



Department
for International
Development



**Provisional UK Official Development Assistance as a
Proportion of Gross National Income
2015**



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Introduction

The United Kingdom provides development assistance to developing countries and international organisations. This publication provides provisional statistics about the amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) the UK provided as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2015, and presents various breakdowns of this spend. ODA is the internationally-agreed classification of aid and is measured in accordance with international standards agreed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)¹. All ODA figures published in this release are reported net of loan repayments².

These expenditure figures are **provisional**. Project-level ODA information is currently only available for DFID, with aggregate data provided by other government departments. GNI estimates are revised by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) each quarter as more economic data becomes available³. A final estimate of UK ODA as a proportion of GNI with more detailed breakdowns of spend is due to be published in October 2016 in 'Statistics on International Development'⁴. This will be based on the estimate of GNI for 2015 published by the ONS in September 2016.

The United Nations General Assembly agreed on an international target of 0.7 per cent for the ODA:GNI ratio in 1970. In May 2005, European Union (EU) member states pledged to meet the 0.7 per cent target by 2015, with a collective EU target milestone of 0.56 per cent by 2010. In the 2004 Spending Review the UK government set an earlier target date; to increase total UK ODA to 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2013. This target for 2013 has been re-endorsed by successive administrations, with the 2010 Spending Review including funding to increase ODA to 0.7 per cent from 2013. The UK passed [legislation](#) in March 2015 that placed a commitment on the UK Government to ensure that the 0.7 per cent ODA:GNI target was met by the UK in 2015, as well as in each subsequent calendar year.

¹ See Background Note 1.

² In 2014 and 2015, there were no repayments recorded.

³ See 'Office for National Statistics, Quarterly National Accounts', available [here](#).

⁴ Once released the publication will be available on the 'Statistics at DFID' [webpage](#).

Key Points

- Based on the latest National Accounts methodology for estimating GNI (ESA⁵ 2010) the provisional ODA:GNI ratio is 0.67. Based on the methodology that was in use when spending decisions were made (ESA 1995 unadjusted)⁶, the provisional ODA:GNI ratio is 0.71.
- Over the past year the amount of ODA provided by the UK Government has increased by 4.4 per cent. This represented an increase of £513 million, up from £11,726 million in 2014 to £12,239 million in 2015.
- ODA can be either bilateral (where the donor government has control over how and/or where it is used) or multilateral (where the donor government gives ODA to multilateral organisations such as the UN⁷). Over the past year bilateral ODA has increased by £870 million (12.7 per cent), whilst multilateral aid has decreased by £357 million (7.3 per cent).
- In 2015 62.9 per cent of UK ODA was bilateral, up from 58.3 per cent in 2014, whilst multilateral spend fell from 41.7 per cent to 37.1 per cent of UK ODA.
- In 2015 79.8 per cent of UK ODA was provided by the Department for International Development (DFID), down from 86.0 per cent in 2014. This decrease was associated with an increase in the share of non-DFID departmental ODA, which went up from 14.0 per cent to 20.2 per cent.
- The amount of UK ODA provided by DFID decreased by £318 million from £10,084 million in 2014 to £9,767 million in 2015.
- Statistics on bilateral ODA by geographic region are currently only available for DFID expenditure⁸. In 2015, Africa received the largest percentage (59.6 per cent) of the bilateral ODA disbursed by DFID to a specific country or region, equating to £2,541 million.

⁵ European System of Accounts (ESA). A note of the impact of the ESA 2010 changes on the National Accounts is available [here](#)

⁶ This is the GNI methodology consistent with the European System of Accounts 1995 before Eurostat reservations for improvements were implemented in the UK National Accounts. Information on the compilation of GNI (ESA 1995) can be found [here](#).

⁷ Core contributions to the budgets of multilateral organisations in accordance with the OECD DAC list of ODA-eligible International Organisations can be found [here](#).

⁸ Regional breakdowns are not available yet for all non-DFID expenditure from the provisional data collection. The full breakdown will be released as part of the *Statistics on International Development* publication.

1. The ODA:GNI Ratio

The National Accounts methodology for measuring GNI changed in 2014 to take account of the latest international standards, known as ESA 2010. These new standards replaced the previous standards, known as ESA 1995⁹. When ODA spending plans for 2011 to 2015 were determined by HM Treasury, the estimate of UK GNI used was based on an unadjusted ESA 1995 methodology. The UK Government has stated¹⁰ that for the period 2013 to 2015 it will measure the 0.7 per cent ODA:GNI spending target using the National Accounts methodology that was in use when spending decisions were made (ESA 1995 unadjusted). From 2016 onwards, the ODA:GNI ratio will be calculated using the GNI estimate consistent with the ESA 2010 methodology.

ODA:GNI ratios based on the two GNI methodologies (ESA 2010 and ESA 1995 unadjusted) are presented in Table 1. GNI (ESA 2010) was £1,830 billion in 2015, which is £111 billion (6.5 per cent) greater than GNI (ESA 95 unadjusted). Using GNI (ESA 2010) results in a lower ODA:GNI ratio than using GNI (ESA 1995 unadjusted).

Table 1: GNI Estimates for 2014 and 2015 and ODA:GNI Ratios; Current Prices^{11,12}

	2014		ODA:GNI ratio (%)	2015		ODA:GNI ratio (%)
	GNI	ODA		GNI	ODA	
GNI (ESA 2010)	1,783,331	11,726	0.66%	1,829,865	12,239	0.67%
GNI (ESA 95) <u>unadjusted</u> for (Eurostat) reservations	1,675,000	11,726	0.70%	1,718,768	12,239	0.71%

Based on the improved National Accounts methodology for GNI (ESA 2010), which was not available when spending decisions for meeting the 0.7 per cent target in 2015 were made, the ODA:GNI ratio for 2015 is 0.67. Based on this measure the 0.7 per cent target has not been met. Based on the National Accounts methodology for GNI which was relevant at the time when spending decisions for 2015 were made (ESA 1995 unadjusted), the ODA:GNI ratio for 2015 is 0.71. This is the measure that the UK

⁹ The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has continued to produce separate GNI estimates based on ESA 1995.

¹⁰ See '[International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Bill 2015 receives Royal Assent](#)' (26th March 2015).

¹¹ GNI data on the two different methodologies are produced by the ONS, and provisional ODA figures are provided by all ODA spending government departments and quality-assured by DFID statisticians and the OECD.

¹² Eurostat reservations are for the treatment of accounting items, including non-profit institutions serving households, vehicle registration tax, repairs and maintenance of dwellings. More details can be found [here](#).

Government will use for calculating the ODA:GNI ratio in 2015, and the 0.7 per cent target has been met on this basis.

Figure 1 illustrates the impact of the change in National Accounts methodology on the ODA:GNI ratio. In 2015 there was an increase over the year in ODA of £513 million, compared with an increase of £302 million between 2013 and 2014.

Figure 1: ODA as a Proportion of GNI Calculated Using Both GNI Methodologies (2011-2015)¹³

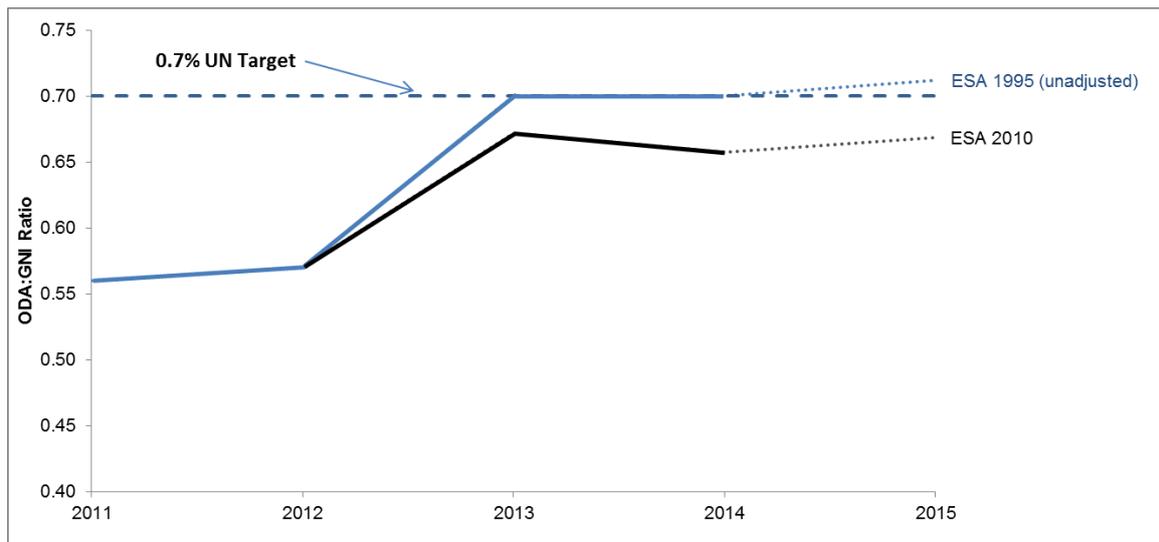
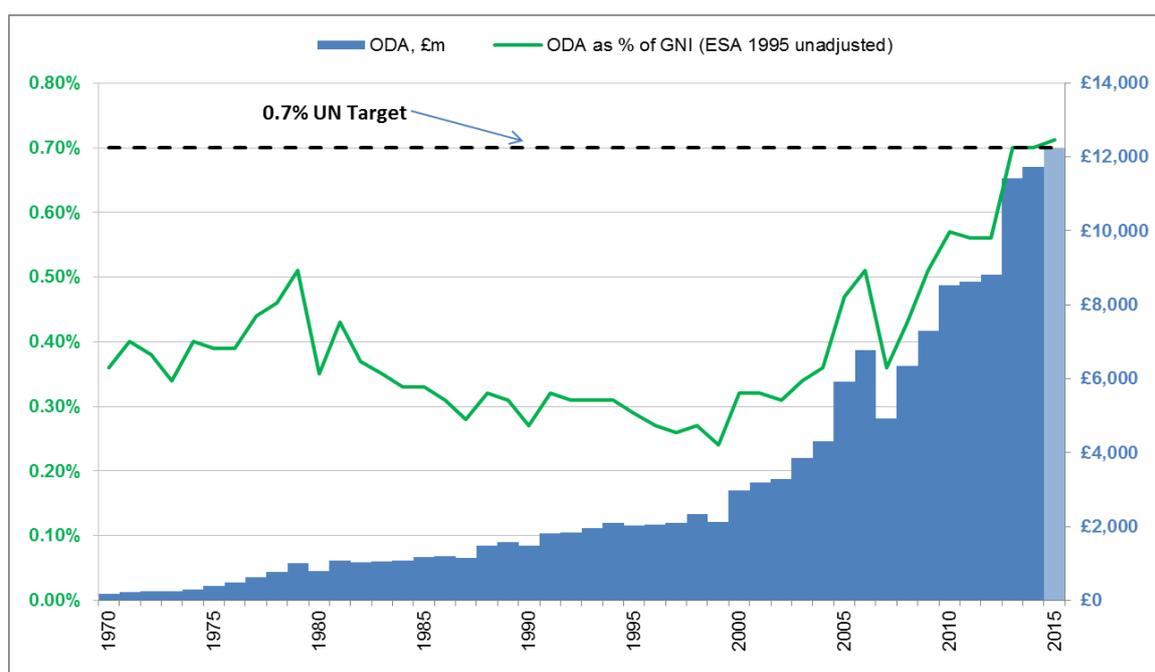


Figure 2 shows the trend in UK ODA since 1970 (when the 0.7 per cent ODA:GNI target was first reported on). Overall there has been a steady increase in the level of UK ODA since 1970, with a peak in 2005 and 2006 which was driven by high levels of debt relief¹⁴, and a steep increase in 2013 when the UK government first met the 0.7 per cent ODA:GNI target.

¹³ The dashed lines represent the fact that 2015 figures are provisional.

¹⁴ See commitments made by the UK and other donors at the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles.

Figure 2: UK ODA Levels between 1970 and 2015¹⁵



2. UK Bilateral and Multilateral ODA

There are two main channels of delivery for ODA: bilateral and multilateral. Bilateral ODA is earmarked spend which the donor has control over – this is usually aid going to specific countries, regions or programmes. Bilateral ODA also includes funding to multilateral organisations for specific programmes or in specific countries; this is referred to as ‘bilateral ODA through a multilateral organisation’. Multilateral ODA describes funds from national governments which are pooled with other donors’ funding and disbursed as part of the core budget of the multilateral organisation.

Table 2 shows that:

- Total UK ODA increased from £11,726 million in 2014 to £12,239 million in 2015;
- Although total UK ODA increased over the year, total multilateral ODA fell between 2014 and 2015, resulting in an increased proportion of the UK’s ODA being earmarked for specific programmes, countries or regions (bilateral ODA). The fall in multilateral ODA was due to the profile of DFID’s multilateral ODA spending across the spending review period being uneven¹⁶, with significant rises in 2013 and 2014 being followed by a fall in 2015.

¹⁵ Underlying data for this graph can be found in the accompanying excel file ‘Statistical Release: Provisional UK ODA tables 2015’. The bar for 2015 is a lighter colour to represent that this figure is provisional.

¹⁶ The timing and length of multi-year spending cycles for multilateral organisations vary and the decrease between 2014 and 2015 does not necessarily indicate a downward trend.

Table 2: UK Official Development Assistance 2014-2015¹⁷

	2014		2015		Change since 2014	
	£m	% total ODA	£m	% total ODA	£m	%
Total Bilateral ODA	6,832	58.3%	7,702	62.9%	870	12.7%
<i>of which: Debt Relief</i>	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	-3	-100.0%
<i>Loans¹</i>	19	0.2%	22	0.2%	2	13.1%
Total Multilateral ODA	4,895	41.7%	4,538	37.1%	-357	-7.3%
Total ODA excluding Bilateral Debt Relief and Loans	11,704	99.8%	12,217	99.8%	514	4.4%
TOTAL ODA	11,726	-	12,239	-	513	4.4%

1. ODA-eligible concessional loans reported on a cash flow basis (payments and repayments). See note 4 for further details.

3. Breakdown of UK ODA by Official Agencies and Other Sources

Table 3 provides a breakdown of UK ODA spend by official agency. It can be seen that:

- DFID ODA is estimated at £9,767 million (79.8 per cent of total UK ODA) in 2015 compared to £10,084 million (86.0 per cent) in 2014.
- ODA spent by departments and sources other than DFID was £2,472 million in 2015, an increase of £830 million from 2014 (50.6 per cent).
- In 2015 the largest non-DFID government sources of ODA were the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (3.3 per cent of UK ODA)¹⁸, followed by the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund/Conflict Pool (2.9 per cent), the Department of Energy and Climate Change (2.7 per cent), and the Home Office (1.8 per cent). 'Non-DFID EU attribution' (see box one below) amounted to £537 million (4.4 per cent of UK ODA).
- The share of ODA provided through the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills grew in 2015, accounting for 1.6 per cent of total ODA (£194 million), compared to 2014, when the Department provided 0.7 per cent of the total (£79 million). This was due to increased levels of spend in research for developing countries in 2015 compared with 2014.

Box One: Treatment of EU Attribution

The provisional estimate for the UK share of EU Budget ODA in 2015 is £963 million compared to £816 million in 2014. EU attribution fluctuates from year to year. This is because the EU works on a seven year programming cycle and so EU development disbursements in a given year can vary. The calculation for Member State attribution is based on variables which also fluctuate, such as exchange rates, relative GNI and VAT receipts. This change does not affect UK financing for the European Union.

¹⁷ Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

¹⁸ Further information on FCO ODA expenditure can be found [here](#).

Table 3: DFID and Non-DFID ODA 2014-2015¹⁹

	Ordered by 2015 ODA				
	2014		2015		Change since 2014
	£m	% of UK ODA	£m	% of UK ODA	£m
Department for International Development (DFID)	10,084	86.0%	9,767	79.8%	-318
<i>Of which :</i>					
DFID EU Attribution	374	3.2%	426	3.5%	52
Total non-DFID	1,642	14.0%	2,472	20.2%	830
<i>Of which :</i>					
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	366	3.1%	408	3.3%	42
Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) / Conflict Pool ¹	180	1.5%	356	2.9%	-
Department of Energy and Climate Change	192	1.6%	336	2.7%	144
Home Office	136	1.2%	218	1.8%	82
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	79	0.7%	194	1.6%	115
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	57	0.5%	61	0.5%	4
Department of Health	11	0.1%	50	0.4%	38
Department for Education	0	0.0%	29	0.2%	29
Scottish Government	12	0.1%	11	0.1%	-1
Ministry of Defence	2	0.0%	9	0.1%	7
Department for Work and Pensions	8	0.1%	8	0.1%	0
HM Revenue and Customs	0	0.0%	4	0.0%	4
Welsh Government ²	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	0
Department for Culture, Media and Sports	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1
Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) ³	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	-3
HM Treasury ⁴	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
<i>Other Sources of UK ODA</i>					
EU Attribution (non - DFID)	442	3.8%	537	4.4%	95
IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT)	0	0.0%	120	1.0%	120
Gift Aid	106	0.9%	105	0.9%	-1
BBC World Service	2	0.0%	22	0.2%	20
Colonial Pensions administered by DFID	2	0.0%	2	0.0%	0
CDC Capital Partners PLC ⁵	42	0.4%	-	-	-
Total UK Net ODA	11,726	100.0%	12,239	100.0%	513

1. In April 2015, the Government introduced the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), replacing the DFID, FCO and MoD Conflict Pool. Thus, the 2014 figure presented here reflects solely Conflict Pool spend and the 2015 figure reflects Conflict Pool spend from January-March 2015 and CSSF spend from April-December 2015. These figures include DFID's share of the Conflict Pool and CSSF. See note 3 for more details.

2. This figure represents the estimated 2015/16 financial year spend, which is used as a proxy for 2015 calendar year spend. See Background Note 12 for more details.

3. UK Export Finance is the operating name of the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

4. HM Treasury spent £478,829 of ODA in 2015.

5. This figure represents equity investment inflows and outflows from CDC. From 2015 onwards, the capital subscription from the UK Government to CDC is recorded as ODA instead of CDC's equity investments, and this figure is included in DFID's ODA statistics. See Background Note 5 for more details.

The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) was introduced in April 2015, replacing the Conflict Pool, and is a joint fund that is spent by multiple departments. Table 4 shows which departments spent CSSF and Conflict Pool funds in 2015.

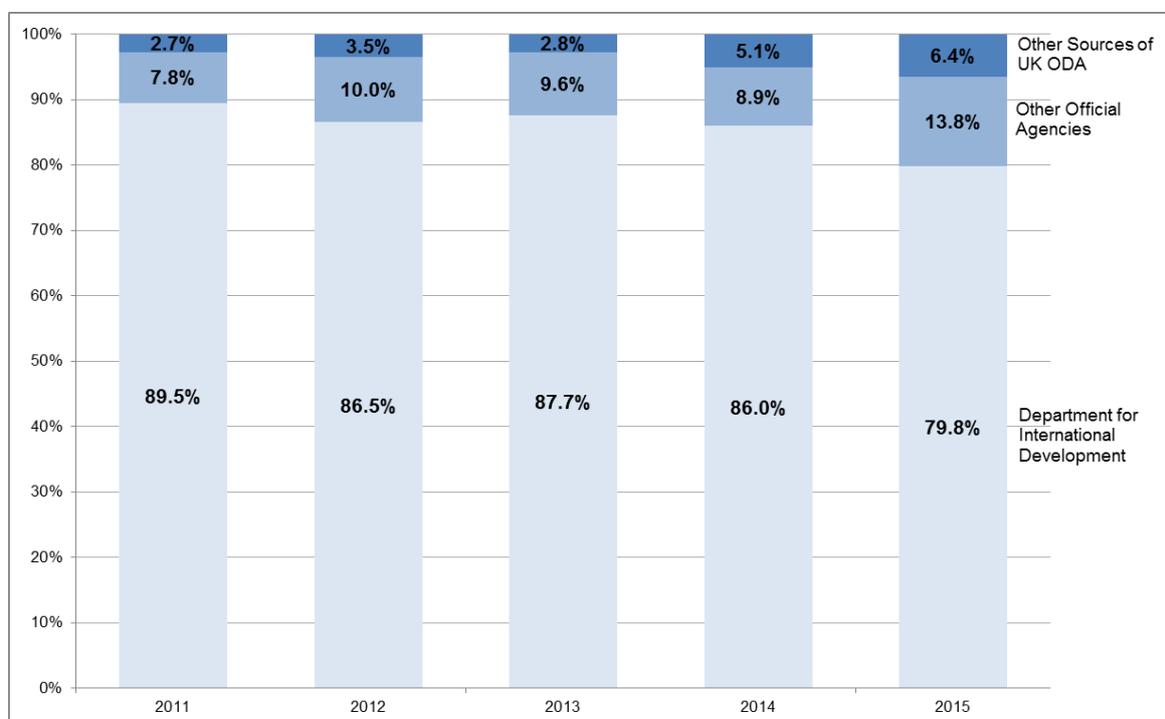
¹⁹ Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Table 4: Breakdown of CSSF/Conflict Pool ODA, 2015²⁰

	£m	% CSSF/Conflict Pool ODA
Total CSSF / Conflict Pool ODA	356.3	
<i>Of which:</i>		
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	260.1	73.0%
Department for International Development	77.2	21.7%
National Crime Agency	9.1	2.6%
Ministry of Defence	8.1	2.3%
Home Office	0.8	0.2%
Crown Prosecution Service	0.6	0.2%
ACRO (Association of Chief Police Officers' Criminal Records Office)	0.1	0.0%

Figure 3 shows the overall proportions of ODA spent by DFID, other official agencies and other sources. This shows that the proportion of UK ODA spent by DFID is on a decreasing trajectory. Whilst government departments other than DFID have traditionally spent between 7.8 and 10 per cent of UK ODA, this percentage rose to almost 14 per cent in 2015. This is partly due to other government departments spending an increased amount of ODA in areas where they have greater expertise than DFID, as well as to a reduction in DFID's spending through multilateral organisations.

Figure 3: Proportion of ODA Spent by DFID, other Official Agencies and Other Sources²¹



²⁰ As these are provisional figures, the breakdown has not been finalised and so does not completely sum to the total.

²¹ Figures may not sum due to rounding.

4. DFID Region-Specific Bilateral ODA

Table 5 presents the breakdown of DFID's region-specific bilateral ODA. These figures do not represent the total UK ODA expenditure for each region because they do not include expenditure by government departments other than DFID, core contributions to multilateral organisations, or expenditure that is not assigned to a specific country or region.

- In 2015, Africa received the largest proportion of bilateral ODA from DFID that could be assigned to a single region. Africa also received the largest increase (£79 million) in DFID region-specific bilateral ODA between 2014 and 2015;
- Africa and Asia together received over 98 per cent of all DFID's region-specific bilateral ODA (£4,188 million) in 2015;
- In 2015 Europe received £19 million for ODA-eligible activities primarily benefitting Ukraine, who received £15.9 million. In addition, Turkey, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina each received around £1 million for ODA-eligible activities.

Table 5: DFID's Region-Specific Bilateral ODA 2014-2015²²

	2014		2015		£ millions
	£m	% Country-specific ODA	£m	% Country-specific ODA	Change since 2014 £m
Total DFID Country-Specific Bilateral ODA	4,098		4,263		165
<i>Of which:</i>					
Africa	2,462	60.1%	2,541	59.6%	79
Asia	1,591	38.8%	1,647	38.6%	56
Americas	34	0.8%	51	1.2%	17
Europe	7	0.2%	19	0.5%	12
Pacific	4	0.1%	5	0.1%	1

Regional breakdowns are not yet available for non-DFID expenditure; ODA spend by region will be presented for all UK expenditure in the 'Statistics on International Development' publication that will be published later in the year.

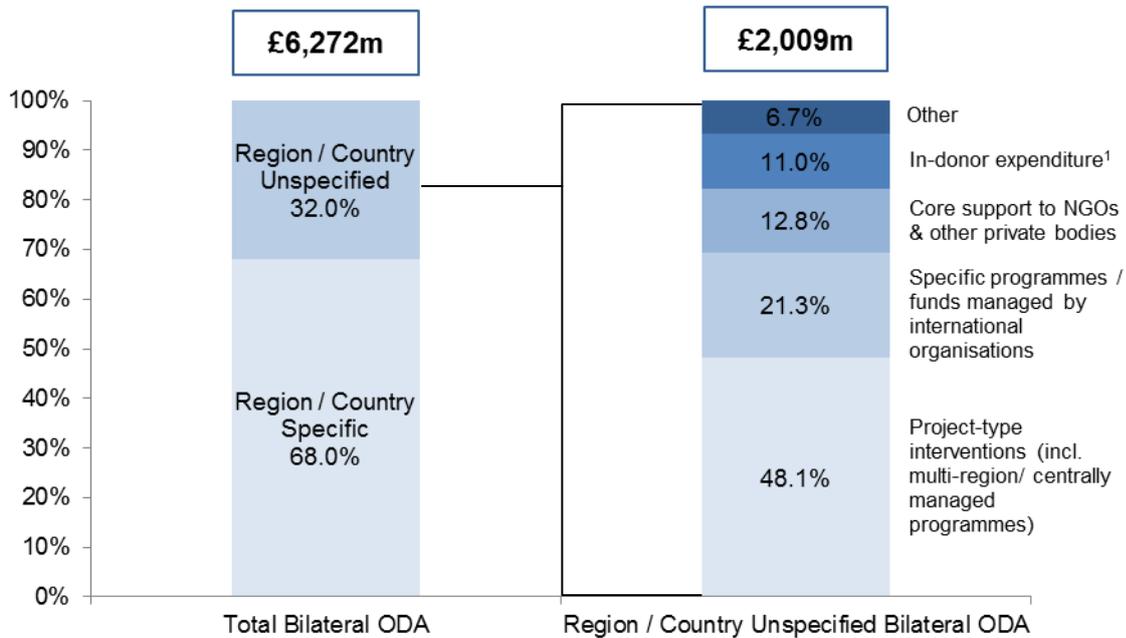
5. DFID Non-Country-Specific Bilateral ODA

Sometimes aid is not assigned to a particular country or region, for example aid given to projects that work in multiple countries and/or regions, aid spent in a specific sector for which there are no designated benefitting countries or regions, or where the beneficiary is not known until the end of the project.

²² Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. Analysis of non-country/region specific ODA set out overleaf.

Bilateral ODA spent by DFID on projects which were not assigned to any single benefitting country or region amounted to £2,009 million in 2015, which was almost one third (32 per cent) of DFID's total bilateral ODA expenditure. Figure 4 provides a breakdown of this expenditure.

Figure 4: Breakdown of DFID's Non-Country Specific Bilateral ODA in 2015²³



¹In-donor expenditure relates to ODA-eligible activities conducted within countries that donate aid, including the United Kingdom. ODA spent in the UK to support development work overseas or refugees within the UK are both examples of in-donor expenditure.

²³ Figures may not sum due to rounding.

6. Background Notes

6.1 Definitions and Sources

1. Information on definitions and sources used in this publication can be found in Annexes 2 and 3 respectively of the Statistics on International Development publication available [here](#).

6.2 Revisions and Changes to the Publication

2. The revisions process is set out in DFID's Revisions Policy found [here](#).

3. In 2015 the Government introduced the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), replacing the DFID, FCO and MoD Conflict Pool. The CSSF pools new and existing resources from across government into one fund, under the strategic direction of the National Security Council (NSC). The fund provides the UK's contribution to multilateral peacekeeping, security and defence activities, and a larger budget for programmes in countries at risk of instability, some of which can be classed as ODA.

4. In 2018 ODA figures DAC members will be required to report more details on concessional loans classified as ODA. This includes reporting the concessional element of the loan as a "grant equivalent" measure within ODA. The grant equivalent measure is based on DAC agreed discount rates differentiated by country income group and will make ODA loans easier to compare with grants. Alongside reporting on a grant equivalent basis, ODA figures will continue to be calculated, reported and published on a cash flow basis. This new grant equivalent method for calculating loan ODA will apply from and including 2018 flows (with data also being available on the same basis with effect from 2015 flows). More details about this change can be found [here](#).

5. The UK's Development Finance Institution, CDC, purchases equity investments (shares in businesses) in Africa and South Asia which would struggle to attract investment otherwise. Prior to the 2015 figures, the equity investment inflows and outflows were reported as part of the UK's ODA statistics. Following a [consultation](#) conducted in December 2014, it was decided that from 2015 flows onwards, the UK would report only the capital flow from the UK government to CDC as ODA. This is in line with the practice of other DAC members (Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden). Thus, the 2014 UK ODA statistics presented in this publication include CDC's equity investments and the 2015 ODA figures include the capital flow from the UK Government to CDC.

6. This publication and Statistics on International Development (SID) were reassessed in 2015 by the UK Statistics Authority. As a result of this re-assessment, this publication provides more information on the non-DFID ODA based on the provisional returns of other government departments. A supplementary note on the data quality and processing arrangements for this publication is included as [Annex 4](#) in SID.

7. ONS publish revisions to GNI estimates as more economic data becomes available. The provisional ODA:GNI ratio is always based on the GNI estimate published in March and the final ratio is based on the September GNI estimate. To enable comparability against international data we do not revise the back series to take into account any further revisions made to GNI estimates.

6.3 Timing and Releases

8. Final 2015 ODA data will be available in the 2016 edition of *Statistics on International Development*, which will be available from the DFID website or from the National Statistics publication Hub in October 2016. The final publication date for SID will be pre-announced [here](#).

9. Provisional 2015 ODA statistics for all members of the OECD will be published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in April 2016.

6.4 Quality

10. The statistics shown here are provisional, and may be subject to change between now and the final release of these statistics in October 2016.

11. The DAC sets the definitions and classifications for reporting on ODA internationally. These are laid out in the DAC Statistical Reporting Directives.²⁴ The statistics shown here are reported in line with these directives and are subjected to a quality assurance process as described in Annex 4 of *Statistics on International Development* [here](#).

12. The figure presented for the Welsh Assembly Government represents their estimated spend for the financial year 2015/16 and is used as a proxy for their calendar year 2015 spend. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently reviewing their reporting procedures with a view to being able to report calendar year figures going forward.

13. The ODA figures presented in this publication include ODA-eligible support costs of refugees in DAC donor countries including the United Kingdom, during the first twelve months of their stay. For some departments these costs have been calculated by applying a unit cost (provided by relevant departments spending ODA on refugees in donor countries) to the total number of refugees helped. DFID statisticians will continue to work with the Home Office to refine this methodology.

6.5 Uses and users

14. The main purpose of these statistics is to provide timely summary statistics on ODA expenditure in the UK. They are published prior to the release of provisional ODA statistics by the OECD DAC for all OECD members.

15. During a [consultation](#) conducted in 2014, users told us that they use the statistics for a variety of purposes: preparing material for briefs; PQs and public correspondence; inclusion in reports and reviews, and providing data for research and monitoring. The users represent the government, civil society and non-government organisations, students and academia and the media.

6.6 National Statistics

16. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation means the statistics carry the National Statistics label and conform with the standards summarised on the opposite page.

17. For information on the work of the UK Statistics Authority visit: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk>

²⁴ See OECD, Aid Statistics, Methodology webpage available [here](#).

NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.



All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm.

The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics, and to improve its statistics on a continuous basis. If a producer becomes concerned about whether its statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, it should discuss its concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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