

# Aid spending by Development Assistance Committee donors in 2015

**2016**  
April

Overview of key trends in official development assistance emerging from the provisional 2015 Development Assistance Committee data release



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## Key findings

- **Official development assistance (ODA) increased to a new peak in 2015:** Collectively ODA from the 28 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors totalled US\$146.7 billion in 2015, compared with US\$137.2 billion in 2014.<sup>1</sup>
- **22 of the 28 DAC countries reported a real-terms increase in ODA:** The largest increase in ODA in monetary terms came from Germany – a rise of US\$4.3 billion, or 26%. This meant Germany overtook the UK as the second largest donor after the US. The largest percentage increases were from Greece (39%) and Sweden (37%).
- **Most of the rise in ODA was due to increased spending on refugees within donor countries:** ODA targeted on the sustenance of refugees housed in donor countries rose from US\$6.6 billion in 2014 to US\$13.9 billion in 2015 – by far the largest figure ever recorded. European donors most strongly affected by the ongoing refugee crisis showed large proportional increases in their total ODA between 2014 and 2015.
- **However ODA excluding refugee costs also rose:** When spending on refugees in donor countries is subtracted from the total, the remaining ODA also showed an increase of US\$2.2 billion or 1.7%.
- **The US reduced ODA disbursements significantly:** Total ODA from the US fell by US\$2.3 billion, a reduction of over 7% compared with 2014. Australia also continued its recent trend of cutting ODA, recording a real-terms decrease for the 3rd straight year – Australian ODA is now almost US\$900 million below its 2012 peak.
- **Six DAC donors now meet 0.7% (up from five in 2014):** Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg and the UK all maintained ODA above the UN 0.7% of gross national

<sup>1</sup> All US\$ figures in this note are 2014 constant prices.  
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income (GNI) target. The Netherlands increased its ODA to above 0.7% of GNI for the first time since 2012, partly due to increased spending on hosting refugees.

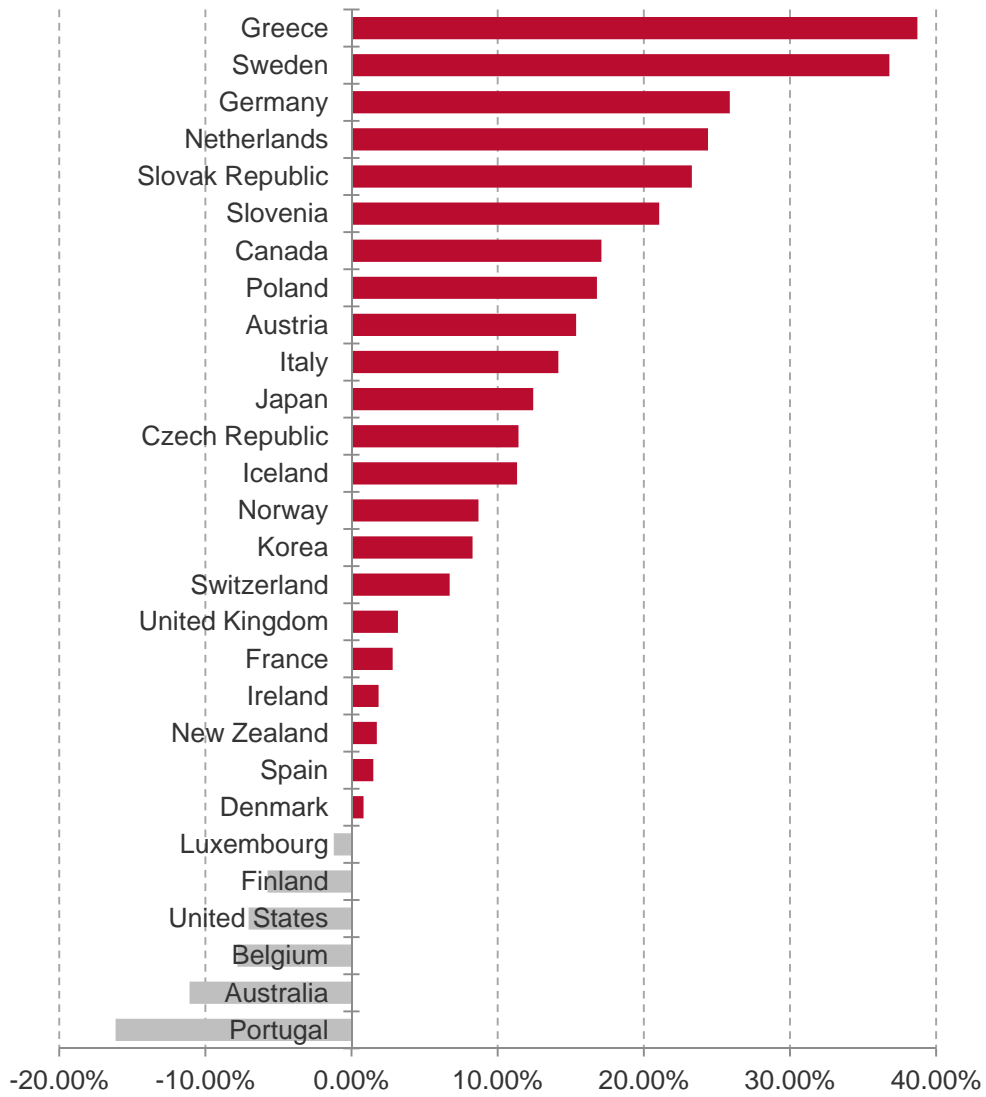
- **Most donors reported increased ODA as a proportion of GNI:** 17 donors reported an improvement in this measure. Again some, though not all, of these increases are due to increased spending on hosting refugees.
- **After falling in 2014, ODA to LDCs rose in 2015:** However ODA to LDCs is still significantly below its 2011 peak and just seven donors met the target of giving at least 0.15% of GNI as ODA to LDCs.<sup>2</sup>
- **Loans again increased, but the rate of increase in bilateral lending was slower than previous years:** New gross bilateral lending from DAC-28 donors rose 4% between 2014 and 2015. Lending from France actually fell by 5%, but Germany continued its recent trend of increased lending, disbursing US\$6.3 billion of loans in 2015 – 28% higher than in 2014.

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<sup>2</sup> Germany has yet to provide preliminary 2015 data on ODA to LDCs – for the purposes of this briefing, it has been assumed that Germany's ODA to these countries was approximately the same in 2015 as in 2014.

## Figure 1: Most donors increased ODA disbursements in 2015

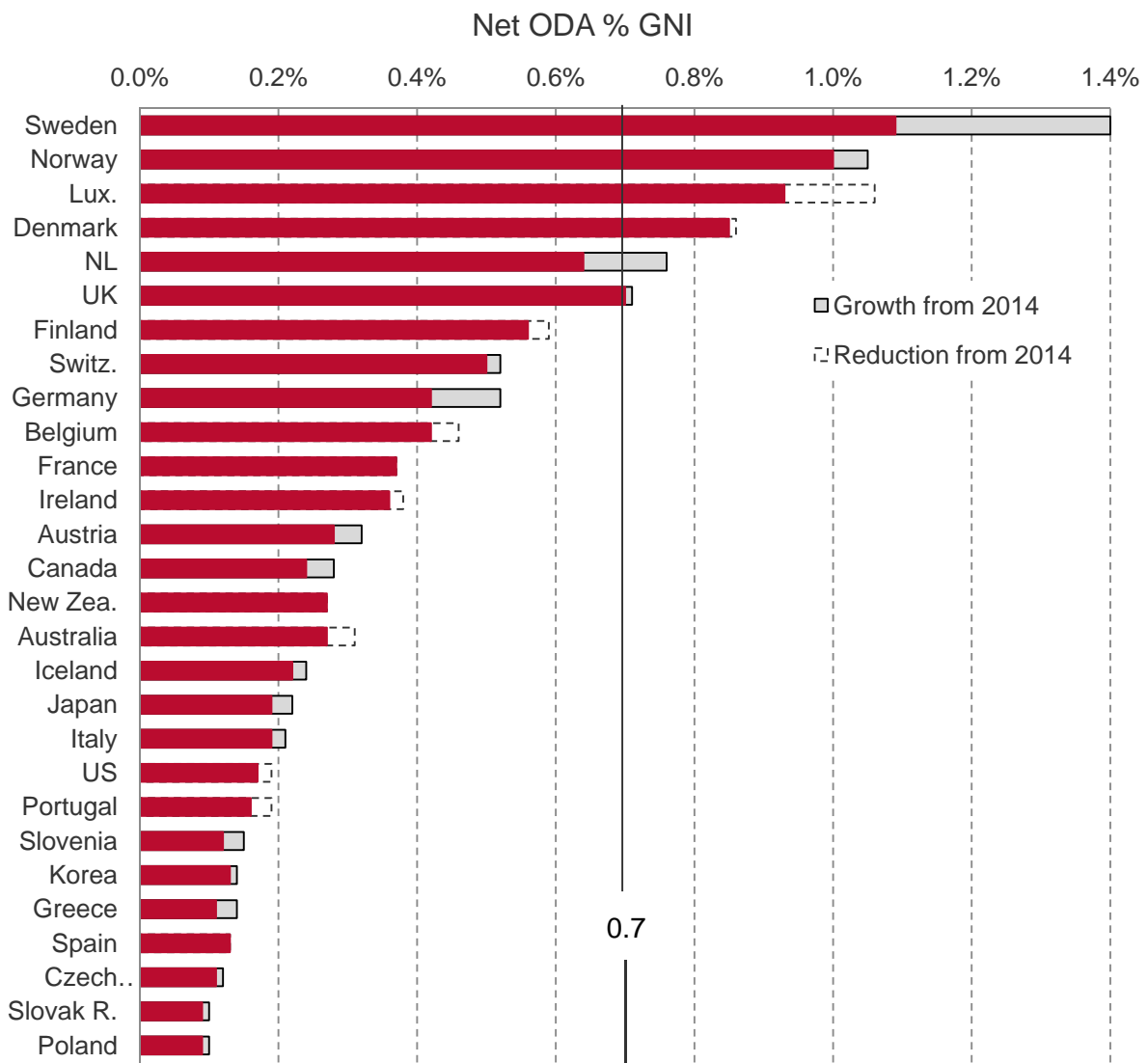
Proportional changes in DAC donors' ODA, 2014–2015 (constant US \$ 2014 prices)



Source: Development Initiatives, based on OECD DAC data

## Figure 2: Six donors reported ODA exceeding 0.7% of GNI in 2015

Changes in ODA/GNI proportion, 2014–2015



Source: Development Initiatives, based on OECD DAC data

**Table 1: Headline figures for 2015 preliminary ODA data, by DAC country donor**

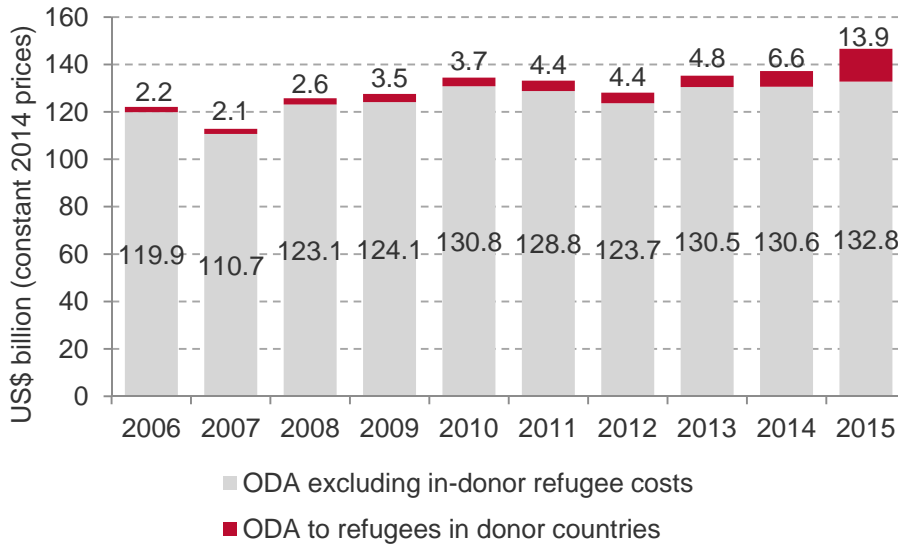
	Net ODA* (US\$ constant 2014 prices)				Net ODA as % of GNI		
	2014	2015	change (\$)	change (%)	2014	2015	change (% points)
<b>Australia</b>	4,382	3,897	-486	-11.09%	0.31%	0.27%	-0.04%
<b>Austria</b>	1,235	1,424	190	15.37%	0.28%	0.32%	0.04%
<b>Belgium</b>	2,448	2,257	-191	-7.81%	0.46%	0.42%	-0.04%
<b>Canada</b>	4,240	4,965	725	17.11%	0.24%	0.28%	0.04%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	212	236	24	11.43%	0.11%	0.12%	0.01%
<b>Denmark</b>	3,003	3,028	25	0.82%	0.86%	0.85%	-0.01%
<b>Finland</b>	1,635	1,541	-94	-5.75%	0.59%	0.56%	-0.03%
<b>France</b>	10,620	10,919	299	2.81%	0.37%	0.37%	0.00%
<b>Germany</b>	16,566	20,855	4,289	25.89%	0.42%	0.52%	0.10%
<b>Greece</b>	247	343	96	38.73%	0.11%	0.14%	0.03%
<b>Iceland</b>	37	42	4	11.33%	0.22%	0.24%	0.02%
<b>Ireland</b>	816	831	15	1.85%	0.38%	0.36%	-0.02%
<b>Italy</b>	4,009	4,577	567	14.15%	0.19%	0.21%	0.02%
<b>Japan</b>	9,266	10,418	1,152	12.43%	0.19%	0.22%	0.03%
<b>Korea</b>	1,857	2,011	154	8.28%	0.13%	0.14%	0.01%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	423	418	-5	-1.22%	1.06%	0.93%	-0.13%
<b>Netherlands</b>	5,573	6,932	1,359	24.39%	0.64%	0.76%	0.12%
<b>New Zealand</b>	506	515	9	1.73%	0.27%	0.27%	0.00%
<b>Norway</b>	5,086	5,528	442	8.68%	1.00%	1.05%	0.05%
<b>Poland</b>	452	528	76	16.80%	0.09%	0.10%	0.01%
<b>Portugal</b>	430	361	-69	-16.14%	0.19%	0.16%	-0.03%
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	83	103	19	23.29%	0.09%	0.10%	0.01%
<b>Slovenia</b>	62	75	13	21.06%	0.12%	0.15%	0.03%
<b>Spain</b>	1,877	1,905	28	1.50%	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%
<b>Sweden</b>	6,233	8,527	2,294	36.80%	1.09%	1.40%	0.31%
<b>Switzerland</b>	3,522	3,758	237	6.72%	0.50%	0.52%	0.02%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	19,306	19,920	614	3.18%	0.70%	0.71%	0.01%
<b>United States</b>	33,096	30,765	-2,331	-7.04%	0.19%	0.17%	-0.02%
<b>TOTAL DAC-28</b>	<b>137,222</b>	<b>146,676</b>	<b>9,454</b>	<b>6.89%</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Source: Development Initiatives, based on OECD DAC data

Note: \*Including multilateral ODA

### Figure 3: Spending on the hosting of refugees doubled, but other forms of ODA rose as well

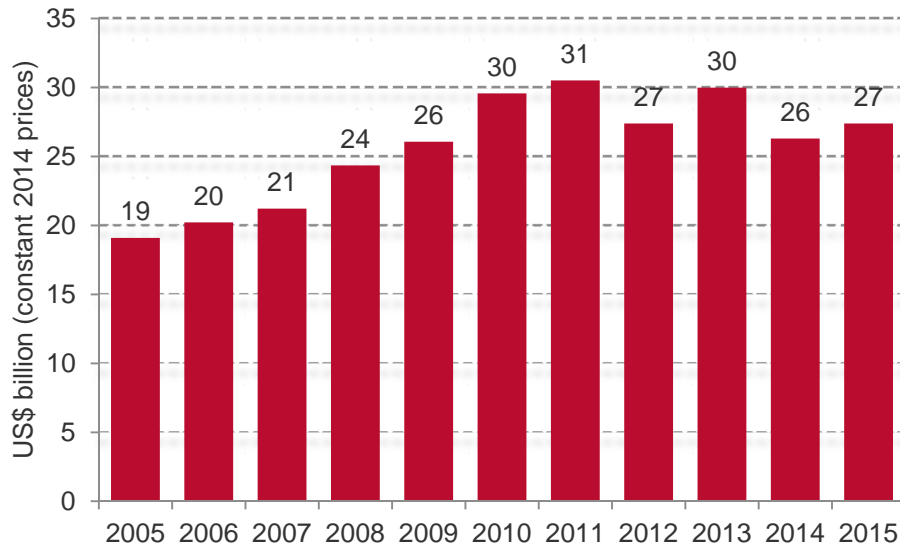
Total ODA 2006–2015, showing amount spent on refugees in donor countries



Source: Development Initiatives, based on OECD DAC data

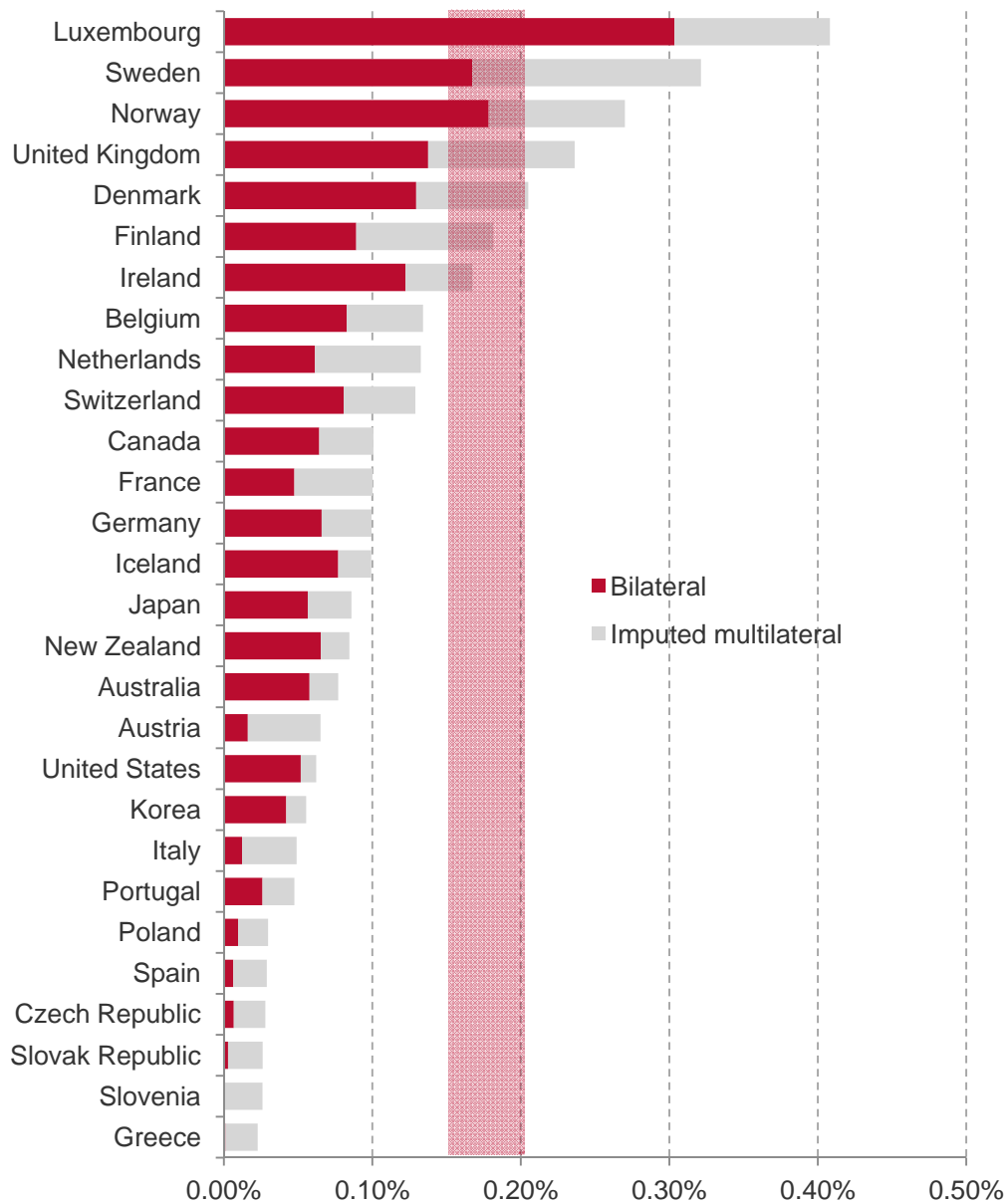
## Figure 4: ODA to LDCs rose slightly, but is still below the 2010 level

Bilateral ODA from DAC donors to LDCs 2005–2015



Source: Development Initiatives, based on OECD DAC data

**Figure 5: Only 7 donors gave more than 0.15% of GNI as ODA to LDCs**



*Source:* Development Initiatives, based on OECD DAC data

*Note:* Germany has yet to provide preliminary 2015 data on ODA to LDCs – for the purposes of this briefing, it has been assumed that Germany’s ODA to these countries was approximately the same in 2015 as in 2014



**Table 2: Loans continue to grow, but the proportion of ODA given as bilateral loans stayed the same in 2015**

<b>Gross bilateral lending by DAC donors 2014–2015</b>						
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Total Gross loans / equity investments</b>				<b>Loans / equity as proportion of total gross ODA (%)</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>change (\$)</b>	<b>change (%)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Australia	21	6	-15	-73%	0%	0%
Austria	12	10	-2	-17%	1%	1%
Belgium	5	26	22	451%	0%	1%
Canada	181	181	0	0%	4%	4%
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Denmark	45	68	23	51%	1%	2%
Finland	47	62	16	33%	3%	4%
France	3703	3529	-174	-5%	30%	27%
Germany	4963	6335	1372	28%	26%	27%
Greece	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Iceland	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Ireland	6	0	-6	-100%	1%	0%
Italy	47	117	70	148%	1%	3%
Japan	7373	7805	431	6%	47%	46%
Korea	593	676	83	14%	31%	32%
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Netherlands	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
New Zealand	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Norway	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Poland	38	49	11	30%	8%	9%
Portugal	156	83	-73	-47%	33%	20%
Slovak Republic	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Slovenia	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Spain	27	11	-16	-60%	1%	1%
Sweden	58	0	-58	-100%	1%	0%
Switzerland	87	66	-21	-24%	2%	2%
United Kingdom	978	78	-900	-92%	5%	0%
United States	0	16	16	100%	0%	0%
<b>DAC-28 TOTAL</b>	<b>18340</b>	<b>19119</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>

Source: OECD, DAC 2015 provisional data release, ADV spreadsheet, 13 April 2016

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