

DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT OPTIONS FOR CANADA

The ONE Campaign is proud to engage other international development organizations in a collaborative approach to harnessing Canada's potential as a leader in ending extreme poverty, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. We believe that Canada has fallen behind over the past decade, and that the new government should commit to an escalating yet prudent course of new investments to first rejoin its peers, and then take a leadership position toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under Prime Minister Trudeau's leadership, Canada can become the top global development champion. To do that, Canada should strive to once again reach its historically highest level of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by devoting 0.34% of its budget to ODA, with 8-10% annual increases on ODA on an escalator tied to new policy initiatives to 2023.

But it isn't only about the number of CAD; just as importantly, it's about *how* those CAD are spent. Poverty hits women and girls in poorest countries hardest in every way -- economically, socially, and physically; yet, investing in them is the key to ending the intergenerational cycle of extreme poverty and to the growth of entire economies. There are a number of ways in which Canada in particular can lead the way for smart investment in the poorest girls and women. We suggest three top priorities and a few additional areas of investment to holistically address the root causes of extreme poverty, especially for women and girls. Ramping-up these types of investments, on which Canada has historically demonstrated leadership, is the smartest way to reach 0.34%.

Top Three

1. **Nutrition:** Globally, malnutrition is the underlying cause of 45% of child deaths and 20% of maternal deaths. Canada could cement its traditional leadership in nutrition, begun under the Muskoka Initiative, by:
 - a. Launching a global fund for nutrition that aligns with countries' own strategies and directly connects pledges with results on the ground.
 - b. Making an ambitious pledge to that fund that doubles Canada's current nutrition funding and encourages other donors to contribute.
 - c. Transparently publishing all of Canada's nutrition spending.
2. **Health:** AIDS-related illnesses are now the leading cause of death for women aged 15 to 44 on the planet, and about 15 million pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa cannot access preventative treatment for malaria, which can cause miscarriages and death of the mother.
 - a. Canada is to be commended for agreeing to host the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and for making its ambitious pledge of CAD 785 million over the next three years. This continues a long tradition of leadership in health, particularly for women and girls, started by the Muskoka Initiative. We hope to see a continuing commitment to the Global Fund and to the Gavi Vaccine Alliance.

08/03/2016

- b. To cement that leadership, Canada could take the lessons we all learned from the Ebola crisis and invest in strengthening health systems in key African countries, particularly by increasing the female health workforce.
3. **Education:** 75 percent of girls in sub-Saharan Africa enter primary school, and only a shocking 8 percent finish secondary school. Canada can pave the way for tomorrow's female leaders by:
- a. Providing incentives for girls to complete secondary education (e.g., scholarships and programs that shift cultural norms on gender-based violence).
 - b. Improving girl's learning through, for example, financing quality female teacher recruitment and teacher training programs.
 - c. Promoting women's and girls' rights and leadership by funding female community leadership and literacy programs.
 - d. Ensuring that we know whether the status of girls and women's education is improving by investing in data that specifically targets measuring girls' learning outcomes.

Other investments in root causes of extreme poverty

Energy: Indoor smoke is responsible for over half a million deaths annually due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among women worldwide.

Canada is to be commended for joining forces with the United States on the Power Africa initiative, working to bring vital electricity access to the poorest and for the \$150 million commitment Canada made to the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative during COP21 last December. We hope that Canada will continue to support projects that will bring electricity to the poorest of the poor in Africa.

- Canada should utilize its Development Finance Initiative to maximize leverage of the private sector in support of its efforts to expand electricity access across the African continent.

Agriculture and Food Security: Globally, providing female farmers with the same access to productive resources as male farmers could increase agricultural yields by 20–30%, raise economic output by 2.5–4%, and reduce the number of people who go hungry by 12–17% (100–150 million people).

- In 2015, Canada joined with the G7 in committing to helping 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, in line with the Global Goals. Sadly, Canada's funding to agricultural development and food security has been more than halved since 2010. Canada could lead the way for the G7 and significantly increase its funding, with the specific purpose of meeting the G7 target and assisting African Countries to meet the ambitious targets they laid out in the 2014 African Union Malabo Declaration.

Connectivity: In the developing world, the gender gap in Internet usage is stark, with 16% fewer women than men going online.

08/03/2016

- The Internet can be a powerful force in the fight against poverty, particularly for women and girls. Canada has shown leadership by supporting internet and mobile access for agricultural workers who have been able to increase their crop yields thanks to learning new farming methods and scoping market prices online. But far too many people remain unconnected. Canada could work to connect the poorest people, particularly women and girls, in the Least Developed Countries by working with governments, business and civil society to expand coverage, improve digital literacy and reduce access costs.

Data/Transparency/Extractives: In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 80% of the indicators against which the World Bank measures the status of women have no data.

- Canada could lead the way in closing this massive data gap by opening up its own data,, guaranteeing that all data is gender-disaggregated (including for the SDG indicators), and supporting national statistical systems.
- In 2014, Canada became a global leader in the fight against corruption by passing the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act, and it can go even further by requiring that company reports be filed in open, machine readable formats and published in a centralized database. The same could be said for the legal and beneficial owners of all Canadian-registered companies to discourage use of anonymous shell companies.

Refugee Crisis:

- Canada is to be commended for co-hosting the upcoming refugee crisis summit with the United States. We expect that Canada will meet the summit goals (30% more funding, 1 million more refugee children to be put in school, 1 million more refugees granted the right to work, and a doubling of the global admissions of refugees), while ensuring that new financial pledges for the refugee crisis are additional to existing ODA. ONE is still working to determine what baseline levels would be appropriate for these commitments.