

Canada's SDG Progress (VNR 2023)



SDG 1	NO POVERTY End poverty in all its forms everywhere
1. Opportunity for All: Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government launched a comprehensive strategy with ambitious targets, aiming for a 20% reduction in poverty by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2030, relative to 2015 levels.
2. Emergency Income Support Programs (COVID-19 Response)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the economic impact of COVID-19, the government introduced various emergency response benefits, including the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Canada Recovery Benefit, Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit, and Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit. These programs helped prevent many Canadians from experiencing poverty during the pandemic.
3. Affordability Plan for Canadians (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address rising inflation, the government released an Affordability Plan, providing additional support, including measures to improve housing affordability and help pay for dental care for children up to 12 years old.
4. Improving Measurement of Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts were made to strengthen poverty measurement, including the adoption of an Official Northern Market Basket Measure methodology for northern territories and the development of a provisional measure for the Inuit population in the territory of Nunavut.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The increase in inflation, particularly in 2021, impacted poverty rates as the cost of goods and services needed for a basic standard of living became more expensive, affecting vulnerable populations. As Canada continues its recovery from COVID-19, there is a need to assess and address gaps in social protection systems to ensure they meet the evolving needs of Canadians at risk of poverty. Despite overall progress, certain groups, such as non-elderly persons living alone, Indigenous people, and persons with disabilities, remain at a higher risk of living in poverty, requiring targeted interventions.
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SDG 2	ZERO HUNGER End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
1. Harvesters Support Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced in 2020, this grant supports Indigenous harvesters, fostering a return to traditional diets, reducing reliance on store-bought foods, and promoting food sharing activities.

2. Food Policy for Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2019, this policy aims to ensure access to safe, nutritious, and culturally diverse food while promoting resilient and innovative food systems.
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Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadians face increased strain due to inflation and economic factors, leading to concerns about food insecurity, especially in vulnerable households. Global conflict has implications for food security worldwide, necessitating initiatives to address immediate financial pressures and strengthen food and social systems. The government's commitment to developing a National School Food Policy aims to explore ways to provide nutritious food to more Canadian children at school.
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SDG 3	GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
1. Canada Dental Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2022, this interim benefit provides direct payments for eligible children under 12, addressing inequities in accessing dental care services.
2. Trade and Health Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada's leadership in the Ottawa Group on WTO reform contributed to a Trade and Health Initiative, promoting cooperation to strengthen global supply chains for essential medical goods during the pandemic.
3. Affordability Plan for Canadians (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address rising inflation, the government released an Affordability Plan, providing additional support, including measures to improve housing affordability and help pay for dental care for children up to 12 years old.
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Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth, Indigenous people, Black and racialized Canadians, and 2SLGBTQI+ community members face significant mental health challenges, with an increase in symptoms of depression, anxiety, or PTSD during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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SDG 4	QUALITY EDUCATION Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
1. Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Canada invested close to \$30 billion over five years to build a Canada-wide ELCC system, working with

	provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners. This includes reducing child care fees for children under six to an average of \$10 a day and creating 250,000 new child care spaces by March 2026.
2. Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government implemented initiatives to make PSE more affordable and accessible. This includes the Canada Student Financial Assistance (CSFA) Program, Canada Apprentice Loan (CAL), Apprenticeship Grants, and temporary measures during the COVID-19 pandemic to support students financially. The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) provided financial support to post-secondary students affected by the pandemic.
3. Indigenous Education Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctions-based Indigenous strategies were announced to increase access and success for Indigenous students. Investments were made in 2019 to fund First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation post-secondary education strategies. Additionally, a Task Force on Northern PSE was created to address barriers in accessing PSE in the Canadian North.
4. Canada Service Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2018, the Canada Service Corps program promotes civic engagement among youth aged 15 to 30 by providing funding to organizations offering volunteer service opportunities. Participants gain skills and leadership experience while making a difference in their communities.
5. International Support for Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada invested over \$1.3 billion between 2018 and 2021 in access to safe, quality, gender-responsive education and skills training globally. This includes contributions to the Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls, and Women in Developing Countries.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite progress, equity issues persist in Canada's education system. Gaps exist in high school completion rates for Indigenous populations, access to education in the Canadian North, and declining rates for youth with disabilities as they transition to adulthood. Groups facing socio-economic disadvantages, such as persons with disabilities, people in rural and remote areas, recent immigrants, and Indigenous people, may experience gaps in education and learning attainment
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SDG 5	GENDER EQUALITY
	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girl
1. Global Gender Gap Ranking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2022, Canada was ranked 25th globally according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report.
2. Representation in Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The representation of women in federal Parliament increased to 30.6% in 2022, up from 27.0% in 2018. Women accounted for nearly half (48.7%) of the members of the federal Cabinet in 2022.

3. International Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's feminist approach to international engagement includes being a top-ranked donor for aid supporting gender equality and advocating for women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and the rights of 2SLGBTQI+ people.
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Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite progress, critical barriers remain, including gender-based violence, economic inequalities, and disparities in workforce participation. • Women continue to shoulder a larger percentage of unpaid domestic and care work.
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SDG 6	CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
1. First Nation Water and Wastewater Enhanced Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021–2022, \$1.29 billion was committed for two years, focusing on lifting remaining LTDWAs on reserve and supporting new water and wastewater capital projects.
2. Global Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada supports international efforts for clean water and sanitation. Contributions to the ACT Accelerator and UNICEF address WASH in the context of COVID-19.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased precipitation events linked to climate change pose challenges for stormwater management, contributing to water pollution. • Global shortages due to the pandemic and conflicts may impact project schedules and funding availability, affecting the ability to meet target lift dates for remaining LTDWAs on reserve.
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SDG 7	AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
1. Renewable Energy Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program (SREPs) has allocated \$1.56 billion for 73 projects, adding over 2,700 megawatts of renewable energy. An additional \$3 billion funding, including for SREPs, was announced in Budget 2023.
2. 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ERP aims to reduce emissions to at least 40% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, with \$9.1 billion in new spending. Initiatives include clean and affordable energy investments, renewable electricity, small modular reactors, and grid modernization.

3. Canada Greener Homes Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2021, it supports energy-efficient home retrofits, including the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program, helping low-to-median income homeowners switch to efficient heat pumps.
4. Sustainable Jobs Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interim Sustainable Jobs Plan aims to advance economic prosperity and ensure workers benefit from a low-carbon economy. It outlines the government's intent to introduce legislation for a Sustainable Jobs Action Plan every five years starting in 2025.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global shortages of supplies, equipment, and capacity, resulting from the pandemic and international conflict may impact project schedules and the federal government's ability to provide sufficient funding, affecting the ability to meet previously-established target lift dates for the remaining long-term drinking water advisories on reserve. Energy production is identified as one of the dominant contributors to climate change, accounting for about 80% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. This underscores the challenge of reaching net-zero emissions in Canada.
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SDG 8	<p style="text-align: center;">DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>
1. Future Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2019, the Future Skills initiative helps Canadians take advantage of new opportunities, better prepare for jobs of the future, and supports employers in accessing a skilled workforce. This initiative acknowledges the impact of technological progress, new business models, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic on workplaces and expectations at work.
2. Pay Equity Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, the Government of Canada implemented the Pay Equity Act, reinforcing its commitment to closing the gender wage gap. The act ensures that workers in federally regulated workplaces receive equal pay for work of equal value.
3. Labour Market Development Agreements and Workforce Development Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Canada has been providing approximately \$3 billion annually through these agreements to provincial and territorial governments. This funding aims to support individuals and employers in obtaining skills training and employment supports, promoting job creation, and addressing systemic barriers to labour market participation.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada faces economic challenges such as inflation, the changing nature of work, an aging population, and labour shortages. These factors are expected to impact the country's labour market and economic growth. • While the overall unemployment rate has improved, specific groups, including newcomers, Indigenous people, and racialized groups, continue to experience higher unemployment rates. Young Canadians, in particular, faced more job losses during the pandemic than other age demographics.
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SDG 9	<p align="center">INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</p>
1. Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2016, Canada has significantly increased the number of zero-emission vehicle charging and refuelling stations, making low-carbon transportation options more accessible. Support has been provided for electric vehicle chargers, natural gas stations, and hydrogen stations.
2. Investment in Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various programs, including the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program, aim to improve the resilience of communities, support the transition to a clean growth economy, and enhance social inclusion.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's investment in research and development (R&D) fell below the OECD average in 2021, accounting for 1.70% of the GDP. This is lower than the 3 previous years and substantially less than the OECD average of 2.5%. The challenge is to enhance R&D investment for scientific research and technological capabilities. • Although total expenditures on R&D grew almost 10% between 2018 and 2021, the proportion of R&D to GDP has declined, limiting progress toward the target of enhancing scientific research and upgrading technological capabilities in industrial sectors.
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SDG 10	<p align="center">REDUCED INEQUALITIES Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>
1. Old Age Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The age of eligibility for Old Age Security was restored from 67 to 65, preventing about 100,000 future seniors from falling into poverty. The Guaranteed Income Supplement for the lowest-income single seniors was enhanced, benefiting nearly 900,000 seniors.
2. Anti-Racism Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada is actively working to eliminate racism through initiatives like the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat, investments in the

	Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, the introduction of the Accessible Canada Act, and the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
3. Supporting Black Canadian Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investments in the Black Entrepreneurship Program, the Black-Led philanthropic Endowment Fund, and the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative aim to empower Black-led and Black-serving community organizations.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full effects of COVID-19, including the subsequent phasing-out of emergency income support measures, are not yet fully known. Increases in the cost of living post-COVID-19 are affecting the ability of many families and individuals to afford basic necessities. The spotlight on discrimination indicates an increase in police-reported hate crimes in Canada, with a significant rise in incidents targeting race or ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. Addressing discrimination remains a challenge.
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SDG 11	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
1. National Housing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2017, the National Housing Strategy is an \$82-billion plan to improve housing accessibility, recognizing the right to adequate housing as a fundamental human right. The strategy includes the National Housing Council and the Federal Housing Advocate to promote participation and inclusion in housing policy.
2. Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to COVID-19, the RHI, now a \$4-billion initiative, facilitates the rapid construction of housing and acquisition of existing buildings to create permanent affordable housing. As of December 2022, it has committed to supporting the creation of nearly 10,250 new affordable units.
3. Emergency Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019, Canada launched its Emergency Management Strategy: Toward a Resilient 2030, building on principles articulated in the Emergency Management Framework and the Sendai Framework to strengthen disaster response and recovery.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges related to the long-term impacts of the pandemic and the need for additional housing units require sustained efforts.
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SDG 12	RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
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1. Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada is making progress toward sustainable consumption and production patterns by promoting the adoption of ZEVs. The Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) program has helped over 189,000 Canadians and businesses transition to ZEVs, with a goal of having ZEVs represent 30% of new light-duty vehicle sales by 2030 and 100% by 2035.
2. International Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada is actively advocating for the transition to a circular economy for plastics both domestically and internationally. It is a member of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution and continues to support the Ocean Plastics Charter and the Global Plastic Action Partnership.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cross-cutting nature of production and consumption patterns poses challenges, and Canada's transition to a more circular economy is essential for meeting growing demand, supporting the clean energy transition, and unlocking opportunities for employment, economic growth, and pandemic recovery.
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SDG 13	CLIMATE ACTION Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
1. Emissions Reduction Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada has implemented a comprehensive set of measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This includes the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, which introduced various policies and programs across sectors to achieve emissions reductions.
2. Climate Plans and Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada published the climate plan "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy" in 2020, which included 64 new and strengthened policies and investments. The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act was adopted in 2021, enshrining enhanced emission reduction targets.
3. Methane Reduction Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada joined the Global Methane Pledge in 2021, committing to reduce human-caused methane emissions by at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030. The government estimates that domestic methane emissions will be reduced by more than 35% between 2020 and 2030.
4. Net-Zero Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, enacted in 2021, legally commits Canada to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The Act includes a 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan released in 2022.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite progress, Canada experienced a rebound in emissions in 2021 following the economic recovery from the pandemic. The
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	<p>challenge is to sustain emission reductions amid economic activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities across Canada are facing the devastating impacts of climate change, including extreme temperatures, wildfires, heatwaves, droughts, and flooding. These events highlight the urgency of addressing climate change.
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SDG 14	<p>LIFE BELOW WATER</p> <p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>
1. Ocean Protection Plan (OPP):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's Ocean Protection Plan (OPP), launched in 2016 and renewed in 2022 with an additional \$2 billion commitment, enhances marine safety and environmental protection. The OPP focuses on marine incident prevention, emergency response, recovery, and ecosystem protection.
2. Whales Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's Whales Initiative, renewed in 2023, supports the recovery of North Atlantic right whales, Southern Resident Killer whales, and St. Lawrence Estuary beluga. It addresses threats such as underwater noise, entanglements, collisions, prey availability, and contaminants.
3. Ghost Gear Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ghost Gear Program addresses marine litter and plastic waste. Between 2020 and 2023, the program helped remove over 17,655 units of fishing gear, totaling 1,684 tonnes. Canada actively participates in international efforts to address plastic pollution.
4. Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada enforces the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations, focusing on preventing prohibited species from entering the country. The Overland Watercraft Transportation Protection Pilot was launched in 2022 to improve biosecurity at international borders.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite progress, challenges remain, including reversing the decline in the health of ocean and coastal habitats and restoring the health and sustainability of living marine resources.
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SDG 15	<p>LIFE ON LAND</p> <p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>
1. Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada is implementing a collaborative approach with provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other partners to protect and

	<p>recover species at risk. Eleven federal-provincial-territorial priority places have been established</p>
2. National Priority Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments of over \$5 billion in Natural Climate Solutions and \$2.3 billion in Canada's Nature Legacy. • Progress toward conserving 25% of lands, working toward 30% by 2030, including establishing new national parks and marine conservation areas. • Protection and recovery of wildlife and species at risk. • Development and implementation of nature agreements with provinces and territories. • Support for Indigenous-led area-based conservation through the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. • Enhancing Canadians' access to nature, creating jobs in nature conservation, and planting 2 billion trees.
3. International Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) through funding and institutional support. • Allocation of at least 20% of the five-year \$5.3 billion climate finance commitment to nature-based climate solutions in developing countries. • Hosting COP15 to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, leading to the adoption of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework. • Financial commitments, including \$350 million in new funding to support developing countries in biodiversity efforts.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The processes for establishing protected and conserved areas are time-consuming and complex, requiring planning, negotiation, and coordination. Many new areas needed are on provincial, territorial, and Indigenous lands.
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SDG 16	<p>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>
1. National Priority Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Justice Secretariat: Established in 2019 to advocate for initiatives aligned with SDG 16 and pursue a people-centered approach to justice. • Reconciliation and Inclusive Society: Efforts to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, eliminate racism and discrimination, and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. International Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace and Stabilization Operations Program: Disbursed \$135.8 million to promote peace and stability in fragile and conflict-affected states. • Gender-Responsive Approaches: Canada supports inclusive and gender-responsive approaches to promote peace and prevent conflicts, exemplified by the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations.
3. Inclusion in National Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2022–24 National Action Plan on Open Government includes commitments to Justice and Democracy and Civic Space, emphasizing the importance of building strong, open, and inclusive institutions.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing the critical need for data, including disaggregated data, Canada is working on various data collection and research initiatives to address legal needs and disparities in the criminal justice system.
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SDG 17	PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
1. Inclusive Trade Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's Inclusive Trade Agenda supports an equitable multilateral trading system. The government committed \$60 million over 13 years to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda under the SDG Funding Program, with allocations to various projects.
2. Indo-Pacific Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in 2022, this strategy outlines a comprehensive roadmap for deepening Canada's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. It includes initiatives like expanded Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development programs, support for the Powering Past Coal Alliance, and measures against illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific.
3. Social Innovation and Social Finance (SI/SF) Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in 2019, this strategy includes a \$100 million investment in the Investment Readiness Program and a \$755 million commitment to the Social Finance Fund to support Social Purpose Organizations (SPOs). The focus is on promoting social equity and helping SPOs address social and environmental issues.
4. International Assistance Innovation Program (IAIP) and Sovereign Loans Program (SLP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in 2019, these programs aim to maximize financing for the SDGs. Canada has committed nearly \$300 million to IAIP initiatives, supporting climate-smart agriculture, infrastructure financing, and gender-lens investing.

5. FinDev Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched in 2018, FinDev Canada provides financial services to the private sector in developing countries, focusing on poverty reduction, job creation, women's economic empowerment, and climate change mitigation.
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Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While Canada has increased its ODA, it remains substantially below the target of 0.7% of ODA/GNI. Among G7 countries, Canada ranks fifth in the share of GNI attributed to net ODA, and among OECD countries, it ranks 14th.• Although the SDG Funding Program allocates funds to various projects, achieving the full 0.7% target remains a challenge.• Canada faces challenges in adapting to and addressing the global context of multiple crises, including climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
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