

the positive impact of Canadian aid

tuberculosis

Canadian aid provides tuberculosis treatment

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne infection that can be fatal if left untreated. Currently an estimated 10.4 million people around the world have fallen ill from the disease and in 2017, an estimated 1.6 million people died. The disease flourishes under conditions of poor housing, overcrowded living conditions, inadequate access to quality nutrition, insufficient health care systems, and in people with low immune systems. Although globally TB is primarily fought with domestic financing, often from national health budgets, it is woefully underfunded, as not all countries are capable of funding an effective response to TB independently. TB is a complex disease and diagnosis, treatment, and care can be very expensive (medium costs per patient for treatment alone can range from \$1,300-\$10,000 USD).

In these cases, where domestic budgets and systems are unable to fill the gaps in TB care, Canadian aid is essential. This can be put towards programs like TB REACH, which is primarily funded by the Government of Canada. TB REACH provides small grants to fund innovative approaches to finding and treating TB patients, who are traditionally lost in the care system; people who would otherwise go untreated.

Canadian aid also supports organizations like the Global Fund, the world's largest international contributor to the fight against TB. The Global Fund is an excellent example of how Canadian aid functions as an investment – in people's lives and in the economy. Successfully treating and preventing TB means a decreased burden on health and social systems and ensures a greater portion of the population are healthy and capable of pursuing work. Estimates indicate that every dollar spent in the Global Fund yields 19 dollars returned in health and economic gains. The Global Fund has provided successful treatment to 5 million people with TB in 2017 alone. Without access to these funds, treatment would simply not be available. There are some countries whose entire TB budget is provided by Global Fund resources.

nutrition

Canadian aid provides nutritious meals

Throughout an individual's life cycle, malnutrition can have irreversible impacts on a person's growth, development, health, and survival.

Malnutrition plays a significant role in:

- Increasing childhood mortality, with roughly 3.1 million children under 5 dying each year due to undernutrition.
- Stunting cognitive and motor skill development, impacting school performance and potential earnings loss later in life.
- Increasing rates of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes, and infectious diseases that are impacted by low immunity.
- Compounding costs and demand on healthcare systems, increasing unnecessary deaths.
- Entrenching people, especially women and girls, in an intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, inequity and poverty.

However, the cost to prevent malnutrition far outweighs the losses:

- The World Bank calculates that malnutrition costs the global economy \$3.5 trillion USD per year, or \$500 USD per person per year.
- The cost to prevent, however, is just \$10 USD per person, per year.
- This investment would save 3.7 million lives.

Children with access to proper nutrition earn 20% more in the labour market as adults.

In 2016 Canada invested 97.6 million USD in basic nutrition. Nutrition International, just one recipient of this investment, reached 571 million people with nutrition interventions.

vaccinations

Canadian aid reaches millions with proper vaccinations

Immunization is one of the most cost-effective interventions in public health and development. It is calculated that in the world's 94 low and middle-income countries, investment in vaccines has a 16-fold return on investment. If we include broader benefits such as the value of healthier lives, longer life spans, reduced healthcare costs or losses from long-term disability, the return increases to \$44 per \$1 spent. Additionally, immunization averts an estimated 2 to 3 million deaths every year. If global vaccination coverage were to improve,

however, this number could increase to 4.5 to 5 million prevented deaths – particularly among women and girls.

From 2002 to today, Canada's investments in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance have contributed to the direct prevention of over 10 million deaths, immunizing 700 million children, improving health systems, and lowering vaccine costs. By investing in key global sectors, Canada can help unlock the potential of an entire generation of girls and young women that will drive sustainable and inclusive growth and change.

With such simple, cost-effective solutions widely available, we cannot justify the continued levels of poverty and inequity around the globe. The money we devote to Canadian aid is an investment in the world's future and the Sustainable Development Goals, which pays huge dividends, making it not only morally right but also economically wise.

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