

Global Affairs Canada Progress Report in Response to Recommendation 2) of the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts entitled “International Assistance in Support of Gender Equality”

CONTEXT:

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) is currently implementing the response to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) recommendation in the report entitled *International Assistance in Support of Gender Equality*, which noted that Global Affairs Canada (GAC) "should adjust its performance indicators to measure both outputs and outcomes on all projects so that it fully reports on the impact of funding against policy goals and priorities to improve gender equality and outcomes for women and girls."

To address the above recommendation, GAC agreed and identified in the Management Response and Action Plan that:

“The gaps with department-level performance indicators indicated by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada will be reviewed to determine how best the department may increase effective measurement of and reporting on the achievement of policy-level outcomes of its international assistance. Performance indicators will remain only one of the means through which we report on international assistance policy outcomes.

While the department will endeavor to maximize how much of its sizeable international assistance project portfolio can be reported against using a set of department-level key performance indicators, complete coverage is unrealistic as some projects will unavoidably fall outside the scope of aggregate indicators. Other means will be identified to publish results from such projects. [...]

[The] Grants and Contributions Transformation initiative will include a renewed and modernized framework and system for outcomes-specific data collection, aggregation, analysis, and reporting. This system will help ensure better outcomes information on international assistance is used internally for decision-making and learning and externally for public reporting and accountability.”

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts in Report 33 recommended that "GAC must present the Committee with a report on its new international assistance performance indicators; these indicators should measure not only outputs, but also outcomes.”

This report provides updates on how GAC is working to address the recommendations above.

BACKGROUND:

Global Affairs Canada developed 26 Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) Key Performance Indicators in 2016 in an effort to communicate the results of international assistance programming. In their report, the OAG reviewed these indicators and found that “24 of 26 of the department’s policy indicators did not measure outcomes”. As information needs have evolved for both decision-making and external reporting purposes, GAC has found that a larger suite of indicators is required to better communicate progress on policy-level outcomes.

To respond to the OAG's recommendation, rather than simply amending or replacing the FIAP Key Performance Indicators, GAC will be implementing an approach that integrates thematic and program indicators, thereby better reporting on outcomes and improving the communication of results.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Indicators: Following the publication of the OAG report in April 2023, GAC officials responsible for managing for results, performance management and reporting in international assistance immediately began reviewing current methodologies, processes, and tools.

Officials developed an approach to improve reporting by the outcomes of the FIAP Action Areas and expanding the number of indicators used to measure progress and using thematic indicators contained within the FIAP's Action Area Results Frameworks. This approach was approved by the Deputy Minister of International Development before March 31, 2024, thereby meeting GAC's Management Action Plan commitment.

Action Area Results Frameworks were developed for each of the FIAP Action Area Policies and operationalize the policies into measurable and achievable outcomes, and each have a suite of indicators. These indicators measure outcomes at the policy level and are based on international best practice. For an illustrative example of an Action Area Results Framework, please refer to Annex I which shows the methodology and thematic/sectoral indicators that will be implemented across the FIAP Action Areas.

GAC is also developing data strategies for each Action Area and implementing tools such as Outcome Summaries for the purposes of communicating progress to inform decision-making and informing reporting on the achievement of outcomes.

This approach has been consulted on and supported by representatives of the OAG through regular engagement since the release of the OAG report in April 2023. This engagement will continue with the OAG going forward.

Public reporting: The annual Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance presents a summary of the Government of Canada's official development assistance efforts. This report is a requirement under the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act (ODAAA) and reflects a snapshot of activities, results, and stories of change from partners working around the world and guided by Canada's FIAP.

To help address issues raised in the OAG report, the 2022-23 Report to Parliament has been substantially redesigned to more clearly focus on policy-level outcomes realized in fiscal year 2022-23. The latest report is organized by FIAP Action Area, identifies the policy-level expected outcomes for each Action Area, and provides information on progress in achieving those outcomes, with examples from international assistance programming such as stories of change.

NEXT STEPS:

GAC will continue the review of all Action Area Results Framework outcomes and indicators, strengthening the template shown as an example in Annex I. This review will result in the selection of indicators under each FIAP Action Area that measure outcomes, and that the department will be able to report on and use to inform decision-making.

Products such as guides, outcomes reporting summaries and new reporting templates are being tested by the department to continue to strengthen the review of progress on policy-level results, thereby better equipping policy-level decision-making with results information. These products will also facilitate better reporting on the results of international assistance programming through the International Assistance Report and other means.

In parallel, the multi-year Grants and Contributions Transformation Initiative is building the IMIT solution needed for more effective and efficient collection, analysis, and monitoring of results information, and reporting on progress toward achieving policy-level outcomes. More information on GAC's Grants and Contributions Transformation Initiative will be provided in the progress report requested by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts by December 31, 2024.

ANNEX I – Overview of Action Area Results Frameworks

Action Area Results Frameworks translate the priorities of the related Action Areas into broad corporate level expected outcomes. The result frameworks also include a Menu of Indicators which may be used by the Department and implementing organizations to measure progress on or towards the expected outcomes in each Action Area.

Indicators are drawn from international practice by using common metrics in development, are aligned to the indicators and targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where relevant, or are commonly used by international organizations, implementing partners and existing international assistance programs and projects.

Illustrative Example of an Action Area Results Framework: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls

1) Theory of Change

The Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) puts gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of Canada's international development efforts. As such, all Action Areas are required to adopt a strategic focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Within the Action Area: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls, the focus is on building the foundation for empowering women and girls and for challenging gender inequalities regardless of sector or geographic context. This is broken down into the following paths to action:

- Addressing sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting
- Supporting strong and sustainable women's organizations and movements that advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
- Supporting evidence-based policymaking and program delivery for gender equality

These paths to action work complementarily to address systemic inequality, transform harmful socio-cultural norms and practices, and alter discriminatory laws, policies, and institutions to create equal opportunities for women and girls in economic, political and social spheres. Gender equality results are incorporated across all eight Action Area Results Frameworks which provides the full story of GAC's impact on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

2) Outcome Indicator Menu – Under Review (as of March 2024)

ACTION AREA: GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS RESULTS FRAMEWORK INDICATOR MENU	
INDICATORS ¹	DATA SOURCES ²
Ultimate Outcome 1000: Enhanced enjoyment of human rights for women and girls and gender equality for all women and men, girls and boys, particularly the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable, in countries where Global Affairs Canada engages	
1000a Score on Social Institutions and Gender Index (by Country where GAC engages)	Social Institutions and Gender Index Results
1000b Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	SDG Report (WHO)
1000c Proportion of women aged 20-24 who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18	SDG Report (UNICEF)
Intermediate Outcome 1100: Enhanced sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response by state, non-state actors and individuals in countries where Global Affairs Canada engages	
1100a %/total individuals (by gender and other relevant factors) in communities and institutions (including influencers and decision makers) who report having taken actions against SGBV, including CEFM and FGM/C	Beneficiaries and/ or intermediaries
1100b # of people (by gender, age and other relevant factors) at risk of or subjected to any form of violence, including CEFM and FGM/C, who have received services in the previous 12 months	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
1100c # of national laws, strategies, policies implemented and/or strengthened to prevent SGBV (including CEFM and female genital mutilation/cutting)	Intermediaries
Intermediate Outcome 1200: Enhanced effective advancement of the rights and empowerment of women and girls, particularly of the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable, by women's organizations and movements in countries where Global Affairs Canada engages	

¹ For all indicators that measure **people**, data should be disaggregated by sex and other identity factors where possible, such as ethnicity, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation. If a scale is not provided for qualitative indicators this means that there is no standard scale (i.e., it does not come from a source with an existing scale), and that it is up to the implementing organization to determine the scale. GAC project officers should ensure that a scale for a qualitative indicator is developed for the projects they are managing. Indicators measuring **access** can be either at the immediate or intermediate level, depending on the Theory of Change (see [GAC RBM How To Guide](#), at what level does access belong in the results chain).

² At the project level the data source will be determined or finalized by the project implementing organization. This column only provides suggestions based on best practice, where relevant and / or available.

**ACTION AREA: GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS RESULTS FRAMEWORK
INDICATOR MENU**

INDICATORS ¹	DATA SOURCES ²
1200a %/total WROs and movements surveyed who report increased organisational sustainability and/or performance	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
1200b %/total of women and girls beneficiaries of targeted WROs who feel their programs or services respond to their needs	Beneficiaries
1200c %/total policies/laws/frameworks/ mechanism/procedures/plans etc. that were influenced by interventions (e.g. advocacy, consultation, collaborative drafting) from women's right organizations, networks and alliances	Beneficiaries and/ or intermediaries
Intermediate Outcome 1300: Enhanced participatory and accountable evidence-based policy-making and program delivery for gender equality by state and non-state actors in countries where Global Affairs Canada engages	
1300a #/total new/strengthened policies, programs and legislative frameworks enacted/enforced/monitored by state actors that systematically include gender disaggregated data, are informed by gender-based analysis and effectively address gender inequalities	Intermediaries
1300b %/total non-state actors (by gender and other relevant factors) engaged in policy dialogue on gender equality who report satisfaction with the degree to which state actor policy-making and program delivery reflect their inputs	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1110: Improved capacity of state and non-state actors to deliver comprehensive services to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence	
1110a %/total of frontline workers (by gender and other relevant factor) reporting increased skills and ability to provide support services for women and children (g/b) survivors of SGBV, including of CEFM and FGM/C	Intermediaries
1110b #/total of targeted women and children (by gender and other relevant factor) community members (by age) who know where and how to formally report SGBV, including CEFM and FGM/C, and access support services (in the home, school, place of work and community)	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1120: Increased capacity of state, non-state actors, communities, households and individuals to advance positive social norms that break the cycle of sexual and gender-based violence and respect human rights	
1120a #/total of individuals (by gender, age and other relevant factors) demonstrating positive attitudes toward ending SGBV	Beneficiaries and intermediaries
1120b %/total of women and children (by gender, age and other relevant factors) and influencers (by gender and other relevant factors) reporting improved knowledge and understanding of positive social norms and impacts of SGBV, including CEFM and FGM/C	Beneficiaries or intermediaries

**ACTION AREA: GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS RESULTS FRAMEWORK
INDICATOR MENU**

INDICATORS ¹	DATA SOURCES ²
1120c #/total of state and non-state actors (by gender and other relevant factors) reporting improved skills in advocacy and awareness-raising strategy development on SGBV, including CEFM and FGM/C, and to advance positive social norms	Beneficiaries or intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1130: Increased capacity of state and non-state actors to plan or strengthen, coordinate, implement and measure policies, laws, regulations and programs, to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence	
1130a %/total of state institutions (national/sub-national) supported who report having engaged in developing and revising accountable multi-sectoral SGBV prevention (including CEFM and FGM/C) laws, policies or coordination mechanisms ³	Intermediaries
1130b %/total non-state actors who report increased skills in holding state actors accountable for the implementation of their policies, laws and programs to prevent and respond to SGBV	Beneficiaries and intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1210: Strengthened institutional capacity of women’s organizations to be sustainable and well-managed organizations	
1210a #/total supported WROs reporting increased ability to manage and/or govern	Beneficiaries and/ or intermediaries
1210b #/total WROs targeted who developed or strengthened institutional policies, strategies and action plans, e.g. for human resources management or fund-raising	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1220: Increased capacity of women’s organizations for participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their programs and services	
1220a #/total supporting women’s rights organizations reporting increased ability to deliver quality programming	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1230: Increased capacity of women’s organizations and movements to build alliances and advocate for the rights, interests and participation of women and girls, particularly of the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable	
1230a #/total targeted WROs and movements who report strengthened skills to advance the rights of women and girls and gender equality, incl. through improved mobilization strategies	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries

³ Indicator 1130a – Lagging indicator. For definition, see [RBM for International Assistance Programming How to Guide](#).

**ACTION AREA: GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS RESULTS FRAMEWORK
INDICATOR MENU**

INDICATORS ¹	DATA SOURCES ²
1230b %/total of targeted women’s rights network members satisfied with their networks’ coordination and collective action ⁴	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
1230c #/total supported women’s rights organizations reporting increased ability to engage in networks/alliances/platforms and movements	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1310: Increased capacity of state actors to plan, implement, and measure policies, laws and programs that address gender equality gaps and respond to the rights and interests of women and girls	
1310a %/total of state actors’ employees (by gender and other relevant factors) (national/sub-national) who report increased skills/willingness to elaborate/strengthen, implement and measure policies, laws and programs that address gender equality gaps and responds to the rights and interests of women and girls	Intermediaries
1310b # of national, sub-national or departmental strategies developed or strengthened that outline institutional approaches to and roles and responsibilities for achieving gender equality objectives ⁵	Intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1320: Increased capacity of state and non-state actors to generate, analyze and disseminate data and evidence related to gender equality	
1320a # of information management systems put in place or strengthened by state and non-state actors to collect and analyze data disaggregated by sex, age and other intersecting identity factors (e.g. ethnicity, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation), and generate and disseminate gender equality statistics	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
1320b # of research papers on gender inequalities and policy recommendations on closing gender gaps produced and disseminated by state and non-state actors ⁶	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries
Immediate Outcome 1330: Increased capacity of state and non-state actors to engage between and among themselves in policy dialogue, hold each other accountable, and deliver programs in support of gender equality	

⁴ Indicator 1230b – Lagging indicator. For definition, see [RBM for International Assistance Programming How to Guide](#).

⁵ Indicator 1310b – Lagging indicator. For definition, see [RBM for International Assistance Programming How to Guide](#).

⁶ Indicator 1320b – Lagging indicator. For definition, see [RBM for International Assistance Programming How to Guide](#).

**ACTION AREA: GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS RESULTS FRAMEWORK
INDICATOR MENU**

INDICATORS ¹	DATA SOURCES ²
1330a %/total of state actors' employees (by gender and other relevant factors), nationally and sub-nationally, who report increased skills/willingness to consult and engage with non-state actors on gender equality and incorporate feedback in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies, laws and programs	Intermediaries
1330b %/total women rights organizations and movements and other non-state actors engaged in policy dialogue on gender equality who report satisfaction with state actors' consultations and engagement in the development of policies, laws and programs ⁷	Beneficiaries and/or intermediaries

⁷ Indicator 1330b – Lagging Indicator. For definition, see [RBM for International Assistance Programming How to Guide](#).