

## International Assistance: Question and Backgrounder

**We want to see Canada pay its fair share.** Canada paying its fair share will aid people around the globe and those with whom GRAN is especially concerned: the grandmothers of sub-Saharan Africa in their struggle to rebuild the lives of their children, their grandchildren and their communities.

### **Question:**

Canada has not yet honoured its commitment to contribute 0.7 percent to international assistance. It stands at a dismal 0.28%, nearing an all-time low. As a result, many development programs have suffered.

**What is your position/your party's position on Canada reaching this target of 0.7% commitment to international assistance? What do you consider to be an achievable target date?**

### **Background Information:**

GRAN members might like to introduce this question with a statement about GRAN's work advocating for grandmothers and vulnerable children in sub-Saharan Africa and how critical an increase in Canada's assistance is to the rebuilding of these lives.

**In 1969, at the urging of the Canadian Prime Minister, the United Nations (UN) adopted a resolution calling for member countries to contribute a minimum of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA).**

The definition of ODA is set by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Official development assistance (ODA) is defined as government aid in the form of grants or loans designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Aid may be provided bilaterally, from donor to recipient country, or channeled through a multilateral development agency such as the World Bank, the Global Fund or the Global Partnership for Education. Since the 1970's it has been widely used as an indicator of international aid flow.

**Twenty-two of the DAC's 29 member countries increased their ODA in 2016, while seven (including Canada), reported a decrease.** Average country effort from DAC countries stood at 0.4% of GNI. Five countries met the longstanding UN target for an ODA/GNI ratio of 0.7%: Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark, and the United Kingdom. The Canadian 2019 budget provides no increase.

An increase in international assistance means more money to provide food for the world's hungry, more money to protect children in war-torn countries, more money to provide antiretroviral drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, more money for international humanitarian crises, more money to support older women/grandmothers in their crucial roles as caregivers and community leaders, and more money for children's education and life-long learning.

While Canada recently made a welcome commitment to allocate additional funding to global women's health (up from \$1.1B/year to \$1.4B/year), this money will very likely come from increases already announced in Budgets 2018 and 2019, and our current contribution rate of 0.28% remains the same. In addition, this targeted funding will only begin in 2023. The small increases to international assistance announced in previous budgets have been barely enough to keep up with inflation.