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), as well as a growing number of donors that are not members of the committee. The IDS databases are the DAC databases, which provided project- and activity-level data. In this Report, total figures for net official development assistance (ODA) comes from the DAC database while those for gross ODA, sector-allocable aid and aid to education come from the Creditor Reporter System (CRS). Both are available at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.

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 a loan carrying a lower rate of interest than is available on the market and, usually, a longer repayment period.

A more extensive version of the aid tables including ODA per recipient is available on the Report’s website, www.efareport.unesco.org.

Types of aid

Total ODA: bilateral and multilateral aid for all sectors, as well as aid that is not allocable by sector, such as general budget support and debt relief. In Table 1, total ODA from bilateral donors is bilateral aid only, while aid as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) is bilateral and multilateral ODA.

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.

Debt relief: includes debt forgiveness, i.e. the extinction of a loan by agreement between the creditor (donor) and 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.

Country programmable aid: defined by subtracting from total gross ODA aid that:
- is unpredictable by nature (humanitarian aid and debt relief);
- entails no cross-border flows (administrative costs, imputed student costs, and costs related to promotion of development awareness, research in donor countries).

is not part of cooperation agreements between governments (food aid and aid from local governments);
• is not country programmable by donor (core funding of NGOs).

Country programmable aid is not included in the aid tables, but is used in a few places in the Report.

**Education aid**

Direct aid to education: aid to education reported in the CRS database as direct allocations to the education sector. It is the total of direct aid, as defined by the DAC, to:

• basic education, defined by the DAC as covering primary education, basic life skills for youth and adults, and early childhood education;
• secondary education, both general secondary education and vocational training;
• post-secondary education, including advanced technical and managerial training;
• education, ‘level unspecified’, which refers to any activity that cannot be attributed solely to the development of a particular level of education, such as education research and teacher training. General education programme support is often reported within this subcategory.

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) to represent the estimated 15% to 25% of budget support that typically benefits the education sector.

Total aid to basic education: direct aid to basic education, plus 10% of general budget support, plus 50% of education, ‘level unspecified’.

**Commitments and disbursements**: A commitment is a firm obligation by a donor, expressed in writing and backed by necessary funds to provide specified assistance to a country or a multilateral organization. Disbursements record the actual international transfer of financial resources or of goods and services. Starting with the 2011 Report, disbursement figures are used in the text and 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, which consequently is used as the base year.

**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, including their external value in terms of other currencies. This Report presents most aid data in constant 2011 US dollars.

**Source**: OECD-DAC, 2013.