

Twenty Largest Per Capita Recipients of ODA for Water, 1990 to 2004

Description

The amount of “ODA for Water” given, per person, averaged between 1990 and 2004, is shown here in 2003 US dollars per person per year for the twenty largest national recipients. Most of these countries have small populations, boosting their per capita values, but this list includes both the Palestinian administered territories and Jordan, two regions with large and growing populations and severe water constraints.

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 noted previously, the per capita values in this table are distorted by several low-population countries. However, almost no countries from Africa appear here, a further indication of the paucity of funding available for that continent, compared to the magnitude of the water problems there. Note that the per capita value is simply an average of the annual ODA from 1990 to 2004, divided by the population in 2004, somewhat distorting the final figure. A time series can be found at the OECD database online, cited later.

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 8 Twenty Largest Per Capita 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)
St. Helena	8	0.47	58.75
Montserrat	10	0.29	29.00
Palestinian administration areas	3,367	71.47	21.23
Dominica	72	1.00	19.44
Turks and Caicos	21	0.38	18.10
Anguilla	14	0.25	17.86
Cook Islands	22	0.36	16.36
Tonga	102	1.63	15.98
St. Lucia	161	2.55	15.84
Niue	3	0.04	13.33
Western Samoa	178	2.26	12.70
Tuvalu	12	0.15	12.50

continues

DATA TABLE 8 *continued*

Country	Population in 2004 (thousands)	ODA for Water Annual Average 1990-2004 (millions of US\$)	Average ODA for Water (\$/capita/yr)
Jordan	5,308	65.95	12.42
Cape Verde	470	5.36	11.40
Suriname	439	4.94	11.25
Kiribati	97	1.09	11.24
Marshall Islands	57	0.63	11.05
St. Vincent & Grenadines	110	1.08	9.82
Mauritius	1,223	11.98	9.80
Guyana	769	6.18	8.04