

Twenty Largest Recipients of ODA for Water, 1990 to 2004

Description

The twenty largest recipients of “ODA for Water,” averaged from 1990 to 2004, are shown in this table. India and China received on average more than \$250 million per year (in US 2003 dollars), whereas Indonesia, Egypt, Turkey, and Vietnam also received at least \$100 million annually.

Overseas Development Assistance, or Official Development Assistance (ODA), is the term given to funding that flows to countries or to multilateral institutions for the purpose of providing aid to countries. This funding is provided by official agencies and governments for the purpose of promoting economic development and welfare, and is “concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 percent.” ODA can take several forms, including technical assistance, investment projects, debt forgiveness or rescheduling, equity investments, and other assistance.

The term “ODA for Water” in Tables 6, 7, and 8 encompasses official development assistance for a broad range of water-related projects, including water supply and sanitation, but excluding amounts committed for large water-related infrastructures. In fact, a relatively small (albeit hard to separate) amount of ODA is devoted to projects that will provide basic water supply and sanitation to populations not currently served, and hence targets of the Millennium Development Goals for water. One of the concerns of many analysts is that much ODA is directed to serving wealthier populations, or improving services to populations that are already at least partly served by existing systems. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) identifies seven headings in the “water supply and sanitation” category:

- Water resources policy and administrative management
- Water resources protection
- Water supply and sanitation: large systems
- Water supply and sanitation: small systems
- River development
- Waste management/disposal
- Education and training in water supply and sanitation

The data in this table exclude ODA for:

- Hydroelectric power plants
- Agricultural water resources
- Water transportation
- Flood prevention/control

Limitations

As might be expected, this table is dominated by the largest countries in terms of population, China and India, though both also have very serious water challenges. Other countries with serious water problems, however, do not appear on this list, especially countries in Africa, where water-related ODA contributions have historically been far below the levels needed to address problems there.

ODA does not constitute all the funding that flows to developing countries, such as other public sector or private sector flows, hence these numbers do not reflect all funding for water projects. ODA levels vary substantially from year to year, depending on politics, funding priorities, and economic health of donor countries.

Sources

Clermont, F. 2006. Official Development Assistance for water from 1990 to 2004. Figures and trends. World Water Council. Marseilles, France.

OECD. 2002. *Creditor reporting system reporting directives*. July 30. Paris, France.

OECD Database. 2006. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline>.

DATA TABLE 7 Twenty Largest Recipients of ODA for Water, 1990-2004

Country	Population in 2004 (thousands)	ODA for Water Annual Average 1990-2004 (millions of US\$)	Average ODA for Water (\$/capita/yr)
India	1,064,399	257.11	0.24
China	1,288,400	251.06	0.19
Egypt	67,560	167.99	2.49
Vietnam	81,315	150.34	1.85
Indonesia	214,675	103.79	0.48
Turkey	70,712	101.68	1.44
Morocco	30,113	82.71	2.75
Palestinian administration areas	3,367	71.47	21.23
Philippines	81,503	69.39	0.85
Jordan	5,308	65.95	12.42
Bangladesh	138,067	64.78	0.47
Ghana	20,670	64.72	3.13
Peru	27,148	62.45	2.30
Iraq	24,700	61.27	2.48
Pakistan	148,439	60.68	0.41
Sri Lanka	19,232	57.27	2.98
Tunisia	9,896	53.95	5.45
Tanzania	35,889	50.11	1.40
Mexico	103,796	47.55	0.46
Thailand	62,015	47.47	0.77