



ANNEX 7: Review of OECD-DAC Data on 2017–2021 CSO Commitments

1. **Background.** The OECD-DAC Commitment Reporting System contains self-reported ODA data from all major donors. Various attributes are reported for each individual transaction¹ including the donor, the recipient country,² the sectoral use of the funds, the delivery “channel,” the type of aid, etc.³ Commitments from the last five years (2017–2021) for which complete CRS data was available was analyzed.⁴

A. Overview

2. **During the 2017–2021 period, NGOs and CSOs implemented 10% of all ODA; within that, country-based NGOs and civil society implemented around 13% (or 1.4% of all ODA).** Funding to country-based NGOs and CSOs was primarily for project interventions; only 10% of the support they received (0.1% of all ODA) was for nonproject interventions. Moreover, a detailed review of these nonproject interventions revealed that they included project-specific deliverables, suggesting that the non earmarked funds available for core expenses and capacity building were extremely limited.

¹ Transactions can range from individual projects to project components to specific activities.

² Where ODA is provided beyond the country level, it is recorded for a subregion, region, or globally.

³ For a comprehensive set of definitions and codes for all reporting elements, see: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dacandcrscodlists.htm>.

⁴ As of mid-November 2023, 2022 CRS transaction data was less than fully complete as compared with the aggregate data (in the DAC reporting system).

TABLE 1: ODA and the Role of Developing Country-Based NGOs and Civil Society 2017–2021 Commitments (USD million, current prices)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total	
	USD m	USD m	USD m	USD m	USD m	USD m	%
All ODA	196,325	205,243	204,089	247,252	246,447	1,099,355	
ODA: All NGOs and CSOs as channel	20,304	20,703	21,993	23,968	24,361	111,329	10
ODA implemented by developing country-based NGOs and civil society	3,346	2,877	2,786	3,353	2,598	14,960	1
ODA: Nonproject interventions implemented by developing country-based NGOs and civil society	195	405	333	272	282	1,485	0.1

B. Implementation by NGOs and CSOs

3. Similar to overall ODA funding, funding for NGOs and CSOs was heavily concentrated with the ten largest donors providing 85% of funding over the last five years.

TABLE 2: Donor Funding of ODA to All NGOs and CSOs 2017–2021 Commitments (USD million, current prices)

Donor	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Canada	635	798	1,590	760	1,502
France	NA	NA	NA	716	782
Germany	1,603	1,652	1,969	2,104	2,598
Netherlands	683	683	883	1,754	707
Norway	875	683	893	1,229	1,172
Spain	513	753	NA	NA	627
Sweden	929	1,347	763	NA	1,029
Switzerland	1,009	1,058	727	1,298	981
United Kingdom	1,331	NA	1,533	915	na
USA	7,086	7,201	6,937	7,864	8,516
EU Institutions	2,969	2,239	2,403	2,524	2,668
Global Fund	NA	662	730	1,165	NA
Subtotal 10 Largest Donors	17,632	17,416	18,427	20,328	20,583
Total	20,304	20,703	21,993	23,968	24,361

Note: NA = Donor not among ten largest donors during the year

4. As expected, the majority of ODA (81%) implemented by NGOs and CSOs was in the social sectors and humanitarian aid.

TABLE 3: Sector Composition of ODA Implemented by All NGOs and CSOs 2017–2021 Commitments (USD million, current prices)

Sector	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average %
	USD m	USD m	USD m	USD m	USD m	2017–2021
Social Infrastructure and Services	9,347	10,083	10,981	12,861	11,930	49%
Humanitarian and Food Assistance	6,979	6,291	6,975	7,236	7,765	32%
Economic Infrastructure and Services	399	498	510	508	659	2%
Production	1,130	1,360	1,287	1,417	1,398	6%
Multi-Sector and Other	1,133	1,167	1,326	1,269	1,542	6%
In-Donor Country and Admin Costs	544	552	609	389	699	3%
Unallocated/Unspecified	771	752	430	394	387	2%
Total	20,304	20,703	22,119	24,074	24,380	

5. Regional distribution of funds to CSOs and NGOs was heavily weighted toward Africa; this was consistent with but higher than the proportion of all ODA going to Africa by 6%. However, since around 20% of commitments were classified as multiregional and unspecified, the regional distribution of commitments needs to be treated with caution.

TABLE 4: Regional Distribution of ODA for All NGOs and CSOs % of 2017–2021 Commitments

Region	% CSOs and NGOs	Memo: % for ODA
Africa	42%	36%
Middle East	13%	10%
America, South America, and the Caribbean	8%	6%
Asia, including South and Central Asia	8%	16%
East Asia and Pacific	4%	7%
Europe	4%	5%
Multiregional and Unspecified	22%	20%
Total	100%	100%

6. A significant portion of ODA (75%) implemented by all NGOs and CSOs was for project type interventions. Only 20% was for core support to NGOs and contributions to specific-purpose programs and funds.

TABLE 5: Type of Aid for ODA Implemented by All NGOs and CSOs 2017–2021 Commitments (USD million, current prices)

Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average %
	USD m	USD m	USD m	USD m	USD m	2017–2021
Project type interventions	15,378	15,037	16,066	18,516	18,741	75%
Contributions to specific purpose program and funds	1,007	2,776	1,699	1,627	2,496	9%
Core support to NGOs	2,777	1,703	2,807	2,890	2,016	11%
Donor personnel, in-country, and other expenditures	876	947	1,170	750	841	4%
Other TA	222	178	294	286	233	1%
Unallocated and other	45	62	82	5	52	0%
Total	20,304	20,703	22,119	24,074	24,380	

C. Implementation by Developing Country-Based NGOs and Civil Society

7. **Similar to sovereign funding to all NGOs and CSOs**, the ten largest donors provided 82% of funding for developing country-based NGOs and civil society; by far the largest donors were the EU institutions, which provided 46% of funding.

TABLE 6: Donor Funding of ODA to Developing Country-Based NGOs and Civil Society 2017–2021 Commitments (USD million, current prices)

Donor	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Canada	31	56	59	72	89
France	na	na	na	48	82
Germany	18	28	24	31	32
Netherlands	132	64	79	134	84
Norway	54	64	63	114	87
Spain	13	30	na	na	21
Sweden	55	135	62	na	99
Switzerland	142	137	163	144	183
United Kingdom	168	na	236	214	na
USA	3	-	-	-	614
EU Institutions	2,092	1,506	1,298	1,378	675
Global Fund	na	375	360	719	na
Subtotal Top 10	2,707	2,408	2,345	2,855	1,964
Total	3,346	2,877	2,786	3,353	2,598

Note: NA = Donor not among ten largest donors during the year

8. Implementation by developing country-based NGOs was also heavily concentrated in social infrastructure and services and humanitarian assistance; at 89% of all commitments, it was even higher than that for all NGOs and CSOs.

Table 7: Sector Composition of ODA to Developing Country-Based NGOs and Civil Society 2017–2021 Commitments (USD million, current prices)

Sector	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average %
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017–2021
Social Infrastructure and Services	1,575	1,632	1,609	1,841	1,961	58%
Humanitarian and Food Assistance	1,529	1,012	863	1,112	128	31%
Economic Infrastructure and Services	19	28	49	98	75	2%
Production	163	123	165	130	132	5%
Multi-Sector and Other	54	66	84	154	274	4%
In-Donor Country and Admin Costs	0	0	0	0	1	0%
Unallocated/Unspecified	6	16	16	17	27	1%
Total	3,346	2,877	2,786	3,353	2,598	

9. Regional distribution of commitments. The regional distribution of commitments to developing country-based CSOs and NGOs did not differ significantly from those to all CSOs and NGOs.

Table 8: Regional Distribution of ODA Funding for Developing Country-Based NGOs and CSOs % of 2017–2021 Commitments

Region	% Developing Country CSOs and NGOs	Memo: % All CSOs and NGOs
Africa	44%	42%
Middle East	13%	13%
America, South America, and the Caribbean	7%	8%
Asia, including South and Central Asia	10%	8%
East Asia and Pacific	5%	4%
Europe	7%	4%
Multiregional and Unspecified	14%	22%

Total	100%	100%
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10. **Commitments to developing country-based NGOs and civil society for project type interventions stood at 90%—higher by 15% than those for all CSOs.** Contributions for specific-purpose programs and core contributions stood at only 7% (compared to 20% overall).

Table 9: Type of Aid for Developing Country-Based NGOs and Civil Society 2017–2021 Commitments (USD million, current prices)

Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average %
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017–2021
Project type interventions	3,152	2,472	2,454	3,081	2,316	90%
Contributions to specific purpose program and funds	1	302	175	50	55	4%
Core support to NGOs	137	27	41	146	138	3%
Donor personnel, in-country, and other expenditures	2	25	19	7	4	0%
Other TA	37	16	42	66	33	1%
Unallocated and other	17	34	55	3	51	1%
Total	3,346	2,877	2,786	3,353	2,598	

D. Unearmarked Funds Available to Developing Country-Based CSOs and NGOs

11. **Developing country-based NGOs and CSOs have limited access to funds that they can deploy based on their own priorities.** The category of core support, which is where such funds would be recorded, was analyzed in greater depth.⁵ Over the five-year period, USD 897.3 million was committed for core support through 3,579 transactions for an average value of \$0.25 million per transaction. Six donors accounted for over 90% of the value of commitments as well as the number of transactions. The specifics are as follows:
- The largest donor, Italy, accounted for 56% of the commitments provided through 2,900 transactions (81% of transactions), resulting in an average unit value of \$0.17 million. However, at least half the transactions (based on detailed project descriptions) included funding for the construction of physical infrastructure (e.g., construction of school and college classrooms, digging of wells, etc.) or equipment purchase (particularly medical equipment). Hence, funds available for other uses—particularly for capacity building—were likely to be limited.
 - Five other donors (Sweden, Australia, Switzerland, the UK, and Norway) accounted for another 36% of the commitments provided through 365 transactions (10% of transac-

⁵ Core support is defined in CRS as “funds paid over to NGOs (local, national and international) for use at the latter’s discretion, and contribute to programmes and activities which NGOs have developed themselves, and which they implement on their own authority and responsibility.”

tions) with an average value of \$0.88 million. As several NGOs received support more than once (for example, each year of support for the same NGO was shown as separate transactions), the actual number of NGOs supported was likely much lower than 365, which is a modest number to begin with. For example, in 2021, Sweden provided \$31 million through 26 transactions distributed by country and regionally (including \$12 million to three NGOs and \$10 million to several Zimbabwe CSOs).

- 12. Data Limitations.** It should be noted that there may be errors of omission (i.e., projects supporting developing country-based NGOs and CSOs may be classified under the broader category). For example, under the projects classified as being implemented by international NGOs, there is a large European Union commitment (\$199 million) for a project titled “Support for Civil Society in Partner Countries—Developing Country NGOs.” This funding appears to be associated with three EU calls for proposal in December 2022 for strengthening global civil society organization umbrella organizations (€56 million), thematic framework partnerships for human rights (€31 million), and EU system for an enabling environment for civil society (€50 million).⁶

⁶ Directorate-General for International Partnerships, “[Civil Society: European Commission Announces New Funding Opportunities](#)” (European Commission, 2022).

