

# Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

## AID PRIORITIES

Development policy is an integral part of Finland's human rights-based and value-based foreign and security policy. Finland does not have a separate aid agency; official development assistance (ODA) structures are integral to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA). The main goal of Finland's development policy and development cooperation is to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities. International cooperation and Finland's actions are grounded in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Humanitarian assistance is intended to save lives during and immediately after crises, to alleviate suffering and human distress while respecting human dignity.

Finland takes a long-term perspective on development cooperation, focusing on the following four priorities that are built on its values and strengths: 1. Strengthening the status and rights of women and girls, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights; 2. Strengthening the economic base of developing countries and creating jobs, with an emphasis on innovations and the role of women in the economy and female entrepreneurship; 3. Education, well-functioning societies and democracy, with an emphasis on high-quality education, improved tax systems and support for democracy and the rule of law; and 4. Climate change and natural resources, with an emphasis on strengthening adaptation alongside mitigation of climate change, food security and water, meteorology and disaster risk prevention, forests and safeguarding biodiversity. All actions take into account Finland's cross-cutting objectives, which are gender equality, non-discrimination, the position of people with disabilities, climate resilience and low emission development.

## WASH PROGRAMME TARGETS/ OUTCOMES

Excellent results have been achieved through the water sector programmes supported by Finland. Under the cooperation programmes, nearly 2.5 million people were covered with water supply service between 2014 and 2017. As a result of the support provided under the programmes, almost six million people gained access to sanitation. About 660 000 school children benefited from water, sanitation and hygiene in schools. Through water sector development cooperation, Finland promotes equality and long-term planning of water supply. At the same time, the commercial opportunities of the water sector are enhanced. In the construction of latrines, Finland encourages active participation of households and communities to ensure sustainability.

## WASH STRATEGY/ACTIVITIES

Finland's strategy for water is outlined in Finland's International Water Strategy - Finnish Water Way. As a joint strategy prepared by five ministries, the strategy represents Finland's multi-stakeholder approach to sustainable water management, emphasizing cross-sectoral collaboration on water issues between ministries, research institutes and civil society. The strategy recognizes water as a critical element for sustainable development and reiterates Finland's commitment to achieving the water-related global goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The vision of the strategy is a water secure world by 2030. At the core of the strategy are three pillars: Water for Sustainable Development, Water for People, and Water for Peace.

Finland is a major contributor in water sector cooperation in its long-term partner countries, influencing policies and implementing development cooperation programmes in the sector. Finland has particularly focused on the provision of water supply and sanitation in rural areas in cooperation with local communities in Ethiopia, Kenya and Nepal.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Strategy

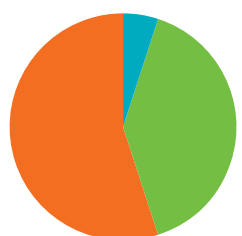
Finnish Water Way - International Water Strategy Finland  
<https://um.fi/intl-water-strategy-finland>

#### TIME PERIOD

2018–2030

## WASH AID PRIORITIES: DISTRIBUTION OF AID DISBURSEMENTS

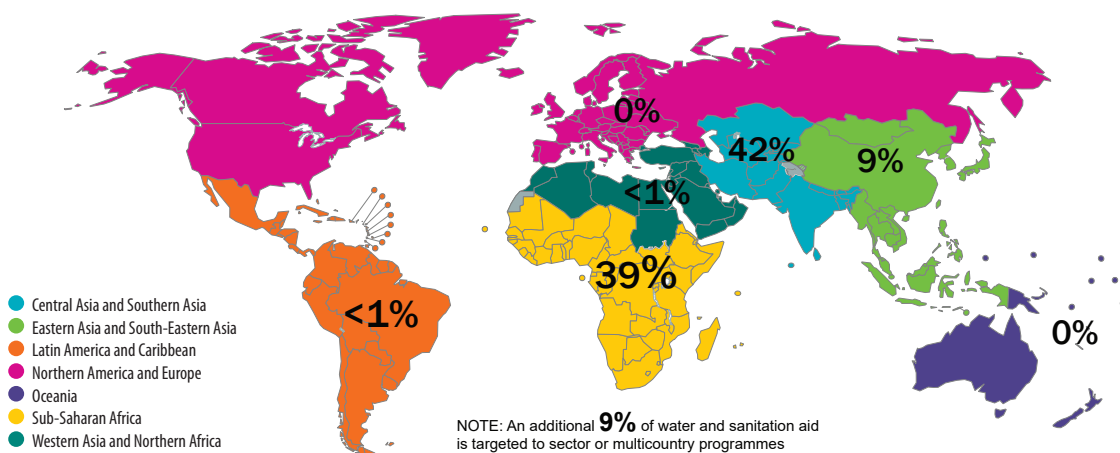
By activity type in 2017



● Sanitation (5%)  
● Drinking-water (40%)  
● Sanitation and drinking-water (55%)

Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

By region in 2017

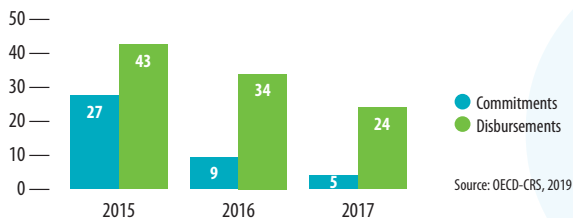


NOTE: An additional 9% of water and sanitation aid is targeted to sector or multicountry programmes

Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

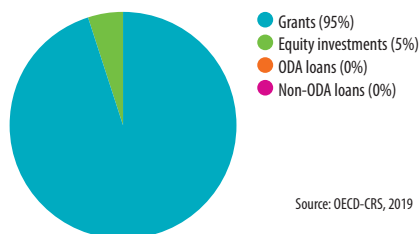
## WASH AID COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Constant 2017 US\$ millions



## WASH SECTOR AID FLOW TYPES

Percentage of aid in the form of grants, equity investments, ODA and non-ODA loans



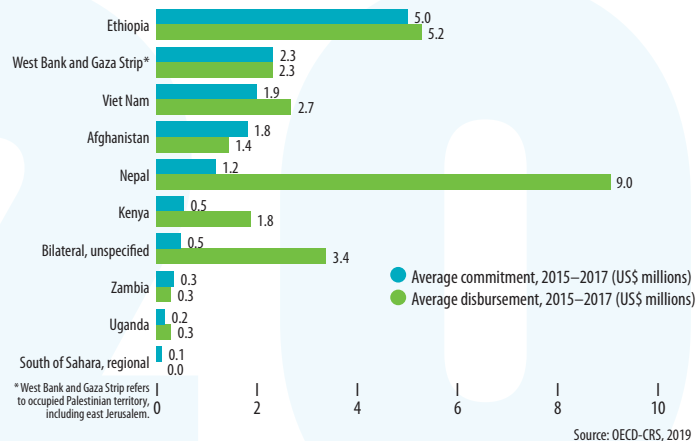
## LESSONS/IMPACTS

As an example, the water management and sanitation programme jointly funded by Ethiopia and Finland adopted a new modality in 2003. Funding was channeled via professional microfinance institutions directly to village communities instead of public administration. Professional microfinance institutions acted as brokers in the process. When the responsibility for the construction of the water points was transferred to village communities, community ownership was strengthened, water points could be constructed as much as five times faster, and the quality and durability of the structures improved. This modality has become more common over the years and it now covers nearly ten per cent of all water management in Ethiopia. As a result of the reforms, annually 300 000 to 400 000 new beneficiaries in the rural areas of Ethiopia get access to clean water. The Ethiopian Government now pays between 60 and 70 per cent of the total programme budget, which shows that it is strongly committed to the scheme.

## LEVERAGING OF AID

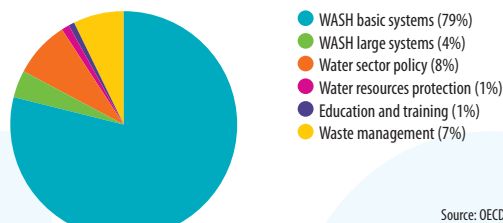
Ethiopian federal states have invested heavily their own budgets in five regional states for community managed projects. Ownership of village communities ensures results in Ethiopia.

## TOP TEN AID RECIPIENTS (2015–2017)



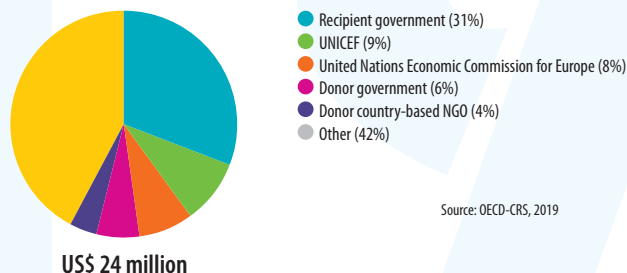
## FUNDING ACTIVITIES

A breakdown of ODA disbursements for 2017 is provided below:



## FUNDING CHANNELS

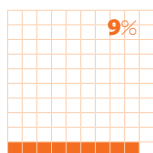
A breakdown of funding channels for 2017 aid disbursements is provided below:



## 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 (%)



Source: OECD-CRS, 2019

### Strengthen and use country systems

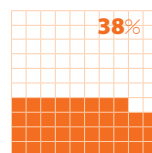
Percentage of WASH ODA spending using country procurement systems (%)

Data not available

Source: GLAAS 2018/2019 ESA Survey

### Use one information and mutual accountability platform

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



Three (Nepal, Ethiopia, and Kenya) out of eight countries with an average disbursement of US\$ 1 million annually from 2015–2017.

Source: GLAAS 2018/2019 ESA Survey

### Build sustainable WASH sector financing strategies

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

Reports on WASH assistance or spending are not consistently shared with ministries of finance and other institutions.

## FUTURE OUTLOOK

Parliamentary elections took place in March 2019; the expectation is that the ODA funding is to increase during the coming government period.

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.

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