

Raising ambition, building resilience: Towards a truly feminist international climate finance package

CARE Canada's Key Messages for the Government of Canada's International Climate Finance Consultations

The Government of Canada has launched [consultations](#) aimed at gathering perspectives on its next international climate finance package.

As countries prepare to announce ambition-raising climate actions for the 2020-2025 period, amid increasing climate-related disruptions affecting the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, it is critical that the government does its part to increase both the quantity and quality of its climate finance in line with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Call to action!

Let the Government of Canada know you support a truly feminist international climate finance package that:

1. Meets Canada's fair share of the US\$100 billion international climate finance goal by committing at least \$1.8 billion per year in public finance alone, or \$6.76 billion in principal purpose climate finance in the five-year period between 2021/22 and 2025/26;
2. Commits at least 50 per cent of its international climate finance towards adaptation projects aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable people and countries;
3. Commits 15 per cent of Canada's international climate finance towards gender equality as a "principal" objective, and a minimum of 80 per cent as a "significant" objective; and,
4. Ensures these resources are accessible to women's rights organizations and movements on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Have your say by sending an email to ClimateActionClimatique@international.gc.ca with your ideas or comments **by August 31**. Use the key messages below to help inform your intervention, or read CARE Canada's complete submission here: https://care.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08_FINAL_ICF-Consultations_Submission_CARE-Canada-1.pdf

Key messages

Canada's next international climate finance package represents a critical opportunity to promote a climate-just recovery from COVID-19, and to help prepare communities for the next crisis before it occurs.

- As COVID-19 continues to disrupt business as usual in all sectors and in every country around the world, it provides a disturbing preview of the sorts of systems-level destructions experts anticipate if global climate action is not urgently scaled up.
- COVID, like climate change, preys on those least able to recover – especially women, girls and other marginalised groups, who have the fewest resources to help them cope in times of crisis.
- The pandemic response also demonstrates how quickly political will and vast resources can be shifted to respond to an imminent threat.
- As world leaders prepare to announce new and more ambitious climate action plans, the Government of Canada faces a historic opportunity to demonstrate what a truly feminist international climate finance package can do to promote a better, greener and more inclusive recovery.

Canada and other industrialized countries have a shared global responsibility to help poor countries confront climate change.

- Developing countries are already absorbing some 80 per cent of the costs of climate change - including through food insecurity, forced migration, damages to property and productive assets, and diminished livelihoods.
- Without urgent action, climate change could push an additional [100 million](#) people into extreme poverty by 2030, force up to [250 million people](#) from their homes by 2050, and expose [3 billion people](#) to Saharan heat levels by 2070.
- In order to help them bear this burden, industrialized countries agreed to jointly mobilize USD\$100 billion in international climate finance by 2020.
- Canada's fair share of this commitment amounts to \$1.8 billion per year in public finance alone, or at least \$6.76 billion in principal purpose climate finance in the five-year period between 2021/22 and 2025/26 – more than a doubling of its current commitment of \$800 million per year.

Adaptation must be the principal focus of international climate finance for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

- Responsible for just 3 per cent of the global carbon footprint, the world's poorest 1 billion people (those living on less than \$1 per day) need assistance transitioning to carbon-neutrality, but offer limited returns in terms of global emissions reductions targets. By contrast, developing countries bear up to [80 per cent](#) of the cost of climate change through food insecurity, loss and damage, compromised livelihoods and instability.
- Without urgent scaling up of adaptation finance and strategies, these mounting costs will become unmanageable for resource-scarce countries. Moreover, adaptation finance is more likely to respond to women's experience of climate impacts and to support climate action in industries like smallholder agriculture, which are dominated by women.
- Despite the clear need to increase funding for adaptation, [global adaptation flows](#) as a proportion of public climate finance continues to linger below 20 per cent, reaching just USD\$30 billion in 2017/2018, which is likely an overestimation. Canada's funding for principal purpose

adaptation projects has [increased 15 per cent](#) since the Fast Start commitment period (2010-13). However, adaptation still makes up just 28 per cent of dedicated climate finance projects under the \$2.65 billion.

- This is a massive missed opportunity. Research by the Canada-supported [Global Commission on Adaptation](#) finds that investing \$1.8 trillion globally in just five areas of adaptation from 2020 to 2030 could generate \$7.1 trillion in total net benefits.

Canada's next International Climate Finance package should be consistent with its Feminist International Assistance Policy.

- As far removed as they may seem from a problem that started with greenhouse gas emissions, gender inequalities affect the way people of different genders are able to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, women play a central role in the response to the climate crisis by developing creative and effective solutions to build the resilience of their communities to climate shocks and stresses.
- Although a low performer in absolute numbers, Canada leads its peers in terms of proportion of its climate finance that also promotes gender equality, with some [93 per cent](#) of project disbursements between 2016-17 and 2018/19 mainstreaming gender equality among other objectives. However, virtually none of Canada's international climate finance - only [0.2 per cent of adaptation finance](#) in these same years – identified gender equality as a principal objective.
- In CARE's experience, gender-specific financing in all areas of international assistance needs to be protected in policy. Otherwise, it is too often diverted towards other objectives deemed more urgent or easier to achieve.