

# Grand Bargain annual self-reporting exercise:

## CANADA

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## **Work stream 1 - Transparency**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada is the Chair of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), with Bangladesh as Vice-Chair, until 2018. Canada publishes almost all of its development and humanitarian data in accordance with the IATI standard, and reports all its humanitarian allocations through OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Global Affairs Canada's website also includes information on all of Canada's humanitarian programming.

Canada supports the improvement of digital platforms to increase accountability and decision-making based on timely and comprehensive open data aligned to the IATI standard. Canada has been supportive of recent changes to the IATI standard to improve the tracking of humanitarian funding. As IATI Chair, Canada also helped to facilitate an approach whereby all UNDG members (including many humanitarian organizations) would become IATI members.

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada expects recipients of its humanitarian assistance to publish IATI data on their activities, and has been encouraging OCHA to improve its platform to enable the import and use of this data. Canada has also been working with other IATI members to improve guidance on the publication of IATI data on humanitarian assistance.

In order to support system-learning and improvements to humanitarian data, Canada provides multi-year funding for the publication of the annual Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report, the 'go-to resource' for data on humanitarian financing.

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Canada is currently reviewing different policy and programming options for improving the quality of data available for decision making. As Chair of IATI until 2018, Canada will continue to push for increased transparency on assistance spending, including by continuing to work with other IATI members to improve guidance on the publication of IATI data on humanitarian assistance.

## **Work stream 2 - Localization**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada has committed multi-year financial support for local responders under its Strategic Partnership with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC). From 2014 – 2019, Canada is providing CAD\$19.8M in support of two initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of targeted Red Cross national societies in the Americas and Africa to respond to crises affecting their communities. These initiatives focus on strengthening both the technical and functional capacities of these national societies, including capacity for gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes, and have been designed to be owned and led by each national society.

Canada has also been supporting local and national responders consistently since 2004, through a draw-down fund administered by the Canadian Red Cross. The Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund (EDAF) enables rapid financial support to IFRC emergency relief operations. These IFRC operations support national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to carry out their unique role as first responders in the aftermath of crises.

Canada also uses its influence on executive boards, the Pooled Fund Working Group, the CERF Advisory Board, and in other fora to advance this issue.

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada's local responder capacity building initiatives are well underway, with activities continuing until 2019. Since inception, these initiatives have been supporting Red Cross national societies to, inter alia, develop disaster management strategies and standard operating procedures, resource mobilisation plans, and to train staff and volunteers in areas such as disaster response, needs assessments, logistics, and psychosocial support.

In 2016, Canada announced CAD\$125M over five years for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). The CFGB is a partnership of 15 churches and church-based agencies that manages a draw-down fund to provide food assistance to people experiencing humanitarian crises, with the majority of funding and programming flowing to, and being implemented by, local actors.

In 2016, Canada supported country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) in Yemen, South Sudan, Iraq and CAR as part of its increased efforts to provide support to local humanitarian actors. Canada has renewed this funding in 2017, as well as broadened support to include CBPFs in Myanmar and Somalia.

Canada has also been playing a more active role in the Pooled Fund Working Group. In addition, Canada has joined and been an active member of the Grand Bargain localization working group, which is examining how to best advance the specific sub-commitments (e.g. developing a localization marker).

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Moving forward, Canada is exploring options to better support local humanitarian action, such as increasing support for country-based pooled funds, as well as other pooled funding mechanisms. Canada is consulting with civil society organizations and partners to identify opportunities to deepen collaboration with local actors and remove barriers to partnership.

Through Canada's International Assistance Review process, Canada is examining tools and mechanisms to increase and improve assistance delivered by local and national responders. The review will be completed in 2017.

## **Work stream 3 - Cash**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

#### **Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Cash-based programming has the potential to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and Canada supports supplementing cash, as appropriate, with vouchers, in-kind assistance and specialized interventions to best meet the needs of beneficiaries. Canada has advocated for the need to ensure that local markets can respond with sufficient quantity, and that the beneficiaries that are most in-need are able to safely access this assistance.

Canada has strongly advocated that cash-based transfers be administered alongside or through pre-existing social protection mechanisms, to ensure that the effect of transfers on the safety, dignity and integrity of recipients, including women, men, boys and girls, is considered. Canada also ensures such mechanisms are in place through Canada's engagement on executive boards of multilateral partners and through bilateral meetings with consortiums and NGOs.

Since 2012, Canada has provided a total of CAD\$1.6M for two projects with Action Contre la Faim (ACF) to support the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) to increase the quality and effectiveness of cash transfer programming in emergency responses. This support aims to improve coordination and increase access to research, learning and good practice.

Activities led by CaLP include:

- 1) Promoting cash and vouchers as an appropriate and effective mechanism in emergency responses;
- 2) Using cash and vouchers to raise awareness of transfer programming and to build capacity of organisations; and,
- 3) Gathering evidence and encouraging knowledge sharing among humanitarian actors.

Other CaLP activities funded by Canada include the promotion of appropriate, timely and quality cash and voucher programming in humanitarian response through the development of cash programming training modules and trainings, and the launch of a new website with additional resources on cash and voucher programming.

As a Party to the Food Assistance Convention (FAC), Canada is committed to the FAC principles, which includes increasingly providing untied cash-based food assistance, whenever possible and based on needs.

In addition, Canada, with ECHO, established the innovative Cash Consortium of Iraq (CCI) initiative in 2015, and provided an initial grant of CAD\$4M to support the Consortium's efforts to harmonize cash transfer programming design across humanitarian actors.

### **2. Progress to date**

#### **Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada is making concerted efforts to engage with its partners, including CaLP, OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, and NGOs, to promote stronger coordination of cash-based programming.

In 2016, Canada provided an additional CAD\$9M in funding to the Cash Consortium of Iraq (CCI) initiative. The CCI – originally made up of Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Danish Refugee Council and the International Rescue Committee – added its fifth member (Oxfam) in 2016. Canada is also supporting Oxfam in Iraq, including to provide cash assistance, through three-year humanitarian funding.

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Moving forward, Canada will work with partners to explore options for increasing cash-based assistance. Canada will also work on improving its ability to track and quantify the proportion of its humanitarian spending used to support cash-based programming.

In addition, Canada is reviewing its humanitarian NGO funding guidelines in order to take into the account the need to encourage the use of multi-sectoral cash assistance, where appropriate, including to meet food needs.

## **Work stream 4 – Management costs**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada supports the promotion of innovative solutions to humanitarian challenges. Through its Strategic Partnership with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC), Canada is supporting the establishment of CRC's Innovations Roundtable Initiative. This Initiative aims to identify and pilot new and emerging technologies to enhance emergency operations, and to better integrate innovation into existing operations. Canada's support also focuses on the development of innovative tools in the humanitarian shelter sector response and the response in urban contexts, as well as the integration of innovation into Canadian Red Cross regional response trainings. Canada has also previously supported a number of innovation initiatives, such as the Humanitarian Innovation Fund, and World Vision's Last Mile Mobile Solution.

In regard to supporting joint monitoring and performance reviews, Canada is a member of the Multilateral Organizational Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), which assesses the effectiveness of multilateral organisations that receive development and humanitarian funding.<sup>1</sup> Canada, with the UK, was the institutional lead for the MOPAN for OCHA.

Canada, through work on the OCHA Donor Support Group and executive boards of UN agencies, is also supportive of functional reviews (such as the recent review undertaken by OCHA), and recommends that all major humanitarian organizations undertake a similar evaluation.

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada is exploring options to scale-up its support for innovation. The Government of Canada recently joined the Humanitarian Grand Challenges Steering Committee, (January 2017), and is working on identifying key humanitarian challenges to address through innovative solutions. Canada has also been participating in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Council on the Future of the Humanitarian System.

In regard to harmonized partnership agreements, Canada has in the past had individual grants with its partners. However, in 2016, Canada did sign onto standard templates for UNDP-managed country-based pooled funds.

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Canada will continue to participate in the Grand Challenges Steering committee and the Global Council on the Future of the Humanitarian System. Canada will also continue to support the innovation activities of its partners through unearmarked funding.

In addition, Canada will explore options to sign onto additional harmonized partnership agreements for pooled funds.

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<sup>1</sup> MOPAN currently has 18 members. <http://www.mopanonline.org/about/ourmembers/>



Through the International Assistance Review process, Canada is examining its own internal processes to improve the efficiency of its response.

## **Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada supports the commitments for improved needs assessments and advocates for partners to implement this commitment. Canada provides funding for the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), CAD\$1.5M, 2014-2016, which develops innovative needs assessment methodologies and tools in order to provide faster, more precise and cost effective assessments; trains organizations and experts; builds a roster of trained deployable assessment experts; and provides evidence-based analysis for decision-making during humanitarian crises.

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada, through its engagement in executive boards and other fora, is encouraging partners to implement this commitment. Canada was also part of a joint-donor effort to promote the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments – including those on needs assessments - in response to Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.

Internally, Canada's humanitarian and development teams have been working closely together to ensure complementarity in planning and delivering on Canada's commitment to provide CAD\$840M in humanitarian assistance, and CAD\$270M in development assistance to respond to the Syria and Iraq crises from 2016-2018. In particular, Canada is initiating closer collaboration on gender analysis, and recently conducted a joint gender stocktaking mission with representatives from Canada's development, humanitarian and stabilization programming teams.

Canada was also an active participant in the needs assessment workshop held in February/March 2017 in Brussels, and worked to identify concrete steps to improve needs assessments on the ground.

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Canada is exploring different programming and policy options for strengthening humanitarian response, including advancing joint and impartial needs assessments. This may include funding to partners who work on advancing these issues. Canada will also remain actively engaged in this workstream.

## **Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada supports commitments for enhanced accountability to people and communities affected by crisis, to ensure that beneficiaries, including the most vulnerable, are engaged in all aspects of program design and delivery. Canada advocates for its implementing partners to make concrete efforts to include vulnerable populations - especially women and girls - in program design and implementation.

Much of Canada's funding is unearmarked or loosely earmarked (e.g. to the regional level), allowing organizations the flexibility to adapt specific program activities as needed based on consultations with beneficiaries. Canada also maintains regular communication with its partners and, based on feedback received, accepts adjustments required over the course of a project (e.g. grant agreements can be amended, no-cost extensions can be granted).

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada, through its engagement in executive boards and other fora, is encouraging partners to implement this commitment. Canada has also continued to provide unearmarked or loosely earmarked funding to ensure that programs can be adapted, as needed, based on feedback from affected populations. Unearmarked and softly earmarked funding represented some 21% of Canada's humanitarian funding in 2016, an increase compared to 2015 (16.6%).

Following the Grand Bargain meeting in September 2016, Canada joined the informal Grand Bargain Gender Working Group, and collaborated with UN Women and others to develop an 'Aide-Memoire on Gender Mainstreaming.' The Aide-Memoire advocates for all Grand Bargain signatories to identify ways to empower women and girls to ensure that they are engaged in all aspects of response, through approaches such as providing distinct spaces and opportunities for women and girls to voice their needs.

Further, as part of Canada's commitment to provide CAD\$840M in humanitarian assistance to respond to the Syria and Iraq crises (2016-2018), Canada has revised its funding guidance to ask partners who have received these contributions to demonstrate how they are advancing gender equality, how their programming is responding to the specific needs and rights of women and girls, and the results that are being achieved in this regard.

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Through participation in executive boards and as part of the Grand Bargain Gender Working Group, Canada will champion inclusiveness and advance efforts to better include vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, in program design and implementation.

Canada will also ensure that the engagement and participation of beneficiaries, in particular women and girls, is fully integrated into the projects that Canada supports, and is revising its NGO Funding Guidelines to take this into account.

## **Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Prior to the Grand Bargain, Canada already had several multi-year humanitarian funding agreements in place, including with the International Committee of the Red Cross (2014-2016), the Canadian Red Cross (2012-2019), and the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (2015-2018).<sup>2</sup>

Canada also provides multi-year support for research and learning initiatives, including the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (2013-2017), the Assessment Capacities Project (2014-2016), Development Initiatives/Global Humanitarian Assistance (2015-2017) and the Humanitarian Policy Group (2014-2016).

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada is the co-lead of the Grand Bargain multi-year planning and funding workstream with UNICEF. The objectives of the workstream have been to build the evidence base for and promote mutual learning on humanitarian multi-year planning and funding, and to improve the quality and impact of humanitarian action through increased collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding. Similarly, Canada has taken on the co-lead of the multi-year planning and funding workstream with the EU in the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) group. Through both of these efforts, Canada has focused on sharing information and best practices by hosting events, conference calls, and disseminating relevant evaluations and studies on multi-year planning and funding to Grand Bargain Signatories and the GHD membership.

Notably, Canada has committed to provide CAD\$840M in humanitarian assistance and CAD\$270M in development assistance to respond to the Syria and Iraq crises from 2016-2018. Canada's humanitarian, development and stabilization programs have been increasing coordination to ensure complementarity in planning and delivering on this commitment.

In 2016, Canada more than doubled its multi-year humanitarian assistance funding. Some 32% of Canada's humanitarian assistance funding was multi-year, compared with 14% in 2015. In addition to multi-year commitments in response to the crises Syria and Iraq, this increase is owing to several new unearmarked, multi-year funding agreements, including: The World Food Programme (CAD\$125M, 2016-2020), the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CAD\$125M, 2016-2020), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (CAD\$6M, 2016-2018), and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CAD\$147M, 2016-2020).

Further, Canada has committed to provide multi-year funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (\$37.8M, 2017-2019). Canada is also supporting a new multi-year Resilience Initiative, valued at CAD\$50M over five years (2016-2020). Through a complementary and flexible mix of interventions, WFP, FAO and IFAD will meet immediate food needs, and address longer-term challenges to build resilience of vulnerable populations in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Niger.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://humanitariancoalition.ca/smaller-disasters/canadian-humanitarian-assistance-fund>

In response to the multi-year Humanitarian Response Plans included in the 2017 Global Appeals, Canada is providing CAD\$55M in multi-year funding for 18 projects in nine countries (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, and Ukraine). This funding, provided to the ICRC and 11 NGOs, will help to increase the quality of programming outcomes in protracted humanitarian situations.

At a system-level, the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) negotiations was a timely avenue to pursue this commitment. Canada was actively engaged in this process and advocated for the new QCPR resolution to reflect the Grand Bargain language. The QCPR resolution was adopted by consensus in December 2016, and integrates language included in this commitment.

### **3. Planned next steps**

#### **What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Canada is exploring options to further increase multi-year planning and funding, including supporting NGOs to undertake multi-year funding in countries where there is a multi-year HRP.

Canada is also is developing a three-year monitoring and evaluation plan to assess the outcomes of the multi-year response to the Syria and Iraq crises, and to identify avenues for strengthening multi-year programming. In addition, Canada will explore options to engage with partners on enhancing the quality of reporting on outcome-level results.

## **Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada's humanitarian funding is a mix of earmarked and unearmarked funding. This includes unearmarked funding to the CERF and multilateral partners (e.g. WFP, OCHA, ICRC, UNHCR). Canada does not - as a general rule - earmark below the country level (e.g. for specific regions or activities in a country). As such, while country-level funds are by definition earmarked, partners retain a large degree of flexibility in being able to use those funds for any of their humanitarian activities in-country.

Furthermore, Canada provides support to flexible funding mechanisms, such as:

- The Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund (EDAF) - a draw-down fund administered by the Canadian Red Cross that allows for immediate Canadian support to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emergency operations in response to sudden-onset small and medium-scale humanitarian situations;
- The Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF) - a pooled fund from which seven Canadian NGOs (the 'Humanitarian Coalition') can access immediate funds to respond to smaller, localized disasters that have not received global attention; and,
- The Canadian Foodgrains Bank - a partnership of 15 churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. The CFGB manages a draw-down fund to provide food assistance to people experiencing humanitarian crises around the world.

In order to support system-learning and improvements to humanitarian data, Canada provides multi-year funding for the publication of the annual Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report, the 'go-to resource' for data on humanitarian financing. Canada also reports all of its humanitarian funding to OCHA FTS, and encourages other partners to do the same.

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Unearmarked and softly earmarked funding represented some 21% of Canada's humanitarian funding in 2016, an increase compared to 2015 (16.6%).

In 2016, Canada committed to several new unearmarked, multi-year funding agreements, including: The World Food Programme (CAD\$125M, 2016-2020), the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CAD\$125M, 2016-2020), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (CAD\$6M, 2016-2018), and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CAD\$147M, 2016-2020), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (\$37.8M, 2017-2019).

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Canada is exploring options to increase flexible funding for 2017 and beyond. This includes undertaking an analysis of the different types of humanitarian assistance allocations that Canada provides and looking for opportunities to reduce earmarking.

## **Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

**Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada accepts annual reports from multilateral partners, and reporting expectations for NGO partners (usually a mid-term and final report) are clearly laid out in its public NGO humanitarian funding guidelines.

In regard to the commitment on investing in technology and reporting systems, Canada has been supportive of recent changes to the IATI standard to improve the tracking of humanitarian funding. However, in line with commitments to provide flexible funding to implementing partners, Canada does not generally provide earmarked funding for these specific purposes, and expects that partners will prioritize these activities, as required.

### **2. Progress to date**

**Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

In 2017, Canada joined the Grand Bargain workstream on reporting, and is actively working on advancing common and simplified reporting. Canada also advocates for its partners to ensure that they are not overburdening their implementing partners with additional reporting, and that they pass on any efficiencies gained from donors' efforts to harmonize reporting requirements.

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Primarily through the workstream on reporting, Canada will continue to be engaged in advancing these commitments, and will explore what changes need to be made internally to implement them. In addition, as donors move toward providing more flexible and predictable funding, Canada will explore options to engage with partners on enhancing the quality of reporting on gender-sensitive outcome-level results.

## **Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

#### **Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?**

Canada spends the majority of its humanitarian assistance in protracted crisis situations, and is committed to better linking humanitarian action and development programming, where appropriate.

In regard to prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities, Canada's Strategic Partnership with the Canadian Red Cross aims to strengthen and build the capacity and resiliency of people, local authorities, national societies, and communities in developing countries to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from crisis, so that they can lead their own humanitarian response efforts. This Partnership has enabled Canada to adopt a multi-year, strategic approach to enhancing humanitarian response capacity at the national (including local) regional and global levels, through a portfolio of complementary response readiness and capacity building projects.

In regard to galvanizing new partnerships with multilateral development banks, Canada began working in partnership the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), France, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank, to negotiate a guarantee to support an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan to Iraq.

### **2. Progress to date**

#### **Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?**

Canada's multi-year response to the Syria and Iraq crises focuses on supporting refugees, IDPs and host communities concurrently, and Canada's humanitarian and development programs are coordinating to improve complementarity in planning and delivering on its commitment to provide CAD\$840M in humanitarian assistance, and CAD\$270M in development assistance over three years.

Canada played an active and positive role in the negotiations to draft the September 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which included a broad range of commitments towards supporting durable solutions and providing sustainable support to migrants and other vulnerable people on the move. Further, Canada committed CAD\$37.8M in unearmarked funding over three years to UNHCR, to better enable the agency to move ahead with its durable solutions mandate.

In regard to increasing social protection programmes, Canada is providing CAD\$125M, 2016-2020, to the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia to enable the rural poor facing chronic food insecurity to resist shocks, create assets and become food self-sufficient. Canada is also supporting an innovative resilience initiative, valued at CAD\$50M over five years (2016-2020), to address food insecurity and build resilience of vulnerable populations in Somalia, DRC, and Niger. Through a complementary and flexible mix of interventions, WFP, FAO and IFAD will work to respond to the immediate food needs, while also restoring livelihoods, protecting assets and preventing negative coping behaviours that contribute to food insecurity.



In 2016, Canada committed up to CAD\$20M to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Concessional Financing Facility (CFF). The MENA CFF is an innovative mechanism to mobilize additional financial resources for refugee-hosting countries affected by the crisis in Syria. The CFF will combine grants from donor countries with loans from multilateral development banks to create concessional loan packages for Jordan and Lebanon that will help them to better absorb the economic and social shocks of the refugee crisis and assure the well-being of vulnerable populations within their borders.

In addition, Canada conducted negotiations with the World Bank to provide a partial loan guarantee for IBRD lending to Iraq. These negotiations occurred between June and December 2016 and were successful in concluding a guarantee agreement. In December 2016, Canada provided a US\$118M guarantee to the World Bank. Canada's guarantee was used to augment the total size of an IBRD loan to Iraq.

Canada also committed CAD\$20M to Education Cannot Wait for 2016-2017, to ensure a joined-up approach by governments, humanitarian, and development actors to deliver a more collaborative and rapid response to the educational needs of children and youth affected by crises.

### **3. Planned next steps**

**What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?**

Canada is developing a three-year monitoring and evaluation plan to assess the outcomes of the multi-year, humanitarian and development response to the Syria and Iraq crises. Canada is also exploring options to expand multi-year planning and funding to other protracted crises (outside the Middle East) in 2017, to better link humanitarian and development action in a growing number of contexts. Similarly, Canada is assessing the possibilities for supporting additional Comprehensive Solutions programming.

Canada will look for ways to catalyse innovative partnership and further link, where appropriate, humanitarian and development efforts, including, as appropriate, through integrated country strategies.

Through its International Assistance Review, Canada is examining opportunities to further improve collaboration between different programs, including joint planning.

## **Annex: Advancing Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment**

### **Policy changes: Changes to the partners' working policies that advance gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.**

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) has a long-standing Policy on Gender Equality which applies to all international development and humanitarian assistance programming. While implementation of this policy is ongoing, GAC has strengthened its engagement on these issues over the past year. This includes dialogue with our multilateral partners, which (combined with that of other donors) has contributed to policy improvements in the humanitarian system.

For example, WFP approved their new Gender Equality Policy in 2015, and in 2016 the Executive Board (of which Canada is a member) approved WFP's Gender Action Plan. The Action Plan aims to transform the goal of the new Gender Policy into concrete and measurable actions and accountabilities. In addition, the Executive Board approved WFP's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan in November 2016, which commits the organization to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into all of its work.

Another example of Canada's engagement on this issue is in the OCHA Donor Support Group, where Canada has been a strong and consistent advocate for OCHA to improve integration of gender equality considerations throughout the organization, as well as in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. Canada was pleased to see the release of OCHA's new and strengthened Policy Instruction on Gender Equality in 2016, as well as a specific reference to prioritizing the needs of women and girls in its 2017 Plan and Budget.

Canada will also identify additional ways to support women's empowerment and gender equality in conjunction with the results of its International Assistance Review, which will be finalized in 2017.

### **New or Expanded Programming: Significant changes in programming that advance gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, including advances in data and evidence generation and use, such as sex-disaggregated data.**

As part of Canada's commitments to the WHS and to the Call to Action, Canada has committed to strengthen and update our internal and external guidance and tools on gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian response. In order to implement these commitments, a review of Global Affairs Canada's internal programming tools and documents to strengthen both gender equality and GBV has recently been completed, and they will be revised accordingly.

Furthermore, as part of Canada's commitment to provide CAD\$840M in humanitarian assistance to respond to the Syria and Iraq crises (2016-2018), partners who have received this funding have specifically been asked to demonstrate how they are advancing gender equality, how their programming is responding to the specific needs and rights of women and girls, and the results that are being achieved in this regard.

Canada will also play an active role as a co-chair of the States Group of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.

### **Financing changes: New allocations of resources that advance gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.**

In October 2016, Canada committed to provide CAD\$40M over three years to the United Nations Population Fund in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan, to provide reproductive health services to women and girls, including assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The Government of Canada also recently announced CDN\$650M over three years in funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights.