

Monitoring climate change-related aid flows DAC - CRS Aid Activity database

CRS data are the unique source for official, standard and comparable statistics on ODA

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) collects aid flows at activity level through the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). The data collection is based on a standard methodology and agreed definitions. Data can be used to analyse trends and compare the efforts of donors.

Data are collected through a network of correspondents in donors' headquarters

CRS data come from donors, including the 22 member countries of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the European Commission and other international organisations.

The data are part of DAC members' official statistical reporting to the OECD. (Non-DAC donors' reporting takes place on a voluntary basis.) A network of statistical correspondents collects data from aid agencies and government departments (central, state and local) on an ongoing basis. Their task is also to ensure that reporting conforms to the Directives (definitions and classifications) agreed by the DAC.

The DAC Secretariat is responsible for data processing, quality control and dissemination. It responds to any questions about the data and can also give users advice on data analysis.

The data collection covers both commitments and disbursements on a calendar year basis (see example below)

For most types of financial flows, the CRS database records the face value of the activity at the date a grant or loan agreement is signed with the recipient ("commitments"). Data on the amounts disbursed each year are available at the activity level also ("disbursements"). Aid flows are measured on a calendar year basis.

CRS data for 2006 flows will be complete by end 2007

The recommendation is for a quarterly reporting of commitments, but in practice most donors report on an annual basis from June to November. The issue of timeliness is regularly discussed within the DAC Working Party on Statistics, and ways for improving are under study.

A clear agreed methodology avoids duplication of reporting

Bilateral aid and multilateral aid are defined so as to avoid the reporting of the same activity by both a bilateral donor and a multilateral donor. **Bilateral ODA** refers to activities undertaken by bilateral donors directly with an aid recipient or with national and international non-governmental organisations active in development. Projects executed by multilateral institutions or non-governmental organisations on behalf of bilateral donors are also classified as bilateral aid (since it is the donor country that effectively controls the use of the funds.).

Aid activities financed from the multilateral institutions' regular budgets are referred to as "**multilateral outflows**". The CRS database includes those of the World Bank, the regional development banks and some UN agencies.

"Sectors" versus "markers"

Each CRS aid activity is assigned a unique **sector code** (education, health, water, agriculture, industry, etc.) and is screened against several policy objectives that have a cross-sectoral nature. Currently, the CRS collects information on 6 policy objectives: gender equality, environment, participatory development/good governance, biodiversity, climate change and desertification. Each CRS aid activity gets a mark for these 6 policy objectives, that we refer to as "**policy markers**": 0 for "not targeted", 1 for "significant objective" and 2 for "principal objective".

Coverage issue

Not all members report on the climate change marker (and other markers), which complicates data analysis.

Examples of DAC/CRS statistics on climate change-related aid, 2005 commitments

Donor	Recipient	Climate change	Description	Sector	Amount USD million
Japan	Armenia	2	YEREVAN COMBINED CYCLE CO-GENERATION POWER PLANT PROJECT	Gas-fired power plants	145
United States	Brazil	1	NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS SUSTAINED	Biosphere protection	5
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