

Aid tables

Introduction

The data on aid used in this Report are derived from the OECD International Development Statistics (IDS) databases, which record information provided annually by all member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The IDS comprise the DAC database, which provides aggregate data, and the Creditor Reporting System (CRS), which provides project- and activity-level data. In this Report, total figures for official development assistance (ODA) come from the DAC database while those for sector-allocable aid and aid to education come from the CRS. Both are available at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.

A more extensive version of the aid tables, including total ODA per recipient and commitment figures, is available on the Report's website, www.unesco.org/en/efareport.

Aid recipients and donors

Official development assistance is public funds provided to developing countries to promote their economic and social development. It is concessional; that is, it takes the form either of a grant or of a loan carrying a lower rate of interest than is available on the market and, usually, a longer repayment period.

Developing countries are those in Part I of the DAC List of Aid Recipients: all low and middle income countries except twelve central and eastern European countries and a few more advanced developing countries.

Bilateral donors are countries that provide development assistance directly to recipient countries. Most are members of the DAC, a forum of major bilateral donors established to promote aid and its effectiveness. Non-DAC bilateral donors include China and some Arab States. Bilateral donors also contribute substantially to the financing of multilateral donors through contributions recorded as multilateral ODA.

Multilateral donors are international institutions with government membership that conduct all or a significant part of their activities in favour of developing countries. They include multilateral development banks (e.g. the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank), United Nations agencies, and regional groupings (e.g. the European Commission). The development banks

also make non-concessional loans to several middle and higher income countries; these are not counted as part of ODA.

Types of aid

Direct aid to education: aid to education reported in the CRS database as direct allocations to the education sector. Direct aid to education is the total of four subcategories: aid to basic, secondary and post-secondary education and 'level unspecified'.

Total aid to education: direct aid to education plus 20% of general budget support (aid provided to governments without being earmarked for specific projects or sectors), the latter representing the estimated 15% to 25% of budget support that typically benefits education (FTI Secretariat, 2006). Total aid to basic education is calculated by adding 10% of all general budget support to direct aid to basic education, plus half of 'level unspecified' aid to education. Hence:

- Total aid to education = direct aid to education + 20% of general budget support.
- Total aid to basic education = direct aid to basic education + 10% of general budget support + 50% of 'level unspecified' aid to education.

Sector-allocable ODA: aid allocated to a specific sector, such as education or health. It does not include aid for general development purposes (e.g. general budget support), balance-of-payments support, debt relief or emergency assistance.

Basic education: the DAC definition covers primary education, basic life skills for youth and adults, and early childhood education.

Education, level unspecified: aid related to any activity that cannot be attributed solely to the development of a single level of education. General education programme support is often reported within this subcategory.

Debt relief: includes debt forgiveness, i.e. the extinction of a loan by agreement between the creditor (donor) and the debtor (aid recipient), and other action on debt, including debt swaps, buy-backs and refinancing.

In the DAC database, debt forgiveness is reported as a grant and therefore counts as ODA.

Commitments and disbursements: a commitment is a firm obligation by a donor, expressed in writing and backed by the necessary funds, to provide specified assistance to a country or multilateral organization. Disbursements record the actual international transfer of financial resources or of goods or services. In this year's Report disbursement figures are used in the aid tables, while in previous years commitments were reported. As the aid committed in a given year can be disbursed later, sometimes over several years, the annual aid figures based on commitments cannot be directly compared to disbursements. Reliable figures on aid disbursements have only been available since 2002.

Current and constant prices: aid figures in the DAC databases are expressed in US dollars. When comparing aid figures between years, adjustment is required to compensate for inflation and changes in exchange rates. Such adjustments result in aid being expressed in constant dollars, i.e. in dollars fixed at the value they held in a given reference year. This Report presents most aid data in constant 2008 US dollars.

Source: OECD-DAC (2010).