

SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.0)

0. Indicator information (SDG_INDICATOR_INFO)

0.a. Goal (SDG_GOAL)

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

0.b. Target (SDG_TARGET)

Target 11.c: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

0.c. Indicator (SDG_INDICATOR)

Indicator 11.c.1: Total official development assistance and other official flows in support of urban infrastructure or urban infrastructure projects, by sector

0.d. Series (SDG_SERIES_DESCR)

0.e. Metadata update (META_LAST_UPDATE)

2025-04-23

0.f. Related indicators (SDG_RELATED_INDICATORS)

Indicator 9.a.1 is the “total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure”

Indicator 4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study.

0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

(SDG_CUSTODIAN_AGENCIES)

UN-Habitat (Custodian agency). OECD supporting agency.

1. Data reporter (CONTACT)

1.a. Organisation (CONTACT_ORGANISATION)

UN-Habitat

2. Definition, concepts, and classifications (IND_DEF_CON_CLASS)

2.a. Definition and concepts (STAT_CONC_DEF)

Definition:

Official development assistance (ODA) is defined as government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries ([OECD](#)). It refers to material resources provided by the governments of wealthier countries to support the economic development of poorer countries and the welfare of their people. ODA can take various forms, including grants, loans, and technical assistance, and is typically aimed at reducing poverty, improving health and education outcomes, and fostering sustainable economic development.

The definition of ODA has evolved over time, reflecting changes in the global development landscape and the priorities of donor countries. Initially, it was based on the principle of "principal developmental motivation" and a degree of concessionality. However, it has since expanded to include a broader range of activities and modalities. Today, ODA remains a key pillar of international development efforts, with donor countries and multilateral organizations providing billions of US dollars annually in assistance.

. Evaluating the effectiveness of ODA-funded projects and programs is critical to ensuring that the resources are used effectively and efficiently to achieve their intended development outcomes.

As urbanization accelerates globally, ODA has increasingly been leveraged to support sustainable urban development initiatives. This includes investments in renewable energy, green infrastructure, housing and climate change adaptation measures. By fostering more sustainable and resilient cities, ODA plays a vital role in addressing pressing environmental and social challenges in developing countries.

One key area where ODA has been particularly impactful is in the provision of housing infrastructure. Expanding access to affordable and quality housing not only promotes enjoyment the universal right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being, but also unlocks access to other human rights – particularly pertaining to special care and assistance to which motherhood and children are entitled, while enhancing economic and social well-being. ODA has been instrumental in supporting the construction of new housing units, upgrading of informal settlements, and ensuring access to essential basic services such as water and sanitation.

Concepts:

Total official development Assistance: Since 2022 UN-Habitat and its partners facilitated consultations and discussions to refine a set of meaningful definitions that would enhance the global monitoring and reporting process of ODA allocated to infrastructure supporting sustainable urban development.

Total ODA is defined as the flows of official financing administered with the primary objective of promoting the economic development and welfare of developing countries, and which are concessional in character with a grant element of at least 25 per cent. ODA can take various forms, including grants, concessional loans, and technical assistance. Notably Official development assistance focuses solely on development efforts and explicitly excludes military aid.

Other concepts

Other official flows (OOF):

Other official development assistance flows refer to official sector transactions that do not qualify as official development assistance (ODA). This may be for two reasons: either they are not primarily aimed at development, or they have a grant element of less than 25 percent.

Other official flows (OOF) (excluding officially supported export credits) are defined as transactions undertaken by the official sector which do not meet ODA eligibility criteria. This could be because they lack a primary development focus, or because they are not sufficiently concessional in nature.

(For more details, see <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/other-official-flows-oof.html>)

Support to infrastructure includes all Creditor Reporting System (CRS) sector codes in the 200 series (see here <https://web.archive.oecd.org/temp/2019-03-28/80638-purposecodessectorclassification.htm>)

2.b. Unit of measure (UNIT_MEASURE)

Total in US Dollars received

2.c. Classifications (CLASS_SYSTEM)

3. Data source type and data collection method (SRC_TYPE_COLL_METHOD)

3.a. Data sources (SOURCE_TYPE)

The main sources of data on ODA are the (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) and the World Bank. These organizations collect and publish detailed information on ODA flows, including:

the amounts provided by various donor countries and organizations, the sectors and regions receiving assistance, and the terms and conditions under which the aid is provided.

The OECD/DAC has been collecting data on official and private resource flows from 1960 at an aggregate level and since 1973 at an activity level through the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). CRS data are considered complete from 1995 for commitments at an activity level and from 2002 for disbursements.

The data are reported by donors according to the same standards and methodologies (see here: <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/oda-trends-and-statistics.html>).

ODA data are reported annually on a calendar year basis by statistical reporters in national administrations, including aid agencies, and ministries responsible for foreign affairs or Finance, etc.

3.b. Data collection method (COLL_METHOD)

Data on ODA is collected through a standardized reporting system administered by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC).

Donor countries and multilateral organizations that are members of the DAC are required to report their ODA transactions annually, providing detailed information on the type, purpose, and terms of the assistance provided.

From the data tables, sector specific data that is earmarked for infrastructure projects will be extracted for recipient countries, while country-level ODA totals will be compiled separately.

3.c. Data collection calendar (FREQ_COLL)

Data are published annually in December, covering ODA flows from the previous year. The monitoring of this indicator is conducted at regular two-year intervals, allowing for two (2) reporting points until the year 2030.

3.d. Data release calendar (REL_CAL_POLICY)

Data for indicator 11c.1 will be released annually, to account for the limited remaining years until the 2030 endline.

3.e. Data providers (DATA_SOURCE)

National statistical organisations are expected to provide this data on behalf of their respective countries.

3.f. Data compilers (COMPILING_ORG)

UN-Habitat, OECD, the World Bank and other partners are and will continue actively supporting various components related to reporting on this indicator, including dissemination and capacity strengthening efforts, etc).

The data are aggregates of individual projects notified under the Creditor Reporting System (CRS), supplemented by reporting on the sectoral distribution of technical co-operation, and on actual disbursements of food and emergency aid.

3.g. Institutional mandate (INST_MANDATE)

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the specialized agency within the United Nations system responsible for sustainable urbanization and human settlements. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including:

- General Assembly Resolution 3327 (XXIX), by which the GA established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and
- General Assembly Resolution 32/162 by which the GA established the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

In 2001, by its Resolution 56/206, the General Assembly transformed the Habitat into the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), mandated to coordinate human settlements activities within the United Nations System.

As such, UN-Habitat has been designated the overall coordinator of SDG target 11c. Additionally, UN-Habitat also leads monitors and reporting of nine other indicators under Goal 11 and four other urban specific indicators across other SDGs.

4. Other methodological considerations (OTHER_METHOD)

4.a. Rationale (RATIONALE)

The concept of official development assistance (ODA) has evolved over time, reflecting shifts in the global development landscape and changing priorities of donor countries. While ODA remains a critical source of development financing, its effectiveness depends on the quality of program implementation and the extent of its alignment with local development priorities.

To ensure that ODA resources are used efficiently and effectively in achieving intended development outcomes, rigorous monitoring and evaluation of ODA programs is essential.

Official development assistance (ODA) by sector is defined as the distribution of bilateral ODA commitments categorized by economic sector. These data are aggregates of individual projects notified under the Creditor Reporting System, supplemented by reporting on the sectoral distribution of technical co-operation, and on actual disbursements of food and emergency aid. It does not refer to the type of goods or services provided. This indicator is measured in million USD constant prices, using 2021 as the base year.

4.b. Comment and limitations (REC_USE_LIM)

The indicator measures the availability of structures for monitoring and evaluation of official development assistance programmes, including regular reviews and systematic assessments of achievements and lessons learned. A high value indicates that the country is receiving a high volume of support for its ODA programmes.

The indicator only captures the amounts of funds received for ODA and does not directly measure the quality or impact of ODA programs. Additional data would be needed to assess the actual effectiveness of ODA in achieving development outcomes.

4.c. Method of computation (DATA_COMP)

The indicator measures the total volume of official development assistance (ODA) and other official flows (OOF) disbursed to support urban infrastructure projects in developing countries. The purpose is to track financial support for sustainable urban development in line with SDG Target 11.c.

A high value for this indicator in comparison to the country's GDP suggests that the country is receiving a high volume of ODA-funded programmes. However, this does not necessarily translate into assurances that the ODA resources are being used effectively or that they are achieving their intended development outcomes.

Computation Formula

Let:

- $ODA_{i,j,t}$ = ODA disbursed by donor i to recipient country j in year t for eligible urban infrastructure sectors
- $OOF_{i,j,t}$ = Other official flows by donor i to recipient country j in year t for eligible urban infrastructure sectors
- $UF_{i,j,t}$ = Total urban infrastructure funding from official sources = $ODA_{i,j,t} + OOF_{i,j,t}$

Then, the total value for indicator 11.c.1 for country j in a given year t is calculated as:

$$Indicator\ 11.c.1t = \sum_i \sum_j (ODA_{i,j,t} + OOF_{i,j,t})$$

Where:

- i = donor countries or agencies reporting to the OECD-DAC
- j = least developed or other recipient countries
- t = reporting year

All monetary values are expressed in **million USD at constant 2021 prices**.

Step-by-Step Computation Process

1. Data Extraction:

Extract project-level data from the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database, filtered by:

- Sector codes relevant to urban infrastructure (CRS 200 series)
- Purpose codes aligned with housing, urban transport, water/sanitation, waste management, energy for urban areas, etc.

2. Classification:

- Distinguish between ODA and OOF using grant element thresholds ($\geq 25\%$ for ODA).
 - Identify urban infrastructure by matching keywords in project titles/descriptions or sector codes.
3. **Currency Adjustment:**
 - Convert all financial amounts to constant 2021 USD using OECD's deflator tables.
 4. **Aggregation:**
 - Aggregate amounts by donor, recipient, year, and sector.
 - Produce totals by country, region, and globally.
 5. **Disaggregation Options** (for further analysis):
 - By type of flow: ODA vs OOF
 - By type of aid: grant, loan, technical assistance
 - By type of infrastructure (housing, sanitation, energy, etc.)
 - By donor or recipient country

Example Tabular Demonstration

Donor Country	Recipient Country	Year	Type of Flow	Sector Code	Sector Description	Amount (USD million, 2021 constant)
Germany	Rwanda	2024	ODA	43030	Urban Housing	12.5
Japan	Rwanda	2024	OOF	21020	Urban Transport	18.7
USA	Rwanda	2024	ODA	14030	Water and Sanitation	10.2
France	Rwanda	2024	ODA	23010	Energy Infrastructure	5.8
Total						47.2

Limitations and exceptions

- This indicator captures financial volumes only; it does not measure impact or implementation quality. Additional data would be needed to assess the actual effectiveness of ODA in achieving development outcomes.
- It relies on accurate donor reporting through the CRS.
- Discrepancies in sector tagging or project descriptions may affect identification of urban infrastructure-related funding.
- Proxy methods may be used when CRS sector codes are too broad (e.g., using keywords to identify urban relevance).

Alignment with Other Indicators

This method complements:

- **Indicator 9.a.1** (total ODA and OOF to infrastructure generally)
- **Indicator 11.1.1** (housing adequacy)

4.d. Validation (DATA_VALIDATION)

As part of the validation process, UN-Habitat developed a standardized template to compile data generated by countries through the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) as well as other government agencies

responsible for official statistics. These templates are dispatched every August to October for countries to compile the relevant data.

4.e. Adjustments (ADJUSTMENT)

Any adjustment to the data will be jointly agreed after consultations with the relevant national agencies that share the data points for reporting.

4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level (IMPUTATION)

Treatment of missing values:

All relevant countries are expected to fully report on this national indicator more consistently after 2-4 years post 2024.

Any missing values will be noted and explained in the country-level metadata.

4.g. Regional aggregations (REG_AGG)

Global and regional data will be estimated from national figures, using a weighted aggregation based on the performance of urban areas or a sample of countries with nationally representative data.

Weighting for regional and global averages will be conducted using urban population sizes from the World Urbanization Prospects.

Global monitoring will be led by UN-Habitat, with support from partners organizations and regional commissions.

4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level (DOC_METHOD)

UN-Habitat has developed a step-by-step data compilation and computation methodological document, which will be available here: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2025/08/indicator_11c.pdf from June 2025.

4.i. Quality management (QUALITY_MGMT)

To ensure consistency in data production across countries, UN-Habitat has developed detailed step-by-step tutorials on the computation of indicator 11c, which further explain the steps presented in this metadata and will be accessible at: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2025/08/indicator_11c.pdf from June 2025.

4.j Quality assurance (QUALITY_ASSURE)

UN-Habitat maintains the global urban indicators database, which serves as a key resource for monitoring of the urban metrics drawn from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), flagship reports (e.g. World Cities Report), and other official reporting mechanisms. In general, for all new data, a thorough review process is conducted by technical staff in the Data and Analytics Unit (DAU) to ensure consistency, accuracy, and overall data quality by before publication in the database. This ensures that only the most accurate and reliable information is included in the database.

Key quality assurance elements considered in the review include: proper documentation of data sources; representativeness of data at national level; use of appropriate methodology for data collection and analysis (e.g. appropriate sampling process, values based on valid sample sizes); adherence to standardized concepts and definitions; consistency of data trends with previously published/reported estimates for the indicator.

4.k Quality assessment (QUALITY_ASSMNT)

Once data is received from member States, UN-Habitat conducts a systematic quality assessment using an indicator-specific checklist to evaluate:

- a) Compliance with metadata provisions, and
- b) Accuracy of the data sources used for the indicator computation.

Both components are captured in the reporting template shared with National Statistical Offices (NSOs), which helps to assess whether computation was done using the proposed indicator inputs or proxies, as well as gather information on whether national data for the indicator was derived from a representative sample of the country's national systems.

5. Data availability and disaggregation (COVERAGE)

Data availability:

Time series: Available data cover the period starting 2002. The length of the time series varies significantly between countries due to differences in capacity and effort in collecting and analysing this type of data.

Disaggregation:

This indicator can be disaggregated by various dimensions, including:

- Type of flow (ODA or Other Official Flows – OOF),
- By donor country or organization,
- By recipient country,
- Type of finance,
- Type of aid: grant, loan, technical assistance
- Sub-sector, etc.
- By type of infrastructure (housing, sanitation, energy, etc.)

6. Comparability / deviation from international standards (COMPARABILITY)

Not applicable

7. References and Documentation (OTHER_DOC)

UN-Habitat. Planning Sustainable Cities: Global Report on Human Settlements 2009. Pages 93-109.

Official development assistance (ODA) by sector is defined as the distribution of bilateral ODA commitments by economic sector. <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/oda-by-sector.html>

URL OECD:

www.oecd.org/dac/stats

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/methodology.htm>