

SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.1)

0. Indicator information (SDG_INDICATOR_INFO)

0.a. Goal (SDG_GOAL)

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

0.b. Target (SDG_TARGET)

Target 4.b: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

0.c. Indicator (SDG_INDICATOR)

Indicator 4.b.1: Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships

0.d. Series (SDG_SERIES_DESCR)

DC_TOF_SCHIPSL - Total official flows for scholarships, by recipient countries [4.b.1]

0.e. Metadata update (META_LAST_UPDATE)

2025-12-12

0.f. Related indicators (SDG_RELATED_INDICATORS)

Other ODA indicators.

0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

(SDG_CUSTODIAN_AGENCIES)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1. Data reporter (CONTACT)

1.a. Organisation (CONTACT_ORGANISATION)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

2. Definition, concepts, and classifications (IND_DEF_CON_CLASS)

2.a. Definition and concepts (STAT_CONC_DEF)

Definition:

Gross disbursements of total official development assistance (ODA) from all donors for scholarships.

Recipient country: "Developing countries" refer to countries which are eligible to receive ODA as listed in the OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) List of ODA Recipients

(see <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/dac-list-of-oda-recipients.html>).

Hence this indicator is only applicable to recipient countries that are on the List.

Concepts:

ODA: Since 2018, the OECD/DAC defines ODA as those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which are:

1. provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and
2. each transaction of which:
 1. is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and
 - is concessional in character. In DAC statistics, this implies a grant element of at least 45 per cent in the case of bilateral loans to the official sector of LDCs and other LICs (*calculated at a rate of discount of 9 per cent*).
 - 15 per cent in the case of bilateral loans to the official sector of LMICs (*calculated at a rate of discount of 7 per cent*).
 - 10 per cent in the case of bilateral loans to the official sector of UMICs (*calculated at a rate of discount of 6 per cent*).
 - 10 per cent in the case of loans to multilateral institutions (*calculated at a rate of discount of 5 per cent for global institutions and multilateral development banks, and 6 per cent for other organisations, including sub-regional organisations*).

Loans whose terms are not consistent with the IMF Debt Limits Policy and/or the World Bank's Non-Concessional Borrowing Policy are not reportable as ODA.

See: <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/official-development-assistance--definition-and-coverage.html>.

Prior to 2018, ODA was defined as above but the grant element of an activity needed to be at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent).

Scholarships: Financial aid awards for individual students and contributions to trainees. The beneficiary students and trainees are nationals of developing countries. Financial aid awards include bilateral grants to students registered for systematic instruction in private or public institutions of higher education to follow full-time studies or training courses in the donor country. Estimated tuition costs of students attending schools financed by the donor but not receiving individual grants are not included here, but under item a specific item on imputed student costs (i.e. costs borne indirectly by the official sector in respect of tuition in the donor country of students from aid recipients). . Training costs relate to contributions for trainees from developing countries receiving mainly non-academic, practical or vocational training in the donor country.

2.b. Unit of measure (UNIT_MEASURE)

2.c. Classifications (CLASS_SYSTEM)

3. Data source type and data collection method (SRC_TYPE_COLL_METHOD)

3.a. Data sources (SOURCE_TYPE)

The OECD/DAC has been collecting data on official and private resource flows from 1960 at an aggregate level and 1973 at an activity level through the Creditor Reporting System (CRS data are considered complete from 1995 for commitments at an activity level and 2002 for disbursements).

Data for scholarships are only available since 2010 when the new typology of aid was introduced in DAC statistics.

The data are reported by donors according to the same standards and methodologies (see here: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC\(2024\)40/FINAL/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL/en/pdf)).

Data are reported on an annual calendar year basis by statistical reporters in national administrations (aid agencies, Ministries of Foreign Affairs or Finance, etc.

3.b. Data collection method (COLL_METHOD)

A statistical reporter is responsible for the collection of DAC statistics in each providing country/agency. This reporter is usually located in the national aid agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Finance etc.

3.c. Data collection calendar (FREQ_COLL)

Data are published on an annual basis in December for flows in the previous year.

3.d. Data release calendar (REL_CAL_POLICY)

Annual data release in December.

3.e. Data providers (DATA_SOURCE)

Data are reported on an annual calendar year basis by statistical reporters in national administrations (aid agencies, Ministries of Foreign Affairs or Finance, etc.

3.f. Data compilers (COMPILING_ORG)

OECD

3.g. Institutional mandate (INST_MANDATE)

4. Other methodological considerations (OTHER_METHOD)

4.a. Rationale (RATIONALE)

Total ODA flows to developing countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients quantify the public effort that donors provide to developing countries for scholarships.

4.b. Comment and limitations (REC_USE_LIM)

Data in the Creditor Reporting System are available from 1973. However, the data coverage is considered complete from 1995 for commitments at an activity level and 2002 for disbursements.

Data for scholarships are only available since 2010 when the new typology of aid was introduced in DAC statistics.

4.c. Method of computation (DATA_COMP)

From a recipient country's perspective: The sum of ODA flows from all donors (i.e. DAC donors, multilateral organisations and other bilateral providers of development cooperation) to developing countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients for scholarships.

4.d. Validation (DATA_VALIDATION)

4.e. Adjustments (ADJUSTMENT)

4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level (IMPUTATION)

- **At country level**
Due to high quality of reporting, no estimates are produced for missing data.
- **At regional and global levels**

Not applicable.

4.g. Regional aggregations (REG_AGG)

Global and regional figures are based on the sum of ODA flows for scholarships.

4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level (DOC_METHOD)

4.i. Quality management (QUALITY_MGMNT)

4.j. Quality assurance (QUALITY_ASSURE)

4.k. Quality assessment (QUALITY_ASSMNT)

5. Data availability and disaggregation (COVERAGE)

Data availability:

This indicator is only applicable on a recipient basis where recipient countries comprise all developing countries eligible for ODA on the DAC List of ODA Recipients. Countries that are not eligible for ODA are excluded from this indicator.

Time series:

Data are available from 2010.

Disaggregation:

This indicator can be disaggregated by donor, by recipient country on the DAC List of ODA Recipients, by type of finance, etc.

6. Comparability / deviation from international standards (COMPARABILITY)

Sources of discrepancies:

DAC statistics are standardized on a calendar year basis for all donors and may differ from fiscal year data available in budget documents for some countries.

7. References and Documentation (OTHER_DOC)

URL:

<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/oda-standards.html>

References:

See all links here:

<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/oda-standards.html>