

## Donor updates in brief: Gender equality

The table below presents an overview of trends in official development assistance (ODA) for advancing gender equality and developments to watch in 2021 and beyond from 14 major Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) donors. Donors are listed in order of their gender-related ODA funding volume (including principal and significant funding) for 2019 based on data from the OECD (expressed in US\$ millions, 2019 prices) and color-coded according to the trend of their compound annual growth rate for gender-related ODA between 2017 and 2019. This year's Generation Equality Forum is putting gender at the center of global policy discussions; its outcomes will be interesting to watch in the months ahead.

### ODA Trend 2017-2019

- rising
- declining

2019 rank ODA <sup>1</sup> , US\$m	Donor	ODA growth 2017-2019 <sup>2</sup>	What to watch in the second half of 2021 and beyond
#1 US\$7,051	 <b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	12 %	The UK sees itself as a leader on gender equality, though recent ODA cuts will impact gender-related funding. The UK is expected to push gender equality as an important component of the G7 "build back better" agenda at the G7 Summit in June 2021.
#2 US\$6,991	 <b>GERMANY</b>	7 %	Gender equality is a cross-cutting principle of Germany's development cooperation but with the upcoming federal election and the ongoing 'BMZ 2030' reform process, it is difficult to anticipate the outlook for gender equality funding and policy beyond September 2021.
#3 US\$6,803	 <b>UNITED STATES</b>	1 %	The US is a major funder of gender-related projects, particularly in women's economic empowerment. President Joe Biden has already repealed the Global Gag Rule and will restore funding to UNFPA for major projects in sexual and reproductive health and rights.
#4 US\$6,066	 <b>EU INSTITUTIONS</b>	3 %	The EU have been increasing their policy emphasis on gender equality. The EU's latest Gender Action Plan (GAP III, covering 2021–2025) sets a goal for 85% of all new actions related to external relations to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment by 2025.
#5 US\$4,185	 <b>JAPAN</b>	13 %	Japan aims to achieve gender mainstreaming by ensuring equal participation and leadership of women through its development projects. Japan's share of gender-related bilateral allocable ODA is expected to continue a moderate upward trend but remain below the DAC average.
#6 US\$2,585	 <b>SWEDEN</b>	7 %	Sweden is a long-standing leader on gender equality. Given its commitment to gender mainstreaming, Sweden's funding for gender equality will likely increase in the years ahead, in line with its projected ODA growth; however, elections in 2022 could shift the outlook.

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#7 US\$2,193	 <b>CANADA</b>	6 %	Canada's gender-related funding has grown significantly since it launched its Feminist International Assistance Policy in 2017. Growth is expected to continue in the years ahead. Canada remains a vocal supporter of gender equality in the response to and recovery from COVID-19.
#8 US\$1,833	 <b>NETHERLANDS</b>	14 %	The Netherlands champions gender equality, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights. Given the success of Development Minister Sigrid Kaag (a strong gender advocate) and her D66 party in the 2021 elections, gender equality will likely remain a key Dutch priority.
#9 US\$1,674	 <b>FRANCE</b>	26 %	Since 2019, France has been committed to 'feminist diplomacy'. In June 2021, France is co-hosting the Generation Equality Forum with Mexico. It will sit on the leadership team of the Action Coalition for Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
#10 US\$1,078	 <b>NORWAY</b>	18 %	Gender equality is a priority for Norway. The government attributes its lower gender-related ODA relative to other DAC donors on its stricter interpretation of the policy marker. It recently introduced a target of 50% of projects targeting gender equality, making funding increases likely.
#12 US\$786	 <b>AUSTRALIA</b>	-14 %	Australia's FY2021/22 (July 2021–June 2022) budget reiterates the government's commitment to gender equality, particularly elevating "women's voices and leadership in the COVID-19 response and recovery". The new 'Pacific Women Lead' program will be central to this goal.
#13 US\$390	 <b>ITALY</b>	-4 %	Gender equality plays a prominent role as cross-cutting theme in Italy's Programming Guidelines 2019-2021 and is a priority of Italy's 2021 G20 presidency; however, Italy's ODA targeting gender equality objectives remains moderate.
#15 US\$302	 <b>SPAIN</b>	0 %	Spain is increasingly prioritizing gender equality. In 2021, Spain introduced a 'Feminist Foreign Policy Guide' and aims to mainstream gender in 85% of its ODA. At the Generation Equality Forum, Spain is co-leading of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights.
#16 US\$226	 <b>SOUTH KOREA</b>	18 %	South Korea's gender-related funding as a proportion of its bilateral allocable ODA has been relatively constant since 2016, however total funding to gender equality has increased in line with South Korea's rising ODA. This growth will likely continue in 2021.

1. 2019 ODA in 2019 prices, US\$ million. All other US\$ conversions in 2019 constant prices. 2. Compound annual growth rate, 2017-2019.