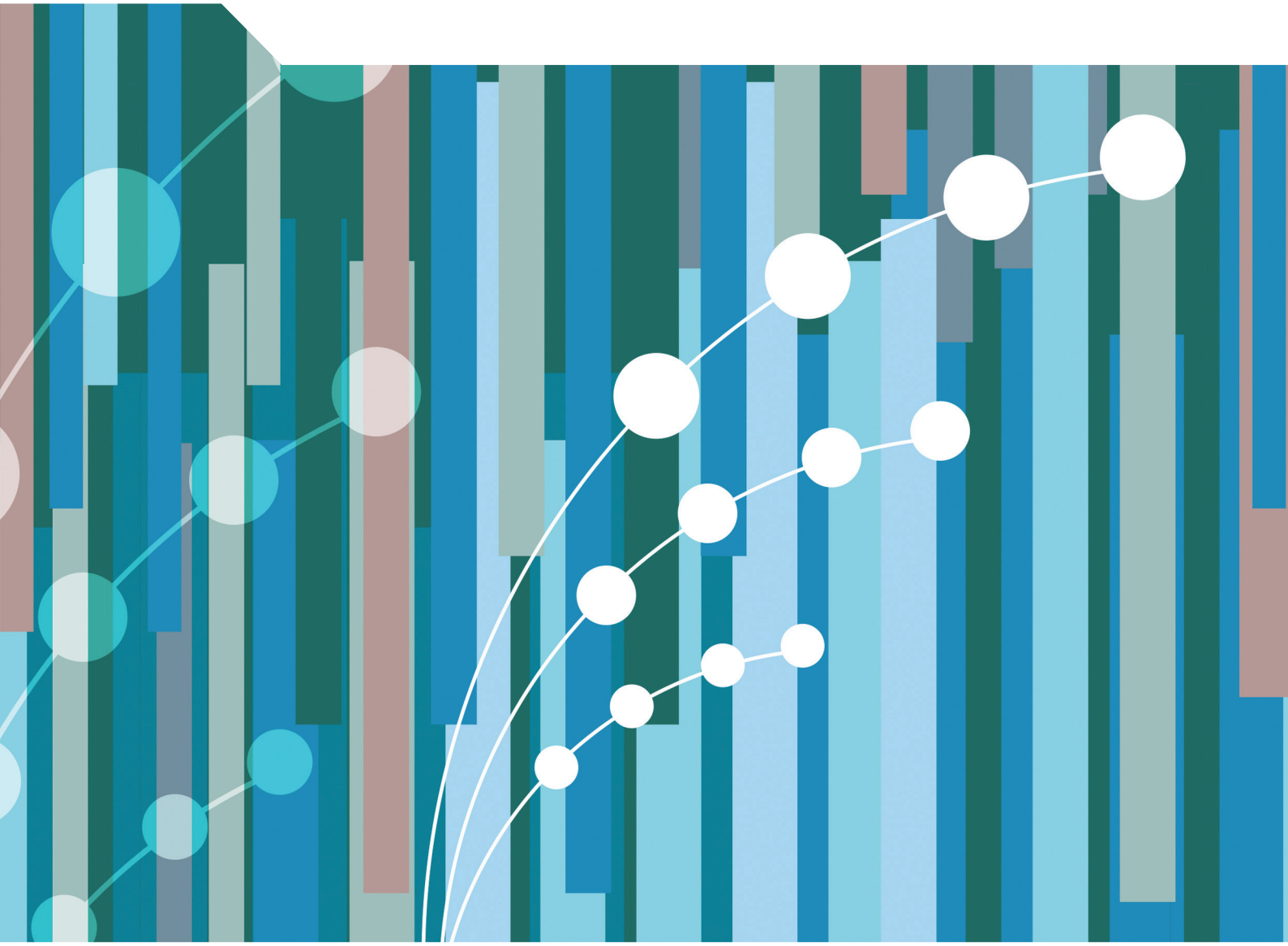
Data for Development Profiles

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR DATA AND STATISTICAL SYSTEMS



OECD

Data for Development Profiles

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR DATA AND STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Please cite this publication as:
OECD (2021), *Data for Development Profiles: Official Development Assistance for Data and Statistical Systems*, OECD Publishing, Paris, *https://doi.org/10.1787/84baa8f3-en*.

ISBN 978-92-64-53981-5 (print)
ISBN 978-92-64-59784-6 (pdf)

Preface

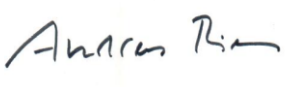
Open, inclusive, and responsible data can help to improve service delivery, ensure transparency and accountability, and drive inclusive and sustainable growth. These are critical in creating more stable, secure and prosperous countries and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Since COVID-19 struck, data have become even more critical to help countries to plan and monitor their response as well as to help them recover and build a sustainable and resilient economy.

The *Data for Development Profiles* show that providers of development co-operation, including Switzerland and the United Kingdom, are actively supporting their partner countries' efforts to build strong, national statistical systems. They provide in-depth information on how members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are doing so: from financial and technical assistance to awareness raising at the global level. In a world where there is an increasing recognition of the importance of data and where new donors are supporting capacity strengthening across the globe, the profiles are an important step for co-ordinating our efforts. We aim to work together with our shared conviction that development and development co-operation needs to be data-driven and evidence-based.

But helping partner countries build strong, national statistical systems which increase the availability and use of open, inclusive, and responsible data for policymaking, is a daunting task. We need strong political engagement alongside humility, openness to new ideas and a sustained effort to draw on the experience and knowledge of different stakeholders.

The *Data for Development Profiles* provide the knowledge base and entry points: first, most DAC members do not have a dedicated strategy to support data and statistics and many activities are part of sector programmes and projects. Second, our support will have greater impact if we act in concert with one another, share knowledge and lessons about what works and avoid duplication of efforts and fragmentation. The profiles have already sparked discussions and reflections within our institutions and provide a basis for further dialogue between providers and with their partners. Finally, development co-operation providers strive to be data-driven and evidence-based. At the same time, we must respect partners' priorities and timelines for data and statistical development, working jointly with them towards *their* vision of a thriving data ecosystem. It is our hope that the profiles will advance discussions about suitable benchmarks for effective international support for data and statistical systems, reinforcing the effectiveness principles of country ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and accountability.

While COVID-19 has demonstrated the value of data for policymaking in the face of adversity, it has also highlighted the growing divide between countries that are capable of producing and using relevant data and those that are not. We need to ensure that all countries have the data they need to emerge from the current crisis, navigate future crises and drive their development.



Andrea Ries, Senior Policy Advisor,
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,
Switzerland

Neil Jackson, Chief Statistician
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office,
United Kingdom

Foreword

The OECD is committed to contributing to a future in which timely, accurate and relevant data are available and used for sustainable development and effective development co-operation.

In 2017, the OECD's *Development Co-operation Report: Data for Development* called for stronger political leadership, greater investment and more collective action to bridge the data divide for development. In response, members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) established the *Data for Development* (D4D) work stream in the DAC Programme of Work and Budget for 2019-2020. The work stream is managed and implemented by the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) for the DAC.

The overall objectives of the work stream are to convene and moderate an international community that strengthens dialogue and interlinkages between development co-operation actors and their policies, strategies and investments in data for development and the priorities, needs, demands and expertise of statistical and data-for-development communities. Through peer exchange, knowledge sharing and enhanced co-ordination and innovation, the work stream supports the effective delivery and use of more and better data to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leave no one behind.

A large number of development co-operation providers, including most DAC members, actively engage in strengthening data and statistical systems in developing countries. To ensure that programmes, projects and technical assistance on data and statistics are adequate and effective in meeting countries' needs and data challenges, international partners have scope to share knowledge and experience, learn from each other, and identify good practices. Participants at the inaugural meeting of the work stream in December 2019 identified specific priorities for the D4D work stream: 1) the need to improve co-ordination among providers and ensure partner ownership, 2) peer learning on what works and why in donor support to development data with a view to developing good practices and 3) awareness raising and communication.

The *Data for Development Profiles* of 14 DAC members included in this publication address these priorities by providing a comprehensive overview of the "why", the "what" and the "how" of DAC members' use of ODA to support the production, dissemination and use of data and statistics in developing countries. The report also includes an introductory chapter highlighting key insights from a comparative analysis of the individual profiles and outlining priorities for collective action.

Outlining the current landscape of development co-operation for data and statistics is a foundational and essential step towards strengthening the effectiveness of this support. The comprehensive, first-ever *Data for Development Profiles* of DAC members enhance the knowledge base of how international development actors are working with countries to overcome data and statistical challenges in development. They will help raise partners (government, national statistical offices, civil society and private actors) awareness of the different strategic priorities, budget allocations and ways of working of the main official funders of data for development. These profiles serve as a baseline for strategic international dialogue for more co-ordinated and effective support that contributes to strengthened capacity and statistical systems fit for the digital era.

Acknowledgements

This first edition of the OECD *Data for Development Profiles* was prepared under the overall leadership of Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD). Rahul Malhotra, Head of the Reviews, Results, Evaluation and Development Innovation Division, DCD, provided strategic guidance. Ida Mc Donnell is the team lead of DCD's Data for Development Team.

The profiles were managed and produced by a core team comprising Ida Mc Donnell and Simon Lange, with support from Katia Grosheva, So Min Oh and Katharina Satzinger.

They were prepared for publication under the supervision of Henri-Bernard Solignac-Lecomte and Stacey Bradbury, with graphic design by Stephanie Coic and Sara Casadevall Bellés and copy-editing by Jennifer Allain. Thanks also go to Jessica Voorhees for communications support and Janine Treves for editorial advice. The team would like to thank all DCD colleagues who provided feedback and comments, especially Eleanor Carey, Harsh Desai and Giorgio Gualberti.

Special thanks go to the numerous contributors from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member organisations – ministries, development co-operation agencies and national statistical offices – who generously gave their time to provide information, feedback and comments or helped the team find people that could. They include Alison Came, Rebecca Dodd, Robyne Leven, Siobhán Pielow and Dirk Platzen (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia); Rebecca Andric (Geoscience Australia); Micheline Gilbert, Alex Guimond; Guy Mainville and Shehryar Sarwar (Global Affairs Canada); Irina Dincu (International Development Research Centre, Canada), Cara Williams (Statistics Canada); Jacob Haugaard and Tilde Hellsten (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark); Charlotte Juul Hansen (Statistics Denmark); Avis Benes, Torbioern Carlquist, Franco Conzato, Michael-John Ellis, Fiona Herdman-Smith, Giovanni Mastrogiacomo, Andreas Papadopoulos and Maria João Santos (European Commission); Simonetta di Cori and Tiziana Pellicciotti (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), Marina Gandolfo (Italian National Institute of Statistics); Yuuki Kitanaka, Ginga Kobayashi, Yurie Komine and Makiko Naemura (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan); Naomi Hara, Seiichi Negishi, Kensuke Tsuji (Japan International Cooperation Agency); Yeseung Lee (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Korea), Jandi Kim and Juho Shin (Korea Eximbank); Hege Haaland (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway), Jorun Sigrid Nossum and Hege-Hope Wade (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation), Irene Tuveng and Janne Utkilen (Statistics Norway); Ewa Kwaśnik-Ciągło and Aleksandra Styś (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland), Olga Świerkot-Strużewska (Statistics Poland); Maria Manuela Oliveira Fernandes (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal), Maria José Moura, Carolina Santos and Maria Conceição Veiga (Statistics Portugal); Katarina Westman and Anzee Hassanali (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency); Catherine Krüger (Statistics Sweden); Flavien Breitenmoser, Christoph Lang, Andrea Ries and Mirjam Rordorf Duvaux (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Thomas Stauffer (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs); Benjamin Rothen (Swiss Federal Statistical Office); Rachael Beaven, Philip Cockerill, Kerstin Hinds and Neil Jackson (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom); Mark Gautrey, Emily Poskett and Marina Wright (Office of National Statistics, United Kingdom); Aubra Anthony, Christopher Burns, Rebecca Saxton-Fox, Sarah Scholz and Christophe Tocco (United States Agency for

International Development); Mitchell Blaser and Agnieszka Rawa (Millennium Challenge Corporation, United States); and likely many more who have contributed unbeknownst to the team.

Financial support for the *Data for Development* work stream in the OECD from Switzerland and the United Kingdom is gratefully acknowledged.

Editorial

COVID-19 has tested and proved that timely and reliable data are critical for saving lives and fighting a global health pandemic. Once the data were available, policymakers could then take informed and calculated decisions about the response, researchers could get to work on medical treatments and vaccines, and citizens could make informed decisions on which precautions to take.

But COVID-19 has also revealed global divergences in the capacity of data and statistical systems to meet the demands of a global health crisis. In OECD countries, policy makers are just clicks away from robust evidence and user-friendly data and statistics to guide fast-paced decision-making. They are also equipped with the budgets, regulations and capacity to innovate and use new technologies to collect and analyse more real-time and granular data which guide and shape economic stimulus packages and measures to ensure policies and services like social protection benefits everyone, especially the most vulnerable people in society.

The reality in many developing countries is radically different. According to World Bank data, for instance, 93 low- and middle-income countries (out of 135) do not have complete data on vital events such as births and deaths, making it impossible to know what the impact of COVID-19 on mortality was with any certainty. Twenty developing countries have not conducted a population census in over a decade and 21 countries have not conducted a poverty survey in the past five years, which hampers targeting public policies such as social protection to the neediest and most vulnerable populations.

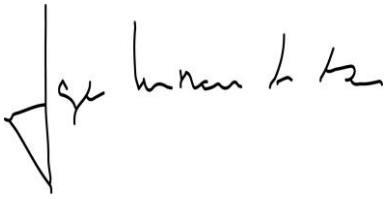
The COVID-19 crisis has made it clear that having quality data and statistics on all populations is a global concern. Just like climate change mitigation, research and financial stability, data are a global public good requiring adequate investment and governance. As we set new priorities and mobilise resources to “build back better,” we must step-up collective commitments and investments to meet countries’ needs and demand for modern, capable and more resilient data and statistical systems to ensure that everyone counts and is counted.

The OECD’s *Data for Development Profiles* show that members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) have long been engaged in improving the availability of key data and statistics in low- and middle-income countries. But supporting national statistical capacity and systems poses significant challenges. While DAC members have long recognised the principle of country ownership for sustainable results, support has at times led to fragmented or duplicative efforts that have failed to gather sufficient local buy-in. In addition, development co-operation providers find themselves faced with trade-offs between short-term data collection for project design, monitoring and evaluation and long-term, strategic investments in data and statistical systems that inform countries national development strategies. Innovations in sourcing and using data thanks to digitalisation hold great potential for guiding SDG plans and investments with greater public accountability. However, harnessing the data revolution requires capacity to engage in new partnerships and design governance frameworks to ensure data are trustworthy and privacy rights protected.

Responding effectively to these multifaceted challenges calls for more deliberate and systematic alignment and co-ordination of international co-operation for data to local needs and priorities and finding synergies

for greater impact and less waste due to duplication. Effective support must build on a deep understanding of country contexts to enable the right targeting of capacity building, technical assistance and more sustainable investments. The lessons shared in this publication show that international development actors can best champion the effective role and contribution of national data and statistical systems for sustainable development by investing over the long-term in national priorities and capacity gaps, identifying and upholding good practices and sharing evidence and insights from evaluation and research on what works and why.

The OECD is committed to supporting its members' and partners' ambition to be strong and reliable partners for evidence-minded policymakers and official statisticians. These *Data for Development Profiles* are a first and constructive step in the journey to realise this ambition: they provide rich and unique insights into how DAC members use development co-operation to strengthen data and statistical systems in low- and middle-income countries. This wealth of knowledge should be used to identify good practices, to ensure more co-ordinated, more effective support, and to help put data and statistics to work for all.



Jorge Moreira da Silva

Director,

Development Co-operation Directorate

Table of contents

Abbreviations and acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
CFM	Child Functioning Module
CPA	Country programmable aid
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
CRVS	Civil registration and vital statistics
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCLI	Data Collaboratives for Local Impact
DE	Digital Earth
DFAT	Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DfID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
EDCF	Economic Development Cooperation Fund (Korea)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (United Kingdom)
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GNI	Gross national income
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co operation
HIC	High-income country
IDM	Individual Deprivation Measure
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INE	National Institute of Statistics (Mozambique)
Istat	Italian National Institute of Statistics
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSA	Japan Subaccount
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency

KOSTAT	Statistics Korea
LIC	Low-income country
LMIC	Lower middle-income country
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Denmark)
MFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy)
MIDAM	Central Migration Data Management Solution for Jordan
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Canada)
NA	Not applicable
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (United States)
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics (Poland)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NK	Not known
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NSO	National Statistics Office (Malawi)
ODA	Official development assistance
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics in the 21st Century
PEPFAR	President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (United States)
PPP	Public-private partnership
PPPD	Programming and Policy Planning Document (Italy)
PRASC	Project for the Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean
PRESS	Partner Report on Support to Statistics
QDDR	Quadrennial Development and Diplomacy Review (United States)
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Switzerland)
Sida	Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden)
SIDS	Small island developing states
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (Canada)
TA	Technical assistance
TAPAS	Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services
TFSCB	Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (World Bank)
TYPSS	Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UMIC	Upper middle-income country

UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN SIAP	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive summary

Despite modest gains in recent years, many developing countries, especially low-income countries and fragile states, continue to lack foundational data and statistics for effective policymaking. This lack of data and statistics is evident across all statistical domains: baselines for the measurement of the size and structure of the economy are often outdated, poverty surveys are lacking or conducted infrequently, births and deaths are not registered, data on land and the environment are incomplete.

A large number of international development actors actively engage in strengthening statistical capacity and the availability and use of data and statistics in low- and middle-income countries with allocations of official development assistance (ODA) of about USD 700 million per year, equivalent to 0.3% of total ODA. Actors include most members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), international financial institutions, UN agencies, private foundations and civil society organisations. They provide different types of support, from funding for statistical operations or reforms to training and technical assistance, in line with their mandate and overarching development co-operation strategies. And they target different actors within national data ecosystems, different government entities but also data users outside of government. All of these actors are also users of development data and statistics, investing in data to guide their planning and help them monitor results.

This diversity in the international co-operation landscape raises challenges around co-ordination and coherence, especially in partner countries with low capacity to absorb different types of support and in which domestic demand for data and statistics can be low. Yet coherence is critical in an area where production requires different government entities to work together and in which the same data and statistics can generate value for many different stakeholders. The risk of fragmentation and duplication of efforts is thus substantial and their costs high. In addition, the rapid pace of innovation in the way official data are sourced, shared and used in the context of digitalisation will often mean that support to data and statistical systems will have to adapt.

Insights from the Data for Development profiles

Understanding the current state of official development assistance for data and statistics is a first step towards strengthening it. Informed by consultations with DAC members and complementary analysis of ODA flows for data and statistics since 2010, the *Data for Development Profiles* provide detailed information about DAC members' activities in support of data and statistical systems in developing countries. Five key insights from a comparative analysis of the individual profiles can inform future dialogue and peer learning for more effective support:

1. **DAC members' overarching thematic and geographic priorities drive funding of data and statistics.** A few DAC members identify the strengthening of data and statistical capacity as an overarching priority and even fewer have a dedicated team or focal point for all data and statistics-related programmes and projects. DAC members' often provide support in line with their overarching policy priorities and targeted to strategic partner countries.

2. **DAC members increasingly invest in sectoral data and statistics.** The profiles document a shift over the last decade away from core support to national statistical systems and offices towards investments in sectoral data.
3. **ODA to data and statistics is increasingly concentrated in fragile states.** DAC members' bilateral ODA has become increasingly concentrated on the African continent, in low-income countries and in fragile contexts. A larger share of country-allocable ODA is allocated to countries that face governance challenges.
4. **Project-type interventions are preferred to joint-funding mechanisms.** ODA activities in support of data and statistics in developing countries increasingly take the form of project-type interventions. Annual contributions to programmes of implementing partners (e.g. trust funds managed by multilaterals) have remained constant overall but are used by a larger group of DAC members and are becoming more diverse in terms of their objectives. Contributions to basket funds have decreased.
5. **Country ownership drives successful results.** DAC members point to the importance of country ownership to ensure that support to data and statistics is sustainable. However, tensions can arise between the role of providers as partners helping to build national data and statistical systems and users of development data.

Towards good practices in international support for data and statistical systems

The *Data for Development Profiles* provide insights on the objectives and motivations of DAC members' technical assistance, capacity building and other support for producing, disseminating and using data and statistics in developing countries. As the level of interest and investments in data-driven development through development co-operation grows, development actors will need to design holistic strategies that guide various dimensions and challenges of data and statistics for sustainable development. Data strategies should build on practice, experience and lessons focused on increasing effectiveness for more sustainable results, paying attention to three particular insights emerging in this report and across the individual country profiles:

1. Increase understanding and manage the tensions and potential trade-offs between the different drivers of ODA investments in data and statistics for sustainable development and for effective development co-operation.
2. Domestically, prioritise inter and intra-institutional co-ordination of data investment and projects to find more synergies for greater impact and more coherent agency-wide support for national statistical systems.
3. Identify and adopt international good practices that result in more coherent and effective international co-operation, that draw on peer learning and lessons, and that promote more aligned and harmonised co-operation for data for development.

Insights from the Data for Development Profiles of DAC members

Data and statistics provide the essential basis for understanding the practicalities of the development process, the interactions and feedbacks between different systems, and the factors that should shape decisions. They are vital for answering larger questions about the development process and identifying the reasons behind differential rates of growth, development and well-being. The supply of relevant, timely and usable data is essential for countries to set priorities, make informed choices and implement better policies for sustainable development. They are also a prerequisite for delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensuring that no one is left behind (OECD, 2017[1]).

Yet, the quality, availability and timeliness of basic socio-economic and demographic data remain deficient in many parts of the developing world (Lange, 2020[2]). There is a large and increasing divide in data and statistical capacity for public policy across countries and this has only been underscored during the COVID-19 pandemic. On the one hand, data have become omnipresent in peoples' lives in most advanced economies as they are used to decide, for instance, whether to re-open businesses or implement more stringent lockdowns. Key indicators of this pandemic – and with them the value of data for public policy – have become part of our collective consciousness. In many developing countries, on the other hand, the pandemic has served as a reminder of the lack of critical data, including basic data such as counts of the number of victims of the pandemic (BBC, 2021[3]) and data on its economic impact, resulting in a poor understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on people's lives and the effectiveness of policy measures, especially in low-income and fragile states (Twiwwe and Wilkinson, 2020[4]).

Development co-operation for data and statistics

Most members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), along with multilateral organisations, private foundations and other stakeholders, actively engage in strengthening data and statistical systems in developing countries (Lange, 2020[2]). Yet building capacity to produce and use data and statistics effectively continues to pose significant challenges for providers of development co-operation. First, while providers of development co-operation often have an immediate need for data to inform their programming, monitor results and evaluate impact, robust and reliable data and statistical systems can take many years to establish. This can result in a trade-off between long-term investments that address countries' needs and short-term, one-off data collection exercises that meet providers' needs but build little capacity along the way. Second, an increasing number of partners, often with different priorities and mandates, renders effective co-ordination more challenging, especially in countries in which national statistical offices lack the capacity to co-ordinate support effectively (Lange, 2020[2]).

Third, new technologies, including digitisation and mobile connectivity, are creating new ways to source, disseminate and analyse data (PARIS21, 2020[5]) and uptake of these new technologies has increased significantly during the pandemic.[1] But digital data also spark concerns over security, privacy and trust, especially in relation to data produced as a by-product of the use of digital services (World Bank, 2021[6]).[2]

Finally, official data and statistics are inherently political. When citizens have access to data and statistics and the literacy skills to use them, they play a central role in public accountability of governments and politicians, creating incentives for policy makers to manipulate data or keep them from being publicly available (Aragão and Linsi, 2020[7]; Dargent et al., 2018[8]). For providers of development co-operation, taking into account the political economy of data in a given country is important to ensure the effectiveness of support to data and statistics (Hoogeveen and Nguyen, 2019[9]) but this requires a solid understanding of political, cultural and historical contexts.

The *Data for Development Profiles* provide unprecedented detailed facts, figures and insights about individual DAC members' data- and statistics-related ODA. They share information provided by DAC members on their motivations, objectives, strategies and lessons learnt as well as an analysis of the OECD's aid flow data (see Box 1 and the methodological appendix for details on the data used for the profiles and in this chapter).

Box 1. Methodological overview and challenges

Official development assistance (ODA) for data and statistics: The data used in the profiles were extracted from the OECD's aid flow database (OECD, 2020[10]) using three different approaches. First, all activities that used the designated purpose code for statistical capacity building were included. However, ODA to data production and use, including activities that support core functions of national statistical systems such as censuses and surveys, are not necessarily recorded under this purpose code and are recorded under a wide range of different purpose codes (PARIS21, 2019[11]). Other activities were identified based on a keyword search of project titles. The results were subsequently checked manually by the OECD and made available to Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members for fact-checking. Finally, in select cases and following guidance from the relevant members, members contributed additional data to fill gaps.

Unless otherwise noted, ODA for data and statistics refers to DAC members' bilateral ODA, including earmarked funding channelled through multilateral organisations (also referred to as multi-bi aid). The ODA data do not cover DAC members' core funding of multilateral organisations, which, by definition, cannot be matched to multilaterals' development co-operation activities in support of data and statistics.

Data and statistical domains: ODA for data and statistics was classified as being in support of specific data and statistical domains modelled loosely on the Classification of Statistical Activities (UNECE, 2009[12]). Three criteria were used: 1) the aid purpose code under which activities were reported in the aid flow data; 2) select keywords; and, 3) in cases in which programmes and projects were implemented by multilateral organisations, the mandate of the implementing partner (e.g. data and statistical projects implemented by the International Monetary Fund [IMF] were assumed to be in support of economic data).

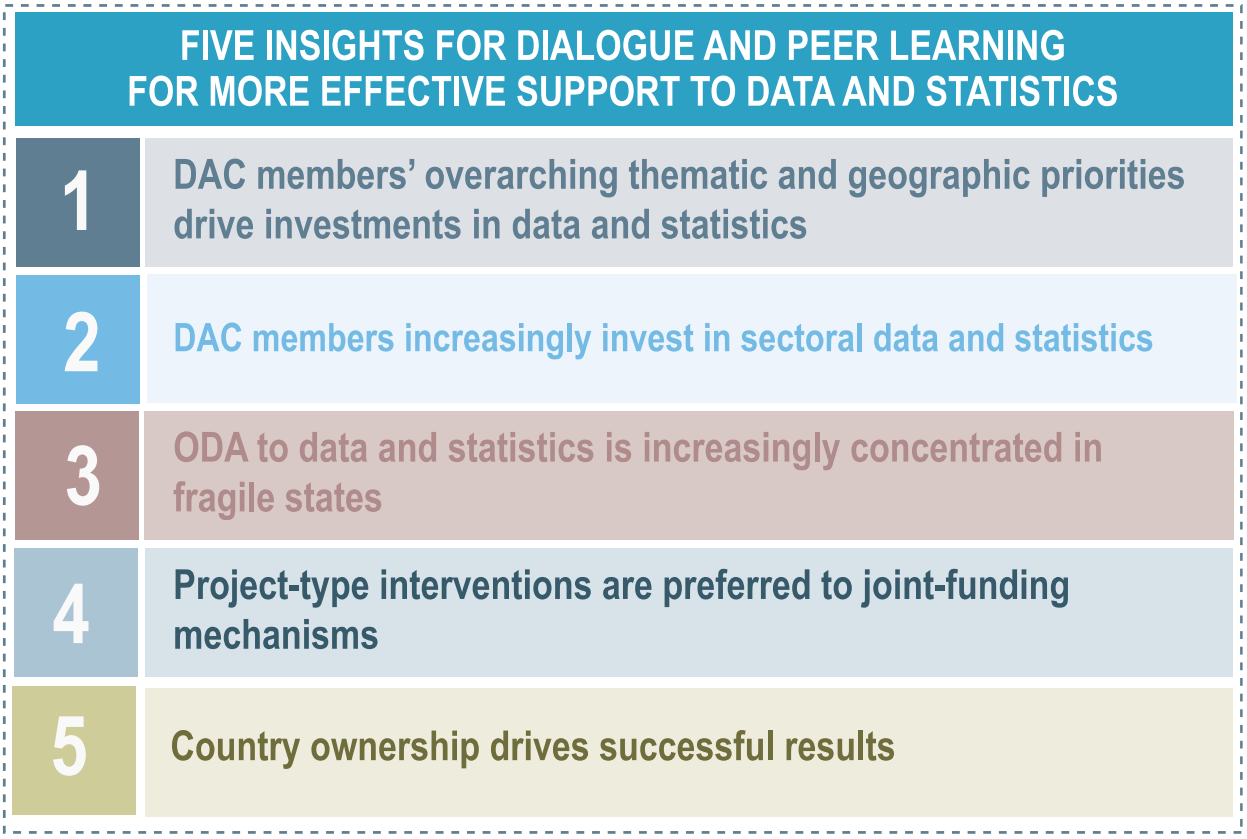
Limitations: It should be noted that there is no agreed-upon method to track ODA for data and statistics and there are limitations to the methodology employed. Importantly, as the OECD's aid flow data do not provide details on programmes and projects beyond purpose codes, project titles and descriptions, reported activities that support data and statistics as a sub-component may or may not have been included in the analysis, depending on whether the project title had one of the keywords used. In some cases, DAC members highlighted key projects that the word search method missed and these projects were added. DAC members consulted for this research have indicated that more programmes and projects have data- and statistics-related components which may be missed in the analysis due to differences in reporting and levels of detail provided. It is probable that this analysis undercounts financial support for data and statistical production, capacity development, and other support to capabilities like data literacy, visualisation, registrations, etc.

The methodological appendix provides further details, including on partner-country characteristics (income groups and fragility status) and policy markers used to identify the objectives of ODA.

Key insights from the profiles

The countries profiled in this report cover more than 90% of DAC members' total ODA to data and statistics from 2010 to 2019,[3] and provide a solid basis for comparative analysis, identifying insights and key trends. This chapter highlights five insights on the priorities, strategies, and trends in allocations by partner country, theme and sector, as well as programming modalities. They also share lessons from evaluations and practical experience (see Infographic). The chapter also explores some of the implications for the future of international support for data and statistical systems of the insights and trends identified across profiles.

Infographic 1. Data for development insights



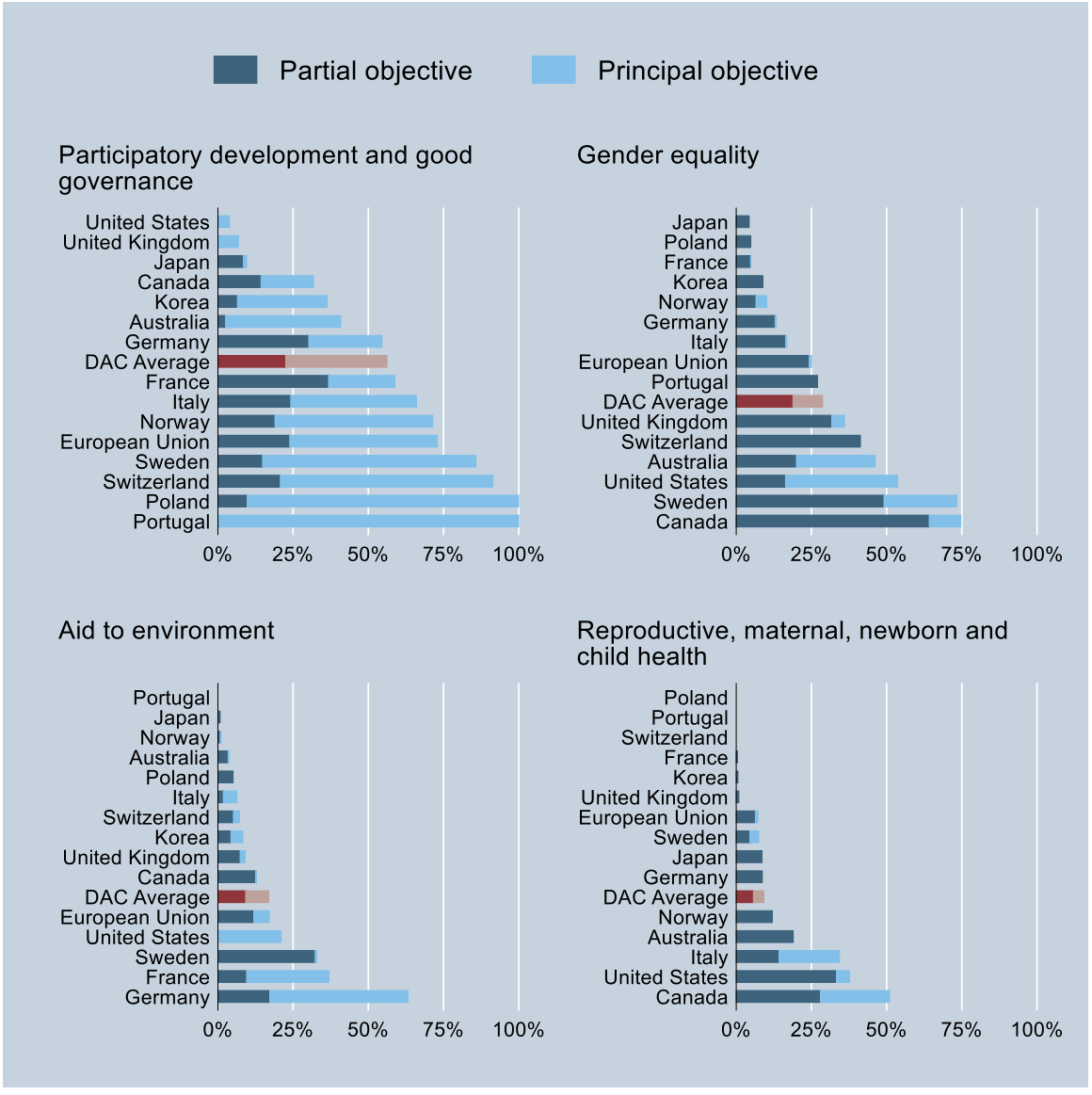
Insight # 1: DAC members' overarching thematic and geographic priorities drive funding of data and statistics

With the exception of Italy, Portugal and Sweden, overarching development co-operation strategies do not identify strengthening data and statistical capacity as a strategic priority. **Sweden**'s 2016 *Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance* (Government of Sweden, 2016[13]), for instance, defines helping to improve countries' own statistics systems as an objective in order to increase openness and transparency in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

However, the profiles show that there is often a clear link between DAC members' overarching policy priorities and the type of support for data and statistics that they provide (Figure 1). **Australia**, for instance, combines a clear regional focus with support to health and disability data in line with its overall development co-operation priorities. **Canada** focuses on population and health data to strengthen maternal and child health as part of its feminist development co-operation strategy. **Sweden**, a leader on advancing gender equality, provides training on gender statistics and supports UN Women's programming on gender data.

Switzerland's commitment to enhancing information systems and producing disaggregated data is in line with its strategic focus on those at risk of being left behind.

Figure 1. Share of DAC members' ODA to data and statistics associated with specific policy objectives, 2017-19



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Not all official development assistance flows reported to the OECD are screened and assigned policy markers. Refer to the individual country profiles for more information.

Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS)* (database), https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/glwyxf

Data-related support is spread across institutions

The data and statistical components of DAC members' programmes and projects tend to be managed by different units and divisions within one organisation and, in some cases, by different national agencies.[4] While DAC members often have a focal point for narrowly defined statistical capacity building, it is rare to have a dedicated team or focal point for all data and statistics-related programmes and projects supported by the country or development agency. Only the **United Kingdom**'s FCDO stands out for having a dedicated Development Data Team that co-ordinates activities with country offices and other government entities. The process of compiling the profiles also showed that issues related to the production, analysis and use of data are increasingly more relevant in projects that do not primarily aim to strengthen data and statistical capacity (see also Insight # 2).

Digital strategies highlight data challenges and opportunities

Nevertheless, DAC members' approaches to strengthening data and statistical systems and to using data in programme and project management appear to become more strategic – especially in the light of **digitalisation**. For example:

- In 2018, **Norway** launched *Digitalisation for Development* (Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2018[14]), a strategy for digitalisation for Norwegian development policy. Among other things, the strategy highlights the importance of strengthening public registers.
- In 2017, the **United Kingdom's** Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) (previously the Department for International Development) commissioned a *Decision-making and Data Use Landscaping* study (DFID, 2018[15]) to take stock of how FCDO teams manage, access, analyse and use internal and external data and to further inform their strategic approach to data.
- Data-driven approaches, for planning and programming, results monitoring and evaluation, are also deeply rooted in **United States'** government agencies that manage development co-operation, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. USAID's Digital Strategy, for instance, is an agency-wide strategy that includes initiatives aimed at advancing partner countries' capacity to create and use data in development and humanitarian assistance (USAID, 2020[16]) and its *Considerations for Using Data Responsibly* (USAID, 2019[17]) provides a framework for identifying and understanding risks associated with collecting, sharing and using data in USAID programmes.

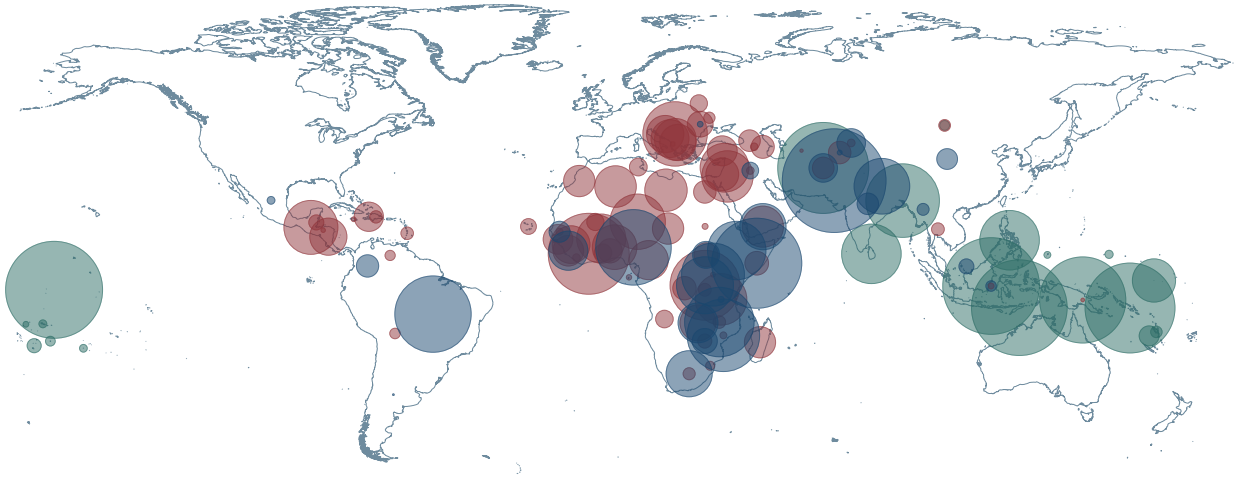
Long-standing geographic priorities bear out in support for data and statistics

In addition to the apparent alignment between DAC members' ODA to data and statistics and their overarching thematic priorities, DAC members' long-standing regional priorities also bear out in their support for data and statistics. Figure 2 illustrates geographic priorities, as captured by DAC members' country-allocable ODA for data and statistics, based on three examples from the profiles:

- **Australia**'s country-allocable ODA is concentrated in Asia, particularly Southeast Asia and the Pacific. It has no significant country-level engagement in Africa, the Americas or Europe.
- The **European Union (EU)**, on the other hand, is the key provider of co-operation in the Western Balkans and the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean, where it engaged in the context of the EU's Pre-accession Assistance programmes and the European Neighbourhood Policy. In the context of its development policy, the EU also increasingly invests in statistical systems in partner countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The **United Kingdom**'s partner countries are concentrated in Eastern Africa and South Asia, although it also has a few partner countries in Southern and Western Africa.

Figure 2. Country-allocable ODA to data and statistics by partner country, 2017-19

Australia (green), the European Union (red) and the United Kingdom (blue)



Note: Based on gross disbursements. Bubble sizes are proportional to members' gross disbursements.
Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS)* (database), https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

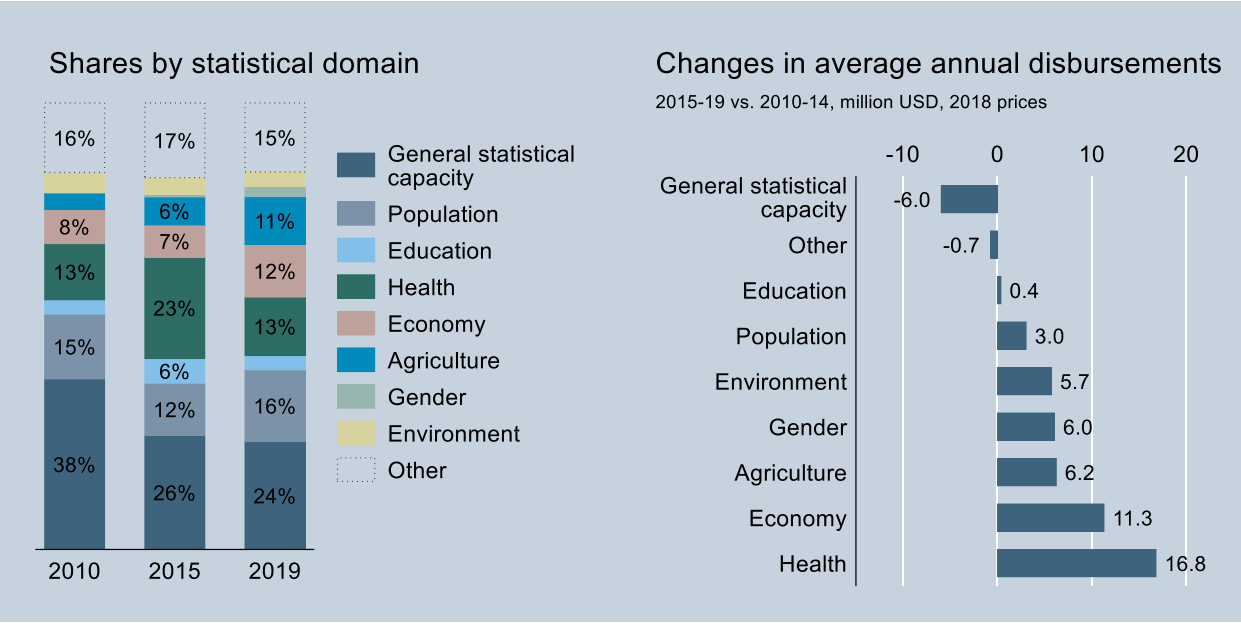
StatLink https://stat.link/wnby0j

Insight # 2: DAC members increasingly invest in sectoral data and statistics

Based on the data compiled for the profiles, DAC members' combined ODA to data and statistics – capacity building and other forms of support for data and statistics – increased in real terms, albeit only moderately, from USD 276 million in 2010 to USD 339 million in 2019 – an annual rate of growth of 2.3%. The trend for DAC members is broadly in line with findings from the most recent *Partner Report on Support to Statistics* (PRESS) by PARIS21, which estimates a total of USD 672 million in 2019 for all providers of external funding (including multilateral organisations and private foundations) and no increase in total ODA over the last ten years (PARIS21, 2020[18]).

Figure 3 shows that the moderate increase in funding for data and statistics by DAC members was not driven by increased investment in core statistical capacity, but by funding of data and statistics in other domains. While it still accounted for the largest share of ODA for data and statistics in 2019, support to general statistical capacity building declined by more than 20%, from USD 105 million in 2010 (in 2018 prices) to about USD 82 million by 2019.

Figure 3. DAC members' ODA to data and statistics by statistical domain



Note: Based on gross disbursements.
Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]) *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/3807h9

A closer look at evolutions in sectoral support

Disbursements to **population data and statistics** nearly doubled between 2010 and 2018, from USD 40 million to USD 76 million in 2018, before declining again to USD 51 million in 2019. ODA to population data tends to be cyclical, with peaks towards the end of a decade when many countries field population censuses and troughs mid-decade. At the same time, the increase in funding for population data after 2015 is also driven by increasing investment in civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS), which feature prominently in the SDGs (e.g. SDG Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration). **Canada**, **Italy** and **Switzerland** explicitly note CRVS as a priority in their profile. Starting in 2014, **Canada**, for instance, has scaled up substantially its funding of activities in support of maternal, newborn and child health as well as sexual and reproductive health rights – which often entails investments in CRVS systems.

An increase in funding of population data is also to some extent driven by a greater focus on issues around security and migration. To give one example, **Denmark's** development co-operation policy positions as priorities the respective intersections between development and security and development and migration. In line with this, Denmark has increased its investment in migration data, captured in the profiles as a subset of population data, by supporting the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement.

ODA for **health data and statistics** increased significantly between 2010 and 2015, from USD 35 million in 2010 to USD 73 million in 2015, but has since levelled off. The increase was driven mainly by the **United States** Agency for International Development (USAID), which increased investments in health data in partner countries by about USD 20 million over the entire period. Australia and the United Kingdom have also increased their investment in health data and statistics: **Australia** expanded its investment in health

data in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, while the **United Kingdom** frequently supported health and nutrition surveys in its partner countries.

Funding for **gender and environmental statistics** also increased after 2015, by USD 6 million and USD 5.7 million per year, respectively (see Figure 3). However, in both cases, the surge in funding started from a much lower base – close to zero in the case of gender statistics. Gender data and statistics are a key priority for **Australia**, **Canada** and **Sweden**, which, along with **Ireland** (not profiled), the **United Kingdom**, the **United States** and other partners support UN Women's Women Count programme. Sweden in 2016 also launched an International Training Programme in Gender Statistics to support partner countries' capacity to produce and use gender statistics.

ODA to strengthen **economic statistics** doubled between 2010 and 2019, from around USD 20 million to USD 40 million by 2019. The increase is, to a significant extent, driven by co-operation between DAC members and the IMF, for instance, in the context of the IMF's Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund.

While the profiles do not attempt to quantify ODA invested in new data such as **"Big Data"** or remote-sensing data, a survey of DAC members in 2017 found that nine DAC members had already started looking into the potential contribution of Big Data to development co-operation while six members were thinking about working with Big Data (Sanna and Mc Donnell, 2017[19]). Several profiles indicate that DAC members are investing in innovative data:

- In 2019, **Australia** helped establish Digital Earth (DE) Africa, a Geoscience Australia digital platform for the use of satellite information to address sustainable development challenges.
- **Australia**, **Denmark** and **Sweden** have all provided support in the past to the United Nations Global Pulse, the UN Secretary-General's initiative on Big Data and artificial intelligence for development, humanitarian action and peace.
- The **United Kingdom's** FCDO has teamed up with the Met Office, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States and US scientists to use NASA satellite data to accurately predict where and when cholera will spread. The United Kingdom also supports governments to collect, use and share geospatial data on population settlement and infrastructure through its Geo-referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development (GRID3) programme.

Programmatic and budget support can incentivise support for general/core statistical capacities

While changes in policy objectives and priorities during the SDG era have an impact on data demand, DAC members also note the role of aid modalities – budget support, in particular – in creating incentives to support certain types of data and statistics. Budget support, an aid modality that relies on direct funding to the recipient government's treasury, combined with high-level policy dialogue and shared monitoring and results frameworks, seems to create demand for key development indicators that can be produced by the national statistical system (Box 2). Two profiles suggest that this demand also creates incentives to invest in general statistical capacity building:

- The **United Kingdom** notes that budget support, which it relied on extensively during the first decade of the century, strengthened country offices' rationale for investing in statistical capacity development in partner countries to help them monitor progress towards national objectives. The focus shifted towards centrally managed programmes and sectoral programmes supported by country offices after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from budget support starting in 2010.
- The **European Union**, which still makes use of budget support as a modality, notes in its profile that its statistical capacity support often focuses on key economic and societal variables as these are often needed as performance indicators in budget support programmes.

While the evidence on the link between budget support and incentives to invest in core statistical systems remains anecdotal, the shift away from funding of general statistical capacity building and towards sectoral support for data and statistics is consistent with the withdrawal of European DAC members from budget support over the course of the 2010s.

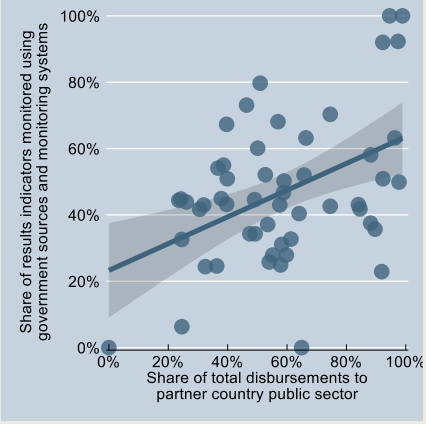
Box 2. ODA to partner countries' national budget is associated with greater uptake of government data and statistics

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation tracks progress against Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 17.15 on respecting countries' policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for the SDGs. This includes tracking uptake among providers of development co-operation of government data and statistics for results monitoring. Yet, while Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members in 2018 on average aligned 80% of their project objectives to partner country priorities, they used national data and statistics for their result monitoring only 41% of the time, down from 50% in 2016 (GPEDC, 2019[20]).

Further analysis of data from the 2016 and 2018 Global Partnership monitoring rounds shows that the share of DAC members' disbursements to the public sector is a key determinant of use of national data and statistics for project monitoring: a ten percentage point increase in the share of disbursements "on budget" is associated with a four percentage point increase in the share of results indicators drawn from government sources and monitoring systems (Figure 4). This is in line with the notion that direct funding of partner governments creates demand for government data.

Figure 4. Share of results indicators monitored using government data and statistics against share of total disbursements to the public sector

DAC members, 53 observations for 2016 and 2018



Note: Solid line based on an ordinary least squares regression. The shaded area indicates the 95%-confidence interval.
Source: Authors' calculation based on GPEDC (2018[21]) data, https://www.effectivecooperation.org/landing-page/monitoring-data.

StatLink https://stat.link/x65ctl

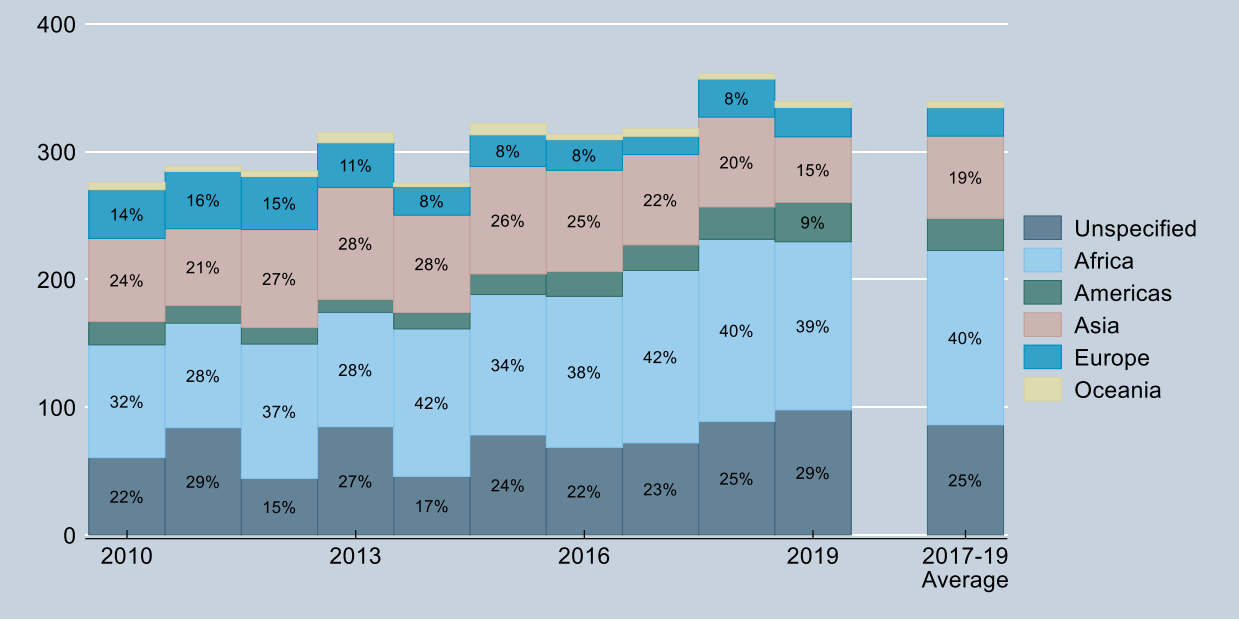
Insight # 3: ODA to data and statistics is increasingly concentrated in fragile states

ODA is increasingly concentrated in Africa...

Despite the long-standing regional priorities noted earlier (Insight # 1), DAC members annual ODA to data and statistics allocated directly to partners in Africa increased by nearly USD 44 million (in 2018 prices) between 2010 and 2019, from USD 88 million to USD 132 million (Figure 5). In 2017-19, Africa accounted for about 40% of DAC members' total ODA to data and statistics, up from 32% at the beginning of the decade. Over the same period, annual bilateral ODA for data and statistics to partners in the Americas increased only modestly (from USD 18 million per year in 2010 to USD 31 million in 2019). It remained flat in Asia and Oceania at about USD 65 and USD 5 million per year, and decreased in Europe, from USD 38 million to USD 22 million annually. Finally, there is a marked uptick in funding channelled through global programmes and initiatives in the SDG era, with funding increasing from USD 46 million in 2014 to USD 98 million by 2019.

Figure 5. DAC members' bilateral ODA for data and statistics by region, 2010-19

USD million, 2018 prices



Note: Based on gross disbursements allocable at the regional level.
Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS)* (database), https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/97gk64

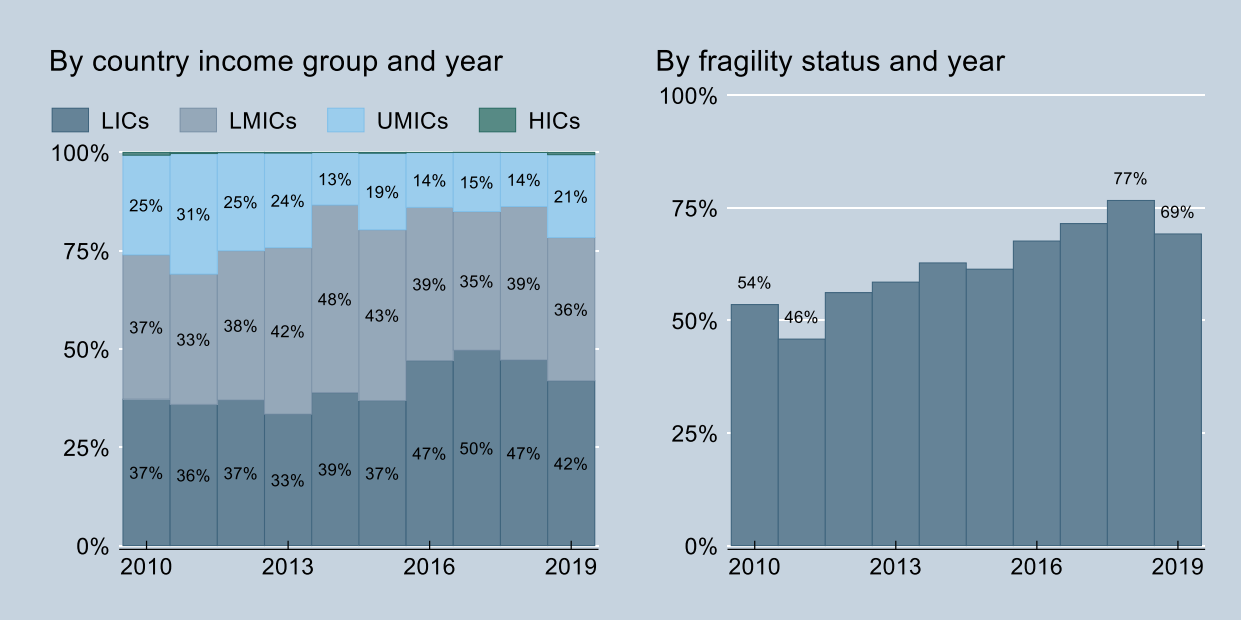
Given that many countries in sub-Saharan Africa continue to lag in the availability of key data (BBC, 2021[3]; Devarajan, 2013[22]; Hoogeveen and Nguyen, 2019[9]), the increasing focus on the region would appear to be concentrating resources where need is the greatest. However, as an increasing number of providers of development co-operation support the same set of partner countries, it also potentially increases the need for better co-ordination among these countries while raising the question of whether some regions or countries are being left behind.

...and in fragile contexts

Out of the two-thirds of DAC members' ODA directed to specific countries, close to 80% is targeted to low-income (LICs) and lower middle-income countries (LMICs) (as defined in 2019). The share disbursed to today's LICs increased, from 37% in 2015 to 50% in 2016, before falling again to 42% in 2019 (Figure 6). Country-specific bilateral ODA to data and statistics is also increasingly concentrated in countries and territories classified as fragile: in 2019, 69% was targeted to countries classified as fragile, up from 46% in 2011. DAC members' ODA to data and statistics is also increasingly concentrated in countries with weaker governance and in which citizens have fewer ways of expressing their views and holding government to account, with potential implications for the effectiveness of their support (Box 3).

Figure 6. DAC members' bilateral ODA by recipient country income group and fragility status, 2010-19

Share of country-allocable ODA



Note: Based on gross disbursements allocable to individual countries. Country income groups and fragility status are fixed over time and are those applied to reporting to the OECD in 2019. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country.

Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS)* (database), https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

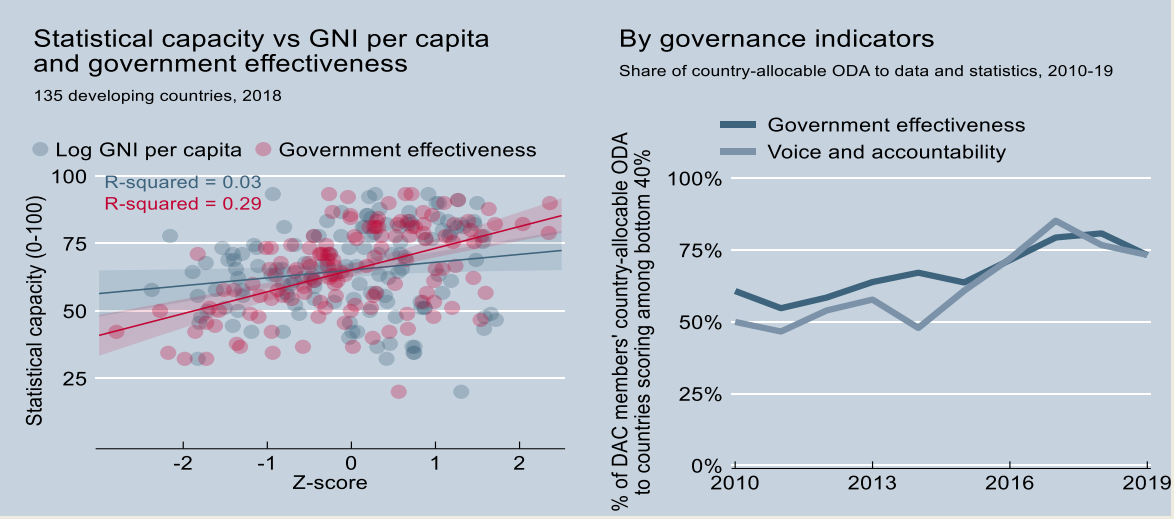
StatLink https://stat.link/87xnar

The shift towards greater investments in LICs and fragile contexts is especially apparent in the profiles of **Canada**, **Japan** and **Korea**, but also in those of the **European Union**, **Norway** and **Sweden**. This shift has often coincided with a reorientation of funding away from other regions towards Africa. Other DAC members such as the **United Kingdom** and the **United States** maintained a high share of funding to LICs and fragile contexts over the course of the 2010s.

Box 3. Supporting national data and statistical systems in countries with weak governance may pose additional effectiveness challenges

Countries' statistical capacity closely correlates with indicators of good governance – and development Assistance Committee (DAC) members' bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to data and statistics is increasingly concentrated in countries with weaker governance and in which citizens have fewer ways of expressing their views and holding government to account (Figure 7). Based on the Worldwide Governance Indicators (Kaufmann and Kraay, 2020[23]) and data on DAC members' country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, countries ranking among the bottom 40% in terms of government effectiveness in 2019 received more than 70% of ODA to data and statistics, up from 60% in 2010. And while the bottom 40% of countries in terms of voice and accountability received 51% of DAC members' country-allocable ODA in 2010, by 2019, their share had also increased to 74%.

Figure 7. Governance, statistical capacity and DAC members' country-allocable ODA to data and statistics



Note: Left panel based on gross disbursements. Z-scores are normalised values of two variables; log GNI per capita and Kaufmann and Kray's indicator of government effectiveness. GNI: gross national income.

Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1, Kaufmann and Kray (2020[23]), *Worldwide Governance Indicators*, www.govindicators.org, and World Bank (2020[24]), Statistical Capacity Indicator, https://datatopics.worldbank.org/statisticalcapacity/.

Across countries, the last ten years have seen a decline in democracy (Alizada et al., 2021[25]), a trend that continued in 2020 and has brought with it a concentration of ODA in countries that face more severe governance challenges. The implications of both regime type and governance for aid effectiveness have long been debated (Burnside and Dollar, 2000[26]). But because of data's potential to strengthen government effectiveness and accountability, there may be separate considerations in the area of support to data and statistics.

On the one hand, international support may help strengthen the accountability function of data and statistics. An example of this is the Eurasia Foundation's TAPAS (Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services) programme in Ukraine (Eurasia Foundation, n.d.[27]), funded by both the United Kingdom and the United States (see the United States' profile). The programme aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government and reduce corruption by making data on government

contracts public on line, thus allowing civil society actors to monitor government procurement and raise questions if need be.

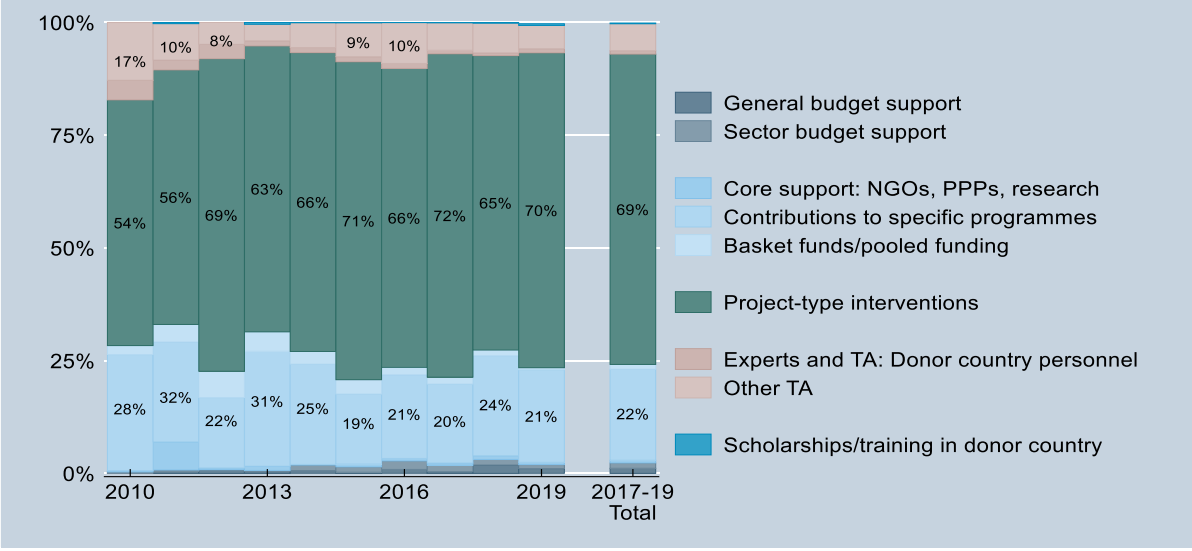
On the other hand, ensuring that support to government data and statistical systems is effective – accurate data and statistics are produced reliably, openly available and used by civil society – may be more challenging in these contexts. Countries in which democratic institutions are perceived to be under threat have in recent years made headlines for alleged political interference in the realm of official data and statistics (The Economist, 2019[28]; Wilson and Blood, 2019[29]) – although the phenomenon is by no means limited to autocracies (Aragão and Linsi, 2020[7]). Yet, if relatively small elites exert significant political, economic and military power, incentives to suppress or manipulate accurate official data and statistics grow stronger while the appearance of compliance with international standards for official statistics remains (Hoogeveen and Nguyen, 2019[9]). As traditional approaches to statistical capacity building are unlikely to address structural barriers to improving governance, different approaches to supporting data and statistics may be needed.

Insight # 4: Project-type interventions are preferred to joint-funding mechanisms

The share of DAC members' ODA to data and statistics delivered in the form of joint-funding mechanisms – core support, contributions to specific programmes, basket funds, etc. – decreased from around 30% at the beginning of the 2010s to a little more than 20% in the second half of the decade (Figure 8). At the same time, project-type interventions, i.e. interventions associated with specific inputs, activities and outputs, increased their share from 54% in 2010 to 69% in 2019. Project-type interventions account for more than 50% of all ODA for 10 out of the 14 DAC members profiled in this report, including major sources of funding such as the **European Union**, **Korea** and the **United States**.

Figure 8. DAC members' ODA to data and statistics by type of aid, 2010-19

Share of total ODA



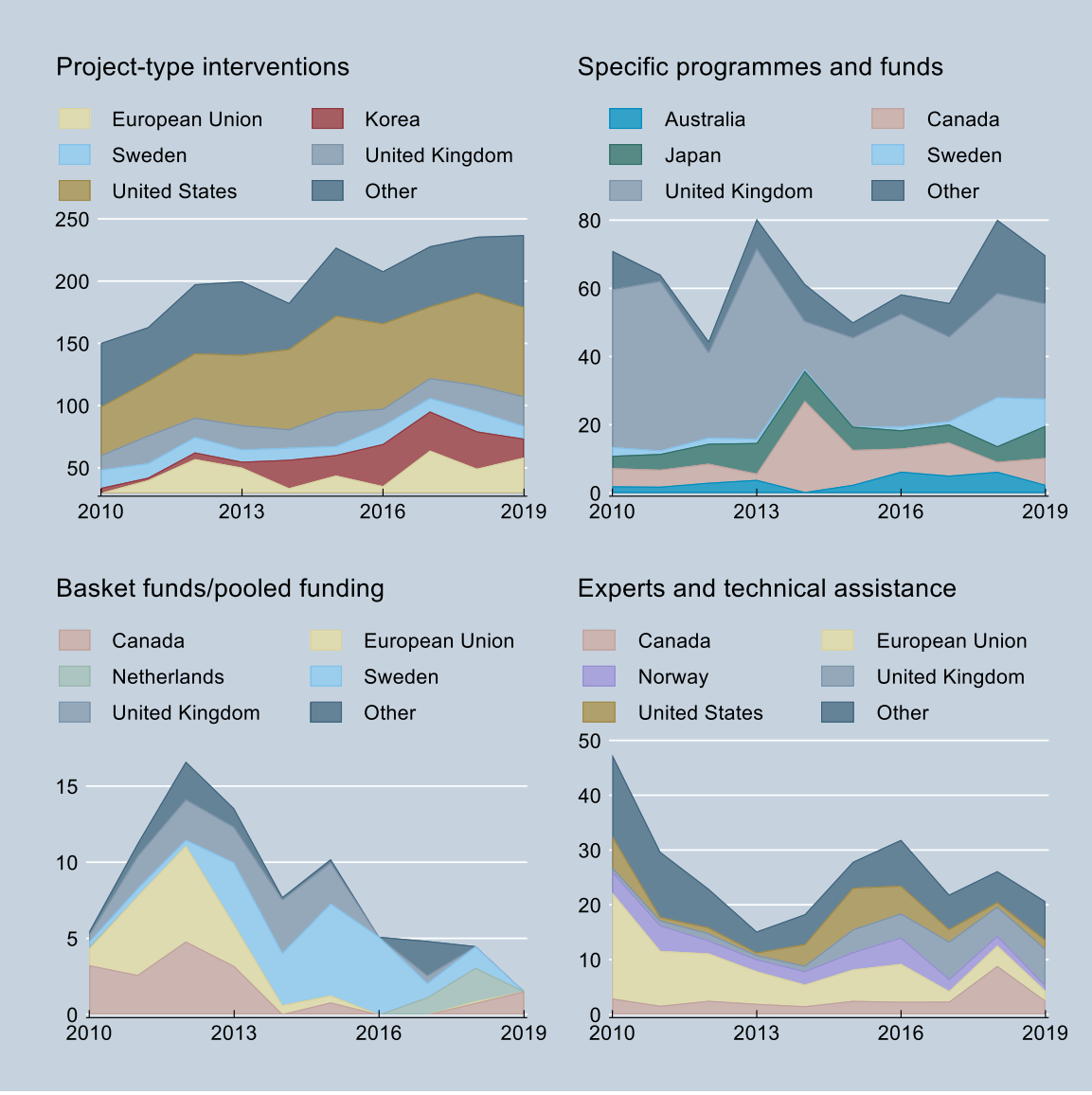
Note: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.
Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]) *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/8xypdc

An increase in the volume of ODA to data and statistics delivered in the form of project-type interventions, from USD 150 million in 2010 to USD 237 million in 2019 (in 2018 prices), explains much of the increase in their share. The **European Union** (+USD 28.4 million per year), **Korea** (+11.1), the **United Kingdom** (+12.6), and the **United States** (+32.6) together account for nearly the entire increase of USD 87 million per year. However, this is not a universal trend: **Japan**, **Sweden** and **Switzerland** have reduced the share of their ODA disbursements delivered in the form of project-type interventions.

Figure 9. ODA to data and statistics by modality and select DAC members, 2010-19

DAC members, million USD, 2018 prices



Note: Based on gross disbursements.
Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/sr2auz

Stable but evolving engagement in joint funding mechanisms

Funding in the form of contributions to specific programmes and funds of implementing partners have overall remained nearly constant between 2010 and 2019 at around USD 63 million per year. However, use of this modality has still changed over the decade. It was dominated by the **United Kingdom**'s contributions to trust funds and specific programmes, notably the World Bank's Statistics for Results Facility and Catalytic Fund and the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, two trust funds dedicated to strengthening statistical capacity development.[5] Towards the late 2010s, this modality was used more prominently by a larger number of DAC members and for different purposes. Examples include UN Women's flagship programme *Making Every Woman and Girl Count* (from 2016, focus on gender data and statistics), the International Monetary Fund's *Data for Decisions Fund* (from 2018, economic statistics) and **Denmark**'s support for the World Bank-UNHCR *Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement* (from 2018, migration data and statistics).

Basket funds,[6] a funding mechanism by which providers of development co-operation contribute financial resources to an autonomous account managed jointly with other providers and/or the recipient, have played a minor role throughout the 2010-19 period. However, they have been important in select partner countries. Examples include the *Common Fund* of the Mozambique National Institute of Statistics (supported by **Canada**, **Denmark**, **Italy**, **Norway**, **Portugal**, **Sweden** and the **United Kingdom**) and funding arranged to support the modernisation of Rwanda's National Institute of Statistics and its 2009/10-13/14 national strategy for the development of statistics (**European Union** and **United Kingdom**). DAC members' ODA disbursements under this modality peaked in 2012. The Common Fund of Mozambique's National Institute of Statistics, for instance, phased out after 2017 (Sida, 2019[30]).

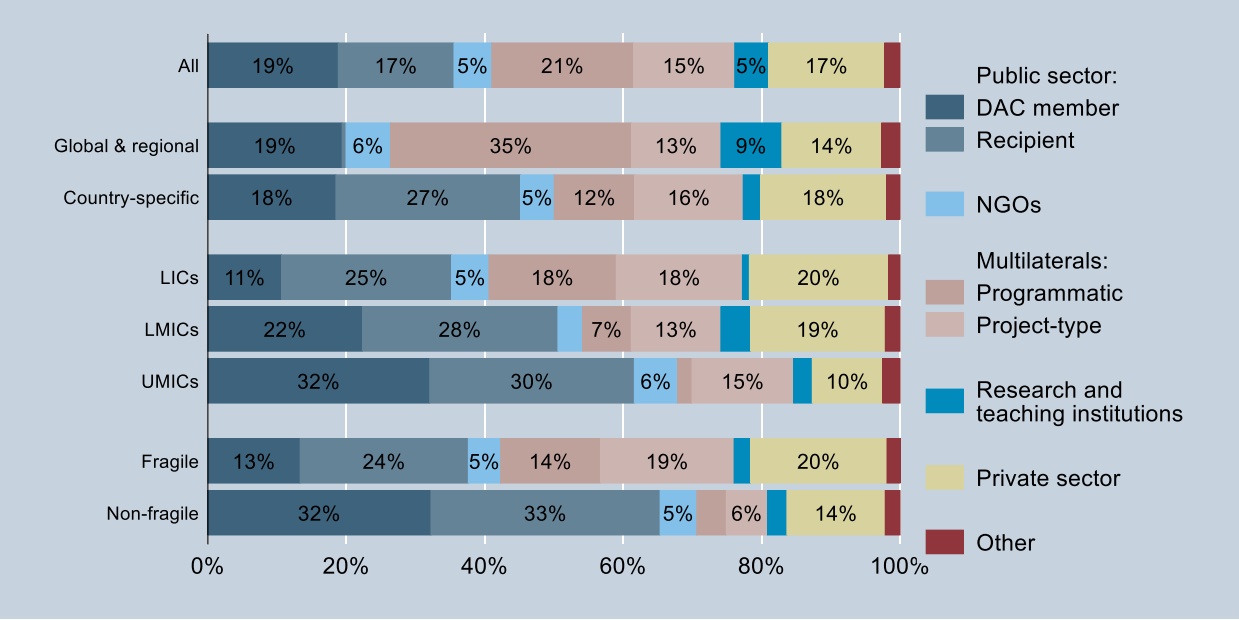
Finally, a large share of DAC members provide funding for experts (often from their own statistical offices) and technical assistance. **Canada**, the **European Union**, **Norway**, the **United Kingdom** and the **United States** jointly accounted for two thirds to three fourths of funding in this category over the 2010-19 period. Among DAC members' profiled, **Portugal**, which delivers nearly 90% of its support in the form of experts and technical assistance, tops the list in terms of relative use of this modality.[7]

Multilateral channels are often used in low-income countries and fragile contexts

DAC members rely on four key delivery channels to provide their financial assistance to data and statistics in partner countries (Figure 10): 1) funding channelled through the multilateral system (i.e. multi-bi); 2) funding channelled through DAC member public sector entities (often their national statistical offices); 3) direct funding of partner country governments; and 4) funding of interventions by private sector entities. Their respective shares have remained constant over the last decade. Multi-bi funding has accounted for one-third of DAC members' total ODA for data and statistics since 2010, while funding of public sector entities has accounted for another third, split roughly between DAC member public sector entities and recipient governments. The **United States** channels a large fraction of its funding through the private sector. Research and teaching institutions and non-governmental organisations each account for 5% of total DAC ODA for data and statistics.

DAC members are more likely to provide earmarked funding via multilateral channels in LICs and fragile states while funding and technical assistance channelled through DAC members' public sector entities and directly to recipient governments is less common in these countries (Figure 10). In general, funds are earmarked for various reasons, such as increasing the visibility of countries' contributions, improving accountability on the use of funds towards taxpayers, fulfilling pledges to support specific causes or ensuring support to priorities that are deemed underfunded (OECD, 2020[31]; Bosch, Fabregas and Fisher, 2020[32]). Half of all country-specific activities in LICs implemented by multilaterals are project-type interventions rather than programmatic earmarking, which would allow for greater flexibility for implementing partners to align with their priorities. The share of project-type interventions is larger still in fragile contexts.

Figure 10. DAC members' ODA to data and statistics by channel and geography, 2017-19



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. DAC: Development Assistance Committee; NGO: non-governmental organisation; LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country. The distinction between programmatic and project-type earmarked funding to multilaterals follows Bosch, Fabregas and Fisher (2020[32]).

Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD (2020[10]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS)* (database), https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/wr9x38

Insight # 5: Country ownership drives successful results

The development of sustainable capacity, including data and statistical capacity, is a major challenge (OECD, 2008[33]) that requires the willingness to learn from experience and make appropriate adjustments along the way. Dedicated or stand-alone capacity building support to national statistical systems is a relatively recent area for development co-operation, with major initiatives taking off only in the late 1990s[8] (Lange, 2020[2]) and a body of evaluations of different initiatives building up over the course of the 2000s (Willoughby, 2008[34]). DAC members have since accumulated a wealth of experience and lessons on what works in statistical capacity building. The profiles show which countries have expertise with specific engagement models, identify lessons and experience for peer learning, and validate their own experience. In particular, the profiles identify good practices and insights on lessons learnt and how support is evolving.

Regional programmes are emerging as relevant and efficient

DAC members highlight the advantages of specific engagement models, such as long-term technical assistance and support of regional programmes. For example, DAC members whose engagement model builds on partnerships between development co-operation agencies and their own national statistical offices note the advantages of providing long-term, flexible technical assistance, especially in fragile contexts, to ensure sustained capacity development. Members that support regional programmes, notably **Australia**, **Canada** and the **European Union**, note that programmes for countries in similar situations make it easier to ensure their relevance, foster peer learning and can turn into a stepping-stone towards South-South co-operation.

Approaches to supporting country ownership are evolving, going beyond national government

Country ownership, the notion that partner countries should exercise effective leadership over their development strategies and policies and take a lead in co-ordinating development actions, is a key principle of the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (OECD, 2005[35]). Country ownership is also seen as crucial by DAC members in the context of support to data and statistical capacity in order to increase the probability of sustainable results beyond project timelines. Lessons shared by key providers of technical assistance, in particular the **European Union, Norway, Portugal** and **Sweden**, all note that ensuring that support is in line with partner countries' own priorities and strategies is crucial to achieving long-lasting development of partners' statistical systems. The **United States'** Millennium Challenge Corporation notes the potential ineffectiveness of parallel data collection for programme design, as it may undermine the uptake and development of local data systems.

Enabling greater ownership entails tailoring interventions to partners' needs to ensure that there will be local demand and use for the data and statistics, especially for policy making. Greater ownership could be enabled by strengthening existing data systems, including at subnational levels, rather than collecting programme-specific data for ODA-funded projects and programmes from scratch. Yet these may not always be equipped to produce the data that providers of development co-operation seek (see Box 4). Insufficient core funding of NSOs and other data-producing government entities by their governments poses additional challenges, as it can curtail capacity to absorb international support for data and statistics while also providing incentives to agree to whatever support is offered (Lange, 2020[2]). A sound understanding of the context in which support to data and statistics is provided – the institutions as well as the structures of power and influence – is key to designing programmes and projects that partners' 'own'.

Box 4. Differences in data needs imply that 'country ownership' can be difficult to establish

Political economy considerations (see Box 3) aside, governments need data that allow them to respond effectively to the needs of their citizens. Is there a need to hire more teachers? Or should there be more investment in school infrastructure? Importantly, for governments to be able to act upon statistical information, they need data that can be disaggregated at the relevant administrative level (e.g. school districts) (Rosling and Fleck, 2013[36]). These considerations will often point to administrative data collected in the process of providing government services.

Providers of development co-operation, on the other hand, will often be interested in international comparisons, for instance of progress towards the international development goals (OPM, 2009[37]; Sandefur, 2013[38]). Standardised household surveys, which provide a high degree of comparability across countries, are often well-suited for this purpose. At the same time, there has been an increasing focus on the accountability and reporting function of results-based management in development co-operation (Zwart and Egan, 2017[39]; Vähämäki and Verger, 2019[40]), which created additional demand for data for monitoring results. Interventions that are targeted to very specific sections of the population, for instance, might require data that are not readily available from government sources, especially in countries with low levels of statistical capacity, or data that are collected at very specific moments in time (e.g. before and after an intervention takes place). This points to specialised surveys, with limited incentives to collect data on issues that are not immediately relevant to the project.

Governments will be interested in ensuring that surveys are relevant to country context and less so in their usefulness in international comparisons. In fact, governments and official statisticians often

highlight the importance of administrative data (PARIS21, UNSD, 2018[41]), which are less likely to be useful for international comparisons. Small-scale surveys for project monitoring and evaluation, on the other hand, will be useful only to the stakeholders of the project, even if the resulting data are made available to other stakeholders. These differences in information needs can lead to activities in support for data and statistics that are not well-aligned with long-term country priorities – that are not "owned" by developing country governments.

Towards good practices in international support for data and statistical systems

The country profiles serve as a baseline for strategic international dialogue for more co-ordinated and effective support that contributes to strengthened capacity and statistical systems fit for the digital era. They can also inform DAC members future data strategies, flagging the need for more holistic and whole-of-government investments; the benefits to partners of following good practices that are informed by the peer learning and experience so far with increasing effectiveness for more sustainable results; and pursuing more harmonised programmes and capacity development. Three particular insights emerge from the profiles which can shape future strategies:

1. **Increase understanding and manage the tensions and potential trade-offs between different drivers of ODA investments in data and statistics for sustainable development and for effective development co-operation.** Data and statistics are a means to ensure transparency and mutual accountability of development co-operation (Zwart and Egan, 2017[39]). Providers of development co-operation play a dual role in relation to partner countries' data ecosystems: they invest in building and strengthening national statistical systems and as users of development data they invest in data production for bilateral projects and programmes, results monitoring and evaluation; often in parallel to national systems. Tensions, or inconsistencies, arise between donor pressure to gather data to show results of on-going programmes and projects and the commitments to rely on country data and use and build up country systems. In their role as denizens of countries' data ecosystems, development co-operation providers should ensure that their demand for data supports the development of local capacities or, at a minimum, that their ambition to be data-driven does not undermine local systems. Strategies for development co-operation for data and statistics need to reflect a better understanding and awareness of the potential trade-offs between the different data roles providers play and provide guidance on how to resolve tensions effectively.
2. **Prioritise inter and intra-institutional co-ordination and coherence domestically** to find more synergies and more coherent agency-wide support for national statistical systems. Providers should take a principled, coherent approach to supporting data and statistical systems. At present, few DAC members have a dedicated team or focal point mandated to monitor and provide guidance on all data and statistics-related programmes and projects. Comprehensive strategies on how best to support data and statistical systems are also lacking. To identify and leverage synergies, agency-wide strategies for data and statistics could be developed that raise awareness of the importance of sound data and statistical systems in partner countries, reflect adequately the public-good nature of data, and provide guidance on how best to support partners' data systems in a holistic manner.
3. **Identify and adopt international good practices** that result in more coherent and effective international co-operation, that draw on peer learning and lessons, and that promote more aligned and harmonised co-operation for data for development. To ensure coherence in development co-operation, strategies for data and statistics should aim to support co-ordination among providers at the design, planning and the implementation stages. The *Data for Development Profiles* indicate some good practices such as the importance of a sound understanding of country contexts,

upholding the principle of country ownership, and engaging in long-term, flexible support for data and statistical systems.

References

Alizada, N. et al. (2021), *Democracy Report 2021: Autocratization turns viral*, University of Gothenburg: V-Dem Institute, Gothenburg, https://www.v-dem.net/files/25/DR%202021.pdf (accessed on 7 April 2021). [25]

Aragão, R. and L. Linsi (2020), "Many shades of wrong: What governments do when they manipulate statistics", *Review of International Political Economy*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2020.1769704. [7]

BBC (2021), "Measuring Africa's data gap: The cost of not counting the dead", BBC, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55674139 (accessed on 29 March 2021). [3]

Bosch, E., A. Fabregas and F. Fisher (2020), *Earmarked Funding to Multilateral Organisations: How Is It Used and What Constitutes Good Practice?*, OECD, Paris, https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/Multilateral-development-finance-brief-2020.pdf. [32]

Burnside, C. and D. Dollar (2000), "Aid, Policies, and Growth", *American Economic Review*, Vol. 90/4, http://dx.doi.org/10.1257/aer.90.4.847. [26]

Dargent, E. et al. (2018), *Who Wants to Know? The Political Economy of Statistical Capacity in Latin America*, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC, https://publications.iadb.org/en/who-wants-know-political-economy-statistical-capacity-latin-america. [8]

Devarajan, S. (2013), "Africa's statistical tragedy", *Review of Income and Wealth*, Vol. 59/S1, pp. S9-S15, http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/roiw.12013. [22]

DFID (2018), *Decision-making and Data Use Landscaping: Better Data, Better Decisions*, Department for International Development and Development Gateway, https://developmentgateway.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Better_Data_Better_Decisions_Data_Landscape_Study-1.pdf. [15]

Eurasia Foundation (n.d.), *Transparency and Accoutability in Public Administration and Services*. [27]

Government of Sweden (2016), *Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance*, Government of Sweden, Stockholm, https://www.government.se/49a184/contentassets/43972c7f81c34d51a82e6a7502860895/skr-60-engelsk-version_web.pdf. [13]

GPEDC (2019), *Making Development Co-operation More Effective - 2019 Progress Report*, OECD, UNDP, https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/making-development-co-operation-more-effective_26f2638f-en. [20]

GPEDC (2018), *GPEDC Monitoring Data*, https://www.effectivecooperation.org/landing-page/monitoring-data (accessed on 8 April 2021). [21]

Hoogeveen, J. and N. Nguyen (2019), "Statistics reform in Africa: Aligning incentives with results", *Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 55/4, pp. 102-179, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2017.1417583. [9]

Kaufmann, D. and A. Kraay (2020), *www.govindicators.org*, Worldwide Goernance Indicators. [23]

Lange, S. (2020), "Key trends in development co-operation for national data and statistical systems", *OECD Development Policy Papers*, No. 31, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/1ce044d2-en. [2]

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2018), *Digitalisation for Development: Digital Strategy for Norwegian Development Policy*, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo, https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/departementene/ud/dokumenter/utvpolitikk/digital_strategynew.pdf (accessed on 18 March 2021). [14]

OECD (2020), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) (database)*, OECD, Paris, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1. [10]

OECD (2020), *Multilateral Development Finance 2020*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/e61fdf00-en. [31]

OECD (2017), *Development Co-operation Report 2017: Data for Development*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/dcr-2017-en. [1]

OECD (2008), "The challenge of capacity development: Working towards good practice", *OECD Journal on Development*, Vol. 8/3, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/journal_dev-v8-art40-en. [33]

OECD (2005), *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264098084-en. [35]

OPM (2009), *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration: Thematic Study – Support to Statistical Capacity Building, Synthesis Report*, http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/dcdndep/43189996.pdf. [37]

PARIS21 (2020), *Guidelines for Developing Statistical Capacity. A Roadmap for Capacity Development 4.0*, PARIS21, Paris, https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNV003_Guidelines%20for%20Capacity%20Development%20PRINT_0.pdf. [5]

PARIS21 (2020), *The Partner Report on Support to Statistics 2020*, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, Paris, https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/PRESS%202020%20Final.pdf. [18]

PARIS21 (2019), "Proposing a New Approach to Measure Support to Statistics and Data in the OECD Creditor Reporting System", OECD, Paris, France, http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)26&docLanguage=En. [11]

PARIS21, UNSD (2018), *Joint survey on new approaches to capacity develompent and future priorities*, Survey of national statistical offices, https://paris21.org/capacity-development-40/cd40-survey (accessed on 12 April 2021). [41]

Rosling, H. and F. Fleck (2013), "The joy of facts and figures", *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, Vol. 91/12, http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.13.031213. [36]

Sandefur, J. (2013), *Seeing like a state in Africa: Data Needed*, Center for Global Develpment blog post, https://www.cgdev.org/blog/seeing-state-africa-data-needed (accessed on 7 April 2021). [38]

Sanna, V. and I. Mc Donnell (2017), "Data for development: DAC member priorities and challenges", *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 35, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://www.oecd.org/dac/WP35%20Complete.pdf. [19]

Sida (2019), *Review of Scandinavian Consortium Technical Assistance to Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Mozambican National Statistical System (2008–2017)*, Swedish International Development Agency, Stockholm, https://publikationer.sida.se/English/publications/163496/review-of-scandinavian-consortium-technical-assistance-to-strengthening-the-institutional-capacity-of-the-mozambican-national-statistical-system-20082017. [30]

The Economist (2019), "A dose of bull", *The Economist*, https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2019/03/14/tanzanias-leader-the-bulldozer-runs-off-course (accessed on 7 April 2021). [28]

Twiwwe, S. and N. Wilkinson (2020), "Evidence for policy making in uncertain times", in *Development Co-operation Report 2020: Learning from Crises, Building Resilience*, OECD Publishing, Paris. [4]

UNECE (2009), *Classification of Statistical Activities*, International standard, https://statswiki.unece.org/display/CSA/Classification+of+Statistical+Activities (accessed on 12 April 2021). [12]

UNFPA (2021), "Technical brief on the implications of COVID-19 on Census", United Nations Population Fund, New York, https://www.unfpa.org/resources/technical-brief-implications-covid-19-census (accessed on 15 April 2021). [42]

USAID (2020), *Digital Strategy 2020-2024*, United States Agency for International Development, Washington, DC, https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/15396/USAID_Digital_Strategy.pdf. [16]

USAID (2019), *Considerations for Using Data Responsibly at USAID*, United States Agency for International Development, Washington, DC, https://www.usaid.gov/responsibledata (accessed on 12 April 2021). [17]

Vähämäki, J. and C. Verger (2019), "Learning from Results-based management evaluations and reviews", *OECD Development Co-operation Working Paper*, No. 53, OECD, Paris. [40]

Willoughby, C. (2008), "Overview of evaluations of large-scale statistical capacity building initiatives", The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, Paris, https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/3640.pdf (accessed on 13 April 2021). [34]

Wilson, T. and D. Blood (2019), "Rwanda: where even poverty data must toe Kagame's line", *Financial Times*, https://www.ft.com/content/683047ac-b857-11e9-96bd-8e884d3ea203 (accessed on 7 April 2021). [29]

World Bank (2021), *World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives*, World Bank, Washington, DC, https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2021 (accessed on 19 June 2020). [6]

World Bank (2020), *Data on Statistical Capacity*, http://datatopics.worldbank.org/statisticalcapacity/. [24]

Zwart, R. and J. Egan (2017), "Making better use of results data in development co-operation", in *Development Co-operation Report 2017*, OECD Publishing, Paris. [39]

Notes

[1] A general trend among national statistical authorities towards greater reliance on both administrative data and new data sources has accelerated as COVID-19 increased the demand for timely and granular data and led to the postponement or cancellation of traditional data collection exercises such as household surveys and censuses (UNFPA, 2021[42]).

[2] The World Bank's 2021 *World Development: Report Data for Better* Lives calls for a new "social contract for data", starting with a renewed effort to improve data governance domestically and through closer international co-operation (World Bank, 2021[6]).

[3]The 14 DAC members profiled account for about 94% of total ODA to data and statistics from DAC members in any given year.

[4] Funding for economic statistics via the IMF, for instance, often originates outside of the main development co-operation agencies, such as in the case of Germany, Japan and Korea, where co-operation with the IMF falls under the purview of the respective Ministry of Finance, or in the case of Switzerland, where the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs funds IMF capacity development programmes.

[5] These funds reached their closing dates in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

[6] Basket funds are a funding mechanism by which providers of development co-operation contribute funds to an autonomous account, managed jointly with other donors and/or the recipient. The account will have specific purposes, modes of disbursement and accountability mechanisms, and a limited time frame. Basket funds are characterised by common project documents, common funding contracts and common reporting/audit procedures with all donors. There are some inconsistencies across reporters supporting the same activities. Luxembourg, for instance, reports contributions to the International Monetary Fund's Data for Decisions Fund under this modality while other DAC members typically report it as a contribution to a specific-purpose fund/programme managed by an implementing partner. The modality is also often identified with pooled funding for the implementation of population and housing censuses.

[7] As the distinction between „experts and technical assistance" and „project-type interventions" is not always clear, it is difficult to interpret the trends. The United States, for instance, notes that technical assistance is often a component within its project-type support. And the European Union's MEDSTAT programme was classified under „experts and technical assistance" until 2015 when the fourth instalment of it would be classified as a „project-type intervention".

[8] The DAC, for instance, established a dedicated purpose code for statistical capacity building only in the mid-1990s.

Data for Development Profiles

Australia

Australia's official development assistance (ODA) to data and statistics has a clear thematic focus in line with its overarching development co-operation priorities. Its support frequently aims to strengthen general statistical capacity, gender statistics, and health and disability data. Australia's support has a strong focus on the Asia-Pacific region, with nearly three-fourths of its ODA for data and statistics targeted to small island developing states (SIDS).

Strategies, actors and funding

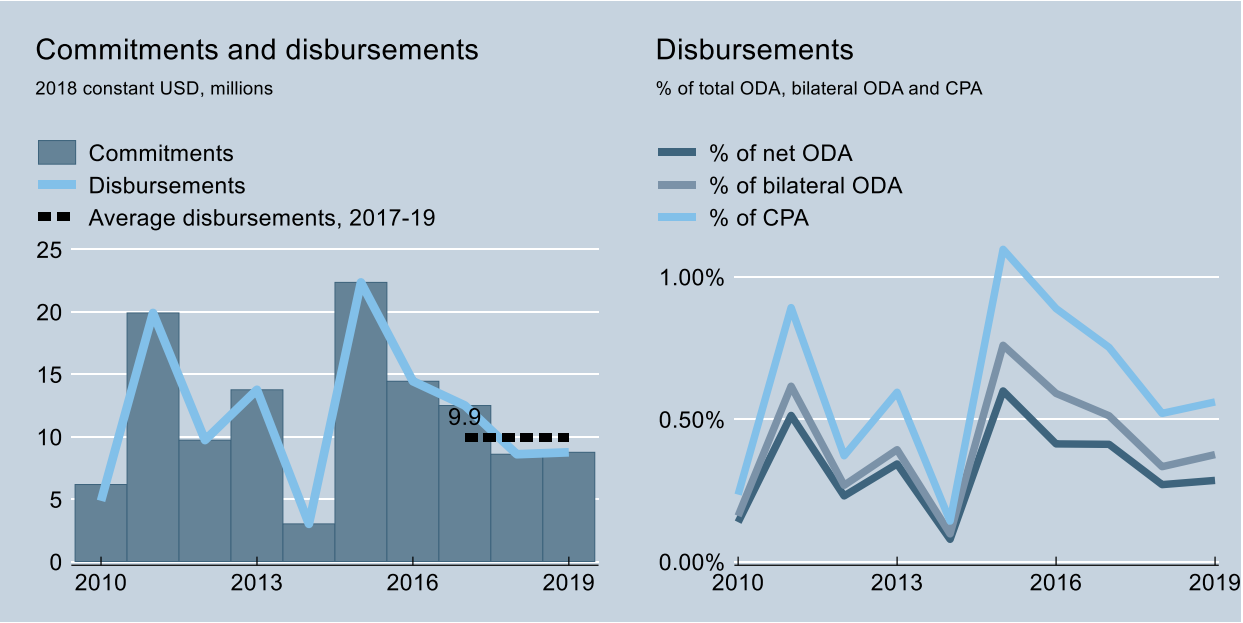
Australia's Development Program is concentrated in the Indo-Pacific, particularly the Pacific, Timor-Leste and Southeast Asia. Australia has substantially pivoted its development programme to address the impacts of COVID-19. Its priorities, as articulated in its new *Partnerships for Recovery* strategy, are health, security, stability and economic recovery; as well as protecting the most vulnerable, especially women and girls and those living with a disability. It is a champion internationally on behalf of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

According to OECD data and research,[1] Australia supported data and statistics in developing countries with close to USD 10 million per year (in 2018 prices) between 2017 and 2019 (Figure 1). While the **Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade** (DFAT) takes the lead, it partners with different actors, including Australian public-sector agencies such as the **Australian Bureau of Statistics** (ABS) and Geoscience Australia, private foundations, research and teaching institutions and different multilateral organisations.

Illustrative programmes and projects

- **Statistical capacity building:** Australia supported the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) 2010-20 through funding of the ABS, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) to deliver technical assistance to national statistics offices in pacific island countries.

Figure 1. Australia – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/bckg6h

- **Data for Health:** In 2015, together with **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, the Australian government co-founded the Data for Health Initiative, an eight-year initiative which aims to partner with low- and middle-income country governments to strengthen public health data and increase their use in policy decisions and public health investments. The emphasis of the initiative is on vital statistics, especially death registration, a statistical domain in which many developing countries are lagging behind.
- **Agricultural data and statistics:** In 2019, Australia invested AUD 1.5 million to support the 50x2030 Initiative, a multi-partner programme that aims to increase the capacity of 50 low- and lower middle-income countries to produce, analyse and apply data to decisions in the agricultural sectors that support rural development and food security. The initiative is implemented through a partnership between the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- **Gender data:** In line with DFAT's objective to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, Australia provides core and earmarked funding to **UN Women** to strengthen gender statistics, including the agency's Women Count strategy.
- **Geospatial data:** In 2019, the Australian government and the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust established **Digital Earth (DE) Africa**, a Geoscience Australia digital platform for the use of satellite information to address sustainable development challenges. Digital Earth Africa aims to democratise the capacity to process and analyse satellite data for the entire African continent by providing freely available, analysis-ready products on a vast number of issues, including soil and coastal erosion; agriculture, forest and desert development; water availability and quality; and changes to human settlements. It aims to enable policy makers, scientists, the private sector and civil society to address social, environmental and economic changes and to develop an ecosystem for innovation across sectors. To ensure that Digital Earth Africa benefits all Africans, the programme is implementing a Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Strategy into all its systems, activities and organisational culture. The programme is

actively supported by a wide range of international stakeholders and is scalable elsewhere across the globe.

Lessons learnt

The Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy aimed to explicitly address challenges often encountered in technical assistance by national statistical offices. It was developed in recognition of the need for a comprehensive plan to drive the improvement and development of statistics in the Pacific region, moving away from annual and *ad hoc* planning and resourcing of statistical collections and related statistical activities. To avoid uncoordinated cycles of statistical production, and national statistical offices from becoming overstretched in terms of capacity and under-resourced for their core census and survey programmes, the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy sought to provide a longer term framework for improvements in the collection and utilisation of statistics, to make efficient use of resources across the region, and to provide regional strategic guidance.

Thematic focus

Advancing **gender equality and empowering women and girls** is a priority for Australian development co-operation and improving the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics is seen as key to achieving this objective. Gender equality is thus a major policy objective of Australia's support to data and statistics in developing countries: nearly two-thirds of its ODA in this area aims to contribute to it (Figure 2).

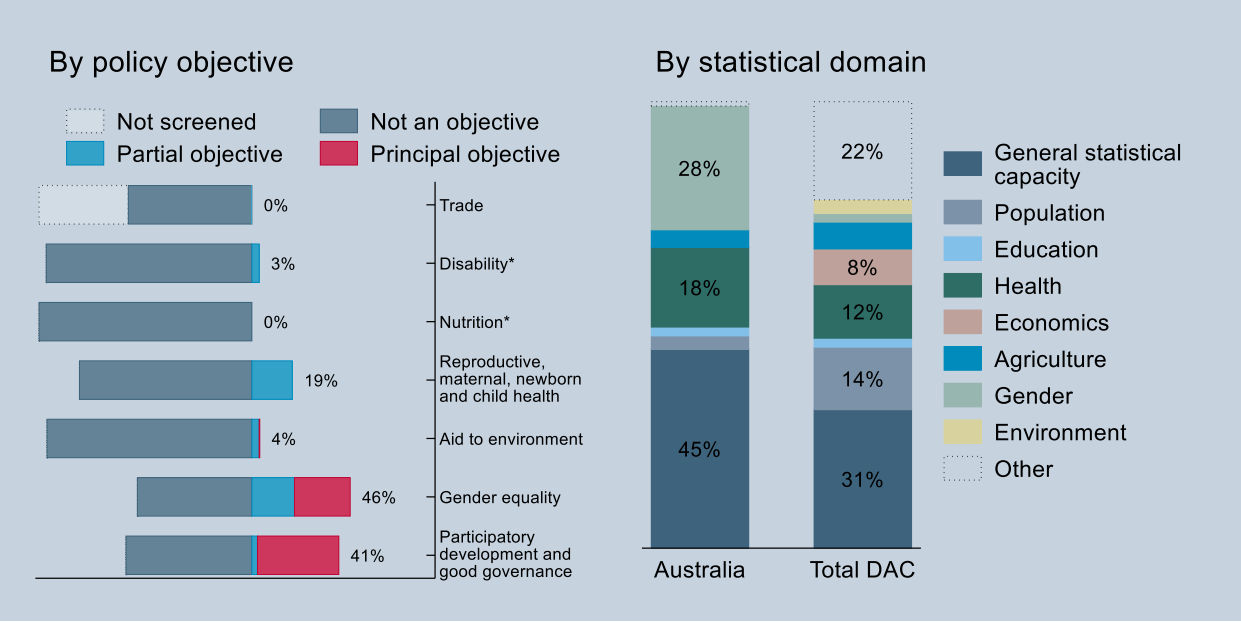
In addition to its support of UN Women (see above), DFAT, in partnership with the Australian National University and the International Women's Development Agency, supports a programme on improving gendered poverty data (2016-20). This initiative further developed the Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) – a new individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional measure of poverty and deprivation. The IDM assesses poverty at the individual level across 15 dimensions, identified through participatory research with women and men living in poverty. Studies have been completed in Indonesia, South Africa, Fiji and Solomon Islands. The data collected have enabled detailed and nuanced policy briefs highlighting the vulnerabilities of certain population groups to COVID-19, and where governments need to focus interventions to protect the most vulnerable.

As a champion of **disability-inclusive development**, Australia supports global capacity to collect and use disability-disaggregated data. Between 2016 and 2018, DFAT provided significant funding for disability data: AUD 1.4 million to support the Washington Group (WG) on Disability Statistics and AUD 1.1 million to support the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). It works with the Washington Group to support the recommendations of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Disability Data and Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation, including support for members states and development partners to use the Washington Group-questions more widely in data collection systems. Since 2019, Australia also supports UNICEF to disseminate and build capacity on the Washington Group Child Functioning Module.[2]

Between 2017 and 2019, Australia sought to strengthen **general statistical capacity** in partner countries (45% of total disbursements) as well as gender statistics (28%) and health data (18%) (Figure 2). There is a clear correspondence between the key projects described above and these three domains, with the TYPSS aiming to support general statistical capacity, Australia's partnership with UN Women on gender statistics, and its partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies on health data and statistics.

Figure 2. Australia – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total ODA to data and statistics in these two years combined.

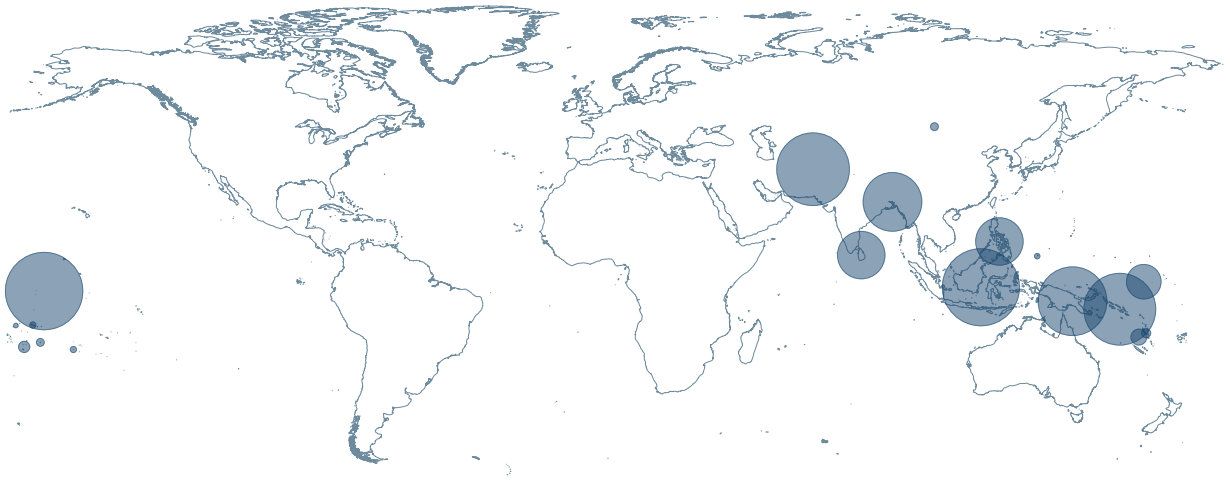
StatLink https://stat.link/erqau9

Finally, Australia is also supporting **Big Data** for development, through Pulse Lab Jakarta, which is a joint data innovation facility of the United Nations (Global Pulse) and the government of Indonesia, which aims to harness Big Data, artificial intelligence and human-centred design for sustainable development and humanitarian action. Australia provided funding in 2012, when the Pulse Lab Jakarta was established, and in 2019 for its second phase (2019-23).

Geographic focus

The regional focus of Australia's support is chiefly on the Oceania and Asia regions (especially South and Southeast Asia), including many SIDS (Figure 3 and Figure 4). Between 2017 and 2019, Afghanistan and Indonesia, but also Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste were major recipients of Australia's data- and statistics-related ODA.

Figure 3. Australia – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19



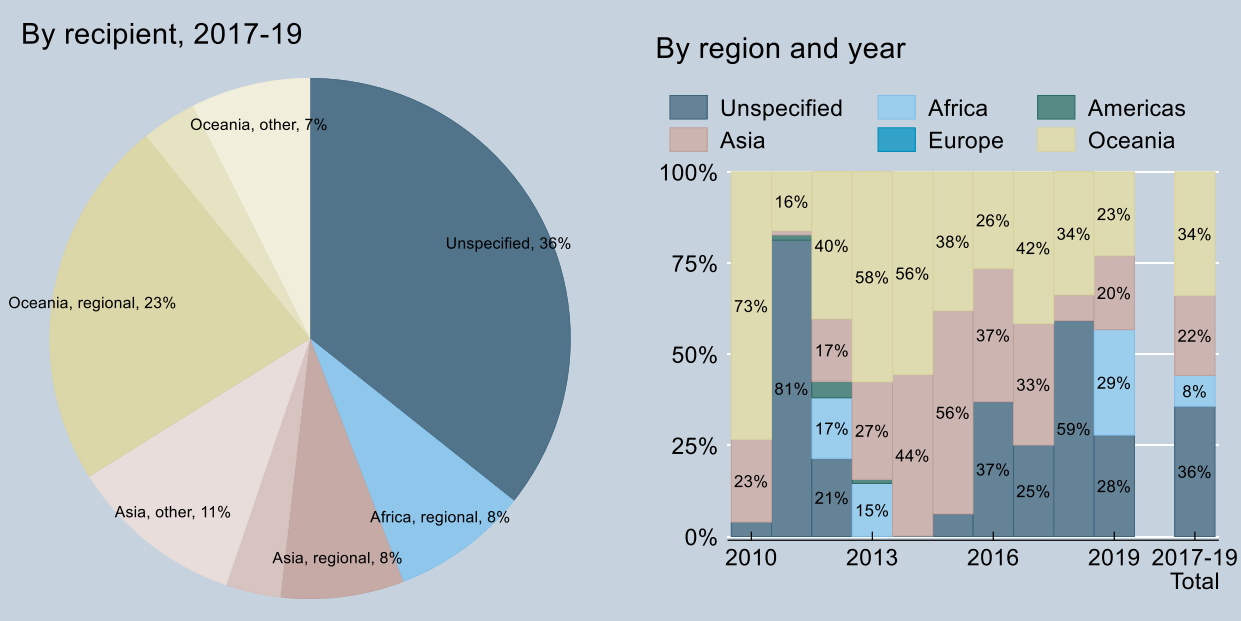
Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/s0ngtr

One key characteristic of Australia's ODA to data and statistics is a large share, nearly 40%, allocated to regional initiatives, especially since 2015 (Figure 4) and around 10-40% of Australia's ODA to data and statistics in recent years was allocated to specific countries. At least 60%, and up to 95%, of Australia's country-allocable ODA to data and statistics was typically targeted to SIDS, which are often lower middle-income countries. The share targeted directly to upper middle-income countries has fallen to close to zero after a peak at around 16% in 2012 (Figure 5). More than half, and up to 80%, of Australia's country-allocable ODA in recent years was targeted to fragile contexts, with a lower share in 2019 due to Australia' support for the Global Pulse Lab Jakarta.

Figure 4. Australia – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

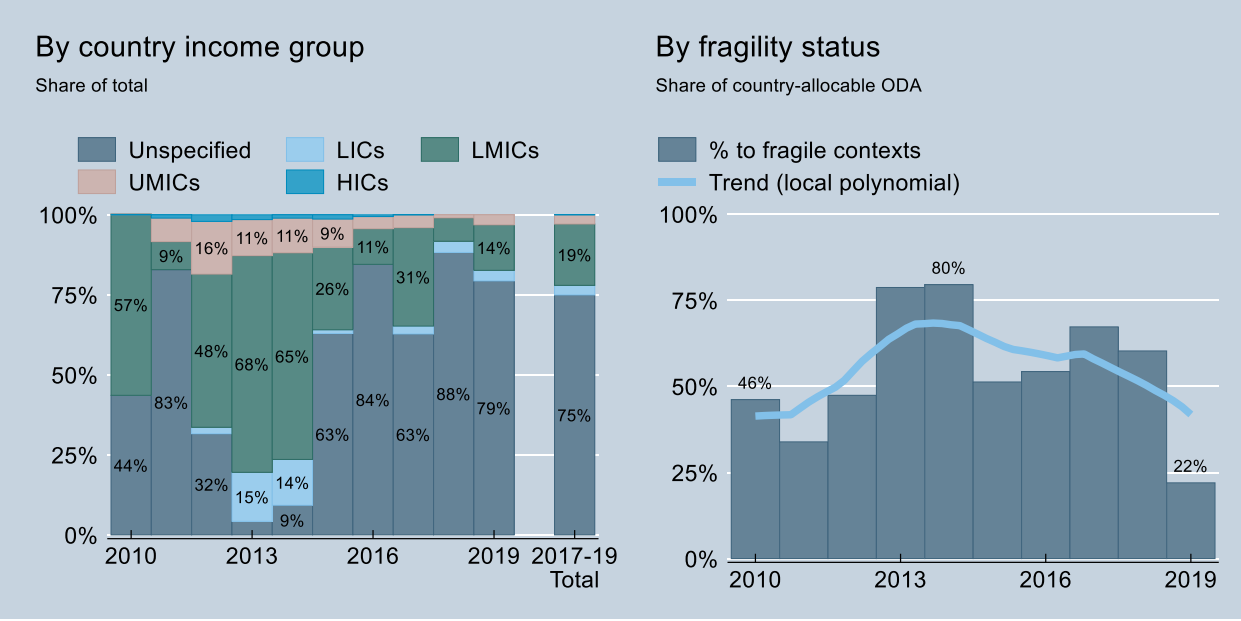
Share of total



Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/hjc830

Figure 5. Australia – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

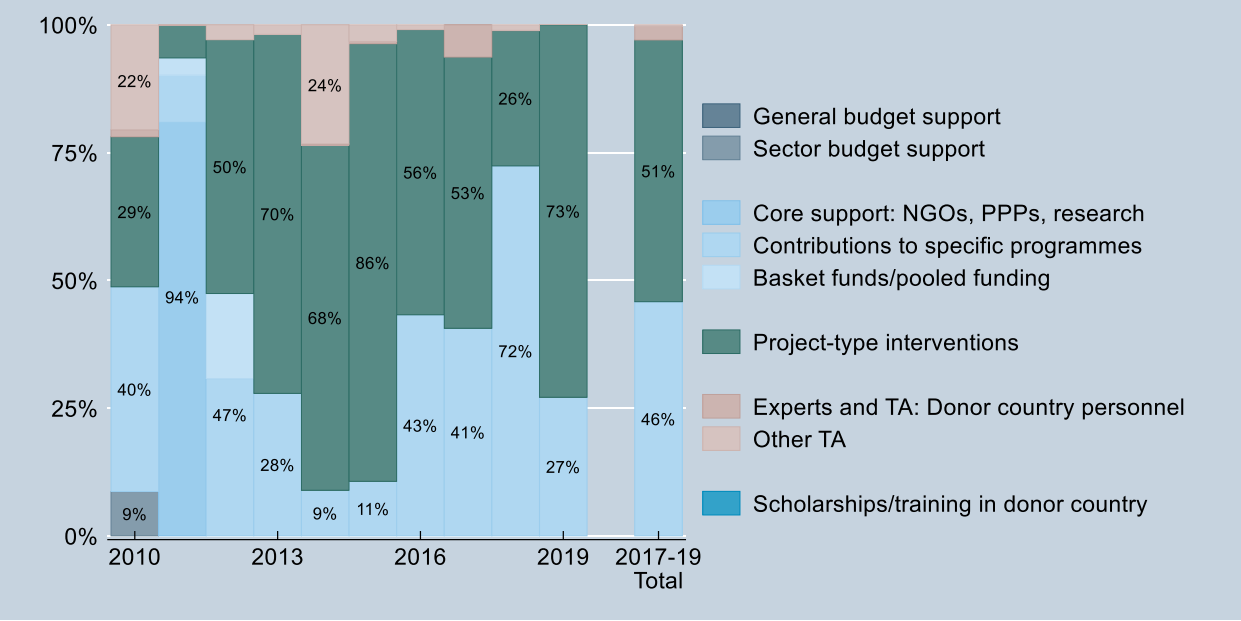
StatLink https://stat.link/1cmbfa

Modalities and channels of delivery

Between 2017 and 2019, around half of Australia's ODA to data and statistics was delivered in the form of project-type interventions; the other half was delivered in the form of contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by implementing partners (Figure 6). The share delivered in the form of contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds rose steadily between 2014 and 2018.

Figure 6. Australia – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total

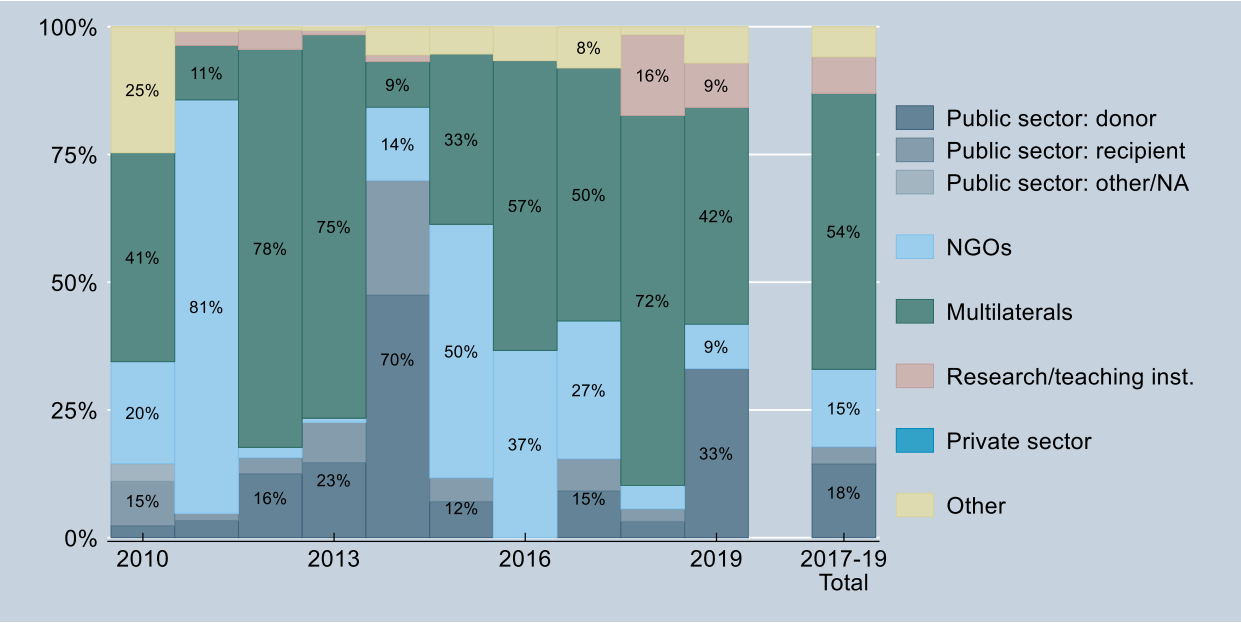


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/saxc2v

Between 2017 and 2019, the largest share of Australia's ODA to data and statistics, 54%, was delivered through multilaterals (Figure 7). This includes primarily UN Women, which served as the implementing partner for about one-fourth of Australia's total ODA to data and statistics, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, which was responsible for implementation of nearly one-fifth. About 15% was delivered through non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including the Data for Health Initiative, an Australian NGO, and the Asia Foundation, which conducts survey research in Afghanistan and Bangladesh into public perceptions of democracy and elections, identity, and violence.

Figure 7. Australia – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; UN: United Nations.

StatLink https://stat.link/mqzox4

Box 1. Australia – related documents and contacts

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Australia's Development Program
- Pacific Community: Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) 2010-2020
- Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative; see also: Ellis, J. and K. Elliot (2017), Improving public health and saving lives through better data. In: *Case Studies on Data for Development*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- UN Women's Women Count strategy
- Digital Earth Africa
- Asia Foundation
- Washington Group on Disability Statistics

Contacts

- DFAT, Finance Policy And Training Section: ODAEligibilityQueries@dfat.gov.au
- ABS, International Relations and Regional Statistical Development: AusStatInt@abs.gov.au

Notes

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

[2] Designed by UNICEF and the Washington Group, the Child Functioning Module (CFM) aims to better identify all children with disabilities. The CFM assesses difficulties in vision, hearing, mobility, communication/comprehension, behaviour and learning (all ages); dexterity and playing (2-4 year olds); and self-care, remembering, focusing attention, coping with change, relationships and emotions (5-17 year olds).

Canada

Canada's official development assistance (ODA) to data and statistics has a strong focus on gender equality and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, in line with its feminist international assistance policy. According to OECD data, more than half of Canada's ODA for data and statistics aims to strengthen population and health data, especially civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) – often in partnership with multilateral organisations. Canada also supports general statistical capacity building, for instance, through the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC).

Strategies, actors and funding

Since 2010, Canada has played a leadership role in global action to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children. Canada's *Maternal, Newborn and Child Health* (MNCH) Initiative was a ten-year (2010-20), CAD 6.5 billion commitment aimed at improving the health of women and children in the world's most vulnerable regions.[1] Canada also disbursed CAD 650 million over a three year period (2017/18 to 2019/20) in new Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) programming in addition to providing CAD 624 million for existing programming over the same period.

The focus and priorities of these two initiatives, MNCH and SRHR, along with Canada's 2017 Feminist International Assistance Policy are reflected in its ODA to data and statistics, which aims to strengthen the evidence base on gender equality and reproductive, newborn, maternal and child health. According to OECD data, more than half of Canada's ODA for data and statistics aims to strengthen population data and statistics, especially CRVS which is often seen as critical to monitor maternal and child health. A smaller share goes to general statistical capacity building.

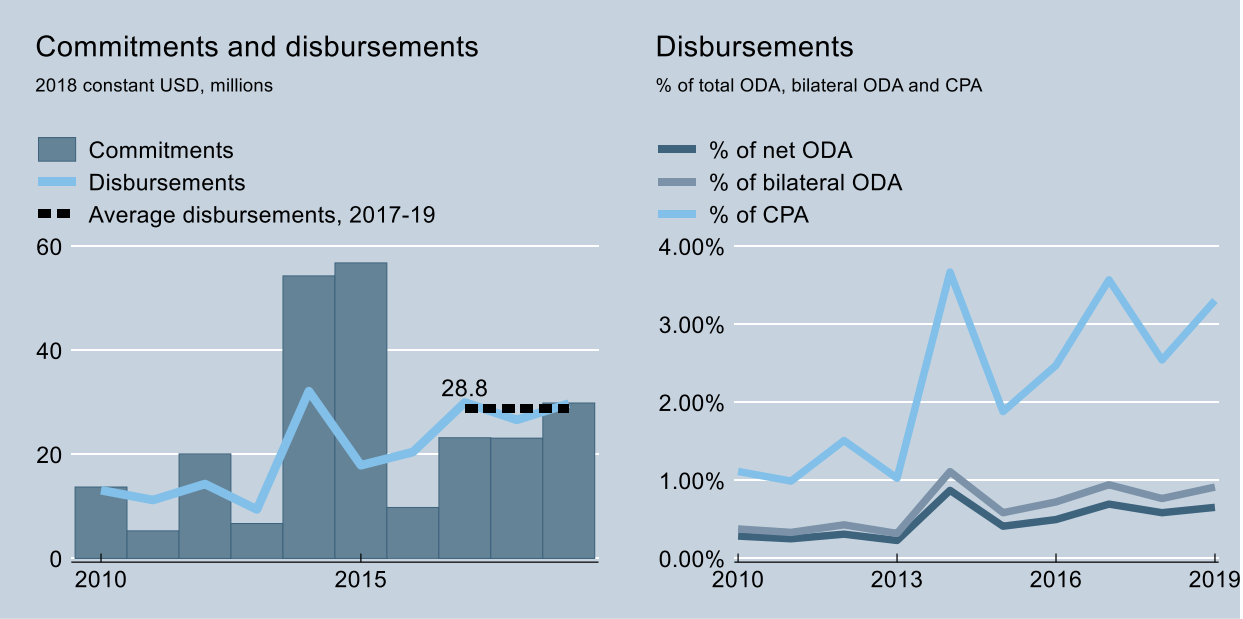
Two Canadian institutions, **Global Affairs Canada** (GAC) and the **International Development Research Centre**, provide funding for data- and statistics-related activities in developing countries. They co-operate closely on data-related support, for instance, in funding the Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, a global resource hub that actively supports national efforts to develop, strengthen and scale up sustainable CRVS systems. In addition, **Statistics Canada**, Canada's national statistical office, engages in international co-operation within the statistical community and provides technical assistance in partner countries with major co-operation projects funded by Global Affairs Canada.

According to OECD data and research,[2] Canada supported data and statistics in developing countries with disbursements of nearly USD 29 million per year between 2017 and 2019 (Figure 1). Commitments increased significantly in 2014 and 2015 upon renewal of its MNCH commitments (MNCH 2.0) and again in 2017-18 with the commencement of SRHR funding. Sixty-three per cent of its ODA to data and statistics is channelled through multilateral organisations, including UN agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). In addition, Canada has also provided funding for the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

A large share of Canada's support is targeted to regional initiatives, including, for instance, funding of Statistics Canada's support in the context of the Project for the Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean.

This project aims to improve the statistical capacity of 14 member states of the Caribbean Community between 2015 and 2022. Canada's ODA is targeted to least developed countries as well as countries classified as fragile.

Figure 1. Canada – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/tbulxf

In 2019, Canada announced that it will raise its funding for women's and girls' health around the world – to reach CAD 1.4 billion annually, starting in 2023 over ten years. Investments will support both MNCH and SRHR – with CAD 700 million of the annual investment dedicated to SRHR, as of 2023. It is expected that Canada's CRVS programming will be maintained as an important aspect of achieving the overarching objectives of women's and girls' health, conditional on required internal approvals.

Lessons learnt

Statistics Canada's role in co-operation with sister organisations, especially in small island developing states and in regional projects, has generated salient lessons. First, smaller national statistical offices in developing countries often have significant potential to innovate as they tend to lack heavy bureaucratic processes. On the other hand, they can have limited capacity to absorb support because of human resource and technological constraints. Therefore, rather than recreating structures that providers of technical assistance tend to be familiar with, Statistics Canada prioritises activities aligned with partners' needs and adapts to the local context.

Second, co-ordination among providers is critical. In the context of PRASC, Statistics Canada has worked with all technical assistance providers in the region to ensure they can leverage synergies and avoid duplication. Activities such as regional workshops that address common challenges can foster future collaboration and mutual assistance among participating countries, ensuring that support remains targeted and relevant to the region. Finally, regional programmes should encourage national statistical offices that

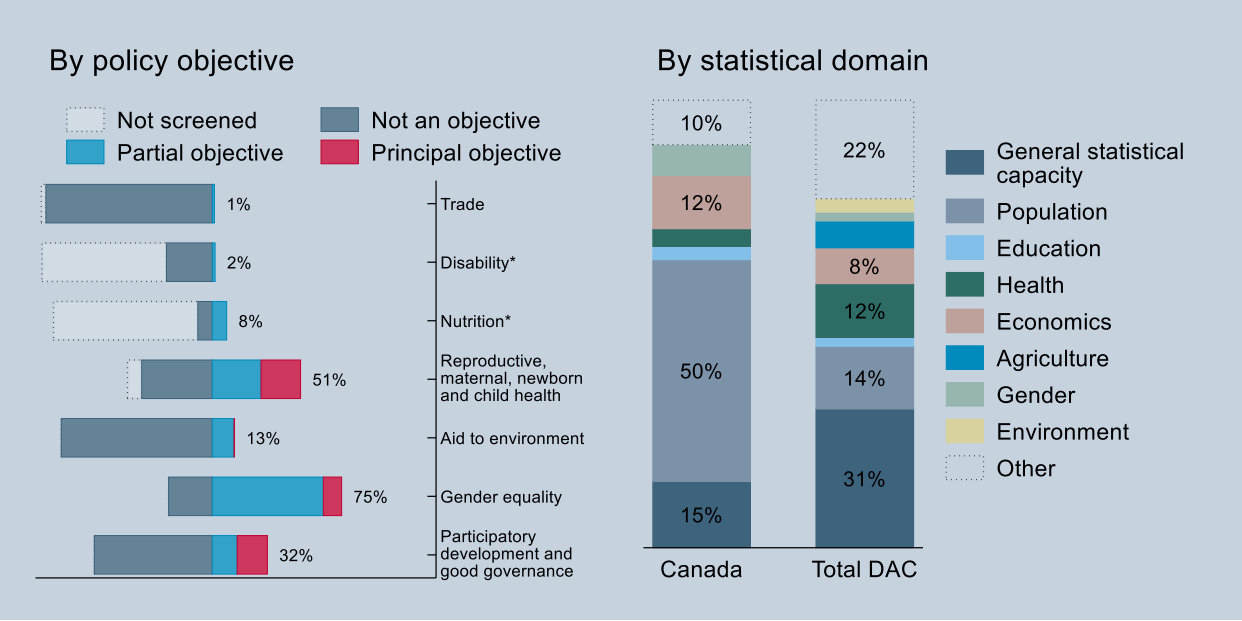
excel in specific areas to develop further into regional centres of expertise, laying the foundations for future South-South co-operation.

Thematic focus

Compared to other DAC members and in line with its international priorities, Canada's ODA to data and statistics has a strong focus on gender equality and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (Figure 2). A comparatively large share of its assistance, 50%, aims to strengthen population statistics, especially CRVS.

Figure 2. Canada – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



Note: DAC: Development Co-operation Assistance. Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/wa7vsf

Geographic focus

Canada's ODA to data and statistics focuses on Africa and the Americas,[3] especially the Caribbean (Figure 3 and Figure 4).[4] From 2017 to 2019, 43% of Canada's region-allocable ODA was targeted to Africa and 35% was targeted to the Americas. Close to one-third of Canada's ODA supported regional initiatives.

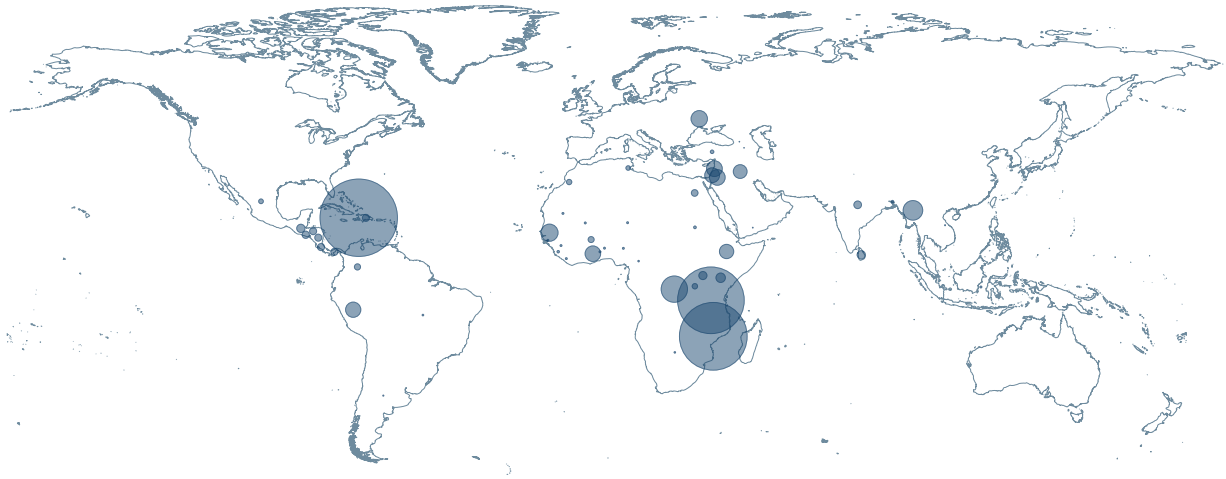
Key partner countries are Haiti, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, which together accounted for 47% of Canada's total support between 2017 and 2019:

- In **Mozambique**, Global Affairs Canadais partnering with the UNFPA for the Evidence for Empowerment (2018-2022) project, which aims to strengthen the capacity of the National Institute

for Statistics in Mozambique to improve the availability of reliable and comprehensive, sex-disaggregated population data. Canada also funds a UNICEF project that aims to increase civil and vital registration rates to inform and improve policies and programmes that reduce maternal and child mortality.

- In **Tanzania**, GAC works with UNICEF to scale up birth registration using innovative technology.
- In partnership with the UNFPA, Canada supported **Haiti**'s 5th General Population and Housing Census as well as a project that aims to digitise Haiti's land registry.

Figure 3. Canada – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

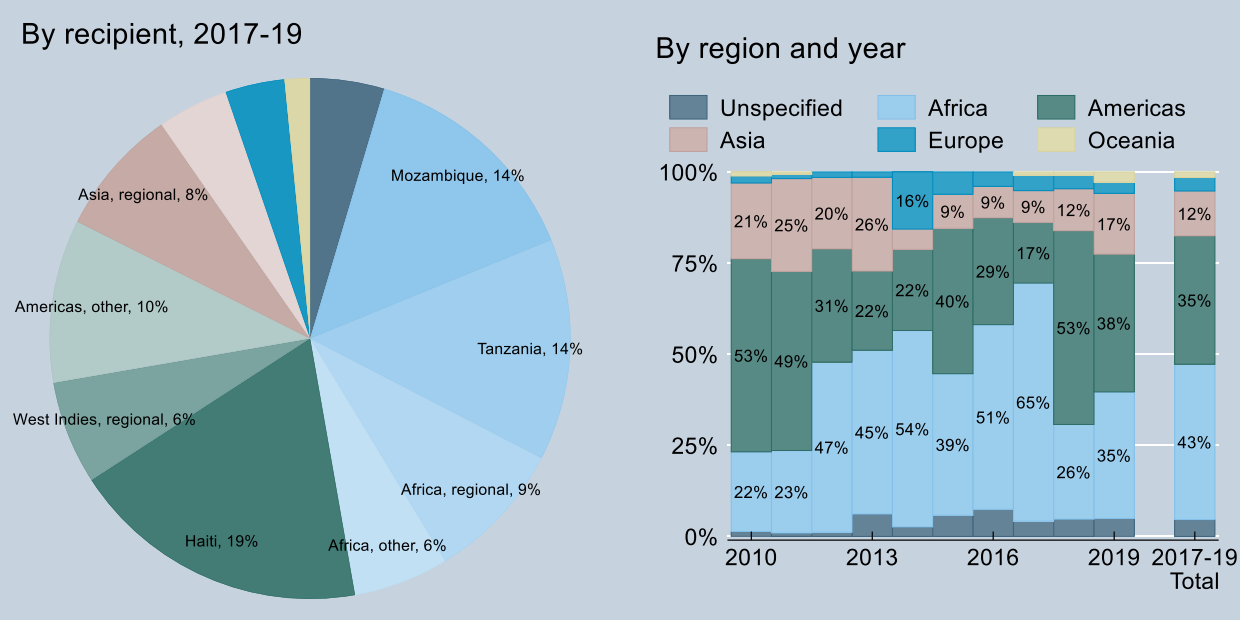


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/9g8ar5

Figure 4. Canada – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

Share of total

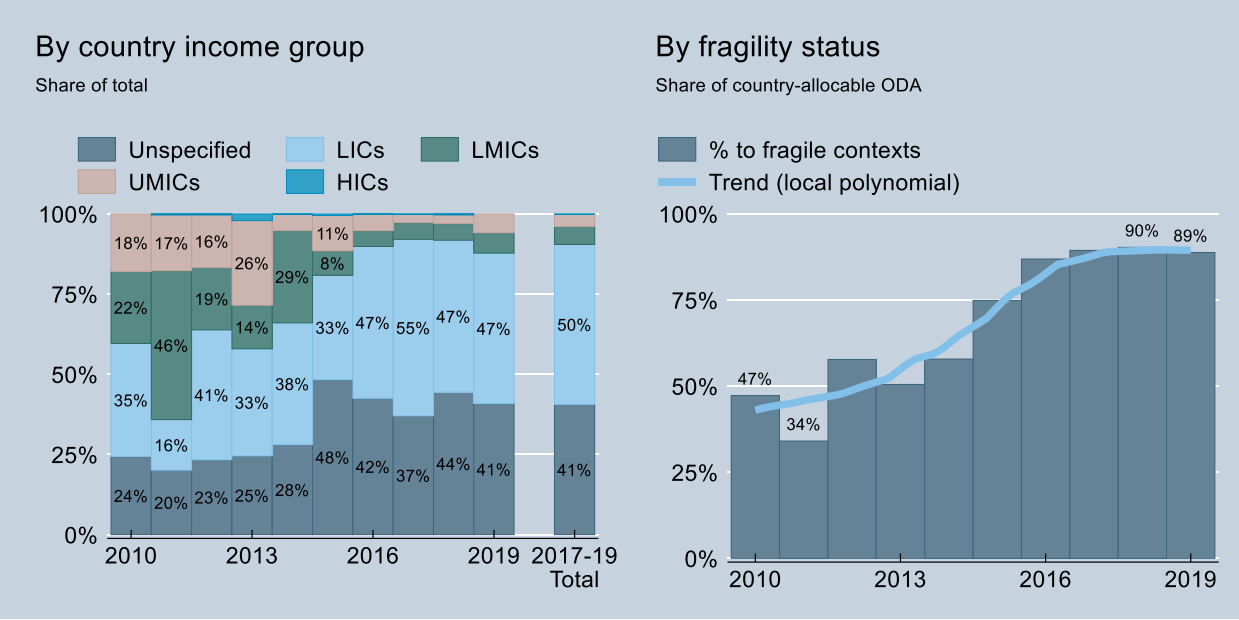


Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/c803pr

From 2017 to 2019, 85% of Canada's country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 50% of total ODA, benefited low-income countries (LICs) (Figure 5). Its geographic composition has changed significantly since 2010: while middle-income countries (MICs) often accounted for more than half of Canada's country-allocable ODA to data and statistics between 2010 and 2014, their share had decreased to around 20% by 2019. At the same time, the share of total ODA for data and statistics channelled through regional initiatives, multilateral channels or directly to LICs increased. 89% of Canada's country-allocable ODA was targeted to fragile contexts in 2019, up from 47% in 2010.

Figure 5. Canada – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

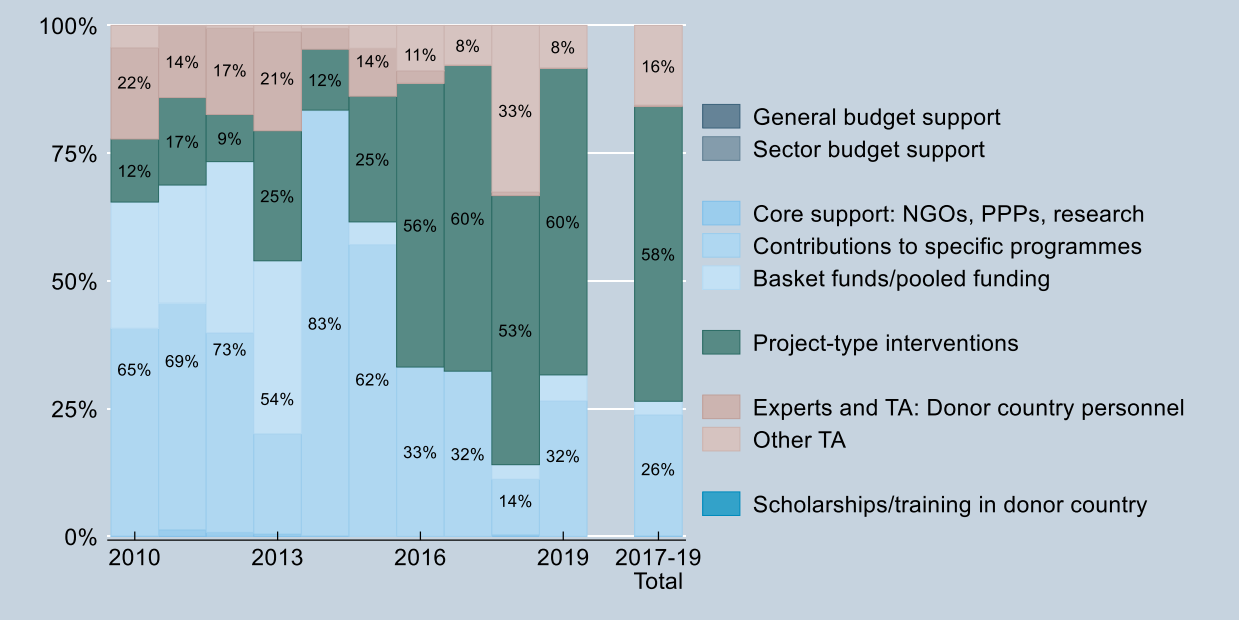
StatLink https://stat.link/f0ok4r

Modalities and channels of delivery

Between 2017 and 2019, 58% of Canada's ODA to data and statistics was delivered in the form of project-type interventions. Contributions to specific programmes implemented by partners and pooled funding accounted for 26% and experts and other technical assistance for 16%. The share delivered in the form of project-type interventions has increased since 2010, especially after 2014 (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Canada – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total

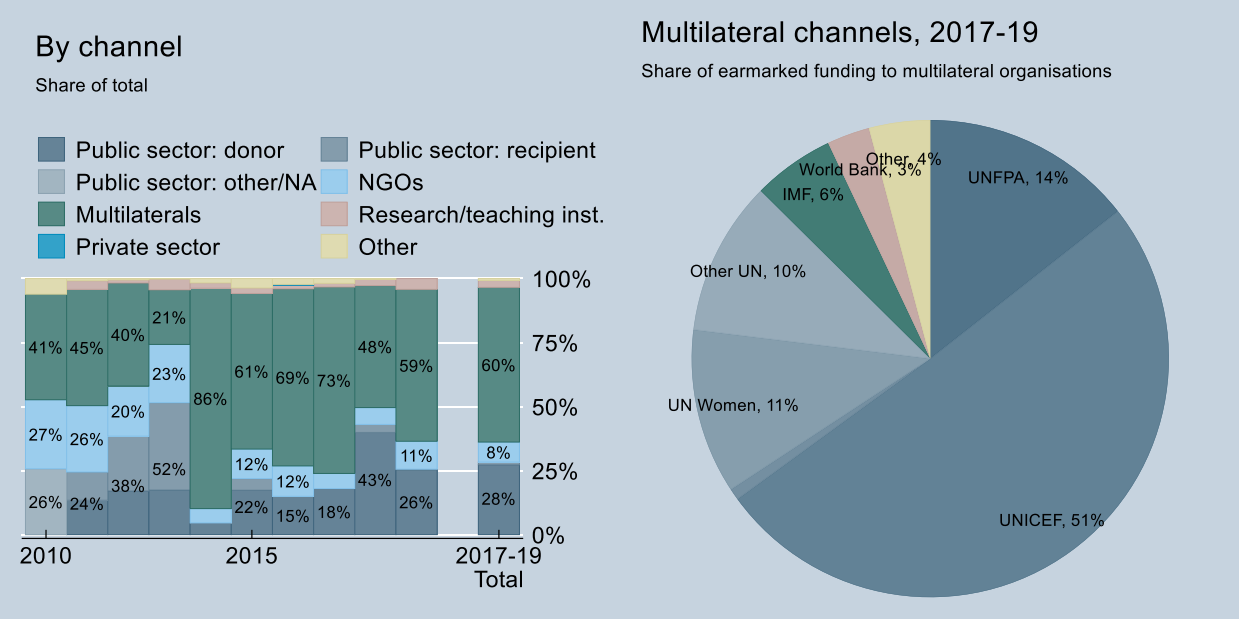


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/gbfip5

The share of contributions to multilateral organisations in Canada's total ODA has remained constant in the past years, at about 50% (see Canada's 2020 Development Co-operation Profile). Yet in terms of its data- and statistics-related ODA, significant investments in CRVS programmes under MNCH 2.0 in 2014 and 2015 resulted in a much larger share of multi-bi aid from 2014 (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Canada – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; UN: United Nations; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/a6bd2u

Of the 60% of Canada's ODA to data and statistics channelled through multilateral organisations in 2017-19, roughly 60% was allocated to project-type interventions or experts and other technical assistance. About 40% was disbursed in the form of contributions to specific-purpose programmes managed by implementing partners and pooled funding. Key partners included UNICEF, which accounted for one-third of Canada's total ODA to data and statistics, the UNFPA (7%) and UN Women (6%).

Box 1. Canada – related documents

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Government of Canada (2017): Canada's *Feminist International Assistance Policy*
- Global Affairs Canada (2019): *Final Report: Evaluation of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Initiative 2010-11 to 2017-18*
- International co-operation of Statistics Canada
- Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC)
- International Development Research Centre: Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
- 5th General Population and Housing Census and Computerised Land Registry project in Haiti
- Evidence for Empowerment (2018-2022) project in Mozambique
- Scaling-up Birth Registration Using Innovative Technology project in Tanzania
- Open Data for Development project

Notes

[1] As the host of the G8 summit in 2010, Canada launched the Muskoka Initiative on MNCH (MNCH 1.0), committing to spend an additional CAD 1.1 billion over five years for maternal and child heath in low- and middle-income countries. This was on top of maintaining existing programme funding of CAD 1.75 billion over five years, bringing the total MNCH 1.0 investment to CAD 2.85 billion (MNCH baseline plus Muskoka). In 2014, Canada renewed its commitment to MNCH programming with an additional investment of CAD 650 million, for a total of CAD 3.5 billion for 2015-20. This is known as MNCH 2.0, and brought the total MNCH commitment for 2010-20 to CAD 6.35 billion. MNCH 1.0 disbursed over CAD 341 million above the CAD 2.75 billion target and the MNCH 2.0 target was met in 2020.

[2] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

[3] As part of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada is committed to ensuring that no less than 50% of its bilateral international development assistance is directed to sub-Saharan African countries by 2021-22.

[4] The Canadian government announced its intention to re-engage with Latin America and the Caribbean and to make the region a top international priority in 2007. An Americas Strategy was developed which focused on three inter-dependent strategic objectives or pillars: 1) increasing economic prosperity; 2) reinforcing democracy; and 3) advancing common security.

Denmark

Denmark aims to strengthen the availability and accessibility of data on migration and displacement, reflecting the strategic focus on migration in its development co-operation policy. It also provides technical assistance, implemented by Statistics Denmark, its national statistical office, to strengthen general statistical capacity in select partner countries and in the context of EU-financed twinning projects.

Strategies, actors and funding

Denmark's development co-operation system is anchored within the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (MFA) and is guided by *The World 2030*, Denmark's strategy for development co-operation and humanitarian action. The strategy focuses on the intersections of development and four priority areas: 1) security; 2) migration; 3) inclusive and sustainable growth; and 4) democracy, human rights and gender equality.

In the context of Denmark's Strategic Sector Cooperation initiative, the MFA provides funding for technical assistance to build general statistical capacity in co-operation with **Statistics Denmark**. Launched in 2015, this initiative aims to engage Danish public authorities in strategic partner countries to: help put in place conditions for sustainable development; contribute to stronger bilateral relationships; and open doors for the Danish private sector by engaging it in delivering solutions to development challenges in partner countries. In 2019, the MFA and Statistics Denmark entered into co-operation agreements with the national statistical offices of **Ghana**, **Morocco** and **Viet Nam**, with a focus on strengthening statistical production and dissemination. In the past, direct funding was also provided to **Mozambique**'s National Institute of Statistics (INE) in combination with technical assistance provided by Statistics Denmark (see below).

The range of activities supported by Statistics Denmark includes technical assistance on all aspects of statistical production as well as for organisational management and statistical legislation and policy. Projects are designed in close co-operation with the partner institution and typically take the form of a one-year start-up phase to determine the scope of the project followed by a three-year implementation phase. During this time, experts from Denmark usually conduct short missions every few months while a local project co-ordinator, a position funded as part of the project, ensures continuous progress on the ground. In addition to projects funded by the MFA, Statistics Denmark also provides assistance to sister organisations in the context of EU-funded twinning projects in pre-accession and neighbouring EU countries as well as in the context of projects funded by the World Bank, other providers or partner governments. Some project examples include:

- EU-financed twinning projects have accounted for the largest shares of Statistics Denmark's technical assistance projects in past years. They include co-operation projects with the national statistical offices of **Armenia** (2011-13 and 2015-17), **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (2011-13, 2014-16 and 2018-20), **Egypt** (2008-10), **Georgia** (2019-21), **Israel** (2016-18), **Jordan** (2013-15), **Kosovo** (2013-16), and **Ukraine** (2011-13 and 2013-15).
- Support to **Mozambique's** INE ran from 2003 to the end of 2017. Between 2003 and 2007, Denmark, Norway and Sweden co-financed both technical assistance and statistical activities. A consortium, Scanstat, was formed, with Statistics Denmark taking the lead and Statistics Norway

and Statistics Sweden also providing technical assistance. From 2008 to 2017, technical assistance provided by Scanstat was financed through the INE's Common Fund supported by many different donors.

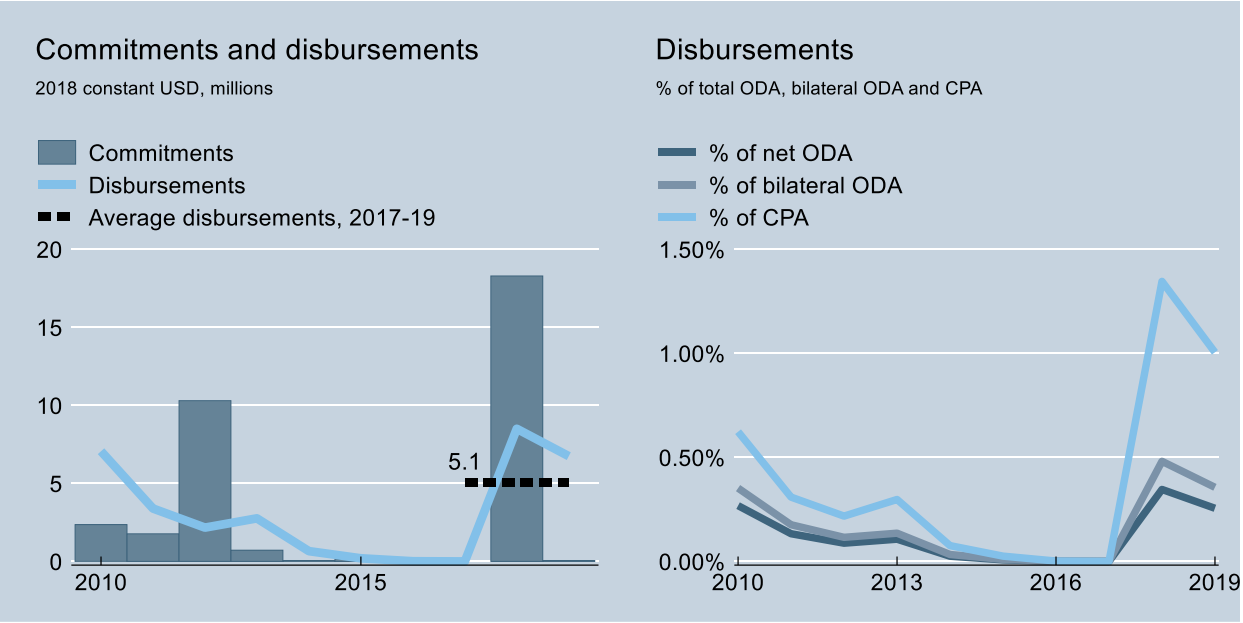
In line with Denmark's focus on migration and development, in 2018, the MFA also funded two data- and statistics-related projects related to migration:

- First, it committed USD 17.6 million to the World Bank-UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) **Joint Data Center** on Forced Displacement. The centre's mission is to enhance the ability of stakeholders to take timely and evidence-informed decisions that can improve the lives of people affected by displacement. It focuses on the collection, analysis and dissemination of primary microdata on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people, returnees, asylum seekers and host communities. The centre is located at UN City in Copenhagen, managed and owned equally by the World Bank and the UNHCR and governed by representatives of the two multilateral organisations as well as representatives of donors and refugee-hosting countries.
- Second, USD 1.6 million were committed to the creation of a **Central Migration Data Management Solution for Jordan** (MIDAM), implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development. This project aims to put in place a system that allows for direct access to a consolidated pool of data and facilitate data sharing among the different government bodies which gather datasets related to foreigners in Jordan.

In 2014-15, Denmark also supported United Nations Global Pulse, the UN Secretary-General's initiative on Big Data and artificial intelligence for development, humanitarian action and peace.

According to OECD data and research,[1] Denmark disbursed a total of USD 15.3 million (in 2018 prices) to data- and statistics-related activities between 2017 and 2019 (Figure 1). Of this total, around 90%, USD 13.8 million, were linked to the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement and 6% (USD 0.9 million) to the MIDAM project in Jordan. While Denmark disbursed only around USD 400 000 (2018 prices) to data- and statistics-related activities – mostly as technical assistance – between 2014 and 2017, there was a significant increase in disbursements for data and statistics in 2018 in connection with the two migration projects. Co-operation in the context of the Strategic Sector Cooperation initiatives in Ghana and Morocco (see above) accounted for 2-3% of the total over these three years.

Figure 1. Denmark – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/fp0sc6

Box 1. Denmark – related documents

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (2017): *The World 2030*
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (2018): Strategic Sector Cooperation
- Statistics-focussed Strategic Sector Cooperation projects in Ghana and Morocco
- Information about the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
- MFA-funded project for a Central Migration Data Management Solution in Jordan, 2019-20

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

European Union

The European Union (EU) is a major source of funding and technical assistance for data and statistics in developing countries. Strengthening partner country capacities to produce and disseminate statistics is part of the EU's overall capacity building activities. It prioritises reliable statistics for macroeconomic management, project management and the evaluation of objectives. The EU supports statistical capacity building primarily in countries in Eastern and South East Europe, Europe's Southern Neighbourhood, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Strategies, actors and funding

With annual disbursements of USD 66 million (Figure 1) and an average of more than 50 distinct partner countries each year, the EU is among the most important sources of official development assistance (ODA) for data and statistics.. Strengthening partner country capacities to produce and disseminate statistics is part of the EU's overall capacity building activities. It emphasises reliable statistics for macroeconomic management, project management and the evaluation of objectives. Support focuses on statistics for key economic and social indicators, which are often needed as performance indicators in budget support programmes, as well as on trade and fiscal statistics. Social statistics are particularly relevant for the EU in the context of its support to African countries.

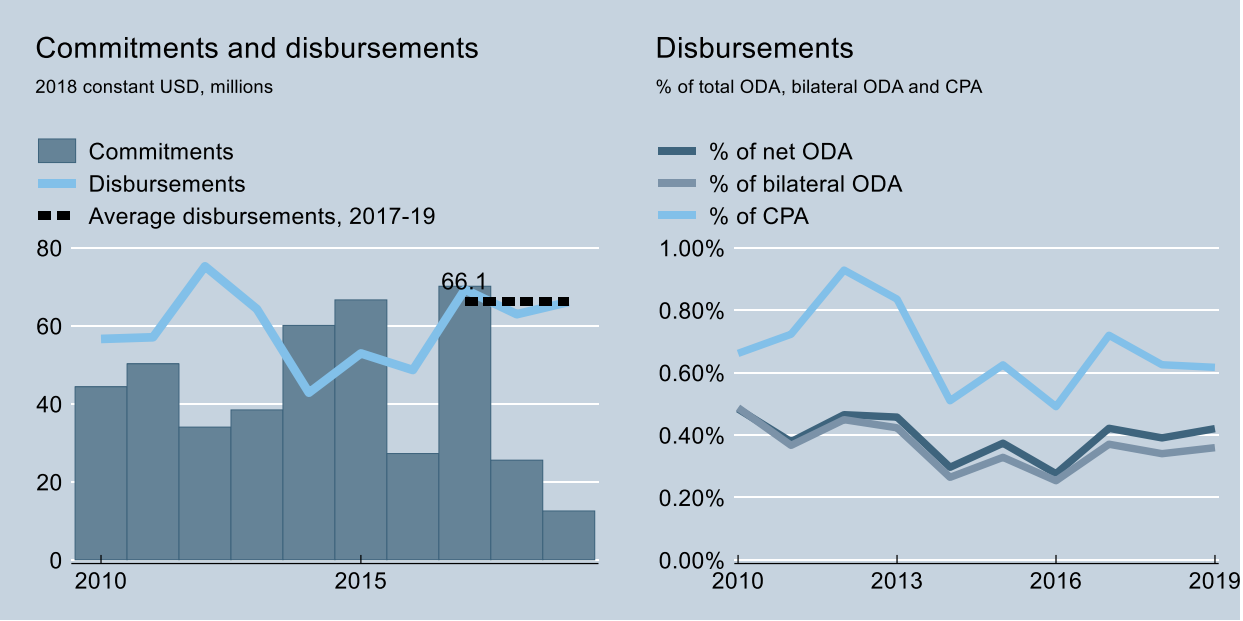
Eurostat, a Directorate-General of the European Commission, is the main implementing agency for statistical capacity development on behalf of the EU. It engages in technical assistance in the context of the EU's enlargement policy, the European Neighbourhood Policy (under the responsibility of the Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and the EU's development and co-operation policy (under the responsibility of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships). Programme and project examples include:

- In the context of the EU's enlargement policy, Eurostat provides support in the frame of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance programmes to candidate countries and potential candidates – the Western Balkans and Turkey. Part of the support is managed by the EU delegations located in the countries concerned, with which Eurostat co-operates closely.
- In the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy, Eurostat co-operates with countries of the EU's eastern and southern neighbourhood to allow a gradual convergence towards harmonised and comparable economic and social data as well as to increase compliance with European and international standards. The regional Statistics Through Eastern Partnership (STEP) programme is one of the instruments to achieve this objective.
- In the context of development policy, Eurostat is committed to sharing values and practices with third countries and partner institutions, in particular across Africa. To support them in building statistical capacity to produce good quality official statistics, Eurostat has an active programme of co-operation in Africa, the Pan African Statistics Programme.

- Eurostat also has an active programme of co-operation with international organisations (e.g. the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and the World Bank) and closely follows global statistics and data support initiatives.

The EU's official development assistance (ODA) for data and statistics often aims to foster participatory development and good governance. According to OECD data and research,[1] the largest share of resources are dedicated to strengthening general statistical capacity building (39%) followed by economic statistics (15%). In line with its focus on neighbouring regions and actual and potential candidate countries, the EU disburses a large share of its overall support to countries in Eastern and South East Europe, Central Asia, and Africa (including North Africa). Partnerships with African countries, including countries in sub-Saharan Africa, have grown in recent years. Between 2017 and 2019, about 40% of the EU's support for data and statistics was channelled through multilateral organisations.

Figure 1. European Union – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/ugaoem

Lessons learnt

In its support to data and statistics, the EU aims to ensure high-quality support and the sustainability of results. For this to happen, it views the following as key:

- Political decision makers need to understand official statistics. Their role in and importance for guiding national policies is essential. This has to materialise in both vocal support and the allocation of adequate human and financial resources to producers of official statistics.
- Beneficiaries'/partners' ownership of technical assistance is key; hence, programming should be based on jointly identified and agreed needs.
- Regional programmes to countries in similar situations have additional value in terms of intensive exchange of experience and peer learning.

- Coherence of international co-operation activities is key to maintaining relevance and avoiding overlap and duplication of efforts.

As a result of COVID-19, Eurostat realised that many projects and project components could be conducted virtually. A reduction in physical activities – travel, accommodation, meetings, etc. – would both save financial resources and could help spread project activities among a larger group of beneficiaries. This would also be in line with European and global environmental protection efforts.

Table 1. European Union – kind of support and type of data sources supported

	Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	To a great extent
What kind of support does your organisation currently provide?				
Improving statistical production				X
Strengthening data dissemination				X
Advocacy on the value and impact of data and statistics			X	
Improving statistical literacy of data users	X			
Promoting data use by policy makers, civil society and citizens			X	
What type of data sources does your organisation currently support?				
Statistical sources (surveys and censuses)				X
Administrative data systems (tax, business or property registers; civil registration systems; health management information systems, etc.)				X
New data sources (geospatial data, big data, etc.)		X		

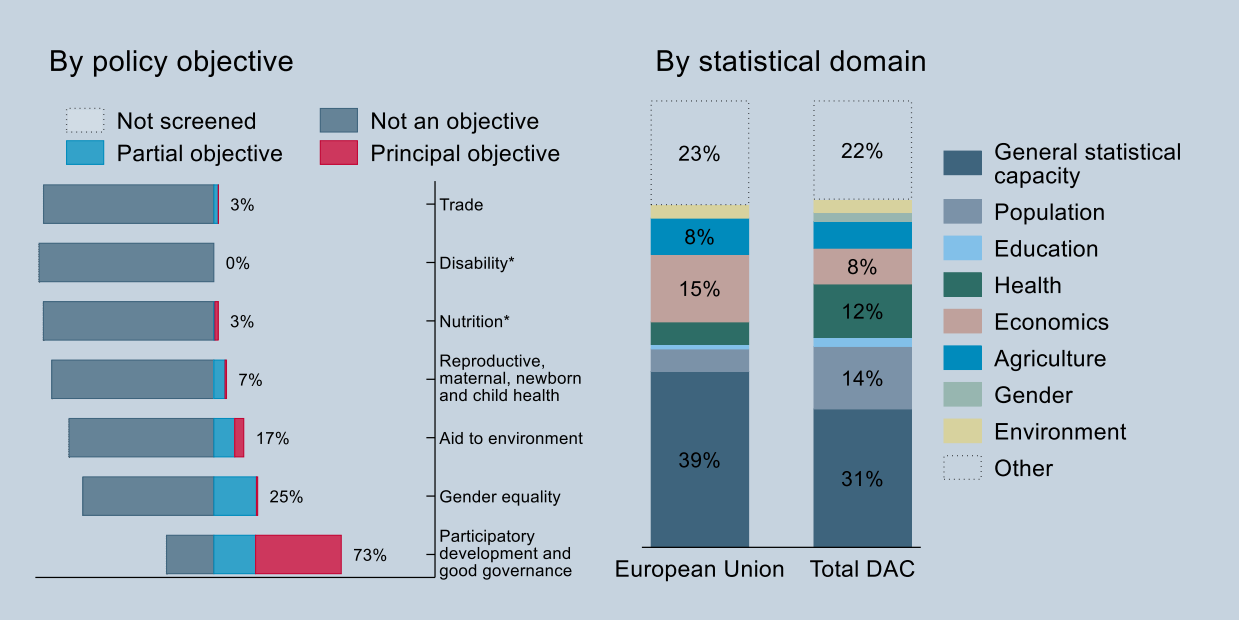
Source: The European Union's responses to OECD inquiry.

Thematic focus

According to OECD data for the 2017-19 period, 73% of the EU's ODA to data and statistics aimed to boost participatory development and good governance as a partial or principal objective, 25% aimed to support gender equality and 17% to help protect the environment (Figure 2). In particular, the EU supports **general statistical capacity development** (39%), **economic statistics** (15%) and **agricultural statistics** (8%).

Figure 2. European Union – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-18

Share of total



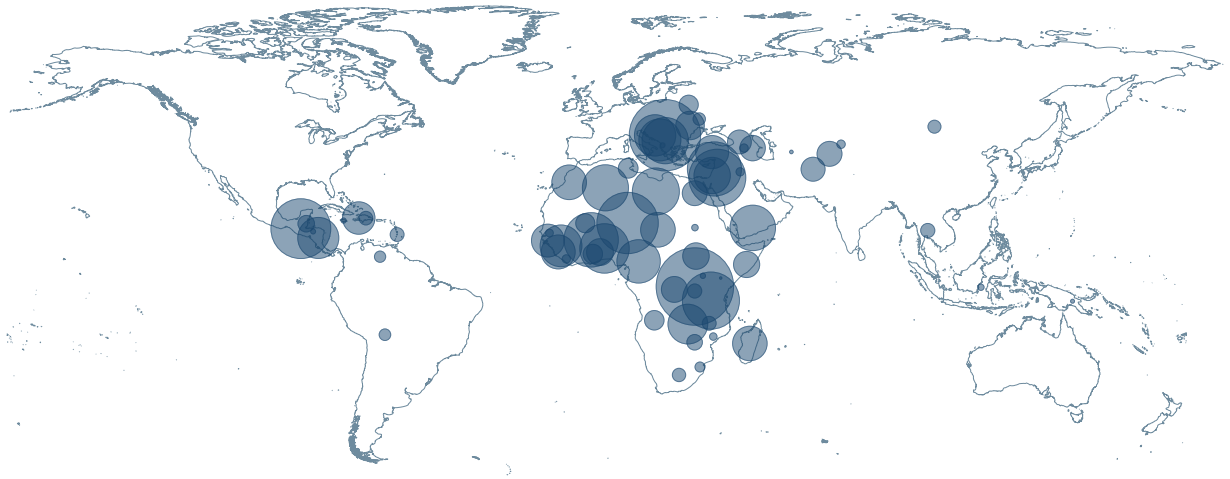
Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/uajt0i

Geographic focus

The European Union supports data and statistics in the countries of Eastern and South East Europe, the Southern Neighbourhood, Africa, Latin America, and Central and Southern Asia. Key partner countries between 2017 and 2019 included Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Serbia and Niger (Figure 3 and Figure 4). Regional programmes in Europe and Africa accounted for 9% and 4% of the EU's total ODA for data and statistics, respectively.

Figure 3. European Union – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

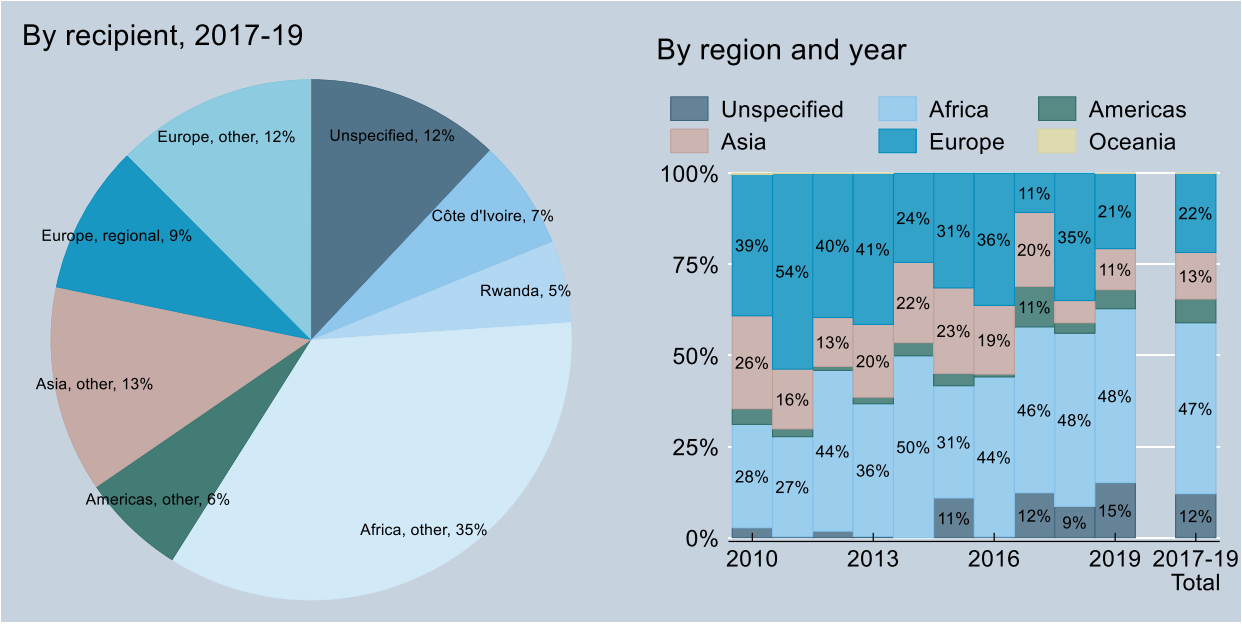


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/ey9fin

Figure 4. European Union – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

Share of total



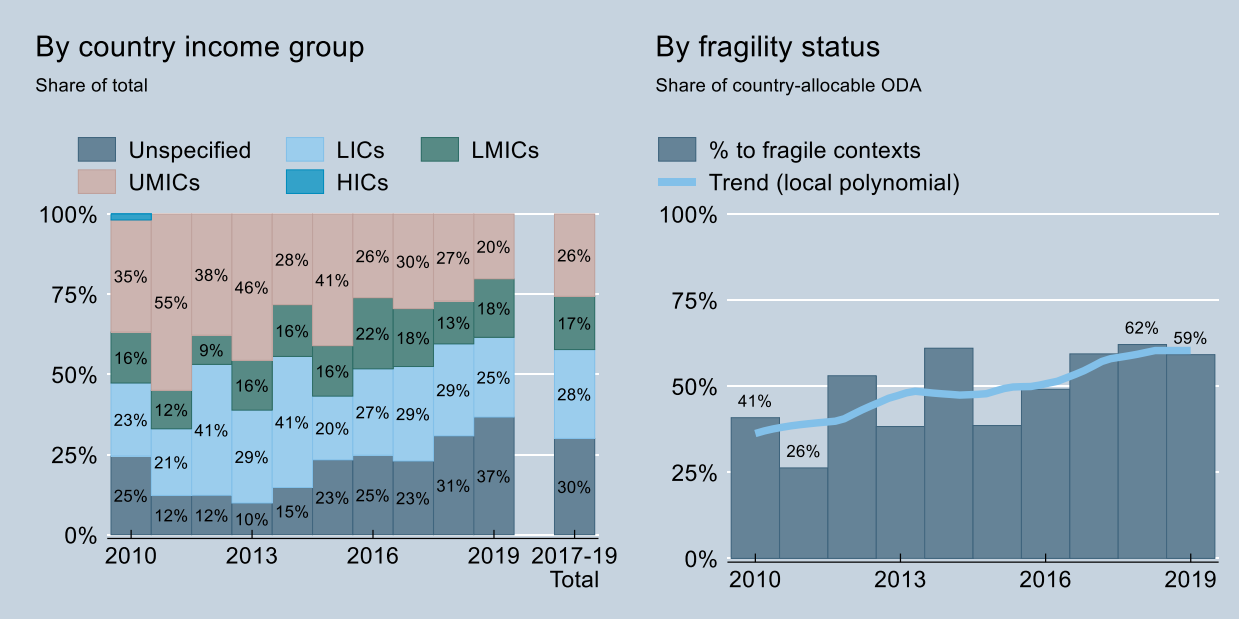
Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/24kp3e

Over 2017-19, 70% of the EU's ODA to data and statistics can be allocated to specific countries, of which 40% were disbursed to low-income countries, 24% to lower middle-income countries and 36% to upper middle-income countries (Figure 5).

The regional composition of the EU's ODA to data and statistics has changed significantly since 2010, with a larger share allocated to low- and lower middle-income countries, especially in Africa, and through regional and multilateral initiatives that are not allocable by country (see Figure 4, Figure 5 and below). The share allocated to African countries increased from 28% in 2010 to 48% in 2019. Similarly, the share of the EU's country-allocable ODA allocated to fragile contexts increased from 41% in 2010 to 62% by 2018.

Figure 5. European Union – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

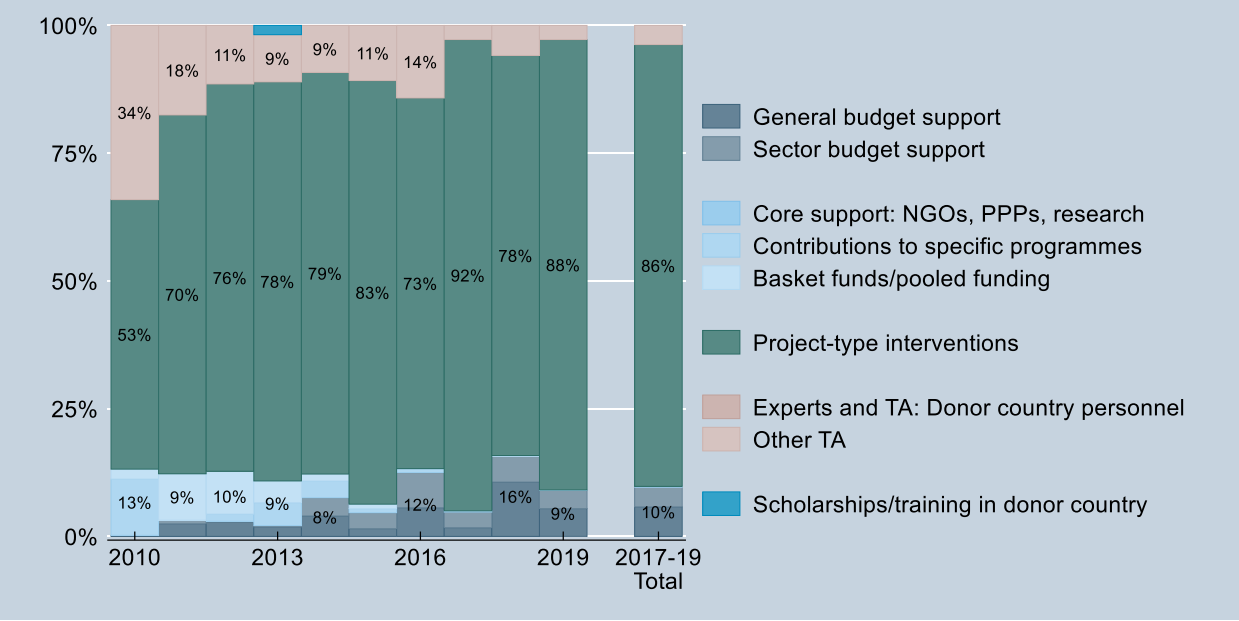
StatLink https://stat.link/6wbhzm

Modalities and channels of delivery

In 2017-19, 86% of the EU's ODA to data and statistics in developing countries was provided in the form of project-type interventions, about 10% in the form of budget support and the remainder in the form of experts and other technical assistance (Figure 6). The share of project-type interventions has increased significantly since 2010 mostly at the expense of technical assistance. There has also been an increase in support to data and statistics via budget support modalities.

Figure 6. European Union – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total

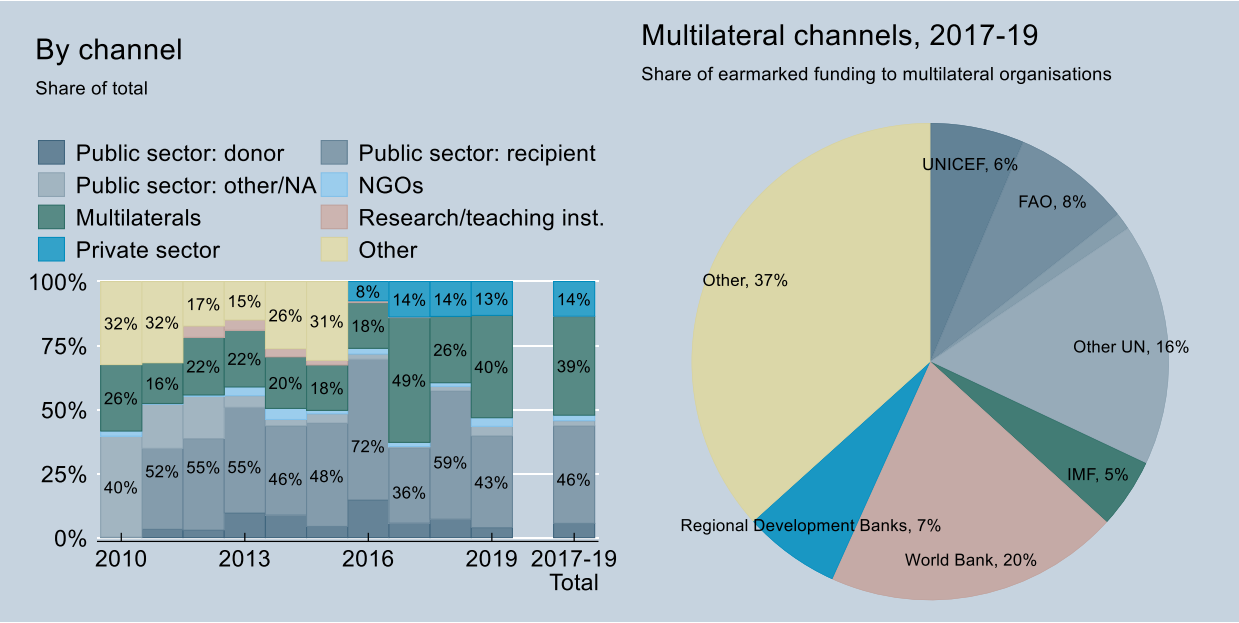


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/r2qxs5

The EU frequently channels a large share of its ODA, around 46%, directly to public sector entities – mostly in recipient countries (Figure 7). For instance, in Rwanda, a key partner of the EU, support to projects led by the National Institute for Statistics have been funded via a recipient-executed multi-donor trust fund (as part of the second component of the EU's Accountable Economic Governance Support programme). Established in 2007 and co-funded by the United Kingdom, the World Bank and the United Nations, the basket fund has been identified as effective in ensuring alignment with Rwanda's priorities as identified by the National Institute for Statistics in its National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (Sarwar, Samman and Greenhill [2018], "Good practices for sustained financing of national statistics").

Figure 7. European Union – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/254fhz

Between 2017 and 2019, support channelled through multilateral organisations accounted for nearly 40% of the EU's ODA to data and statistics (Figure 7). It entails co-operation with a wide range of multilateral organisations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and United Nations agencies, on various data- and statistics-related projects, for instance,

- its partnership with the **International Energy Agency** on the EU4Energy data project, which aims to improve the quality of energy data and statistics
- its support to the **World Bank's** Madagascar Single-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, which aims to strengthen the capacity of Madagascar's National Statistics Institute to produce quality statistics and to enhance its statistical dissemination practice
- its funding for the **Food and Agriculture Organization's** Yemen's National Food Security Information System
- its support to the **IMF's** Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund, which aims to put more and better data in the hands of decision makers to enhance evidence-based macroeconomic policies.

Box 1. European Union – related documents and contacts

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- International co-operation at Eurostat
- Accountable Economic Governance Support programme
- World Bank: Statistical Capacity EU Grant
- International Energy Agency: EU4Energy Programme
- Food and Agriculture Organization: Developing a National Food Security Information System in Yemen
- IMF: Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund
- EU Accountable Economic Governance Support (including funding provided via a basket fund to support the implementation of Rwanda 2nd National Strategy for the Development of Statistics)

Contact

- Unit 01: External and interinstitutional relations, Eurostat: ESTAT-INTERNATIONAL-RELATIONS@ec.europa.eu

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

Italy

Italy's development co-operation strategy explicitly recognises statistical capacity building as a priority area, with a specific focus on technical support, training and funding for population data in select partner countries. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) partners with Istat, Italy's national statistical office, to deliver technical support and also with various multilateral organisations.

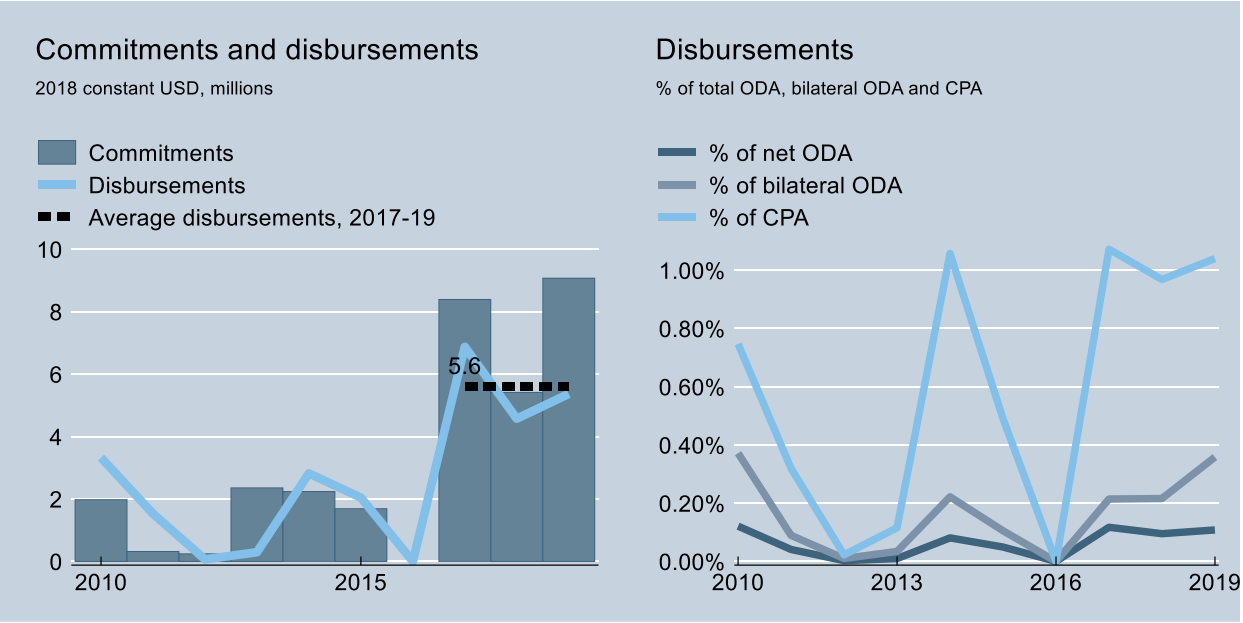
Strategies, actors and funding

The policy vision of Italy's development co-operation is outlined in the Three-year Programming and Policy Planning Document 2019-2021 (PPPD). In a framework built around the five "Ps" of the 2030 Agenda – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships – the three year programme makes the 2030 Agenda central to Italy's development co-operation, reflects the commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and helps focus on populations at risk of being left behind. It also recognises statistical capacity building as one strategic priority area, focusing on three areas. First, technical support to strengthen the capacities of national statistical organisations and systems, with the overall goal of producing SDG indicators by modernising their production and dissemination, and developing the countries' statistical governance. Second, training statisticians in partner countries to develop sustainable capacities to produce and analyse data at the best disaggregation level. And third, support to population censuses and statistics to produce reliable, crucial information with a view to informing strategies to leave no one behind.

The 2015 Italian Action Plan: Statistics as Knowledge: Indispensable for Cooperation, Strategic for Development also cites the need for reliable and up-to-date data on development co-operation, where statistics play a strategic role in policy design and for good governance. It states that AICS should work with its partners towards strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices for the development of modern statistical systems, including adequate resources, governance structures and quality control.

Italy's support to statistics and data development in partner countries is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) through the agency, AICS. According to OECD data and research,[1] the agency disbursed an average of USD 5.6 million per year (in 2018 prices) to data- and statistics-related activities between 2017 and 2019, a significant increase compared to previous years (Figure 1). In line with its stated priorities, Italy's support has been focused on population data and statistics, especially civil and vital registries and general statistical capacity development. Ethiopia and Mozambique were key partners in this regard. Alignment and consistency with national strategies for the development of statistics and the countries' national development plans is always sought in the design and implementation of projects.

Figure 1. Italy – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/tjskgx

Istat is AICS' key institutional partner for data- and statistics-related projects and programmes. One example of the close co-operation between AICS and Istat is the two-year programme to support statistical capacity in Myanmar's Central Statistical Organisation.[2] Istat is active in international co-operation, implementing projects funded by Italian bilateral ODA or by multilateral organisations (e.g. the European Union). Currently active projects include technical assistance to peer organisations in Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar, the Palestinian Authority, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and member countries of the Caribbean Community and support in the context of the European Union's statistical capacity development through participation in the MEDSTAT programme and, since 2019, the Statistics through Eastern Partnership (STEP) project.

Italy's support covers the main aspects of **statistical processes and products**, including methodology and quality frameworks; domains of **statistical production** (population, economic, social, environment, gender and agriculture statistics); and more recent priorities such as **geospatial information, new data sources** (e.g. Big Data) and **data integration, development of statistical registers**, the SDGs and metadata frameworks. Moreover, cross-cutting areas such as institutional frameworks; organisational and administrative setup; planning, communication and dissemination; and users' engagement are becoming increasingly important in Italy's co-operation in the area of data and statistics.

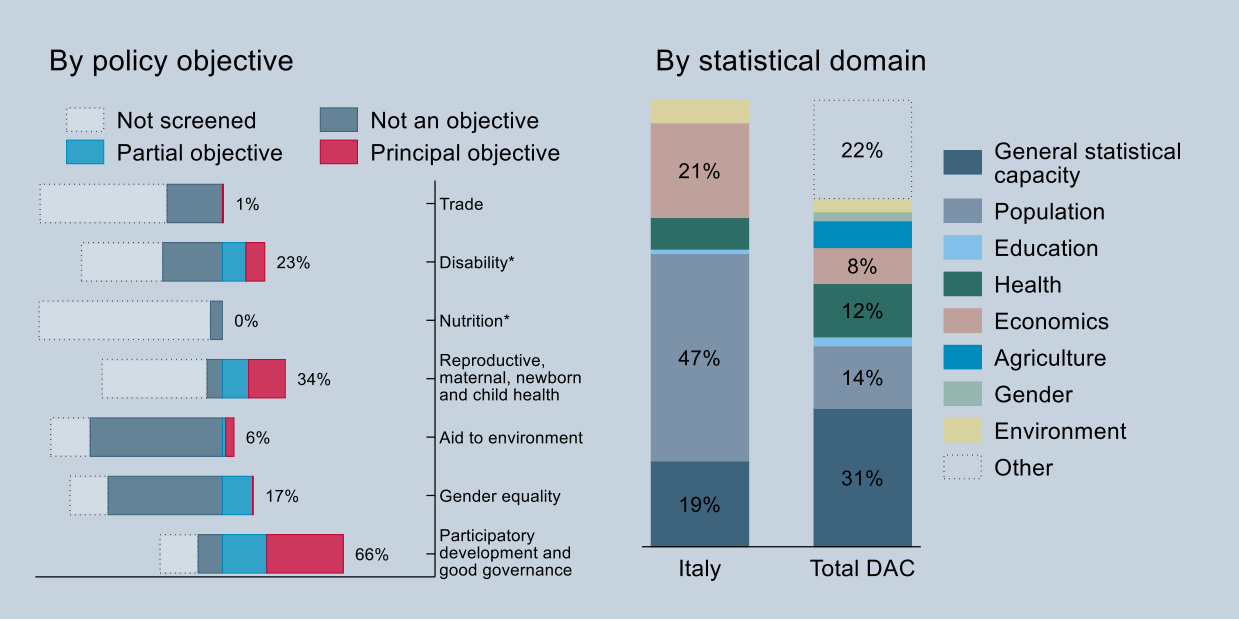
Italy provides about half of its financial assistance through support for multilateral initiatives, including in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the World Bank. To a minor extent, support was also provided to regional statistical training centres, with the funding of a training project between Italian universities and the Eastern African Statistical Training Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Finally, Italy is also active in international fora and contexts, such as the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the Bern Network.

Thematic focus

Between 2017 and 2019, 66% of Italy's official development assistance (ODA) to data and statistics aimed to strengthen participatory development and good governance (Figure 2). Improving the health of mothers and their children (34% of disbursements in 2017-19) and the quality of life of persons with disabilities (23%) are also policy objectives frequently associated with Italy's support in the area of data and statistics. In line with priorities identified in Italy's strategies, **47% of Italy's support aims to strengthen population statistics**, while 19% aims to strengthen general statistical capacity.

Figure 2. Italy – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

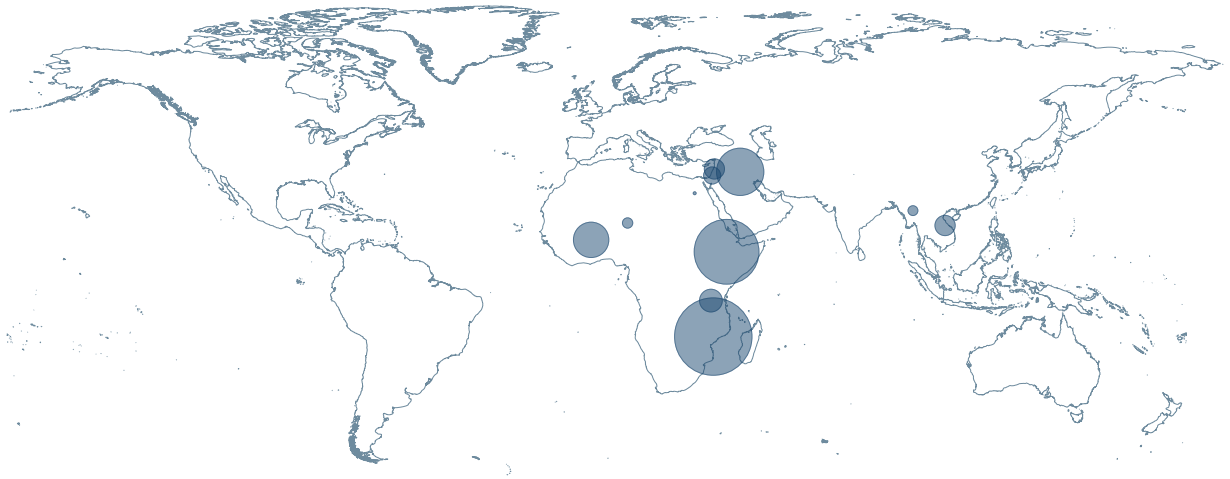
StatLink https://stat.link/r0nt3y

Geographic focus

In general, Italian development co-operation provides support according to geographic priorities that reflect traditional historical, political and cultural ties and are often influenced by geographic proximity. Also, Italy looks for 'win-win' situations, in which criteria for country selection reflect both the partner country's context and needs and Italy's foreign policy priorities and international commitments.

Between 2017 and 2019, around half of Italy's ODA to data and statistics was allocable to specific countries. This share was often targeted to specific priority partners such as Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mozambique (Figure 3 and Figure 4)

Figure 3. Italy – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

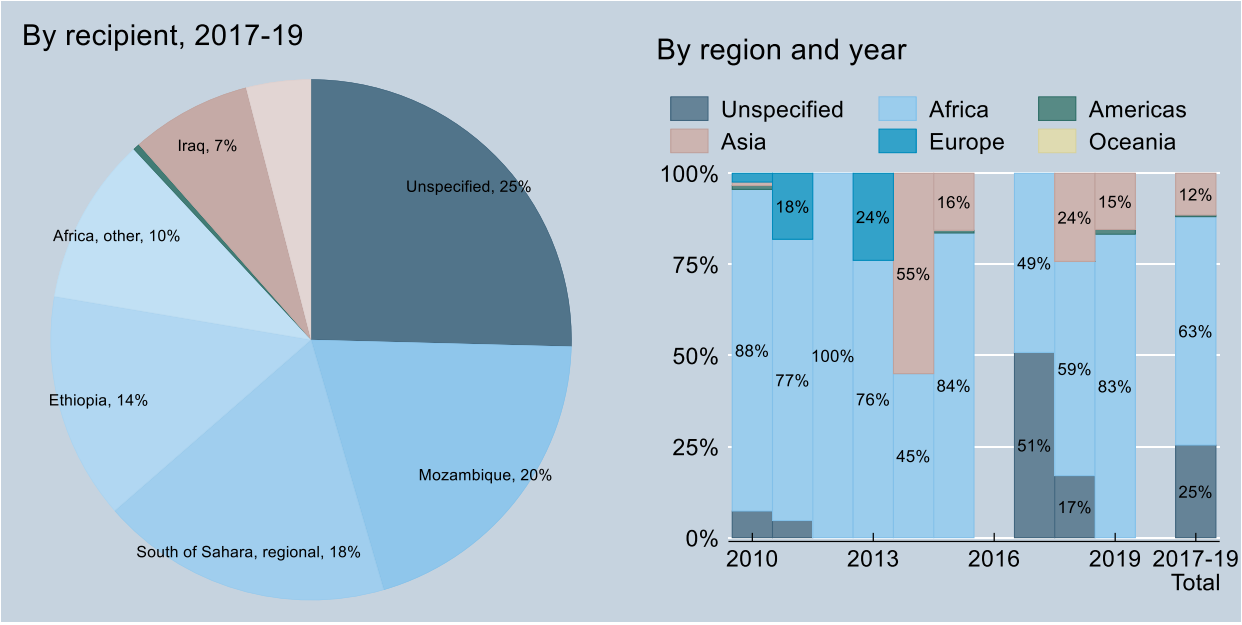


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/xw8vc7

Figure 4. Italy – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

Share of total

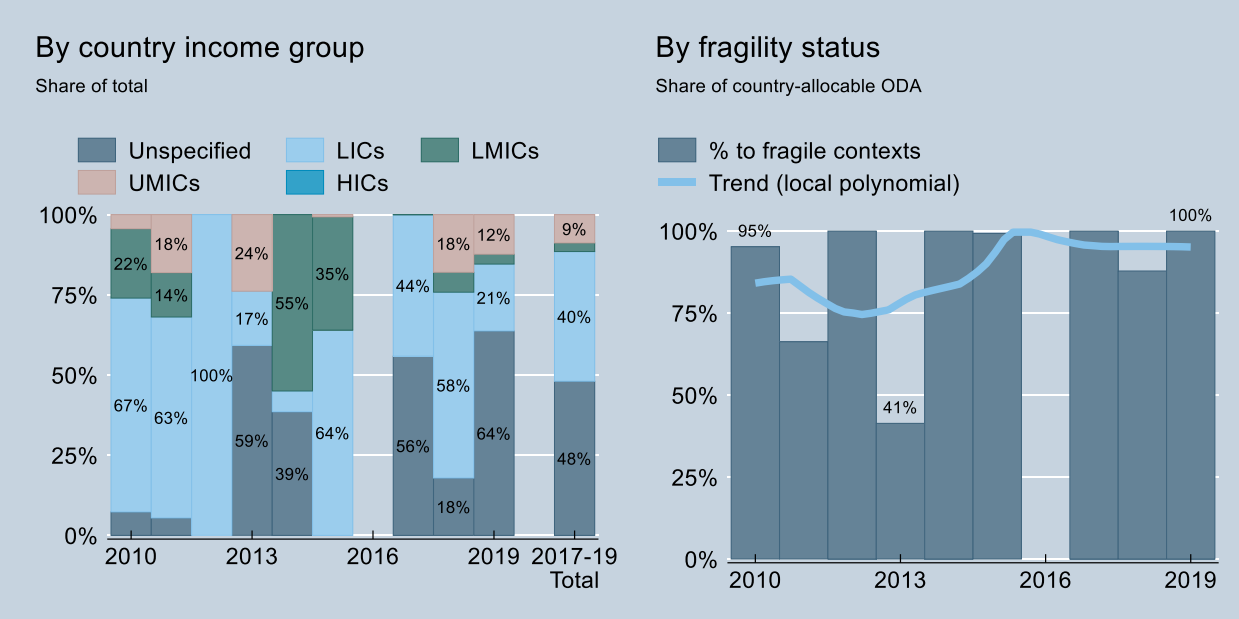


Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/lh49ec

Italy's support between 2010 and 2019 has also been noteworthy for a high share of allocable ODA targeted to low-income countries (LICs) and fragile contexts (Figure 5): Ethiopia and Mozambique, the two main recipients of Italian ODA to data and statistics over this time period, are both classified as fragile LICs. Iraq is also classified as fragile.

Figure 5. Italy – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

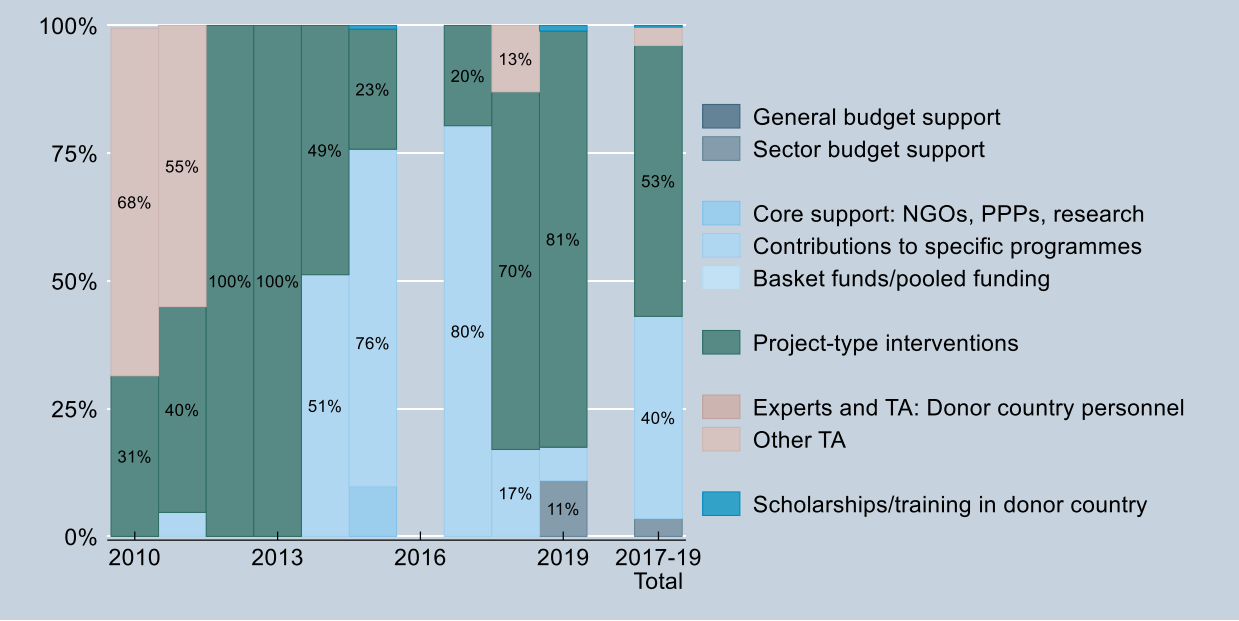
StatLink https://stat.link/dpxlvq

Modalities and channels of delivery

Between 2017 and 2019, 53% of Italy's ODA to data and statistics was provided in the form of project-type interventions and 40% in the form of contributions to specific programmes or pooled funding (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Italy – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total

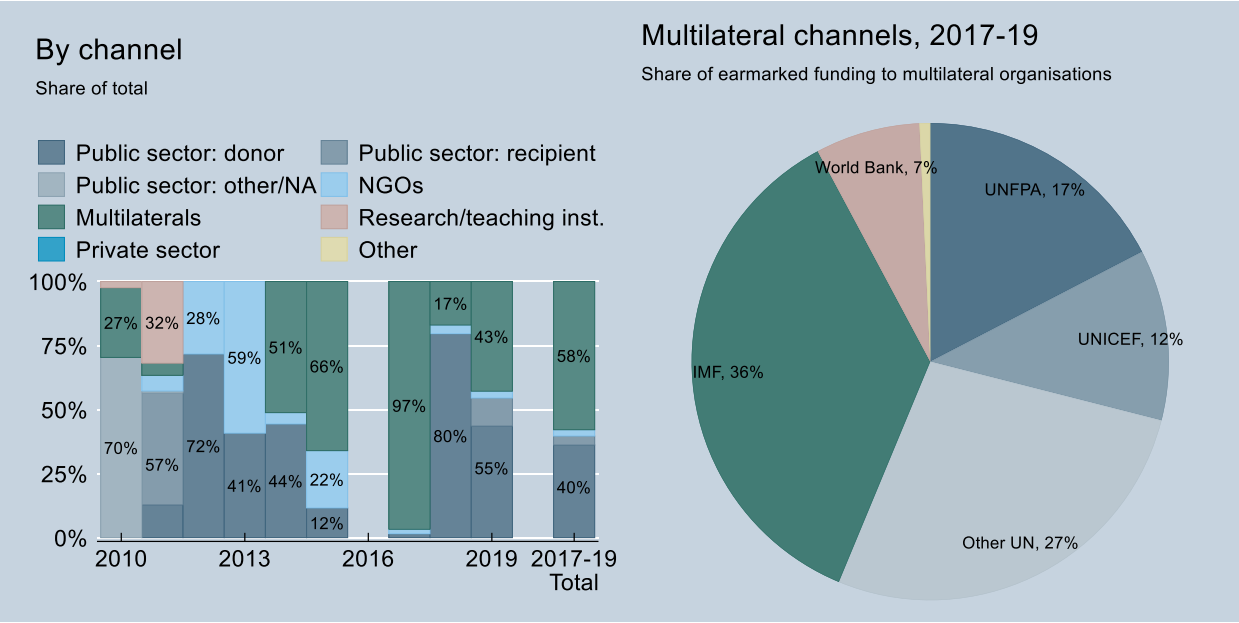


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/dvlkgf

Since 2014, significant shares of Italy's ODA for data and statistics were channelled through multilateral organisations, with the remainder allocated to domestic public sector actors and, to a lesser extent, non-governmental organisations (Figure 7). Key multilateral partners include the United Nations Population Fund, which Italy supported by funding the 4th general population and housing census in 2017 in Mozambique, and the United Nations Children's Fund, with which Italy collaborated to strengthen Ethiopia's civil registration system. Italy also contributed to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for the implementation of a programme to support statistical capacity in small island developing states. Finally, Italy also supported the World Bank's Center for Development Data (C4D2), a Rome-based hub for fostering methodological innovation and strengthening capacity in household surveys in low- and middle-income countries.

Figure 7. Italy – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; UN: United Nations; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/b520xt

Box 1. Italy – related documents

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Government of Italy (2019): *Three-year Programming and Policy Planning Document 2019-2021*
- Istat's technical co-operation
- Di Cori, S. (2017): Strengthening Myanmar's Statistical Capacity Through Peer-to-peer Co-operation. In: *Case Studies on Data for Development*. OECD publishing, Paris.
- AICS (2017): 2015 Italian Action Plan: Statistics as Knowledge: Indispensable for Cooperation, Strategic for Development (in Italian)

Notes

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

[2] To learn more, see Di Cori (2017): Strengthening Myanmar's Statistical Capacity Through Peer-to-Peer Co-operation.

Japan

Japan supports the development of statistical capacity in partner countries. Starting with support for Indonesia's population census in the early 1980s, Japan has provided advisory services for capacity development in support of official statistics in developing countries (Tomizawa and Masugi, 2018). It also provides a large share of its financial assistance to data and statistics through multilateral organisations. Among others, this includes co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP), which has been supported by Japan since its opening in 1970; the United Nations Population Fund; the Food and Agriculture Organization; and the IMF.

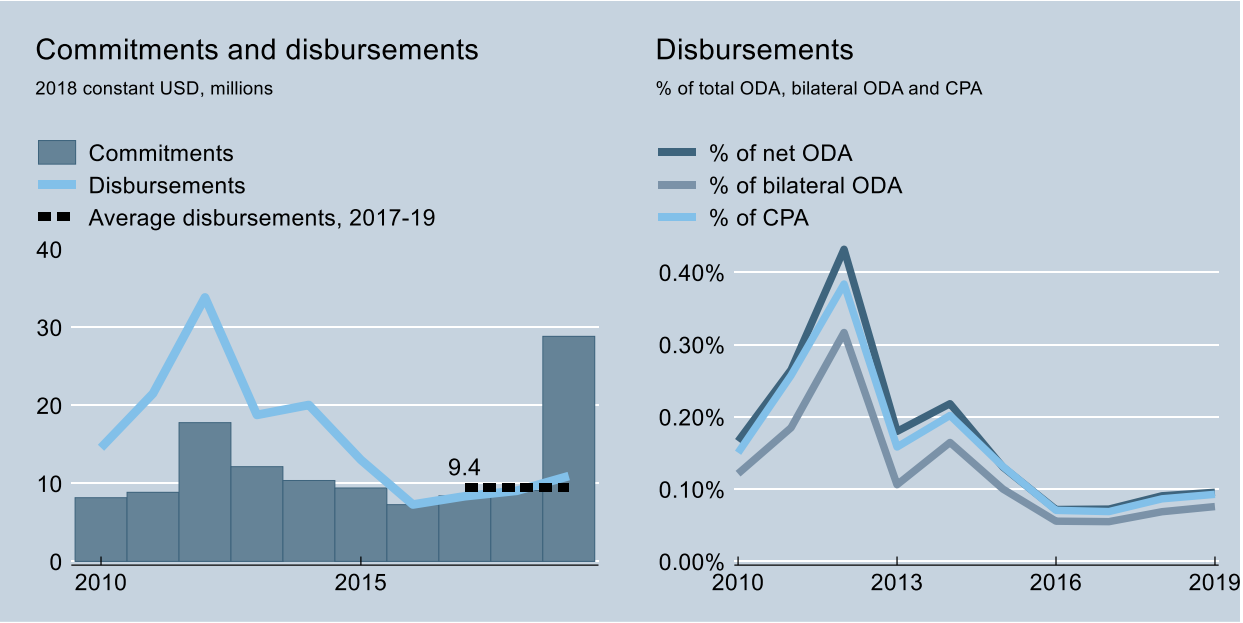
Strategies, actors and funding

Several Japanese ministries and agencies are engaged in providing data-related official development assistance (ODA), including the **Japan International Cooperation Agency** (JICA); the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**; the **Ministry of Finance**, which leads with respect to multilateral development banks and the IMF; and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**. JICA, in collaboration with the **Statistics Bureau of Japan** and other partners, provides technical assistance for statistical administration, capacity development for statistical skills and data use in its partner countries while the mentioned ministries often channel financial assistance through multilaterals.

According to OECD data and research,[1] Japan supported data and statistics with USD 9.4 million annually (in 2018 prices) between 2017 and 2019 (Figure 1). Around one-third of the total is channelled via the IMF's Japan Subaccount (JSA) of the Framework Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities, a funding vehicle which, among other capacity development, aims to support capacity for the production and dissemination of economic statistics. The portfolio of the JSA programme included, for instance, the strengthening of external sector statistics in West and Central Africa (USD 4.0 million in 2016-17) and of regional government finance statistics and data dissemination in countries in the Asia-Pacific region (USD 5.4 million between 2014 and 2016).

Japan's bilateral partner countries are concentrated in Asia and Africa. JICA, for instance, has in the past provided support to the United Republic of Tanzania (2004-07), Cambodia (2005-15), Myanmar (2005-07) and Indonesia (2002-04 and 2006-08) and, more recently to Egypt and Nepal. In 2019, the last year for which data are available, nearly all of Japan's ODA for data- and statistics-related activities that could be assigned to specific countries was targeted to low- and lower middle-income countries and more than 90% was targeted to countries classified as fragile.

Figure 1. Japan – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/8uz0kp

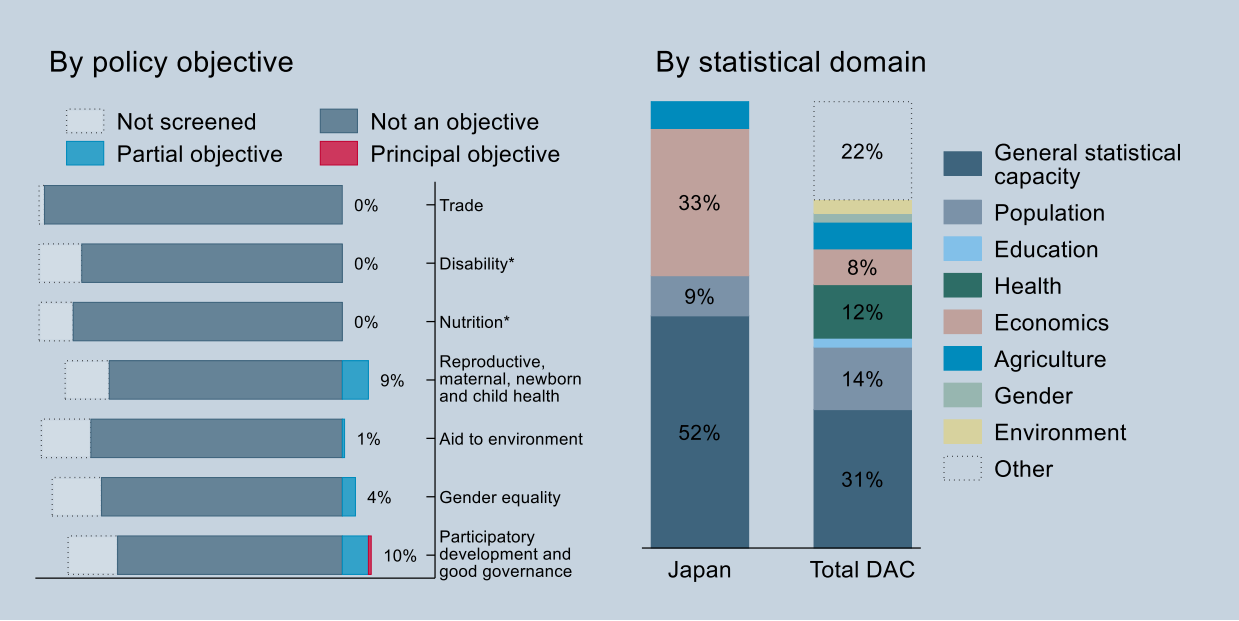
JICA's technical co-operation is characterised by its comprehensive support to the whole series of statistical work, from data research to publication and promoting data use. JICA covers expenses for Japanese experts who provide technical support to the work conducted by partner countries, but usually does not provide financial support for expenses of the staff of partner countries who are engaged in the statistical work, attaching importance to partner countries' ownership and sustainability of their activities.

Thematic focus

Between 2017 and 2019, large shares of Japan's ODA for data, statistics and statistical capacity development were allocated to **broad-based statistical capacity development** (52%) and economic statistics (33%) (Figure 2). The remainder was split almost equally between support for **population and agricultural statistics**.

Figure 2. Japan – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



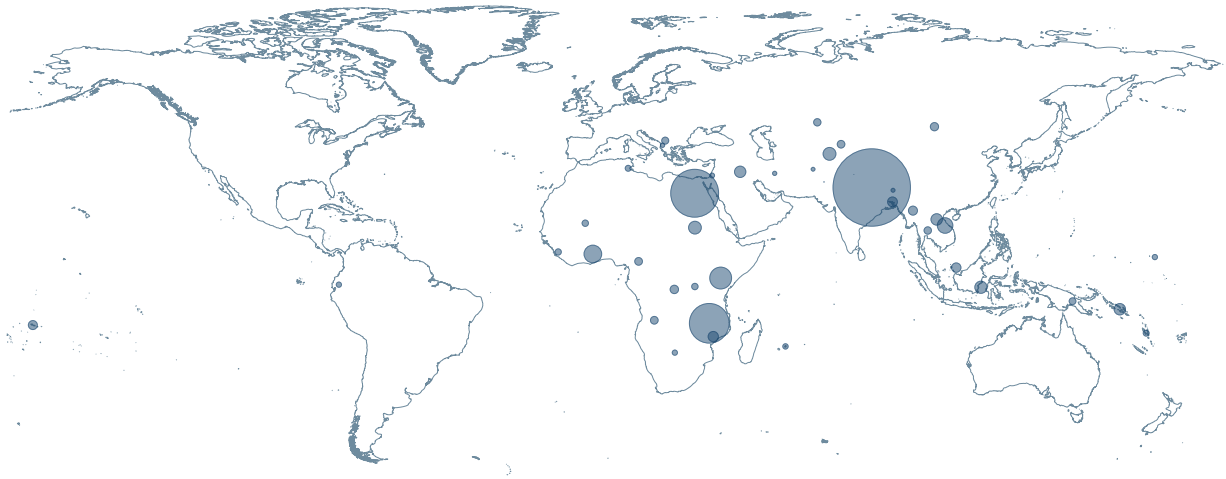
Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/hzb98a

Geographic focus

A little less than half of Japan's support to data and statistics between 2017 and 2019 was allocable by region, of which more than 90% benefited partner countries or initiatives in Asia and Africa (Figure 3 and Figure 4). Key co-operation partners included Nepal, Timor-Leste and Egypt. Japan's bilateral partner countries in the area of support to data and statistics include low-income countries such as Malawi, Nepal and Tajikistan, but also lower middle-income countries such as Egypt, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Tunisia.

Figure 3. Japan – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19



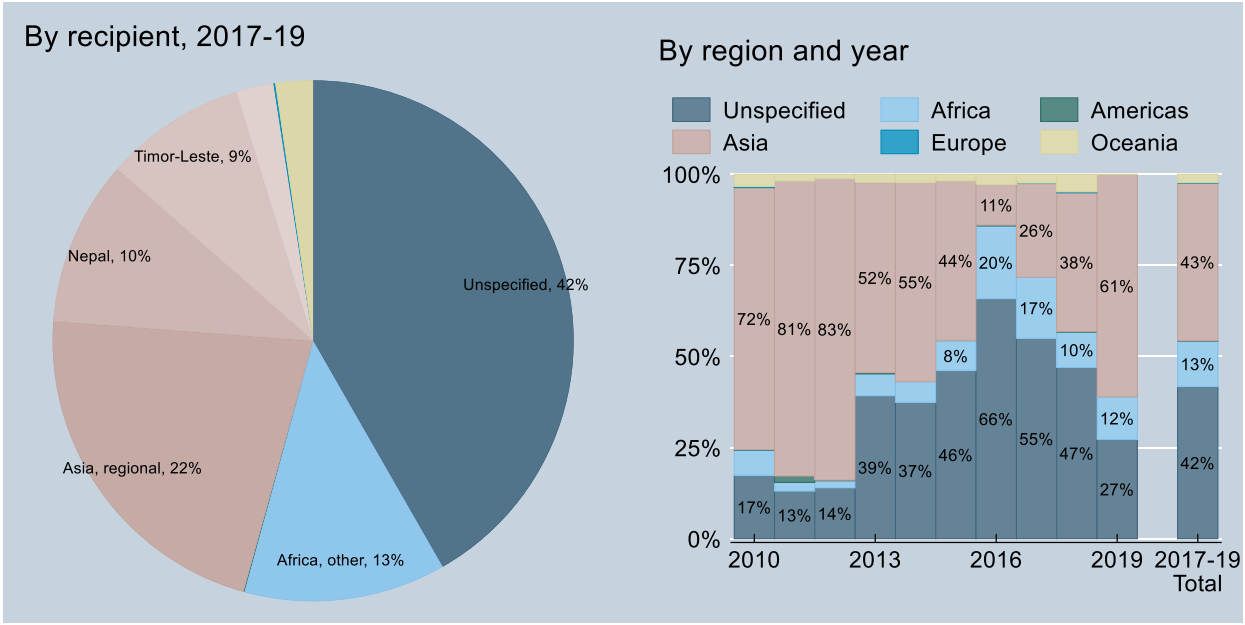
Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/jzl2af

The share of ODA that cannot be allocated to a specific region increased from 13% in 2011 to 66% in 2016 before falling again in subsequent years. This is primarily a result of a shift away from direct, bilateral support to multi-bi aid in these years (see next section).

Figure 4. Japan – ODA to data and statistics by recipient and region

Share of total

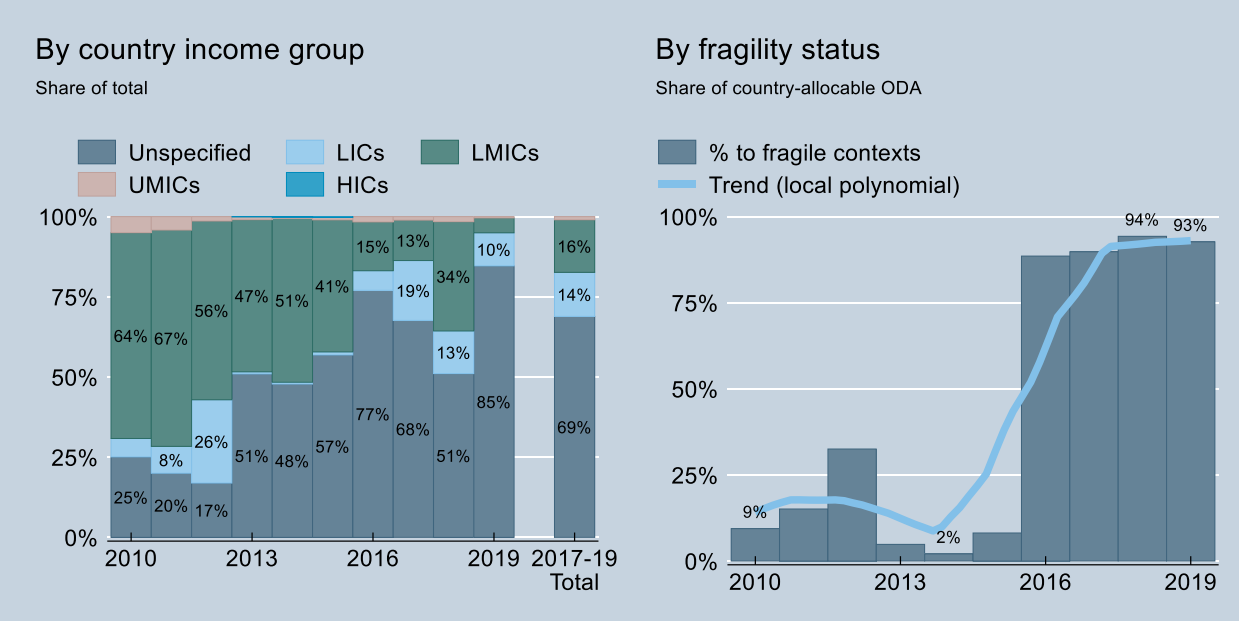


Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/nzs4lt

In 2019, around 93% of Japan's country-allocable ODA to data and statistics was targeted to countries classified as fragile, a significant increase compared to earlier years (Figure 5). Egypt, Nepal and Timor-Leste, which all received significant support from Japan and which are still included here, graduated from the list of fragile contexts in 2020.

Figure 5. Japan – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable ODA. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

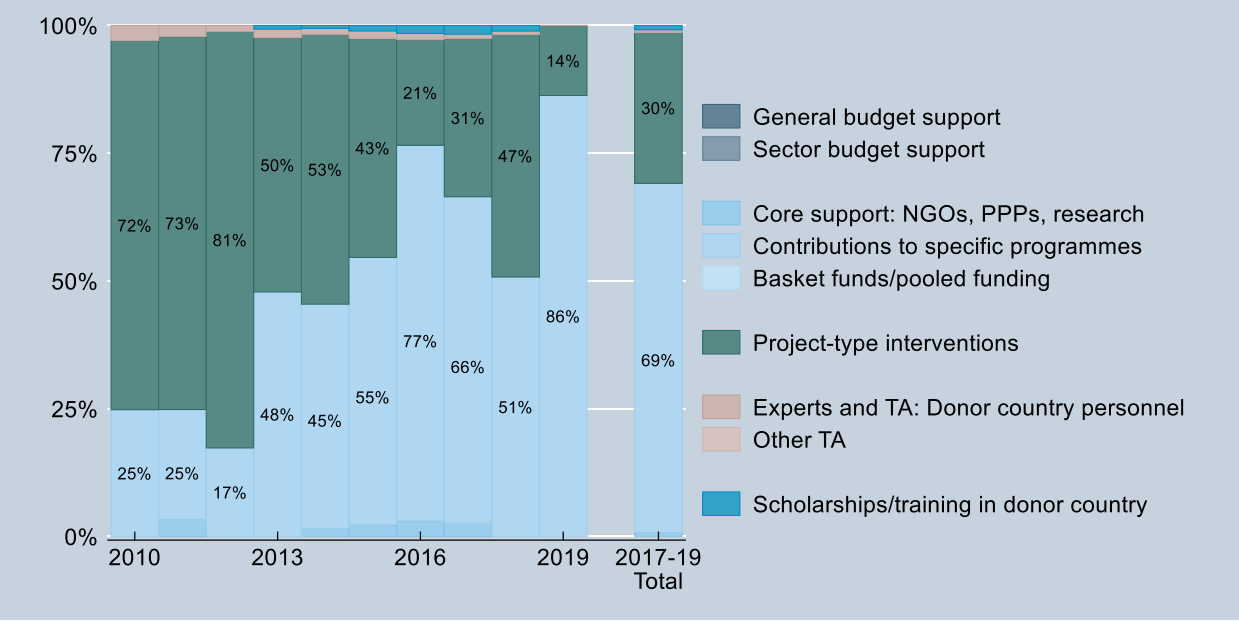
StatLink https://stat.link/of43hd

Modalities and channels of delivery

While 70-80% of Japan's ODA to data and statistics was delivered in the form of project-type interventions at the beginning of the 2010s, the share decreased to only 14% by 2019 (Figure 6). Japan's support for the IMF's capacity building programmes explains much of this trend.

Figure 6. Japan – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total



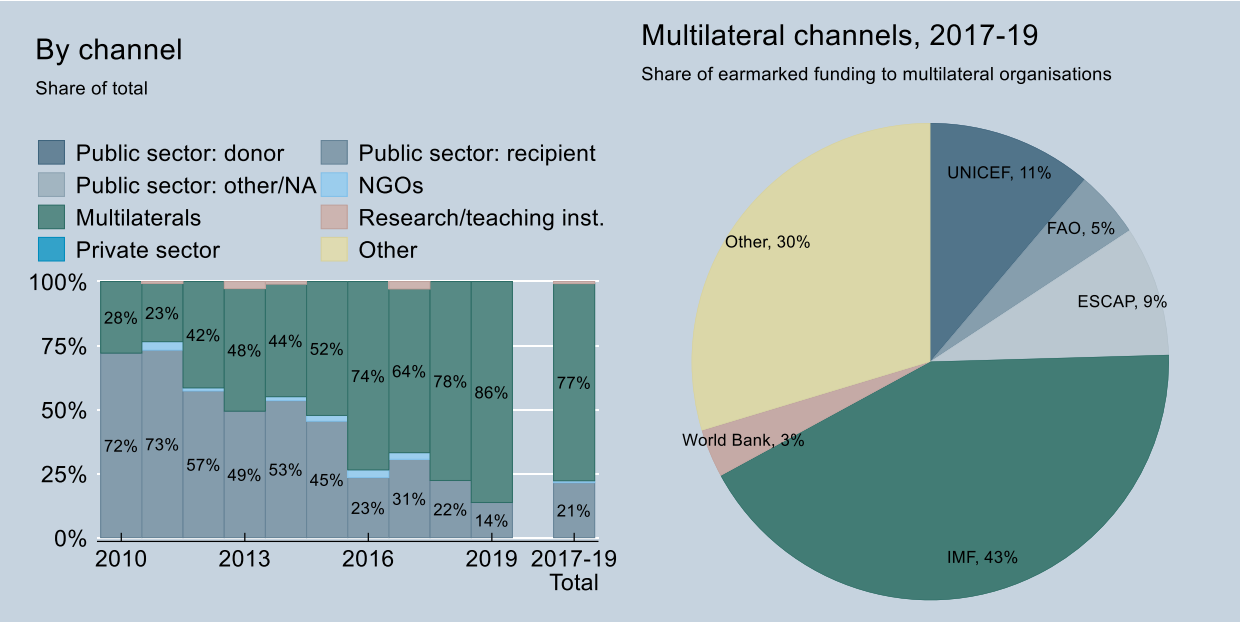
Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/w6mnrx

A large fraction of Japan's gross disbursements to data and statistics in 2019, 86%, was delivered via multilateral initiatives (Figure 7), typically in the form of contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by its partners, with the remainder delivered directly to partner country governments in the form of project-type interventions.

Japan's support for multilateral initiatives includes contributions to statistical capacity development in the context of the IMF's capacity development programme, including the Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund. It also includes funding for the UN SIAP, the training institute of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which Japan supported with USD 6.2 million (in 2018 prices) between 2010 and 2018. Further initiatives in collaboration with multilateral organisations in the past were Japan's support for socio-demographic and economic survey work in Afghanistan (2012, via the United Nations Population Fund, USD 8.2 million in disbursements in 2018 prices), strengthening of agricultural and food security statistics (2012-15, via the Food and Agriculture Organization, USD 3 million) and support for the development of a birth registration system in Timor-Leste (2018, via the United Nations Children's Fund, USD 2.4 million).

Figure 7. Japan – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; TA: technical assistance; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization; ESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/c3t72k

Box 1. Japan – related documents

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- IMF Japan Subaccount (JSA) of the Framework Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities
- IMF Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund
- United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP)
- Tomizawa, R. and N. Masugi (2018), "Enhancing statistical capacity for development: Innovations in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals", in Desai, R. et al. (eds.), *From Summits to Solutions*, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, DC, https://www.brookings.edu/book/from-summits-to-solutions.

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

Korea

Korea supports data and statistical capacity in its partner countries for greater transparency and accountability and in line with principles identified in the Busan Action Plan for Statistics. Its support entails funding of data-related infrastructure, technical assistance to partner countries' national statistical offices and line ministries, and advocacy at the international level for the importance of development data and statistics for development effectiveness.

Strategies, actors and funding

Korea's 2016-20 Mid-term Strategy for Development Cooperation has a vision of contributing to global to co-prosperity and peace. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the overarching outcome for Korea's development co-operation. It works towards the SDGs by sharing lessons from its own development experience, through financial assistance, capacity building and technical co-operation. Building on the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which it hosted in 2011 in Busan, Korea is champions development effectiveness at the global level. The High Level Forum also endorsed a renewed action plan for statistics, Statistics for Transparency, Accountability, and Results: A Busan Action Plan for Statistics,[1] which, building on the 2004 Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, stresses a system-wide approach to capacity development; recognises the importance of synergies between different types of statistics; and supports greater transparency and the use of new methods and technologies to increase the reliability and accessibility of statistics. In line with this call, Korea supports data and statistical capacity development in partner countries for greater transparency and accountability.

Four institutions are engaged in Korea's efforts to improve data and statistics in its partner countries:

- **Export-Import Bank of Korea's** (Korea Eximbank) **Economic Development Cooperation Fund** (EDCF). Eximbank is the only implementing agency for the government's concessional loan programmes on behalf of the **Ministry of Economy and Finance**.
- **Korea International Cooperation Agency** (KOICA), the development co-operation agency in charge of implementing grant aid programmes on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. KOICA is the primary implementing agency of the government's grant aid programmes, and the only agency wholly dedicated to official development assistance (ODA).
- Korea's **Ministry of Economy and Finance**, until 2018 named the **Ministry of Strategy and Finance**, has also contributed funds to the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) as well as the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Data for Development Fund.
- **Statistics Korea** (KOSTAT), the government organisation in charge of planning, co-ordinating and disseminating national statistics. Through co-operation with sister organisations, it is carrying out a number of data for development projects, providing technical assistance and engaging in international fora.

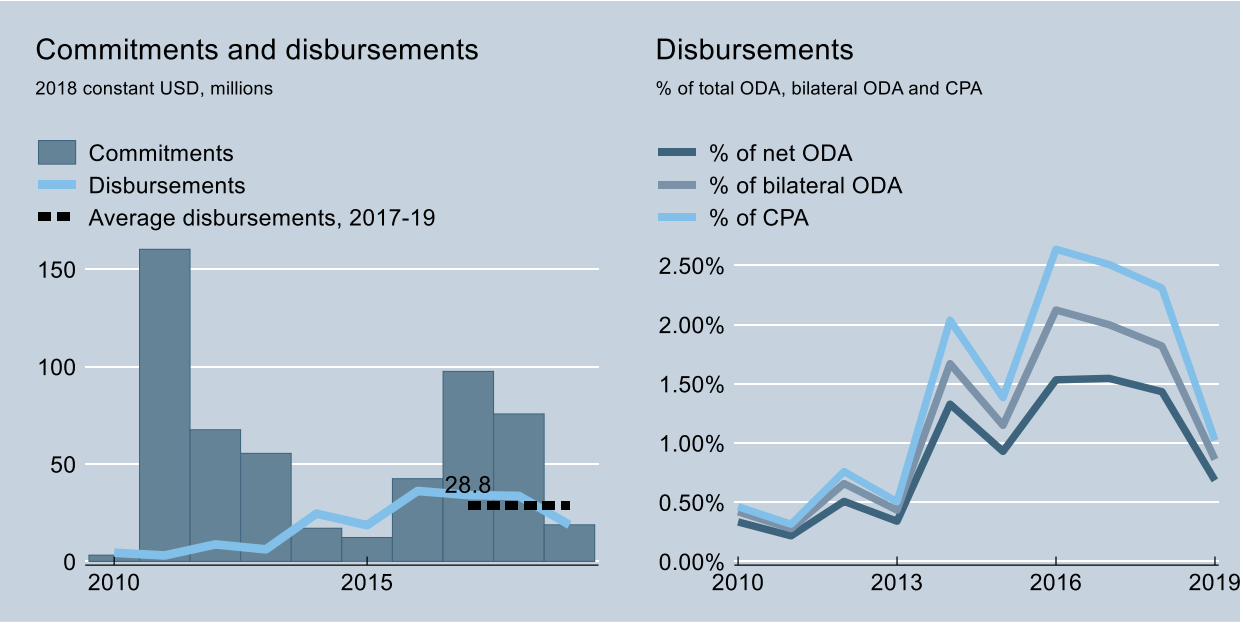
Korea's inter-ministerial co-ordination mechanism, the Committee for International Development Cooperation, oversees development activities across all government agencies, co-ordinating activities

between ministries and agencies with subordinate committees for grant aid and concessional loans to prevent programme duplication.

According to OECD data and research,[2] Korea's ODA disbursed to data and statistics has increased from an average of USD 9.4 million per year in 2010-14 (in 2018 prices) to USD 28.8 million in the second half of the decade (Figure 1). Between 2017 and 2019, the last three years for which data are currently available, 29% of Korea's ODA to data and statistics was targeted to economic statistics, 23% to environmental statistics and 11% to general statistical capacity building. Project-type interventions accounted for nearly 90% of Korea's total ODA for data and statistics from Korea. However, projects implemented by different agencies typically have different themes, modalities and counterparts, for example:

- Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund has provided concessional loans for investments in data-related infrastructure and capacity development such as data centres that aim to support evidence-based policy planning and implementation as well as e-government services. As an example, the Construction of Data Centers for the National ID System Project in the **United Republic of Tanzania** mainly consists of building the data centres and establishing a national identification system and an automated fingerprint identification system. The project aims to improve the efficiency of governmental administration, including national human resources, strengthening national security, expanding tax revenues and election security. The EDCF has also invested in information systems, for instance, in the area of tax revenue (**Lao People's Democratic Republic**) or land and resource management (**Tunisia** and **Uzbekistan**).
- KOICA provides grants and technical assistance to both national statistical offices and line ministries, strengthening core statistical systems and providing training programmes. Among single-country projects in the area of statistical capacity building, **Morocco** accounted for the largest share of KOICA's statistical support (USD 6.45 million between 2014 and 2019). Other key partners included **Myanmar** (USD 2 million between 2013 and 2015), **Bangladesh** (USD 1.6 million between 2008 and 2009) and **Ghana** (USD 1 million between 2011 and 2012). However, KOICA also provides support to other data-related projects, e.g. land (**Kyrgyzstan** and **Viet Nam**) and health information systems (**Philippines**), as well as technical assistance to enhance the capacity of relevant government officials in partner countries. Between 2014 and 2019, KOICA supported eight technical training courses in the area of statistical capacity building for officials from 21 partner countries with a budget of USD 1.66 million.
- KOSTAT'S ODA programmes in 2018 included projects with sister organisations in **Azerbaijan**, **Colombia** and the **Lao People's Democratic Republic**. Projects focused on economic and social statistics, protocols for the use of administrative data, and learning and IT infrastructure. KOSTAT is also engaged in international co-operation, including the organisation of workshops and training programmes in co-operation with international partners.

Figure 1. Korea – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/0hlcak

Finally, a small share of Korea's total support is channelled to select multilateral initiatives, notably the United Nations' Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP), the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) and the IMF's Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund. The latter two are contributed by Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance via the Korea-World Bank Partnership Facility and the Korea-IMF partnership on capacity development, respectively.

As a member of the steering committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), Korea advocates for the importance of sound data and statistics in partner countries for mutual accountability. In 2020, the GPEDC adopted the strengthening of effective support to statistical capacity and data as one action area within its 2020-2022 work programme. In light of this, the Korea International Cooperation Agency is planning to implement the GPEDC Learning and Accelerating Programme[3] in 2021, a training programme related to GPEDC principles and implementation with the tentative theme of strengthening data/statistics capacity and use of data for localising the Effective Development Co-operation principles. The programme will not only aim to provide capacity building on collecting, managing and utilising data and statistics, but also focus on enhancing the overall development effectiveness in partner countries through: promoting data- and evidence-driven decision making; localising the principles of effective development co-operation in a whole-of-society approach; and strengthening linkages with the 2020-22 GPEDC work programme.

Lessons learnt

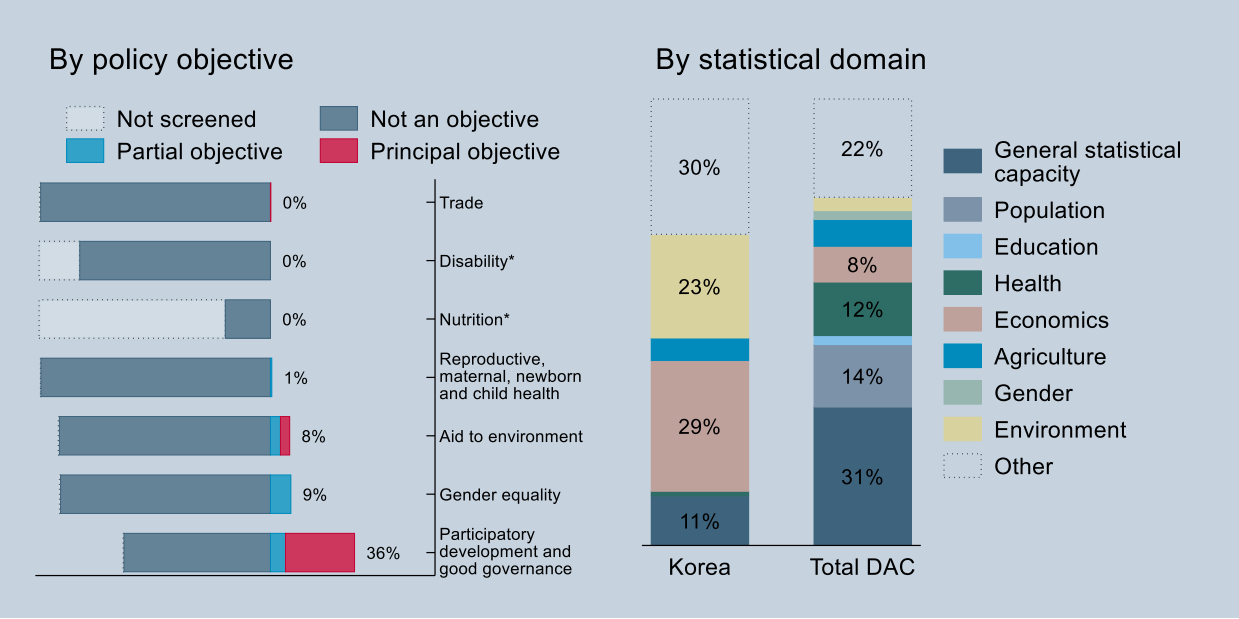
Since various partner countries have aligned their national development strategies or programmes with the 2030 Agenda, Korea prioritises statistical capacity building related to the SDGs (e.g. monitoring of SDG progress) when designing projects. In the long term, support for statistical governance – including capacity for managing data systems and guidelines, modifying statistical laws and regulations and standard setting – is key to enhancing sustainability of the improved capacity.

Thematic focus

According to OECD data, Korea allocated 29% of its overall ODA for data and statistics in 2017-19 to **economic statistics** (Figure 2), 23% to **environmental statistics** and 11% to **general statistical capacity development**. Support for economic statistics is driven by Korea's EDCF, which accounted for 61% of total disbursements and allocated 41% of its funding to economic statistics, and KOICA, which accounted for 24% of total disbursements and allocated around 7% to economic statistics. However, KOICA also allocated around 43% to environmental statistics, 20% to general statistical capacity development and around 5% to health statistics. The Ministry of Economy and Finance, with a share of 5% of the total, allocated nearly 80% of its disbursements in 2017-19 to economic statistics. Finally, KOSTAT, also with a share of around 6% of the total, allocated its entire ODA spending to general statistical capacity building.

Figure 2. Korea – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



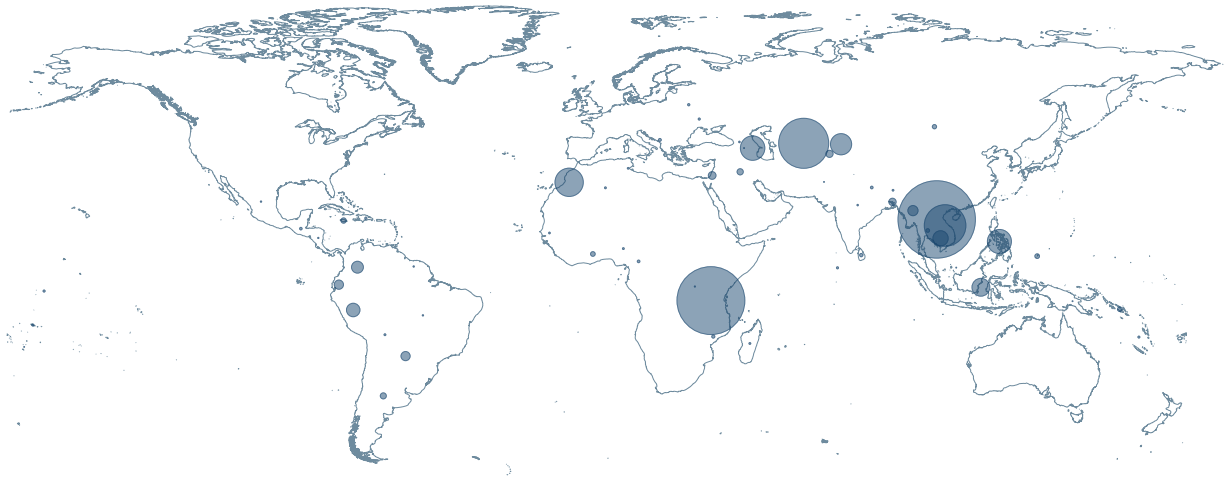
Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total ODA to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/7rd2sj

Geographic focus

Ninety-five per cent of Korea's ODA to data and statistics between 2017 and 2019 was allocable by region, with two-thirds allocated to Asia and close to 30% allocated to Africa. Top recipients by percentage were the Lao People's Democratic Republic (32%), Tanzania (23%), and Uzbekistan (13%), which together accounted for more than two-thirds of Korea's ODA to data and statistics over this time period (Figure 3 and Figure 4).

Figure 3. Korea – country -allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

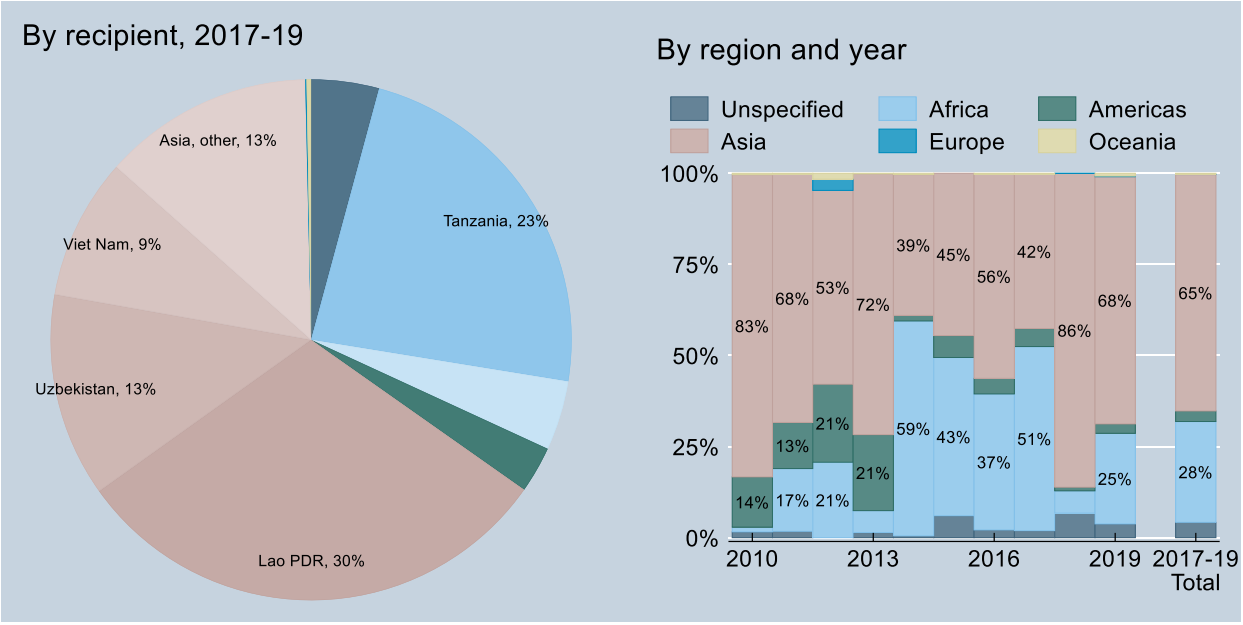


Note: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/ozupig

Figure 4. Korea – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

Share of total



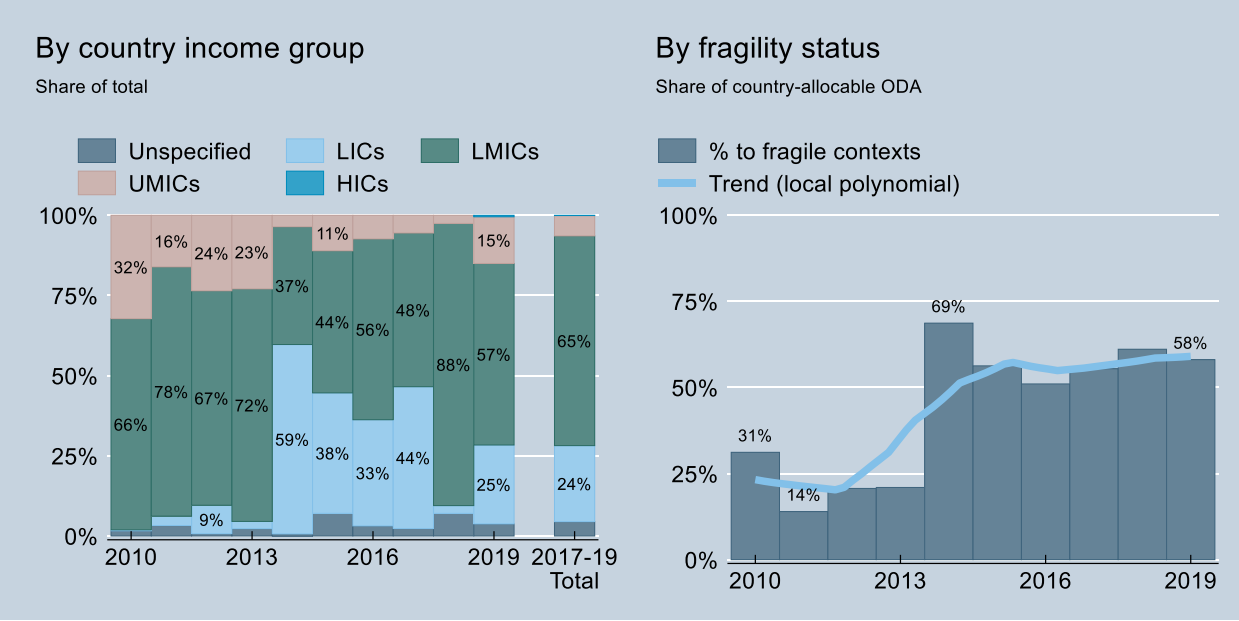
Note: Based on gross disbursements. PDR: People's Democratic Republic.

StatLink https://stat.link/zwu1av

Between 2017 and 2019, nearly 90% of Korea's ODA to data and statistics were disbursed to low- and lower middle-income countries (Figure 5). Close to 60% was allocated to states classified as fragile. The geographic distribution of Korea's support changed markedly after 2013/14, with larger shares allocated

to low-income countries and smaller shares allocated to lower and upper middle-income countries, a shift that is also reflected by an increase in the share of support directed to African countries.

Figure 5. Korea – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

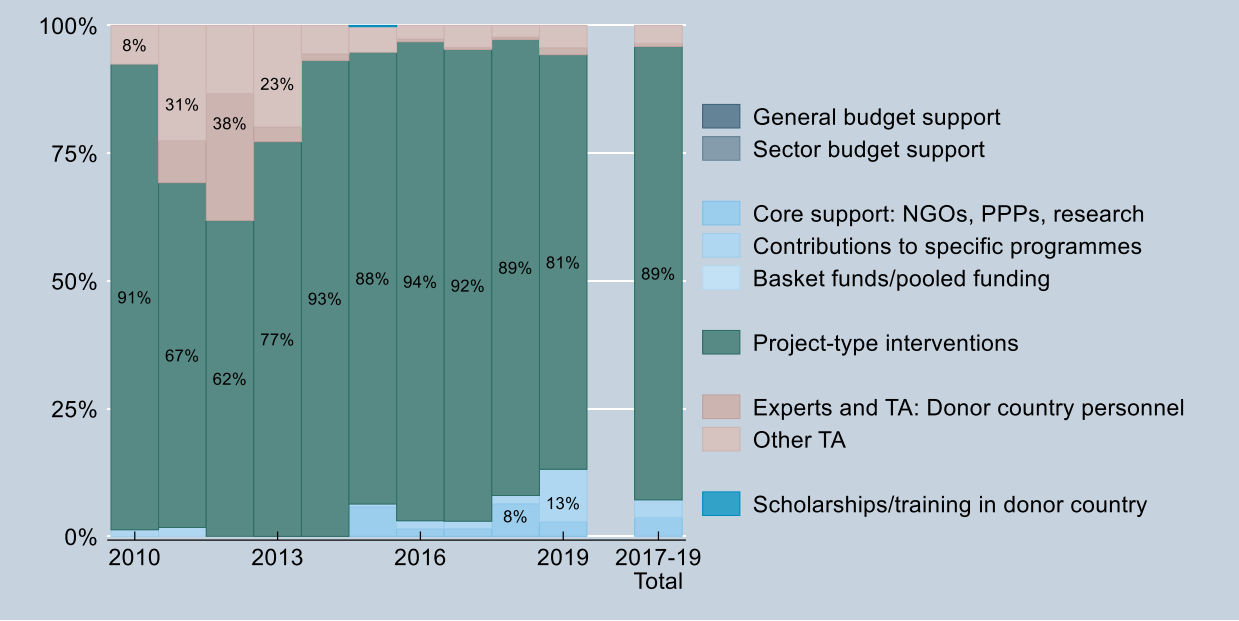
StatLink https://stat.link/d9bmr8

Modalities and channels of delivery

In 2017-19, 89% of Korea's ODA was delivered in the form of project-type interventions, with technical assistance and core contributions and contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by implementing partners accounting for the remainder (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Korea – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total

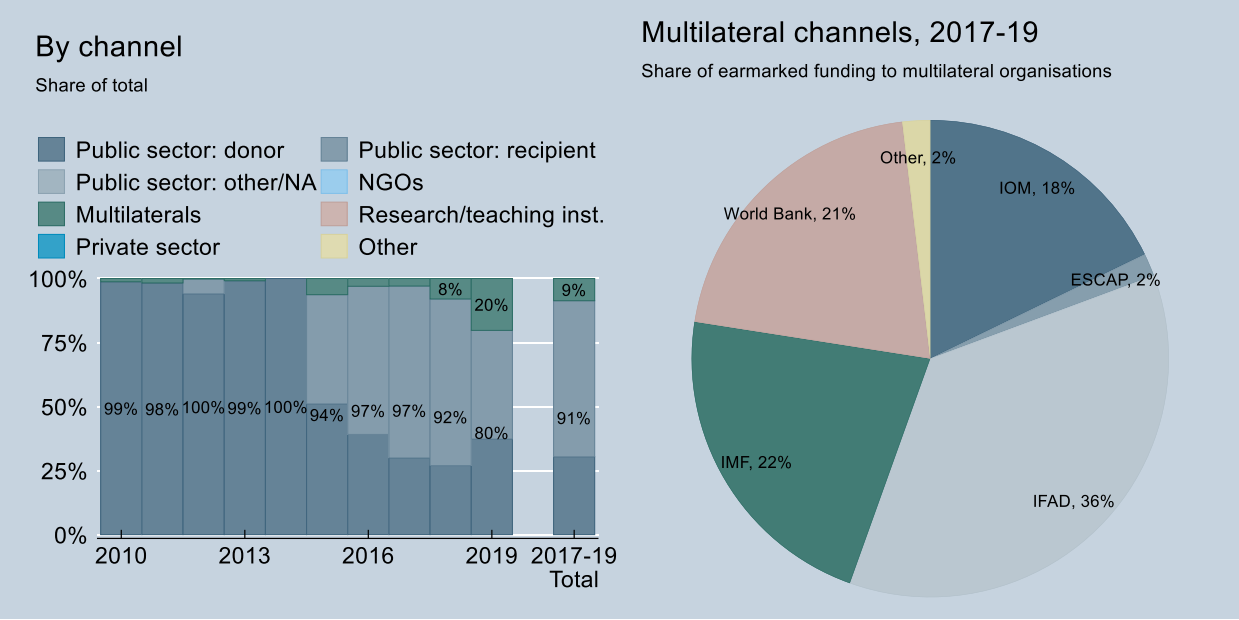


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/0j7hwx

Between 2010 and 2019, Korea's ODA to data and statistics was to a large extent channelled to government actors, either Korean (30% in 2017-19) or in partner countries (61%) (Figure 7). The remaining 9% were split largely between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, 36%), the IMF (22%), the World Bank (21%) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 18%).

Figure 7. Korea – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation. IOM: International Organization for Migration; ESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/d58skv

Box 1. Korea – related documents

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Busan Forum for Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
- Government of Korea (2015): Mid-term strategy for development cooperation (2016-20)
- KOICA (2018): Statistical Support Activity Report
- KOSTAT: ODA programmes in 2018
- OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: Korea (2018)
- Government of Korea (2017): ODA White Paper

Notes

[1] The action plan has three principal objectives: 1) fully integrate statistics into decision making; 2) promote open access to statistics; and 3) increase resources for statistical systems. It calls for five actions relating to: 1) a focus on national and regional statistical strategies; 2) standards to ensure full public access; 3) strengthening of capacity to use data effectively; 4) increasing the visibility of statistics at global summits and high-level fora; and 5) increased funding.

[2] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

[3] The Learning and Accelerating Programme was created alongside the Busan Global Partnership Forum to meet countries' demand for training in selected areas related to GPEDC implementation. It provides a platform and venue for participants from partner countries to share experiences on their GPEDC implementation and engage in in-depth discussions on challenges and potential solutions. By 2021, four sessions had been organised (2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018).

Norway

Norway supports data and statistical capacity development to enable evidence-based policy making, public transparency and good governance in its partner countries. Through co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Statistics Norway, its national statistical office, Norway engages in long-term institutional co-operation in select partner countries. Norway gives high priority to administrative data and to statistical capacity within the framework of its Oil for Development and Gender Equality for Development programmes.

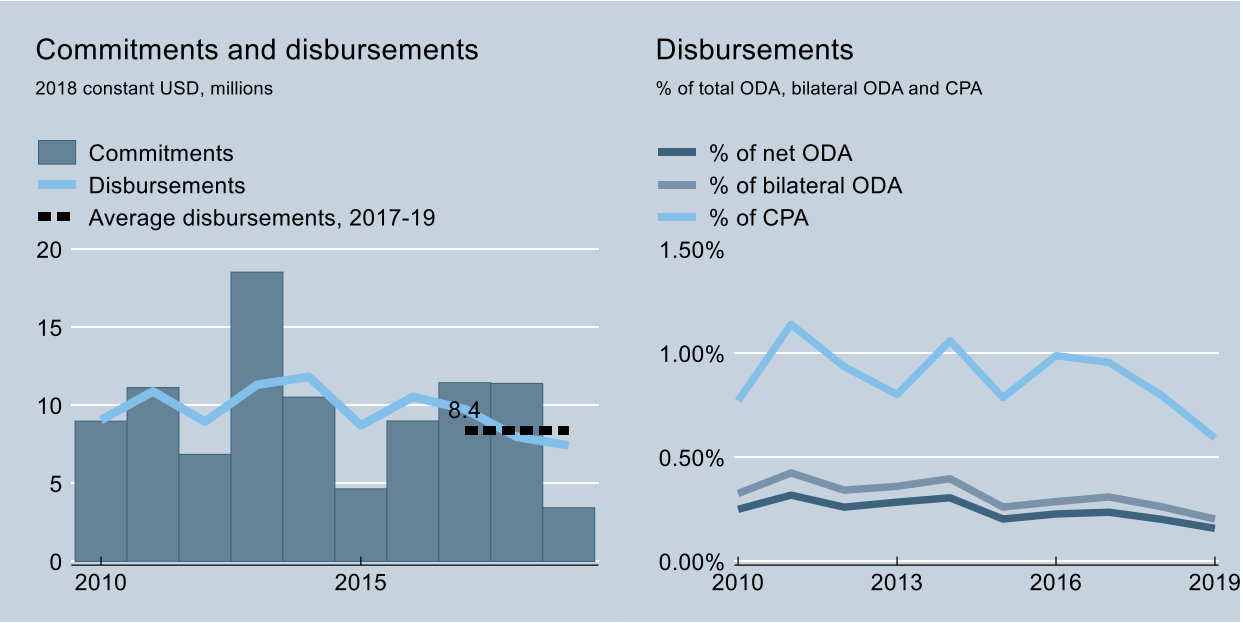
Strategies, actors and funding

Norad's Knowledge for Development (2016) strategy (up to 2020) prioritises supporting the production of good quality official statistics and contributing to the long-term development of well-functioning national statistical systems in partner countries. These priorities are linked to its vision to create an enabling environment for improved policy making, with equitable provision of services thanks to improved capacity of statistics offices and better statistical data.

A central element of Norway's support to data and statistics is the long-standing co-operation between Norway's **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, **Norad** and **Statistics Norway**. In this set up, Statistics Norway receives funds from Norad or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to engage in long-term institutional co-operation for statistical capacity development in select partner countries. These co-operation programmes can be grouped into four types of programmes: 1) long-term and broad-based institutional co-operation for development of statistical capacity; 2) development of statistical capacity as part of Norway's Oil for Development programme; 3) development of statistical capacity as part of Norway's Gender Equality for Development programme; and 4) more limited and targeted co-operation with sister organisations to support the development and implementation of specific statistics or surveys.

According to OECD data and research,[1] Norway's disbursements to data and statistics between 2017 and 2019 averaged close to USD 8.4 million per year (Figure 1) of which nearly half was targeted to low-income countries (LICs) and nearly two-thirds to fragile contexts. Norway's ODA in this area is increasingly focused on Africa and LICs. Norway tends to focus primarily on general capacity development, especially for economic statistics and macroeconomic modelling, register-based statistics, and population and health data.

Figure 1. Norway – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/ax7eho

In 2018, the Norwegian government launched *Digitalisation for Development*, a strategy for digitalisation for Norwegian development policy. Among other things, the strategy highlights the importance of basic public registers. In describing new initiatives in areas in which Norway possesses expertise,[2] it notes that "consideration will be given to coordinating Norwegian assistance aimed at the creation of basic public registers, including population, business, property and address registers."

More and better use of administrative data in statistics has been a priority for many years in Statistics Norway's development co-operation projects. To strengthen its collaboration in the area of development co-operation, it established a working group in 2017 with the three Norwegian public agencies responsible for basic registers, the **Norwegian Tax Administration** (population and tax registers), the **Brønnøysund Register Centre** (register of business enterprises) and the **Norwegian Mapping Authority** (property and address registers). In 2019, Norad commissioned a study to assess how a possible "Statistics and Registers for Development Programme" could be designed and implemented, with an eye to promoting synergies with existing and new "for development" programmes.

Lessons learnt

Three key lessons have emerged from Norway's experience of supporting statistical capacity in its partner countries. First, country ownership of activities is key to ensure long-term impact. Second, Norway's support has often benefited from flexibility in project implementation to adapt to evolving needs and contexts, especially in countries affected by fragility. Third, long-term engagement – Norway's institutional development co-operation projects often have a duration of up to 15 years or more – has often been conducive to achieving sustained capacity development.

One example of this type of long-term support that is today seen as a success is Statistics Norway's partnership with Malawi's Ministry of Planning and Development and its National Statistics Office (see Hobbelstad Simpson and Wold, 2015). The project, which ran from 2004 to 2015, was broad-based,

providing support to most of the key statistical domains and also supported cross-cutting areas.[3] An external evaluation (Itad, 2015) of the project found evidence of improvements in capacity[4] that were judged moderately sustainable. It also found that the project was highly relevant to Malawi's priorities and needs and Norway's specific expertise in its intent and its delivery. Ten years after the partnership began, Malawi was among the countries in sub-Saharan Africa with the highest level of statistical capacity according to the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator. With the help of Statistics Norway, Malawi's National Statistics Office developed an annual business survey, which provides detailed information on economic activity by industry, and updated and improved its system of national accounts.[5] Better statistics and knowledge of macro modelling allow the Malawian authorities to perform better economic analyses and projections.

Table 1. Norway – kind of support and type of data sources supported

	Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	To a great extent
What kind of support does your organisation currently provide?				
Improving statistical production				X
Strengthening data dissemination				X
Advocacy on the value and impact of data and statistics				X
Improving statistical literacy of data users			X	
Promoting data use by policy makers, civil society and citizens			X	
What type of data sources does your organisation currently support?				
Statistical sources (surveys and censuses)			X	
Administrative data systems (tax, business or property registers; civil registration systems; health management information systems; etc.)				X
New data sources (geospatial data, big data, etc.)		X		

Source: Norway's responses to OECD inquiry.

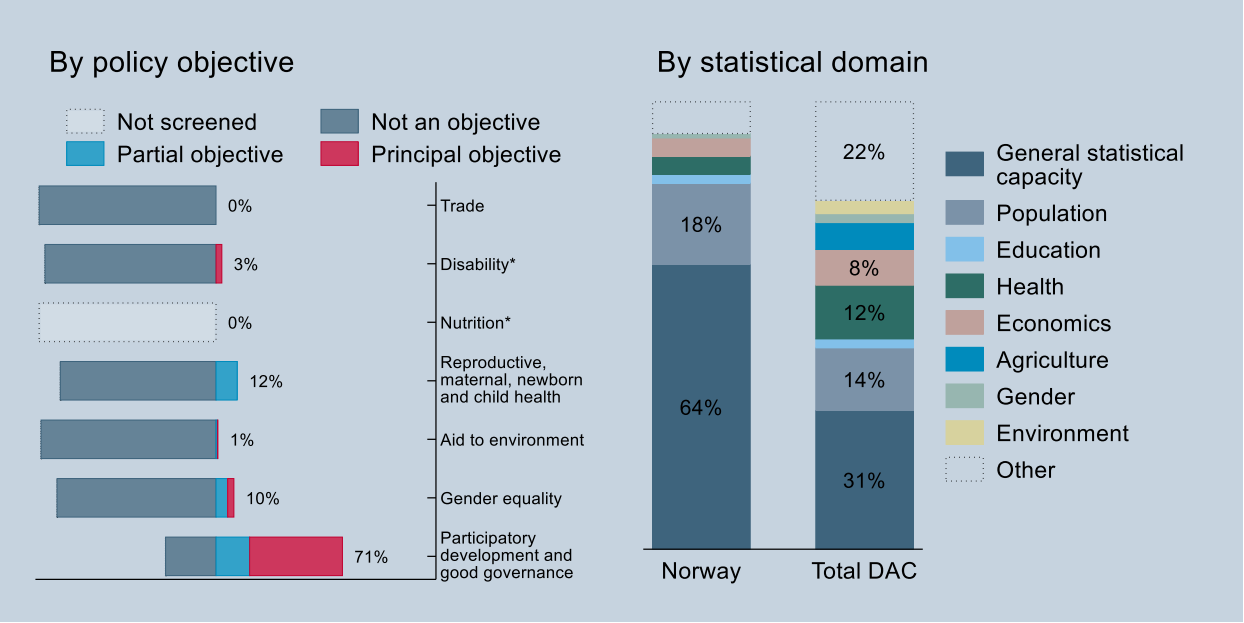
Thematic focus

Statistics Norway often supports capacity development in the area of economic statistics and registries (e.g. business registers), for instance, in the context of the Oil for Development programme. Gender statistics are an emerging priority area: in 2018 and 2019, Statistics Norway partnered with the **Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family Affairs** and is initiating collaboration with Ethiopian and Nepalese sister organisations in the context of Norway's Gender Equality for Development programme. While the aim of this programme is to build technical capacity to strengthen women's rights and gender equality, the first programme phase will initially focus on knowledge management and particularly on statistics.

Between 2017 and 2019, Norway allocated a significant share, 18%, of its ODA for data and statistics to population statistics, especially the funding of population censuses via the United Nations Population Fund. In 2016, by way of the Health Information Systems Programme housed at the University of Oslo, Norway provided support for software development, implementation support and capacity development for health information systems (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Norway – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

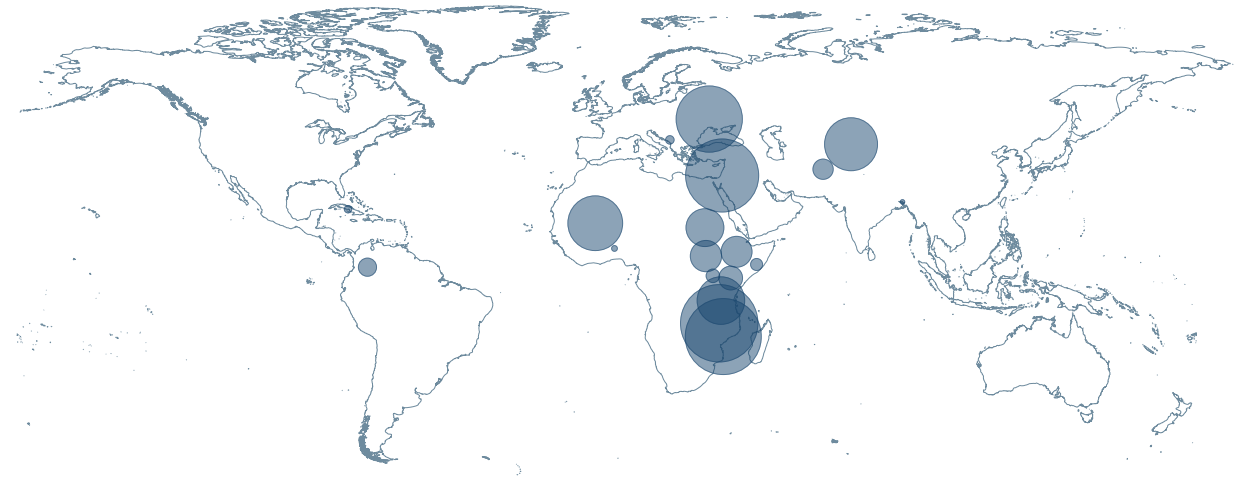
StatLink https://stat.link/l8tqrz

Geographic focus

In 2017, Norway released a white paper proposing two new categories of partnerships with developing countries: one for long-term development co-operation and the other for stabilisation and conflict prevention. Partner countries in the first category are Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. Partner countries in the second category are Afghanistan, Mali, Niger, the Palestinian Authority, Somalia and South Sudan.

Statistics Norway has ongoing co-operation programmes with Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It also co-operates with partner countries in Europe and Central Asia such as Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan and is in the process of initiating a project in Nepal. Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has in recent years provided ODA for statistical activities to Malawi (for census work through the United Nations Population Fund), Mali (also census work) and the Palestinian Authority (Figure 3 and Figure 4).

Figure 3. Norway – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

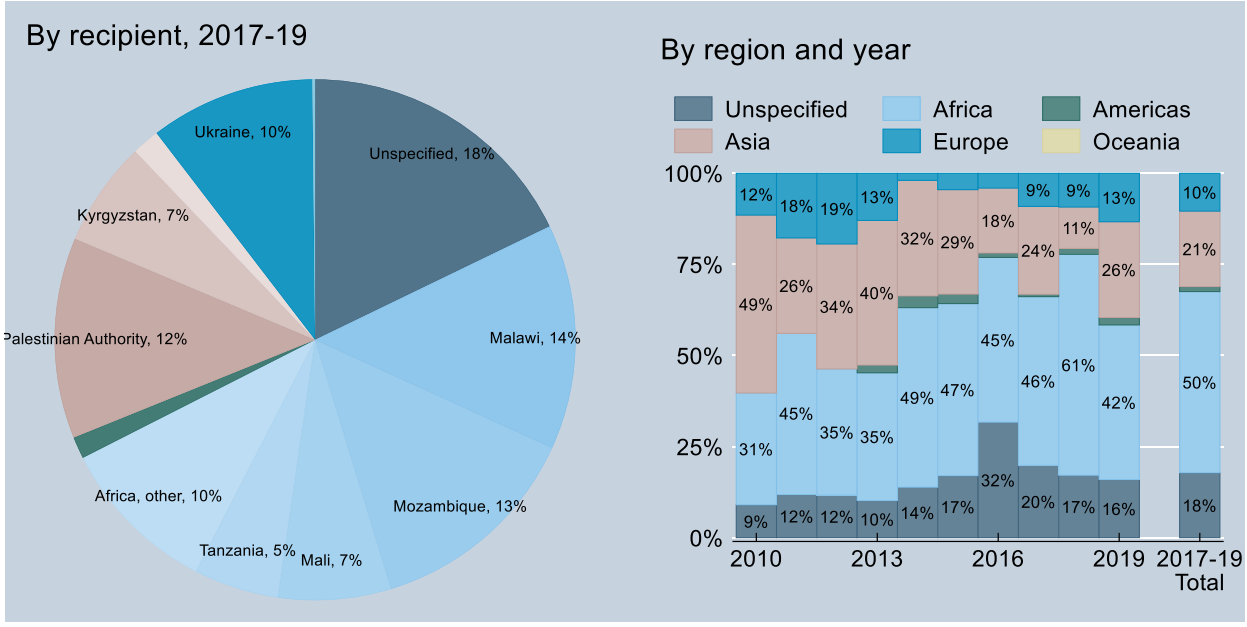


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/ceymkn

Figure 4. Norway – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

Share of total



Note: Based on gross disbursements.

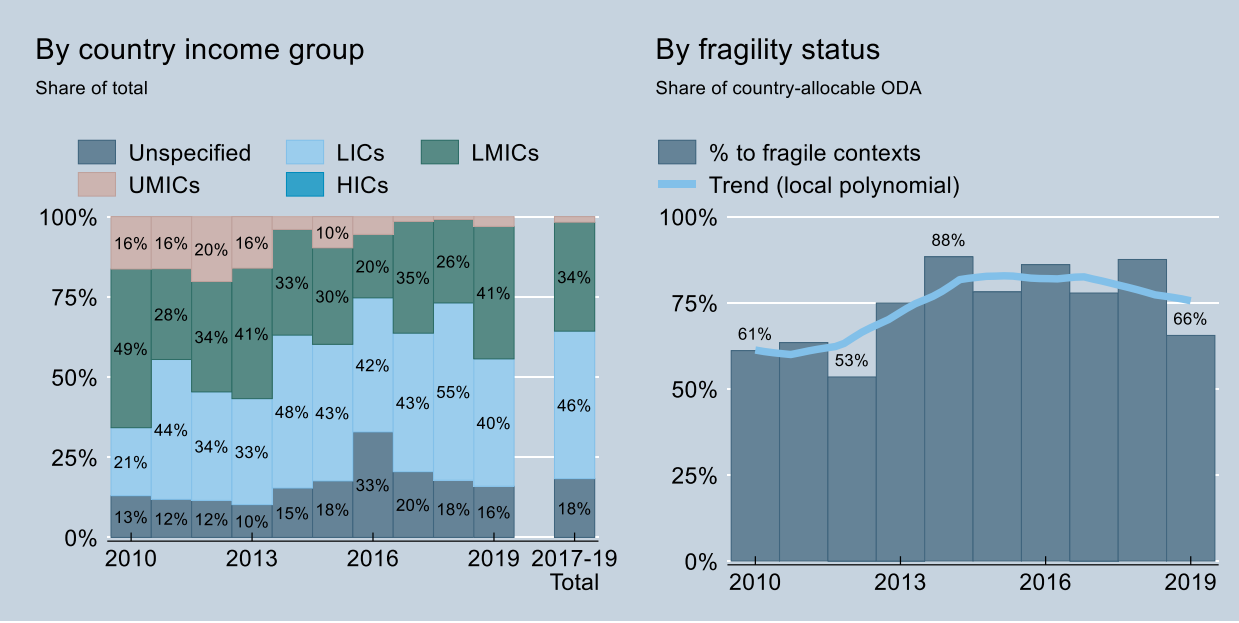
StatLink https://stat.link/afzy0q

Between 2017 and 2019, the last years for which data are available, half of Norway's ODA for data and statistics, nearly two-thirds of its country-allocable ODA, was targeted to sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 3 and Figure 4). Malawi, Mozambique, and the Palestinian Authority were major recipients of Norwegian ODA for data and statistics in these years. The share of Norway's ODA to data and statistics allocated to Africa

has mostly increased over the years, from 31% in 2010 to 61% in 2018. At the same time, the share allocated to other regions – especially Asia – decreased, from 49% in 2010 to 11% by 2018.

Nearly all of Norway's country-allocable ODA was targeted to LICs and lower middle-income countries (LMICs): in 2019, 40% of Norway's ODA to data and statistics was targeted to LICs and 41% to LMICs, with ODA not allocable by country accounting for much of the remainder (Figure 5). One-third of Norway's country-allocable support benefited fragile contexts. In line with a shift of focus towards Africa, LICs have seen their share of Norway's ODA to data and statistics increase from 21% in 2010 to 55% by 2018.

Figure 5. Norway – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

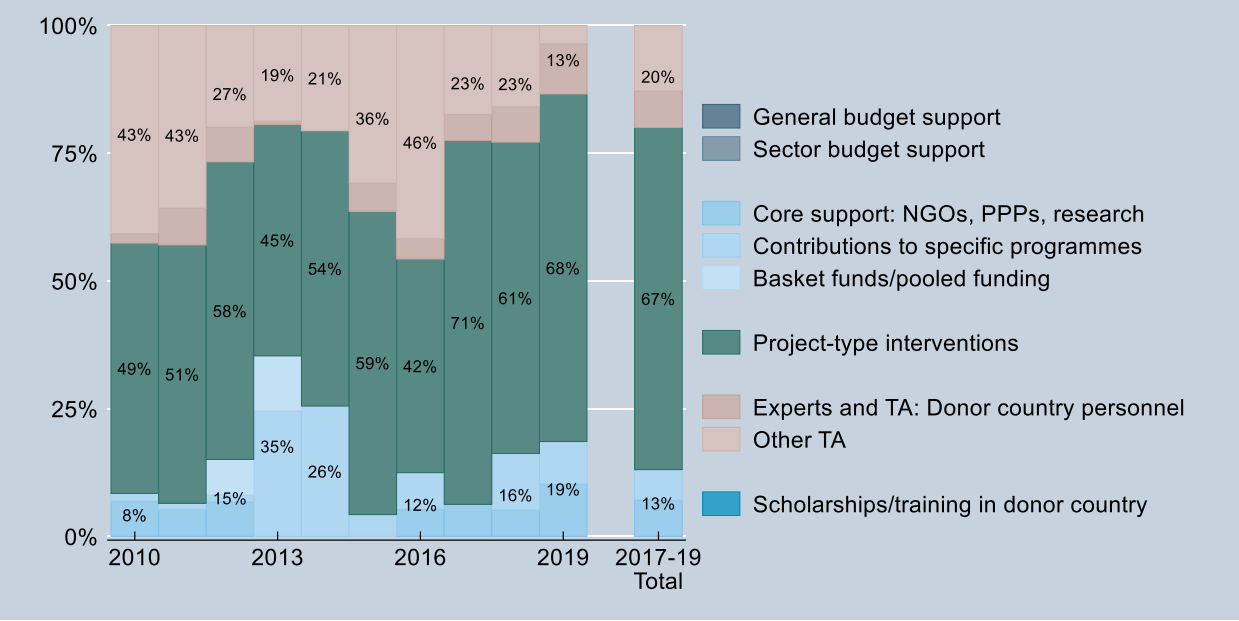
StatLink https://stat.link/n5teds

Modalities and channels of delivery

OECD data show that between 2017 and 2019, project-type interventions accounted for 67% of Norway's ODA to data and statistics (Figure 6). Experts and other technical assistance accounted for 20% and contributions to specific programmes and pooled funds accounted for 13% over this time period.

Figure 6. Norway – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total



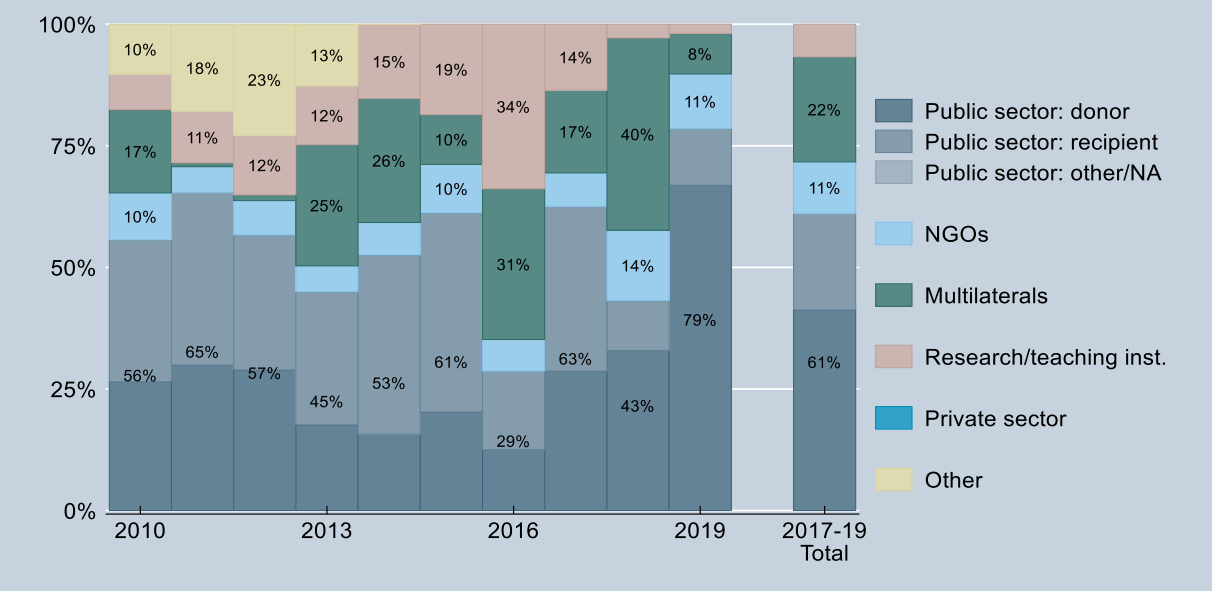
Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/7sc184

More than 60% of Norway's ODA to data and statistics between 2017 and 2019 was channelled through public sector institutions, of which around two-thirds were channelled through Norwegian entities (Figure 7).[6] Multilateral organisations accounted for about 22% of Norway's ODA to data and statistics, including the United Nations Population Fund (for census work in Malawi, Mali and Mozambique), the International Monetary Fund's Data for Decisions (D4D) Trust Fund (since 2019), and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). Non-governmental organisations and research and teaching institutions accounted for the remainder.

Figure 7. Norway – ODA to data and statistics by channel

Share of total



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation.

StatLink https://stat.link/1z9omb

Box 1. Norway – related documents and contacts

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Norway's aid strategy towards 2020: *Knowledge for Development*
- Government of Norway (2018): *Digital strategy for development policy*
- Government of Norway (2018): *Partner Countries in Norway's Development Policy* (white paper)
- Norad's thematic areas for development: Statistics for development
- Statistics Norway's Development Co-operation: Newsletter February 2020
- Hobbelstad Simpson, L. and B. Wold (2015): *Building National Capacity for Monitoring the Economic Development in an African Country: The Case of Malawi*, Statistics Norway, Oslo.
- Norad (2015): *Evaluation of Norwegian Support to Capacity Development*
- Statistics Norway's Institutional Development Co-operation
- Norwegian Mapping Authority (2019): Registers for Development
- The University of Oslo's Health Information Systems Programme (HISP)

Contacts

- Norad: Post-SKP@norad.no
- Statistics Norway: informasjon@ssb.no

Notes

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

[2] Norway has extensive experience in the development and use of administrative registers for statistical purposes. Norway's last population and housing census, for instance, was entirely based on data from various administrative registers.

[3] The project was divided into five main tracks: 1) strengthening of economic statistics; 2) strengthening of the national accounts; 3) development of a macroeconomic model and capacity development for macroeconomic analysis; 4) building of statistical infrastructure; and 4) establishment of a system of household surveys with a statistical model that provides regular estimates of poverty.

[4] The report notes "an increase in both the quantity and quality of statistical outputs from the [Malawian] National Statistics Office (NSO) [...]. NSO figures are now considered more reliable and provide a better basis for economic policy. The demand from national ministries for statistical expertise from NSO has also increased."

[5] As a result of new data and improved definitions, the Malawian authorities in 2007 were able to release revised national accounts for the years 2002-04, which turned out to be 37-38% higher than previous estimates (Hobbelstad Simpson and Wold, 2015).

[6] While classified as a research and teaching institute in the underlying data, for comparability with other Development Assistance Committee members, ODA implemented by Statistics Norway was classified as being channelled through a donor country public sector agency. Similarly, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics was reclassified from a research and teaching institute to a recipient country public sector entity.

Poland

Poland's development co-operation programme and its Eastern Partnership are founded on Poland's own experience with economic transformation. Drawing from that experience, Poland can share unique and relevant insights with its partner countries. Statistics Poland, the national statistical office, is active in the international co-operation area, providing technical assistance to partner countries in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2020, Statistics Poland took part in the consultation process on Poland's multiannual development programme, resulting in a more explicit focus on statistics for development.

Strategies, actors and funding

Polish development co-operation is regulated by the Act of 16 September 2011 on Polish Development Cooperation. It is managed primarily by Poland's **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (MFA). A strategy was approved in 2021: the *Multiannual Programme for Development Cooperation for 2021–2030 Solidarity for Development*. This new programme is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting the universal and holistic nature of the UN Agenda 2030. The thematic priorities set out in the programme are peace, justice and strong institutions, equal opportunities (education, decent work, entrepreneurship, reducing inequalities, sustainable cities), health, and climate and natural resources (clean water and sanitary conditions, forests and biodiversity, and renewable energy sources). Cross-sectoral topics include climate action and equal opportunities for women and men. Ten priority countries for Polish aid include four Eastern Partnership countries (Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), two Middle East countries (Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority) and four countries of sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Tanzania).

So far, co-operation in the area of statistical capacity development has not been an explicit part of Poland's development co-operation programme. Nevertheless, in 2013, Poland provided capacity-building support to the Department of Statistics in the Afghan province of Ghazni in the context of its engagement as part of Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Starting in 2013, **Statistics Poland** implemented several international co-operation activities in Eastern Partnership countries, especially technical assistance to sister organisations (see also Figure 1).[1] Specific examples include:

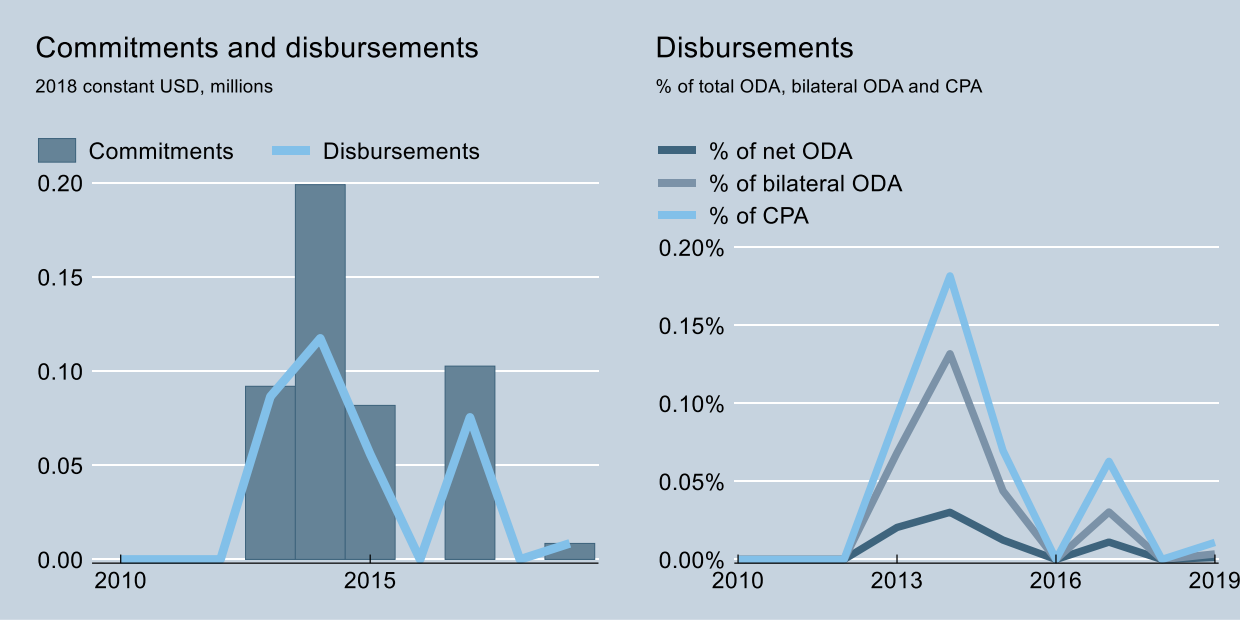
- co-operation activities with the National Statistics Office of Georgia in 2013, 2014 and 2015 that included training courses on regional accounts and institutional capacity building in the areas of statistical surveys, environmental statistics and data analysis
- co-operation activities with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of Moldova in 2014 and 2017 that focused on agricultural products balance sheets (in 2014) and statistical surveys in the field of agriculture and forestry (2017)
- co-operation activities with the States Statistics Service of Ukraine in 2017 with a focus on tourism statistics and surveys on border traffic.

Since 2018, Statistics Poland has been a member of a consortium contracted by **Moldova's** bureau of statistics in the context of the EU's support to official statistics as part of its European Neighbourhood Policy. The project will run from 2019 until 2021 and aims to: strengthen the NBS' capacity to co-ordinate

statistical activities across the national statistical system and its to access to and use of administrative registers and other data sources for statistical purposes; and promote harmonisation of statistics in line with EU and international standards.

Finally, Statistics Poland conducted a series of activities in 2019 such as study visits, seminars and consultancies in partnership with official statisticians from sister organisations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

Figure 1. Poland – ODA to data and statistics



Notes: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid. See also endnote 1.

StatLink https://stat.link/0oj6l1

In 2021, Statistics Poland will collaborate with the OECD (within the Polish official development co-operation related financial contribution to the OECD) on a project on enterprise statistics with Ukrainian counterparts. The project will cover statistics on small and medium-sized enterprises and business demography. Polish experts will share their knowledge and experience on enterprise statistics in Poland, including surveys and the elaboration of data by Statistics Poland for national and international consumption.

Box 1. Poland – related documents and contacts

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Poland's *Multiannual Programme for Development Cooperation for 2021-2030 Solidarity for Development*
- Statistics Poland's international co-operation activities

Contact

- International Cooperation Department, Statistics Poland (intrelations@stat.gov.pl)

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

Portugal

Portugal's strategy for development co-operation frames its support for statistical capacity as part of its overall institutional capacity building, which aims to strengthen governance, the rule of law and human rights. Implemented by Statistics Portugal, its national statistical office, its technical co-operation with Portuguese-speaking partner countries is built on long-term partnerships to ensure ownership and sustainability.

Strategies, actors and funding

The *Strategic Concept for Portuguese Development Cooperation 2014-2020*, the current strategy for Portuguese development co-operation, has two overarching objectives – poverty eradication and sustainable development – and two priority lines: 1) governance, rule of law and human rights; and 2) human development and global public goods. Gender equality and children's rights are considered cross-cutting themes. Portugal's Strategic Concept explicitly cites support to statistical capacity in the context of its overall support to institutional capacity building under the priority of governance, rule of law and human rights. It emphasises long-term support aligned with partner country strategies and priorities.

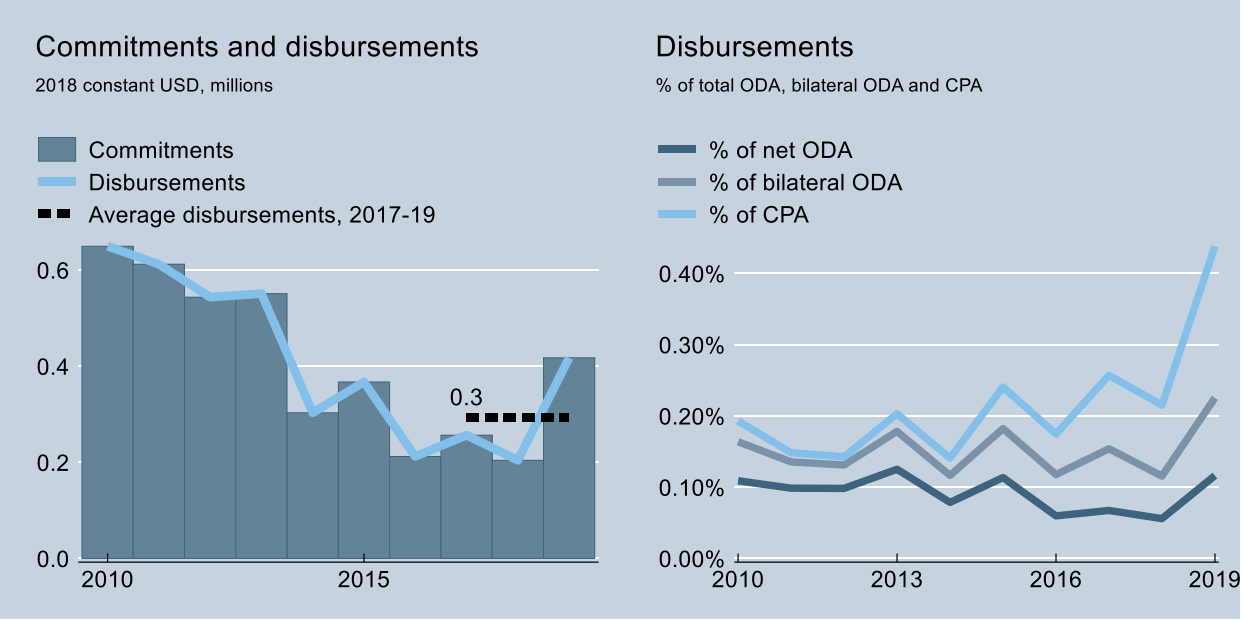
Portugal's technical assistance to data and statistics in partner countries is funded by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and implemented by **Statistics Portugal**. In addition, Statistics Portugal co-funds capacity building programmes under the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) through the provision of technical assistance free of charge. Its assistance covers several areas such as legislation, planning, classifications, concepts and nomenclatures, statistical infrastructure, and statistical production and dissemination, with a special emphasis on consumer price indices, census cartography, population censuses and national accounts. Technical assistance to strengthen statistical legislation, consumer prices and classifications, and concepts and nomenclatures have grown in importance in recent years.

In the context of the European Union's (EU) statistical co-operation programmes, Statistics Portugal has also supported sister institutions in candidate and potential candidate countries of the EU (by sending experts to those countries or hosting study visits) as well as in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (e.g. via the MEDSTAT co-operation programme) to develop statistical capacity.

According to OECD data and research,[1] Portugal disbursed around USD 400 000 (in 2018 prices) for technical assistance and experts in the area of statistical capacity building in 2019, up from around USD 200 000 per year between 2016 and 2018 (Figure 1). Portugal's ODA to data and statistics as a share of country-programmable aid increased from 2012. The budgetary decreases observed over the first half of the 2010s is accounted for by two developments. First, lower levels especially from 2014 onward reflect significant cuts in total official development assistance (ODA) resulting from the implementation of the Economic and Financial Adjustment Programme in Portugal (2011-14) (see also Portugal's OECD-DAC Development Co-operation Profile 2020). Second, the completion of the 1st Training Programme of the National Statistical Systems of the Portuguese-speaking African Countries and Timor-Leste (2012-18), which was designed by Statistics Portugal based on requests expressed by its partner countries and approved by the CPLP, resulted in a decrease in the number of activities, especially from 2016 onwards.

The period 2016-18 corresponded to the last phase of implementation, reserved for concluding priority actions. Other bilateral activities were maintained over the same period and so their overall weight increased in relation to activities within the CPLP.

Figure 1. Portugal – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/yd2ita

The recent approval of the 2nd Training Programme of the National Statistical Systems of the Portuguese-speaking Countries provided a new financial and technical framework and a renewed impetus for Portugal's international co-operation in the area of statistical capacity. The new phase of the programme extends the support to other projects (e.g. Sustainable Development Goal statistical monitoring, dissemination), increases the training component and promotes the implementation of South-South co-operation. While all physical activities and meetings were suspended due to COVID-19, new or adjusted modalities of implementation are being considered in close dialogue with all relevant stakeholders.

Portugal's support to data and statistics is well-aligned with the overall focus and priorities of Portuguese development co-operation. Partner countries in the area of statistics are mainly Portuguese-speaking countries (i.e. Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste). All of Portugal's support in this area aimed to boost participatory development and good governance. A significant share, 27%, also aims to strengthen gender equality.

Lessons learnt

Valuable lessons and insights are emerging from Statistics Portugal's international co-operation activities. In particular, the provision of sustainable support through the establishment of long-lasting partnerships rather than ad hoc sectoral co-operation, was found to lead to greater project ownership by recipients. Many of Portugal's partner countries autonomously manage projects and statistical products which were initially introduced in the context of co-operation programmes (e.g. estimation of consumer price indices, geo-referencing systems, approved statistical legislation, economic classifications and

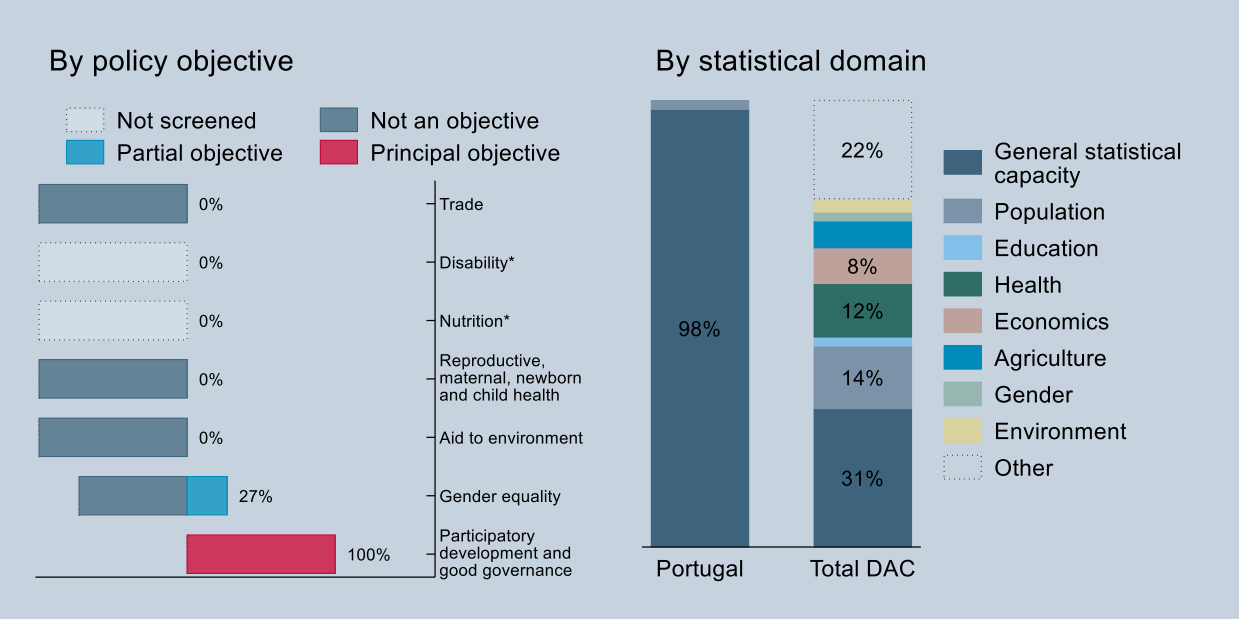
nomenclatures, etc.) and are themselves providers of technical assistance to their regional peers. See OECD (2017, pp. 52-53) for a specific example of Statistics Portugal's technical assistance in the area of consumer prices.

Thematic focus

According to OECD data on aid flows, participatory development and good governance are major policy objectives of all of Portugal's ODA to data and statistics in its partner countries (Figure 2). One-fourth of its ODA had gender equality as a partial objective. Nearly all of it aims to **strengthen statistical capacity broadly** defined.

Figure 2. Portugal – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



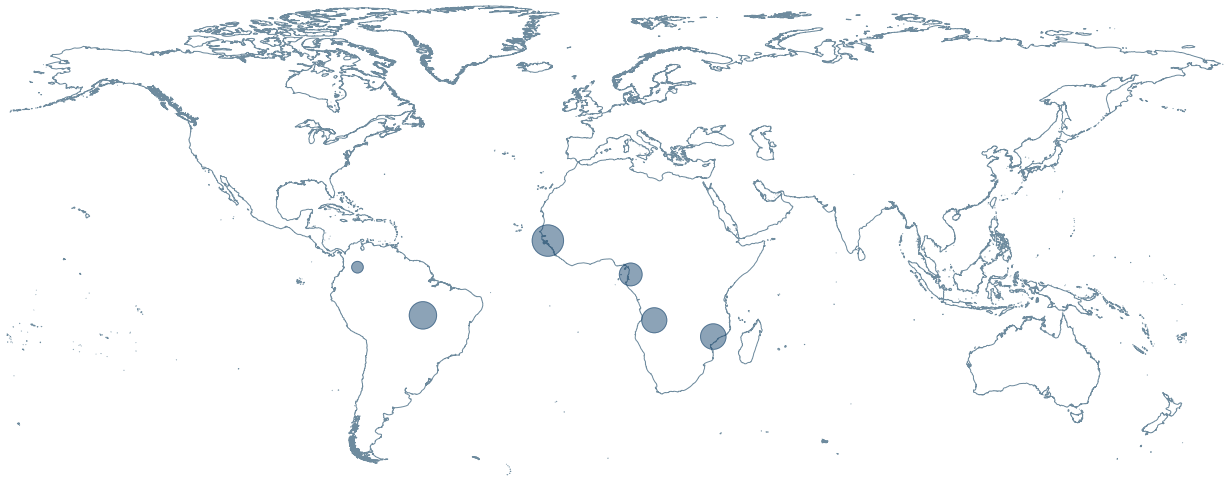
Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/pebzun

Geographic focus

Portuguese development co-operation focuses on Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and other developing regions (Figure 3 and Figure 4). This is also the case for Portugal's support to data and statistics: key partner countries between 2017 and 2019 were Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea-Bissau and Timor-Leste (all accounting for around 16% of total Portuguese ODA to data and statistics); Brazil (12%); Angola, Cabo Verde and Mozambique (all around 10%); and Equatorial Guinea (8%). Overall, 70% of Portugal's support benefited African countries.

Figure 3. Portugal – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

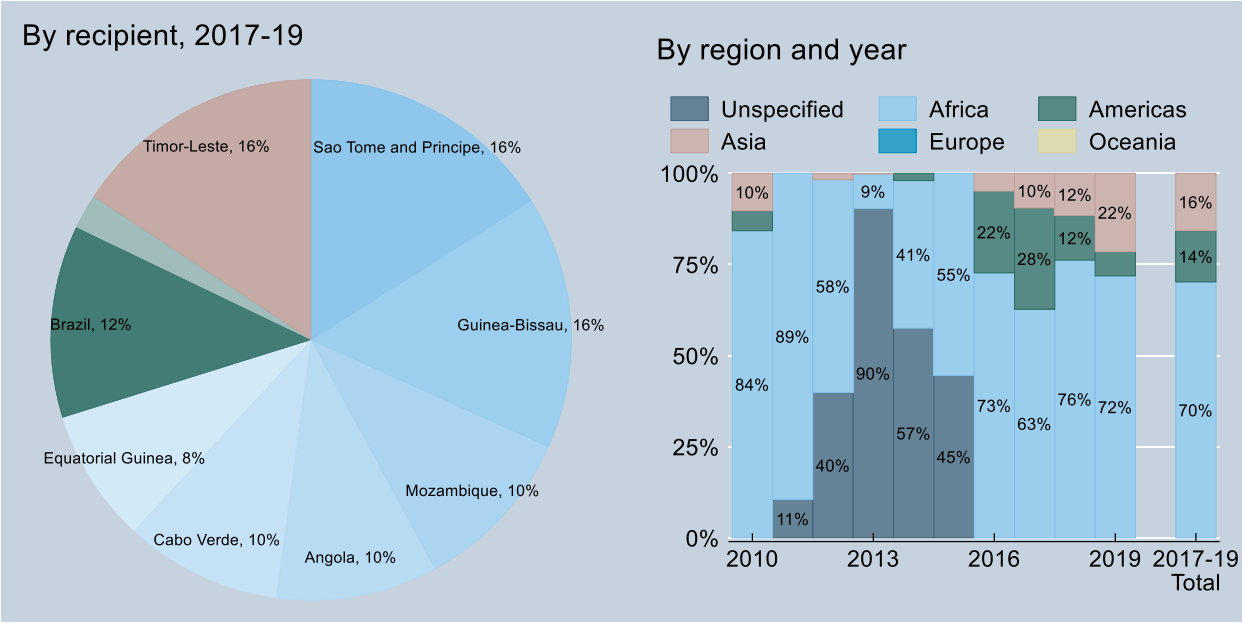


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/eu4jft

Figure 4. Portugal – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

Share of total



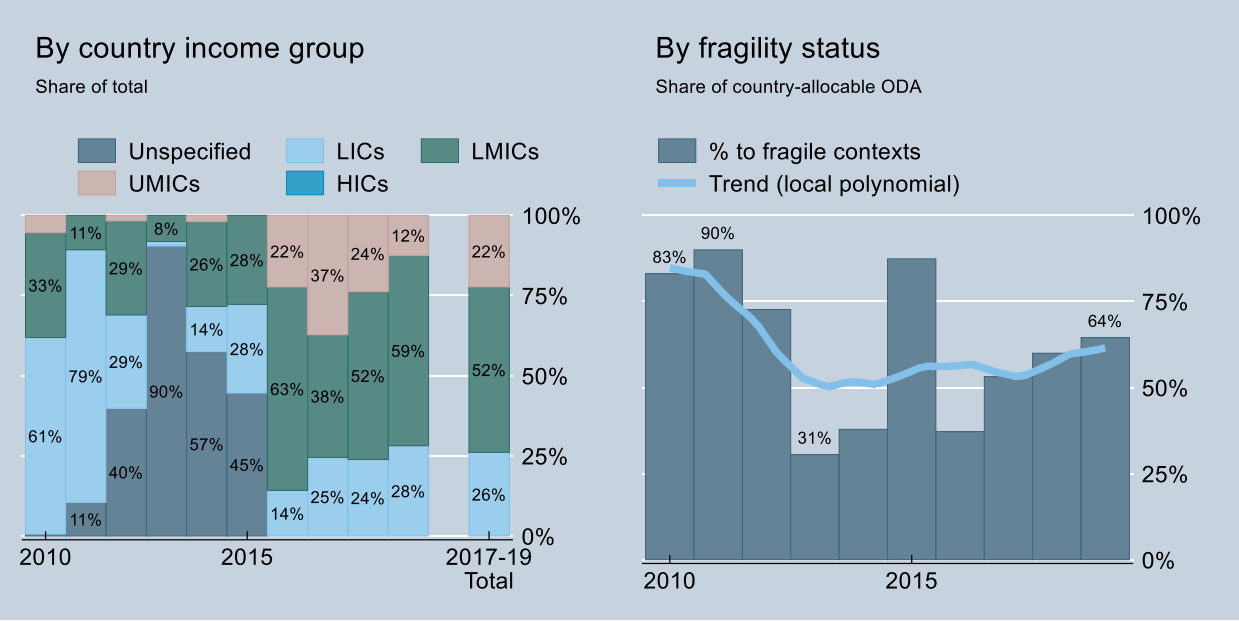
Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/jq9gp4

This focus on Portuguese-speaking countries translated into 26% of Portugal's ODA in 2017-19 being extended to low-income countries, 52% to lower middle-income countries and 22% to upper middle-income countries (Brazil falls into this category; Figure 5). In 2019, nearly two-thirds of Portugal's ODA to data and

statistics was allocated to fragile contexts, up from 31% in 2014, and about one-third to small island developing states (Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste).

Figure 5. Portugal – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable ODA. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

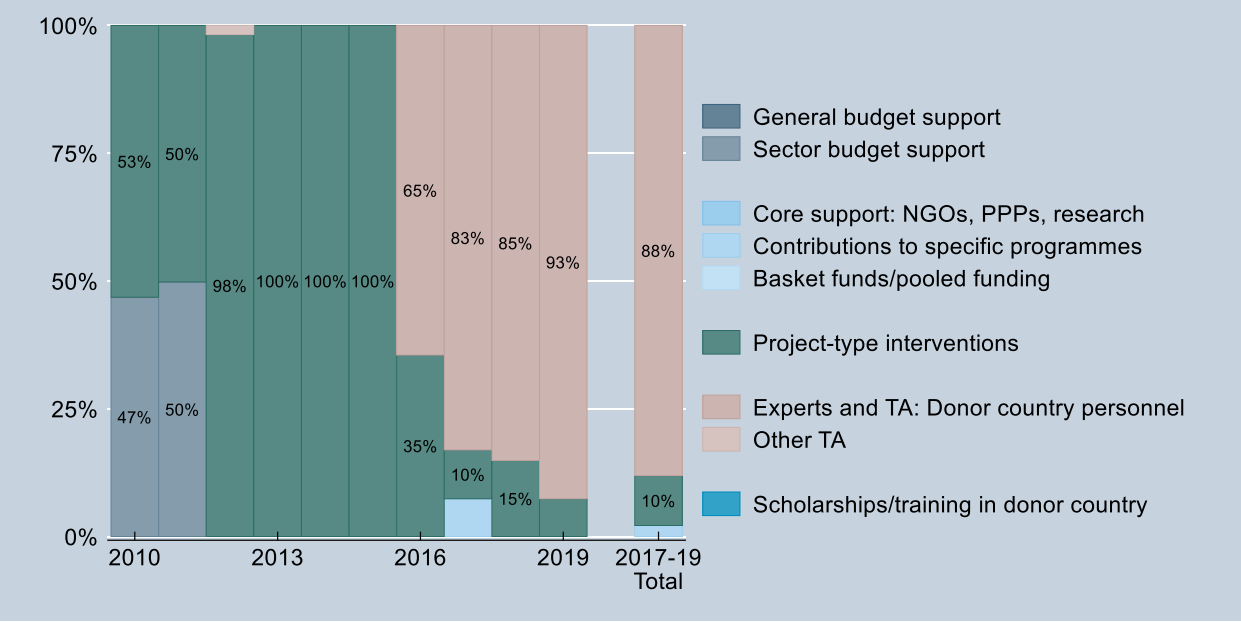
StatLink https://stat.link/w8nmk6

Modalities and channels of delivery

Since 2016, Portugal's aid to data and statistics was delivered mostly in the form of Portuguese experts and technical assistance and, to a lesser extent, project-type interventions carried out by Portuguese experts (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Portugal – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/uz35qn

In 2017, a small share of Portugal's total ODA to data and statistics was provided in the form of pooled funding for a multilateral organisation, the Organization of American States, in support of civil registration and identification in Colombia. In 2010 and 2011, close to half of Portugal's assistance was provided by the Camões-Institute for Cooperation and Language in the form of sector budget support to Mozambique's National Institute of Statistics.

Box 1. Portugal – related documents and contacts

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Government of Portugal (2014): Strategic Concept for Portuguese Development Cooperation 2014-2020
- International co-operation at Statistics Portugal
- COOPSTAT, a biannual newsletter on international co-operation activities produced by Statistics Portugal
- Santos, D. and J. Figueiredo (2017), Harmonising the compilation of the consumer price index in Cabo Verde and Mozambique. In: *Case Studies on Data for Development*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Contact

- External Relations and Cooperation Unit, Statistics Portugal: rec@ine.pt

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

Sweden

Sweden's development co-operation strategy frames statistical capacity as a means to ensure that actors in partner countries can effectively implement and monitor policies for sustainable development as well as participate in the global dialogue on the 2030 Agenda. The Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) provides funding for major data and statistical initiatives of multilateral organisations as well as long-term technical assistance projects, typically implemented by Statistics Sweden, the national statistical office. In line with its overall strategy, Sweden prioritises general statistical capacity building and strengthening of gender data and statistics. Over the last ten years, the regional focus of support to data and statistics has shifted from Asia and Europe towards partner countries in Africa.

Strategies, actors and funding

Sweden's 2016 Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance sets out five perspectives: poor people, rights, environment and climate, gender equality, and conflict. The Policy Framework establishes a clear poverty focus and reflects Sweden's position as a global leader on gender equality. In line with these priorities and perspectives, the document defines a clear role for the strengthening of partner countries' capacity to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: "A lack of reliable data and statistics makes it difficult to follow up results in many countries. It is therefore important to support institution-building and the capacity to produce, analyse and provide relevant statistics by gender and age. As part of working towards openness and transparency in relation to the 2030 Agenda, Swedish development co-operation is to help to improve countries' own statistics systems." Based on this reasoning, Sweden highlights country ownership – supporting the development priorities of its partners – and long-term sustainability of support.

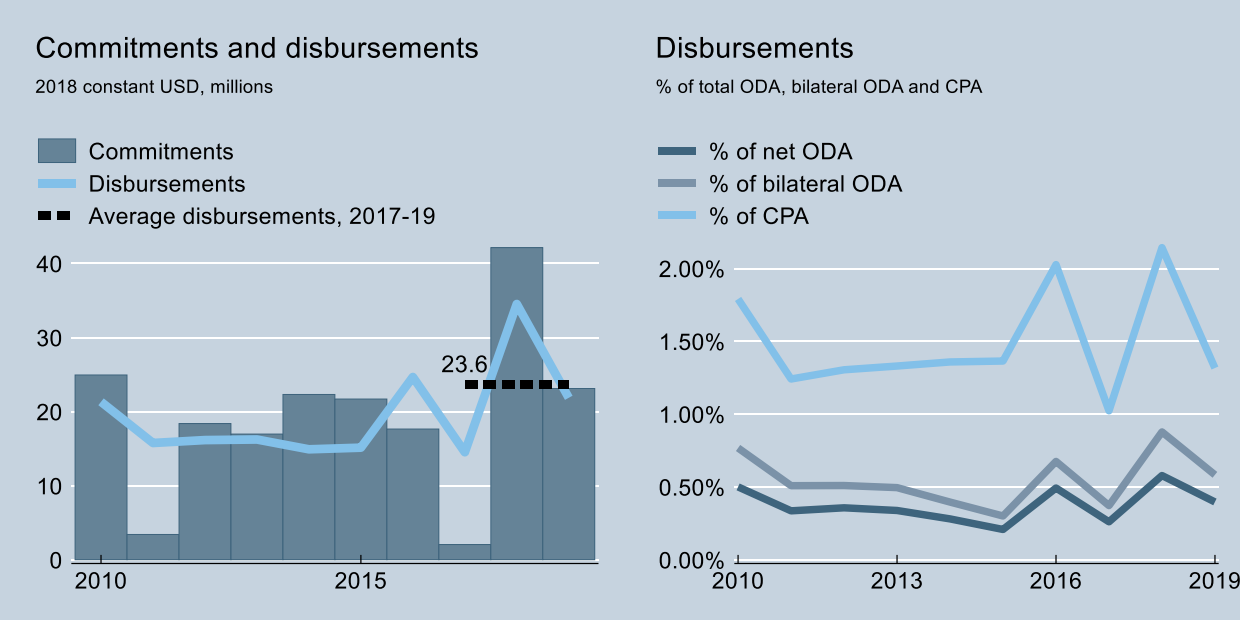
A substantial portion of Swedish bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to data and statistics is delivered by **Statistics Sweden**, which has been engaged in international statistical co-operation with sister institutions in low- and middle-income countries for over 40 years. These projects are built on long-term partnerships with clear goals and expectations, including in-country advisors in partner countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. They aim to build technical expertise around specific subjects, statistical methods, information technology, quality issues as well as the dissemination and communication of statistics. However, leadership and management of statistical organisations and processes are becoming increasingly important in this work. **Sida** also funds projects and programmes in support of data and statistics in Sweden's partner countries.

According to OECD data and research,[1] Sweden's ODA for data and statistics averaged USD 24 million per year (in 2018 prices) in 2017-19 (Figure 1). Sweden's partner countries, about 20 in any given year, tend to be low-income countries (LICs) in West and East Africa, although support is also provided to partners in Europe and, to a lesser extent, Asia and the Americas. Around three-fourths of Sweden's country-allocable ODA to data and statistics went to fragile contexts.

Forty-three per cent of Sweden's support is delivered through Swedish public sector agencies and 40% via multilateral organisations. In line with Sweden's overall development strategy and its focus on capacity

development and gender equality, a large share of Swedish ODA for data and statistics, 41%, aimed to improve **general statistical capacity**, with **population and gender statistics** accounting for 23% and 14%, respectively. In 2018, Sweden moved further towards strengthening gender statistics, committing SEK 80 million (USD 9.2 million) in support of UN Women's flagship programme *Making Every Woman and Girl Count*.

Figure 1. Sweden – ODA to data statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/7h12ml

Sweden's co-operation projects have increasingly focused on building infrastructure for stable data management (such as information technology infrastructure), on branding and marketing of statistics, and on driving domestic resource mobilisation for statistics, which is often a severe constraint in its partner countries. While Sweden has traditionally engaged in bilateral partnerships, an increasing number of projects in recent years have been regional or global in scope. More regional and global partnerships, and increasing South-South co-operation facilitated by Sweden, have been emerging. For example, Sweden initiated in 2018 a regional development project for migration statistics in sub-Saharan Africa, bringing together regional economic communities to work together to develop better data on migration across the continent. Similarly, Sweden's International Training Programme in Gender Statistics emphasises the need for peer-to-peer learning and both national and international networks. This programme was launched in 2016 to support countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East that wish to improve their capacity in gender statistics.

Lessons learnt

Sweden's approach has primarily focused on long-term co-operation and on building integrated partnerships with sister institutions. Statistics Sweden's programmes have a duration of around eight to ten years. Experiences have confirmed that ensuring that support is in line with the countries' own priorities and strategies is crucial to maintaining sustainability and to achieving long-lasting development of a

statistical system. Evaluations of long-term Swedish co-operation with Cambodia's National Institute of Statistics and Scandinavian support to Mozambique's national statistical system, for instance, have noted the success of technical assistance and highlighted the need for broad-based support of the system as a whole. This is underlined by the Swedish experiences of shifting support from capacity to produce statistics on issues of user engagement, planning processes and the dissemination of statistics. The placement of an on-site advisor to support the partner organisation is a fundamental aspect of Statistics Sweden's support in statistical development and appears to be a key success factor for more sustainable outcomes.

Table 1. Sweden – kind of support and type of data sources supported

	Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	To a great extent
What kind of support does your organisation currently provide?				
Improving statistical production				X
Strengthening data dissemination				X
Advocacy on the value and impact of data and statistics			X	
Improving statistical literacy of data users			X	
Promoting data use by policy makers, civil society and citizens			X	
What type of data sources does your organisation currently support?				
Statistical sources (surveys and censuses)				X
Administrative data systems (tax, business or property registers; civil registration systems; health management information systems; etc.)			X	
New data sources (geospatial data, big data, etc.)				X

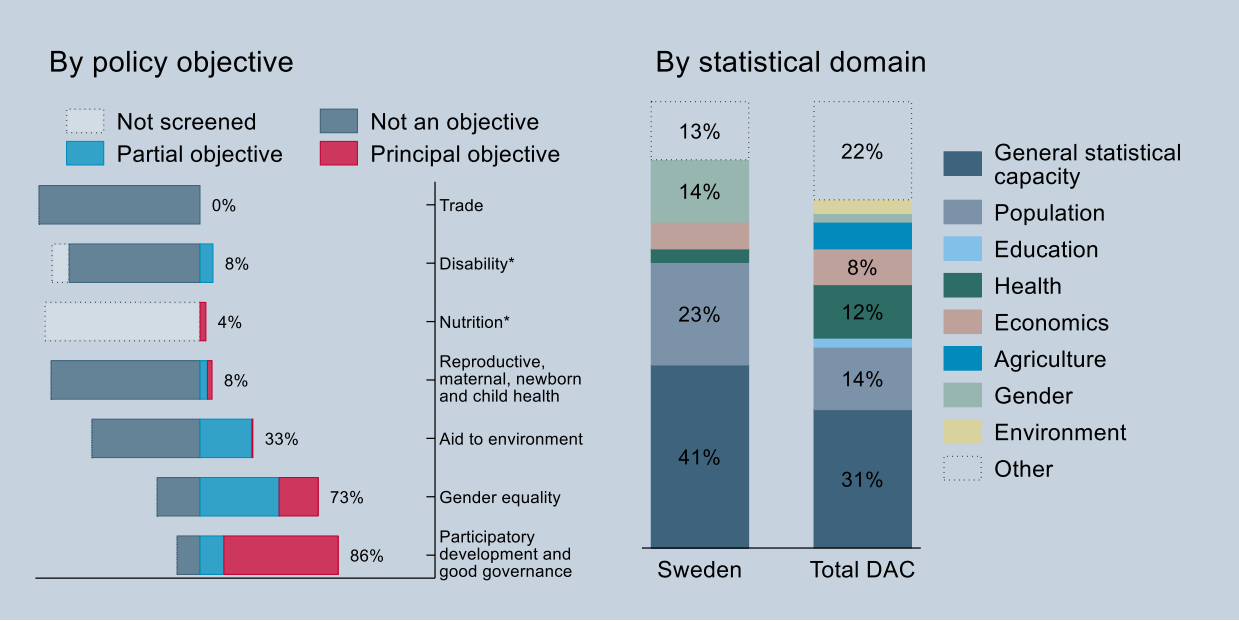
Source: Sweden's responses to OECD inquiry.

Thematic focus

Key policy objectives of Sweden's ODA to data and statistics include participatory development and good governance and gender equality. In line with an important role for Statistics Sweden in Sweden's overall support to statistics in its partner countries, **general support to statistical capacity building** accounted for 41% of its total funding for data and statistics in 2017-19 while 23% went to **population statistics** (Figure 2). **Gender statistics**, accounting for about 14%, are an emerging priority area for Swedish co-operation (see above), with Sida committing SEK 80 million (USD 9.2 million) to *Making Every Woman and Girl Count*, UN Women's flagship programme on gender data aiming to support the monitoring and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through better production and use of gender statistics.

Figure 2. Sweden – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



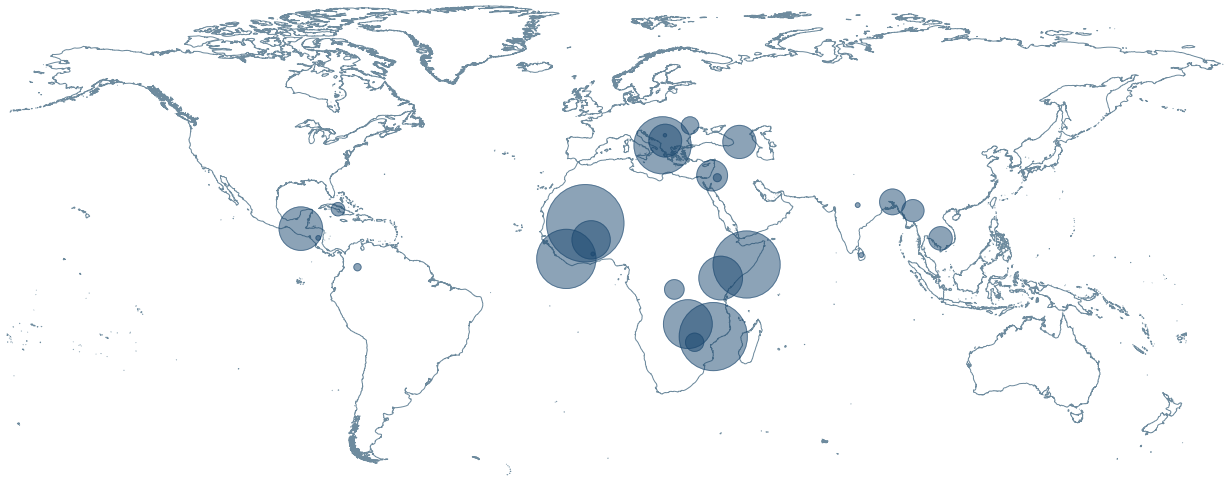
Notes: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/g1khl0

Geographic focus

In 2017-19, 65% of Sweden's bilateral ODA to data and statistics was disbursed directly to partner countries, with the remainder supporting regional initiatives and global programmes. According to OECD data, almost half of Sweden's ODA for data and statistics over this period was allocated to partner countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 17% to Europe, and smaller shares to Asia and the Americas. The top-5 recipients of Swedish ODA in this area between 2017 and 2019 were Mali, Mozambique, Somalia, Liberia and Albania (Figure 4). About one-fourth, nearly half of the country-allocable part, was targeted directly to LICs in 2019 and 70% was targeted to countries classified as fragile (Figure 5).

Figure 3. Sweden – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

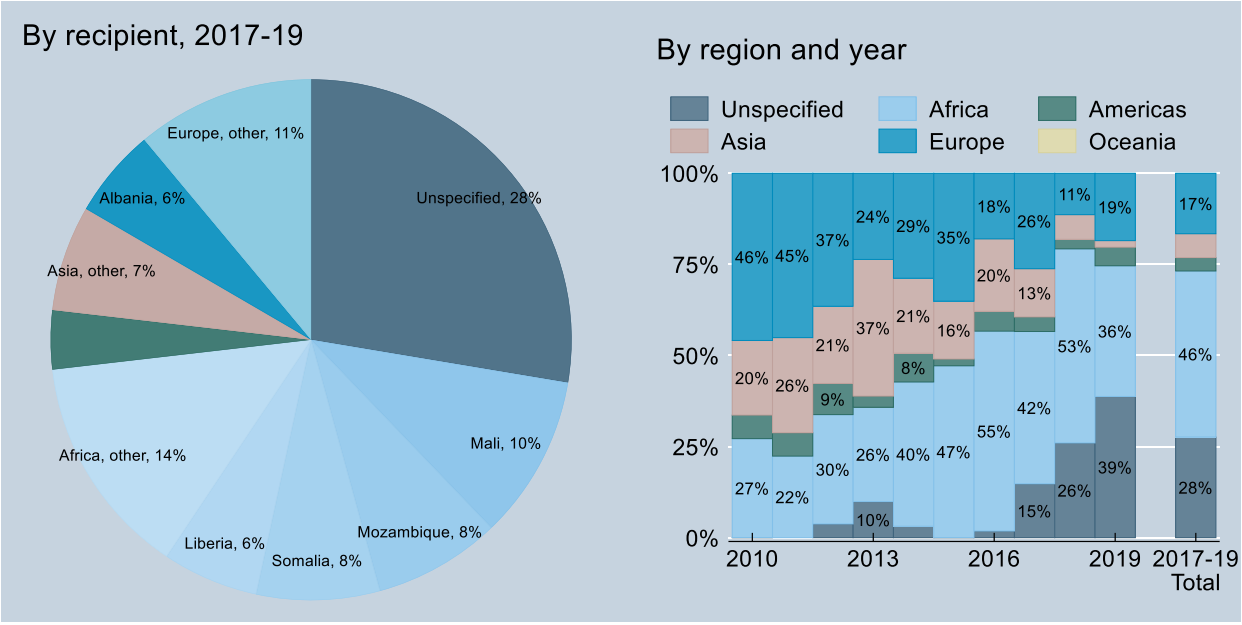


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/nkgabx

Figure 4. Sweden – ODA to data and statistics by recipient and region

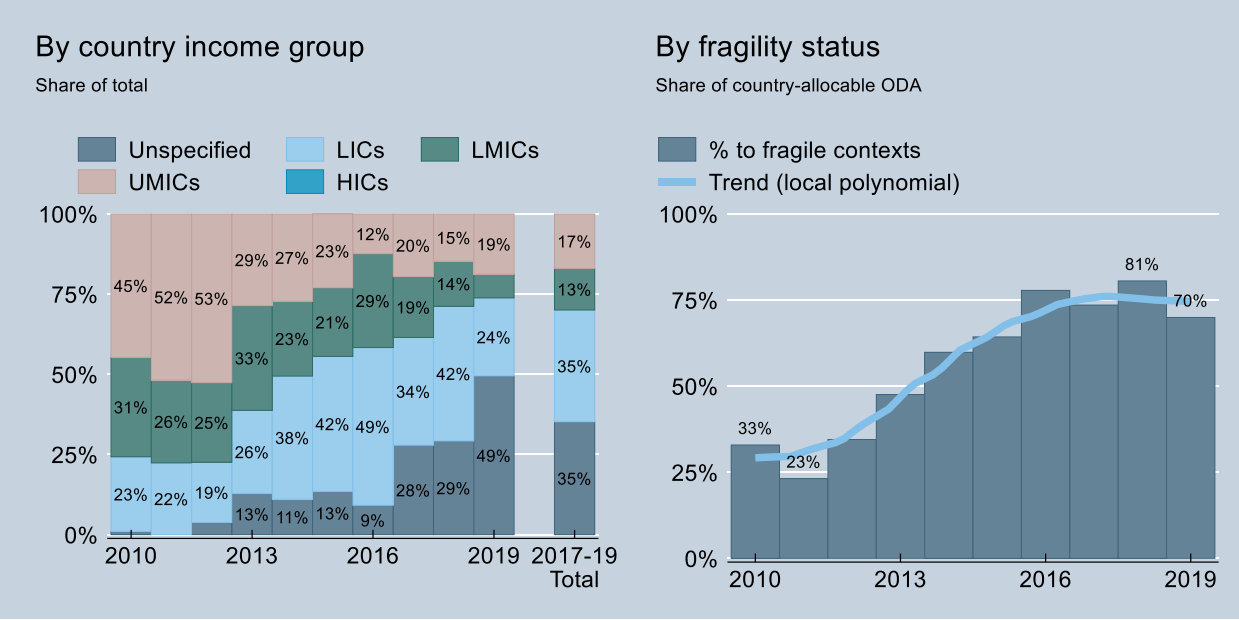
Share of total



Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/led9wa

Figure 5. Sweden – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

StatLink https://stat.link/cyk3v2

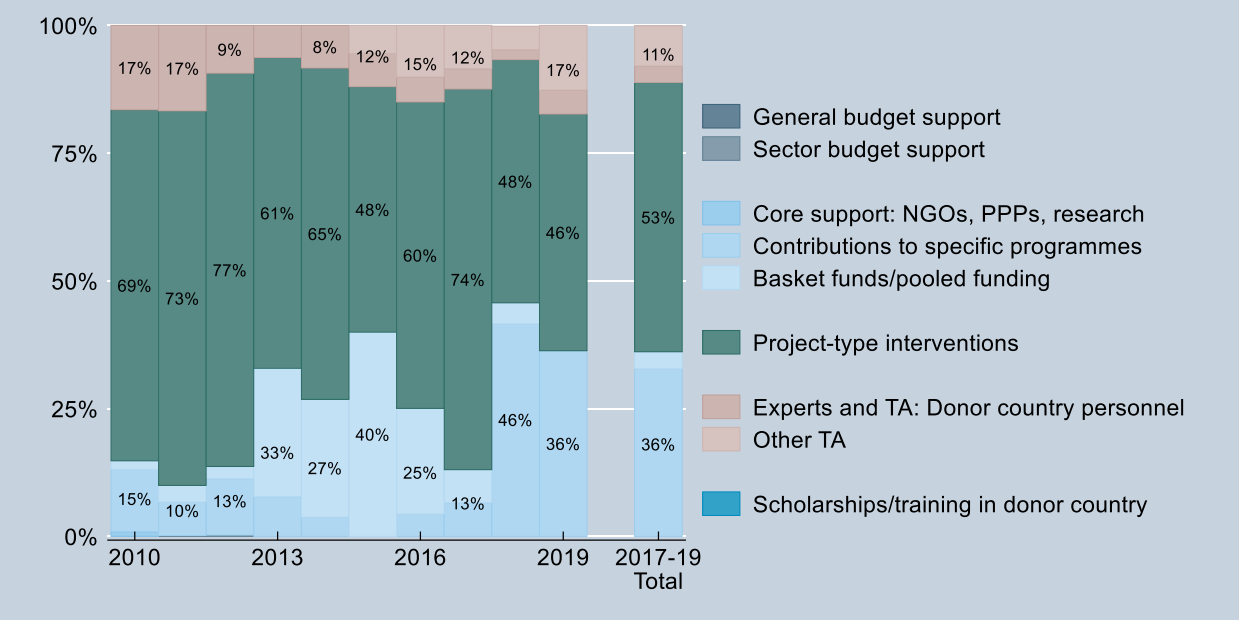
The geographic composition of Sweden's ODA to data and statistics has been changing over the last ten years. While Africa accounted for 27% of the total at the beginning of the decade, the continent's share increased subsequently and peaked at 55% in 2016. Also, at the beginning of the decade, only a very small share of Sweden's support was allocated to regional or global programmes. However, that share has increased significantly, reaching almost 50% by 2019. Finally, the share of country-allocable ODA targeted to fragile contexts increased markedly, from 23% in 2011 to about 75% after 2015.

Modalities and channels of delivery

In 2017-19, project-type interventions accounted for about half of Sweden's ODA for data and statistics while contributions to specific programmes managed by implementing partners and pooled funding accounted for nearly 36% (Figure 6). Funding of experts and other technical assistance accounted for 11%. Except for a dip in 2016 and 2017, the share delivered in the form of programmes managed by implementing partners and pooled funding has increased in recent years, with pooled funding playing a key role in 2018 and 2019 and programmes managed by implementing partners an important aid modality over the 2013-16 period.

Figure 6. Sweden – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total

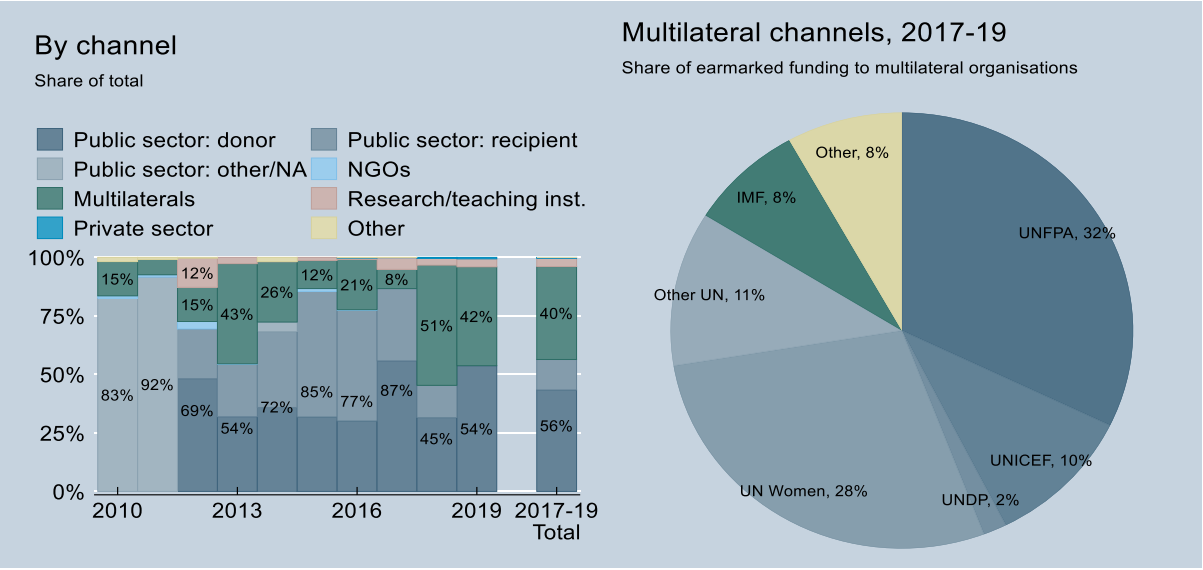


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/r9as7n

Sweden channelled its bilateral ODA to data and statistics through Swedish public sector agencies (43%) and multilateral organisations (40%). A smaller share went directly to partner country public sector agencies (13%) (Figure 7), with an increasing share in 2018 and 2019. Major programmes and projects supported by Sweden and implemented by multilaterals between 2017 and 2019 include, for instance, support to UN Women in 2018 for gender statistics (see above) and funding via the United Nations Population Fund for population and housing censuses and related work in Liberia and Mozambique (commitments of SEK 77 million/USD 8.9 million combined in 2018). Sweden also partners with the International Monetary Fund, supporting its Financial Sector Stability Fund, which provides technical assistance for financial sector diagnostics and strengthening of financial statistics (commitments of SEK 40 million/USD 4.6 million over the 2018-25 period). Finally, Sweden provided funding in 2019 for the United Nations Global Pulse initiative, which aims to use Big Data and artificial intelligence for development, humanitarian action and peace.

Figure 7. Sweden – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; TA: technical assistance; UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; UN: United Nations; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/ymjz36

Box 1. Sweden – related documents and contacts

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- Government of Sweden (2016): *Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance*
- Government of Sweden (2019): *Strategy for Capacity Development, Partnership and Methods that Support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
- Government of Sweden (2018): *Strategy for Sweden's Development Cooperation for Global Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Rights 2018-2022*
- Sida's Guidance on Capacity Development
- International Statistics Cooperation in Statistics Sweden and its newsletter Statistics in Action (October 2019)
- Sida/Statistics Sweden: International Training Programme in Gender Statistics
- Sida (2019): *Review of Scandinavian Consortium Technical Assistance to Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Mozambican National Statistical System (2008-2017)*
- Sida (2008): *The Swedish Support to Institutional Capacity Building of the National Institute of Statistics in Cambodia 2006-2008*

Contacts

- International Cooperation Office, Statistics Sweden: ius@scb.sc
- Unit for Data, Analytics and Statistics, Sida: Statistics@sida.se

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

Switzerland

Switzerland supports data and statistics in developing countries through multilateral channels, bilateral co-operation and international advocacy. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) highlights the importance of data and statistical capacity for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring and the need to produce disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind. The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) provides funding for multilateral and bilateral initiatives that aim to strengthen capacity in macroeconomic and financial statistics, notably through its long-standing partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). At the international level, Switzerland champions the importance of strong national data and statistical systems in developing countries and effective development co-operation for data and statistics.

Strategies, actors and funding

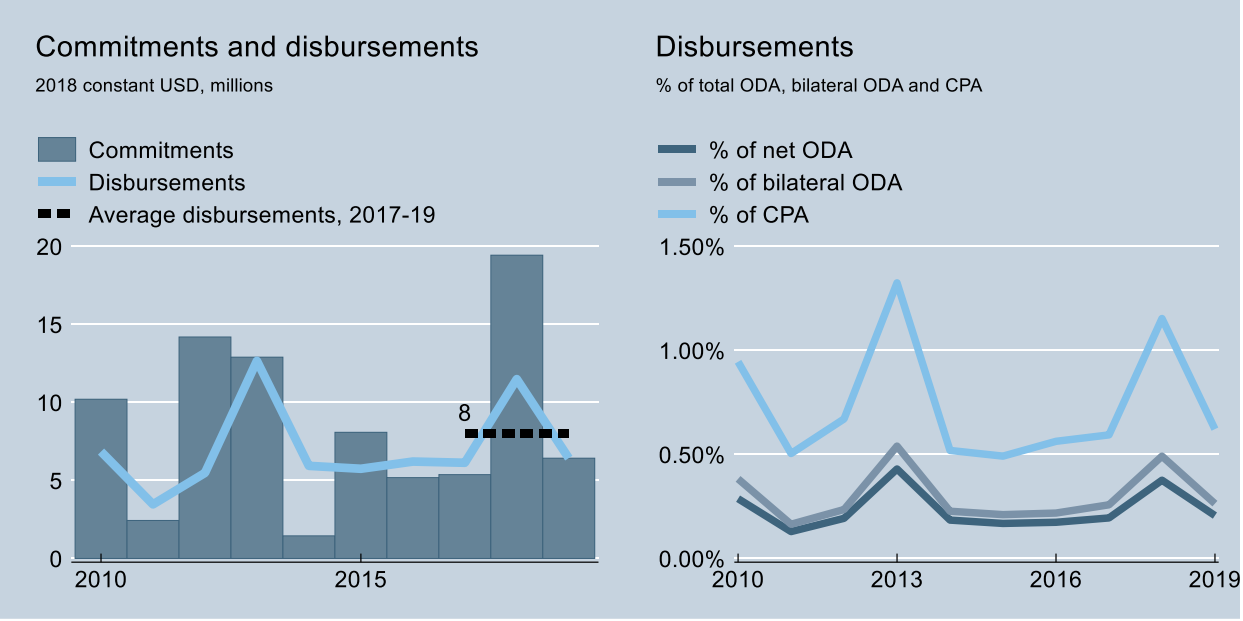
While Switzerland supports data and statistics in developing countries mainly through multilateral initiatives, Swiss development co-operation also provides bilateral financial assistance and peer-to-peer technical assistance for statistical systems. According to OECD data and research,[1] its disbursements to data- and statistics-related activities averaged USD 8 million per year between 2017 and 2019 (in 2018 prices; Figure 1). Over this time period, the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation** (SDC) and the **State Secretariat for Economic Affairs** (SECO) together accounted for around 90% of the total Swiss support for data and statistics in developing countries. Specific examples include:

- The **SDC** anchors "leave no one behind", a pledge to focus support on the poor and those excluded from sustainable development, in all of its strategic documents and programmes. As part of the SDC's Guidance on Leave No One Behind, the agency is committed to "[e]nhancing information systems and the production of disaggregated data that reveal the challenges of those left behind and strengthen[ing] the relationship between duty bearers and rights holders."
- The SDC provides bilateral funding for population censuses and birth registration in select countries and territories in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East (e.g. **Albania**, **Benin**, **Kosovo**, **Moldova**, the **Palestinian Authority** and **Tajikistan**), often in partnership with the **Swiss Federal Statistical Office**. It also supports the Partnership for Statistics in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the United Nations' Legal Identity for All initiative (CHF 2 million between 2018 and 2021). The SDC runs a range of programmes addressing global challenges such as climate change, water, food security, health and migration. In this context, it supports sector-specific data, often linked to SDG monitoring and in co-operation with United Nations custodian agencies. An example is the Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation related SDG targets.
- **SECO** is the Swiss federal government's centre of excellence for all core issues relating to economic policy. Its aim is to ensure sustainable economic growth by putting in place the necessary regulatory and economic policy conditions. SECO's Economic Cooperation and Development Division promotes economically, environmentally and socially sustainable growth which creates new jobs, facilitates increased productivity, and helps to reduce poverty and disparities. Its support

to data and statistics in partner countries is thus often focused on macroeconomic and financial statistics.

- SECO delivers its support in partnership with multilateral organisations, notably the IMF. This includes, since 2009, support of the IMF's statistical capacity development and, more recently, support of the IMF's Data for Decisions (D4D) Trust Fund, to which it committed CHF 4 million over the 2018-23 period. SECO also contributed to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's technical assistance to business registration reform in Viet Nam and is strengthening debt data transparency through multilateral initiatives such as the WB-IMF-led Debt Management Facility.

Figure 1. Switzerland – ODA to data and statistics, 2010-19



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/ma803b

Switzerland's support for multilateral initiatives results in around half of its total support on data and statistics being allocable to specific countries. Key partners are the **Palestinian Authority** (various support to core statistical activities), **Tajikistan** (civil registry reform) and **Viet Nam** (business registration reform). Switzerland's support aims to improve **economic statistics** as well as **population and health statistics** and **general statistical capacity**.

Switzerland supports key international initiatives, which aim to strengthen development co-operation for data and statistical systems in developing countries. It will be hosting the 3rd UN World Data Forum in Bern, planned initially for October 2020 and postponed to October 2021. This event aims to bring together international experts to find data-based solutions to help achieve the 2030 Agenda. Switzerland also co-chairs the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, which supports efforts to put in place the conditions to foster data-centric national development and to promote the use and sharing of data and co-ordinated efforts for statistical capacity development.

Lessons learnt

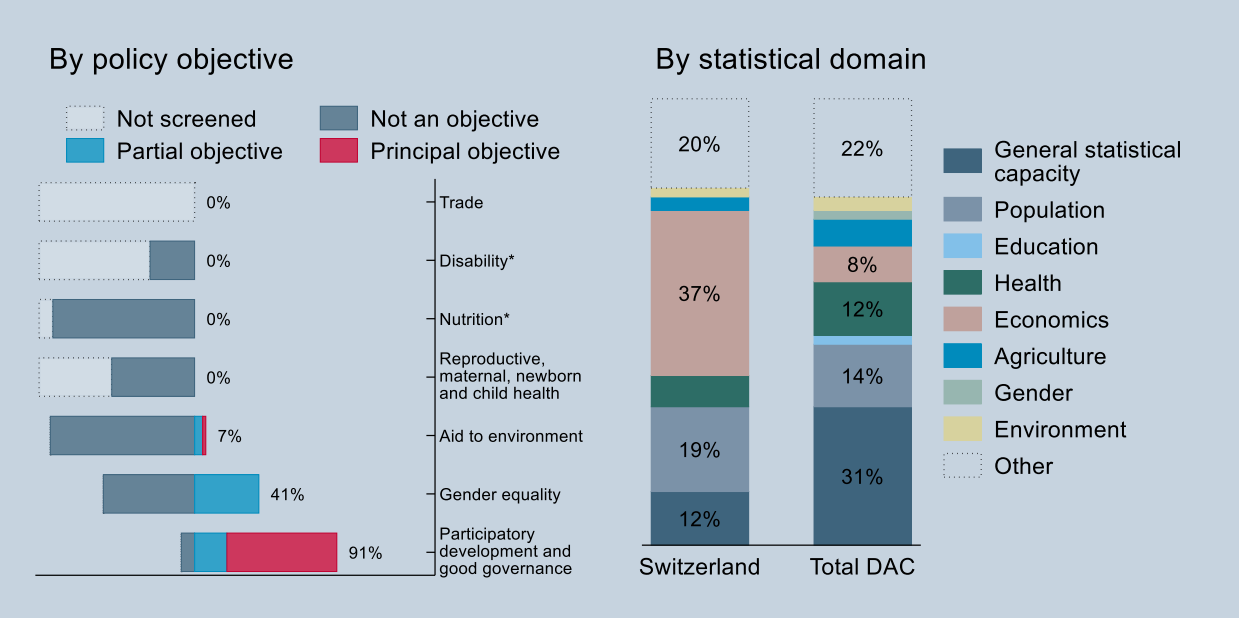
A long-standing co-operation, recognised as a success by the SDC, existed with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The programme included core support amounting to CHF 1.8 million in its last phase (2015-17) and co-financing amounting to CHF 1.25 million for the Palestinian Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2017. While the attempt to create a multi-donor funding mechanism did not succeed and Swiss support has since ended, the programme succeeded in ultimately ensuring that the Palestinian Authority increased the amount of domestic resources allocated to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Thematic focus

Between 2017 and 2019, a large share (91%) of Switzerland's official development assistance (ODA) to data and statistics aimed to strengthen participatory development (i.e. development that seeks to engage local populations in development projects) and good governance. Forty-one per cent had gender quality as a policy objective (Figure 2). More than one-third (37%) of its ODA aimed to improve the availability and reliability of economic statistics, 19% aimed to strengthen population and health statistics, and 12% was targeted to improving general statistical capacity building.

Figure 2. Switzerland – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



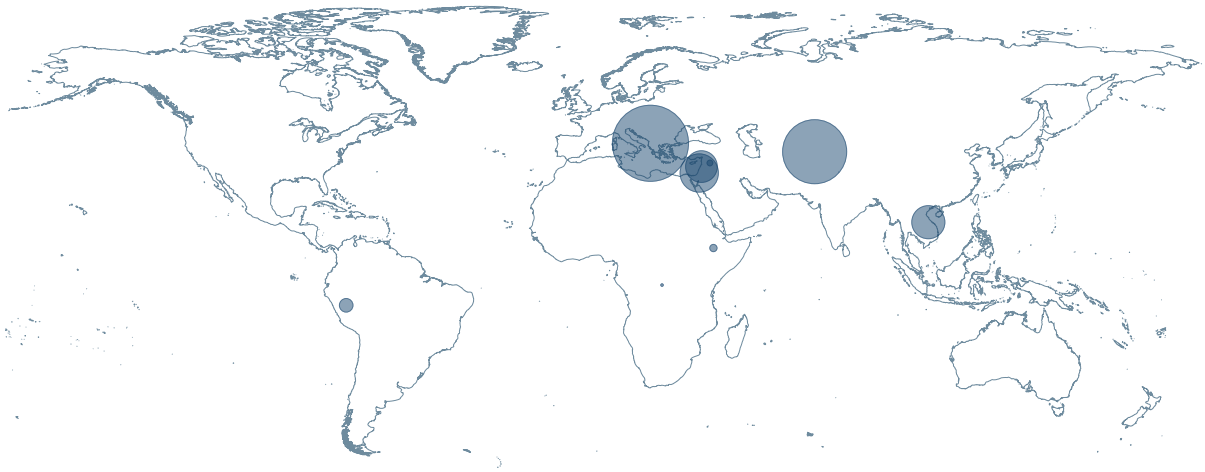
Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total ODA to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/w4sp1t

Geographic focus

A large share of Switzerland's ODA to data and statistics, nearly half between 2017 and 2019, cannot be allocated to specific regions, i.e. it is channelled through global and multilateral initiatives. The remainder has largely been targeted to a select group of partners primarily in Asia and Europe (Figure 3 and Figure 4).

Figure 3. Switzerland – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

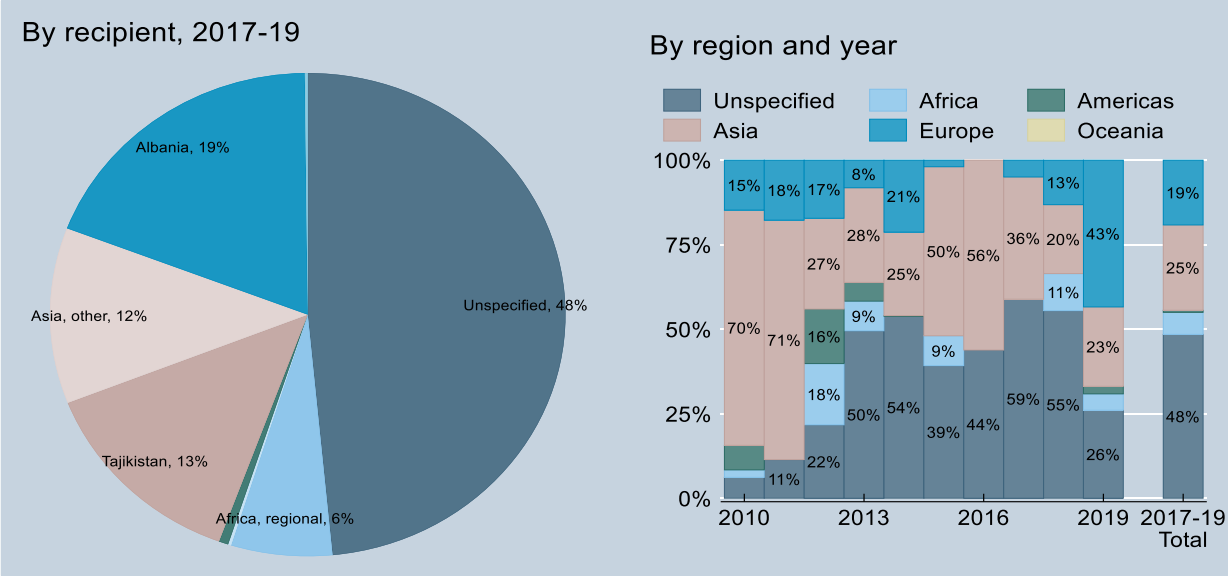


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/1xme4d

Figure 4. Switzerland – ODA to data and statistics by region and recipient

Share of total

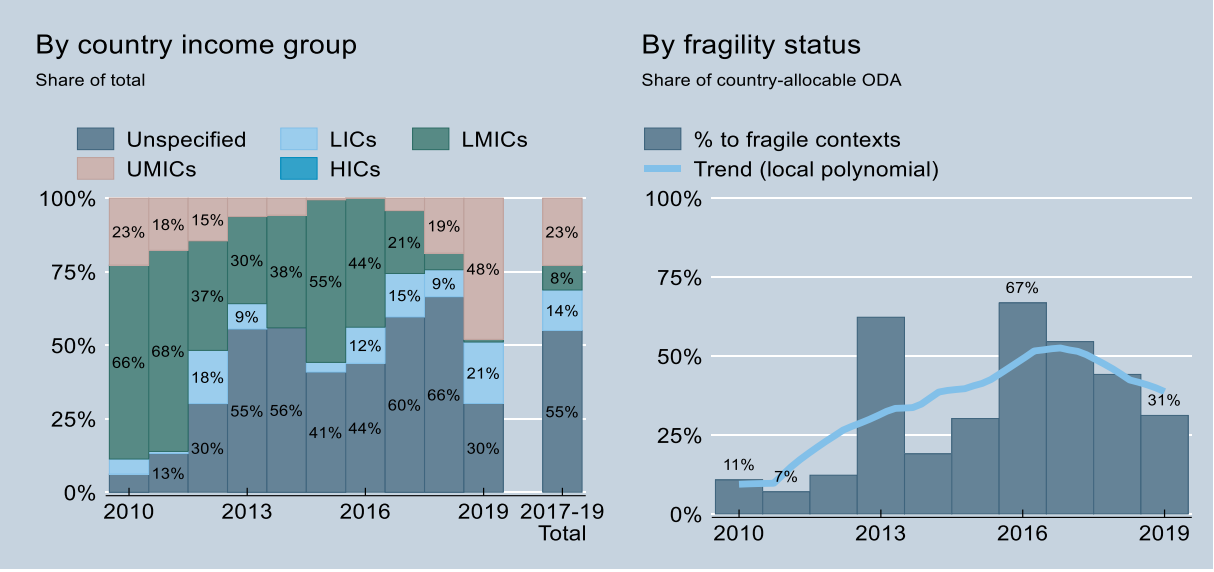


Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/6hw9iy

Around 45% of Switzerland's bilateral support between 2017 and 2019 was allocated to specific partner countries (Figure 5). Three key partners, Albania, the Palestinian Authority and Tajikistan, accounted for about one third or Switzerland's total spend over this time period.

Figure 5. Switzerland – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

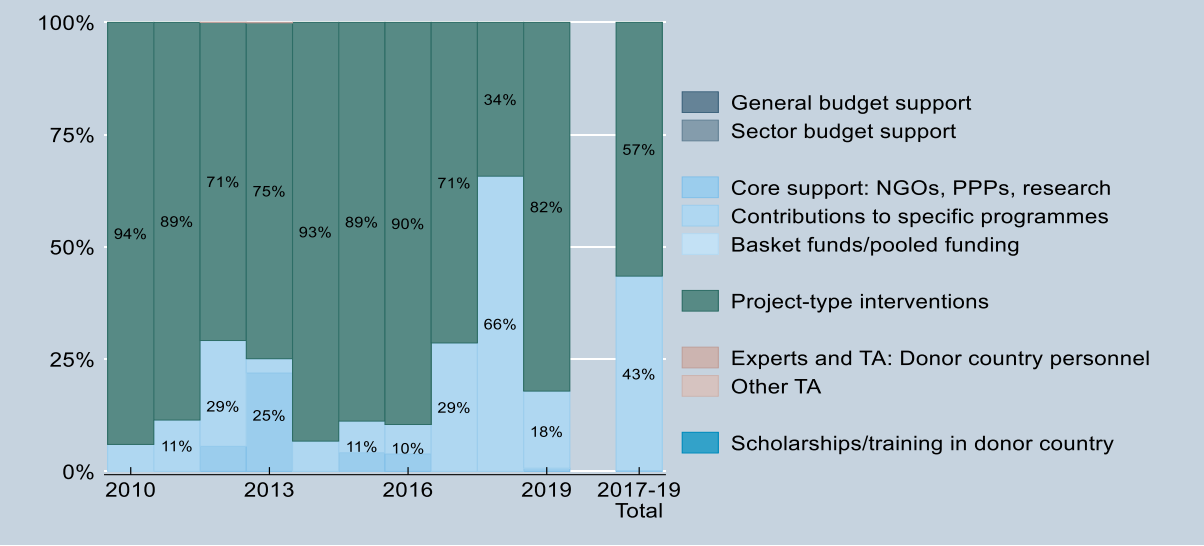
StatLink https://stat.link/0r1h36

Modalities and channels of delivery

In 2017-19, 57% of Switzerland's support to data and statistics was delivered in the form of project-type interventions (Figure 6). The remainder was delivered in the form of contributions to specific programmes of partners, typically multilateral organisations, a modality that has become more important for Switzerland in recent years.

Figure 6. Switzerland – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total

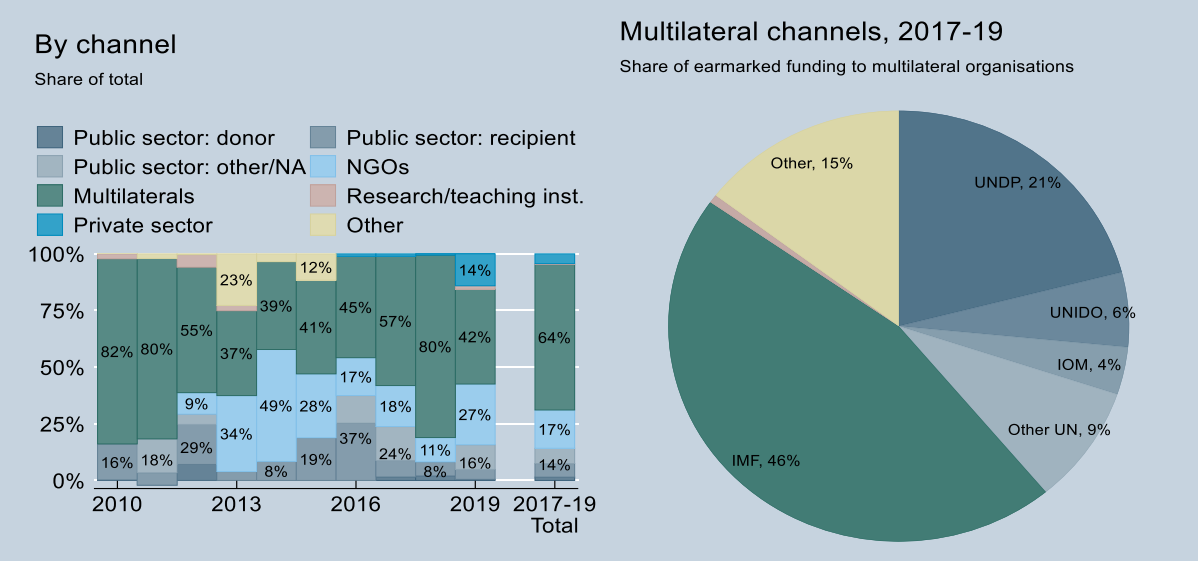


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/0skgpf

Almost two-thirds (64%) of Switzerland's ODA to data and statistics were channelled through multilateral organisations between 2017 and 2019 (Figure 7). Collaborations with multilateral organisations include the IMF's Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund, the United Nations Development Program's Legal Identity for All initiative and funding of activities of PARIS21.

Figure 7. Switzerland – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; UNDP: United Nations Develoment Programme; UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization; IOM: International Organization for Migration; UN: United Nations; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/gp9uvj

Box 1. Switzerland – related documents

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- SDC: Guidance on Leave No One Behind
- SDC: Project P20: Collecting better data on the poorest 20% of the Beninese population
- SDC: Civil registry reform project in Tajikistan
- SDC: Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation related SDG targets (GEMI)
- SDC: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Core Funding 2015-2017
- Swiss Federal Statistical Office: Newsletter on international co-operation "Beyond the Horizon"
- The Road to Bern, a series of events leading to the United Nations World Data Forum, and the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, an open, multi-stakeholder alliance to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting more and better financing for data
- Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation action area on "strengthening effective support to statistical capacity and data"
- The IMF's Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

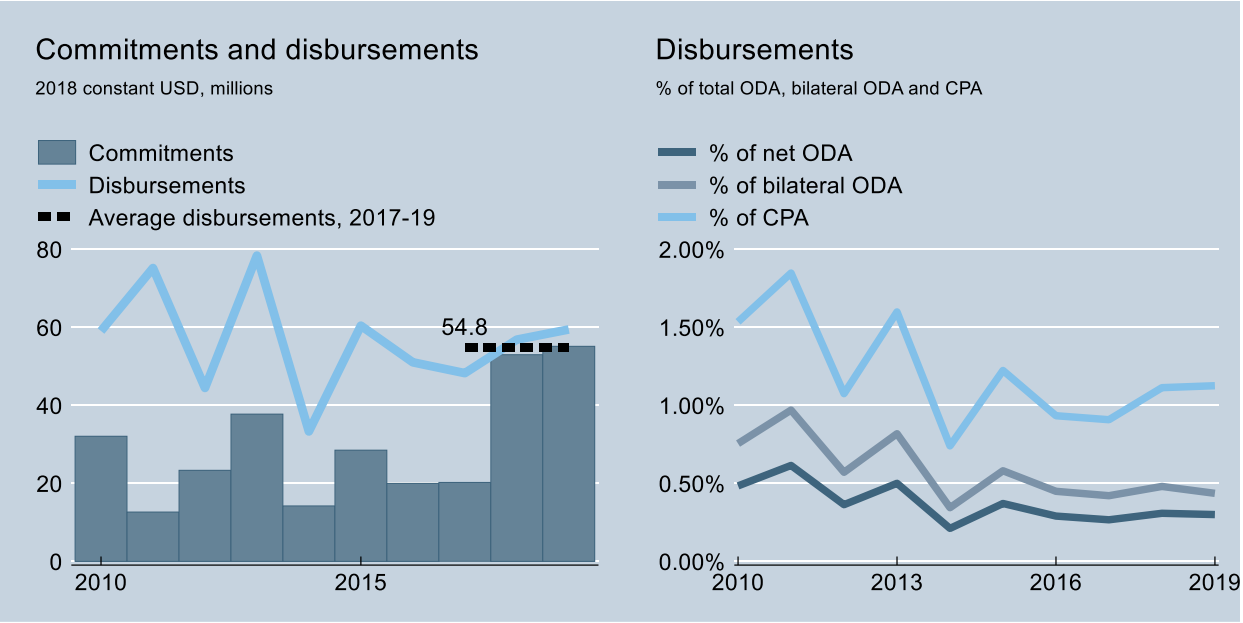
United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK), one of the largest providers of official development assistance (ODA) for data and statistics, champions internationally the need for more and better financing for development data. It provides funding and technical assistance to support statistical capacity in partner countries and engages in strategic partnerships for effective policy and co-ordination of support to data and statistics for development. The United Kingdom's ODA to data and statistics aims to improve institutional and technical capacity by supporting comprehensive national strategies for the development of statistics with a geographic focus in its direct bilateral ODA on partner countries in East Africa and South Asia.

Strategies, actors and funding

According to OECD data and research,[1] the United Kingdom invested USD 55 million per year (at 2018 prices) in data and statistics in its partner countries between 2017 and 2019 (Figure 1). The United Kingdom's support to data and statistical capacity in developing countries has been implemented mainly by the **Department for International Development** (DfID), now the **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office** (FCDO) after a merger in 2020 with the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**. It is delivered mainly through FCDO country offices, through the FCDO's central team and through other government agencies such as the **Office for National Statistics**. There are three main strands to the FCDO's approach: 1) international engagement around more and better financing for development data; 2) in-country and centrally managed programmes to support statistical capacity in partner countries; and 3) strategic partnerships for effective policy and co-ordination.

Figure 1. United Kingdom – ODA to data and statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/otb4rq

The FCDO is keen on using data for effective decision making and to ensure transparency. In 2017, a Decision and Data Use Landscaping study was commissioned to analyse how FCDO teams manage, access, analyse and use internal and external data and to further inform its strategic approach to data. The FCDO also stands out for its cadre of **over 60 statistics advisers**, which are based both at its headquarters and in country offices. The statistics advisers are also members of the United Kingdom's Government Statistical Service, a community for all civil servants working in the collection, production and communication of official statistics.

According to OECD data, nearly two-thirds of the United Kingdom's support to data and statistics between 2016 and 2018 were delivered through multilateral channels such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Partnership in Statistics in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Bank and foundations such as the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development Data. The UNFPA and the World Bank jointly account for one-third of the United Kingdom's spend. The United Kingdom's partner countries are concentrated in East Africa and South Asia and, in line with its focus on fragile and conflict-affected states, a high share of its bilateral support was typically disbursed to fragile and conflict-affected countries.

In keeping with changes in its overall development co-operation, the United Kingdom's support to partner countries' statistical systems has evolved over time: broad-based statistical capacity development was a priority when the United Kingdom provided general budget support, with country offices often supporting national statistical systems to help them monitor progress towards national objectives. With the move away from general budget support starting in 2010, the focus shifted. The United Kingdom continued to support national statistical systems, but the majority of support came from centrally managed programmes with some sectoral programmes supported by country offices. There was an increase in central programmes supporting trust funds and grants to support household surveys, economic statistics, and agricultural and food security statistics. This period also saw DfID recruit additional statistical experts whose focus tended to be on working to support data for the monitoring and evaluation of projects, though this included some elements of capacity building. In recent years, the focus has shifted again. In 2020, support to national

systems from the country offices is almost always part of a broader sectoral programme, while centrally managed programmes support responsible, inclusive, open data, and innovative collection and use of data.

While DfID was to remain the United Kingdom's primary channel for aid, the United Kingdom's 2015 Aid Strategy called for more aid to be administered by government departments other than DfID. This strategic decision is reflected by DfID's share in the United Kingdom's ODA to data, statistics and statistical capacity development, which, according to OECD data, accounted for about 80% of its overall commitments in this area in 2015-19, down from 93% in 2010-14. While the increasing role of other departments and agencies in supporting data and statistics in partner countries provides opportunities to deliver strong technical support, decentralised delivery of support, by central teams and country offices within the FCDO as well as other agencies, also presents additional challenges in maintaining coherence across all teams.

Table 1. United Kingdom – kind of support and type of data sources supported

	Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	To a great extent
What kind of support does your organisation currently provide?				
Improving statistical production				X
Strengthening data dissemination				X
Advocacy on the value and impact of data and statistics			X	
Improving statistical literacy of data users	X			
Promoting data use by policy makers, civil society and citizens		X		
What type of data sources does your organisation currently support?				
Statistical sources (surveys and censuses)				X
Administrative data systems (tax, business or property registers; civil registration systems; health management information systems, etc.)		X		
New data sources (geospatial data, big data, etc.)				X

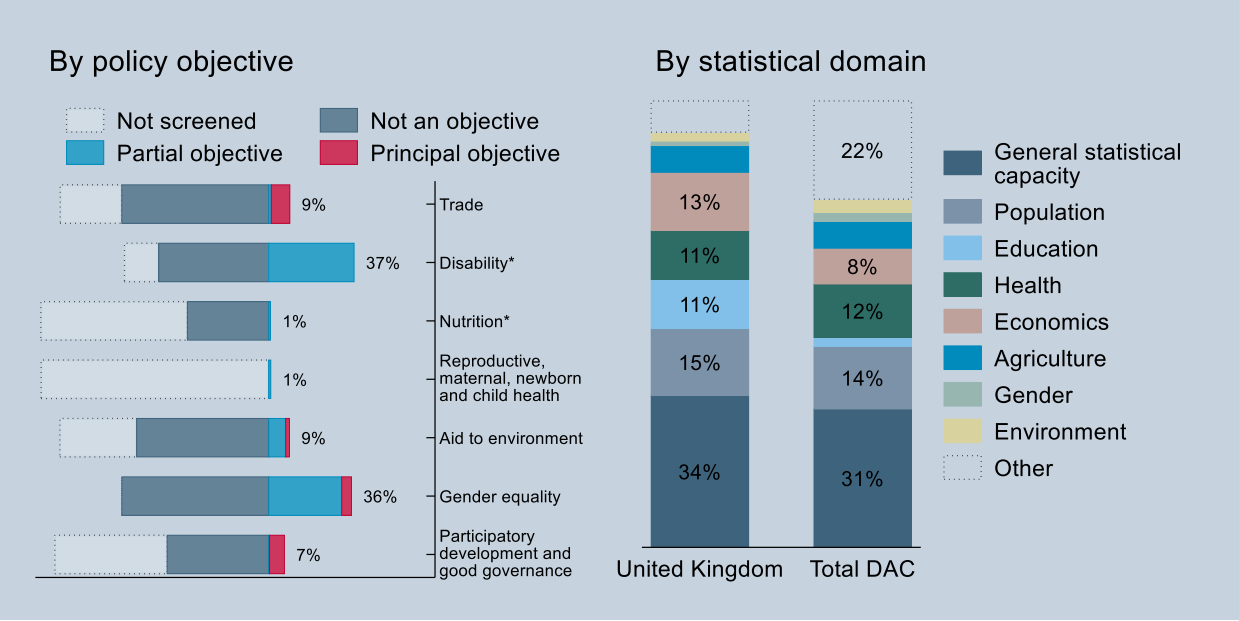
Source: The United Kingdom's responses to OECD inquiry.

Thematic focus

Between 2017 and 2019, the last three years for which data are available, **gender equality** and **improving the availability of inclusive data** in order to understand societal inequalities, in particular for marginalised groups such as people with disabilities, were key policy objectives of the United Kingdom's ODA to data and statistics (Figure 2). Just over a third (34%) of the United Kingdom's ODA for data statistics in developing countries aimed to improve **general statistical capacity**. Population data and statistics (15%), economic statistics (13%), and health and education data (both 11%) were also statistical domains that the United Kingdom supported.

Figure 2. United Kingdom – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total ODA to data and statistics in these two years combined.

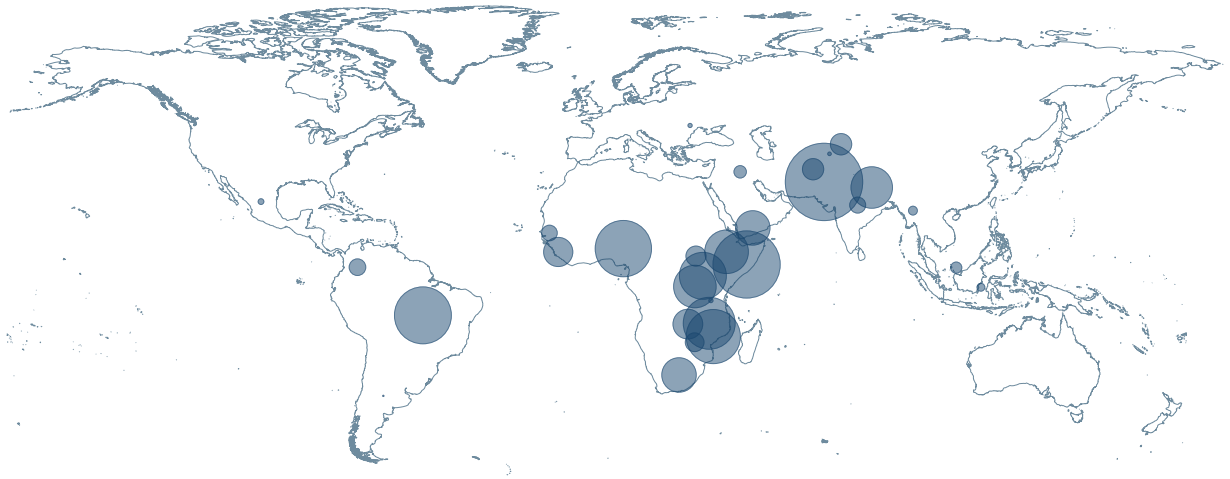
StatLink https://stat.link/r1mzbq

Increasingly, UK actors are exploring the use of new data sources for development co-operation. The FCDO's Frontier Technologies Hub, which was set up in 2016 to explore the potential for new technologies in international development and help FCDO officials tap into these new technologies, is exploring the potential of Big Data for international development. The Office for National Statistics is a member of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. The United Kingdom also supports governments to collect, use and share geospatial data on population settlement and infrastructure through its Geo-referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development (GRID3) programme.

Geographic focus

As a result of the United Kingdom's significant use of multilateral channels (see next section), 42% of the United Kingdom's support to data and statistics between 2017 and 2019 were not allocable to any specific region. Of the remaining 58%, two-thirds (66%) were allocated to Africa and about one-fourth (26%) to Asia. Partner countries were primarily countries in East Africa and South Asia (Figure 3 and Figure 4); major recipients included Pakistan, Somalia, Nigeria, Mozambique, Malawi and Uganda, but also Brazil.

Figure 3. United Kingdom – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

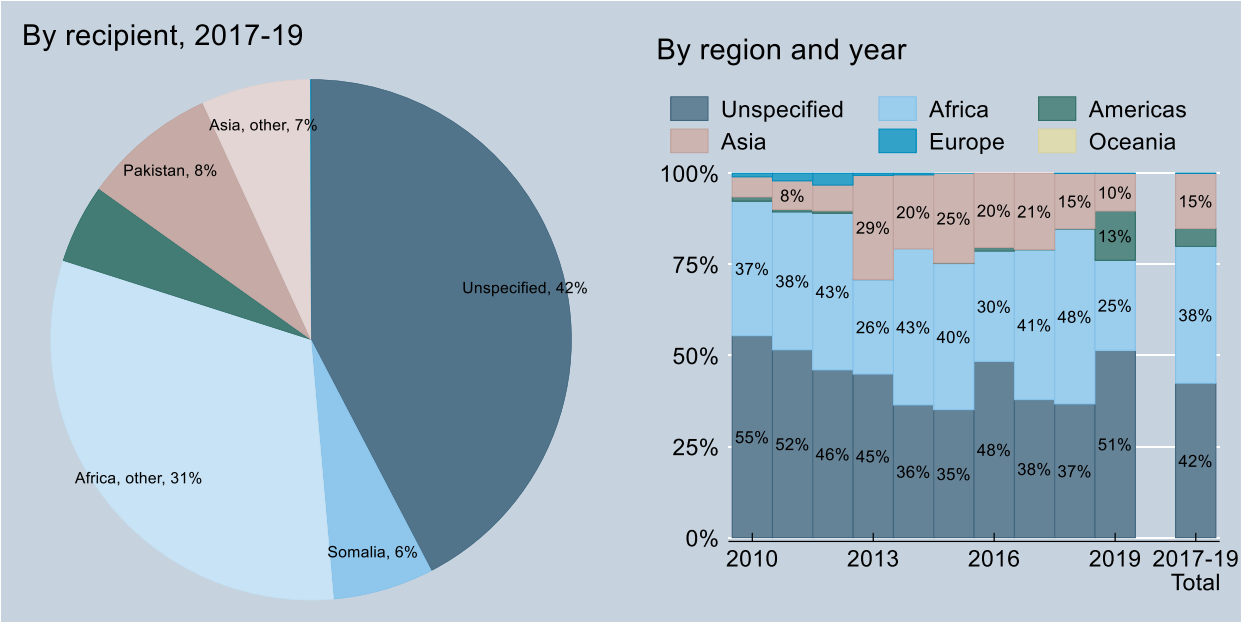


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/3t0wpd

Figure 4. United Kingdom – ODA to data and statistics by region and recipient

Share of total



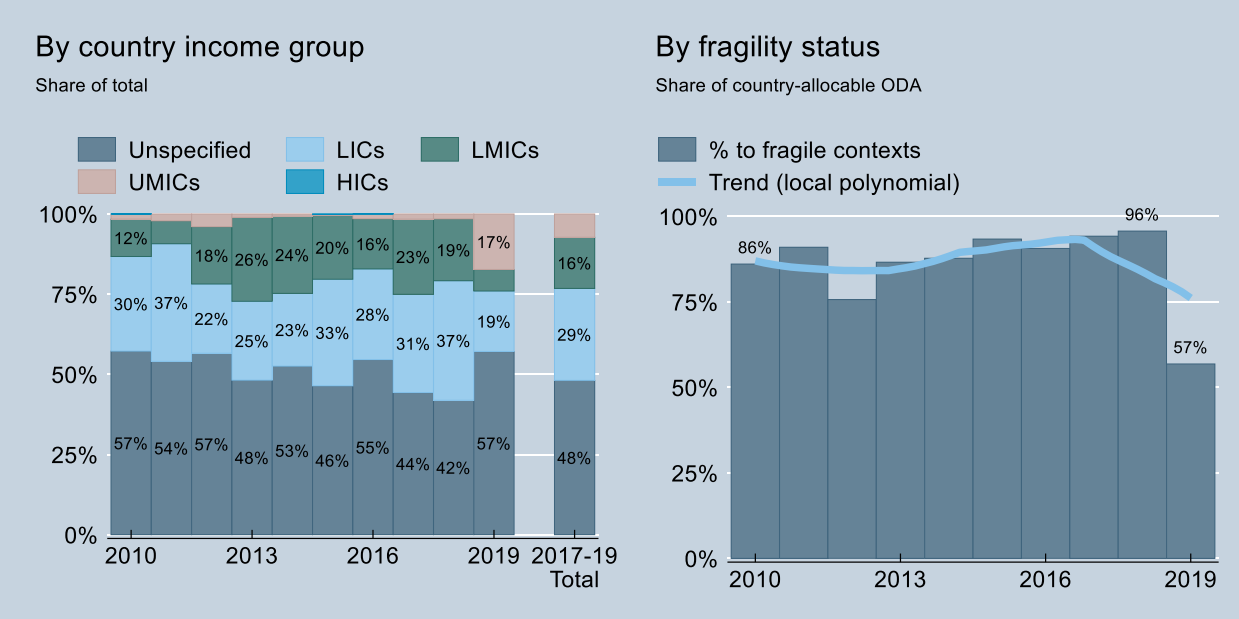
Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/pd3v2i

In 2017-19, 48% of the United Kingdom's ODA to data and statistics was not allocable to any specific country and, therefore, not by country income group (Figure 5). Of the remainder, more than 55% targeted low-income countries. Fragility occupies a prominent place in the United Kingdom's Aid Strategy, with a commitment to allocate at least 50% of its support to fragile and conflict-affected states. In line with this

commitment, 96% of the United Kingdom's country-allocable ODA to data and statistics in 2018 was disbursed to countries classified as fragile (Figure 5). That share dropped to 57% in 2019 due to a significant share of the United Kingdom's ODA to data and statistics allocated to Brazil.

Figure 5. United Kingdom – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

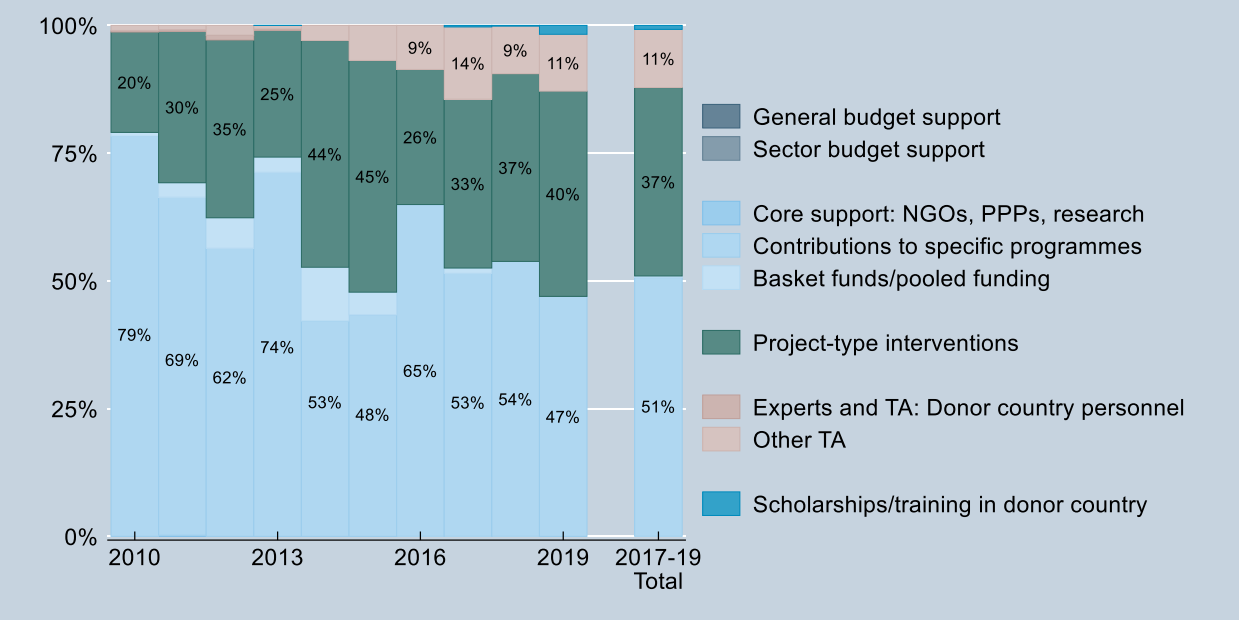
StatLink https://stat.link/k4m6v1

Modalities and channels of delivery

In 2019, the last year for which OECD data on aid flows were available, contributions to specific programmes accounted for 47% of the United Kingdom's ODA to statistics while project-type interventions accounted for 40% (Figure 6). The remainder is mostly accounted for by funding of experts and other technical assistance. Since 2010, project-type interventions have become more important while the share allocated to core contributions and contributions to pooled programmes and funds has decreased moderately.

Figure 6. United Kingdom – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total



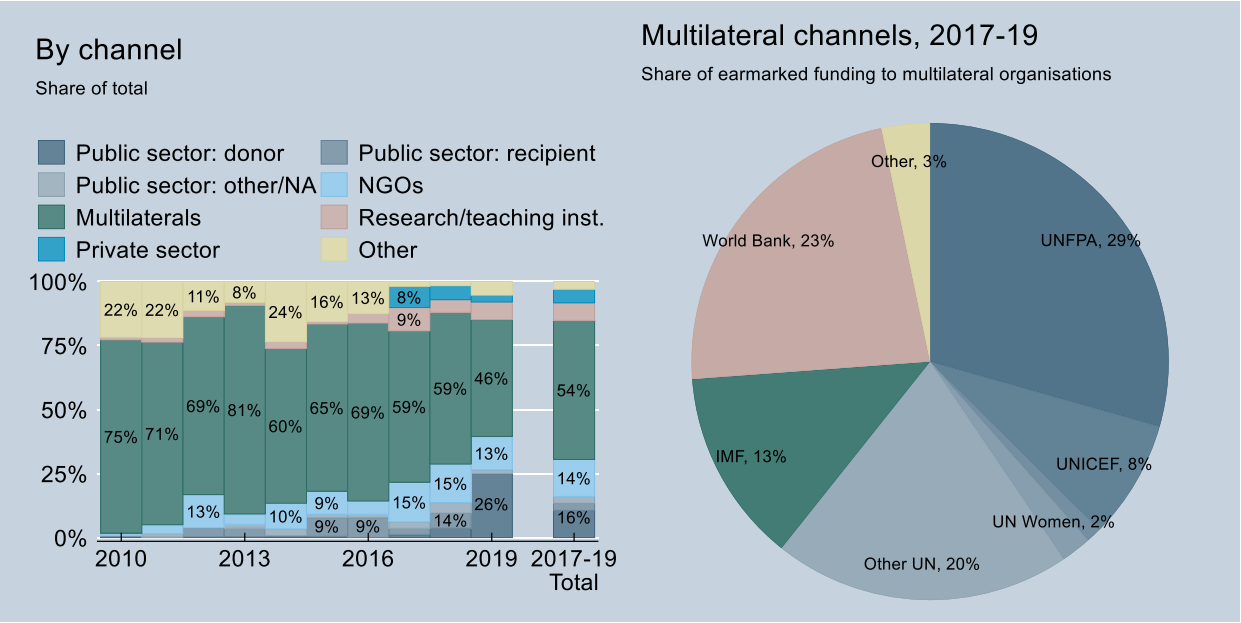
Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/gs6d3i

Over the last ten years, the United Kingdom has been a major source of funding for multilateral initiatives (Figure 7), with an average of 60-75% of the United Kingdom's support to statistics channelled to partner countries via multilateral organisations. Examples include the World Bank's Statistics for Results Facility, to which the United Kingdom contributed GPB 50 million between 2010 and 2012 (in 2018 prices), and its Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, to which it contributed GBP 45.8 million between 2011 and 2020. Other major projects and initiatives include contributions to the FAO for the strengthening of statistics in the areas of food security, agriculture and rural development (USD 25 million between 2012 and 2016; 2018 prices) and support for population statistics via the United Nations Population Fund (e.g. population censuses in Malawi, Myanmar and the United Republic of Tanzania).

However, the use of multilateral channels has become relatively less important for the United Kingdom's data- and statistics-related aid, their share falling from 75% of gross disbursements in 2010 to 58% in 2018. At the same time, the share of disbursements channelled through non-governmental organisations, public sector entities, and research and teaching institutions has increased slightly over time.

Figure 7. United Kingdom – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund; UN: United Nations; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; IMF: International Monetary Fund.

StatLink https://stat.link/94krco

Box 1. United Kingdom – related documents and contacts

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

Strategies

- The United Kingdom's 2015 aid strategy: "UK aid: Tackling global challenges in the national interest"

The FCDO's live active statistical capacity building programmes

- The United Kingdom's Geo-referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development
- The World Bank's Statistics for Results Facility and its Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building
- Support for PARIS21
- Strategic Partnership with UK Office for National Statistics
- Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- Economic Statistics Programme

Other

- The United Kingdom's Government Statistical Service
- The FCDO's Frontier Technology Lab
- DFID Decision and Data Use Landscaping study
- Video of ONS International Team

Contacts

- Philip Cockerill, Statistics Adviser, Data for Development Team, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Philip.Cockerill@fcdo.gov.uk
- International Development Team, Office for National Statistics: international.development@ons.gov.uk

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

United States

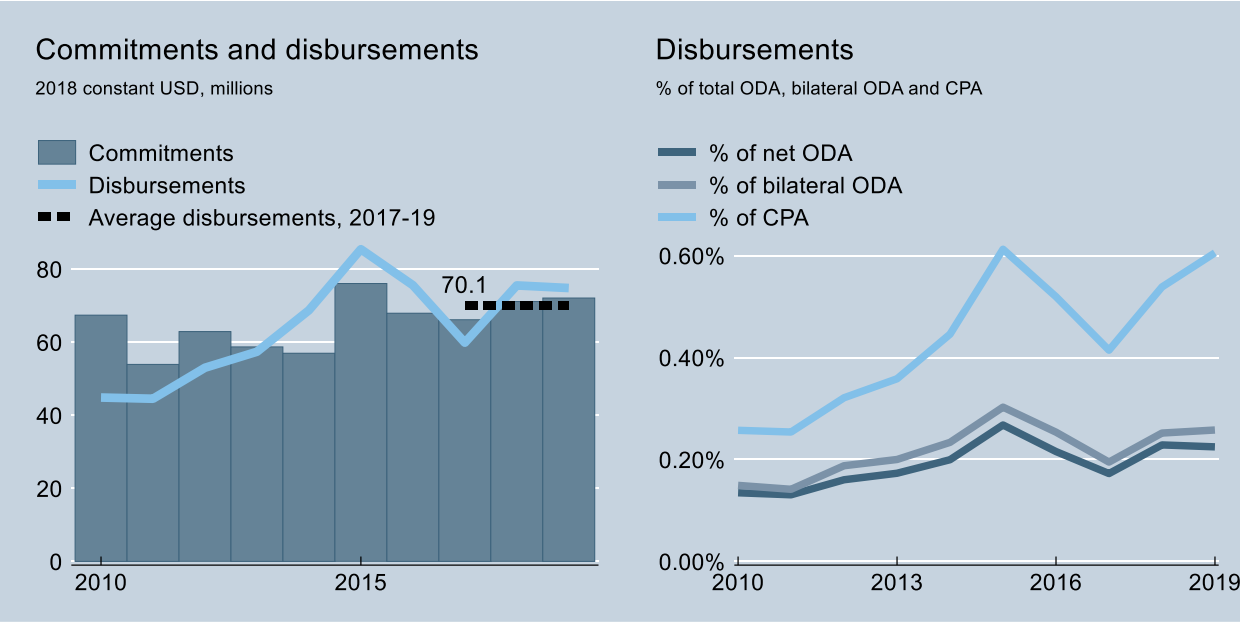
Data-driven approaches, for planning and programming, results monitoring and evaluation, are deeply rooted in United States (US) government agencies that manage development co-operation. A large share of the United States' official development assistance (ODA) for data and statistics is targeted to low-income and fragile states and more than half aims to strengthen health data and statistics. Activities span a wide range of types of data and potential users. They include, for instance, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program, which has supported more than 400 household surveys in over 90 countries; the strengthening of partner countries' health management information systems; and initiatives aimed at advancing local capacities to create and use data, including new sources of data.

Strategies, actors and funding

Data-driven approaches for planning and programming, results monitoring and evaluation, are deeply rooted in US government agencies that manage development co-operation, including **USAID**, the **Millennium Challenge Corporation** (MCC) and others. The 2018 Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 of the two agencies notes effectiveness, accountability, learning and transparency as the central principles that drive their use of evidence and data to achieve their objectives.

According to OECD data and research,[1] US government agencies supported data production and use in developing countries with an average of close to USD 70 million per year (in 2018 prices) from 2017 to 2019 (Figure 1), with a significant increase observed between 2010 and 2015. Around 50 countries benefit from US ODA to data and statistics in any given year. While the largest share of US support is targeted to countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Afghanistan and Haiti have been major beneficiaries as well. More than 80% of US ODA for data and statistics is targeted to fragile states. **Health and population data** are a key focus of US support. A significant proportion of US bilateral assistance is managed by two agencies, USAID and the MCC, whose strategies and programmes in support of data for development are discussed below.

Figure 1. United States – ODA to data statistics



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

StatLink https://stat.link/x0phzf

United States Agency for International Development

Using data for improved decision making is at the core of USAID's mission and is reflected in its use of country metrics, collated on the International Data and Economic Analysis (IDEA) website, ForeignAssistance.gov and others. These country metrics are used in planning, policy dialogue and context monitoring during implementation to support partner country governments and other actors to achieve locally sustained results.

Initiated in the 1980s, USAID's flagship Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program has since supported over 90 countries to collect, analyse and disseminate data on population, health, HIV, nutrition and other domains through more than 400 household surveys. Between 2017 and 2019, the programme accounted for nearly 50% of US investment in data and statistics in its partner countries. Other major USAID-sponsored projects also often focus on health data and statistics, especially health information management systems (e.g. in Eswatini, Haiti and Kenya).

USAID's mission to be data-driven is not only about improving and increasing the amount of data, but supporting the digital ecosystem that underpins USAID's capacity for better data collection, analysis, dissemination and use. This is reflected in USAID's Digital Strategy, a five-year (2020-24), agency-wide strategy that includes initiatives aimed at advancing partner countries' capacity to create and use data to advance development and humanitarian assistance outcomes. Efforts aim to: address cybersecurity and data-privacy issues; improve digital literacy; close the gender digital divide; focus on vulnerable populations (who are often under-represented in data collection and are the least likely to benefit from gains in the technology sector); and incorporate the Principles for Digital Development in all USAID-funded programmes. This includes partnering with the private sector, local partners and government across a number of initiatives that support governments to better understand, analyse and use data responsibly for improved development outcomes. USAID primarily invests in the following types of data for development programmes and activities:

Assessing the data ecosystem landscape: Many of the governments with which USAID partners have some of the elements necessary for a robust data ecosystem, but lack some of the scaffolding elements for mature and inclusive data ecosystems. USAID works with partner governments to increase literacy, production and use of data. For example, USAID completed a Data Ecosystem Rapid Assessment to understand the landscape of data stakeholders and systems in Djibouti, as well as potential opportunities to drive co-ordination and improved data use for better effectiveness and impact of humanitarian assistance efforts. It plans to expand the assessment to other countries.

Supporting government data systems: Understanding the critical need of government data systems, USAID supports the development and deployment of secure, interoperable, standards-based data systems. For example, USAID works with the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to support the development of national strategic health information system investment plans, to equip government workers to use health data through digital communication platforms like mHero, and to maintain data system investments through local technical expertise like the West African Health Informatics Team. The team developed the ECOWAS COVID-19 Dashboard and is working to improve health information systems and capacity to collect, analyse and use data in post-Ebola West Africa.

Supporting national data governance and policies: USAID published *Considerations for Using Data Responsibly at USAID*, providing a framework for identifying and understanding risks associated with collecting, sharing and using data. These considerations provide a basis for USAID to support partner governments as they build good data governance practices and policies. For example, USAID supports the Eurasia Foundation's TAPAS (Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services Activity) programme in Ukraine, which aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government and reduce corruption through transparent, open electronic processes. It includes an open platform that allows civil society and citizens to monitor government procurement and to raise protests around questionable procurements. The Ukrainian government reports that e-procurement saved it more than USD 4.4 billion between January 2017 and October 2020.

Improving data use: USAID seeks to improve responsible data use to improve programmatic outcomes as well as to monitor the context in which USAID operates. For example, in Malawi, USAID is supporting a Rapid Feedback Monitoring System that integrates Catholic Relief Service's Measurement Indicators for Resilience Analysis and the World Bank's Survey of Well-Being through Instant and Frequent Tracking in Malawi. This system uses a methodology to collect necessary data quickly and efficiently, allowing stakeholders and communities to better measure and understand resilience and well-being, and in turn improve and refine resilience programming.

In Ethiopia, USAID conducted phone surveys to understand the food security and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. USAID/Ethiopia developed a community of practice with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office; non-governmental organisation partners; the World Bank; and the International Food Policy Research Institute to harmonise data collection efforts to monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their beneficiaries and understand changes in the context that needed to be addressed when activity implementation restarted.

In Uganda, a USD 7.5 million, five-year Feed the Future activity, experimented with different digital feedback loops. They used a phone-based survey to enable field agents to share feedback with each other in near real-time and used interactive voice response and digital network mapping to capture feedback on whether their activities were reshaping the purchasing habits of agricultural suppliers. These digital feedback loops helped the team test hypotheses more easily and inexpensively and enabled them to iterate rapidly on their programmatic approaches. In the end, this furthered the activity's impact.

United States Millennium Challenge Corporation

Since its inception in 2004, the MCC has championed the use of data in the development of its compact and threshold programmes. Support for the collection and use of data is integrated through nearly all of its investments. Examples include support for statistical systems in Niger as part of the MCC's USD 437 million compact designed to promote the sustainable use of natural resources for agricultural production while improving market access; investment in access to information in Togo; and a proposed health systems strengthening project in Lesotho, which will invest in data collection and use throughout the health system. Data and statistical capacity (ecosystem) assessments are also concurrently being conducted in early-stage partner countries like Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Kenya to better understand statistical capacity and data use.

The MCC has also prioritised strengthening data use by implementing a USD 21.8 million interagency agreement funded by the **President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief** (PEPFAR). The Data Collaboratives for Local Impact (DCLI) programme aims to empower individuals and communities to use data to improve lives through better policy, programme and resource allocation decisions, and improved transparency. Under the DCLI programme, the MCC and PEPFAR supported various initiatives aimed at strengthening local data skills and data use in the United Republic of Tanzania (since 2016) and Côte d'Ivoire (since 2018).

Lessons learnt

The MCC's experience with investments in data at different stages of its investment cycle has led to several lessons learnt:

- **Leverage local data systems:** Collection of data during programme design can be ineffective and may even be counterproductive if it obviates local data systems (i.e. is conducted mainly to support donor-related investments). To the extent possible, it is important to leverage existing data sources.
- **Data use at the local/subnational level:** Local data use is important during implementation to optimise and sustain programme impact. For example, investments in modern mass transit systems that leverage Big Data need to be developed in concert with and managed by local staff within the ministry of transport who are knowledgeable of these types of data sources. Also, while data are often collected at the subnational level by the government or donors, once aggregated, they are not always made available for reuse at the subnational level. Additional investment is needed to close this gap and ensure that local authorities in partner countries can access the data that would allow them to propose their own, tailored development priorities.
- **Appropriate data governance structures:** With increasingly sophisticated data and digital development solutions, there is a need for appropriate data governance structures that balance a country's use of innovative sources (in addition to the traditional public sources of data) with the need for interoperability, security and data ethics that protect citizens' right to privacy. Improved data governance frameworks will require a foundational understanding of data use, data policies and practices at all levels of government (e.g. staff within ministries, but also ministers themselves) and, at a minimum, a citizenry that is aware of such issues.
- **Gender-balanced data efforts:** It is important to invest in gender-balanced data efforts; that is, not only in collecting gender-disaggregated data, but in ensuring that women are encouraged and enabled to access economic opportunity through digital tools, digital savvy and data skills.

Table 1. United States – kind of support and type of data sources supported

	Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	To a great extent
What kind of support does your organisation currently provide?				
Improving statistical production			X	
Strengthening data dissemination				X
Advocacy on the value and impact of data and statistics				X
Improving statistical literacy of data users			X	
Promoting data use by policy makers, civil society and citizens				X
What type of data sources does your organisation currently support?				
Statistical sources (surveys and censuses)				X
Administrative data systems (tax, business or property registers; civil registration systems; health management information systems, etc.)				X
New data sources (geospatial data, big data, etc.)			X	

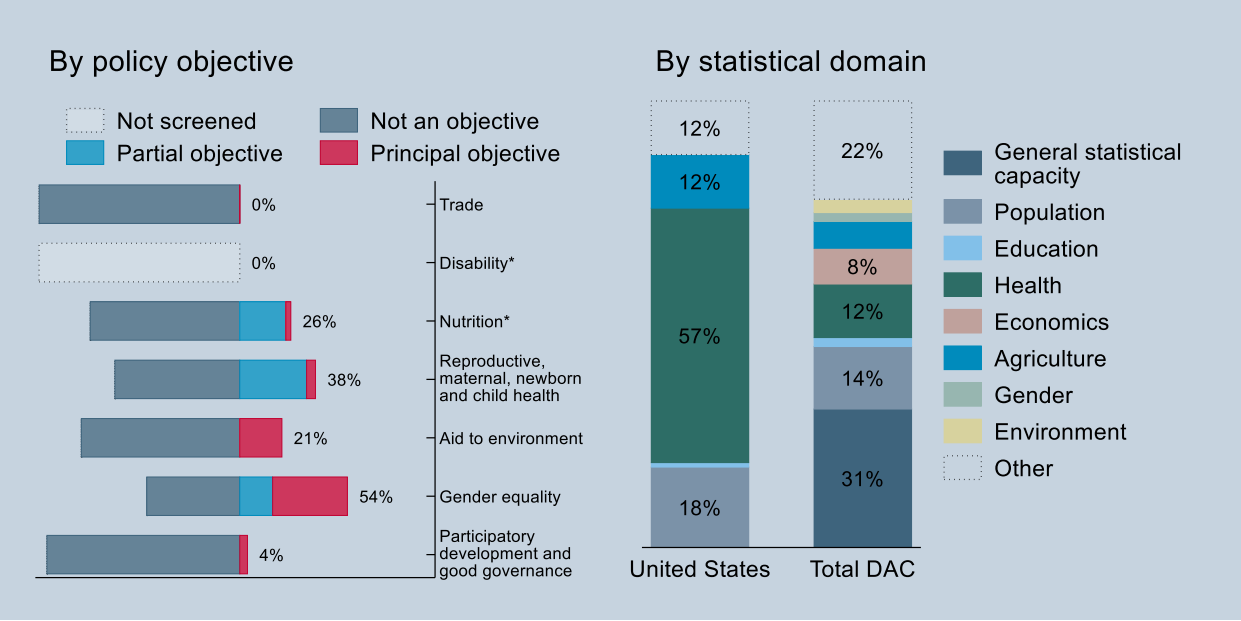
Notes: All responses represent programmes of the United States Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation and reflect averaged, predominantly decentralised, programme and project investments in different aspects of country-specific data priorities between 2016 and 2018. Kind and type of support vary by specific programme/project, country and time period.
Source: United States' response to OECD inquiry.

Thematic focus

More than half (54%) of US ODA to data and statistics aims to improve gender equality; 38% aims to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health; 26% aims to improve nutrition outcomes; and 21% aims to address environmental issues (Figure 2). In line with the importance of the DHS Program in the United States' overall financial support of data and statistics and its focus on maternal and child health, 57% of US financial aid to data and statistics aims to strengthen health statistics. Just under a fifth (18%) aims to strengthen population statistics and 12% to strengthen agricultural statistics.

Figure 2. United States – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2017-19

Share of total



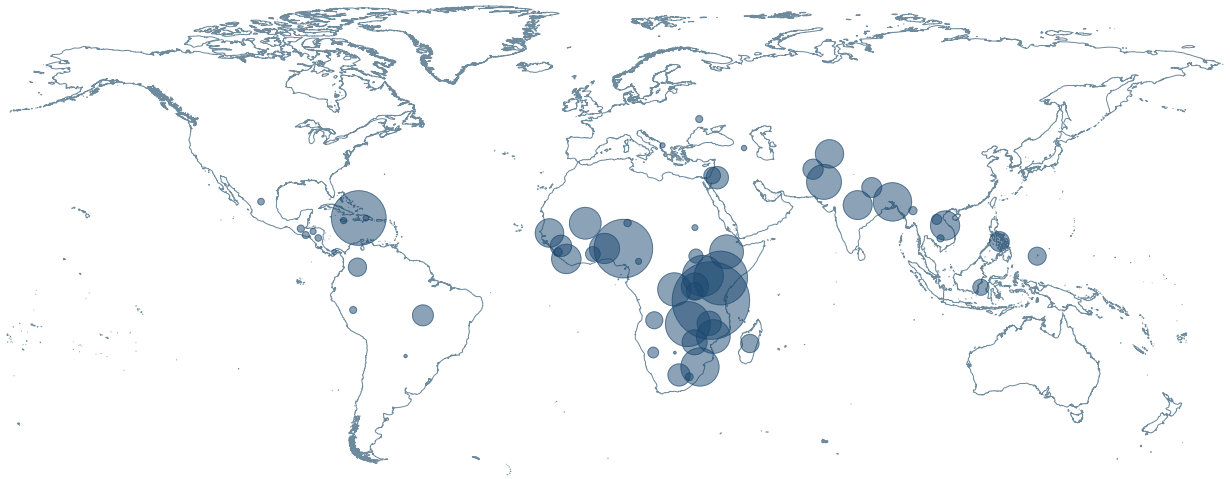
Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on gross disbursements. Policy markers for disability and nutrition were reported for the first time for 2018 and 2019 and the figure reports their share in total official development assistance to data and statistics in these two years combined.

StatLink https://stat.link/o2wdfc

Geographic focus

Between 2017 and 2019, around 70 developing countries directly benefited from US ODA for data and statistics (Figure 3). While Haiti was among the top recipients in this area, overall, the geographic focus of US support was on Africa (51% of the total and 72% of all ODA to data and statistics that could be assigned to a specific country), especially West, East and Southern Africa. With nearly 9% of the total, Tanzania, where the MCC and PEPFAR support the DCLI-funded Tanzania Data Lab, was the top recipient over this time period (Figure 4).

Figure 3. United States – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2017-19

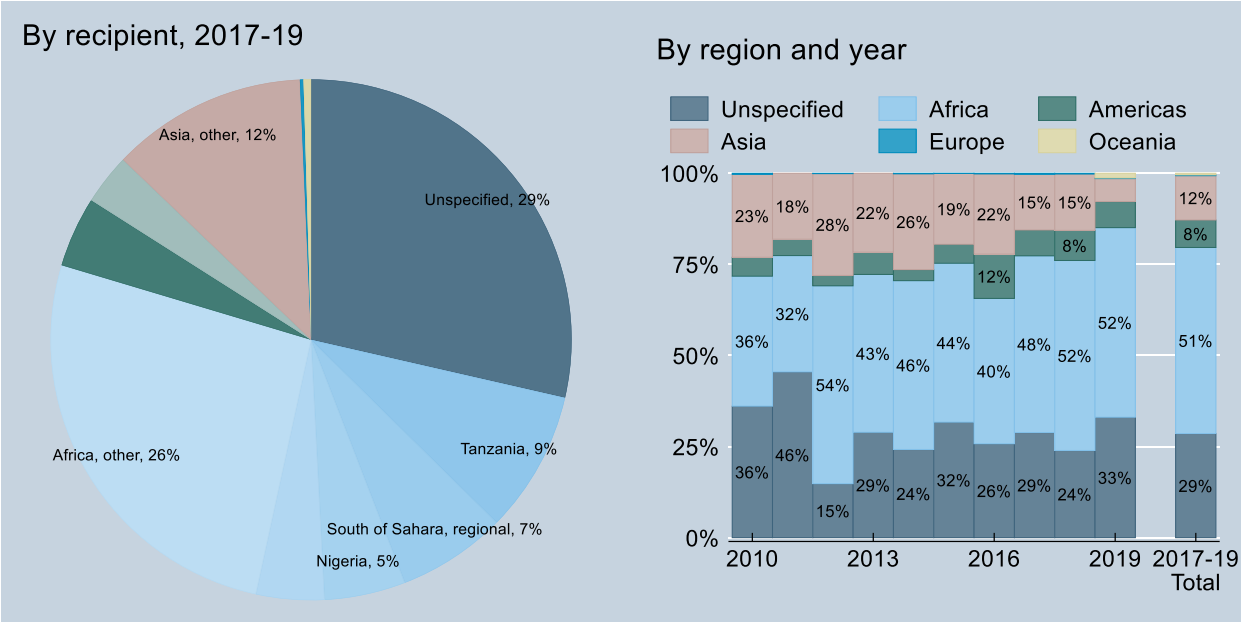


Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/6l20un

Figure 4. United States – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region

Share of total

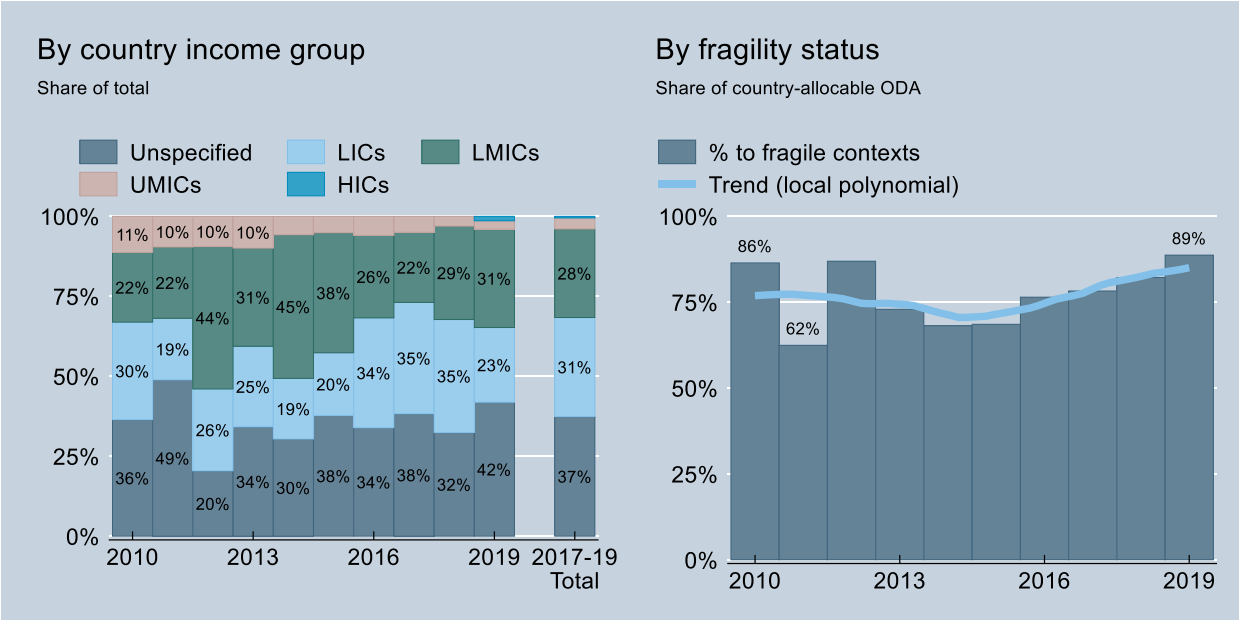


Note: Based on gross disbursements.

StatLink https://stat.link/2mynhx

Of the 63% of US support to data for development that can be assigned to specific countries, 53% was targeted to low-income countries and 40% to lower middle-income countries. In 2019, close to 90% of US ODA to data and statistics was disbursed to countries currently classified as fragile, a share that has increased significantly in recent years (Figure 5).

Figure 5. United States – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics



Notes: Based on gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

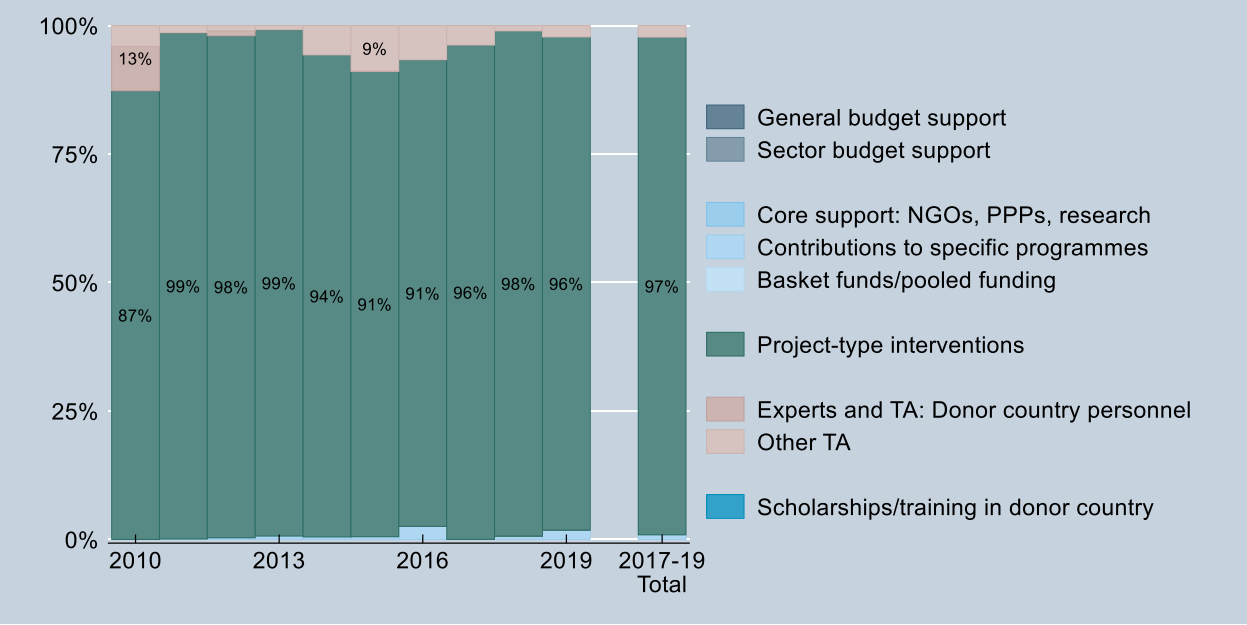
StatLink https://stat.link/4ickz9

Modalities and channels of delivery

Between 2017 and 2019, the large majority of US bilateral ODA to data and statistics, around 97%, was delivered in the form of project-type interventions, many of which include technical assistance as a component (Figure 6). The remainder is mostly accounted for by funding of experts and other technical assistance outside of the project-type interventions. Technical assistance accounted for nearly 9% in 2015 and has since decreased outside of project-type interventions.

Figure 6. United States – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid

Share of total



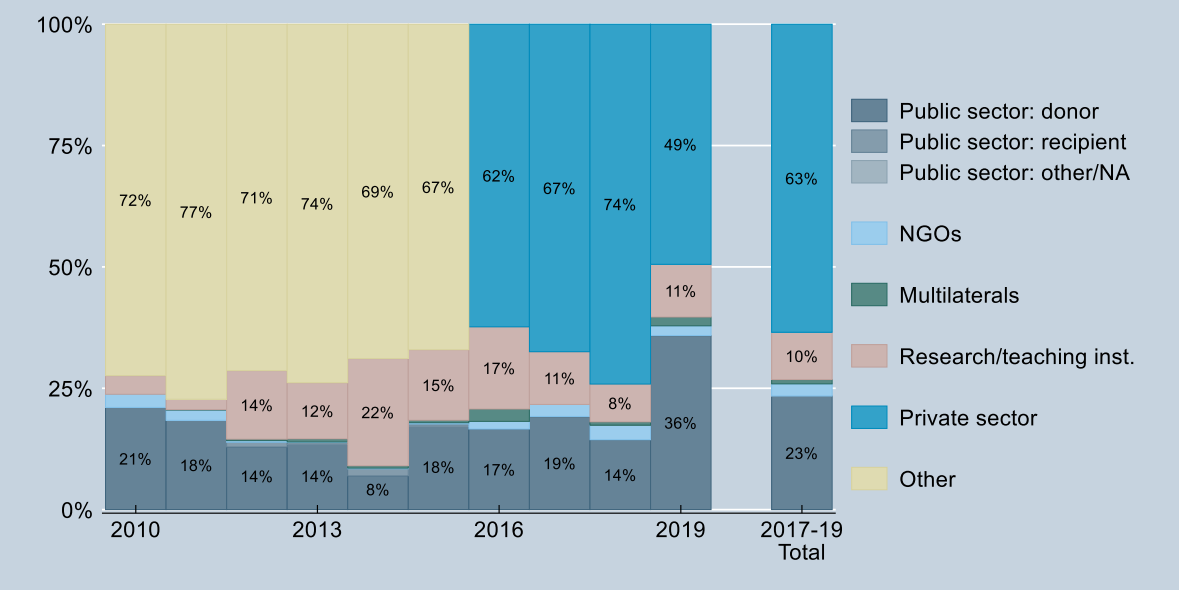
Note: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

StatLink https://stat.link/h82a3g

A large share of US ODA to data and statistics, 63% between 2017 and 2019, was channelled through the private sector (Figure 7). For example, the DHS Program is implemented under USAID contract with ICF International. Twenty-three per cent was channelled through US public sector entities, 10% through research and teaching institutions, and 2-3% through non-governmental organisations.

Figure 7. United States – ODA to data and statistics by channel

Share of total



Note: Based on gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation.

StatLink https://stat.link/6qh5gk

Box 1. United States – related documents

Strategies, project documents, evaluations

- US Department of State and USAID: 2015 Quadrennial Development and Diplomacy Review
- US Department of State and USAID: 2018 Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022
- USAID: DHS Program
- USAID's Digital Strategy (2020)
- Millennium Challenge Corporation: Data Collaboratives for Local Impact
- Millennium Challenge Corporation: 2019 Annual Report: Empowering Innovative and Accountable Economic Growth
- OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: United States (2016)

Note

[1] The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis.

Methodology

How was ODA for data and statistics identified?

General remarks

The profiles use data on providers' official development assistance (ODA) to data, statistics and statistical capacity development extracted from the Creditor Reporting System (CRS), the official source of information on aid flows maintained by the OECD, for the years 2010-19. The data are collected at the level of projects. This annex explains how information on providers' support to statistics and statistical capacity building was extracted.

Reporters to the OECD's CRS can classify ODA activities in support of "statistical capacity building" using the designated purpose code (16062). However, extracting only these projects for the purpose of the Data for Development (D4D) profiles would result in an incomplete picture of the full range of activities members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (OECD, 2019[1]) implement in support of data and statistics in developing countries.

In addition to projects that were recorded under the purpose code for statistical capacity building, additional projects were identified by scanning project titles for specific terms indicative of support to data, statistics or statistical capacity building. Descriptions in project titles were first transformed to lower case letters and then classified as being in support of data and statistics if they contained any of the terms in Table 1.

Table 1. Search terms used to identify provider support to statistics and data from project titles in the CRS database

English	French	Spanish	Portuguese
statisti		estadisti, estadísti	estatísti
national account	comptes nationaux	cuentas nacionales	contas nacionais
price index	indice des prix	indice de precios, índice de precios	índice de preço, indice de preco
production index	indice de production	índice de produccion, indice de produccion	índice de produção, indice de producao
survey	enquête, enquete	enquesta	inquérito, inquerito
census	recensement	censo	
information system	système d'information, systeme d'information	sistema de información, sistema de informacion	sistema de informação, sistema de informacao
birth registr	enregistrement des naiss	inscripción del naci, inscripcion del naci	registo dos nasci
death registr	enregistrement des déc, enregistrement des dec	inscripción del defunc, inscripcion del defunc	registo do óbito, registo do obito
civil registr, crvs	registre civil	registro civil	registo civil
land registr	enregistrement fonc, enregestriment des terrai	inscripción de tierra, inscripcion de tierra, registro de tierra	registo de terren, registo de propriedad
cadaster	cadastre	catastro	cadastro
business registr	registre des entrepr, registre du	registro mercantil	registo das empresas, registos

	commerce		comerciais
database	base de données, base de donnees	base de datos	banco de dados
big data	mégadonnées, megadonnees	datos masivos	megadados
data for decisions	données pour les décisions, donnees pour les decisions	datos para decisiones	dados para decisões, dados para decisoes
data science	science des données, science des donnees	cienca de datos	ciência de dados, ciencia de dados
data for development	données pour le développement, donnees pour le developpement	datos para el desarrollo	dados para desenvolvimento
data journalism	journalisme de données, journalisme de donnees	periodismo de datos	jornalismo de dados
data for education	données pour l'éducation, donnees pour l'education	datos para la educación, datos para la educacion	dados para educação, dados para educacao
education data	données sur l'éducation, donnees sur l'education	datos educativos	dados educacionais
data for health	données pour la santé, donnees pour la sante	datos para la salud	dados para saúde, dados para saude
peacebuilding data			
global data			
global pulse			
health data	données de santé, donnees de sante	datos de salud	dados de saúde, dados de saude
refugee data	données sur les réfugiés, donnees sur les refugies	datos de refugiados	dados de refugiados
migration data	données de migration, donnees de migration	datos de migración, datos de migracion	dados de migração, dados de migracao
data collection	collecte de données, collecte de donnees, collecte des données, collecte des donnees, rassemblement des données, rassemblement des donnees	recopilación de datos, recopilacion de datos, colección de datos, coleccion de datos, compilación de datos, compilacion de datos	regocida de datos
action through data			
data project	projet de données, projet de donnees	proyecto de datos	projeto de dados
open government data	données publiques ouvertes, donnees publiques ouvertes		
open data	données ouvertes, donnees ouvertes	datos abiertos	dados abertos
openstreetmap			
" ophi", "ophi " (note spaces!)			
satellite data	données satellites, donnees satellites	datos satelitales	dados de satélite, dados de satelite

In a second step, the resulting projects were curated manually and some projects were subsequently removed. Examples include projects in support of surveys that are arguably not part of official statistics (e.g. surveys of unexploded ordnance and geological surveys) and projects with project titles citing evidence from surveys or information systems but which did not by themselves support these activities.

Other sources

In addition to the two steps described above, inclusion of all projects with the designated purpose code and text search and manual curation, additional data was spliced in for two DAC members, Japan and Korea.

Japan's support to IMF capacity development

In the case of Japan, additional ODA was considered that would not have been included based solely on the method above, namely, Japan's support to statistics in the context of its partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the area of economic statistics. In 1990, Japan became the first partner to support IMF capacity development. Having contributed USD 474 million for capacity development since financial year (FY) 1990, it continues to be the single largest contributor today. In the period FY2013–17, Japan alone was responsible for 22 percent of external financing for IMF capacity development (IMF, 2017[2]).

The vehicle for Japan's support to the IMF's capacity development operations is the Japan Subaccount (JSA) of the Framework Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities. While the IMF's capacity development operations entail various core areas, including fiscal policy and management, monetary policy and financial systems and legislative frameworks. However, a key area is also macroeconomic and financial statistics, including multisector statistical issues, balance of payments and other external sector statistics, government finance statistics, monetary and financial statistics and financial soundness indicators, national accounts and price statistics and data dissemination standards. In the period FY2010–20, Japan's annual commitments for macroeconomic statistics averaged USD 4.3 million per year (seeTable 2)

Japan's contributions to the JSA are captured only in aggregate and only since 2013. To capture Japan's support to statistics via this channel, information provided by the IMF about JSA annual commitments disaggregated by topic was incorporated as follows: first, commitments reported by IMF financial years were matched to calendar years. As fiscal year *t* includes the second half of calendar year *t-1* and the first half of calendar year *t*, the commitment in calendar year *t* was assumed to be equal to the average commitments in fiscal years *t* and *t+1.* Second, nominal dollar terms were deflated using the deflator used for the calculation or constant price aid flows in the CRS database. Third, the resulting series was appended to the CRS database with attributes gathered from Japan's (aggregate) contributions via the JSA.

Table 2. Japan's contribution to capacity development for macroeconomic statistics via the IMF, 2010-19

a) Original data reported by the IMF	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	Average FY10-20	Total FY2010-20
Macroeconomic statistics (nominal)	1.3	1.7	4.7	7.1	8.4	4.5	4.1	3.1	3.5	2.4	2.4	4.3	43.2
Total (nominal)	14.6	22.9	27.3	27.2	30.1	24.1	21.5	20	22.4	24.9	23.4	23.3	258.4
Share macroeconomic statistics	8.9%	7.4%	17.2%	26.1%	27.9%	18.7%	19.1%	15.5%	15.6%	9.6%	10.3%	17.4%	16.7%
b) Calendar years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		Average 2010-19	Total 2010-19
Macroeconomic statistics (nominal)	1.5	3.2	5.9	7.75	6.45	4.3	3.6	3.3	2.95	3.0		4.2	42.0
Total (nominal)	18.75	25.1	27.25	28.65	27.1	22.8	20.75	21.2	23.65	24.15		24.0	239.4
Share macroeconomic statistics	8.0%	12.7%	21.7%	27.1%	23.8%	18.9%	17.3%	15.6%	12.5%	12.5%		17.0%	17.5%
c) 2018 prices	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		Average 2010-19	Total 2010-19
Deflator	124.57	134.86	133.65	108.94	102.20	91.31	101.82	98.53	100.00	101.86			
Macroeconomic statistics (2018 prices)	1.2	2.4	4.4	7.1	6.3	4.7	3.5	3.3	3.0	3.0		3.9	38.9

Notes: IMF: International Monetary Fund.

Source: Authors' adaptation based on IMF (2020[3]), Japan-IMF Partnership on Capacity Development: Annual Report 2020, https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ta/index.asp; IMF (2017[2]), *Japan-IMF Partnership on Capacity Development: Annual Report Financial Year 2017*, https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ta/2017/jaa/eng/pdf/jsa2017.pdf and IMF (2014[4]) *Japan Subaccount under the IMF Framework Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities: Annual Report Fiscal Year 2014*, https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ta/2014/jaa/eng/index.htm. Data on deflators used for aid flow data in the OECD Creditor Reporting System database are available from https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/informationnoteonthedacdeflators.htm.

Korea also provided support to statistical capacity building that was not initially captured based on the text search described above: Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF) contributed to two data- and statistics-related initiatives, the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (USD 3 million committed in 2015) and the International Monetary Fund's Data for Development (D4D) thematic fund (USD 1.62 million in 2018). However, as these funds were classified as core support to these two institutions or part of larger funding vehicles, they were not initially identified. Instead, they were spliced in as described in Table 3.

Table 3. Approximate disbursement of Korea's contribution for statistical capacity development via the World Bank's TFSCB and the IMF's D4D fund

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
a) Nominal					
Korea-World Bank Partnership Framework (TFSCB)	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Korea-IMF Capacity Development Partnership (D4D Fund)				1.65	
b) 2018 prices					
Deflator	92.84	92.30	96.85	100.00	93.84
Korea-World Bank Partnership Framework (real)	1.08	0.54	0.52	0.50	0.53
Korea-IMF Capacity Development Partnership (D4D Fund)	0	0	0	1.65	0

Notes: TFSCB: Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building; D4D: Data for Development.
Source: Author's approximation based on commitment data supplied by DAC member.

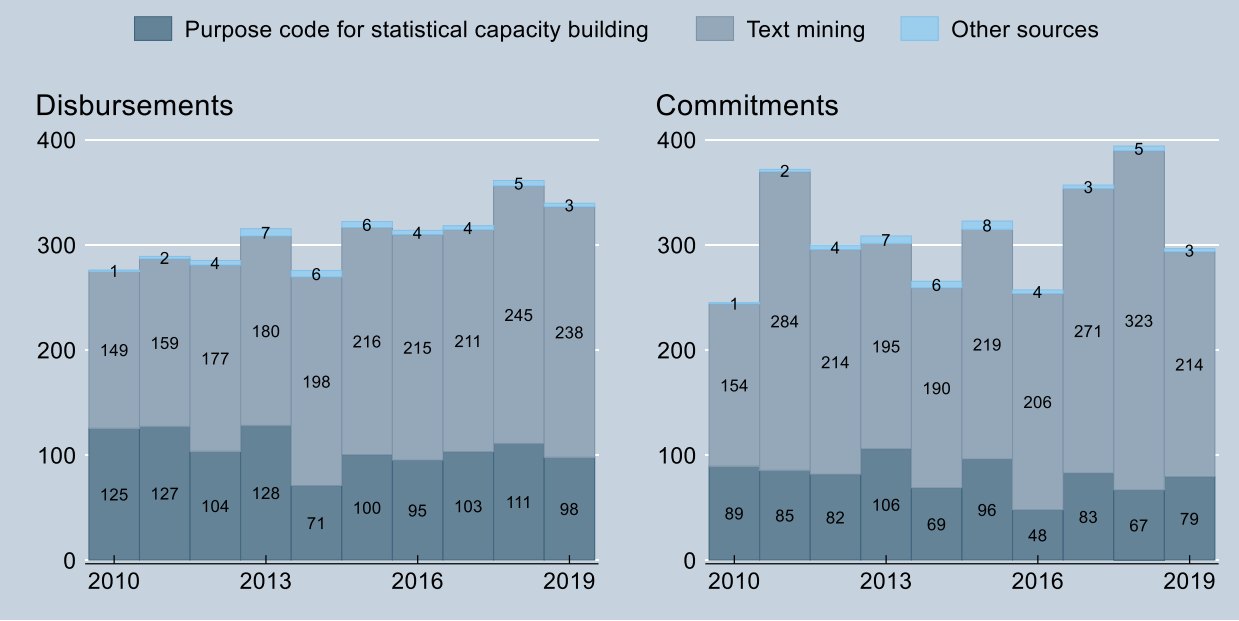
The World Bank reports that Korea committed USD 3 million in 2015 in support of the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) and released the first tranche of USD 1 million in the same year. It is assumed that the remaining USD 2 million were released over the four subsequent years. In the case of the commitment made to the IMF's D4D fund, USD 1.65 million that were committed in 2018 are assumed to also have been disbursed in that year.

Results

Figure 1 shows that the ODA disbursements to data and statistics identified using key word searches accounts for the majority of total ODA to data and statistics between 2010 and 2019 and that its share increased over time: it accounted for 70% of total ODA to data and statistics in 2019, up from 54% in 2010. Over the same time period, the share captured through the dedicated purpose code for statistical capacity building decreased from 45% in 2010 to 29% in 2019. This is driven by both increasing ODA classified not as statistical capacity building and a moderate decrease in ODA thus-classified. "Other sources", disbursements spliced in for Japan and Korea in the context of funding vehicles with the IMF and the World Bank, play a small role in the DAC total throughout.

Figure 1. DAC members' total ODA to data and statistics by source

USD millions (2018 prices), 2010-19



Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2020[5]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/3mk4lo

Additional projects identified were recorded under a wide range of purpose codes. The most important ones in terms of total disbursements of DAC members between 2010 and 2019 were public sector policy and administrative management (9.3%) and population policy and administrative management (7.6%) (Table 4). Until recently, the clarifications for reporters of the respective purpose codes often used statistical concepts (OECD, 2019[1]). For instance, they described "public sector policy and administrative management" as "[i]nstitution-building assistance to strengthen core public sector management systems and capacities", including "monitoring and evaluation", which may well involve strengthening of public sector statistics and data collection or analysis. "Population policy and administrative management" was described, until recently, as "[p]opulation/development policies; **census work, vital registration; migration data**; demographic research/analysis; reproductive health research; unspecified population activities" (emphasis added).

In addition, USAID's funding of the Demographic and Health Surveys is recorded under a wide variety of purpose codes. But the largest portion falls under purpose codes for "reproductive healthcare" (13020), "family planning" (13030), "STD control including HIV/AIDS" (13040), and "malaria control" (12262). These purpose codes were also prominent among additional projects identified.

Table 4. Additional projects identified in support of statistics and data by purpose code

Share of of DAC members gross disbursements (2018 prices) to data and statistics identified via text search, 2010-19

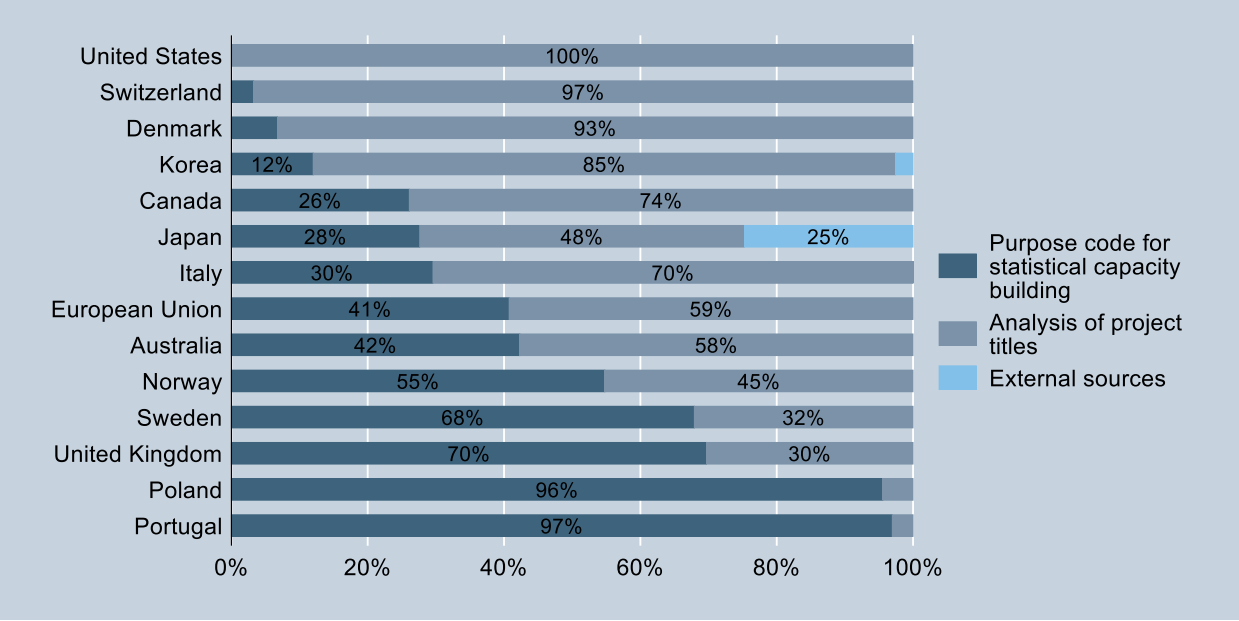
Purpose code	Purpose name	Share
15110	Public sector policy and administrative management	9.3%
13010	Population policy and administrative management	7.6%
13040	STD control including HIV/AIDS	7.5%
13030	Family planning	5.9%
13020	Reproductive health care	4.8%
12110	Health policy and administrative management	4.6%
43010	Multisector aid	3.3%
12262	Malaria control	3.3%
31110	Agricultural policy and administrative management	3.1%
16010	Social Protection	3.1%
41010	Environmental policy and administrative management	2.5%
11220	Primary education	2.2%
22040	Information and communication technology (ICT)	2.1%
15111	Public finance management (PFM)	2.0%
15160	Human rights	1.6%
15114	Domestic revenue mobilisation	1.5%
11420	Higher education	1.4%
31210	Forestry policy and administrative management	1.4%
11110	Education policy and administrative management	1.4%
12240	Basic nutrition	1.3%
	Other	30.0%

Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2020[5]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

DAC members differ widely in the extent to which their ODA to data and statistics between 2010 and 2019 was recorded under the designated purpose code for statistical capacity building or some other purpose code (Figure 2). In relative terms, support not classified under this purpose code was particularly important for Hungary, the Slovak Republic, the United States, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Korea, France, Belgium and Japan. It was less important in relative terms for Iceland, Portugal, Poland, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Luxembourg. In absolute terms, it was important for the United States (total of USD 564.9 million in 2018 prices over the 2010-19 time period), the European Union (USD 309.8 million), Canada (USD 151.4 million), Korea (USD 149.5 million), the United Kingdom (USD 135.9 million) and Japan 109.6 million).

Figure 2. ODA to data and statistics by source

Share of gross disbursements, 2010-19



Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2020[5]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/8cfky9

How was providers' ODA to data and statistics matched to statistical domains?

The profiles report ODA to data and statistics by statistical domains. To do so, aid flow data were matched to different statistical domains (e.g. health statistics or economic statistics) based on a three-step procedure:

Matching purpose codes to statistical domains

In a first step, purpose codes were matched to one of eight domains with one residual category (Table 5). This matching is not exhaustive: over the 2010-19 time period about 24% of total ODA to data and statistics are classified in a non-informative, residual "Other"-category (Figure 3). Hence, further refinements were applied.

Table 5. Matching of purpose codes from the OECD Creditor Reporting System database to statistical domains

Domain	Purpose codes	Headline category / examples
General statistical capacity development	16062	Statistical capacity building
Population statistics	13000-13999	Population policies/programmes & reproductive health
Education statistics	11000-11999	Education
Health statistics	12000-12999	Health
Economic statistics	15110-15125; 15142; 21000-21999; 23000-25999; 32000-39999	Public sector policy and administrative management; public finance management; decentralisation and support to subnational government; anti-corruption organisations and institutions; domestic revenue mobilisation; public procurement; macroeconomic policy; transport energy; banking & financial services; business & other services; industry, mining, construction; trade polices & regulations; tourism
Agriculture statistics	31000-31999 43071-43073	Agriculture, forestry, fishing; food security, safety and quality
Gender statistics	15170-15180	Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions; ending violence against women and girls
Environmental statistics	14050; 14015; 41000-41999; 43040-43049	Waste management/disposal; water resource conservation; general environmental protection; rural development

Source: Authors' elaboration.

Matching based on text mining of project titles

In a second step (on top of step 1), certain key words in project titles are assigned to domains. Examples include "health management information system" or "education management information system" that are matched to health and education statistics, respectively; "civil registr", "birth registr", "crvs", "housing census" and "population census" to population statistics; "business registr" and "national accounts" to economic statistics; and so on.

Matching based on implementing agency

In a third step, on top of steps 1 and 2, specific domains were matched based on channels only if it was classified in the "General statistical capacity" or "Other" categories after steps one and two. For instance, it was assumed that all support channelled through the IMF had the express purpose of strengthening economic statistics, that all support channelled through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) would aim to strengthen gender statistics, and so on (Table 6).

Table 6. Matching of implementers to statistical domains

Statistical domain	Implementer
Population	IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR
Education	GPE, UNESCO
Health	GAVI, Global Fund, Pan-American Health Organization, UNAIDS, WHO
Economic statistics	IMF, UNIDO
Agriculture	FAO, IFAD, International Livestock Research Institute
Gender statistics	UN Women
Environmental statistics	GEF, Green Climate Fund, IPCC, UNEP, UNFCCC

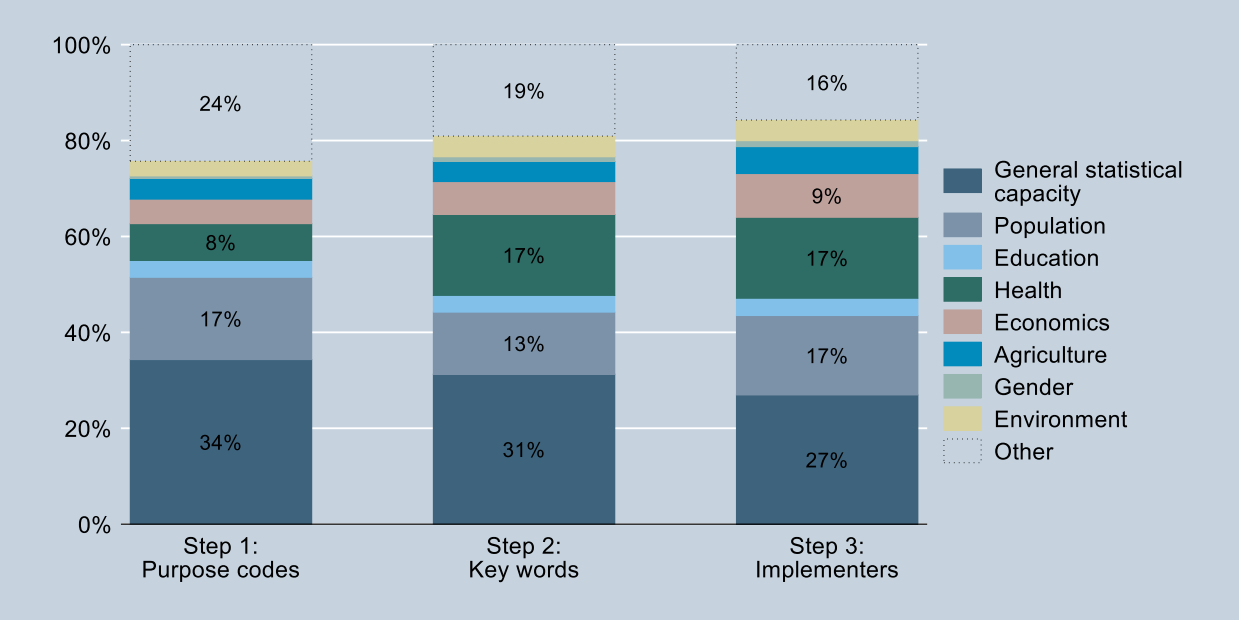
Note: FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization; GAVI: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; GEF: Global Environment Facility; GPE: Global Partnership for Education; IFAD: International Fund or Agricultural Development; IMF: International Monetary Fund; IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization; UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO: World Health Organization

Results

The results of this procedure and the effect of each step are displayed in Figure 3. As one would expect, both the shares of the “General statistical capacity” and the “Other” category decrease with each step. The share matched to “General statistical capacity” decreases from 34% to 31% after step two to 27% after step three; the share matched to the “Other” category decreases from 24% to 19% to 16%. There is also a very significant increase in going from step 1 to step 2 in the share of ODA to data and statistics classified as being in support of health data and statistics, from 8% to 17%. The share of population statistics increases significantly in going from step 2 to step 3, from 13% to 17%. This is the result of matching activities to population data and statistics implemented by UNFPA, IOM and UNHCR that had not been matched previously based on their purpose codes or through key words.

Figure 3. Effect of subsequent matching steps on overall shares of statistical domains

Gross disbursements of all DAC members, 2010-19



Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2020[5]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/d7gkh1

What are the policy markers and policy objectives?

Data analysis in the sections on DAC members' thematic focus in the profiles rely on the DAC system of policy markers, a feature of the OECD aid flow data. The policy marker system facilitates monitoring and comparison of members' activities in support of gender equality; aid to environment; participatory development/good governance (PD/GG); reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH); disaster risk reduction (DRR); nutrition; and inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Data collection is based on a marking system with three values:

1. **Principal (primary) objective:** the objective is fundamental in the design and impact of the activity. The DAC's reporting directive suggest reporters ask whether the activity would have been undertaken without this objective.
2. **Partial/significant (secondary) objective:** the objective, although important, is not one of the principal reasons for undertaking the activity.
3. **Not targeted to the policy objective:** the score not targeted means that the activity has been screened against, but was found not be targeted to the policy objective.

Finally, some activities in the data have not been screened. See OECD (2020[6]) for more details.

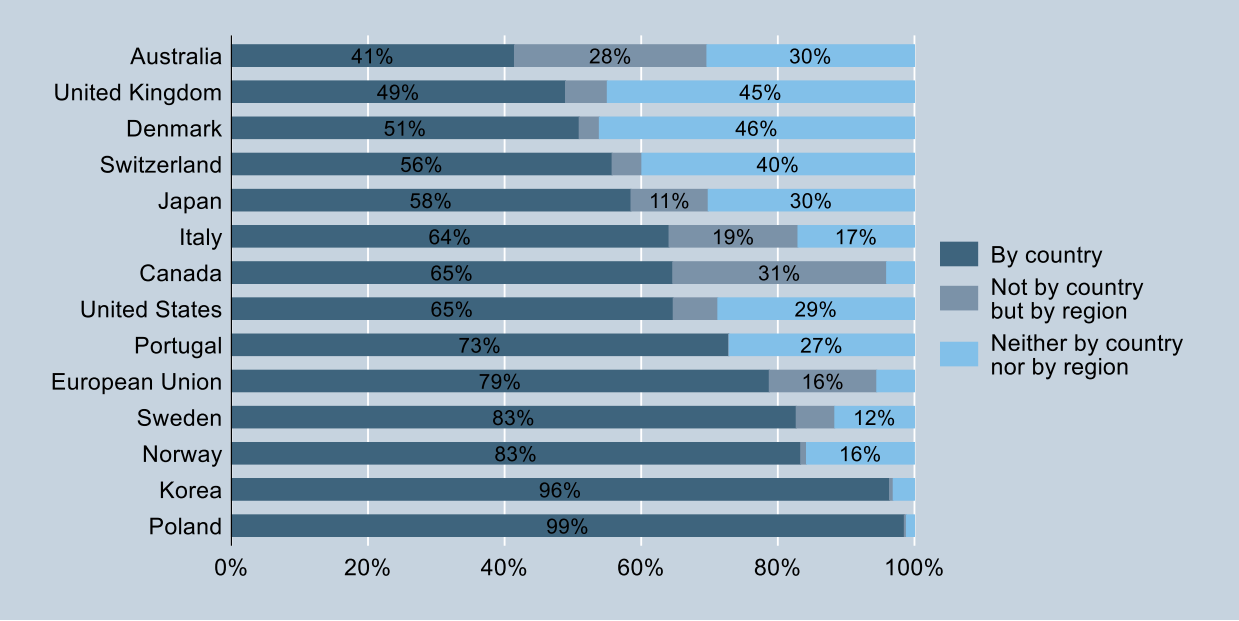
What is "country-allocable" support?

In interpreting the analysis presented in the profiles on the allocation of DAC members' ODA by recipient country and region, it is important to keep in mind that not all ODA is allocable by region or country and

that this share differs across providers. For instance, ODA may be provided in the form of earmarked funding to programmes implemented by international organisations working in several countries or even several regions, in which case it will often not be allocable by country nor by region. Similarly, aid may be provided to regional organisations or earmarked for regional programmes and projects, in which case it will be allocable by region, but not by country. Figure 4 provides a breakdown of the share of DAC members' ODA to data and statistics by allocability.

Figure 4. Allocability of ODA to data and statistics by region and by recipient country

Share of gross disbursements, 2010-19



Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2020[5]), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1.

StatLink https://stat.link/1zbx9p

Among DAC members profiled in this publication, the share of support that is allocable at the country level varies from only 99% for Poland to 41% for Australia. Australia (59%) and the United Kingdom (51%) allocated at least 50% of their ODA to data and statistics in a way that it cannot be allocated at the country level. Australia (28%), along with Canada (31%), also stands out for a large share of ODA to data and statistics that can be allocated to a specific region, but not to a specific country.

Various global or regional initiatives, which do not earmark funding by country, account for the relatively lower share of country allocable support, of which the following provide examples:

- The United Kingdom provided core funding to a wide range of multilateral organisations. Among the largest programmes were its support of the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and its Statistics for Results Facility Catalytic Fund, both global initiatives.
- Australia is the main contributor to the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Data for Health Initiative (Asia region), the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (Oceania region) as well as core funding for UN WOMEN (global), greatly explaining the large share that cannot be allocated by country.
- Canada supports the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean, a regional initiative.

How are countries classified by income group and by fragility status?

The sections on DAC members' geographic focus indluce information on bilateral ODA to data and statistics by country income group (low-, lower middle-, upper middle- and high-income) and fragility status. In the case of country income group, the World Bank's taxonomy based on GNI per capita is used, specifically the classifications as applied in fiscal year 2020 (World Bank, n.d.[7]). Note that the classification used in a given fiscal year is based on data on GNI per capita two years prior, in this case, 2018. The country income group classifications are fixed over time in the profiles, i.e. a country that was classified as a low-income country in fiscal year 2020, based on data from 2018, will be classified as low-income over the entire period 2010-19 that is analysed in the profiles. See Table 7 for a list of countries in each category.

Table 7. Country and territory classifications used in the *Data for Development Profiles*

Country-income groups and state fragility, 2018-19

Classification	Countries and territories
Low-income (31 countries and territories)	Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Yemen
Lower middle-income (47 countries and territories)	Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mauritania, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Upper middle-income (56 countries and territories)	Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Venezuela
High-income (36 countries and territories)	Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Darussalam, Cayman Islands, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Cyprus[1], French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Hong Kong (China), Israel, Korea, Kuwait, Macau (China), Malta, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Oman, Palau, Panama, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay
Fragile contexts (57 countries and territories)	Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial, Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Note: See text.

[1] Note by Turkey

The information in this document with reference to "Cyprus" relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of the United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue".

Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union

The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The profiles follow the OECD's classifications of fragile contexts (OECD, 2018[8]). As the period analysed in the profiles covers the years 2010-19, the 2018-19 classifications of state fragility are used throughout.[1] In other words, a country classified as fragile in the 2018-19 reporting period is treated as fragile in all years. Countries classified as fragile for the purpose of the profiles are also listed in Table 7.

References

IMF (2020), *Japan-IMF Partnership on Capacity Development: Annual Report 2020*, International Monetary Fund, Washington DC. [3]

IMF (2017), *Japan-IMF Partnership on Capacity Development: Annual Report Financial Year 2017*, International Monetary Fund, Washington DC, https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ta/2017/jaa/eng/pdf/jsa2017.pdf. [2]

IMF (2014), *Japan Subaccount under the IMF Framework Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities: Annual Report Fiscal Year 2014*, International Monetary Fund, Washington DC, https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/ta/2014/jaa/eng/index.htm. [4]

OECD (2020), *Converged Statistical Reporting Directives for the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and teh Annual DAC Questionnaire*, https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)44/FINAL/en/pdf?_ga=2.143866557.983539219.1621431948-99641878.1560272537 (accessed on 19 May 2021). [6]

OECD (2020), *Creditor Reporting System (CRS) Aid Activity Database*, OECD, Paris, https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1. [5]

OECD (2019), "Proposing a new approach to measure support to statistics and data in the OECD Creditor Reporting System", OECD, Paris, http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)26&docLanguage=En. [1]

OECD (2018), *States of Fragility 2018*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264302075-en. [8]

World Bank (n.d.), *World Bank Country and Lending Groups*, https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups (accessed on 20 May 2021). [7]

Notes

[1] In 2020, four contexts (Cambodia, Lesotho, Nicaragua and Togo) moved onto the framework and five contexts (Egypt, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda and Timor-Leste) moved off.

Data for Development Profiles

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR DATA AND STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

Sound and timely data and statistics are essential for designing better policies for better lives. When the right data are available and used by policy makers, they play a crucial role in managing crises, as revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are also indispensable for transparent and accountable delivery of policies and services and to guide business and investment decisions in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The first 2021 edition of the OECD's *Data for Development Profiles* is a unique source of information and insights on how members of the Development Co-operation Committee (DAC) allocate official development assistance (ODA) to statistical capacity development and strengthening data ecosystems in low and middle income countries. By providing a comprehensive overview of members' data and statistical policy priorities, strategies, funding, delivery modalities and partnerships, the profiles serve as a baseline for co-ordinating international support and highlight ways forward for greater impact and effectiveness.

PRINT ISBN 978-92-64-53981-5
PDF ISBN 978-92-64-59784-6