



Global ODA, and aid for least developed countries, falls 2.7 per cent in 2018

- *ODA fell 2.7 per cent in 2018 in real terms, based on a comparable basis from 2017.*
- *The fall reflects a decline in aid spent on hosting refugees – net of this spending, ODA remained stable.*
- *Net bilateral aid from DAC donors to LDCs declined by 2.7 per cent and aid to Africa dropped by 4 per cent.*
- *Reflecting a new reporting standard, the ODA of DAC donors as a share of their GNI stood at 0.31 per cent on average.*

In 2018, official development assistance (ODA) was reported based on a new “grant equivalent” methodology, instead of on the cash flow basis that was previously used. The new measure counts the grant portion of an official loan from issuance, instead of its full face value (and therefore does not net out repayments from countries to donors).

Under this new reporting standard, ODA from the Members of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totaled \$153.0 billion in 2018, or 0.31 per cent of gross national income (GNI), below the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNI. Five donors met or exceeded the target:

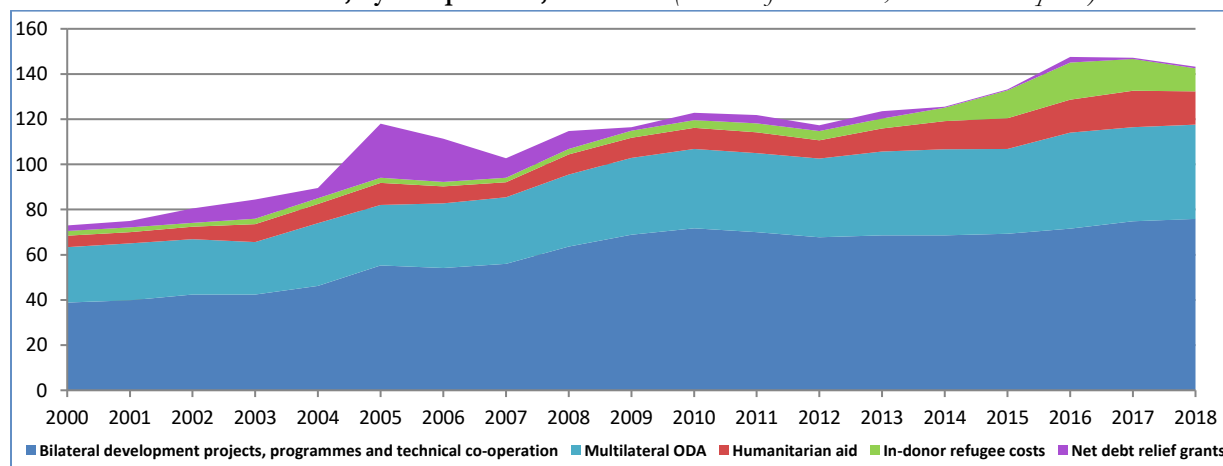
Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

As the new “grant equivalent” ODA figures are not comparable with historical data, the OECD also continues to publish data according to the previous cash flow basis. Under this methodology, 2018 net ODA by DAC member countries was \$149.3 billion, down 2.7 per cent from 2017 in real terms.

This drop reflects a decrease of in-donor refugee costs reported as aid, whose share represented 7.1 per cent of total net ODA, compared to 11 per cent in 2016. Excluding these costs, net ODA levels were stable compared to 2017. Total humanitarian aid amounted to \$15.3 billion in 2018, dropping by 8 per cent, the first annual decline since 2012.

On a cash flow basis, net bilateral ODA by DAC members to least developed countries fell by 2.7 per cent in real terms, to \$27.6 billion. Bilateral aid to African countries fell by 4 per cent, to \$29.7 billion. These declines follow increases of ODA to both country groups in 2017, after a prolonged period of stagnation since 2010.

Net ODA from DAC donors, by components, 2000-2018 (Billions of US dollars, 2017 constant prices)



Source: OECD, 10 April 2019

¹ See: OECD (2019): Development aid drops in 2018, especially to neediest countries, available from: <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/development-aid-drops-in-2018-especially-to-neediest-countries.htm>.