



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE



# UN WOMEN AND CANADA

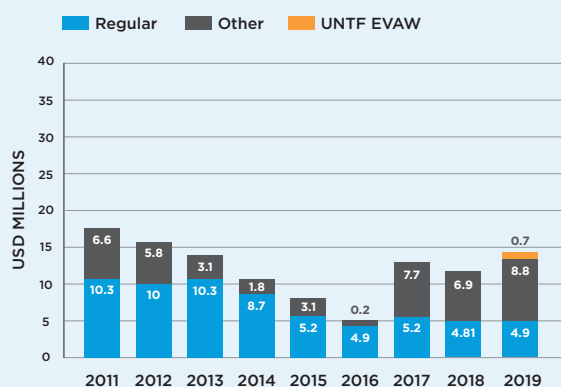
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## Partners for progress

Canada is one of the world’s leaders in supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women; exemplified by the genderbalanced Cabinet of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Canada’s tenfold increase in funding during the first year of UN Women in 2011 was a crucial show of support to the new organization and Canada’s ongoing partnership remains essential to effecting change for women and girls everywhere.

**Regular (core) resources to UN Women: USD 4.89 million**  
**Other (non-core) resources: USD 9.55 million**

Canadian Government Funding to UN Women



## Sharing common goals

Canada and UN Women share a fundamental commitment to gender equality. Women’s economic and political participation, prevention of violence against women and girls and engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes are common goals.

Canada is a global leader in the promotion and protection of women’s rights and gender equality. These issues are central to Canada’s foreign and domestic policies. Canada is committed to the view that gender equality is not only a human rights issue, but is also an essential component of sustainable development, social justice, peace and security. Protection and advancement of human rights remains a central foreign policy priority for Canada, both in bilateral discussions and in multi-lateral forums. In 2017, Canada launched its first ever Feminist International Assistance Policy which aims to contribute to global efforts to eradicate poverty by empowering women and addressing inequalities.

Canada was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which sets international standards for eliminating gender discrimination. In 2002, Canada ratified the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2000.

**“As leaders, we need to act to show that truly, time is up.”**

*Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaking at Davos 2018 on sexual harassment.*

*Banner photo: 16 March 2016, New York - During a public conversation at UN Headquarters, in the context of the 60th Session of the Commission for the Status of Women, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called on global leaders to do more to ensure gender equality and promote women’s empowerment.*

## Together we achieved:

### Peace & Security

The Government of Canada supported UN Women's work to ensure women's engagement in and contribution to the peace processes in South Sudan and that gender mainstreaming is incorporated into those processes. Within the first year of the programme, at the national level, UN Women supported women leaders from all political parties to participate in the High-level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) where the stakeholders reached consensus on increasing the affirmative action quota for women's minimum participation in political leadership and decision-making positions in the public sector from 25 per cent to 35 per cent in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). This action paves the way for more South Sudanese women to participate in all institutional levels of the transitional government to implement and monitor the R-ARCSS.

At the grassroots level, UN Women supported over 6,000 women and men to participate in 30 peace dialogues and sensitization meetings. This has led to the formation of several local women-led networks advocating for peace.

Canada's support to UN Women's work in South Sudan has also included (i) placement of a Gender Adviser to support the office of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Special Envoy on South Sudan; (ii) the dissemination of the implementation and monitoring of the R-ARCSS; (iii) provision of training and support for women mediators; and (iv) provision of financial and technical support to women's organizations and networks working on community peace dialogues and mediation.

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*Her Excellency, Ms. Jacqueline O'Neill Canada's first-ever Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security at the UN Women convened side event during UNGA74 - Women, Peace and Security: Towards Full Participation.*

### Women's Economic Empowerment

The Government of Canada was the inaugural funder of the innovative platform [www.empowerwomen.org](http://www.empowerwomen.org), a global movement for women's economic empowerment. The platform connects people globally to take action for women's economic rights and opportunities and provides women a voice as decision makers and leaders. The online portal enables

individuals to further their aspirations and economic goals. Members are women and men from the private sector, civil society, academic, government agencies and international organizations in more than 190 countries, including many youth. Empower Women provides tools and resources, so that women can find decent work, start and grow prosperous organizations and businesses that create equal opportunities for both women and men.

### Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership

With support from the Government of Canada, UN Women is working to improve and strengthen the participation of women as political leaders, as agents of change, and as peace builders in West and Central Africa. This programme, active in the Central African Republic, Liberia, Nigeria and The Republic of Guinea, works to increase the effective political participation of women as political leaders in all levels of governance, and to improve legislative practices and frameworks to promote gender balance in politics.

### Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces

The city of Winnipeg was the first Canadian city to participate in the UN Women Flagship Global Initiative on Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces in December 2013, together with Manitoba Status of Women, aboriginal-led organizations, and other community partners. The City of Edmonton, Montreal and London are now Canadian Safe Cities, and in 2018 the City of Edmonton hosted the Global Forum for Safe Cities. Other Canadian cities are exploring their participation in the programme.

### Alliances with Canadian companies

The private sector is a key partner for advancing gender equality and empowering women. Canadian companies, such as Bombardier, Deloitte Canada, Goldcorp, Mountain Equipment, Schneider Electric and Slegers Kirkwood-Pearce have demonstrated their commitment to advancing gender equality through signing the CEO Statement of Support for the Women's Empowerment Principles, a joint initiative of UN Global Compact and UN Women which offers guidance to businesses on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

### Claiming Rightful Roles in the Economy



Supported by Canada's contributions towards regular resources, UN Women has made significant progress towards the economic empowerment of women and girls. Between 2018 and 2019, 81 new and/or improved gender-responsive policies on land rights were developed and/or implemented.