

Official development assistance to governance (2010-19): A snapshot

Findings

- Official development assistance (ODA) in support of governance in developing countries grew at a similar pace to total ODA between 2010 and 2019.
- Recipients were relatively concentrated, with the top five receiving 24% of total flows: Afghanistan, Jordan, Iraq, the West Bank & Gaza Strip and Indonesia.
- ODA to governance was mainly disbursed via the public sector, followed by NGOs/civil society and multilateral organisations.
- The United States was the largest provider of ODA to governance. Sweden and Australia dedicated the highest proportion of their ODA to governance.

For more information, comments, questions and inquiries, contact:

Catherine Anderson, Team Lead, catherine.anderson@oecd.org

Marc de Tollenaere, Policy Analyst, marc.detollenaere@oecd.org

Emile Boral-Rolland, Junior Policy Analyst, emile.boralrolland@oecd.org

Samhita Ayaluri, Trainee, samhita.ayaluri@oecd.org

Join the discussion: @OECDdev

This paper is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and the arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD Members. This document, as well as any data and any map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

Please cite this paper OECD (2021) "Official development assistance to governance (2010-19): A snapshot", OECD, Paris.

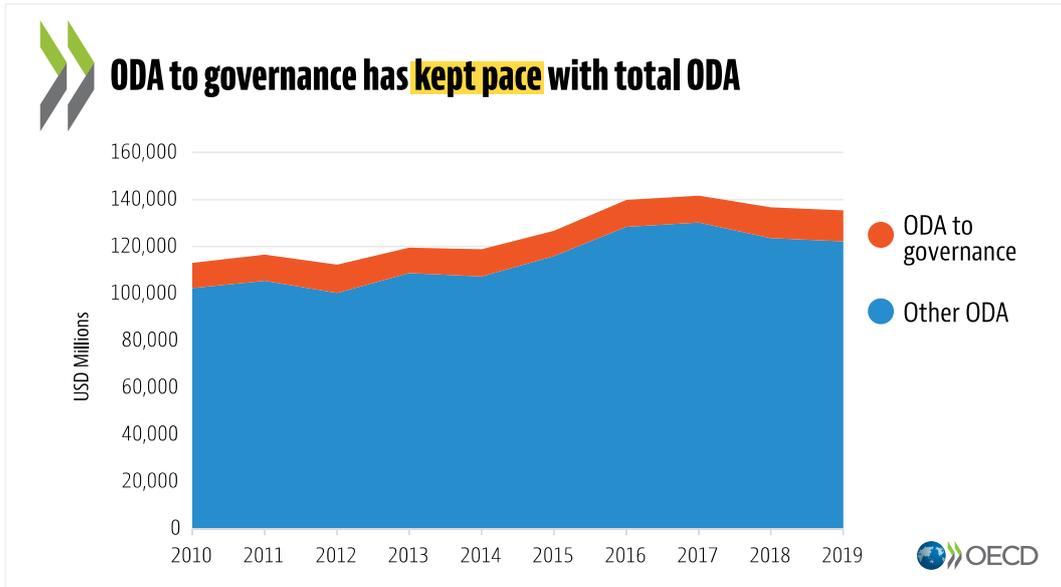
This document is also available in the OECD document database under document code DCD(2021)19. A more detailed overview of DAC governance support from 2010 to 2019 is available under document code DCD/DAC/GOVNET(2021)26.

All published data comes from the Credit Reporting System (CRS) which can be accessed by clicking on the following [link](#). Subsequently, the user needs to click on "Development" in the left tab, followed by "Flows based on individual projects (CRS)" and "Credit Reporting System (CRS)".

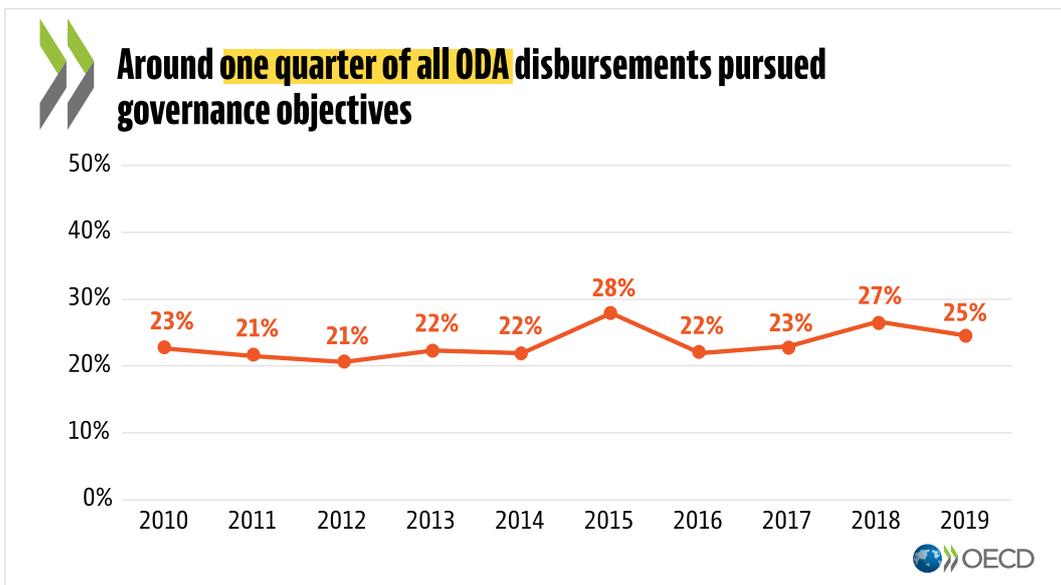
What is official development assistance (ODA) to governance?

The data below reflect disbursements from 2010 to 2019 reported by members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to the OECD's Credit Reporting System (CRS) database, under the "151" DAC sector code named "Government and civil society". Additionally, the mainstreaming of governance objectives across other sectors is reported through the Participatory Democracy/Good Governance (PD/GG) marker. All monetary amounts are presented in USD millions at 2019 constant prices.

ODA to governance: Trends over 2010-19

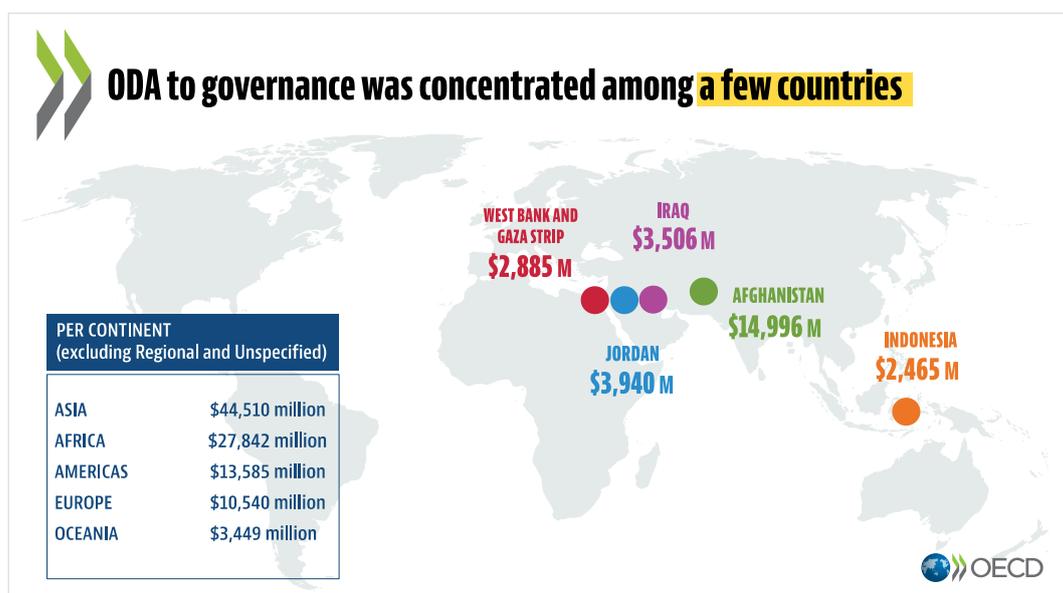


Overall, ODA to governance and total ODA increased at similar rates over the period, by 22% and 20% respectively. The share of ODA spent on governance varied from a low of 8.1% in 2017 to a high of 10.7% in 2012, stabilising at around 10% at the end of the period. In both 2010 and 2019, "governance" was the largest CRS sub-sector (10%), not including humanitarian aid. It increased particularly fast between 2017 (USD 11 471 million) and 2018 (USD 13 230 million) mostly as a result of additional funding to Indonesia, Jordan, Africa (regional) as well as unspecified bilateral funding, before stabilising in 2019, at USD 13 195 million.

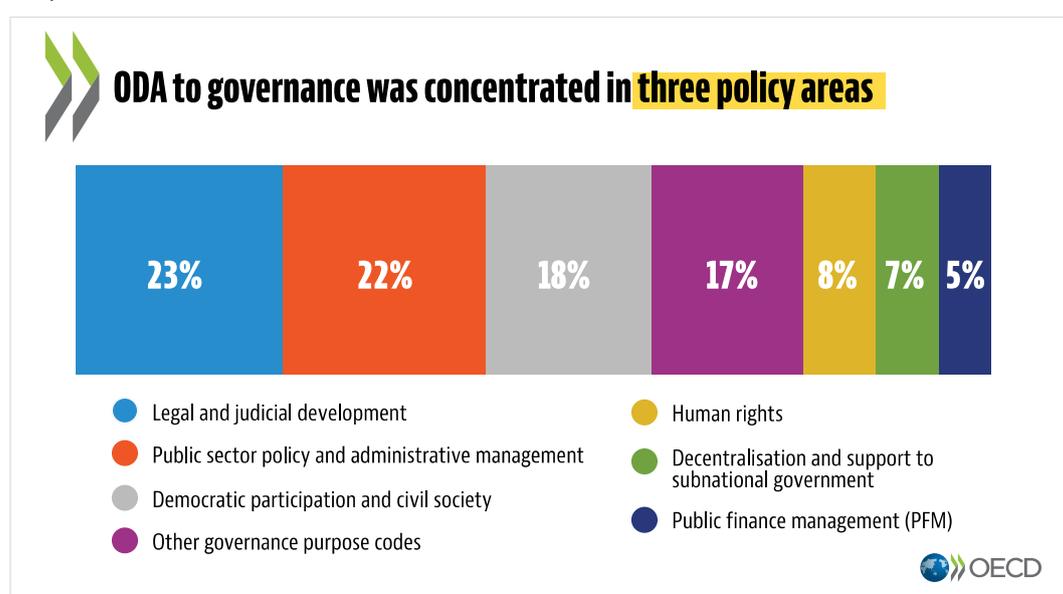


The PD/GG marker monitors the mainstreaming of specific policy objectives related to governance across all development co-operation activities (total ODA). The marker covers activities across all sectors that pursue: i) participatory development; ii) democratisation; iii) good governance; or iv) respect for human rights as a principle or significant objective. From 2010 to 2019, around one quarter of total ODA disbursements were marked PD/GG with a slight upward trend from 2016 to 2018.

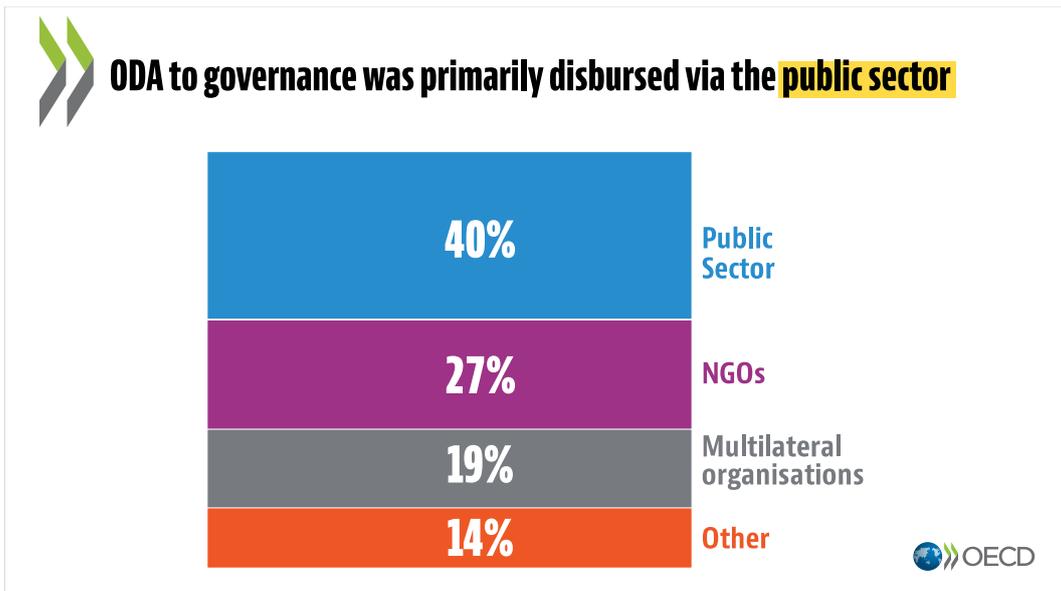
Who received ODA to governance?



Flows of ODA to governance were relatively concentrated: the largest five recipients – Afghanistan, Jordan, Iraq, West Bank & Gaza Strip and Indonesia – received 24% of total flows. In regional terms, the largest recipients were South & Central Asia (21%), Africa South of Sahara (19%) and the Middle East (11%).

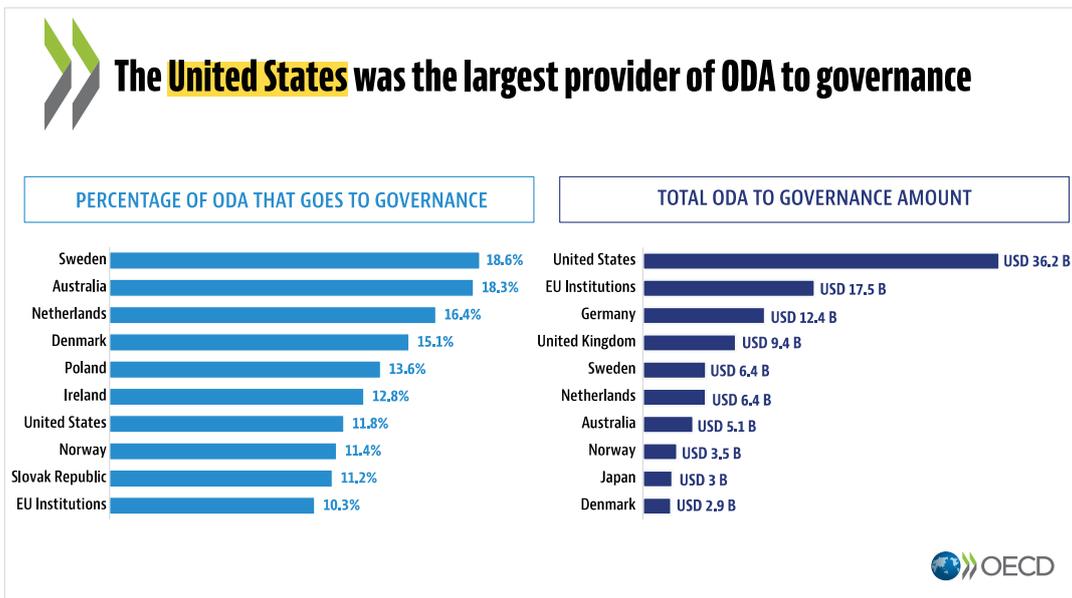


DAC members mainly targeted three policy areas: legal and judicial development (23%), public sector policy and administrative management (22%) and democratic participation and civil society (18%). Allocations to legal and judicial development decreased by 24% from 2010 to 2019 while allocations to the latter two policy areas increased by 16% and 24% respectively.



Between 2010 to 2019, ODA to governance was principally disbursed via the public sector (mostly through recipient and donor governments as well as public sector institutions and corporations), followed by NGOs and civil society (using mainly donor-country based NGOs – 19%), and multilateral organisations with the United Nations Development Programme (6%) followed by the World Bank (5%) receiving the largest share. Disbursements through multilateral organisations saw the highest increase (+90%) over this period. NGOs and civil society were more frequently used to channel governance support than was the case for overall ODA.

Who funded ODA to governance?



The top 10 providers of ODA to governance between 2010 and 2019 accounted for 88% of total disbursements. The United States was the largest donor in absolute terms providing 31% of all ODA to governance, despite a 9% decrease in their allocations to the sector between 2010 and 2019. Allocations from the European Union to the governance sector increased by 75% over the period. In relative terms, Sweden and Australia gave the largest proportion of their total ODA to governance.