

European Commission

AID PRIORITIES

Within the European Commission, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is in charge of development cooperation policy in a wider framework of international cooperation, adapting to the evolving needs of partner countries. This encompasses cooperation with developing countries at different stages of development, including with countries that have graduated from bilateral development assistance to cover the specific needs of these countries during the transition period between low-income countries and upper-middle income countries. DG DEVCO is responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in development policy, including the new European Consensus for Development.

DG DEVCO concentrates funds to countries most in need, in line with the particular importance the European Union (EU) recognizes for supporting development in sub-Saharan Africa. DG DEVCO focuses on a limited number of sectors to deliver better results and higher impact. It has also developed a results framework to improve its reporting on results.

DG DEVCO implements cooperation policy in a devolved way mainly through EU Delegations. For this purpose, it defines, establishes and runs the management, supervision, support and control systems required to ensure the highest levels of regularity, quality, impact and visibility of the programmes implemented.

WASH PROGRAMME TARGETS/OUTCOMES

Country specific targets are defined individually in respective country programmes – for which monitoring is decentralized – and also in project proposals submitted to the Commission by international financial institutions (IFIs) for grant support through EU blending facilities.

Over the last decade, the EU has actively promoted universal access to drinking-water and sanitation as an important element of its development cooperation spending more than 2.5 billion euros on water and sanitation in 62 countries, mainly in Africa, the Caribbean, and Pacific. Furthermore, in the period 2007–2015, the EU regional blending facilities financed 44 water supply and sanitation projects with 469 million euros that triggered almost 4 billion euros in loans.

WASH STRATEGY/ACTIVITIES

The EU is actively engaged in supporting the achievement of SDG 6 around the world, in line with the EU Consensus on Development, which states that “Universal access to safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene is a prerequisite for health and well-being, growth and productivity” and affirms that the EU and its Member States will support the poorest communities in improving access for all to water and sanitation.

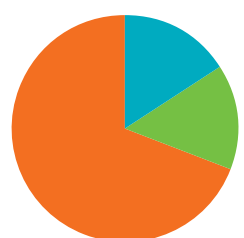
The Conclusions of the EU Council on Water Diplomacy of November 2018 also called EU Institutions and its Member States “to give the necessary consideration to the importance of water and sanitation in the programming of future financial and technical cooperation with partner countries”.

In June 2019, the EU Council also adopted new conclusions approving EU human rights guidelines on safe drinking-water and sanitation. This represents one of steps that the EU is taking to achieve SDG 6, as well as its commitment to the human rights defenders fighting for these rights. Building on existing norms, these guidelines give instructions and guidance on how to use the available EU foreign policy tools, including development cooperation, to promote and protect the human rights to safe drinking-water and sanitation.

The general objectives of the EU action on WASH are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and SDG 6 targets, but the specific priorities are based on country strategies. In the programming period 2014–2020, water and sanitation is a focal sector in the development cooperation with 13 partner countries and certain regional programmes for a total budget of almost 800 million euros. Water and sanitation is also being mainstreamed in other focal sectors such as health and rural development.

WASH AID PRIORITIES: DISTRIBUTION OF AID DISBURSEMENTS

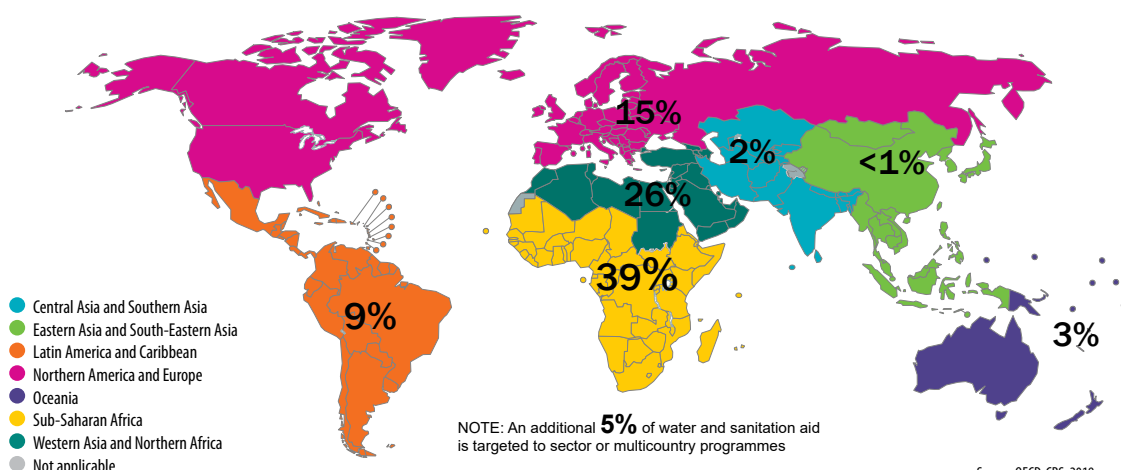
By activity type in 2017



● Sanitation (16%)
● Drinking-water (15%)
● Sanitation and drinking-water (69%)

Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

By region in 2017

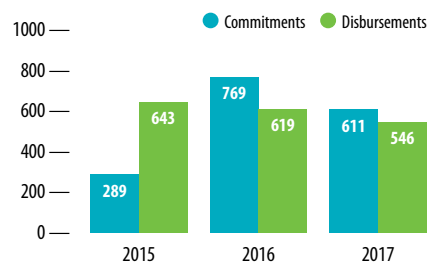


NOTE: An additional 5% of water and sanitation aid is targeted to sector or multicountry programmes

Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

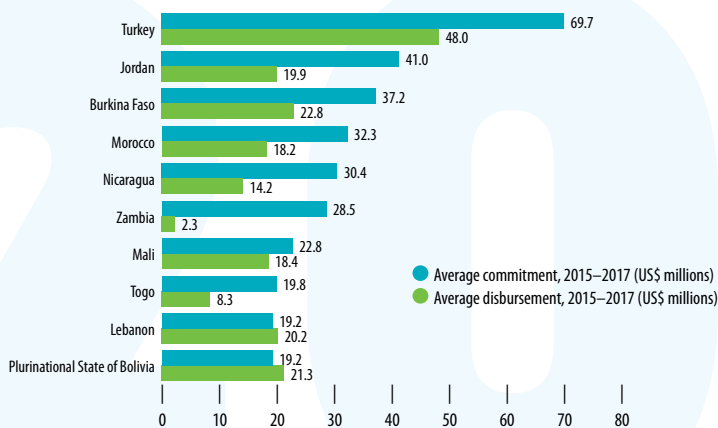
WASH AID COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

constant 2017 US\$ millions



Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

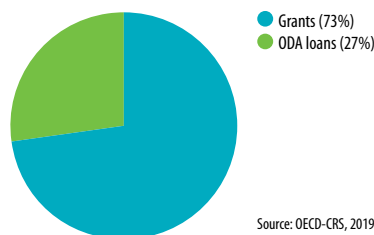
TOP TEN AID RECIPIENTS (2015–2017)



Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

WASH SECTOR AID FLOW TYPES

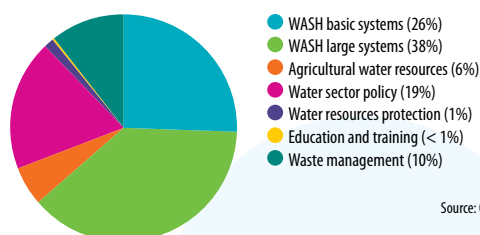
Percentage of aid in the form of grants and ODA loans



Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

FUNDING ACTIVITIES

A breakdown of ODA disbursements for 2017 is provided below:



Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

LEVERAGING OF AID

The EU was able to leverage funding for water and sanitation through its blending instruments. The principle of the mechanism is to combine EU grants with loans or equity from public and private financiers. The EU grant element can be used in a strategic way to attract additional financing for important investments in EU partner countries by reducing exposure to risk. On a case-by-case basis, the EU grant contribution can take different forms to support investment projects:

- Investment grant and interest rate subsidy – reducing the initial investment and overall project cost for the partner country;
- Technical assistance – ensuring the quality, efficiency and sustainability of the project;
- Risk capital (equity & quasi-equity) – attracting additional financing; and
- Guarantees – unlocking financing for development (especially from private sector) by reducing risk.

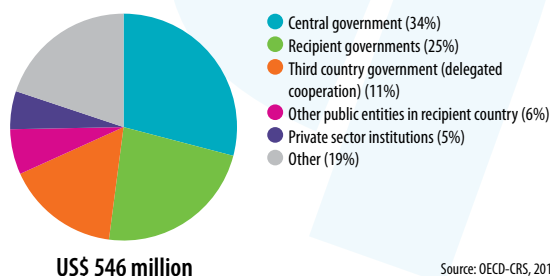
LESSONS/IMPACTS

The following European Commission approaches have been successful:

- the evolution from a project approach to Sector Policy Support Programmes; and
- funds mobilized from IFIs and private sector for water and sanitation projects thanks to the leverage of EU grants through blending instruments.

FUNDING CHANNELS

A breakdown of funding channels for 2017 aid disbursements is provided below:



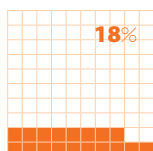
US\$ 546 million

Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

COLLABORATIVE BEHAVIOURS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes

Proportion of water and sanitation ODA allocated to water and sanitation policy and administration and education and training (%)



The median for all donors is 9%.

Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

Strengthen and use country systems

Percentage of WASH ODA spending using country procurement systems (%)

Data not available

Use one information and mutual accountability platform

Active participation in mutual assessment exercises/reviews (% of countries)

Data not available

Build sustainable WASH sector financing strategies

Percentage of WASH funding published/information shared with Ministry of Finance (%)

Data not available

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The new programming period for EU action will cover the period 2021–2027. The priority countries as well as the type of approaches will be set following the discussion with partner countries that will take place in the course of the next years.

Developed and coordinated by the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH) Unit of the World Health Organization (WHO). Results contained in the ESA Highlights have been compiled by the ESA and GLAAS using data from the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) Creditor Reporting System (CRS), estimates and text provided in the responses to the GLAAS 2018/2019 ESA survey.

WHO/CED/PHS/WSH/19.11

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http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas/en/

Veronica Girardi
Policy Officer - Water Sector
DEVCO C.2 - Environment, Natural
Resources, Water
European Commission
41 Rue de la Loi, 1040
Brussels, Belgium

http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

✉ Veronica.GIRARDI@ec.europa.eu
☎ +32 2 29 50 567