



SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-
BASED ADVOCACY FOR
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Words to Action: the state of ODA funding for gender equality



Looking at donors' prioritization of gender equality...

Main questions

1. How are the governments of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor countries prioritizing gender equality in their development policy?
2. How much official development assistance (ODA) do they give?
3. What kind of projects are they funding?

Scope

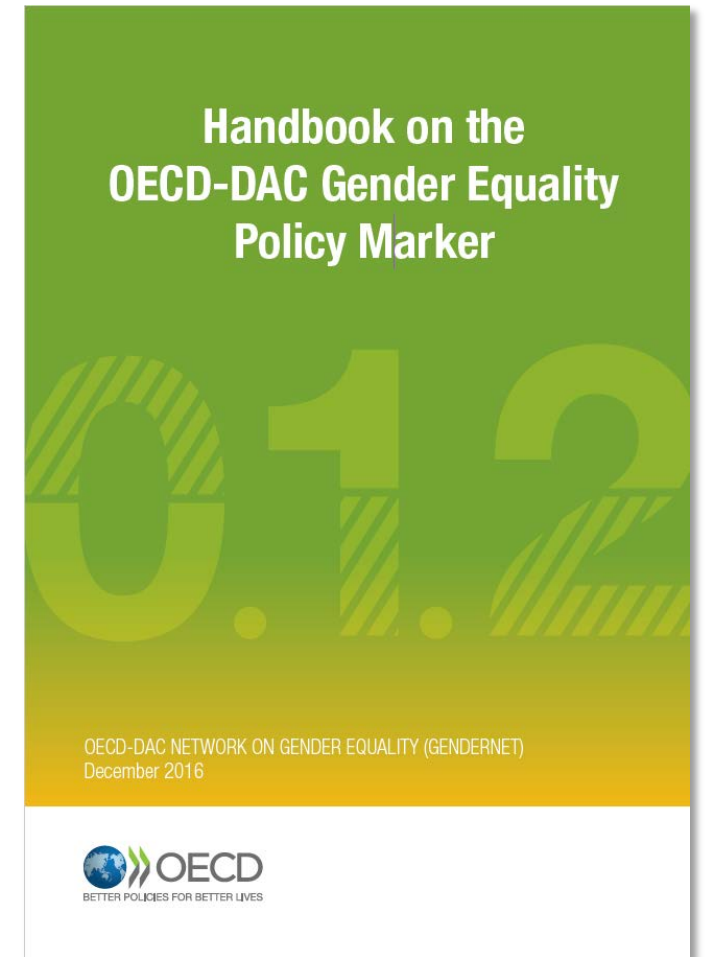
1. Aggregate analysis for all 29 OECD donors
2. Detailed analysis of six donors: US, Germany, EU, UK, Sweden, Canada

... based on OECD DAC data

Methodology

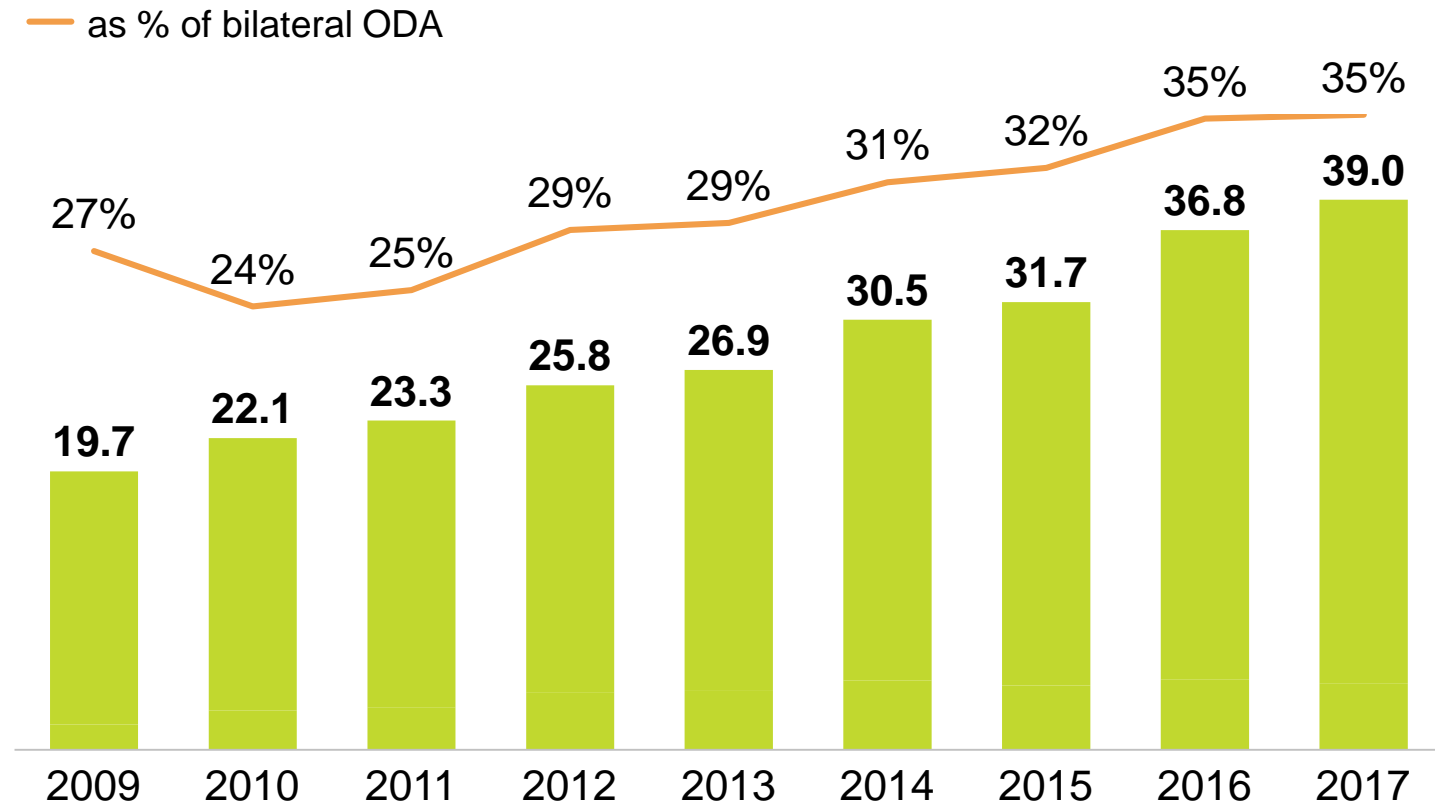
Based on OECD DAC gender marker, recording three possible scores:

1. **Principal:** gender equality is the main objective of the project/program
2. **Significant:** gender equality is an important and deliberate, but not the main, objective of the project/program
3. **Not targeted:** project/program does not target gender equality



Donors' overall spending has increased....

Bilateral ODA with focus on gender equality, all DAC donors
US\$ billions

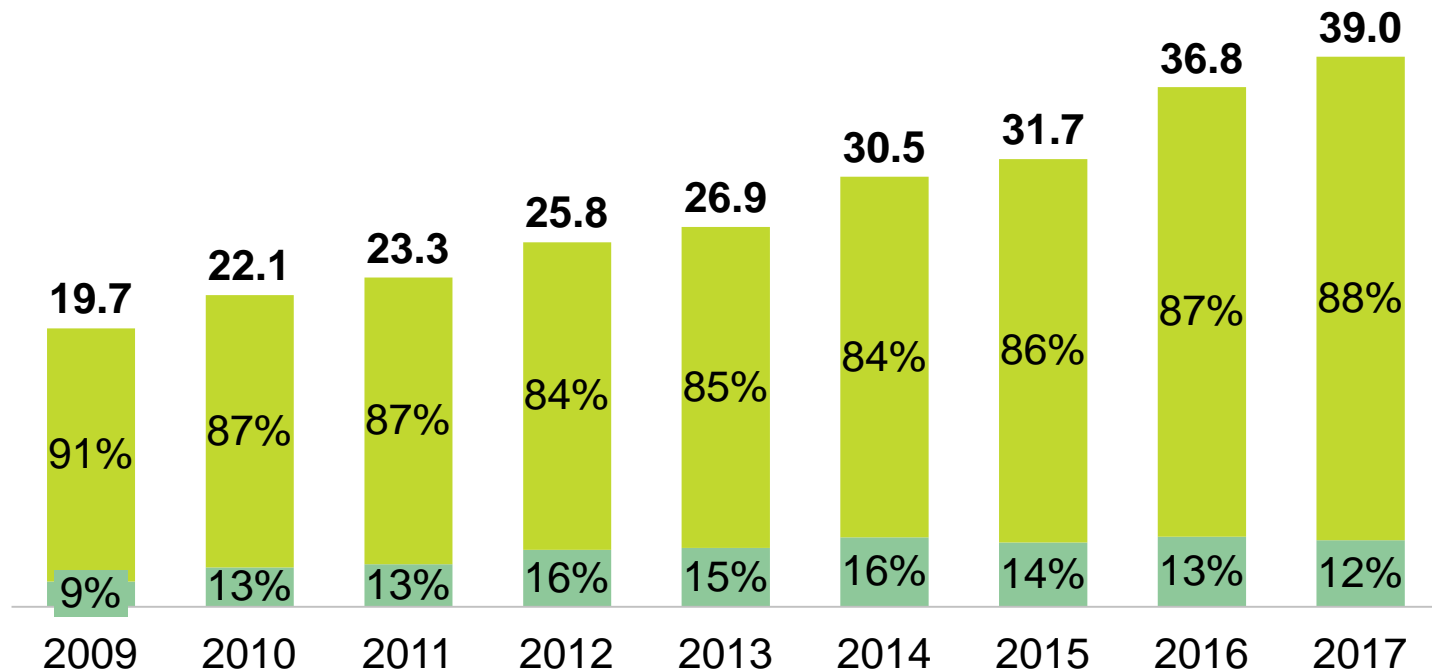


- **US\$39 billion** spent by DAC donors on gender-equality related projects (2017)
- **6% increase** over 2016, doubling compared to 2009 levels.
- Increases in share of total ODA to gender-equality: **from 27% to 35%** (2009-2017)

... but overall growth hides stagnation of 'principal' funding

Bilateral ODA with focus on gender equality, all DAC donors
US\$ billions

- Funding for gender equality as a significant goal
- Funding for gender equality as a principal goal

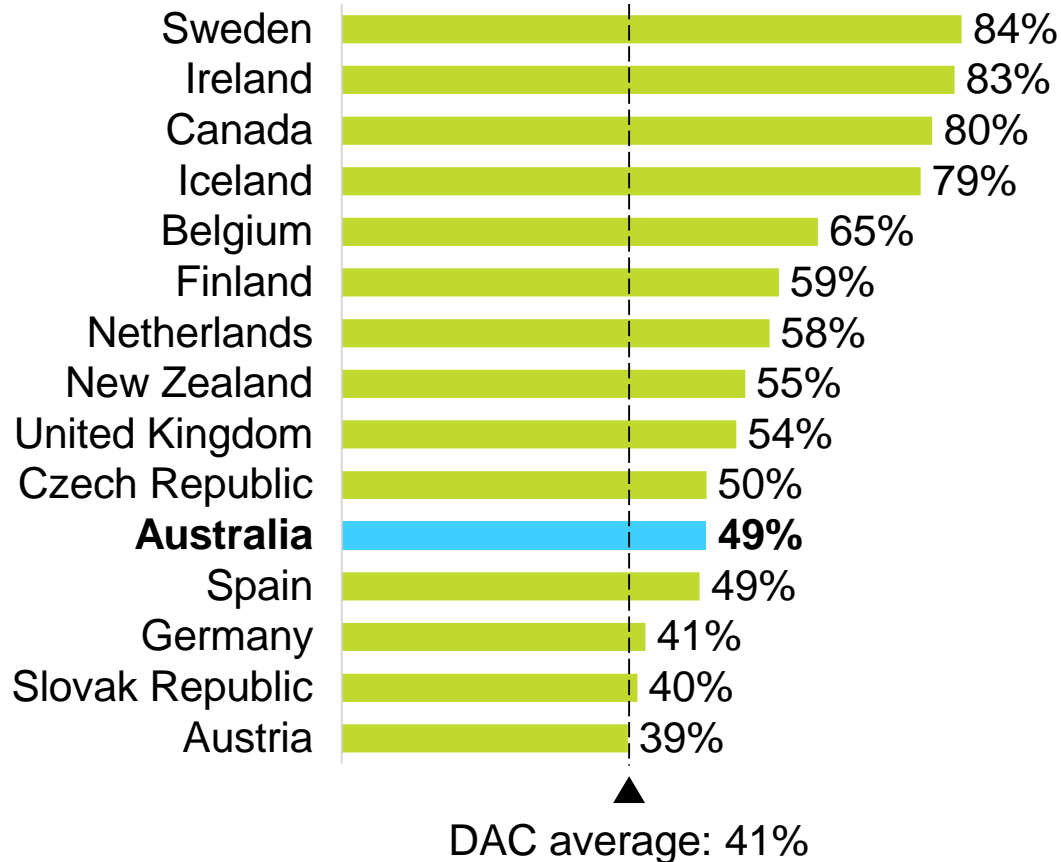


- Increases driven by projects that integrate gender equality as one of multiple project goals
- 5% in funding for projects with gender as 'principal' goal** between 2016 and 2017 (from US\$4.9 billion to US\$4.7 billion)

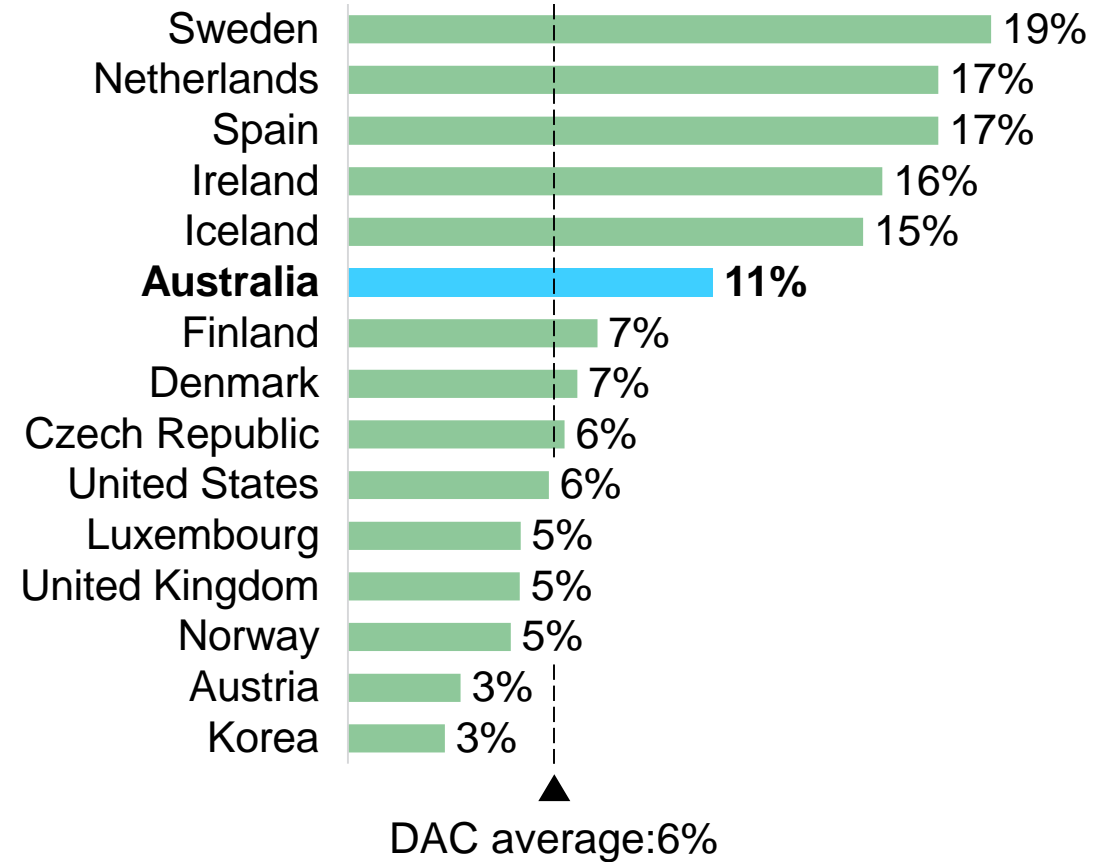
Donors vary widely in their gender focus; Australia is slightly above average

Percentage of bilateral ODA with focus on gender equality, top 15 DAC donors, 2017

Gender equality as **significant or principal** project goal



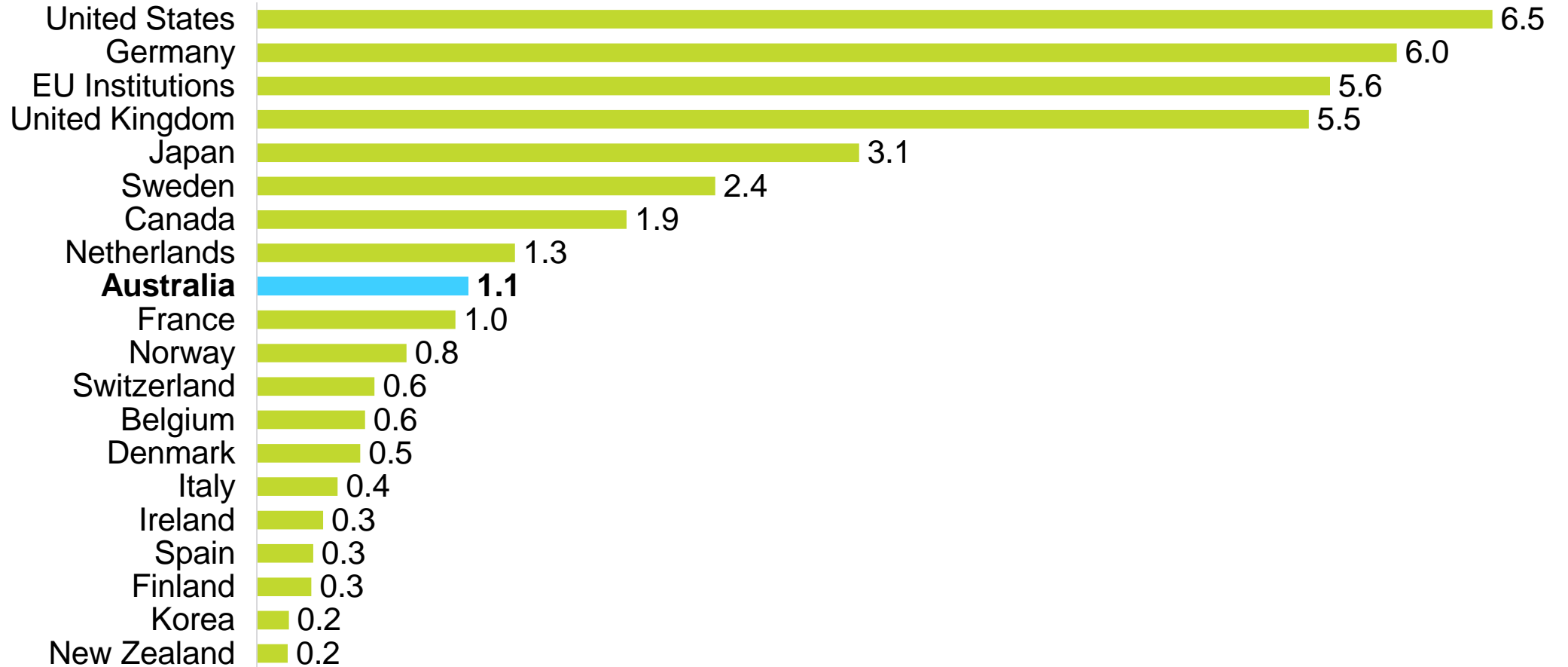
Principal project goal only



Four donors provide 60% of funding; Australia spends about US\$1bn per year

Bilateral ODA with focus on gender equality, top 20 DAC donors, 2017

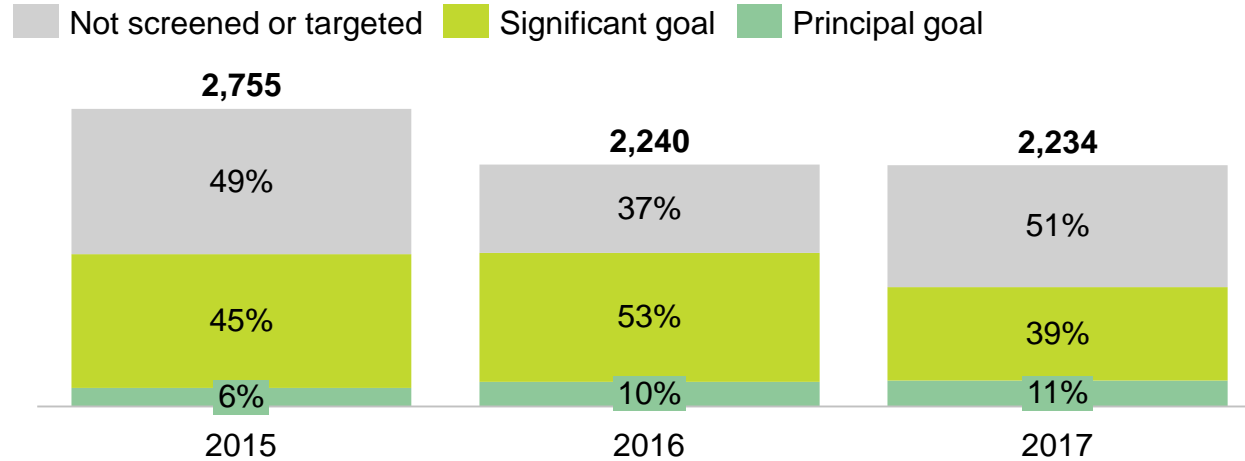
US\$ billions



Australia's funding for gender equality is on a downwards trend

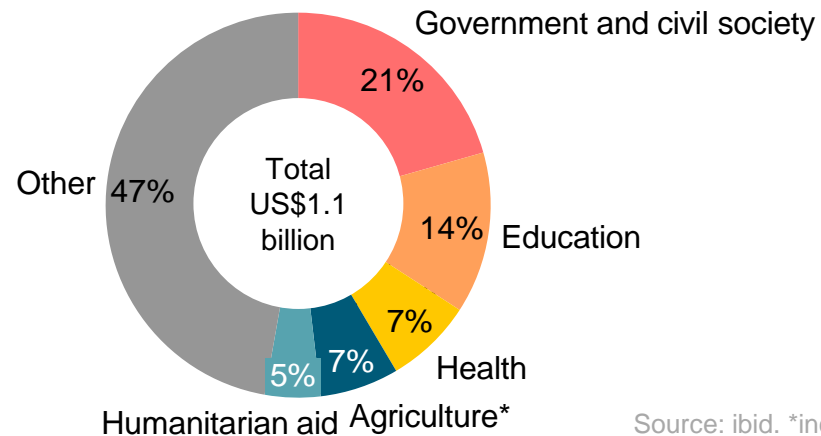
Bilateral ODA with focus on gender equality, 2015-2017

US\$ millions



Bilateral ODA for gender equality by sector, 2017

US\$ millions



Source: ibid. *incl. forestry, fishing and rural development

- Australia reported that **49% of its ODA activities** in 2017 were 'gender-focused' (down from 63% in 2016)
- 'Gender-focused' ODA **decreased by 22%** from US\$1.4bn in 2016 to US\$1.1bn in 2017
- **Half of gender-focused funding goes to five sectors only**

Questions?

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