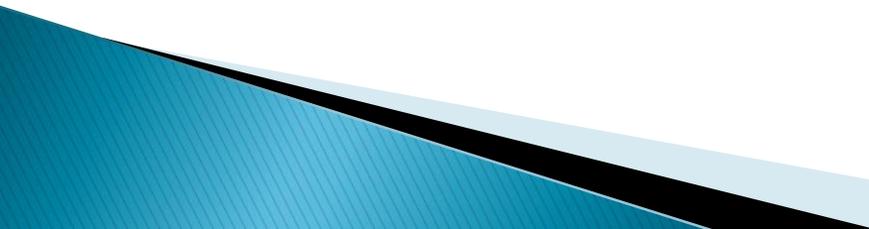
CANADA'S  
FEMINIST INTERNATIONAL  
**ASSISTANCE**  
POLICY

POLITIQUE  
D'AIDE INTERNATIONALE  
**FÉMINISTE**  
DU CANADA

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Authorities

**Canada** is adopting a **Feminist International Assistance Policy** to advance gender equality and the empowerment of **women** and **girls** as the most effective way to **reduce poverty** and **build** a more inclusive, **peaceful** and **prosperous** world.

# 2016 International Assistance Review

- ▶ Was a process in which Global Affairs Canada sought to **engage** and **consult** as wide an audience as possible to **identify evidence-based recommendations** to help shape Canada's international assistance.
  - ▶ Concretely more than **15 000 people** and **partners** were engaged in **65 countries**.
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# Why a Feminist International Assistance Policy ?

“Feminist” instills greater **rigour** in Canada’s long-standing approach to gender equality and is associated with a consistent **activist role** in our engagement and a high degree of **accountability** for results.



# Feminist Approach

- ▶ The feminist approach requires transformative change. **We cannot continue doing things as we have always done before.**
- ▶ Transformative change **challenges unequal and systemic power relations.**
- ▶ Canada believes that international assistance that is focussed on the full empowerment of women and girls is the most effective way for our international assistance to achieve greater impact. **Inclusive growth, development, and sustainable peace are not possible unless women and girls are valued and empowered.**

# ***Feminist International Assistance Policy***

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***Changing how we...***

- **...THINK**
- **...ACT**
- **...ENGAGE**

# ***Feminist International Assistance in Action:***

- Policy: changing the way we **THINK**
  - **Recognises gender equality** and the empowerment of women and girls as a **main driver for accelerating progress across all development goals** bringing **effectiveness** to our efforts
  - **Elevates gender equality** and the empowerment of women and girls from a **cross-cutting theme** to an **overarching priority**
  - Brings **focus** to our areas of intervention across **all international assistance priorities**
  - Is guided by a departmental feminist action plan that sets a high degree of **accountability** for achieving **gender equality results. (Targets)**

# ***Feminist International Assistance in Action:***

## Development Programming: changing the way we **ACT**

- Instils **rigour in decision-making** by setting the contribution to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a **key selection criteria** for sectors, partners and investments
- Dedicates **increased funding** for gender equality targeted initiatives, including for global initiatives
- **Strengthens the integration** of gender equality results across all other interventions
- Requires that **local women and girls be consulted** during the design of a project, **inform the decision-making process** and be **involved** in the **implementation, monitoring and evaluation**
- Partners with and supports **local women's rights organisations and movements**
- Tracks gender equality results and investments at all levels, including **in corporate reporting**

# ***Feminist International Assistance in Action:***

## **Advocacy: changing the way we ENGAGE**

- Systematically and consistently taking **an activist stance** for gender equality and women's human rights and freedoms in **all international fora**, including those not traditionally focused on gender equality (e.g. G7, World Economic Forum, La Francophonie)
- Being a **leading voice in mobilizing our partners**, including our **multilateral partners** and **country partners via our embassies**, to contribute to the achievement of gender equality results

# Six Action Areas.



# *The Six Action Areas*

**Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls** will be our **core area of work**. We will support efforts to **reduce sexual and gender-based violence**, to **strengthen women's organizations and movements** that advance women's rights, to **improve governments' capacity to provide services to women and girls** and to improve gender analysis.

A feminist approach does not **limit the focus of our efforts to women and girls**; rather, it is the most effective way to fight the root causes of poverty that can affect everyone: inequality and exclusion.

## ***Action area: Growth that works for everyone***

- To foster **Growth that Works for Everyone** Canada will help increase women's access to economic opportunities and resources. This will help women and girls achieve the economic independence they need to take control of their lives.

# *Women's access to economic opportunities*

- Businesses benefit when they integrate women and woman-owned enterprises into their **supply chains**.
- More than one in three **private-sector leaders report increased profits** following efforts to empower women in emerging markets
- **Limited access** to financial services—such as **banking, credit and insurance**—makes it difficult for poor households to recover from events such as a poor harvest or a health crisis.
- This limited access to vital financial services also results in lost economic opportunities, particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises owned by women

## Systemic constraints contribute to persistent gaps

### Systemic constraints

Adverse social norms

Discriminatory laws and gaps in legal protection

Failure to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid household work and care

Gender gaps in access to digital, financial and property assets



### Persistent gaps in women's economic opportunities

- Labour force participation
- Unpaid work
- Types of paid work
- Informal work
- Pay and prospects
- Formal enterprise ownership

# Seven Proven and Promising Drivers to Expand Women's Economic Empowerment



## *Neglected areas of Women's Economic Empowerment programming*

### **1. Economic rights, finance and decision making**

- 30% of countries legally restrict women's agency or mobility, and 55% have laws preventing women from working in certain jobs.
- Women comprise just 20% of the world's landholders.
- Even when laws are in place, customary norms and practices may still discriminate against women by restricting their control or ownership of land and property.

# *Neglected areas of Women's Economic Empowerment programming*

## 2. Decent work and segregation

- 104 countries legally restrict women from working in certain jobs, such as manufacturing and construction, due to gender bias & discrimination.
- Women constitute just 30% of students in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics programs.
- Women comprise 44% of those enrolled in large-scale Technical and Vocational Educational and Training programs.

# *Neglected areas of Women's Economic Empowerment programming*

## 3. The care economy

- Women spend 1-3 hours more per day on housework than men, and 2-10 times the amount of time each day on care work.
- Care responsibilities constrain women's paid work options.
- Menial labour risks undermining health and wellbeing.
- Women's double burden risks a negative effect on children.
- Access to affordable child care boosts women's economic outlook.

# *Neglected areas of Women's Economic Empowerment programming*

## 4. Social norms and women's agency

- Gendered socialization starts early in life, with girls spending 30% more time than boys on domestic and care work.
- Trapping women in low levels of productivity and seniority or in occupations that are accorded lower social value.
- Maintaining the gender pay gap.
- Skewing prices and wages for products and services considered “female” versus those that are “male.”
- Gender-based violence when women and men transgress acceptable gender roles.

# *Neglected areas of Women's Economic Empowerment programming*

## 5. Gender-based violence

- 1 in 3 women have experienced sexual or physical violence.
- Women who experience this violence are employed in higher numbers in casual and part-time work, and their earnings are 60% lower compared to women who work in other circumstances.
- 140 countries have laws on domestic violence and 76 have laws on marital rape, meaning many countries still do not treat gender-based violence as a crime.

## Proposition

*New income-earning opportunities will have limited empowering effects on women unless these are accompanied by explicit, large-scale, and long-lasting efforts to reduce the burdens facing women through the provision of public care models.*



# Lessons Global Affairs Canada has drawn...

- Gender equality and Women's economic empowerment: goes beyond simply getting women into the paid labour force.
  - Public sector investments: key to reducing the sometimes menial nature of women's care work.
  - Sustainable private-sector financing: can remove cost barriers to child care.
  - Tackle gender norms underpinning women's disproportionate care load: how does a society choose to share the work?
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# Seven Proven and Promising Drivers to Expand Women's Economic Empowerment

