

ODA for governance and gender equality in 2021: A snapshot

Findings

- From 2011 to 2021, governance-related official development assistance (ODA) with gender equality objectives more than doubled, from USD 12.1 billion in 2011 to USD 25.8 billion.
- In 2020-2021 combined, 57% of governance-related ODA had gender equality as a *significant* objective and 8% as a *principal* objective.
- Germany and the European Union institutions were the largest donors of this type of ODA.
- Africa and Asia were the largest regional recipients, while India, Türkiye, Afghanistan and Bangladesh were the largest country recipients.
- In 2020-2021 combined, the *Government & civil society – general* sector received the largest volume of governance-related ODA with gender equality objectives (USD 14.7 billion).

This snapshot provides the latest information on bilateral, allocable [official development assistance \(ODA\) for gender equality and governance-related development activities](#), based on [OECD data](#) up to 2021, in 2021 constant prices. It draws on two OECD policy markers tracking ODA in support of participatory development/good governance (PD/GG)¹, and gender equality and women’s empowerment (gender marker).² These enable the examination of each as either *principal* objective of programmes (dedicated funding, “score 2”), *significant* objective (funding that integrates this objective, “score 1”), or not an objective (“score 0”).³ Two levels of analysis are undertaken: (i) *governance-related ODA* incorporating gender equality objectives, i.e. ODA marked as *principal* or *significant* on the PD/GG marker, then filtered to obtain results marked as *principal* or *significant* on the gender marker; and (ii) *ODA to governance* (see page 6) incorporating gender equality objectives, i.e. ODA focused on the 16 purpose codes that are part of the *Government & Civil Society – general sector* filtered to obtain results marked as *principal* or *significant* on the gender marker (regardless of PD/GG marker value).

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¹ The PD/GG marker changed in 2022 to the *Democratic and Inclusive Governance* marker. All data refers to the old definition. Belgium (2020-2021), Greece (2021), Hungary (2021), Italy (2021), Lithuania (2021) and Luxembourg (2020) had less than 50% of coverage on the PD/GG marker in the specified years.

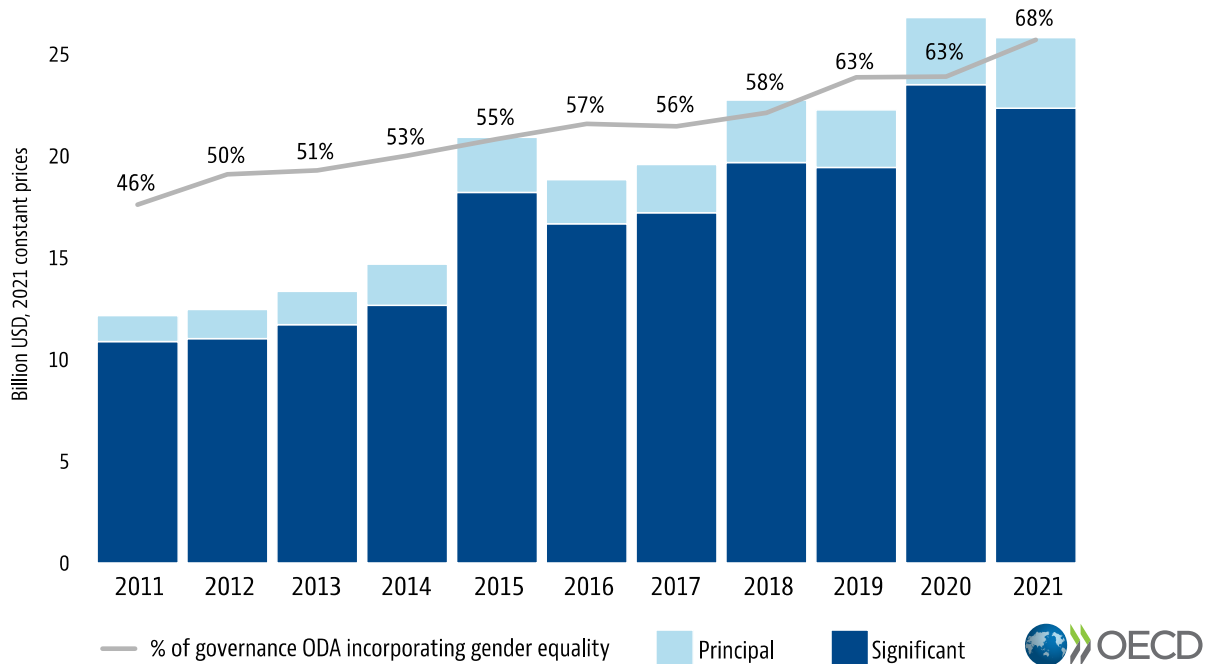
² The methodology for tracking the gender marker is available in the [Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker](#) and for the PD/GG in the [Converged Statistical Reporting Directives for the Creditor Reporting System and the Annual DAC Questionnaire](#) (page 53).

³ Only bilateral allocable ODA marked with a “score 1” or “score 2” was examined in this paper.

Governance-related ODA supporting gender equality, 2011-21

Governance-related ODA supporting gender equality more than doubled in the past decade

Volume and share of governance-related ODA with gender equality objectives (2011-2021)



The amount of bilateral governance-related ODA with gender equality objectives (*principal* or *significant*) increased significantly over the last decade, from USD 12.1 billion in 2011 to USD 25.8 billion in 2021. This growth stems mostly from EU Institutions (more than tripling), Germany (more than doubling) and France (an increase of tenfold).

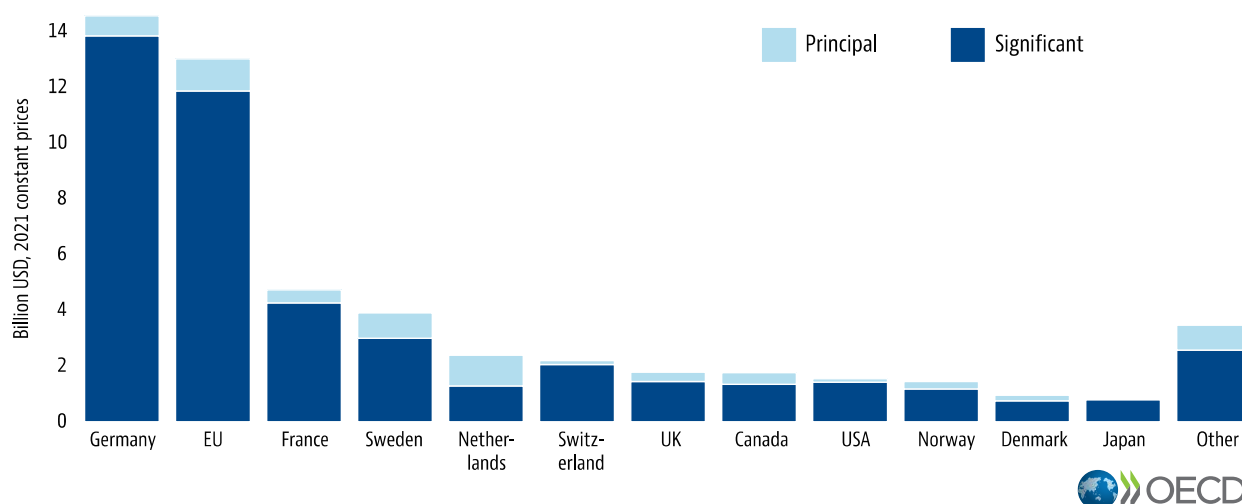
In 2021 alone, 68% of governance-related ODA incorporated gender equality objectives, a higher level than the 43% for overall bilateral ODA provided by DAC donors, at USD 135.7 billion.

The bulk – between 86% and 89% depending on the year – was spent on programmes pursuing gender equality as a *significant* objective, and the remaining 11-14% on programmes pursuing it as a *principal* objective.

Donors of governance-related ODA supporting gender equality, 2020-21

Germany and the EU Institutions are the largest providers of governance-related ODA supporting gender equality

Volume of governance-related ODA with gender equality objectives by DAC member (total, 2020-2021)



In absolute terms, the largest DAC donors of governance-related ODA supporting gender equality in 2020-2021 are Germany (USD 14.6 billion), EU Institutions (USD 13 billion), France (USD 4.7 billion) and Sweden (USD 3.9 billion) accounting together for 69% of the total.

Several DAC members have over 30% of their governance-related ODA marked as *principal* on the gender marker including Spain (57%), the Netherlands (46%), Korea (38%), Austria (37%) and Belgium (30%) indicating a high-level of priority for gender equality in their programming. In terms of volume, the Netherlands (USD 1.1 billion) is the second largest DAC provider of governance-related ODA marked as *principal* on the gender equality marker after EU institutions (USD 1.15 billion).

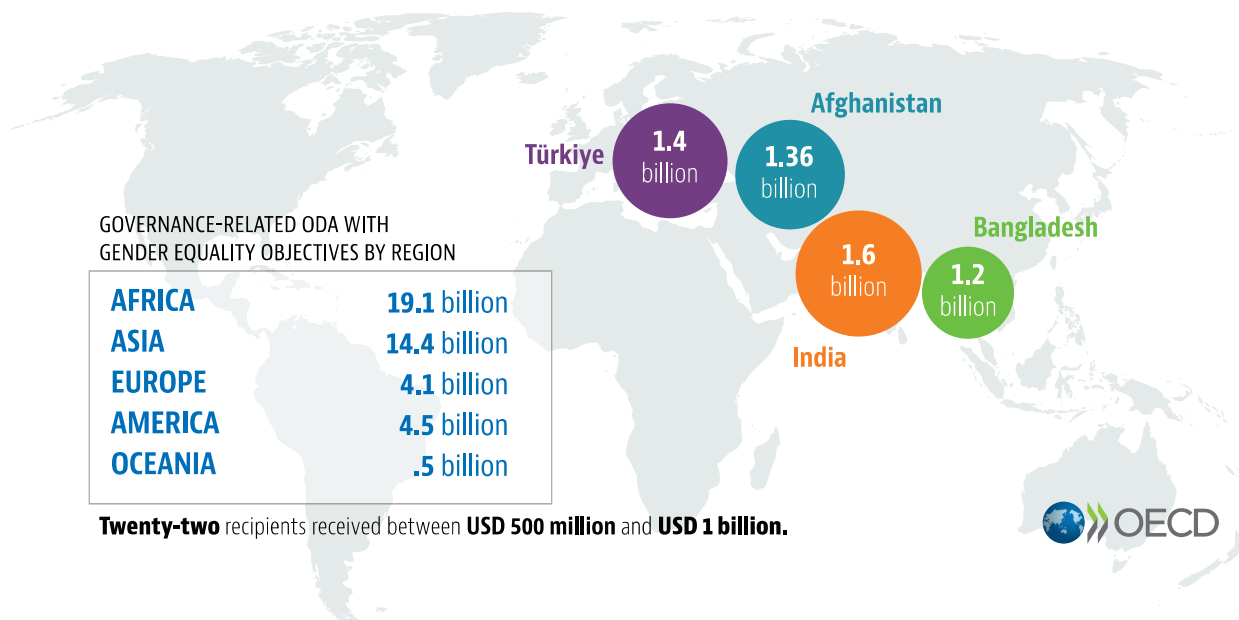
Seven DAC members have over 80% of their governance-related ODA portfolio marked as *either principal or significant* on the gender marker: Canada (96%), Iceland (95%), Ireland (87%), Belgium (86%), the Netherlands (86%), Sweden (85%) and Switzerland (80%).

In a 2020 survey informing the [OECD Guidance](#) on gender equality for development partners, 19 DAC members out of 24 who responded indicated that political participation and leadership of women was one of the thematic priorities of their gender equality work.

Recipients of governance-related ODA supporting gender equality, 2020-21

Four recipients have received more than USD 1 billion in governance-related ODA incorporating gender-equality objectives

Total, 2020-2021



Four countries received more than USD 1 billion in governance-related ODA incorporating gender-equality objectives in 2020-2021: India, Türkiye, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.⁴ In the last decade (2011-2021), the largest governance-related ODA programmes incorporating gender equality objectives included⁵:

India: A Covid-19 social protection crisis response programme financed by Germany (USD 553 million) as well as programmes on water supply including the Japan-financed Rajasthan Rural Water Supply & Fluorosis Project in Nagaur (USD 295 million).

Türkiye: The EU-financed Rural Development Programme (approximately USD 1.3 billion) and the German-financed Facility for Refugees in Türkiye – FRIT (around USD 729 million)⁶.

Bangladesh: The Japan-financed Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project (USD 176 million) and the Khulna water supply project (USD 141 million).

In 2020-2021, governance-related ODA with gender equality objectives was mostly disbursed in **Africa (USD 19.1 billion)**, of which USD 14.7 billion was in South of the Sahara, and in **Asia (USD 14.4 billion)**, particularly South & Central Asia (USD 7.4 billion).

⁴ Following the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021, descriptive information on project-level data concerning Afghanistan was removed for all ODA provided by DAC members.

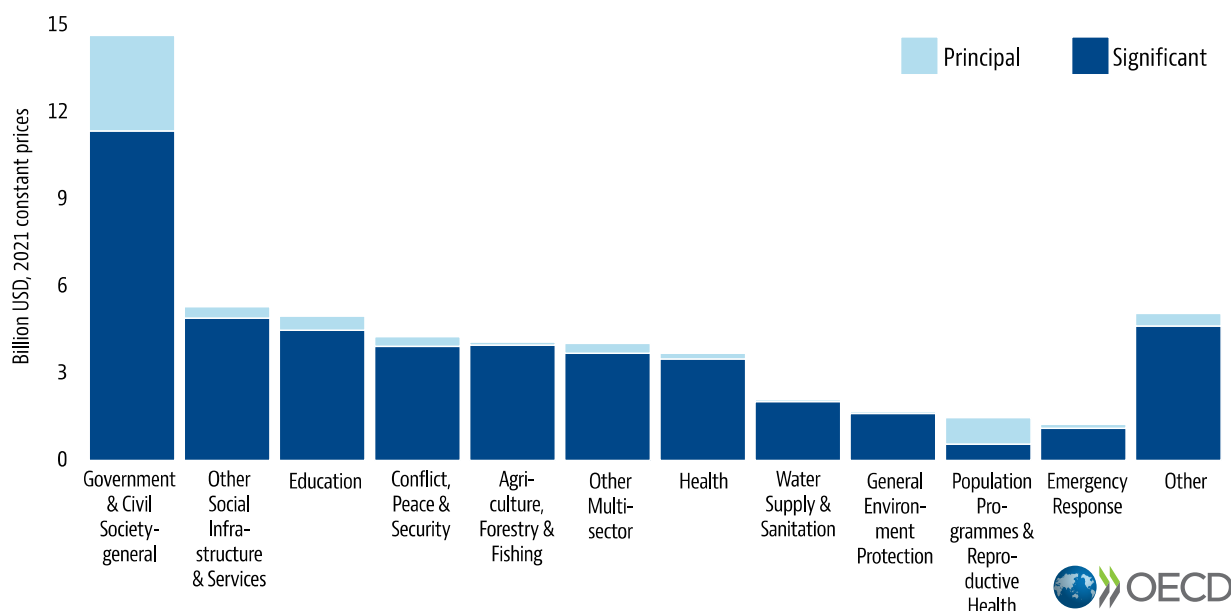
⁵ These are estimates of the largest programmes in terms of volume based on the “Project title” column in the CRS database. Most of these programmes are marked as *significant* on the gender and PD/GG marker.

⁶ This is the German-financed part of the larger EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

Sectors for governance-related ODA supporting gender equality, 2020-21

Government and civil society - general is the largest sector that integrates gender equality in governance-related ODA

Volume of governance-related ODA with gender equality objectives by sector (total, 2020-21)



Notes: The *Health* category aggregates *Health, General; Basic, Health*; and *Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)*. The *Education* category aggregates *Education, level unspecified; Basic Education; Secondary Education* and *Post-Secondary Education*. The *Other* category encompasses all other sectors in the [Creditor Reporting System](#).

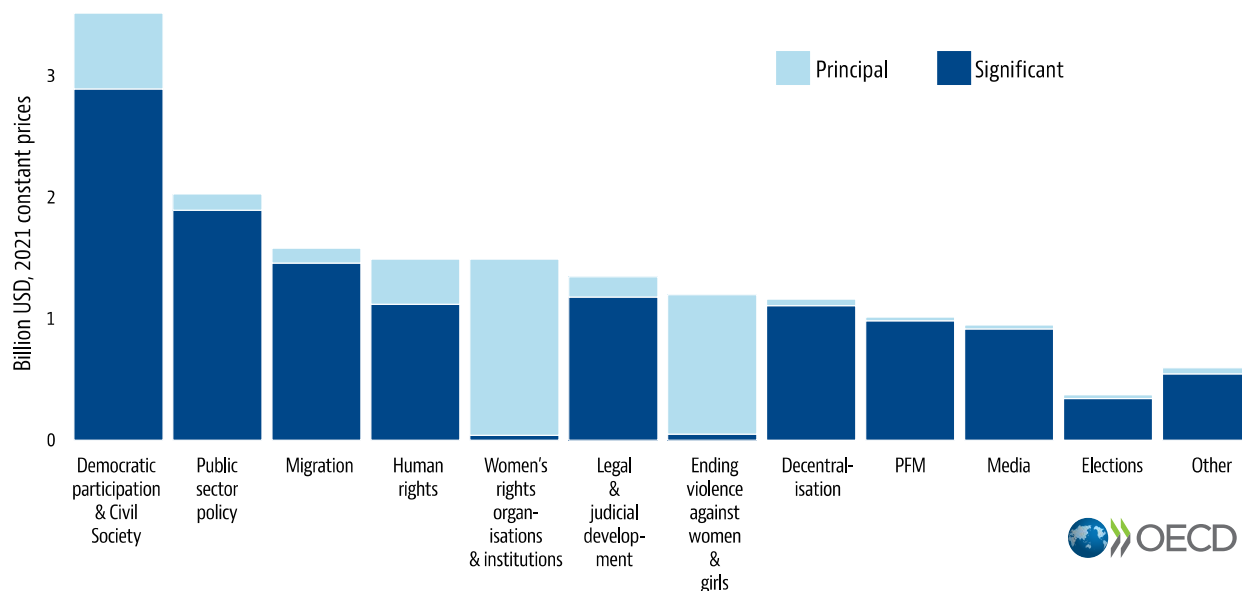
In 2020-2021, the *Government & Civil Society – general* sector (ODA subcategory with governance purpose codes) received USD 14.7 billion of governance-related ODA with gender equality objectives amounting to 28% of the total followed by *Other Social Infrastructure & Services* (USD 5.3 billion), *Education* (USD 5 billion), and *Conflict, Peace & Security* (USD 4.3 billion).

The *Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health* sector had the highest percentage of governance-related ODA marked as *principal* on the gender marker (62%) followed by *Government & Civil Society – general* (23%). Several purpose codes under *Government & Civil Society – general* refer specifically to gender, while sexual and reproductive health activities are included in the *Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health* sector.

ODA to governance supporting gender equality, 2020-21

Democratic participation and civil society are important targets of ODA to governance with gender equality objectives

Volume of ODA to governance with gender equality objectives by purpose code (total, 2020-2021)



Within ODA to governance, two purpose codes account for 33% of ODA incorporating gender equality objectives: democratic participation and civil society (21%) and public sector policy and administrative management (12%). ODA to governance marked as *principal* is due mostly to two purpose codes: women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions (34%), and ending violence against women and girls (27%). Below is a further analysis of two purpose codes:

Democratic participation and civil society: the largest bilateral recipients in 2020-2021 are Iraq (USD 86.5 million), Guatemala (USD 61 million), and Myanmar (USD 55 million). The main donors are Germany (USD 821 million), the United States (USD 634 million) and Sweden (USD 512 million). One of the largest projects marked as *principal* on the gender marker is the Agents for Citizen-Driven Transformation programme implemented by EU Institutions in Nigeria (USD 6.8 million). The overall objective of this programme is to contribute to more “inclusive, effective, accountable and gender-responsive development by enhancing the credibility and role of Civil Society Organisations as drivers of change for sustainable development.”⁷

Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions: the largest bilateral recipients are Morocco (USD 99 million) and Ethiopia (USD 53 million). The main donors are Canada (USD 410 million), the Netherlands (USD 180 million) and Sweden (USD 173 million). The Partnership for Gender Equality, financed by Canada, addresses the funding and capacity-building support gap for women's organisations and movements in ODA-eligible countries (USD 255 million). Funding for this purpose code only accounts for 0.56% of total bilateral DAC member-provided ODA in 2020-2021.

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.

⁷ Information taken from the CRS “Long description” column.