Q1 Donor Country (or headquarters location in the case of Organizations)  CANADA

Q2 About you

Name  Gordana Delic-Radovic
Position  Special Advisor
Ministry or Organization  Global Affairs Canada
Email Address  gordana.delic-radovic@international.gc.ca

Q3 Do you have an Aid-for-trade strategy?  No

Q4 If yes, please indicate your Aid-for-Trade priorities: Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top 5 priority areas among the ones listed below. (1 being the most important)  

Respondent skipped this question

Q5 If no or unsure, does your development policy include trade priorities?

Yes,

Additional information on whether your development policy includes trade priorities:

While Canada does not have an explicit Aid for Trade policy, it advances Aid for Trade related priorities in the context of its Feminist International Assistance Policy and inclusive approach to trade. Through its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada focuses on the goal of poverty reduction and on the empowerment of women and girls and promotion of gender equality as the most effective approach to achieving this goal. To ensure that Canada’s international assistance is best able to achieve these objectives, Canada focuses its efforts on six
action areas – Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; Human dignity; Growth that works for everyone; Environment and climate action; Inclusive governance; and Peace and security – that represent interrelated global solutions that are intended to foster significant improvement in the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls.

The action area focused on Growth that Works for Everyone (through which Canada advances women’s economic rights and leadership; promotes inclusive markets and entrepreneurship; and promotes resilience and financial security) is the most directly relevant to Aid for Trade considerations.

Other elements of the policy contribute to fostering an enabling environment for trade, such as those activities that occur in the context of Environment and Climate Action; Inclusive Governance. The Feminist International Assistance Policy also commits to a range of actions aimed at increasing women’s equal access to capital markets, technology, business development services, and leadership and training opportunities so they can fully benefit from financing for development opportunities.

Alongside the Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada’s inclusive approach to trade seeks to ensure all segments of society can take advantage of the opportunities that flow from trade and investment and that trade policies contribute to broader economic, social, and environmental policy priorities.

In this context, Canada’s trade agreements include provisions on labour rights, the environment, SMEs, gender equality, and Indigenous peoples. Canada is also prioritizing the participation of different groups into the economy – groups such as women, Indigenous-owned businesses, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – and helping them connect to global value chains and markets.

Canada will continue to advance this inclusive approach to trade and support for a rules-based trading system through enhanced bilateral and multilateral engagement and participation in international economic forums, such as the WTO, G20, OECD, and APEC.

This approach creates opportunities to extend the benefits of trade to emerging economies and developing countries, and contributes to economic diversification, inclusive growth and an environment whereby the gains from trade are more sustainable and broadly shared, recognizing the role of innovative private sector partnership to leverage expertise and resources.
### Q6 If yes, please indicate the trade priorities in your development policy.
Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top 5 priority areas among the ones listed below. (1 being the most important)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Area</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Export diversification</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade facilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade finance access</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other areas including: MSMEs, women's economic empowerment, Youth issues etc. (please specify)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inclusive growth fosters progress across all dimensions of sustainable development.

Such an approach seeks to enable countries to reduce and even eliminate extreme poverty and enable all segments of the population to benefit. It can generate domestic resource mobilization and strengthen the capacities needed by countries to address their development challenges, including health, education and environmental protection.

The Growth that Works for Everyone action area of Canada’s international assistance policy seeks to increase economic leadership and empowerment of women at all levels; help improve economic opportunities for and the resilience of rural women; promote greater financial inclusion for women, and equal access to capital, markets, digital technology and business development services; promote women’s economic rights and access to decent work; support technical and vocational training for women; and help address unpaid work and the disproportionate burden of care shouldered by women.

Canada also recognizes that women’s and youth entrepreneurship is critical to support sustainable prosperity. In this context, Canada aims to help individuals and enterprises, particularly those led by women, become more competitive and innovative, increase their employment and market opportunities, shape markets that are economically and environmentally sustainable, and work better for the poorest and most vulnerable, especially women and youth.

This entails building the capacity of institutional structures, supporting entrepreneurship, expanding access to financial services and to capital and improving supports to the private sector. It also places particular emphasis on rural transformation, renewable technologies, value addition in the natural-resource sector and investments in quality infrastructure. Inclusive economic growth will require new public and private investments in quality infrastructure.

To mobilize new sources of financing for development, Canada will encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships that involve blended finance and impact investment. In 2017-2018, Canada invested $639 million in initiatives in the action area of growth that works for everyone. Among other things, these contributions have resulted in:

- increased women’s economic participation and incomes;
- strengthened women-owned businesses; and
- increased capacities of women in leadership positions.

Q7 Has your Aid-for-Trade strategy, or trade priorities in your development policy, changed since 2016?

Yes,

Please specify further and include a weblink to the relevant development strategy:

In June 2017, Canada launched its Feminist International Assistance Policy. Canada firmly believes that promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls, including economic empowerment, are the most effective way to eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world. This is being pursued alongside an inclusive approach to trade that seeks to promote an economic and trade environment conducive to growth to which everyone can contribute and from which everyone can benefit. By prioritizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy represents a significant change. This new approach will enable Canada to maximize the effectiveness of its international assistance, provide more integrated and responsive assistance, invest in innovation and research, deliver better reporting on results, develop more effective partnerships, and concentrate on those regions of the world where Canada can make the greatest difference in reducing poverty and inequality, particularly for women and girls. https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng

In addition, Canada is advancing an economic diversification and inclusive approach to trade that promotes domestic and international policy priorities and supports economic growth that benefits everyone and maintains confidence in an open, rules-based trading system. Canada’s inclusive approach to trade involves: • Informed and inclusive trade policy-making to ensure that positions are informed before and during negotiations by thorough consultations and ongoing dialogue, including with often underrepresented groups such as women entrepreneurs, SMEs, and Indigenous peoples; • Provisions in trade agreements that are responsible, transparent, and inclusive; and • International engagement to promote and advance responsible, transparent, and inclusive trade initiatives https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/assets/pdfs/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/G20-nov-2018-trade-diversification-commerce-en.pdf
**Q8** If yes, please rank the top 3 drivers of these changes : (Please choose no more than 3 options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2030 Sustainable Development Goals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty reduction objectives</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women empowerment objectives</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional information on the top 3 drivers of changes in your Aid-for-Trade priorities since 2016:

Canada adopted a Feminist International Assistance Policy that seeks to eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world. Sustainable Development Goal 5, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, including economic empowerment, is at the heart of Canada’s approach to implementing the 2030. Canada believes that the best way to eradicate poverty and leave no one behind is through the Feminist International Assistance Policy and inclusive approach to trade. Canada is committed to helping achieve the SDGs in Canada and in developing countries.

**Q9** Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with partner countries and development institutions?

Yes,

Additional information on how changes in your Aid-for-Trade priorities have been reflected in your dialogue with partner countries and development institutions:

Canada will continue to promote and advance inclusive trade and gender equality through enhanced bilateral, regional and multilateral engagement and participation in international economic forums, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), G7 and the G20. Throughout these engagements, Canada has affirmed its strong support for the global rules-based trading system and the important role that the WTO plays in facilitating world trade. In 2017 at the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Argentina, Canada led the charge on the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment, which aims to level the playing field and advance women’s economic empowerment around the globe, affirming its commitment expressed in the Feminist International Assistance Policy. Canada will continue to lead discussions at the WTO on transparency, dispute settlement and the development of trade rules for the 21st century. Canada continues to uphold and support the bodies and organizations of the UN system. In 2017-2018, Canada’s long-term institutional support to UN system organizations totaled $293.8 million. These contributions support the organizations’ core operations, including efforts to reduce poverty, promote sustainable development and foster inclusion, gender equality and women’s empowerment. More specifically, Canada’s support helps these organizations to advance key shared priorities in line with the Feminist International Assistance Policy, including the goal to accelerate global progress in gender equality and the economic empowerment of.
women. Canada also supports a number of multilateral development institutions, global initiatives and international humanitarian assistance organizations, to fulfill its international development mandate of helping lift people out of poverty. More than one third of Canada’s official development assistance is channelled through trusted multilateral organizations, including African Development Bank, Asia Development Banks, World Bank and International Finance Institution. Canada’s discussions with partners include areas such as labor, environment, gender, and governments’ right to regulate; a focus on transparency in the negotiation process and inclusive consultations; and consideration of emerging trade policy and economic issues, such as innovation or goods and services traded online. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is an example of how changes in Canada’s trade policy reflect in our dialogue at the regional level. Once fully implemented, the 11 countries, including a number of developing countries will form a trading bloc representing 495 million consumers and 13.5% of global GDP. The CPTPP reflects Canada’s inclusive approach to trade and stands to benefit a broad range of sectors, including agriculture (beef, pork), fish and seafood, forestry, financial services, and various industrial products. Bilaterally, Canada pursues the same approach. In 2017, Canada and Chile signed amendments to the FTA including a dedicated chapter on trade and gender—a first for Canada and any G20 nation. The modernized Canada-Israel FTA (2018) also included a gender chapter. Going forward, Canada is negotiating with Mercosur countries an ambitious, comprehensive and inclusive FTA in the pursuit of tangible progressive trade elements, such as in the areas of gender, MSMEs, environment and labor.

Q10 Please provide names, titles, references or weblinks to policy documents relevant to Aid for Trade in your country.


Q11 Is economic diversification a priority in your development or Aid-for-Trade strategy?

Yes, if yes, please provide additional information about this strategy (including as to how economic diversification is defined and measured):

Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy’s action area on growth that works for everyone guides development assistance to help increase women’s access to economic opportunities and resources. Under some of Canada’s programs including the Trade and Investment for Growth (TRIGR) Program, as aligned to the Feminist International Assistance Policy, economic diversification is addressed through projects on access to finance and women’s economic empowerment, PPPs for infrastructure, and access to markets. Furthermore, Canada’s inclusive approach to trade reflects and promotes domestic and international policy priorities to support economic growth that benefits everyone and maintains confidence in an open, rules-based trading system.

Trade diversification is about securing more opportunities for exporters and investors to compete and succeed in thriving and fast growing global markets and sectors. In that context, Canada’s development assistance promotes global value chain connectivity, and provides resources to SMEs to help them explore new opportunities, including export opportunities. One excellent example for this approach is the Canadian Market Access and Capacity Building Services project, implemented by Trade Facilitation Office Canada. This project aims to build the capacity of small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and related trade-support institutions in developing countries to pursue export opportunities in Canada.

Canada’s new, Development Finance Institute (FinDev), a subsidiary of Export Development Canada, provides financial services to the private sector in developing countries with the aim of combating poverty through economic empowerment and diversification. Areas of focus include green growth, agribusiness, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises through local financial institutions with specific goals to generate economic development by job creation, climate change mitigation and poverty reduction.

Canada continues to negotiate free trade agreements with developing countries and growing markets in South America, such as the Pacific Alliance and the Mercosur bloc, and is continuing exploratory discussions with China and ASEAN countries. A number of members of these organizations are developing countries, and they can advance their sustainable growth through these strategic free trade agreements. FTA with Canada will remove barriers to trade in many areas, provide a more predictable trade environment and foster foreign direct investments and economic diversification. Canada also helps regional
regional economic communities (RECs) build linkages to promote economic diversification and more value-added trade. For example, Canada’s Support to Boosting Intra African Trade (BIAT) ($13.22 million; 2015-2020) contributed to the efforts of the UN’s Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)’s African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) and a Consortium of Canadian Centers of Trade Expertise to provide strategic guidance and technical support to the African Union Commission (AUC) in coordinating the implementation of the BIAT Action Plan.

This involved, inter alia, technical assistance to national governments and RECs on trade policy modeling, trade-related reforms, formulation and analysis to support implementation of BIAT Action Plans, including reducing barriers to trade within Africa. Noteworthy results include:

• Enhanced market information systems to facilitate movement of staple foods within Africa.
• Increased participation of private sector operators and civil society organizations, including women entrepreneurs, in regional and continental dialogues on the African Union’s trade agenda.
• Share of intra-African trade (in terms of value) increased from 12% to 15%.
• Technical assistance and advisory services provided to up to 8 RECs and as many as 30 countries.
• The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), with the help of Canada's Centre for Trade Policy and Law, directly supported the negotiation process of the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
• They provided crucial technical advice to the African Union Commission and African governments throughout the negotiation process. This included advice on how to include the concerns of women traders in the Agreement;
• In March 2018, 44 African countries signed the AfCFTA, with more signatures expected to follow; and
• as signed, the AfCFTA liberalizes trade in goods and services and includes explicit objectives with regard to the promotion and attainment of gender equality.
Q12 What are the main constraints to economic diversification identified that your development or Aid-for-Trade strategy seek to address? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- High trade costs
- Limited access to trade finance
- Limited agricultural production capacity
- Limited e-trade readiness
- Limited network and/or transport infrastructure of a cross border nature
- Limited services capacity
- Low levels of training and skills
- Poor international competitiveness
Q13 Please indicate in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing you provide aid-for-trade support for economic diversification. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do receive support.)

- Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)
- Trade facilitation,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs)
- Trade education/training,
- Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)
- Transport and storage infrastructure
- Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)
- Business support services,
- Banking and financial services
- Building productive capacity
- Agriculture,
- Travel and tourism
- Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)
Q14 Does the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic diversification align with partners’ priorities as established in their national or regional trade and development strategy(ies)?

Yes,

Additional information on how the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic diversification aligns with the priorities established in partners national or regional trade and development strategy(ies):

In line with the aid effectiveness principles and the requirements of the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act, Canada provides assistance in collaboration with host country governments and in support of national poverty reduction strategies. The Official Development Assistance Accountability Act came into force on June 28, 2008. Its purpose is to ensure that all Canadian official development assistance (ODA) is focused on poverty reduction and is consistent with aid effectiveness principles and Canadian values. It applies to all federal departments and agencies that provide ODA. Following are examples how Canada ensures the alignment of its international assistance with partners’ priorities: The Trade and Private Sector Assistance (TPSA) project signed an MOU with the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, which is aligned with the priorities of the Ministry through the Director General for National Export Development. Projects under the Canada-Asia Trade and Investment for Growth Regional Program (TRIGR) program were designed with considerations of partners’ national or regional development strategies.

For example, ASEAN Infrastructure Centre for Excellence (AICOE) project is designed to support ASEAN’s implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. Trade Facilitation Office Canada (TFO Canada) work with countries that prioritize Canada as an export market; have products or services for which there is a demand in Canada; and where there is the opportunity to involve women-led exporters and create jobs for women.

Projects under the Pan-Africa Regional Program are anchored in the priorities of the African Union-endorsed Agenda 2030 (https://archive.au.int/assets/images/agenda2063.pdf), which includes the aspiration of Africans for the “free movement of people, capital, goods and services, which will result in significant increases in trade and investments”.

Q15 Has the aid-for-trade support you provide in economic diversification recorded progress in partner countries since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade initiative in 2006?

Yes,

Additional information on whether the aid-for-trade support for economic diversification you provide recorded progress:

Canadian Market Access and Capacity Building Services (CMAS) 2014-2018 is a prime example how Canadian aid for trade funding produced results and contributed to the progress in partner countries. The project provided general services to all small and medium exporters from OECD DAC listed countries including web-based Canadian Market Information, match-making with Canadian
importers and outreach and capacity building through webinars to Trade Support Institutions (TSIs). It delivered Market access information and trade facilitation for 46 countries from Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. For 15 developing countries, CMAS provided face to face training for Trade Representatives and Trade Support Institutions and technical assistance for market access (trade shows, B2B, market familiarization).

For an additional 6 developing countries with Free Trade Agreements with Canada and 10 LDCs, CMAS provided comprehensive capacity building and market access activities for SMEs. Companies led by women increased their exports into Canada and the project achieved 30% participation rate of women-led companies. This was achieved by having targets for the number of women exporters and by providing training in areas such as understanding the expectations of and negotiating with the Canadian buyers.

The project helped exporters to increase their exports, which sustained or created new jobs and ensured companies were aware of their responsibility for decent working conditions and in many cases the companies were fair trade certified which ensured decent working conditions for their employees. By setting targets for the number of women participants, the project was able to ensure gender equality in international trade.

As the project worked in a variety of developing countries and LDCs, local managerial capacity and technical capacity of Trade Support Institutions (TSIs) ranged widely. In general, TSIs from poorer countries have less resources for trade promotion and relatively less managerial and technical capacity. In many cases, TSIs did not have well-functioning monitoring and evaluation systems and did not collect or analyze gender-disaggregated data.

The project provided capacity building to improve technical and M&E knowledge and skills. Results: The results reported based on 3.5 years of the project are as follows: 267 SMEs accessed TFO Canada Trade Information Services in support of their business decision-making 145 Trade Support Institutions supported SMEs to access the Canadian market 64 Canadian buyers made contracts with SME exporters 30 TSIs supported 111 SMEs to develop and implement Canadian market entry plans 63 (of which 17% are women-led) SMEs made $11.6 worth of export sales to Canada

Q16 If yes please specify, in which area(s):(You may tick more than 1 box)

Export diversification, Structural transformation, Other, (please specify)
Additional information on the progress that your government has recorded in economic diversification since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade initiative in 2006:

For example, Agribusiness Development project supports the Government of the Philippines in its efforts to improve the productivity and the competitiveness of the agribusiness sector.

Specifically, the project aims to:
1) enhance farmers’ business management skills, financial literacy and their access to better farming practices;

2) help farmers and agribusiness firms gain access to finance;

3) facilitate public-private partnerships in agriculture-related infrastructure; and

4) help the government design new and enhanced policies, regulations, and procedures that lower transaction costs for farmers and agricultural enterprises.

EXPECTED RESULTS: The intermediate outcomes are:

1) improved incomes of smallholder farmers, especially women;

2) increased investments in agriculture and the agribusiness sector by men and women smallholder farmers;

and 3) reduced compliance and transactions costs for farmers and the agribusiness sector.

PROGRESS TO DATE
• Provided advisory services to Bayer CropScience to improve the delivery of technical extension services and enhance financial literacy and business management skills of farmers. As a result, Bayer and its partner institutions have now reached 43,061 individuals (38% women) through technical training on improved agricultural practices;

• Assisted rural and commercial financial institutions, namely, CARD SME Bank and Rizal Microbank, to develop financial products and services that meet agribusinesses’ and farmers’ financing needs. As of end-December 2017, total loan disbursements stood at 2,856 loans, with a total value of US$ 9.0 million;

• Advised CARD-Pioneer Micro-Insurance Inc. in the development and deployment of an indemnity-based typhoon or tropical depression insurance product for rice and corn farmers. Some 3,840 rice and corn farmers were insured as of December 31, 2017;

• Provided advisory services to government agencies to reduce compliance and transaction costs in the agribusiness sector. A total of 16 laws/regulations/amendments/codes were enacted and government policies adopted that will increase Government’s ability to regulate and support trade and logistics for agribusiness and farmer competitiveness; and,

• Some 2,684 businesses are now using the electronic processing for inspection requests which IFC helped the Department of Agriculture (DA) to develop under the Trade Enabling Risk Management System. This process has reduced the need for businesses to manually process their inspection documents and allows the DA to capture accurate information for proper inspections risk management.
Q17 If yes, please also indicate in which sector(s): (You may tick more than 1 box)

Agriculture, Industry, Services, Fisheries, Other, (please specify)

Additional information on the sector(s) where progress in economic diversification has been made:

Other includes: women micro-entrepreneurs in the food, textile/woven cloth and home style sectors; textiles and apparel, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, home décor and services.
In which category(ies) of Aid for Trade is the support you provide impactful for economic diversification? (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

- Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)
- Trade facilitation,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs)
- Trade education/training,
- Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)
- Transport and storage infrastructure
- Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)
- Business support services,
- Banking and financial services
- Building productive capacity
- Agriculture,
- Industry,
- Travel and tourism
- Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)
Q19 What factors contribute to the success of the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic diversification? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

- Alignment of aid-for-trade support with national/regional priorities
- Country ownership
- Institutional capacity to implement projects
- National/regional coordination
- Sufficient funding and appropriate implementation timelines

Q20 What factors may limit the success of the aid-for-trade support that you provide for economic diversification? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors.)

- Diverging priorities between partner and donor
- Lack of country ownership
- Limited financing for the private sector
- Poor alignment of aid-for-trade received with national/regional priorities
- Weak institutional capacity

Q21 Does the Aid for Trade you provide help mobilize other forms of development finance for economic diversification in partner countries (i.e. non-concessional financing, foreign direct investment, remittances, trade finance, etc.).

Yes,

Additional information on how Aid for Trade helps mobilize other forms of development finance for economic diversification:

Following are examples Canada’s aid for trade support mobilize other form of development finance:

The Development Finance Institute Canada (DFIC) Inc., operating under the FinDev Canada brand, was launched in 2017, capitalized with $300 million, will support private sector investment to promote the growth and sustainability of businesses in developing markets. FinDev Canada will contribute to poverty reduction by creating jobs, supporting women’s economic empowerment, and contributing to a cleaner and greener environment.

By filling the gap between commercial support and development assistance, FinDev Canada will bring financial strength to businesses in developing markets that will in turn create stability and prosperity for local communities. It will support local private sector activity where it contributes to sustainable development.

FinDev aims to be financially sustainable by generating returns on loans and investments, and to have a favourable economic and social impact in the communities where our clients operate. FinDev Canada will have a dual geographic focus, covering areas where Canada has the greatest strengths and experience, and where poverty is an ongoing challenge: Latin America and the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa.
On May 25, 2018, Canada announced the creation of a unique Partnership for Gender Equality to catalyze new investments in support of gender equality and the rights of girls and women in developing countries. This initiative will bring together the Government of Canada, the philanthropic community, the investing community, the private sector and civil society to mobilize unprecedented levels of resources to address the funding gap faced by women’s organizations and movements working to advance women’s rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in developing countries.

The aim is to recruit organizations that have a compelling vision and innovative plan to create a sustainable, predictable and flexible source of financing above and beyond ODA. Trade and Investment for Growth Regional Program (TRIGR) projects such as INFRONT implemented by MEDA-Sarona Asset Management has leveraged funds from both private and public investors.

A new TRIGR project, Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship, is also expected to mobilize private sector investment to women entrepreneurs in Asia and the Pacific. Pan-African regional projects such as the African Water Facility (AWF) ($19.25 million; 2012-2018) and NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF) ($15.25 million; 2012-2018) crowd-in private sector investment by preparing ‘bankable’ projects (e.g. feasibility and engineering studies, environmental impact assessments, public-private partnership financing plans, and legal analysis).

Since 2006, these facilities have mobilized over CAD 1.3 billion (AWF) and USD 7.78 billion (IPPF) for infrastructure financing in water, transportation and energy sectors. Furthermore, through the New Partnership for Sustainable Impact Investing in Frontier Markets project, Canada used its ODA as first loss protection (a guarantee or promise of partial insurance if the investor loses financing up to a certain amount) in a small and medium size enterprise (SME) investment fund.

The fund, which supports services in countries in central and South America, Africa and Asia, has invested in more than 93 SMEs, resulting in the creation of some 13,330 jobs (6,360 of which are held by women). Alongside its first loss protection, Canada also supported SMEs to adopt responsible business practices, such as integrated gender consideration in staffing policies.

Q22 To which partner country(ies) or territory(ies) do you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Afghanistan,
- Argentina,
- Bangladesh,
- Belize,
- Benin,
- Bolivia, Plurinational State,
Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname,
Additional information on the partner country(ies), territory(ies) or regional programmes in which you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification:

In 2017-2018, Canada provided ODA to over 130 countries. Top 10 recipients of Canada’s international assistance 2016-2017 are Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Haiti, Mali, Tanzania, Syria, South Sudan, Nigeria and Bangladesh. With the new Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada does not limit its international assistance to a geographic area or specific countries of focus.

Rather, the funding is disbursed to respond to areas of particular need where Canadian experience, expertise and skills can add value, and where Canada’s contributions have the greatest positive impact. Canada will address conflicts and climate change in fragile states and contexts, while continuing to foster economic development and growth that works for everyone in the poorest countries and supporting middle-income countries that face particular challenges, notably with respect to governance.

As part of this new approach, Canada will increase its support for least-developed countries. And we will scale up support to those countries where population growth and climate change will continue to have a disproportionate impact. Half of the world’s poorest citizens live in sub-Saharan Africa. For that reason, Canada will ensure that no less than 50 percent of its bilateral international development assistance is directed to sub-Saharan African countries by 2021-22, to contribute to sustainable development including growth that works for everyone.
Q23 Through which channels do you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Bilateral programmes,
- Multilateral institutions,
- Regional programmes,
- Other, e.g. new institutions or programmes

Please provide further details on the channels through which you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification:

To deliver on its international assistance priorities related to economic diversification, Canada works with country partners, key multilateral partners, Regional Economic Communities, Canadian organizations, private sector partners and civil society to implement innovative and sustainable development programs around the world. Under the Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada champions gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Canadian official development assistance (ODA) programs, while taking into account the perspectives of the poor, international human rights standards and poverty reduction objectives.

In 2017-2018, Canada provided ODA to over 130 countries, both through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms, and by working with Canadian, international and local partners. Canada supports a number of multilateral development institutions, global initiatives and international organizations, including multilateral and regional development banks, to help alleviate poverty and address pressing global challenges.

Canada’s partnerships with these organizations leverage their expertise, networks and economies of scale to amplify the reach and impact of Canada’s assistance. Canada works to ensure that these institutions and the multilateral system (the overall network of international organizations) function effectively, deliver strong results and build consensus on important global issues. Canada also focuses on development innovation in delivering international assistance.

To this end, Canada is exploring how to adopt or foster new partners, business models, policy practices, technologies and ways of delivering products and services.
Q24 With which South-South partner(s) do you partner to offer financing for economic diversification? (You may tick more than 1 box or leave all boxes unticked if you do not partner with any)

Additional information the South-South partner(s) you partner with to provide financing for economic diversification:

Following are Canada’s South–South partners in delivering aid for trade projects in Africa:


- NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility • UN’s Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) - an apex African institution alongside the AUC and the African Development Bank (AfDB). These three institutions coordinate activities in support of Africa’s economic agenda through a Joint Secretariat, established in 2010, which is led by the heads of the three key organizations. ECA is recognized by AU member states, the AU Commission and the AfDB as an institution key to Africa’s development.

- Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) - created in 1974 by West African governments and development partners (including Canada) to assist with drought within the Sahel. Since then, CILSS’ mandate has evolved significantly and currently concentrates on food crisis prevention and management, as well as agricultural markets. CILSS is currently in the process of becoming a specialized agency of ECOWAS. The two other consortium partners, the Borderless Alliance West Africa (regional private sector partnership platform based in Ghana) and Hub Rural (regional food security think tank) would respectively lead the advocacy and policy reforms dimensions of the program. For more information: http://www.cilss.bf/

- The African Legal Support Facility - an international organization housed under the African Development Bank that is dedicated to providing legal advice and technical assistance to African countries in matters pertaining to creditor litigation and complex commercial contracts. For more information on the ALSF: http://www.alsf.afdb.org

- The African Union Commission is the secretariat for the African Union (AU). The Commission is headed by a Chairperson, supported by a Deputy and eight Commissioners, all elected by African leaders. For more information on the African Union Commission: http://www.au.int/en/commission
Q25 Looking ahead, in which sectors do you anticipate future support for economic diversification to be required? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Agriculture,
- Industry,
- Services,
- Fisheries,
- Other, (please specify)

Additional information on the sectors that you anticipate will require most support for economic diversification:
- Green technologies and renewable energy

Q26 Looking ahead, in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing do you anticipate that you will continue to provide aid-for-trade support for economic diversification. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

- Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)
- Trade policy and administrative management
- Trade facilitation,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs)
- Multilateral trade negotiations
- Trade education/training,
- Energy supply and generation infrastructure
- Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)
- Business support services,
- Banking and financial services
- Building productive capacity
- Agriculture,
- Industry
Q27 Is there any Aid for Trade project or programme for economic diversification that you would like to showcase as an example of best practice? (Please provide additional information and include weblinks as relevant)

Canadian project in Senegal: Economic Development of Casamance

Women make up more than two thirds of the agricultural workforce in Senegal and are responsible for over 80 percent of food production. However, they have limited access to land and to adapted technologies and are more affected by poverty and malnutrition.

Women’s workloads at home limits their ability to pursue money-making activities like beekeeping. But in Saré Souma, a village in Casamance, a women’s advocacy organization has taken up this challenge.

With Canada’s support, the women obtained innovative hives, specialized equipment and a fully equipped well. They learned new honey harvesting and processing techniques. They were also trained in leadership and in administrative and financial management.

Their hard work and tenacity have made their region a centre of honey production in Senegal. The women have diversified production to include mangos, cashews and forest fruits. In all, 4,560 women have gained knowledge that lets them use better-performing, forest-friendly agricultural technologies, such as improved dryers and alternative fuels.

Besides the greater financial autonomy their business success has given them, these women have acquired a more equal social position in their families and communities. They are now active within regional agri-food organizations and municipal politics.

Results achieved up to March 2017 of the program include: the project has supported 9,142 operators (5,473 women) in the following achievements: (1) training of 2,916 operators, 1,580 of whom are women, enabling them to acquire better agricultural production practices and ensure the quality of their products; (2) production and distribution of 61,700 cashew plants representing a surface area equivalent to 285.7 hectares and 4,516 mango plants; (3) increased access to production-related infrastructure and equipment; (4) distribution and startup of 3,171 hives with a population rate of 77%; (5) support for the installation and operation of three cooperatives bringing together 801 producers (72% of whom are women) to sell their products (honey, cashews, forest fruits); (6) 2,729 beneficiaries, 1,581 of whom are women (58%), have had access to technological innovations allowing them to increase the productivity of their agricultural activities and to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

These achievements have also contributed to the creation of 3,043 jobs (1,826 held by women). These results have helped to improve socioeconomic conditions for producers in Casamance as well as the production and sales of their agricultural products.

http://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/a032792001?Lang=eng
Q28 Is economic empowerment a priority in your aid-for-trade and development strategy?

Yes, please provide additional information on how economic empowerment is prioritized in your aid-for-trade and development strategy:

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy focuses on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Economic empowerment, especially women's economic empowerment, is part of the policy's core action area, specifically in fostering growth that works for everyone.

GROWTH THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE Canada contributed to a multitude of initiatives in 2017-18 that increased women's economic, social and political empowerment by fostering networks, partnerships, and market opportunities. In Colombia, for example, Canada's investments in rural development supported the economic empowerment of more than 9,000 rural women in 2017-2020, enabling their equal participation with men as decision makers in agricultural cooperatives and associations, as well as control over resources such as income, credit, infrastructure and land. In Ethiopia, Canadian funding to the Women Entrepreneurship Development Project supports female-owned businesses, providing them advanced business skills and easier access to credit to expand their businesses.

By the end of 2017, the project had provided loans to 2,583 women entrepreneurs and business training to 3,694 female entrepreneurs. Canada's efforts to bolster women's economic empowerment included enhancing the skills and capabilities of women to improve opportunities and quality of employment. Working with local partners, Canada helped establish partnerships between Canadian and African colleges and institutes to develop innovative professional programs in Senegal. Women, particularly marginalized women unable to access traditional training programs, were supported in gaining the required competencies to effectively compete in sectors with good job prospects, including male-dominated industries.

Elsewhere, in South Sudan, the Fortifying Equality and Economic Diversity project implemented by Canadian partner NGOs increased women's access to productive assets in target areas, increasing the number of women (46,859) in the target group from 43% to 77%. IMPROVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN In Indonesia, for example, Canada supported eight women-led enterprises in the apparel, footwear and coffee sectors to increase their export opportunities in Canada and internationally. This initiative led to increased economic opportunities and income for hundreds of micro-suppliers in their value chain, many of whom are home-based female workers.
Q29 For which groups does your aid-for-trade strategy seek to promote economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Women’s economic empowerment
- Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
- Youth economic empowerment

Additional information on the groups for which your aid-for-trade strategy is seeking to promote economic empowerment:

Canada is committed to providing international development assistance dedicated to advancing gender equality and improving women and girls’ quality of life. Canada firmly believes that promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls is the best way to achieve positive economic and social outcomes and most effective approach to eradicate poverty.

Example: The Supporting Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) in the Philippines project assists women micro-entrepreneurs to successfully and sustainably grow their businesses.

It employs two strategies:

i) assisting women micro entrepreneurs (WMEs) in 4 priority sectors through national government agencies working at the national and regional levels; and,

ii) building partnerships with the private sector, engaging the latter to bring WMEs into their supply chains or providing them with critical business development services.

The project aims to

1) increase competitiveness and sustainability of women’s micro-enterprises; and,
2) strengthen enabling environment. By project end, approximately 11,500 women’s micro-enterprises in the food and woven cloth subsectors would benefit from increased sales and re-investment.

In Burkina Faso, Plan Canada established a partnership between government, the private sector and NGOs to enable girls and boys aged 13 to 18 to develop skills aligned with local labour market needs. Since 2011, a total of 8,265 young people, including 3,517 girls, have enrolled in non-formal basic education centres and vocational training centres supported by Plan Canada. Of these, 931 (including 239 girls) have found jobs.
Q30 Does your aid-for-trade or development strategy propose any indicators to track economic empowerment or include any targets to achieve?

Yes,

If yes, please provide additional information the indicators or targets on economic empowerment included in your aid-for-trade strategy.: Canada’s key results-based management tools are the theory of change, logic model and a performance measurement framework. Currently, Canada is implementing a new Policy on Results and developing a Departmental Results Framework to increase focus on results using a series of improved performance indicators. At the same time, Canada is developing a results-based management approach specific to its international assistance titled Architecture for Results of International Assistance (ARIA), with the aim to roll-up strategically selected project and program results information into more meaningful evidence-based corporate level results. At project and country program level, Canada has a robust results-based management methodology and extensive guidance available.

Q31 Does your aid-for-trade or development strategy link economic empowerment in partner countries to their participation in international trade?

Yes,

If yes, please provide additional information on how your aid-for-trade or development strategy links economic empowerment to participation in international trade.: Examples: Canadian Market Access and Capacity Building Services, implemented by the Trade Facilitation Office Canada, for example, provides services to small and medium exporters from OECD DAC listed countries, including: access to web-based Canadian Market Information, match-making with Canadian importers and outreach and capacity building through webinars to Trade Support institutions and technical assistance for market access. (for more details see response to question #15) Canada’s contributions to the African Trade Policy Centre supported the conclusion of initial negotiations of an Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area in March 2018 (signed by 49 out of 55 African Union member states as of July 2018). Support to the Policy Centre included technical assistance which, among other activities, helped advance the inclusion of specific objectives relating to the promotion and attainment of gender equality within the Agreement. The Agreement has the potential to cover a market of 1.2 billion people, a GDP of US$2.5 trillion across all 55 African Union countries and boost intra-African trade by over 50% through tariff elimination.
Q32 Please indicate in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing you provide support for Aid for Trade for economic empowerment. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs)

Multilateral trade negotiations

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

Business support services,

Banking and financial services

Building productive capacity

Agriculture,

Industry,

Travel and tourism

Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)
Q33 Does the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic empowerment align with the empowerment priorities established in partner countries national or regional trade and development strategy(ies)?

Yes, additional information on how the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic empowerment aligns with the empowerment priorities established in partner countries national or regional trade and development strategy(ies):

In line with the aid effectiveness principles, Canada provides assistance in collaboration with host country governments and in support of national poverty reduction strategies. Example: The Supporting Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) in the Philippines project supports the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and several key institutions that have a mandate in enterprise development. Expert Deployment Mechanism for Trade and Development (EDM) is a global facility that responds to request for technical assistance from developing countries to better negotiate, implement, adapt to and benefit from trade and investment agreements with Canada. This is an activity that is directly aligned and respond to trade priorities established in partner countries.

Q34 Is women’s economic empowerment a priority in your development or aid-for-trade strategy?

Yes, additional information on how women’s economic empowerment is prioritized in your development aid-for-trade strategy:

Canada supports women and girls to ensure they develop their skills, accede to decision-making positions and fully take part in the economic growth of their communities, including by supporting technical and vocational training and entrepreneurship. Canada also promotes social inclusion, labour rights, the right to own property and access to financing for women. Inclusive growth is growth that works for everyone (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). It cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women as economic actors. This means giving women more opportunities to succeed and greater control over household resources and decision making, as well as reducing their heavy burden of unpaid work, including child care. Empowering women to be full participants in the economic lives of their families and communities can lead to broader economic growth and lasting change.
In your view, how best can Aid for Trade make a contribution to women's economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

1. Improving access to global value chains
2. Improving digital connectivity
3. Providing access to finance
4. Supporting the elaboration of gender-sensitive policies
5. Upgrading business skills

Additional information or examples of projects and programmes on how Aid for Trade can make a contribution to women's economic empowerment:

Canada recognizes that in order to maximize the impact of our actions and help eradicate poverty, we must defend the rights of women and girls so they can participate fully in society. And for our actions to be sustainable, we must ensure that they contribute to building local capacity. To achieve that we consider applying gender lens - gender equality criteria to aid for trade projects, where applicable.
Q36 What forms of aid-for-trade financing, in your view, best support women's economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

- Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards).
- Trade policy and administrative management
- Trade facilitation,
- Trade education/training,
- Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)
- Communications infrastructure,
- Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development.)
- Business support services,
- Banking and financial services
- Building productive capacity
- Agriculture,
- Industry,
- Trade-related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade.)

Additional information on the aid-for-trade financing that, in your view, best supports women’s economic empowerment:

To strengthen women's economic empowerment, Canada promotes local procurement that fosters businesses run by women, and supports them by strengthening women’s skills, capacities, and influence in value chains. Other actions will include supporting SME development by strengthening their competitiveness, diversity and resilience. Canada will also seek to fund responsible investment and transparent supply chain development and diversity initiatives in support of women’s economic empowerment.
Women’s economic empowerment is essential to inclusive economic growth. However, barriers to women’s voice, influence and leadership undermine women’s access to economic opportunities. Roadblocks that prevent them from owning assets or accessing financial services, or that restrict them socially, are examples. Canada has been working to address some of these barriers to help unlock women’s rights and their potential to contribute to social and economic development. These efforts endeavour to drive inclusive economic growth, reduce the gender gap and lessen inequality. In 2017-2018, Canada supported several multilateral initiatives aimed at advancing women’s economic empowerment and leadership, including funding of the International Finance Corporation’s Banking on Women Program with the Bank of Palestine.

The corporation has piloted an innovative training program for women entrepreneurs in the region, combining access to financial products with non-financial services such as financial management lessons and mentoring. This was done to boost the growth of women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises. As a result of this Mini-MBA program, women have doubled their revenues and profits, registered their businesses and created new jobs.

Similarly, Canada’s contributions have supported the International Development Association’s efforts to address women’s economic rights. The association has tackled issues that prevent women from contributing equally to economic growth, such as financial inclusion. This US$205-million regional project permitted access to conditional cash transfers in order to prevent early marriages and school dropouts. Between 2015 and 2017, the association’s operations allowed 130,000 women to get direct access to their own financial products and services.

Canada is also promoting the professional development of female supervisors and regulators from developing countries via the Toronto Centre’s Core Curriculum Certificate Course. This course welcomed female sector supervisors from banking, insurance, pensions, securities, deposit insurance, microfinance and cooperatives.

In 2017, 18 of 19 tuition scholarships for international programs were awarded to female participants. In 2017-2018, Global Affairs Canada continued its important support to the Kashf Foundation, a micro-finance institution in Pakistan, for women’s economic empowerment. Since the program’s inception, more than 1 million women have been trained in basic financial literacy and about half a million women have been trained in business finance.

More than 25,000 women have received business development training; they later reported an average increase in sales of their products of 50%. On average, women supported by the project have increased their incomes by about 30% and increased their savings by 60%. Advocacy campaigns highlighted constraints that women face in social and economic spheres.

Campaigns also raised awareness about a woman’s right to participate in economic activities, and the detrimental effects of early marriage and child sexual abuse. These initiatives are great examples how Canada’s feminist approach to international development contribute to women’s economic empowerment.
Q38 In your view, how best can Aid for Trade make a contribution to the economic empowerment of MSMEs. (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

- Providing access to finance
- Supporting rural trade
- Upgrading business skills
- Improving access to global value chains
- Improving digital connectivity

Additional information or examples of projects and programmes on how Aid for Trade can make a contribution to the economic empowerment of MSMEs:

Skills development and financing are two barriers faced by MSMEs around the world, but are particularly challenging variables in developing environments. Access to education and training at any stage can make or break an entrepreneurial venture, starting even at developing an entrepreneurial spirit. Financing poses another challenge for MSMEs.

MSMEs, particularly at the micro-level, don’t always fit into traditional credit systems; they’re typically too small for traditional banking and financing needs are often too big for community- or family-share loan systems. Microfinance systems can offer a transformational means for the SMEs to acquire much-needed financing and serve women-led micro-enterprises. Canada does its part in providing much needed access to business financing in developing countries, including through Canada’s development finance institution, FinDev Canada, and support for convergence.
Canada’s partnership with the Développement international Desjardins’ Entrepreneur Financial Centre (EFC) project is another important example. The project provides credit and financial services to underserviced populations in four countries: Tunisia, Zambia, Tanzania and Panama. Since the project’s inception, 25,922 client entrepreneurs—9,181 women and 16,741 men—have received financial services in EFCs supported by the project.

Through those EFCs, 23,331 local jobs were created or maintained. One example is that of EFC Tunisia, which introduced small- and medium-sized business loans, vehicle loans and loans for women entrepreneurs to more effectively meet the needs of its clients. In 2017, EFC Tunisia tripled its female clientele and nearly doubled the size of its workforce (128, or almost half the staff, were women).

A range of innovative technology was developed that improved support for business decision-making, increased the EFC’s efficiency and improved access to financial services and payment solutions. A credit process automation solution went live in 2017 at EFC Tunisia, supported by a business intelligence software package from software manufacturer Stratego.

In addition, preliminary work has begun to define the operational and technological feasibility of a mobile payment service that allows users to easily pay with money in their account and make payments to the EFC on a cell phone.

Q39 What forms of aid-for-trade financing, in your view, best support the economic empowerment of MSMEs? (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

- Business support services
- Banking and financial services
- Building productive capacity
- Agriculture, Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards).
- Trade policy and administrative management
- Trade facilitation,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs)
- Multilateral trade negotiations
- Trade education/training,
Additional information on the aid-for-trade financing that, in your view, best supports the economic empowerment of MSMEs:

Individuals and enterprises in developing countries, particularly those led by women, often need help to become more competitive and innovative, and to crack market opportunities.

What they need are targeted efforts to promote inclusive markets and support entrepreneurship. This requires expanding access to capital, including for vulnerable people, smallholder cooperatives and associations.

It also requires rural transformation, renewable technologies, value addition in the natural resource sector and investments in quality infrastructure. In 2017-2018, Canada pursued a range of initiatives in line with these objectives, such as support for:

• entrepreneurship and skills training;
• access to new technologies and resources;
• access to markets and value chains; and • infrastructure and equipment that can help unlock economic opportunities. In Egypt, Canada partnered with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada on a $10.9 million project to improve the livelihoods of women, men and youth.

• In 2017-2018, 1,169 students benefited from technical and soft skills training such as management, computer skills, and English language courses. High-potential enterprises that adopted a gender-sensitive mentoring program received business development services and coaching.

As a result, a number of Egypt’s women, men and youth have improved their employability and entrepreneurship skills and opportunities. Canada continues to join forces with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada on the Aswan Skills Development Program.

This $10-million initiative aims to improve the employment and employability of young women and men in the Aswan Governorate, one of the three poorest regions in Egypt.

With support from Canada’s Seneca College and an international institution, Aga Khan University, the project was able to change mindsets. It developed market-driven courses to meet the demands of four key sectors: electrical, solar energy, nursing and agribusiness. Employment opportunities improved for agribusiness for 3,000 youth, thanks to this program.
Q40 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting the economic empowerment of MSMEs? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

- Country ownership,
- Good digital and ICT connectivity,
- Good trade-related infrastructure,
- Mobilization of domestic private investment,
- Services capacity,

Additional information on factors that contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting the economic empowerment of MSMEs:

One example of reaching out to new partners is the Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation initiative. Announced in May 2017, it dedicates $100 million over a five-year period to support Canadian small and medium organizations in international assistance in areas consistent with Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy. This initiative is a direct response to feedback received during the 2016 International Assistance Review consultations to provide Canadian organizations with more predictable and accessible opportunities to apply for funding.

Q41 In your view, how best can Aid for Trade contribute to Youth economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

- Providing access to finance,
- Supporting the growth and economic development of Youth,
- Upgrading ICT skills,
- Improving digital connectivity,
- Improving the provision of services,

Q42 What forms of aid-for-trade financing, in your view, best support Youth economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

- Business support services,
- Banking and financial services,
- Building productive capacity,
- Agriculture,
- Trade education/training,
Communications infrastructure,
Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development.),
Industry,
Travel and tourism

Additional information on the aid-for-trade financing that, in your view, best supports Youth economic empowerment:

More responsive international assistance also requires more efficient and effective funding mechanisms and approaches. To this end, Canada is expanding its range of tools to enable joint program assistance with other donors, multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms, including “blended” finance. We are streamlining our funding application processes and modernizing our results-based management and risk management procedures to better respond to specific country and partner contexts and support timelier funding decisions. This will help improve the predictability and transparency of Canada’s funding decisions.

As an example, CAD 10 million Support for the Nationwide Rollout of JOBSTART in the Philippines aims to establish a nationwide JobStart Program. In the Philippines, one in four young people are neither employed, nor enrolled in education, nor training, with even higher rates amongst young women and those coming from low-income families.

The JobStart Program (JSP) works with the Department of Labor and Employment to assist youth to become job-ready. JSP will also support the private sector to hire these job-ready youth for up to six months. Providing youth with decent jobs is vital to reducing gender inequalities and poverty.

By helping youth become productive members of society through the JSP, combined with other national programs to lower the country’s fertility rate, the Philippines has the opportunity to reap the benefits of its young population. JSP aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 8), Canada’s priorities of growth that works for everyone and gender equality, and the Government of the Philippines’ (GoP) goal to reduce poverty.

This initiative will transition to a fully funded GoP program by 2020. This second support to JSP builds on the successful GAC-supported pilot of the JSP Program (2014-2016), which was also administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

EXPECTED RESULTS: The intermediate outcome is the establishment of a nationwide gender-sensitive JSP program that provides an integrated set of employment support services that will increase young Filipino men’s and women’s chances of finding decent wage employment.
As a result of Canada’s support, by December 2021, twenty-four (24) local government units will have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippines’ Department of Labor and Employment to implement the JSP program; at least 24,000 at-risk youth (60% women) will have accessed JSP services; and, at least 5,000 at-risk youth (60% women) in 12 local government units will have completed their training and six-month work terms.

PROGRESS TO DATE (as of end-December 2017):

• 32 local government units implemented JSP in 2017 - up from 14 in 2016
• 13,500 young women and men utilized JSP services, of which 58% were women
• 3,137 young women and men completed the JSP full cycle, of which 54% were women
• 10,009 completed life skills training, with a graduation rate of 89%
Q43 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting Youth economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

- Alignment of aid-for-trade support with national/regional priorities
- Country ownership
- Good digital and ICT connectivity
- Institutional capacity to implement projects
- Services capacity

Additional information on the factors that contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting Youth economic empowerment:

Education is a powerful empowerment tool for girls and boys. Global Affairs Canada will continue to build on Canada’s history as a leader in education and to collaborate on initiatives to support quality education and skills training programs that help break the cycle of poverty for girls and boys and girls and inequality around the world.

As part of its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada is committed to investing in education-especially for girls. When young people complete a quality education, they have the knowledge and skills they need to reach their full potential, find decent work and contribute to society. To this end, Canada has been a long standing supporter of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)’s development assistance, which helps children – especially the poorest, most vulnerable, and those living in fragile or conflict-affected countries – receive a quality basic education.

Canada’s investments help establish strong education systems that provide children and youth, particularly girls, with ten years of quality basic education to secure a job and realize their full potential.

- For the 2011-2014 and 2015-2018 periods, Canada’s contribution to the GPE was $57.6 million and $120 million, respectively.
- Canada was a founding member of the GPE’s predecessor, the Education for All - Fast Track Initiative, which built support among G7 donors during Canada’s 2002 Kananaskis Presidency.
- Multilaterally, Canada is the 10th largest bilateral donor to the GPE.
- Sixty-four per cent of the GPE’s partner countries had as many girls as boys completing primary school in 2015.
- With the pledges received during the 2018-2020 period, the GPE aims to help 19 million additional children to complete primary school, including 9.4 million girls and over 10.8 million children in countries affected by fragility or conflict; and, help 6.6 million additional children to complete lower secondary school, including 3.9 million girls and 3.9 million children in countries affected by fragility and conflict.
Q44 In your view, can Aid for Trade make a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda?

Yes,

Please provide a weblink to the relevant national strategy or policy document in which SDGs are referred to:


Q45 If yes, please specify which Sustainable Development Goal or Goals (SDGs) Aid for Trade can help to achieve. (You may tick more than 1 box)

Sustainable Development Goals:

1. No poverty
2. Quality education
3. Gender equality
4. Decent work and economic growth
5. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
6. Reduce inequalities
7. Sustainable cities and communities
8. Climate action
9. Partnership for the goals

Additional information on the Sustainable Development Goal(s) Aid for Trade can help to achieve:

Through its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada will play an important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 5—achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is the entry point for Canada’s approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda and will drive progress in other SDGs.

Canada is committed to helping achieve the SDGs in Canada and in developing countries. To better support equal educational opportunities for women and girls in developing countries and achieve SDG 4 (Quality Education), Canada supports programs and advocacy efforts that help women and girls get the skills training and education they need to succeed; works to ensure that school facilities are welcoming spaces.
that respond to the specific needs of girls; and supports programs and partners that help those who have missed out on the opportunity to complete a quality education. Inclusive growth is growth that works for everyone (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). It cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women as economic actors. This means giving women more opportunities to succeed and greater control over household resources and decision making, as well as reducing their heavy burden of unpaid work, including child care.

To better support SDG 13: Climate action, Canada is committed to combatting climate change and its impacts, providing $2.65 billion in climate finance. Canada’s international climate finance supports a wide range of programs and initiatives that help developing countries manage risks and build resilience to the impacts of climate change, develop and deploy clean energy technology, and manage natural resources to achieve sustainability.

Given that innovation will play a role in achieving Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the department will continue to support innovative finance, climate-smart agriculture and innovative, evidence-based approaches in the area of health, and leverage best practices for scaling up and measuring impact while taking into account gender equality.

In line with the focus of its Feminist International Assistance Policy on innovation, Canada will continue to engage with Canadian and international innovation actors and build on knowledge, good practice and tools to support women and girls economic empowerment and foster innovative policies, programs and partnerships for sustainable growth.

Q46 Which partner country(ies) or custom territory(ies) are the main recipients of the aid-for-trade financing you provide for economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Afghanistan,
Argentina,
Bangladesh,
Belize,
Benin,
Bolivia, Plurinational State,
Burkina Faso, Cambodia,
Cameroon,
Chile,
Colombia,
Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba,
Dominican Republic,
Republic, Egypt,
Ethiopia,
Fiji,
The Gambia,
Ghana,
Grenada,
Guatemala,
Guyana,
Haiti,
Honduras,
Indonesia,
Jamaica,
Jordan,
Kenya,
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Lebanon,
Mali,
Mauritania,
Mauritius,
Mexico,
Mongolia,
Morocco, Mozambique,
Myanmar,
Nepal,
Nicaragua,
Nigeria,
Pakistan,
Panama,
Peru,
Philippines,
Rwanda,
Senegal,
South Africa,
South Sudan,
Sri Lanka,
Syrian Arab Republic,
Tanzania,
Togo,
Tunisia,
Uganda,
Ukraine,
Viet Nam,
Zambia,
Zimbabwe

Additional information on the country(ies) or custom territory(ies) that are the main recipients of the aid-for-trade financing you provide for economic empowerment:

In 2017-2018, Canada provided ODA to over 130 countries. Top 10 recipients of Canada’s international assistance 2016-2017 are Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Haiti, Mali, Tanzania, Syria, South Sudan, Nigeria and Bangladesh. With the new Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada does not limit its international assistance to a geographic area or specific countries of focus. Rather, the funding is disbursed to respond to areas of particular need where Canadian experience, expertise and skills can add value, and where Canada’s contributions have the greatest positive impact.

Canada will address conflicts and climate change in fragile states and contexts, while continuing to foster economic development and growth that works for everyone in the poorest countries and supporting middle-income countries that face particular challenges, notably with respect to governance.

As part of this new approach, Canada will increase its support for least-developed countries. And we will scale up support to those countries where population growth and climate change will continue to have a disproportionate impact. Half of the world’s poorest citizens live in sub-Saharan Africa.

For that reason, Canada will ensure that no less than 50 percent of its bilateral international development assistance is directed to sub-Saharan African countries by 2021-22, to contribute to sustainable development including growth that works for everyone.

Q47 Through which channels do you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Bilateral programmes,
Multilateral institutions,
Regional programmes,
Other, e.g. new institutions or programmes

Please provide further details on the channels through which you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic empowerment:
Canada will work to improve the economic well-being of the poorest and most vulnerable and reduce poverty, particularly among women and girls, to ensure that particularly among women and girls, to ensure that economic growth works for everyone. This will be done by working through bilateral channels as well as multilateral organizations, including the multilateral and regional development banks and new partners, to create innovative solutions and opportunities to improve the economic well-being of those in need.

To advance women’s economic empowerment, Canada supports the G20 Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, which aims to achieve results for women-owned and women-led small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. In 2017 at the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Argentina, Canada led the charge on the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment, which aims to level the playing field and advance women’s economic empowerment around the globe, affirming its commitment expressed in the Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Canada will continue to lead discussions at the WTO on transparency, dispute settlement and the development of trade rules for the 21st century. Canada draws on its membership in key multilateral organizations and regional groups—including the United Nations (UN), multilateral and regional banks, the G7, the G20, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, APEC, Pacific Alliance and others—to champion gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The government also benefits from a robust ecosystem of civil society partners.

These partners deliver international assistance programming, contribute to ongoing policy dialogue on global issues and engage Canadians in support of international development, the 2030 Agenda and Canada’s international assistance priorities. In addition to current efforts, new partnerships and initiatives that can leverage additional financing and investment are essential to meet our commitments and achieve SDGs until 2030. To this end, Canada is increasing and diversifying the range of mechanisms for working with the private sector to support sustainable development.

This means transforming the private sector’s current service-provider role into that of a partner investing in the achievement of development results. New instruments such as repayable contributions will be introduced that will better enable Canada to mobilize new streams of financing for underserved private sector partners in developing countries, including woman-led businesses.

Canada will work closely with other donors, including in developing countries, and support selected new funding mechanisms to encourage more innovative and cost-effective private- and voluntary-sector solutions to sustainable development challenges. One of such mechanism is the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, a collaboration of international organizations, governments and businesses as equal partners in shared responsibilities for trade facilitation reform among public and private sectors in developing and least developed countries (LDCs).
It leverages private sector expertise and resources, making delivery more efficient and cost-effective and allows the strengthening of local capacity and engagement in public-private dialogue. In its fourth year of existence, the Alliance is making great strides in supporting developing countries implement the Agreement for Trade Facilitation. Canada is one of the founding donors of the Alliance.

Canada’s new, Development Finance Institute (FinDev), a subsidiary of Export Development Canada, provides financial services to the private sector in developing countries with the aim of combating poverty through economic empowerment. Areas of focus include green growth, agribusiness, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises through local financial institutions with specific goals to generate economic development by job creation, climate change mitigation and poverty reduction, with a focus on gender equality and economic empowerment of women.

The FinDev Institute has been capitalized with $300 million over five years, which will enable it to attract funds from other partners and support private investments in developing countries through the use of loans, loan guarantees or equity stakes. Additionally, Canada has provided trade and development assistance through its partner the Trade Facilitation Office Canada (TFO Canada).

TFO Canada has over 37 years of experience confronting the challenge of global poverty by promoting sustainable economic development through export information, advice and contact. TFO Canada facilitates access to the Canadian marketplace and shares Canadian trade expertise for the benefit of smaller women-led and men-led exporters in developing countries throughout the world and for the women and men they employ.

Furthermore, Canada provided an institutional support grant (2016-2019) to the International Trade Centre, whose mandate is to enable businesses in developing countries to increase exports, and help developing countries and economies in transition to improve the use of trade as a tool for development.
Q48 With which South-South partner(s) do you partner with to provide aid-for-trade financing for economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box or leave all boxes unticked if you do not partner with any))

Additional information on the South-South partner(s) your partner with to provide coherent aid-for-trade financing for economic empowerment:

Following are Canada’s South –South partners in delivering aid for trade projects in Africa:


• NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility

• UN’s Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) - an apex African institution alongside the AUC and the African Development Bank (AfDB). These three institutions coordinate activities in support of Africa’s economic agenda through a Joint Secretariat, established in 2010, which is led by the heads of the three key organizations. ECA is recognized by AU member states, the AU Commission and the AfDB as an institution key to Africa’s development.

• Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) - created in 1974 by West African governments and development partners (including Canada) to assist with drought within the Sahel. Since then, CILSS’ mandate has evolved significantly and currently concentrates on food crisis prevention and management, as well as agricultural markets. CILSS is currently in the process of becoming a specialized agency of ECOWAS. The two other consortium partners, the Borderless Alliance West Africa (regional private sector partnership platform based in Ghana) and Hub Rural (regional food security think tank) would respectively lead the advocacy and policy reforms dimensions of the program. For more information: http://www.cilss.bf/

• The African Legal Support Facility - an international organization housed under the African Development Bank that is dedicated to providing legal advice and technical assistance to African countries in matters pertaining to creditor litigation and complex commercial contracts. For more information on the ALSF: http://www.alsf.afdb.org

• The African Union Commission is the secretariat for the African Union (AU). The Commission is headed by a Chairperson, supported by a Deputy and eight Commissioners, all elected by African leaders. For more information on the African Union Commission: http://www.au.int/en/commission
Q49 Looking ahead, in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing do you anticipate that you will continue to provide aid-for-trade support for economic empowerment. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

- Business support services,
- Banking and financial services
- Building productive capacity
- Agriculture,
- Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards).
- Trade facilitation,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs)
- Multilateral trade negotiations
- Trade education/training,
- Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development.)
- Industry,
- Travel and tourism
- Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade.)
Q50 Is there any Aid for Trade project or programme for economic empowerment you would like to showcase as particularly important or as an example of best practice? (Please provide any relevant additional information and include weblinks as relevant)

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is a multi-donor funded not-for profit organization established in 2010 to support the growth of trade - both regional and international - in East Africa. It is registered and headquartered in Nairobi and has separate offices in Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. TMEA is focused on ensuring that gains from trade result in tangible pro-poor gains for East Africans (especially for women), in line with the EAC’s vision statement and its Development Strategy. TMEA is funded by eight donors, namely: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and USA and contributions totaling US$ 560 million from 2010 – 2017. For more information on TradeMark East Africa: http://www.trademarkea.com/

TradeMark East Africa – Integrated Border Management (TMEA-IBM) project supports the reduction in trade costs and border delays across East Africa through modernizing and improving customs clearance procedures at 15 One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) within and between East African Community Partner States, including the latest entrant, South Sudan, and providing technical assistance to the East African Community (EAC) secretariat to improve the coordination of customs revenue management under the Single Customs Territory (SCT).

Countries of Operation: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan (Given current political situation, no further funds are currently being channeled towards Burundi/South Sudanese governments)

Progress and Results achieved
• The project has supported operationalization of integrated border management at thirteen One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) in the EAC region, thus contributing to the reduction in the overall turnaround time from 21 days to 4 days along the northern corridor (Mombasa port to Kigali) and from 25 days to 5 days along the central corridor (Dar as Salaam to Bujumbura).

• The project has supported the operationalization of the single-customs territory and 100% of member states’ selected goods are now cleared at the first port of entry.

• The OSBP and SCT projects have contributed to 15.6% overall time reduction in the importation and exportation of containers and more than 30% reduction in border crossing times at several locations thus reducing trading costs.

• The project has supported the drafting, reviewing and automation of several business processes and procedures manuals, including the regional OSBP Act which has been finalized and assented to by the East African Community Heads of State.
**Q51 Please provide any additional information.** (Please reference in the form of weblinks, document symbols, including to evaluations of projects or programmes)


Diversifying Canada’s Trade and Development Opportunities

FinDev Canada
https://www.findevcanada.ca

https://archive.au.int/assets/images/agenda2063.pdf

Asian Centre for Excellence

Canada-Asia Trade and Investment for Growth (TRIGR)

The Official Development Assistance Accountability Act

Partnership for Gender Equality

MEDA
https://www.meda.org/about-meda

MEDA - Sarona Asset Management
https://www.meda.org/resources/meda-videos/67-investment/229-sarona-asset-management

Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
https://www贸易战facilitation.org/

Trade Facilitation Office Canada
https://www.tfocanada.ca/

Trade Mark East Africa
http://www.trademarkea.com/

Page 31: END OF SURVEY
Q52 CONSULTATION (Other ministries/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply):

FinDev Canada, Agriculture Canada, Trade Facilitation Office Canada