

Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment: A snapshot

Take-aways

- In 2019-20, 45% of DAC members' bilateral allocable official development assistance (ODA) either integrated, or was dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, corresponding to USD 56.5 billion on average per year.
- This level of 45% for gender equality remained steady even as the COVID-19 pandemic hit.
- Iceland, Canada, Ireland, The Netherlands, Sweden and Belgium rank first in terms of shares of ODA for gender equality.
- The most established and extensive data available on finance for gender equality are those for bilateral allocable ODA examined (screened) against the *gender equality policy marker* of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).
- Some DAC members also report "other" development finance, which does not meet ODA criteria, against the DAC marker.
- Private philanthropy, development finance institutions and multilateral organisations also use the DAC marker, to a varying extent, to examine and report their activities.

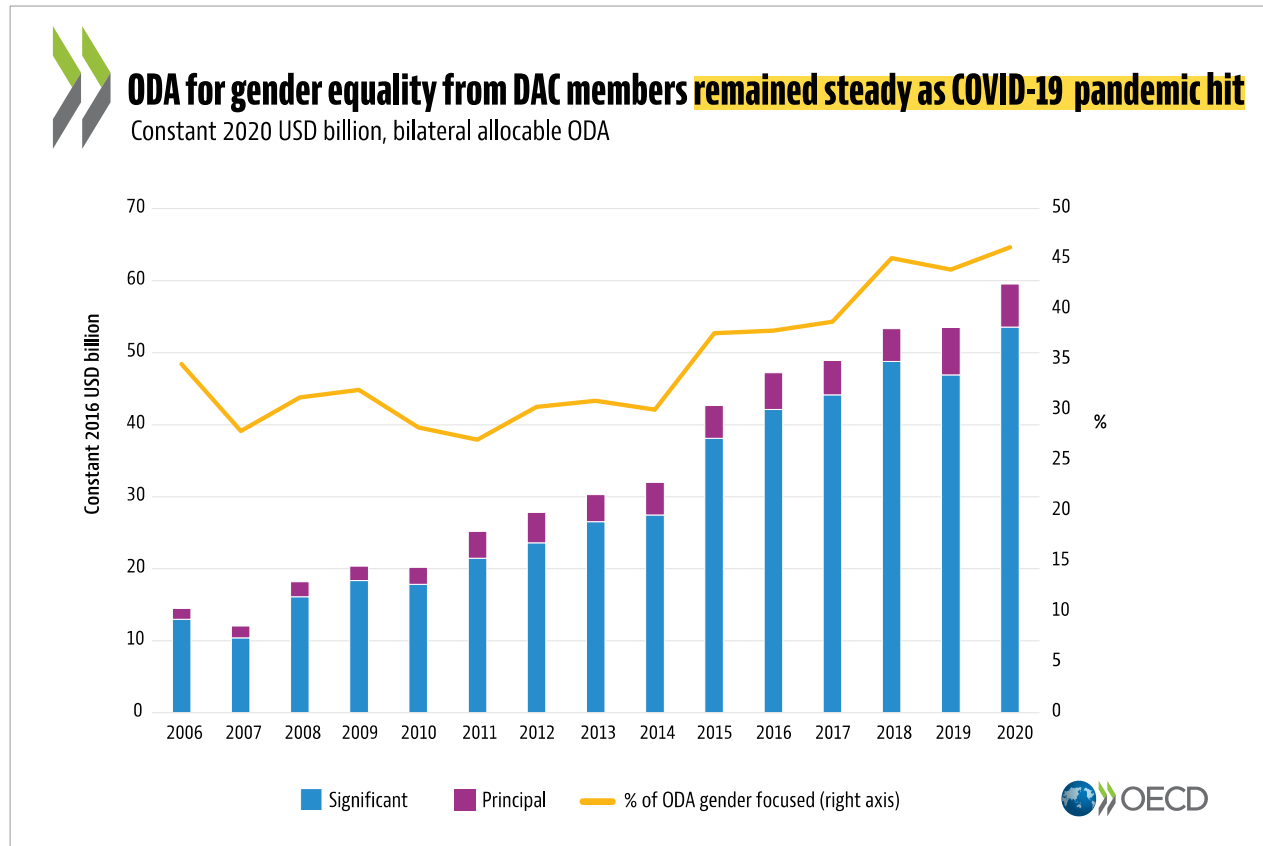
This snapshot provides the latest information on development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment, using 2019-2020 data collected by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, in 2020 prices. The OECD tracks and analyses [development finance for gender equality](#) using the [DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker](#) of the OECD [Creditor Reporting System](#) (CRS). This qualitative statistical tool enables the examination of development finance and the identification of gender equality as either a *principal* policy objective (dedicated funding, "score 2" against the marker), a *significant* objective (funding that integrates/mainstreams gender equality, "score 1" against the marker), or not an objective ("score 0").¹

For more information, comments, questions and inquiries, contact: DCD.GenderNet@oecd.org

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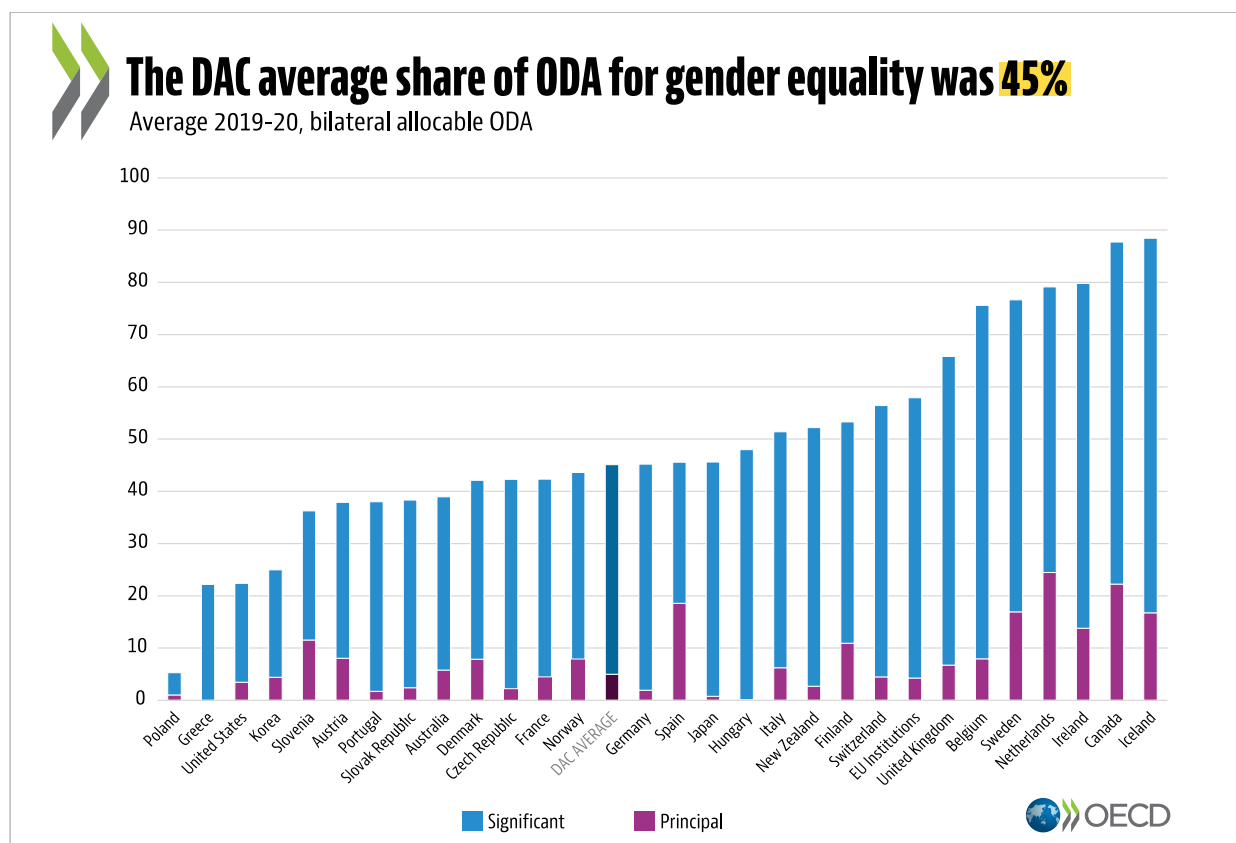
¹ Bilateral allocable aid is the basis of calculation used for all DAC policy markers. It covers ODA with types of aid A02 (sector budget support), B01 (core support to NGOs), B03 (specific funds managed by international organisation), B04 (pooled funding), C01 (projects), D01 (donor country personnel), D02 (other technical assistance), E01 (scholarships).

Bilateral development finance for gender equality by DAC members



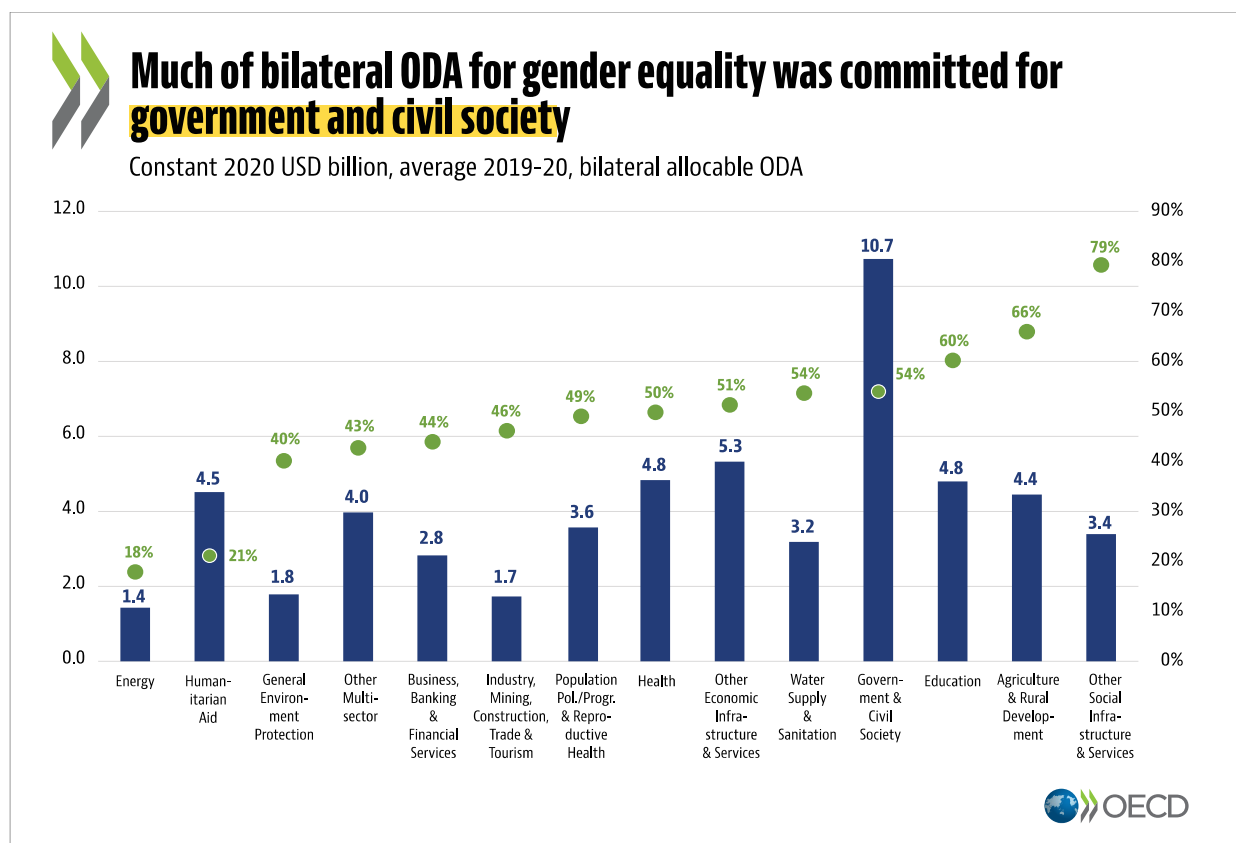
Bilateral allocable ODA, or aid, for gender equality and women's empowerment is at an historical high level and remained steady at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. DAC members committed 45% of their bilateral allocable ODA on average per year in 2019-20 for gender equality. This corresponds to USD 56.5 billion.

As in 2018-19, the bulk was committed to programmes that integrate gender equality as a *significant* policy objective: USD 50.2 billion (40% of total bilateral aid). Support to programmes dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment as the *principal* objective amounted to USD 6.3 billion per year (5% of total bilateral aid).



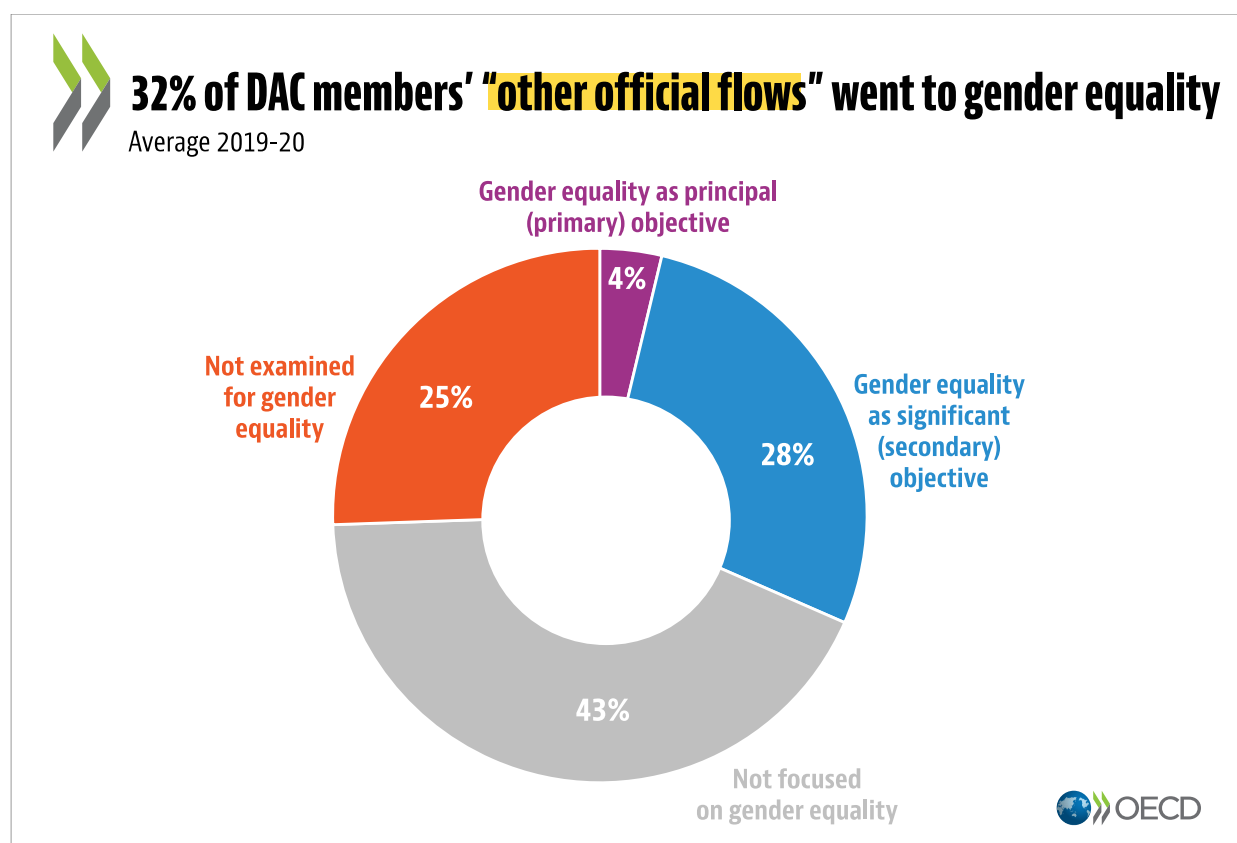
Note: Luxembourg is not included in this table due to the limited share of ODA examined against the DAC gender marker.

The highest *shares* of bilateral allocable aid committed for gender equality in 2019-20 were reported by Iceland and Canada (both 88%), Ireland (80%), The Netherlands (79%), Sweden (77%) and Belgium (76%) indicating an important policy focus for these members. Looking at *volumes* on average per year, the top donors were Germany (USD 9.8 billion on average per year), the EU (USD 9 billion), Japan (USD 7 billion), the United States (USD 6.3 billion), France (USD 5 billion) and the United Kingdom (USD 4.7 billion).



The sectors with the highest shares (%) of bilateral allocable ODA integrating gender equality (dots in the figure) are social infrastructure and services –including employment policies, housing, social protection--agriculture and rural development, and education. The focus on gender equality is particularly low in energy and humanitarian aid.

Government and civil society received the highest total volume of bilateral allocable ODA for gender equality and women’s empowerment (bars in the figure), at USD 10.7 billion on average per year. In this sector, a dedicated statistical code in the CRS captures support for “women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions.” In 2019-20, an average of USD 809 million per year of bilateral aid went to these organisations and institutions. Bilateral allocable ODA to women’s rights organisations and movements – excluding the volumes committed to government institutions (e.g. women’s ministries) – was USD 707 million, a rise compared to 2018-19. Another CRS code captures bilateral aid dedicated to ending violence against women and girls, to which DAC members committed USD 429 million on average per year in 2019-20, a decrease compared with 2018-19.



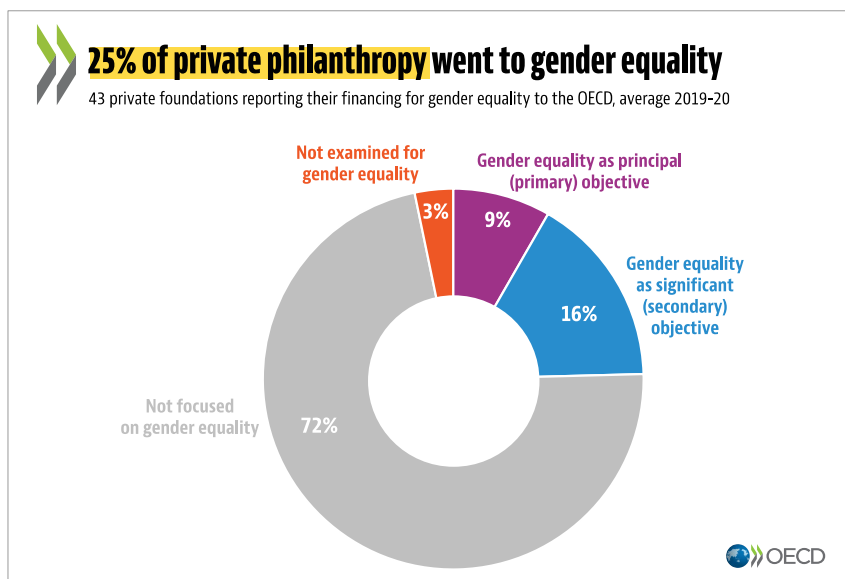
Almost half of DAC members report at least some of their other official flows (OOFs) --that do not meet ODA criteria-- to the OECD. They amounted to USD 7.8 billion on average per year in 2019-20, three quarters of which were also examined against the gender marker, which helps paint an accurate picture.

In 2019-20, the total reported OOFs that integrated or were dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment was USD 2.5 billion, corresponding to 32% of total bilateral OOFs. They include contributions, often by DAC members' development finance institutions (DFI), for example to investment funds lending money to micro-finance institutions and farmers' co-operatives, or funds investing in financial and health services.

The 2X Challenge to increase gender lens investing

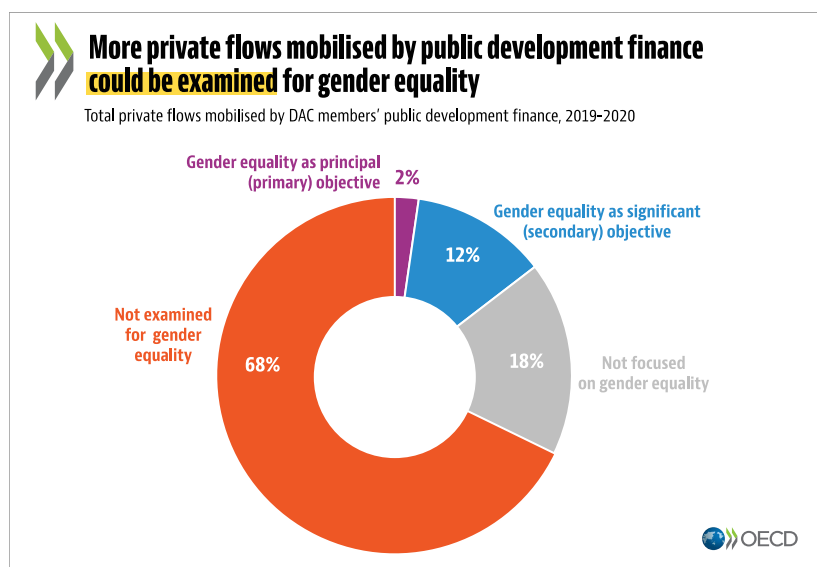
The share of other official flows examined against the DAC gender equality policy marker is likely to increase over the coming years, given the commitment by DFI members of the 2X Challenge to align their "gender lens investing criteria" with the DAC marker. The 2X Challenge calls for the G7 and other DFIs to collectively mobilise billions in order to provide women in developing country markets with improved access to leadership opportunities, quality employment, finance, enterprise support, as well as products and services that enhance economic participation and access.

Financial flows for gender equality from private philanthropy



Forty-three private foundations examined and reported their financing for gender equality to the OECD using the DAC gender equality policy marker. Out of the total of USD 9.5 billion provided annually over 2019-20, USD 2.3 billion integrated or were dedicated to gender equality, i.e. 25% of the total, similar to the previous period. The Gates Foundations contributed USD 839 million on average per year, making it the biggest gender equality funder among private foundations.

Some scope for progress on data reporting



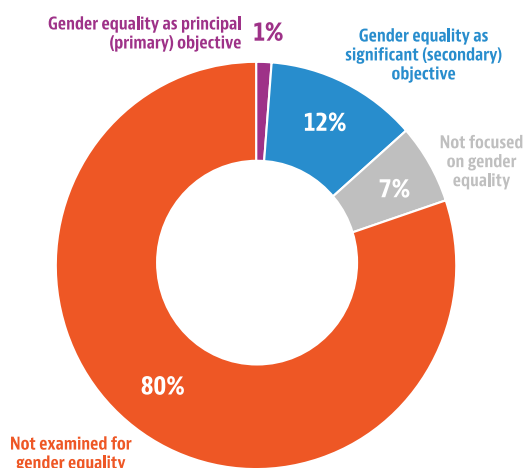
The OECD collects information about the flows mobilised from private actors by DAC members' public development finance (ODA or other flows). However, in 2019-2020, only about one third were examined against the DAC gender equality policy marker. Of these, USD 2.7 billion were reported as integrating gender equality or having ODA dedicated to these issues. This represents 14.5% of the total private flows mobilised, up from 11% in 2018-19. DAC members can do significantly more to increase the share of private flows mobilised examined against the marker.



There is scope for multilateral organisations and development banks to examine and report more of their support for gender equality to the OECD

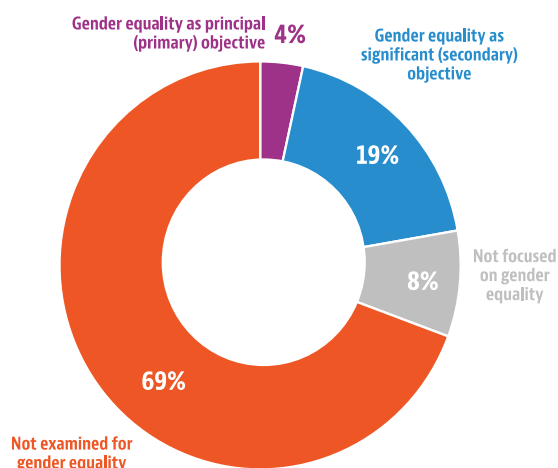
Total ODA by all multilateral organisations reporting to the OECD, average 2019-20

Total ODA by all multilateral organisations reporting to the OECD, average 2019-20



Total OOFs by all multilateral organisations reporting to the OECD, average 2019-20

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Multilateral organisations and development banks play a major role in supporting gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries. There is however no single or streamlined system to track and publicly report their outflows. Some report them to the OECD, some also examine and report part of these flows against the DAC gender equality policy marker, but not enough to give a reliable picture of total multilateral funding in this area.

Total multilateral outflows that qualify as ODA and were reported to the OECD represented USD 51 billion on average per year in 2019-20. Only one fifth was examined for gender equality.² Of the multilateral ODA examined against the marker, USD 6.9 billion were reported as addressing gender equality on average per year.

Other official flows (OOF) by multilateral organisations reported to the OECD amounted to USD 110.5 billion on average per year. Less than one third was examined for gender equality.³ Out of the other flows examined against the DAC marker, USD 25 billion were reported as addressing gender equality on average per year in 2019-20.

² Multilateral organisations that examine and report part of their ODA specifically for gender equality to the OECD in 2019-20 are: Adaptation Fund, Arab Fund (AFESD), Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, Central Emergency Response Fund, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Global Green Growth Institute, Green Climate Fund, Inter-American Development Bank, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Islamic Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund, UN Peacebuilding Fund, UN Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), World Tourism Organisation, World Bank International Development Association (IDA).

³ Multilateral organisations that examine and report part of their "other official flows" specifically for gender equality to the OECD in 2019-20 are: Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Green Climate Fund, Inter-American Development Bank, IDB Invest, Islamic Development Bank, International Investment Bank.