

# ODA for climate, biodiversity and gender equality: A snapshot

## Take-aways

- More than half of all climate-related official development assistance (ODA) had gender equality objectives in 2019-20, as did more than 60% of biodiversity-related ODA.
- Agriculture and infrastructure receive the bulk of climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives.
- Asia and Africa are the main recipients of climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives.

## How gender-sensitive is official development assistance (ODA) for climate and biodiversity?

Climate change and biodiversity loss exacerbate inequalities between men and women (OECD, 2022<sup>[1]</sup>) (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2022<sup>[2]</sup>). For example, women make up 80% of the population displaced by climate change (ActionAid; Both ENDS; WECF & WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform, 2021<sup>[3]</sup>), and biodiversity loss and environmental degradation limit the land and natural resources available to them (CARE-WWF Alliance, 2021<sup>[4]</sup>). Such phenomena increase their vulnerability to food insecurity, poverty, gender-based violence, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse.

To what extent do the members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) align their official development assistance (ODA) against gender equality, biodiversity and climate change commitments? (OECD-DAC, 2021<sup>[5]</sup>). This snapshot presents data on bilateral aid (henceforth referred to interchangeably as ODA) defined as (i) climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives, as well as (ii) biodiversity-related ODA with gender equality objectives. For more on methodology and definitions, see the last section of this snapshot.

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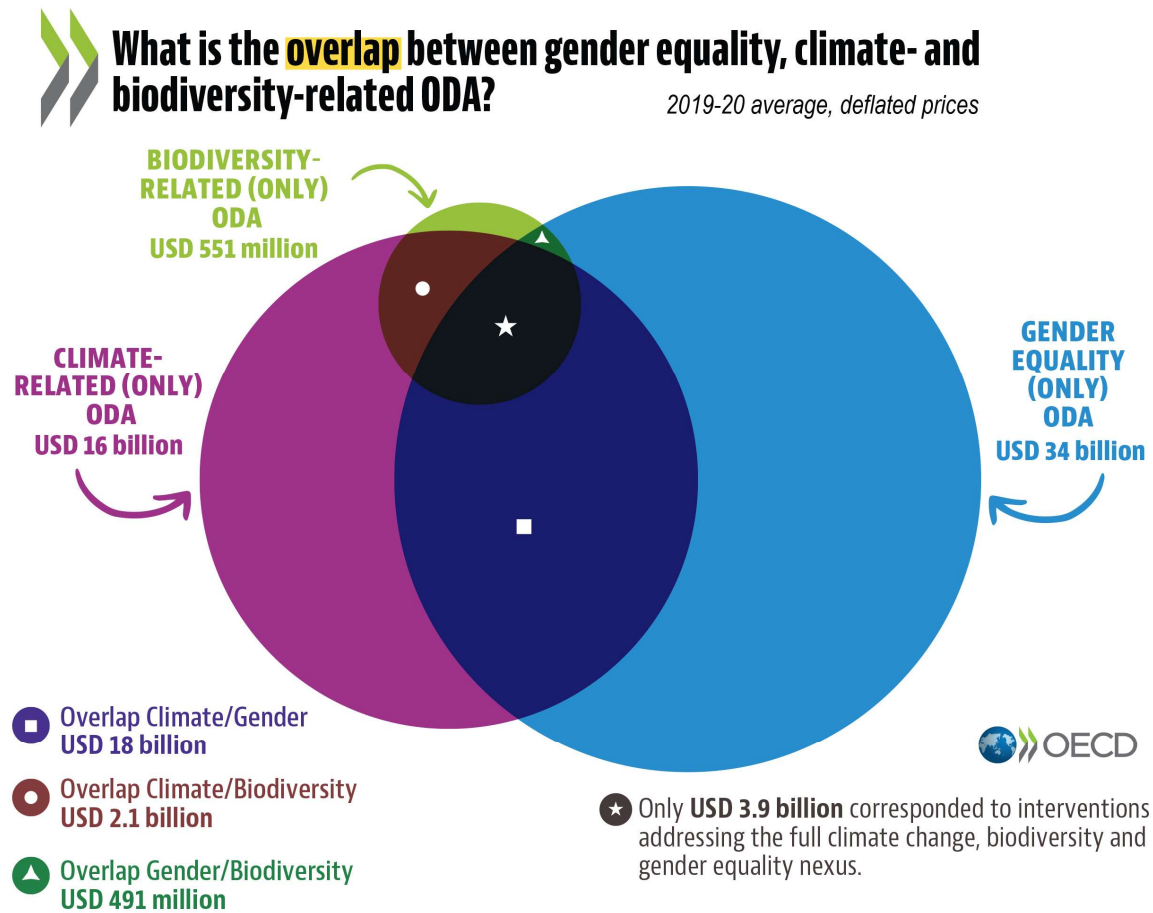
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Figure 1. What is the overlap between gender equality, climate- and biodiversity-related ODA?



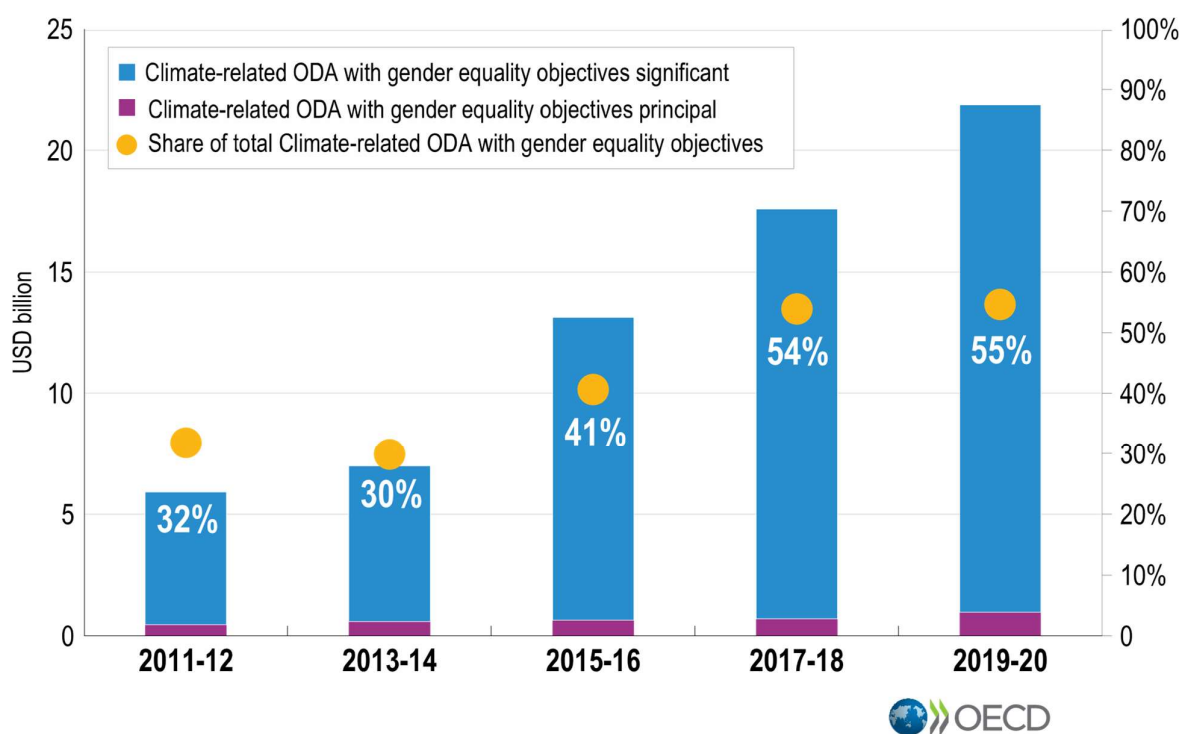
Note: gender equality; C = climate change; B= biodiversity  
 Source: Author's calculations

Figure 1 provides an overview of how DAC members finance nexus issues, which demonstrates that the overlap between climate change and gender equality considerations amounted to USD 18 billion, and the overlap between biodiversity and gender equality amounted to USD 491 million. Yet only USD 3.9 billion corresponded to interventions addressing the full climate change, biodiversity and gender equality nexus.

## How much of climate-related ODA pursues gender equality objectives?

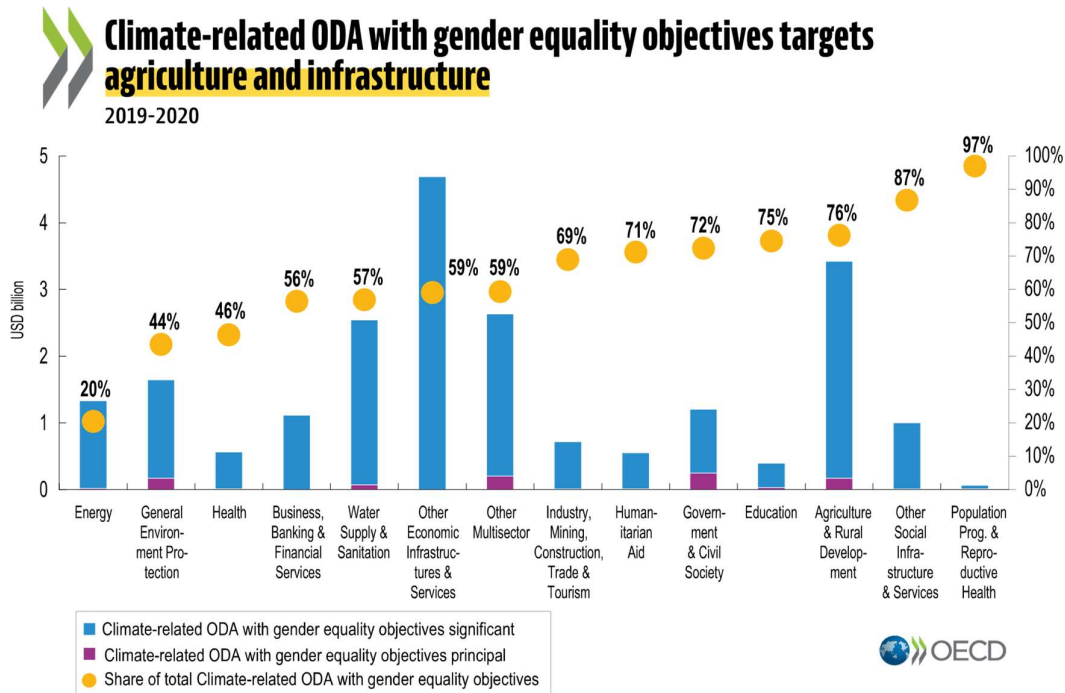


### The volumes and shares of climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives **continue to rise**



Total bilateral climate-related ODA has been increasing since 2011-12, from USD 18.6 billion to USD 40 billion in 2019-20 on average per year. The amount of it that *also* pursues gender equality objectives (either principal or significant) has been climbing consistently, too, from USD 5.9 billion to USD 21.9 billion. In 2019-20, 55% of all climate-related ODA had gender equality objectives, compared to 45% of *all bilateral* ODA. However, gender equality objectives as the “principal” objective remain the exception rather than the rule, at USD 1 billion in 2019-20

## Which sectors does climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives target?

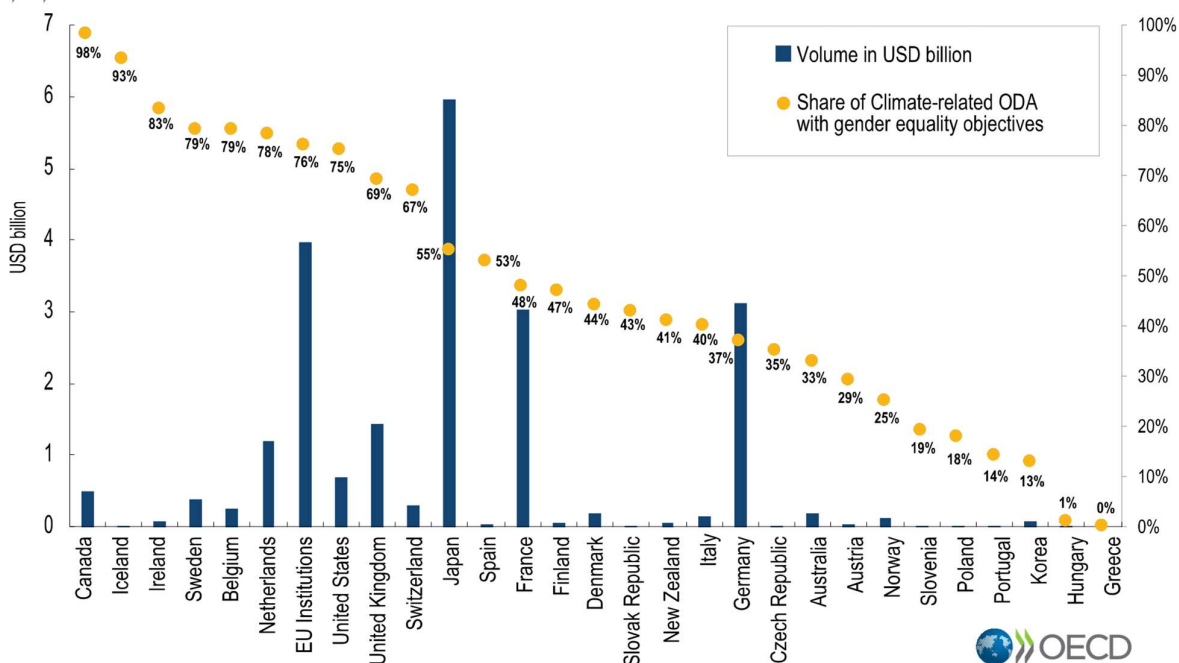


Three sectors receive the largest *amounts* of climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives labelled “significant” or (much less frequently) “principal”: ‘Other Economic Infrastructure & Services’, ‘Agriculture & Rural Development’ and ‘Water Supply & Sanitation’.

The sectors where climate-related ODA is the most gender sensitive are ‘Population Programmes & Reproductive Health’, ‘Other Social Infrastructure & Services’, ‘Agriculture & Rural Development’ and ‘Education’.

## Which DAC members assign gender equality objectives to their climate-related ODA?

**Canada** has the highest share of climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives in 2019-20

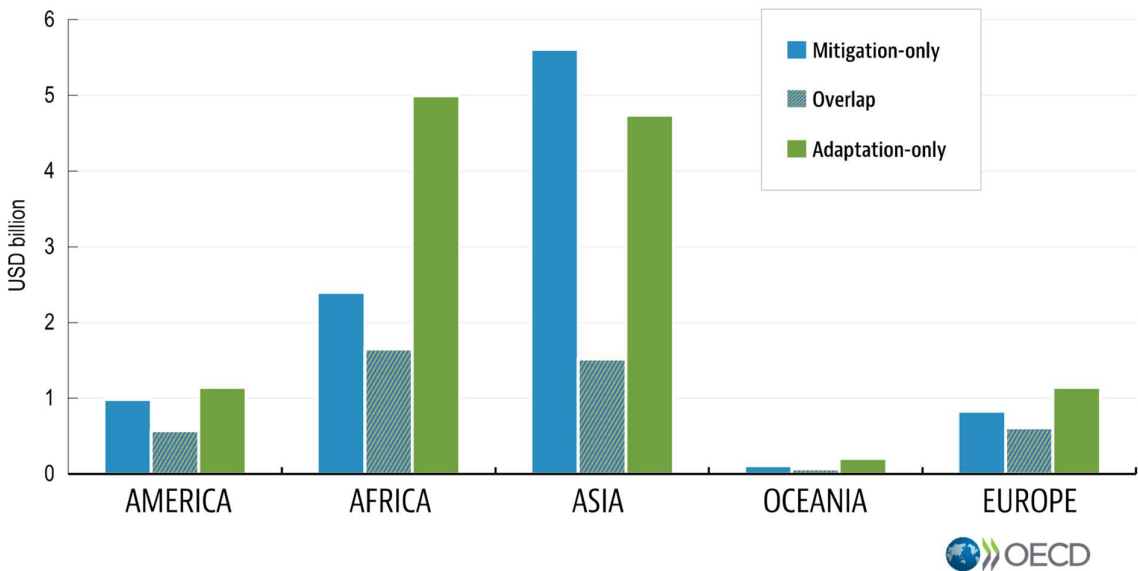


Three DAC members had gender equality objectives in more than 80% of their climate-related ODA in 2019-20: Canada, Iceland and Ireland.<sup>1</sup> In terms of volume, Japan (USD 6 billion), EU Institutions (USD 4 billion), Germany (USD 3.1 billion) and France (USD 3 billion) contributed the most.

<sup>1</sup> In contrast to previous years, Luxembourg is not included individually in this Snapshot, as the data provided could not be verified against the markers.

## Who receives climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives?

### Asia and Africa receive the most climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives



Climate-related ODA with gender equality objectives mostly goes to Asia and Africa. Asia leads in mitigation at USD 5.6 billion, while Africa receives the most funding for adaptation with USD 5.0 billion.

### Methodology

Bilateral ODA with *gender equality* objectives supports programmes and projects that seek to reach Sustainable Development Goal 5 and deliver the 2030 Agenda for women and girls. The OECD tracks this data as part of the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) through the Gender Equality Policy Marker, a three-point scoring system that determines whether aid activities are deployed with a *principal or primary* gender equality objective (score 2), or a *significant or secondary* one (score 1), or does *not* seek to address gender equality (score 0). Similarly, bilateral *climate-* and *biodiversity-related* ODA are tracked through the Rio Markers to determine whether, and to what extent activities have a *principal or primary* climate / biodiversity-related objective (score 2), a *significant or secondary* climate / biodiversity-related objective (score 1), or do *not* seek to address them (score 0). To avoid double counting: reporting against the different markers was analysed *separately*; and “climate-related” refers to the combination of adaptation, mitigation, and their dual purposes.

The scope of the data analysed here differs from OECD or other assessments of progress by developed countries towards the goal of mobilising USD 100 billion per year by 2020 for climate action in developing countries, in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. See more on those in (OECD, 2022<sup>[6]</sup>), and on progress against the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets in (OECD, 2021<sup>[7]</sup>).

This snapshot tracks climate- and biodiversity-related ODA as reported by donors using the Rio Marker. It thus leaves out some of the information contained in the CRS but not tagged with that Marker, including some ODA targeting the Sustainable Development Goals, other official flows, private finance mobilised through public interventions, as well as funding from multilateral donors and private philanthropy.