

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CANADIAN COLLABORATIVE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

A. Background

Since 2010, Canada has made significant investments in global women and children's health. More recently, Global Affairs Canada launched the new Feminist International Assistance Policy, and has been guided by priorities in key areas of gender equality¹ and women's rights. These priorities will continue to shape the future of Canada's investments in global women and children's health.

We stand at a critical moment: Canada needs to operationalize this policy in a manner that will guide the next 10 years of global health investments. These 10 years will take us to 2030 and will determine Canada's success in its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a network of Canadian organizations in development, humanitarian action, health care, and research, the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) is energized by the renewed focus on feminist, equality, and rights-based development. In this regard, CanWaCH has the unique opportunity to consult with and learn from multiple diverse stakeholders in civil society, research, advocacy, health service provision and more. Throughout the last 2 years, CanWaCH has listened to and consulted with our sector through a variety of methods to pinpoint obstacles to our collective success in achieving the targets laid out in the SDGs. While new metrics solutions have and continue to be created to address a multitude of issues, our investigation highlighted three critical concerns for Canadian stakeholders, with data and information challenges emerging as a common theme:

1. Data and data collection gaps – areas where data is lacking or remains difficult to collect and analyze – persist, particularly in regards to fragile contexts, marginalized communities, and outcome-level measurement.
2. Where data and data collection resources exist, they may be inaccessible or go unused for a variety of reasons, leading to duplication, lack of uptake by communities, inefficient programming, and other issues.
3. Perceived capacity to implement existing solutions or adopt explicitly feminist approaches remains limited for many Canadian actors, particularly in the above contexts. In particular, lack of resources, skills, and meaningful linkages with other stakeholders repeatedly emerged as obstacles.

CanWaCH believes that, in order to drive meaningful change, we must invest in creative and interdisciplinary solutions to meet the above challenges that currently impede our progress to

¹ *Gender equality in health means that, regardless of gender, across the life-course and in all their diversity, women, girls, boys, and men have equal opportunities to realize their full right to health. Due to pervasive and long-standing gender inequality, women and girls' access to health systems and services is limited by multiple interconnected forms of discrimination that undermine their right to survive and thrive.*

achieving the SDGs. With Canada's track record of leadership and commitment to global health, gender equality, and evidenced-based decision-making, Canadian organizations and their global partners are ideally positioned to solve critical global data challenges, and leverage the coming decade to achieve the SDGs. For CanWaCH, our mandate is to connect, strengthen, and amplify the incredible work of Canadian organizations, and their global partners, in global health and gender equality. Through our position as a network of multiple leading stakeholders in this area, we have the opportunity to create the enabling environment and partnerships that will directly address the most urgent concerns of our sector.

Therefore, CanWaCH invites Canadian leaders in global health and gender equality to join us in aligning our shared expertise to create the first **Canadian Collaborative for Global Health** (the 'Collaborative'). The Collaborative, and its approach, is a direct response to the aforementioned challenges, and aims to build on Canada's unique strengths to generate the knowledge, solutions, capacity, and partnerships needed in the coming decade and beyond.

B. The Initiative: Canadian Collaborative for Global Health

With support from Global Affairs Canada, CanWaCH is establishing the **first Canadian Collaborative for Global Health** (the 'Collaborative'). Over the next two years, the Collaborative will bring together Canadian and global partners to generate solutions to urgent data challenges in global health and gender equality where (a) Canada has made significant contributions to date; and (b) significant gaps in data capacity, knowledge, or resources remain. This effort is rooted in a feminist approach to creating lasting change, and will enable Canada to meaningful progress towards the SDGs.

The Collaborative has three core objectives:

1. **Investigate** the underlying barriers to effective data progress in areas of global health and gender equality;
2. **Incubate** useful solutions and effective partnerships to address these challenges; and
3. **Inspire** and train the next generation of Canadian leadership in global health and gender equality metrics.

CanWaCH contends that, through adopting this 3-pronged approach in an explicitly feminist manner (see section E below), Canada can create the enabling environment needed to ensure Canada's continued excellence as a feminist, collaborative, and innovative leader in health and rights worldwide, and that this excellence will lead to our success in achieving global goals in health and gender equality.

As a result of the Collaborative, three key outcomes are expected:

1. **Improved understanding** of barriers affecting data collection, analysis, utilization, and communication.
2. **Increased availability** of solution(s) and quality partnerships to inform programing, planning, and learning.
3. **Enhanced capacity** of future researchers, civil society professions, and in-country leaders to collect, analyze, communicate, and use data effectively.

C. The Collaborative structure and required components of work:

Through this Request For Proposals, CanWaCH invites co-created submissions for 'Labs' to tackle a critical data challenge in global health and gender equality, and propose a solution to address this challenge. Solutions will be rigorously tested, leveraging the skills and strengths of all Lab partners. Finally, Labs will create useful capacity-building resources to share their solutions with other Canadian organizations and partners. Labs will be independent sites comprised of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including Canadian research institutions and Canadian civil-society organizations.

The following outputs are expected from each Lab.

- **Output 1: Investigative Inquiry:** Undertake rigorous research on the data challenge which the Lab seeks to address, including documenting existing approaches, to fully situate, support, and assess the proposed solution.
 - *Questions:* What are the data methodology, capacity, and resource challenges/gaps that impede achievement of the relevant global goal(s)? How does the proposed solution directly address these gaps?
- **Output 2: Pilot or Scale of Solution:** Produce and pilot solutions to address the identified data gaps, leveraging interdisciplinary partnerships.
 - *Questions:* What are the advantages and limitations of the proposed solutions? How does the solution perform in different contexts? How can organizations build effective, quality partnerships in these contexts? How do these partnerships enable success?
- **Output 3: Building Capacity:** Develop the means by which data professionals and practitioners can learn about and be trained in the use of the solution(s) and its implications for their work.
 - *Questions:* How might this solution be shared with and implemented by the Canadian and global community to improve data quality? How will uptake of this solution enable success among different stakeholders?

Please note that solutions do not necessarily have to involve the creation of entirely new approaches. Where applicable, Labs are encouraged to demonstrate how their work will leverage existing resources to demonstrate different or increased utility. Overall, proposals must demonstrate a strong gender equality orientation, and must demonstrate alignment with globally accepted frameworks, particularly the SDGs.

D. Topics of Interest

CanWaCH has identified several priority topics of interest, and envisions that the selected Labs will address one or more of the following challenges. These are framed in an open-ended way, so as to encourage creative and user-driven approaches:

1. Creating unique, interdisciplinary, or diverse ways of programming, evaluating, and communicating outcomes.

2. Measuring gender transformative outcomes and addressing systemic barriers to effective measurement.
3. Developing approaches that work in challenging contexts or with specific marginalized communities.
4. Tracking outcomes in challenging contexts or short-time frames.
5. Engaging, relevant, participatory, and accessible data sharing processes that can be utilized by communities to drive change.

In addition, CanWaCH specifically encourages submissions for Labs which:

- Tests their solutions in geographic regions where Canada has made major investments.
- Proposes solutions for work in fragile contexts or humanitarian settings.
- Focuses on topics where Canada has demonstrated expertise and extensive programming, so that the solution(s) can be most widely used (ex: sexual and reproductive health and rights, early adolescent health, refugee populations, etc).

Notwithstanding the above, CanWaCH will also accept submissions on other critical data gaps identified by potential applicants, which reflect global priorities and expertise.

E. A Feminist Approach

Through the Collaborative, CanWaCH is committed to transformational change, which requires reimagining and reshaping traditional models of research, programming, evaluation, and building capacity. The Collaborative is driven by four key principles of feminist learning and action – the Collaborative aims to be:

- Participatory & Interconnected
- Co-Created & User-Driven
- Inclusive & Intersectional
- Action-Oriented & Change Driven

The Collaborative models these principles by ensuring a supportive and interconnected environment within and between Labs. Alongside their projects, Labs will be resourced and supported with hands-on evaluation, public engagement, and knowledge exchange assistance throughout their projects, provided by CanWaCH and others.

F. Required and Eligible Organizations

For each application, there is no maximum number of participating organizations. The minimum number of participating organizations is two (2), which should include: one (1) Canadian-registered civil society organization; and one (1) Canadian-based research institution.

Each partnership must designate one lead applicant who will submit the proposal to CanWaCH. Not all partners in the proposal need to be members or be Canadian-based. The lead applicant must demonstrate a track record of managing project budgets and activities of a similar size and scope to those being proposed, and will be responsible for submitting all required reports. The lead applicant may be either a Canadian civil-society organization or a Canadian research institution.

CanWaCH strongly encourages applications that show commitment to engaging diverse partnerships and non-traditional actors. Multi-partnered proposals will be considered favourably. Partners may include, but not be limited to: small- to medium-sized civil society organizations*, large civil society organizations*, academic institutions, and in-country civil society, institutions, local government stakeholders, and/or community groups. Where work is happening in specific countries, preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate solid, existing partnerships with local organizations or institutions in those countries, and outline clearly the role of each partner.

**For the purposes of this proposal, organizations may self-identify as a small, medium, or large civil society organization. There is no pre-established definition in terms of operating budget.*

G. To submit an application

Detailed submission instructions, including information on budget, proposal components, and deadlines, are available at:

www.canwach.ca/articles/sector-news/canadian-collaborative-global-health

For more information, contact Jessica Ferne, Manager Global Health Impact: jferne@canwach.ca

This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada.



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