

# CANADA

DONOR PROFILE 2023

**UNITED  
FOR  
GLOBAL  
MENTAL  
HEALTH**

# CANADA

## Key Facts:

% ODA/GNI 2022	2022 ODA	2021 DAMH
0.37%	US \$ 7.8 billion	US \$1.1 million

Canada's ODA budget has increased from 0.32% GNI in 2021 to 0.37% GNI in 2022. It is anticipated there will be a reduction in Canada's ODA budget for 2023 due to the end of certain funding commitments e.g. support for COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries as well as the reduction of specific budgets including climate finance. However, additional funding has been announced for Canada's [Feminist International Policy](#) which integrates gender equality across all areas of development. It pledges that 95% of Canada's bilateral ODA will focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The policy also focuses on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in humanitarian crises.

## GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Canada is one of the three founding members of the Alliance of Champions for Mental Health and Wellbeing (along with Australia and the UK). Canada continues to have a strong global presence through Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) [Mental Health Care Programme](#) through which Canada is a financier of [the Being initiative](#) which is an adolescent mental health fund of CA\$35m and this is expected to rise. GCC also supports the [Mental Health Innovation Network](#), a network for the global mental health community.

Outside of GCC, Canada funds programmes with strong MHPSS elements. As a result of the inclusion of MHPSS in Canada's Feminist International Assistance policy, Canada spent US\$83.93m on ODA grants for MHPSS in 2019, making it the [second largest MHPSS donor](#) globally (behind the US). In December 2022, the UNFPA announced a new funding commitment from Canada of US\$15.9 million over 3 years to support MHPSS and other health services for women and girl survivors of conflict in Ethiopia.

The Global Affairs Canada 2023/24 departmental plan does not have an explicit global mental health commitment, but does refer to work to address determinants of mental health such as advancing human rights, tackling socioeconomic inequalities and supporting paid care work for women. Canada aims to spend US\$1 billion annually on



global health, with a focus on COVID-19 and vaccine equity, sexual and reproductive health and prevention of gender based violence.

## DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

Domestically, there is strong interest in mental health from the [Bell Let's Talk Campaign](#) and the [Canadian Mental Health Association](#), to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's mother's personal mental health experience and the [Mental Health Commission of Canada](#). Since the adoption of a mental health strategy in 2012, Canada continues to champion mental health issues and with [their 2017 budget proposed](#) to invest CA\$5 billion over 10 years to improve and increase availability of mental health and addiction services. . The [2023 budget](#) reconfirmed this commitment alongside CA\$1.5 billion from 2021-2027 to support indigenous-led services to improve mental wellness, CA\$25 million from 2019-2024 for a pan-Canadian suicide prevention service and CA\$100 million from 2021-2024 to support mental health interventions for populations impacted by COVID-19. Canada has also historically invested in the e [Wellness Together Canada](#) portal to provide Canadians with free access to mental health support, treatment and credible information.

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

[Global Affairs Canada](#) (GAC): formulates development policy

[Grand Challenges Canada](#): an independent not-for-profit organisation funded by the Canadian government and other partners

Alliance of Champions for Mental Health and Wellbeing (founding member)

Canada is also part of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL).

It is a member of APEC and a core contributor to the [APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health](#).

The Mental Health Commission Canada is a non-profit organisation created by the government in 2007

## KEY DECISION MAKERS

Prime Minister: [Justin Trudeau](#)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance: Chrystia Freeland

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions: Carolyn Bennett

Minister of Health: [Jean-Yves Duclos](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs: [Melanie Joly](#)

Minister of International Development: Harjit S Sajjan



Canada's Chief Public Health Officer: [Dr. Theresa Tam](#)  
 Director, Mental Health and Substance Use. Mental Health Commission of  
 Canada: [Mary Bartram](#)

Director, Opening Minds. Mental Health Commission of Canada: [Mike Pietrus](#) leads the anti-stigma campaigning work for the Mental Health Commission of Canada and advises many other countries on campaigns tackling stigma.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Canada favors the use of earmarked funding channeled through multilaterals, however bilateral ODA has focused on hosting refugees in Canada and humanitarian assistance, including MHPSS under the feminist international assistance policy.

<b>Funds supported by Canada:</b>	
<a href="#">Grand Challenges Canada</a>	GCC's programmes are primarily undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada. You can find funding opportunities on their website and by subscribing to their mailing list.
<a href="#">UNFPA</a>	UNFPA calls for the realization of reproductive rights for all and have supported mental health and psychosocial support efforts as part of disaster response with Canada's support.
<a href="#">Global Fund</a>	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.
<a href="#">GAVI</a>	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy ( <a href="#">2021-2025</a> ) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.
<a href="#">Global Environment Facility</a>	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. They fund government projects.
<a href="#">Green Climate Fund</a>	The GCF is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. Like the GEF, the GCF is also driven by government-identified national priorities.
<a href="#">Food and Agriculture Organisation</a>	The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO specialises in providing research and analysis to support policy making.



<a href="#">Central Emergency Response Fund</a>	CERF enables humanitarian action by helping to kickstart relief efforts in a coordinated way when a new crisis emerges.
<a href="#">World Food Programme</a>	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.
<a href="#">WHO</a>	Canada provides the minimum membership commitment to the World Health Organization, the United Nations agency for health.
<a href="#">UNHCR</a>	The UN refugee agency. Canada was one of the <a href="#">top 10 UNHCR</a> donors in 2021 and has provided strong support for refugee resettlement.
<a href="#">UN Women</a>	UN Women delivers programmes, policies and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential.
<a href="#">UNEP</a>	The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.
<a href="#">OCHA</a>	OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.
<a href="#">UNAIDS</a>	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is the lead multilateral organization coordinating the global effort to end HIV/AIDS as a global threat by 2030.

## KEY RESOURCES

- [Canada's Mental Health Strategy](#)
- [Canada's Dementia Strategy](#) (domestic)
- [Global Affairs Canada 2023/2024 Departmental Plan](#)
- [Government of Canada 2023 Domestic Budget](#)
- [Canada's Feminist International Policy](#)
- WHO Mental Health Atlas [Country Profile](#)
- [Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's 2022 Annual Report](#)

