

Canada

African Union

Topic 1 - Access to Education for Women and Girls

Education is a necessity for all people, male and female. However, there are many countries, especially in Africa, which deny many young girls their right to an education. Only two countries in Sub-Saharan Africa provide an equal opportunity to an education to both boys and girls.¹ “Of the 123 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who cannot read or write, 61 percent of them are women.”² Everyone should have the right to an education, and there are many benefits to providing education for young girls, “Adolescent girls that attend school delay marriage and childbearing, are less vulnerable to disease including HIV and AIDS.”

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Canada is a country inhabited by over 35 million people, with over half of them being women.⁴ With a literacy rate of 99% in people over the age of 15,⁵ Canada understands how important an education is. While providing education to women is not an issue in Canada, as, “64.8% of working-age women now have a post-secondary education, compared with 63.4% of

¹ http://www.unicef.org/education/bege_70640.html

² <http://abcnews.go.com/International/10-facts-girls-education/story?id=20474260>

³ http://www.unicef.org/education/bege_70640.html

⁴ <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11475-eng.htm>

⁵ <http://www.countryreports.org/country/Canada/education.htm>

men.”⁶ Canada understands that education is very important for everyone, and gives people a better chance to succeed.

Canada knows that women should have the ability to get an education. It is very important that the committee come up with a plan to solve the issue in Africa. Canada wishes to not only bring education to women in these countries, but to improve the quality of the education given to all people. “... completion of primary school is no guarantee that children have acquired basic academic skills.”⁷ We need to know that women aren’t just getting an education, but a good education. As long as education is provided to one generation, it is very likely that it will continue to be provided to women. “Educated mothers are more than twice as likely to send their children to school.”⁸ Canada looks to help provide women the education that they need and deserve.



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Topic 2 - Foreign Direct Investment in Africa

Foreign Direct Investment is an important way to jump-start business and economies in non-developed nations. They can help small business grow and help people start new ones.

⁶ <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/more-women-than-men-have-post-secondary-education-1.1358656>

⁷ <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues33/>

⁸ <http://abcnews.go.com/International/10-facts-girls-education/story?id=20474260>

“Foreign direct investment (FDI) has proved to be resilient during financial crises.”⁹ FDI flows in Africa have increased to five times their level in 2000.¹⁰ FDI has many benefits versus other forms of flow of capital. “... international flows of capital reduce the risk faced by owners of capital by allowing them to diversify their lending and investment.”¹¹

While Canada is not a major provider of FDI in Africa, it does take provide it in other regions of the world. Canada has given over 800 billion dollars in FDI around the world, and knows that it can help many people start or grow their businesses in Africa. However, it is possible that people could become too dependent on FDI, this can lead to countries using “promises of aid (or threats of stopping aid) to pressure recipients into adopting the political or economic policies preferred by the donor.”¹² While FDI can be an important form of support for small business owners, it can also prevent some small business from thriving. “Foreign firms from developed nations typically dominate the local market, preventing or discouraging the development of local industries”¹³

To prevent dependency on foreign aid, Canada supports the use of micro-loans to help local businesses. A micro-loan is a small loan ranging from 500 to 100,000 USD, used to start small businesses.¹⁴ Unlike commercial loans, no collateral is required for micro-loans.¹⁵ This makes micro-loans seem like a risky investment, however, the global repayment rate on micro-loans is 95%.¹⁶ There are about twenty microfinance programs in Canada helping to

⁹ <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2001/06/loungani.htm>

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<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2015/06/30/africa-still-poised-to-become-the-next-great-investment-destination>

¹¹ <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2001/06/loungani.htm>

¹² <https://www.britannica.com/topic/foreign-dependency>

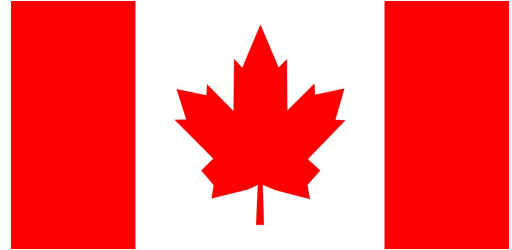
¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ <https://www.kabbage.com/blog/what-are-micro-loans/>

¹⁵ <http://kickloans.org/repayment-rate/>

¹⁶ Ibid.

provide funds to people who can not get a traditional loan. Canada looks forward to coming up with a solution to the Foreign Direct Investment problems in Africa.



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Topic 3 - Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments

Corruption is a huge problem in most African countries, as, “Forty out of [Sub-Saharan Africa’s] 46 countries show a serious corruption problem.”¹⁷ Many of these corrupt countries are dealing with major conflicts. Angola, for example, “70 per cent of the population live on US\$2 a day or less. One in six children die before the age of five – making it the deadliest place in the world to be a child.”¹⁸

Canada ranks ninth in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Ranking.¹⁹ Corruption is not a prevalent issue in Canada, but the country does acknowledge that corruption can prevent development of a country, due to a lack of possible foreign funding.²⁰ Corruption needs to be stopped in order to improve under-developed countries. Nonetheless, there is not much that Canada can do to help aside from providing monetary support.

¹⁷ <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2015/>

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ <https://www.unodc.org/islamicrepublicofiran/en/impact-of-corruption.html>

This conference not only needs to stop corruption, but replace these corrupt government. If the corrupt government is overthrown and then left alone, anarchy will ensue. The corrupt government must be replaced by a new, stable, democratic government. While corruption is a very compelling issue, it is not the most important issue that this committee has to solve.