DAC Network on Gender Equality

Latest data on official development assistance (ODA) for gender equality and women’s empowerment

This document provides key facts and charts based on the latest data on official development assistance for gender equality and women’s empowerment. This information will also be made available on the Finance for gender webpage.

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1. The share of ODA with gender equality objectives has dropped after a decade on the rise

Figure 1. ODA for gender equality 2011-2022

In 2021-2022, 43% of bilateral allocable ODA by OECD DAC members had gender equality as a policy objective (USD 64.1 billion out of USD 147.9 billion screened against the marker). Although the volume increased from USD 60 billion in 2019-2020, the share decreased from 45%, a serious concern as the share shows the policy intention of countries in providing their aid. **This share had been growing for a decade but has now dropped by 2% points.**

The bulk of ODA with gender equality objectives was for programmes that integrate gender equality as one significant policy objective amongst others: USD 58.3 billion (39% of total bilateral aid). Only 4% of total bilateral aid was dedicated to programmes with gender equality as the principal objective, a similar share from the previous period.
2. Gender equality is a clear policy objective for some DAC members

Figure 2. Share of ODA for gender equality

![Image of bar chart showing share of ODA for gender equality]

Note: Poland and Lithuania are not included as coverage was below 50%
Source: Creditor Reporting System, OECD-DAC statistics

In 2021-2022, the **Netherlands** ranked first among DAC members in terms of shares of ODA with gender equality as a policy objective with 84%. Ireland and Canada followed, with 78% and 77% respectively. These high shares indicate that gender equality is a clear policy intention for these governments when designing their programmes and projects. It is encouraging to see that many members have recently released policies and strategies and set more ambitious plans to increase financing for gender equality, and increasing momentum of this nature will be needed to stop the downward trend in financing overall.

The **Netherlands** and **Spain** stood out for having the largest share of ODA for projects dedicated to gender equality, with 28% and 20% respectively.

The **EU Institutions** and **Germany** provided the largest volumes of ODA with gender equality as a policy objective, with USD 12.3 billion and USD 12.1 billion respectively on average per year in 2021-2022.
3. **Humanitarian aid and the energy sector continue to have the lowest shares of aid with gender equality objectives**

**Figure 3. Share of ODA per sector that includes gender equality objectives**

Note: The sector Government and Civil Society refers to OECD/DAC CRS purpose code 151 Government & Civil Society General, which includes democratic governance, human rights and other purposes

Source: Creditor Reporting System, OECD-DAC statistics

As in previous years, gender equality remains unevenly integrated across sectors. “**Humanitarian aid**” and aid for the “**Energy**” sector continue to have the lowest shares of aid with gender equality objectives, with only 18% and 30% including gender equality objectives respectively. Sectors with low shares may represent opportunities for governments wanting to increase investments and activities integrating gender equality and to move closer to their financial targets.

Conversely, gender equality is well integrated into the sectors “**Other Social Infrastructure & Services**” with 76%, “**Agriculture & Rural Development**” with 67% and “**Education**” with 67%.

4. **ODA to support women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions dropped**
Figure 4. ODA to women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions

Source: Creditor Reporting System, OECD-DAC statistics

ODA to support women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions dropped to USD 631 million on average per year in 2021-2022, from USD 891 million in 2019-2020. Excluding the volumes committed to government institutions such as women’s ministries, the amount was USD 453 million in 2021-2022, less than 1% of total ODA. France tops the DAC providers of support women’s rights organisations and movements and government institutions with 145 million, followed by Canada with USD 63 million and the EU Institutions with USD 60 million on average per year in 2021-2022. This is another area where DAC members could strive to increase their funding.

5. ODA to end violence against women and girls increased, though remains less than 1% of ODA
Figure 5. ODA to end violence against women and girls

ODA to end violence against women and girls reached USD 563 million on average per year in 2021-2022, an increase from USD 479 million in 2019-2020 but still representing less than 1% of total ODA. Canada, the United Kingdom, the EU Institutions and Germany were the top providers of ODA to end violence against women and girls in 2021-2022, each committing more than USD 50 million on average per year. DAC members should strive to increase direct and targeted financing to end sexual and gender-based violence, and to step-up the implementation of the DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment.

Note on source and methodology:
Figures refer to bilateral allocable official development assistance (ODA) based on latest OECD data available on 12 February, in 2021 constant prices, using the DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker of the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). This qualitative statistical tool enables the examination of development finance and the identification of gender equality as either a principal policy objective (dedicated funding, “score 2”), a significant objective (funding that integrates/mainstreams gender equality, “score 1”), or not an objective (“score 0”). Analyses use commitments, rather than disbursements, to capture the policy intention for the activity at the design stage. Averages of two years are used to reduce volatility since commitments are recorded in full in the year they are made, even if multi-year, and irrespective of when they are disbursed. The gender marker with the 0-1-2 scoring system has existed since 1997. Data for Poland and Lithuania are not included because their coverage was smaller than 50%. For more information, comments, questions and inquiries, contact: DCD.GenderNet@oecd.org