

Canada

Partner in global health

Credits

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A meeting of minds to deliver health for all

Canada and WHO share a commitment to a world where all people can enjoy the highest attainable standards of mental and physical health.

Canada has been a steadfast supporter of WHO since its creation in 1948 and plays an active leadership role, both in the Americas region and in many areas of WHO's global work. This includes contributing support and expertise to health emergency response efforts such as the COVID-19 pandemic, developing a vaccine for Ebola, championing polio eradication, and advancing global health security. Support is also provided through collaborating centres working and advancing joint priorities such as environmental health and non-communicable diseases; through advances in policy, through leadership actions (co-hosting the Global Diabetes Summit in 2021), or supporting the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and implementing it nationally.

Through its [Feminist International Assistance Policy](#), Canada is committed to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in all their diversity, partnering with WHO to advance these objectives. This includes equity-based approaches to health

systems strengthening and [primary health care](#), and by closing gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Canada strongly champions these issues within WHO governing bodies.

Canada's commitment to WHO includes working together to ensure it is an effective, efficient, relevant, transparent, accountable, and well-governed institution, whose actions and recommendations are guided by Member States and the best available science and evidence. WHO helps achieve globally what no single country can do alone.

Canada amongst top contributors to WHO

Note: The amounts represent the revenue received by WHO for the period stated. Figures in the Budget Portal may vary, as they represent funds available net of programme support costs.

Canada is the fifth largest Member State donor to WHO (8th largest overall) in the 2020-2021 biennium with a total contribution equivalent to US\$ 212 million.

Over the last 10 years, Canada contributed over Can\$ 900 million to WHO in support of global health priorities, including polio eradication and the COVID-19 response.

Canada provided a Can\$ 100 million contribution to WHO in support of the Health Systems & Response Connector and more than Can\$ 30million to WHO to assist 10 target countries in delivering essential health services and strengthening primary health care in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery. Canada also provided Can\$ 15 million to support WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, with a focus on the Africa Region.

Canada is one of the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) initial contributors and a regular supporter (with Can\$ 9 million since 2015)

WHO is extending appreciation to the Canadian people for their support throughout the years.

See more about Canada's contributions to WHO

A contributor and leader in the Americas

Canada is a strong supporter of the [Pan American Health Organization \(PAHO\)](#), WHO's Regional Office for the Americas. Canada is the [third largest contributor of assessed contributions](#) and among the leading providers of voluntary contributions to PAHO, which reflects a longstanding partnership to deliver on health for all throughout the Americas Region. In addition to working with PAHO to address antimicrobial resistance; strengthen the capacity of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs); support health sector response capacities for health emergencies and disasters; and, address the health impacts of climate change, Canada also supported the partnership between PAHO and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) on the pandemic response.

Technical highlights

Global Health Security and responding to emergencies

COVID-19 pandemic response

Canada is working closely with WHO to minimize the health impacts of the pandemic and ensure the global response is guided by considerations of equity in support of the poorest and those experiencing vulnerability and marginalization, particularly women and girls.

Canada is a major contributor to the [ACT-Accelerator \(ACT-A\)](#) and contributes expertise across the breadth of the WHO COVID-19 response, in areas like research coordination, regulatory preparedness, and guideline development.

Canada's role has also been key in the COVID-19 response in the Americas, as one of the leading donors and supporting work towards access to vaccines for vulnerable populations, promotion of vaccine uptake and distribution personal protective equipment.

Emergency preparedness, outbreak and crisis response

Canada shares WHO's mission to prioritize the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in emergencies, disasters, and crises.

A case in point is the response to Ebola. The [rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine](#) was developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and a 2016 trial was supported partially by the Canadian Government through PHAC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the International Development Research Centre, and Global Affairs Canada. Health Canada also collaborated in the [trial](#) for the vaccine.

[Read more about the Ebola vaccine trial](#)

Responding to emergencies through the CFE

Through the [CFE](#), Canada has supported WHO's emergency health relief in a number of emergencies, including in Bangladesh (Rohingya Crisis), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Ebola response and preparedness), Mozambique (flooding) and Nigeria (complex emergency), and more recently for the COVID-19 pandemic as well as for Ukraine and neighbouring countries. In addition to financial support, Canada contributes technical expertise to WHO's work, including deployments through the [WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network \(GOARN\)](#).

Polio

Canada has been a champion in the global fight to eradicate polio since 1986. From 2000 to 2020, Canada contributed over Can\$ 750 million to Polio Eradication; and announced an additional commitment of Can\$ 190 million in 2020.

Canada's support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), together with other donors, has helped successfully reduce polio cases by 99.99 percent, to less than 150 cases in the two remaining endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan and the declaration of the African continent as wild poliovirus free in August 2020, were vaccine derived poliovirus outbreak still occur, in areas with low levels of immunity.

Women in polio endemic countries play a critical role in eradication efforts as front line workers and community-based volunteers. Canada will continue to take a gender-responsive approach to all stages of GPEI programming, including gender parity at all leadership levels, to build a better world - 'A polio-free world.'

Read more about the GPEI



Working Together to Keep the World Healthy and Safe

Biosafety/biosecurity and Global Health Security

WHO and Canada collaborate to prevent the proliferation of biological and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, and to enhance collaboration between the health and security sectors to mitigate all manner of global biological threats, whether natural, accidental or deliberate.

Canada's Weapons Threats Reduction Program (WTRP) has contributed more than Can\$ 40 million to this work, resulting in an initiative to enhance biosafety and biosecurity for Ebola samples in Sierra Leone, a newly built 24/7 [global event-based surveillance system](#) and a regularized WHO's [Health Security Interface](#) (HSI) Secretariat as well as increased capacity and capabilities in this area.

[Read more about the dual use research of concern \(DURC\)](#)

Healthy Lives and Wellbeing

Canada is a strong supporter of WHO's work to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all, at all ages; and of Health Systems Strengthening through [Primary Health Care](#) investment

Healthy ageing

Since 2005, Canada has provided funding and in-kind support to WHO towards the Age-Friendly model, guidelines and national communities programs and the creation of age-friendly environments around the world. Canada also supports WHO work under the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing by including the voices of older people amongst others.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (for Canada), and Municipalité amie des aînés, on behalf of Québec, are affiliates and support work to advance knowledge and action on age-friendly environments, as members of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, established in 2010.

[Read more about the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#)

Maternal, newborn and child health

Since 2012, Canada has supported the WHO-hosted Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, which provides a platform for global health stakeholders to align objectives, strategies and resources, and agree on interventions to improve maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health to reach the 2030 Global Strategy targets. This is a platform where a diverse group of health sector partners achieve more by coming together, sharing expertise and experience, aligning and focusing on where they can have the greatest impact in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

[Read more about the Partnership](#)

Prioritizing mental and neurological health

Canada and WHO are aligned in their vision to ensure that all people achieve the highest standard of mental health and wellbeing, and support WHO's flagship programme established in WHO's [13th General Programme of Work](#).

Canada also works with WHO to develop an evidence-based package, **Helping Adolescents Thrive (HAT)**, to tackle suicide, and strengthen countries' abilities to promote adolescent mental health and wellbeing, prevent mental disorders and reduce risk behaviors and self-harm.

People living with dementia have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Data shows that women are more likely than men to be diagnosed with dementia and that most caregivers for people living with dementia are women. Canada is a supporter of WHO's [Global Dementia Observatory \(GDO\)](#) and related [knowledge exchange platform](#) facilitate knowledge- and data- sharing and fosters mutual learning between Member States, contributing WHO's [Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia](#).

A Common Vision for Health Equity and the Determinants of Health

Ending violence

Canada recognizes violence against women and children as serious public health problems and human rights violations and abuses, and has supported WHO's work on **violence and injury prevention** for the past 15 years

Canada was a key supporter of the [Global Plan of Action](#) on health systems response to violence against women and children, [adopted](#) by the World Health Assembly in 2016. In October 2017, the Government of Canada on behalf of WHO hosted the 8th Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting, carrying forward this work across the AFRO and EMRO regions.

Canada also supports WHO's [Violence Prevention Information System \(Violence Info\)](#), which collates published scientific information on the main types of interpersonal violence.

Environment and health

Canada has a long-standing history of collaboration with WHO on environmental health, including work on chemicals management, support for the [WHO's Urban Health Initiative](#), partnership on health and climate change as well as technical support and cooperation in areas such as improving drinking water and recreational water quality, as well as assessing potential health effects of radiation exposure.

[Read more about the WHO Chemicals Roadmap](#)

[Read more about Global Chemicals and Health Network](#)

Collaborating Centres

Canada hosts more than 30 active WHO Collaborating Centres, providing expertise on a wide range of topics.

The Government of Canada hosts Collaborating Centres on Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Policy; Biosafety and Biosecurity; Environmental Health; and Standardization and Evaluation of Biologics.

Together with Collaborating Centers hosted by other Canadian institutions, Canada provides expertise also on areas related to addiction and mental health, health workforce planning and research, patient safety, tuberculosis research and more.

[See Canada's WHO Collaborating Centres](#)