



ARABSTAT – 12th meeting

19-20 NOVEMBER 2025

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Outline

- **Short update on ODA levels**
- **Strengthening statistical capacities in Arab countries:**
 - Statistical Peer Reviews
 - Capacity-building workshops
 - Development Cooperation profiles
- **Looking ahead:**
 - Recent AI projects

Short update on OECD data on ODA, beyond ODA and ODA from Arab countries





Introduction to the OECD and the DAC

- **OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**
 - Established in 1960, 38 members countries, headquarters in Paris.
 - Mission – promote policies that improve economic and social well-being.
- **DAC – Development Assistance Committee**
 - Leading platform for bilateral providers of development co-operation.
 - Created in 1960, 33 members (including the EU) and 8 Participants (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kuwait, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates)
 - Chair: Carsten Staur
 - Mandate: promote development co-operation and other relevant policies so as to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 - More information at: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/development-assistance-committee/>





Concept of Official Development Assistance

ODA flows are grants and concessional finance to **ODA recipients** (countries / territories and international organisations).

O

“Official”: Provided by **official agencies**, including state and local governments

D

“Development”: the main objective is **economic development and welfare of developing countries**

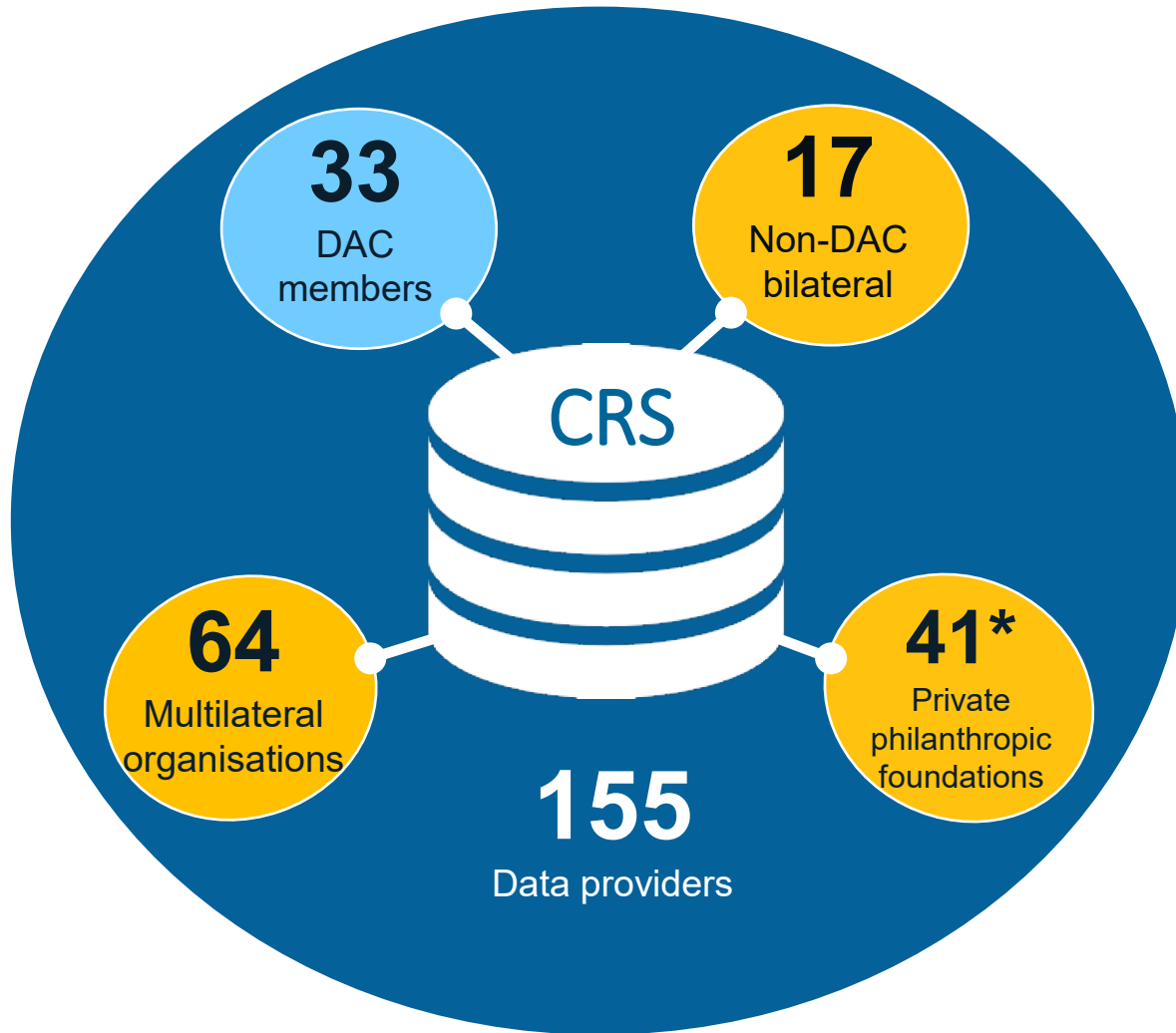
A

“Assistance”: **Concessional in character**. Provided in the form of grants or soft loans.

View online data: [OECD Data Explorer](#)



155 reporters to the OECD DAC Statistics on development finance



33 DAC members

122 providers beyond the DAC in 2024

About 250 000 activities a year

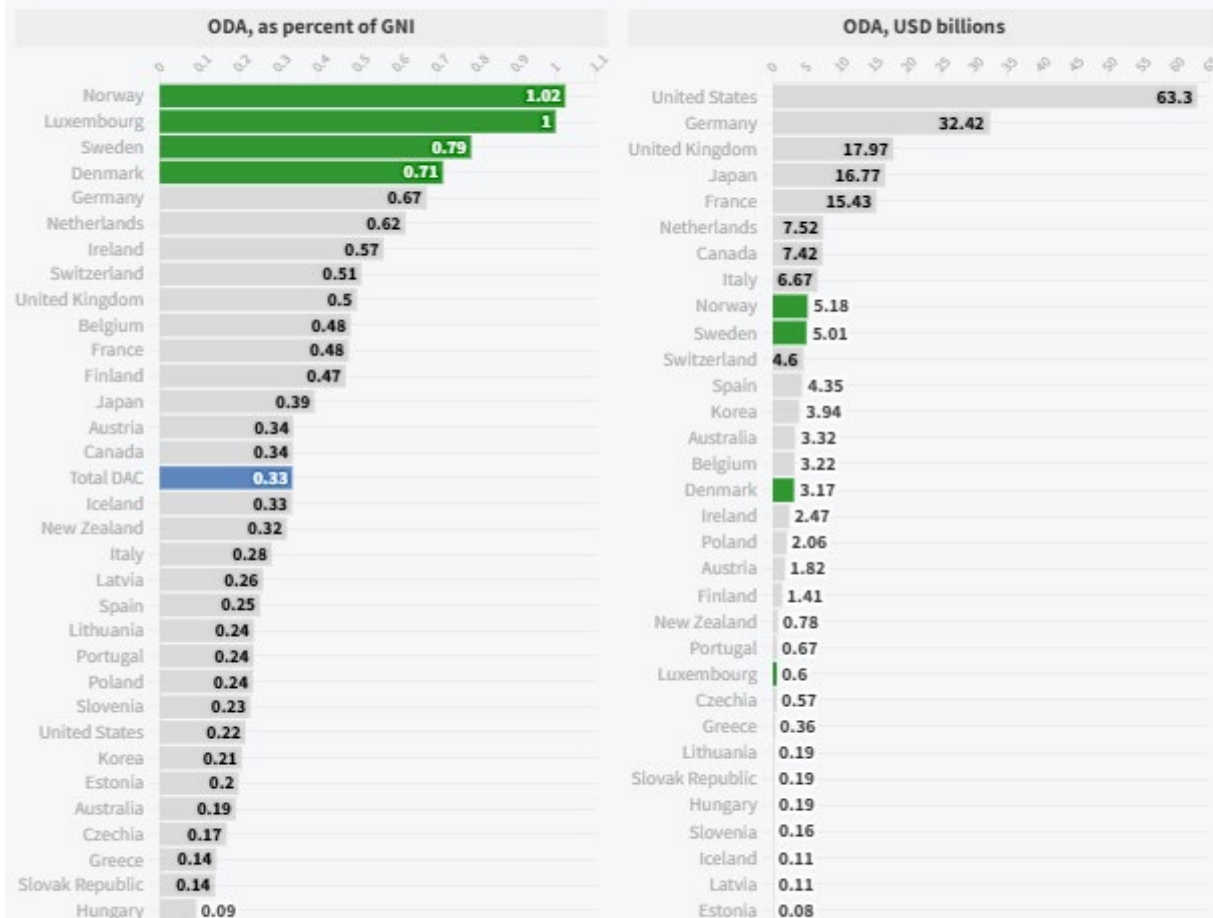
Over 60 years of data

*Based on 2022 data.



Preliminary 2024 data for OECD DAC countries

Official development assistance (ODA) in 2024, by members of the Development Assistance Committee (preliminary data)



In 2024, ODA from countries of the OECD DAC amounted to USD 212.1 billion, representing 0.33% of these countries' combined gross national income (GNI).

Four countries surpassed the United Nations' target to spend 0.7% of their GNI on ODA.

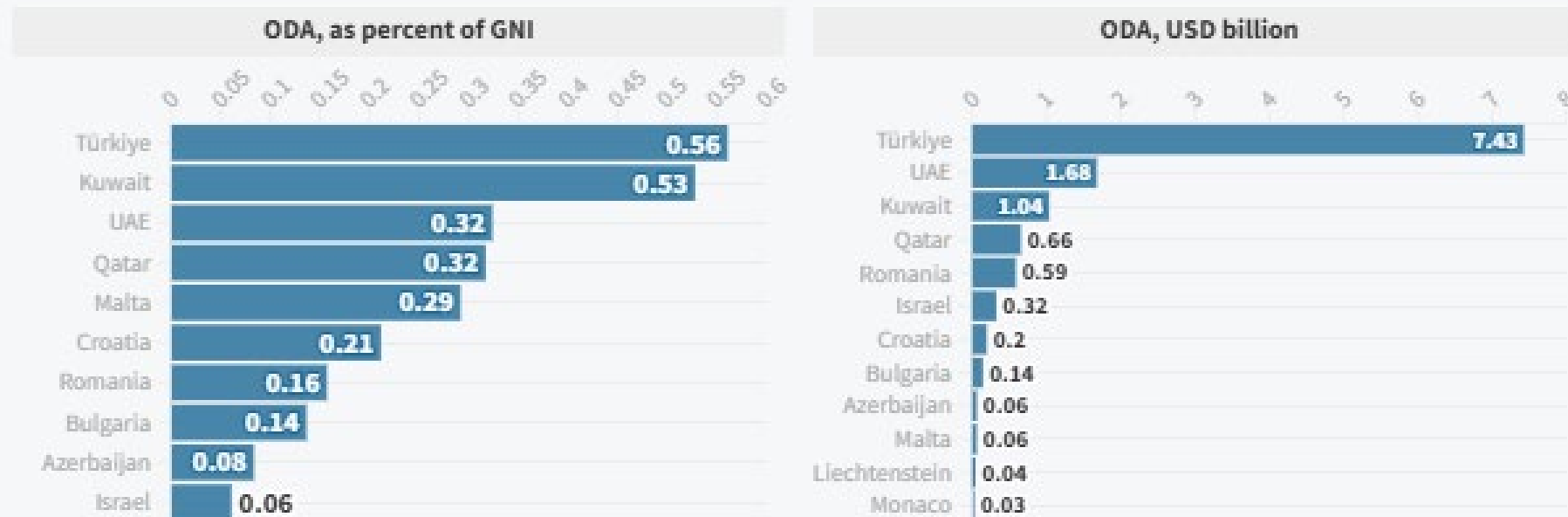
Sources: OECD (2025), *Flows by donor (ODA+OOF+Private)* (DAC1)

Note: Green bars represent providers that met or exceeded the UN target of 0.7% ODA/GNI in 2024. (Left-hand chart): ODA on a grant equivalent measure by DAC members as percent of GNI. (Right-hand chart): ODA on a grant equivalent measure by DAC members.



Preliminary 2024 data for non-DAC bilateral providers

Official development assistance (ODA) in 2024, other official bilateral providers (preliminary data)



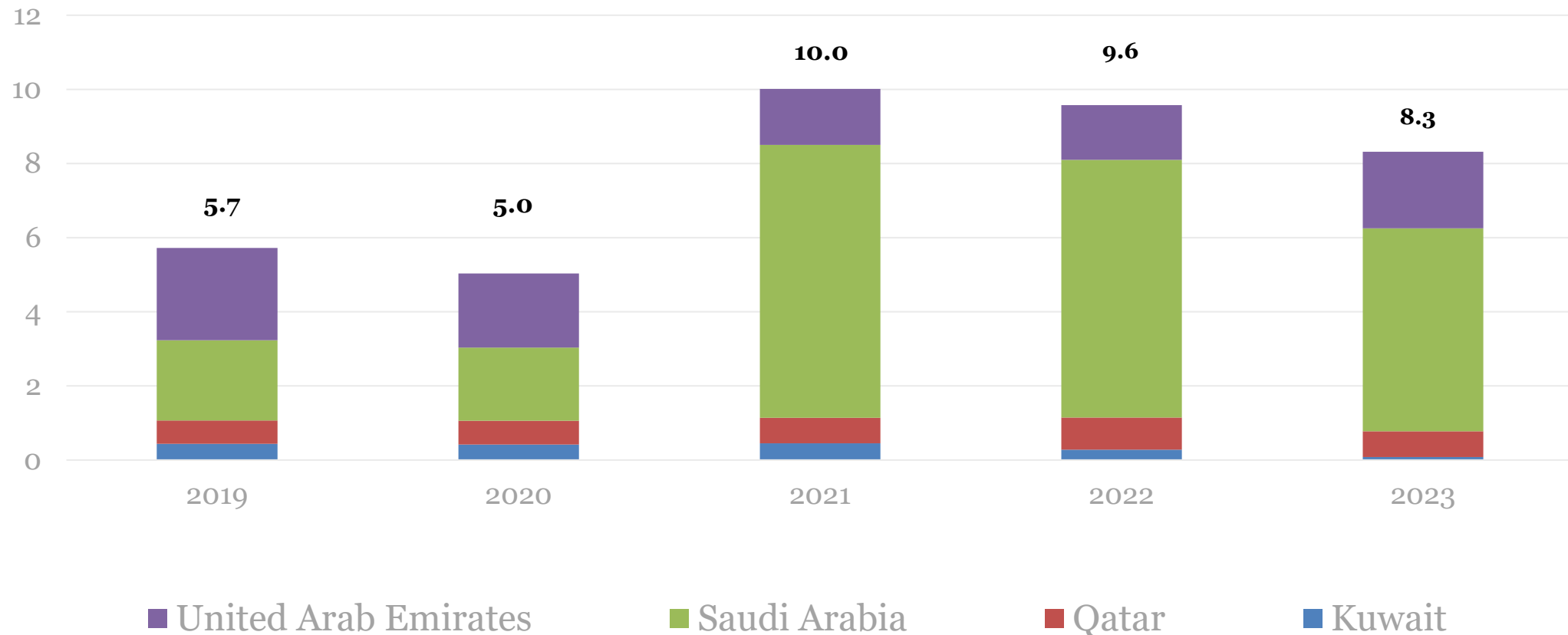
Sources: [OECD \(2025\), Flows by donor \(ODA+OOF+Private\) \[DAC1\]](#)

Note: The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law. (Left-hand chart): ODA on a grant equivalent measure by official bilateral providers outside of the DAC as percent of gross national income (GNI). Liechtenstein and Monaco do not feature in this chart as they did not report their GNI data for 2024.



Significant amounts of ODA provided by Arab reporters (Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE)

ODA Grant Equivalent, USD billion, 2023 prices



Strengthening statistical capacities in Arab countries:
Statistical Peer Reviews
Capacity-building Workshops
Development Co-operation profiles and Data collection



Statistical Peer Reviews and capacity-building





Objectives of the Statistical Peer Reviews and Capacity Building

Review

members' statistical systems
to ensure data quality

Peer Learning

about reporting on development finance
and on statistical practices to strengthen staff capacity

[Access all reviews on the publications page of the OECD website](#)



The Statistical Peer Reviews and Capacity Building

Format and content of the reviews

- **A voluntary exercise**
- **A review carried out by 2 members with the optional participation of an observer through an on site mission of 3-4 days**
- **5 dimensions in the review:**
 - Main statistical policy issues on development co-operation data
 - Data collection
 - Data reporting
 - International commitments
 - Data dissemination
- **Capacity Building sessions to strengthen staff capacities**
(e.g. ODA eligibility, reporting)

Peer Reviews on Development Finance Statistics

DAC members and the OECD assess how countries collect, report, and publish data.





Arab countries are welcome to join the reviews as observers for peer learning

- **Two reviews in 2026: Poland, UK**
- **Three reviews in 2027: Slovak republic, Spain, New Zealand**
- **Four reviews in 2028: Greece, Ireland, The Netherlands (tbc), Slovenia**
- **Countries and organisations from the Arab region are welcome to volunteer as Observers.**
 - **Saudi Arabia participated in 2019 in the Statistical Peer Review of Norway**

ODA and beyond ODA workshops





Regular workshops for non-DAC providers 2025 examples

- **Qatar** (Forthcoming - December)
- **Bahrain** (November - online)
- **Kazakhstan** (June)
- **Croatia** (April)
- **Indonesia** (April)
- **Thailand** (February)

Visit by **Saudi Arabia** in June 2025



OECD training programme beyond ODA

The example of mobilised private finance and Private Sector Instruments

Objectives

- Equipping reporters with foundational knowledge and technical skills for reporting on mobilisation to the OECD, as well as private sector instruments (PSI)

Target audience

- Statistical reporters, private sector operations and mobilisation professionals, relevant government officials (e.g. ministry of environment/climate, or other agencies), among others.

Delivery mode and duration

- In-person, or online
- Duration – tailored to objectives and needs
- Trainings usually take place in the first two quarters (before the reporting period), but can also take place in Q3 or Q4 depending on needs.

Strengthening the capacity and understanding of the development community
The Development Co-operation profiles





The OECD Development Co-operation profiles as a way to learn more about development co-operation

[OECD DAC Development Co-operation profiles](#)

OECD > Publications > Qatar

Development Co-operation Profiles: Qatar

Country note

Learn more 

Development Co-operation Profiles • 11 June 2025



OECD > Publications > Saudi Arabia

Development Co-operation Profiles: Saudi Arabia

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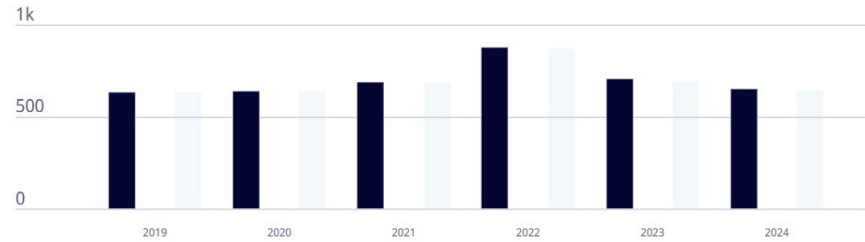
The profiles offer a large number of graphs on development co-operation

[OECD DAC Development Co-operation profiles](#)

Qatar: ODA volume

Disbursements, USD million, 2023 constant prices

■ Net ODA ■ Gross private development finance* ■ ODA grant equivalent

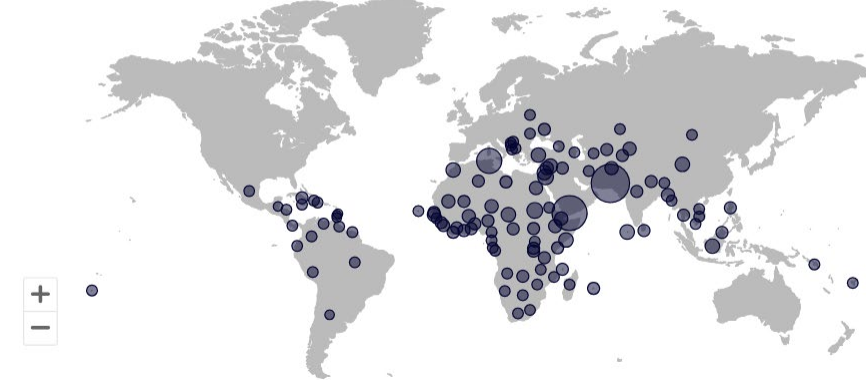


Note: Data on official development assistance (ODA) volumes (figure above) are in constant 2023 prices. Data for 2024 are preliminary. See the [methodological notes](#) for further details.

Sources: [OECD \(2025\)](#), [Flows by donor \(ODA+OOF+Private\)](#) [DAC1]

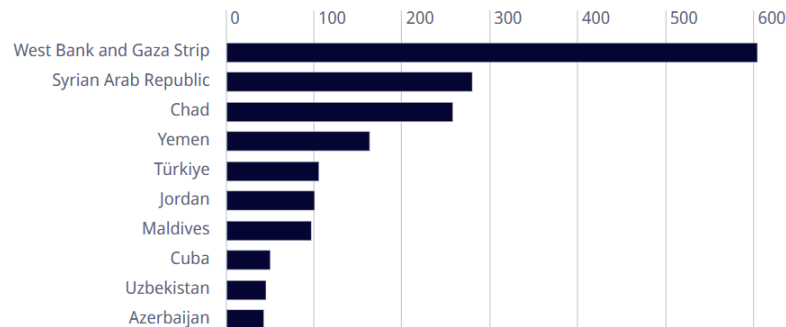
Saudi Arabia: Bilateral ODA by recipient country

Gross disbursements, USD million, current prices



United Arab Emirates: Top 10 recipients, 2023

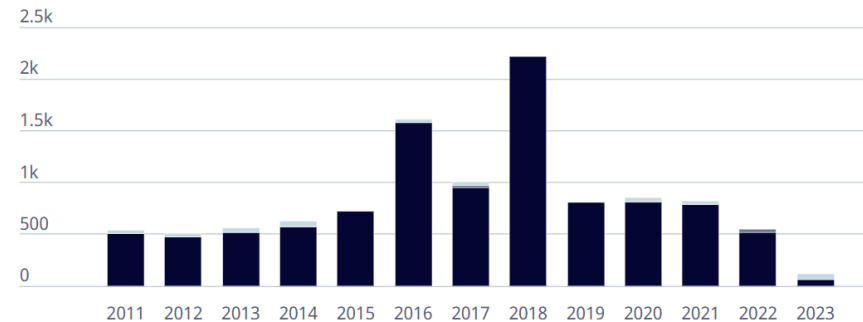
Gross disbursements, USD million, current prices



Kuwait: Bilateral and multilateral ODA allocations

Gross disbursements, USD million, 2023 constant prices

■ Bilateral ■ Earmarked multilateral ■ Core multilateral



Looking Ahead

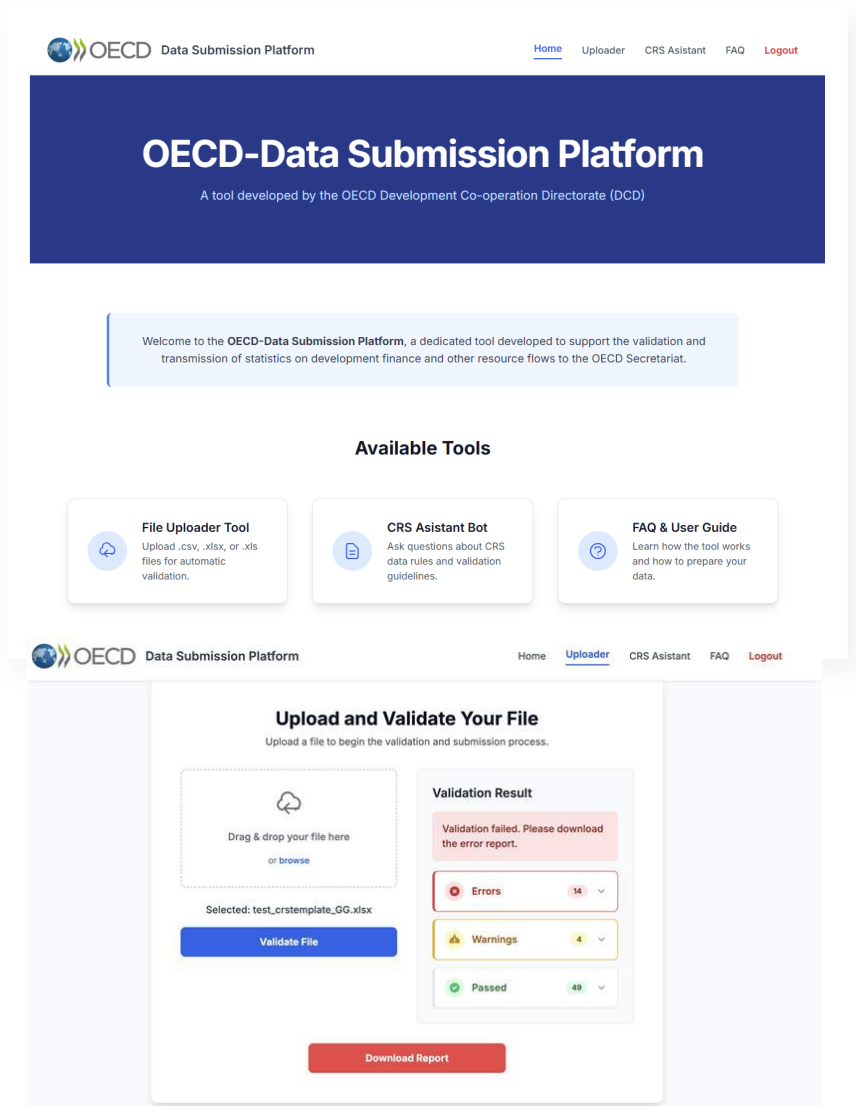
Examples of AI projects
that help strengthen data capacities





A data submission and validation platform

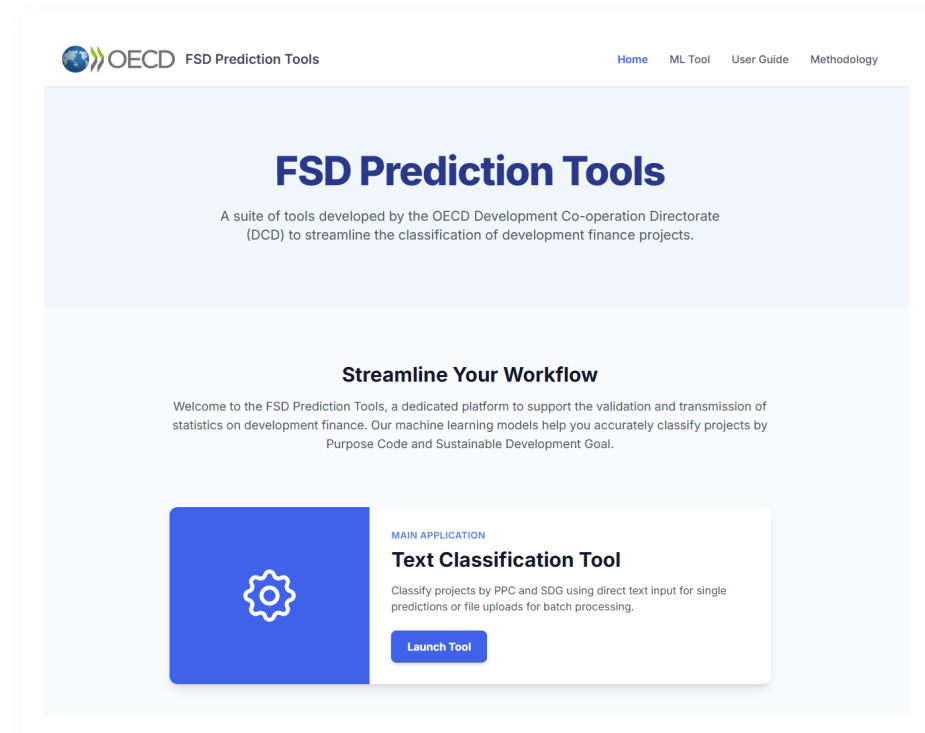
- **A secure online platform for data submission and validation** by countries reporting development finance data (currently in the final stages for approval).
- **Performs automated structural and content checks** before transmission to OECD systems:
 - Detects missing columns, format inconsistencies, or invalid codes.
 - Flags potential issues and provides immediate feedback to reporters.
- **If the file passes all checks, the system can offer direct delivery to OECD databases** saving time and manual review.
- **Integrated AI Chat Assistant trained on OECD manuals provides contextual help:**
 - Answers user questions in natural language.
 - Points to the exact document, chapter, and page with relevant guidance.





A prediction tool to confirm the sector of a given development activity

- **About 250.000 records per year across approx. 80 dimensions, one of them is the sector**
- **Is the sector assigned to the activity the appropriate one?**
- **The prediction tool assigns a sector to the project using AI**
- **The statistician can compare the reported data with the results from the AI tool to confirm the sector**
- **Currently in development stage**
- **Similar model used to predict SDG targets. The Suite also includes other prediction tools**





Thank you!

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