

Introduction to the use of OECD DAC aid statistics

OECD: DEVELOPMENT DATABASE ON AID FROM DAC MEMBERS: DAC ONLINE

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.htm>

ODA= Official Development Assistance: financial flows to developing countries from the official sector of donor countries that are concessional and aimed at development
OOF = Other Official Flows: all other flows from the official sector to developing countries that are either not concessional or not aimed at development.

The OECD/ DAC provides several data bases of different detail. We mention here the two following ones, which we consider relatively user-friendly: The DAC and CRS online databases are updated on a quarterly basis and accessible through two interfaces:

- **OECD.Stat** browser for users familiar with the DAC and CRS databases
- **QWIDS** (Query Wizard for International Development Statistics) which pulls data from OECD.Stat and offers an intuitive interface for users less familiar with the structure and content of the DAC and CRS databases.

1) QWIDS (Query Wizard for International Development Statistics)

<https://stats.oecd.org/qwids/> , to provide **easy access to DAC and CRS statistics**.

- it is **intuitive**, so that even a novice user can navigate the system, query and extract data;
- The system is “**intelligent**” and knows where to extract the most relevant data;
- The **data and metadata are pulled out from OECD.Stat**
- **However, the query system does not work well on all browser and is not easy to modify.**

2) OECD.STAT:

<https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?ThemeTreeID=3&lang=en>

Provides direct links to all DAC online datasets on OECD.Stat:

The DAC database allows analysis combining one or two out of three variables: donor, recipient and sector. DAC allows answering questions, for example, on which donor provided most aid for education, or which donor provided most aid to Senegal, but does not contain information on which donor provided most ODA for education to Senegal.

All questions requiring the combination of three or more variables can only be answered through the CRS database.

USER'S GUIDES TO THE OECD DAC STATISTICS DATABASE:

DAC: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/dacguide.htm>

CRS: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/crsguide.htm>

A. FLOWS BY PROVIDER (DAC)

Table DAC 1: Official and Private Flows - Disbursements and Commitments. Aggregate data (no breakdown by recipient) on ODA, OOF, private and NGO data by donor, type of aid and flow. This is where you can find out how much country X spends in terms of Budget support / debt relief / in-donor refugee costs etc. or how much country Y contributes to EU institutions or the World Bank.

Table DAC 5: Official Bilateral Commitments (or Gross Disbursements) by Sector. Aggregates (no breakdown by recipient) by donor, sector, and type of flow to countries on Part I of the DAC List only.

Table DAC 7b: Tying Status of Bilateral Official Development Assistance Commitments. Used to report the tying status of bilateral ODA commitments. Aggregates (no breakdown by recipient) by donor and type of aid. Note: Excludes administrative costs and TC.

B. FLOWS BY PROVIDER AND RECIPIENT (DAC)

Table DAC 2a: Destination of Official Development Assistance and Official Aid Disbursements. Geographical breakdown by donor, recipient and for some types of aid (e.g. grant, loan, technical co-operation) on a disbursement basis (i.e. actual expenditures).

Table DAC 2b: Destination of Other Official Flows Disbursements [aggregates only] Geographical breakdown of official export credits and other official non-concessional lending.

Table DAC 3a: Destination of Official Development Assistance and Official Aid Commitments. Geographical breakdown by donor, recipient and for some types of aid on a commitment basis.

Table DAC 4: Destination of Private Direct Investment and Other Private Capital [aggregates only] Geographical breakdown of foreign direct investment, bank flows and non-bank flows.

Country Programmable Aid (CPA). CPA is aid that is programmed at the country level and on which a recipient country has therefore some influence. It is a residual concept that excludes ODA that:

- is unpredictable by nature (humanitarian aid and debt relief);
- entails no cross-border flows (administrative costs, imputed student costs, promotion of development awareness, and research and refugees in donor countries);
- does not form part of co-operation agreements between governments (food aid and aid from local governments);
- is not country programmable by the donor (core funding of NGOs).

Survey on Donors Forward Spending Plans. The DAC Survey on Forward Spending Plans is the only regular process that brings together most bilateral and multilateral aid spending plans up to 3 years ahead at the global level. The Survey traces country programmable aid

(CPA), a core subset of gross bilateral ODA and multilateral outflows essential for the support of development goals. Only the donors that have agreed to make their forward spending plans publicly available are included in the table. These figures represent donors' future plans of CPA as reported to the OECD-DAC Surveys on Donors' Forward Spending Plans. They are donors' current indicative planning figures, and do not represent firm commitments, but rather donors' best estimates of future aid efforts.

GeoBook – Indicators: Selected development indicators by recipient.

GeoBook – Deflators: This table contains deflators for resource flows for individual DAC Members from 1966 as well as the TOTAL DAC deflator, and the deflator for the EURO (EC). This is used to convert current prices into constant prices taking into account inflation and exchange rate fluctuations.

GeoBook – Geographical flows to developing countries: Comprehensive data on the volume, origin and types of aid and other resource flows to developing countries on the DAC List of ODA recipients (link below). DAC bilateral flow figures are drawn from Member countries replies to questionnaires issued by the OECD Secretariat.

GeoBook – ODA by Sector: The sectoral distribution of bilateral ODA commitments refers to the economic sector of destination (i.e. the specific area of the recipient's economic or social structure whose development is, or is intended to be fostered by the aid), rather than to the type of goods or services provided. These are aggregates of individual projects notified under the Creditor Reporting System, supplemented by reporting on the sectoral distribution of technical co-operation, and on actual disbursements of food and emergency aid.

Reference Table - Total official development flows (DAC2a, DAC2b). Geographical breakdown of Official Development Finance (ODA + OOF, excluding export credits) (from all donor sources) by recipient.

Reference Table - Total Official Flows (DAC2a, DAC2b). Geographical breakdown of total Official Flows (ODA + OOF) by donor, recipient and type (gross or net).

Reference Table - Total OOF (DAC2b). Geographical breakdown of total Other Official Flows by donor, recipient and type (gross or net).

Reference Table: Total Receipts (DAC2a, DAC2b, DAC4 : ODA + OOF + Private). Geographical breakdown of total net official and private flows by donor and recipient.

C. FLOWS BASED ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS (CRS)

Creditor Reporting System. The objective of the CRS Aid Activity database is to provide a set of readily available basic data that enables analysis on where aid goes, what purposes it serves and what policies it aims to implement, on a comparable basis for all DAC members. Data are collected on individual projects and programmes. Focus is on financial data but some descriptive information is also made available.

Aid projects targeting gender equality and women's empowerment (CRS). This dataset contains commitment data (since 2002) and disbursement data (since 2009) on aid in support of gender equality from the CRS database using gender markers 1 and 2. In their reporting to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS), donors are requested to indicate for each activity whether or not it targets gender equality as one of its policy objectives. To qualify as "gender equality focussed," an activity must explicitly promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Aid activities targeting Global Environmental Objectives (CRS). This dataset contains bilateral commitment data on aid in support of environment sustainability and aid to biodiversity, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and desertification from the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database. It uses the Rio Markers.

Private Philanthropy for Development (CRS). This dataset presents activities in support of development from philanthropic foundations since 2009. These data can also be found in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database. Collecting data on private philanthropy for development is work in progress, which may explain a break in series for some foundations.

Members' total use of the multilateral system. This dataset presents members' total use of the multilateral system i.e. both their multilateral aid ("Core contributions to") and bilateral aid channelled through ("Contributions through") multilateral organisations. These data originate from members' reporting at item-level in the CRS and are published here starting with 2011 data (item-level data for multilateral aid is not complete in CRS for earlier years).

Exchange rates USD - EUR:

The OECD/DAC statistics are published in USD. For the conversion into EUR you are advised to refer to the OECD table "Annual and Monthly Exchange Rates for DAC Donor Countries from 1975 to 2019", available at

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/Exchange-rates.xls>