Raising the high-water mark for WASH aid

Assessing the performance and potential of Official Development Assistance in accelerating progress toward the global goals for water, sanitation, and hygiene

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Contents

Key messages

1. **Development partners are failing to meet expected standards for WASH support.** Global commitments and declarations on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) set out a number of common principles for development assistance. These principles should provide the foundation for development partners to support accelerated progress toward SDG 6. However, while some progress was made during the last decade, development partners are largely failing to meet expected standards of performance against these common principles.

2. **Global commitments have not increased the level of international support for WASH.** Despite multiple global commitments between 2009 and 2018 that sought to increase the prioritisation of WASH, the proportion of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent on WASH has remained between 3% and 4%. However, if all partners were to increase the proportion of WASH spend to match the level of the highest performer over this decade, the total volume of WASH ODA could be increased by a factor of four.

3. **To accelerate progress toward SDG 6, development partners must rapidly improve the targeting, effectiveness, and sustainability of WASH ODA.** Between 2009 and 2018, few development partners made sustained progress in targeting more WASH ODA to least developed countries. When compared to other sectors, WASH ODA remains highly projectized, contrary to the principles of aid effectiveness. This ten-year period has also seen a shift towards greater debt-based financing for WASH and a decline in ODA grants. More finance will have limited impact unless all of these issues are addressed in parallel.

4. **Trends across development partners differ markedly.** Some partners have made good progress against the principle of effectiveness, but little progress on targeting. Others have performed well on sustainability but have not increased the prioritisation of WASH in their overall budgets. WASH advocates must be aware of these differences and target their messages accordingly.

Executive summary

With less than a decade to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting on recent performance can help to identify priority areas for action in the coming years. This paper analyses trends in international support for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and examines the extent to which the international community is meeting its existing commitments.

SDG 6 aims to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to safely managed WASH by 2030. However, at current rates of progress 52 countries will not even eliminate open defecation in that timeframe. On current trajectories, there are 71 countries that will not achieve universal access to basic drinking water services.

While the reasons for poor performance of WASH systems are complex, bottlenecks in sector finance play a central role. The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) has reported an average gap of 61% between the finance required to meet national WASH targets and the funding that is available. To fill this financing gap, urgent action is required to strengthen all sources of WASH finance – taxes, tariffs, and transfers.

This paper considers the issue of transfers - specifically Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by development partners.

The 2019 GLAAS survey demonstrated that ODA remains an important source of WASH finance for many low and lower-middle income countries. Of the countries that provided public expenditure data from both government and external sources, external finance made up 50% of the total public finance for WASH, on average. In some countries the proportion of external finance was over 90%.

As we move into a 'decade of action' to achieve the SDGs, it is vital that we reflect on both the quality and quantity of WASH ODA that has been delivered in recent years to understand where improvements can be made.

To make a quantitative assessment of recent trends in WASH ODA, this paper first examines a range of global WASH commitments made between 2009 and 2019 to identify a set of 'common principles' for WASH ODA. The performance of development partners against these common principles is then assessed using data from OECD-DAC's Creditor Reporting System.

Sanitation workers servicing sewers with the use of mechanised trucks, Delhi, India. 2019

WaterAid/ CS Sharada Prasad

Four common principles for WASH ODA

1. **More finance:** Global commitments stress the need for greater levels of international support for WASH, recognising the severity of current financing gaps. Performance against this principle can be measured by tracking the total volume of WASH ODA disbursed each year.

2. **Targeted finance:** Global commitments emphasise the importance of targeting WASH ODA to where it is most needed. There are many criteria against which WASH finance should be targeted to ensure it has maximum impact. However, many of these criteria are difficult – or impossible - to track from the global data that is available. To assess how well WASH ODA is targeted, this paper assesses the volume and percentage of WASH ODA allocated to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), given the strong correlation between LCDs and the countries most off-track on SDG 6.

3. **Effective finance:** Global commitments emphasise that how ODA is utilised is just as important as how much ODA there is. This reflects the principles of Aid Effectiveness which were set out in the Paris Declaration and codified in the WASH sector by SWA's Collaborative Behaviours. To date, attempts to systematically monitor the Collaborative Behaviours have been undermined by widespread data gaps. This paper measures 'effectiveness' by assessing the volume and percentage of WASH ODA that is non-projectized – that is, ODA which is delivered in the form of 'experts and technical assistance', 'core contributions and pooled programmes and funds', or 'budget support'. While this is not a perfect measure of aid effectiveness – some forms of 'projectized ODA' can also align with principles of aid effectiveness - it is a useful proxy that helps to assess whether development partners are moving away from projectized approaches and toward more 'effective' forms of support.

4. **Sustainable finance:** Global commitments address the issue of sustainable WASH finance from a range of different perspectives, focusing on issues such as cost recovery, the availability of funds for operations and maintenance, or the affordability of services. Many of these aspects of sustainability are difficult to measure from the available global data. This paper focuses on the issue of debt sustainability and assesses this via the volume and percentage of WASH ODA that is delivered to Least Developed Countries in the form of grants. As noted, this only captures one element of sustainability. However, in the context of growing levels of public debt in many low and lower-middle income countries, this is a critical aspect of the sustainability of WASH ODA.

Expected standards and the political frontier for WASH ODA

To assess the extent to which development partners have fulfilled their commitments, an expected standard is calculated for each of the common principles. These standards are based on quantitative commitments that have been made by development partners – such as the commitment to provide 0.7% of GNI as ODA – as well as performance benchmarks from other social sectors. The expected standards provide an objective method for assessing the actual performance of development partners over the last decade and highlights where improvements must be made.

The expected standards assume that the level of political prioritisation of WASH remains constant. For example, the expected standard for the principle of 'more finance' is calculated by assuming all partners meet their commitment to 0.7% of GNI while maintaining the same proportion of WASH spending in their overall ODA budget. However, it is clear that achieving SDG 6 will not be possible without a significant increase in the political prioritisation of WASH.

To address the issue of political prioritisation, this paper identifies which development partner has had the highest proportion of WASH spend in their overall ODA budgets during the period of 2009 to 2018. This proportion is used to calculate a political frontier for WASH ODA.

The frontier represents the quantity of WASH ODA that could have been available had all partners prioritised WASH to the same level as the highest performer. This political frontier provides an objective means of assessing performance against the common principles while also recognising the need for greater political prioritisation.

Main findings

More finance: Between 2009 and 2018, total WASH ODA rose from $4.7 billion to $6.9 billion – an increase of $2.1 billion. However, this growth was not shared evenly by all partners, with over 90% of the increase coming from just six partners: World Bank, France, Germany, Asian Development Bank, EU Institutions, and United Kingdom.

The expected standard would be where every major bilateral partner has met the commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI as ODA, while maintaining their average proportion of WASH spend. If this expected standard had been met in 2018, the total WASH ODA would have been $11.4 billion – an increase of 68%.

Targeted finance: The total volume of WASH ODA to LDCs increased from $1.5 billion in 2009 to $2.4 billion in 2018. Despite this increase over the decade, the trend has not been consistent, with the share of WASH ODA allocated to LDCs fluctuating between 28% and 37%. Only four partners have provided more than 50% of their WASH ODA to LDCs during this period: Denmark, United Kingdom, African Development Bank, and UNICEF.

The expected standard would be where each donor has met the commitment to deliver 0.2% of GNI as ODA to LCDs, while maintaining the average proportion of WASH spend within their total ODA. If this expected standard had been met in 2018, the total volume of WASH ODA to LDCs would have been $3.5 billion - an increase of 46%.

Effective finance: Between 2009 and 2018, project-type interventions were by far the most common 'type of aid' for WASH, averaging 89% of all WASH ODA. Only four major WASH partners provided more than 25% of their WASH ODA through non-projectized modalities in this period: Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

The expected standard would be where the WASH sector meets the average proportion of non-projectized ODA seen all other social sectors. Between 2009 and 2018, the average percentage of non-projectized ODA for WASH was 12% - across all other social sectors it was 31%. If this expected standard had been met in 2018, the volume of non-projectized WASH ODA would have been $2.1 billion – an increase of 250%.

Sustainable finance: ODA loans rose by $2.3 billion between 2009 and 2018, while the volume of ODA grants fell by $226 million. There is no evidence that these loans were targeted to countries with the greatest capacity to repay them, with low-income countries receiving a higher share of WASH ODA loans in 2018 than they did in 2009.

The expected standard would be where each partner has committed 90% of their WASH ODA to LDCs in the form of grants – meeting a commitment made by DAC members in the 1978 Recommendation on the Terms and Conditions of Aid. If this expected standard had been met in 2018, LDCs would have received $2.4 billion of WASH ODA in the form of grants and only $235 million as loans – decreasing the debt burden by 80%.

The political frontier for WASH ODA: The percentage of total ODA allocated to WASH remained steady between 2009 and 2018, at 3-4%.

Over this ten-year period, the Arab Fund had the highest proportion of WASH spend within their total ODA budgets, with an average of 11%. This represents the political frontier for WASH ODA.

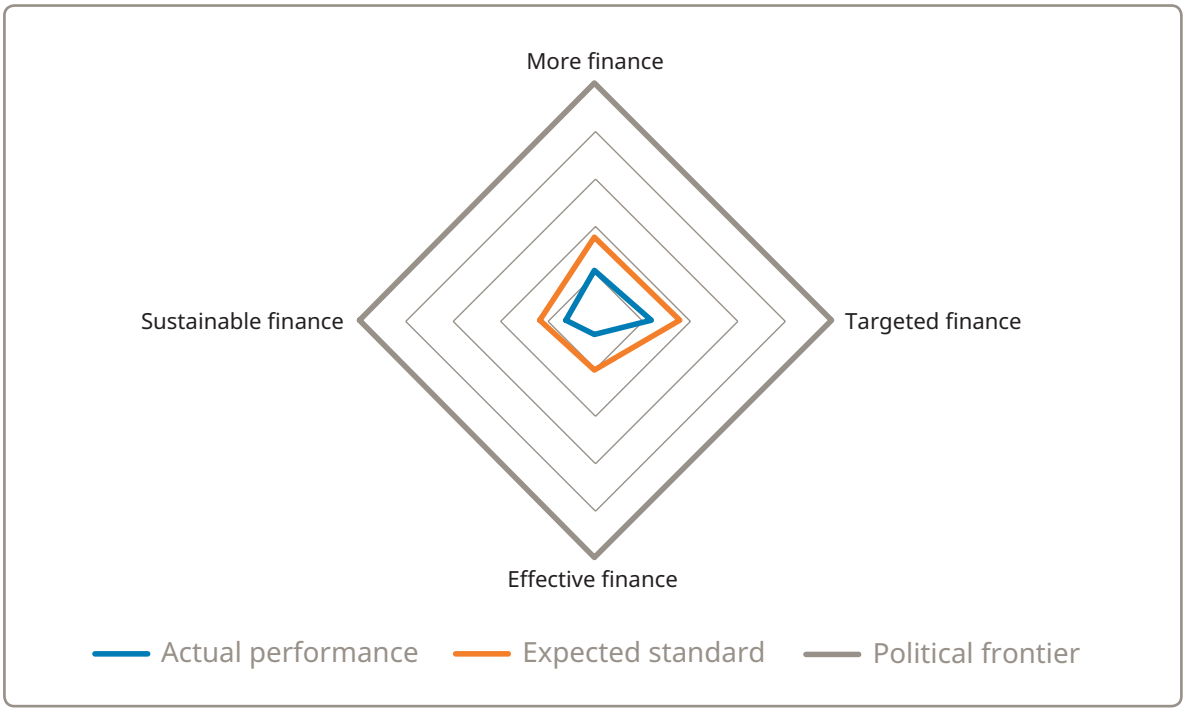
In 2018, if all partners performed at the political frontier and allocated 11% of their ODA budgets to WASH:

- the total volume of WASH ODA would have increased by $25.6 billion;
- the volume of WASH ODA allocated to LDCs would have increased by $7.5 billion;
- the volume of non-projectized WASH ODA would have increased by $9.5 billion;
- the volume of ODA grants to LCDs would have increased by $7.8 billion.

This analysis makes clear that while some progress has been made, development partners are largely not meeting their existing commitments to WASH ODA. Figure 1 visualises these trends by comparing actual performance with expected standards and the political frontier for WASH. As well as showing the value of increasing political prioritisation of WASH, it also demonstrates that simply expanding the volume of ODA is not sufficient. While levels of targeting, effectiveness, and sustainability remain low, the impact of any additional WASH ODA will be severely curtailed.

In order to fulfil the potential of WASH ODA, development partners need to increase the prioritisation of WASH while simultaneously improving performance across all four common principles.

Figure 1 - Actual performance vs. expected standards vs. political frontier



Recommendations

There remains huge unmet potential for WASH ODA. The common principles expressed through the various global commitments and declarations made over the last decade provide a solid basis from which development partners can work to maximise this potential and help to accelerate progress towards SDG 6. To achieve this, the following actions are required.

More finance

- Bilateral partners must meet their commitments to spend 0.7% of GNI as ODA.
- All WASH partners must increase the proportion of WASH allocations in ODA budgets.
- Global partnerships must focus on building greater demand for WASH finance at the national level.

Targeted finance

- Bilateral partners must meet their commitments to spend 0.15-0.2% of GNI as ODA to LDCs.
- Global partnerships must hold development partners accountable for better targeting of WASH ODA.
- Global partnerships must work to amplify voices of LDCs in global WASH processes.

Effective finance

- All WASH partners must reduce the proportion of WASH ODA that is projectized.
- Global partnerships should prioritise the identification of barriers to aid effectiveness and work to eradicate them.
- All WASH partners must prioritise the monitoring of SWA's Collaborative Behaviours and take steps to fill data gaps.

Sustainable finance

- WASH partners who favour ODA loans must reverse this trend and disburse a greater proportion of WASH ODA in the form of grants.
- All WASH partners must ensure that ODA loans are targeted to countries which have the ability to repay.
- Global partnerships must assess and strengthen broader aspects of financial sustainability.

Given the size of the financial gaps and the acceleration of progress required in the next ten years, these actions are vital to ensure that SDG 6 is achievable by 2030.

▼ **Audience during the main session of the WaterAid Water and Climate Summit in London, 10th March 2020**


WaterAid/ Chris Renton

1. Introduction: A decade of action to achieve SDG 6

In September 2019, the UN Secretary General called for a Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Decade of Action aims to mobilise global, local, and individual actions to accelerate sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges[1].

This call to action overlaps with the existing Water Action Decade (2018-2028). Launched by the Secretary General in 2016, this called on governments and development partners to accelerate, energize, and mobilize the action to achieve SDG 6[2].

These two global calls to action were driven by a need to significantly accelerate progress toward the SDGs. The WASH targets of the SDGs are especially off-track. 71 countries are not on track to provide even basic drinking water services to everyone by 2030. There are 52 countries which are not on track to eliminate open defecation by 2030[3]. Most concerningly, these are the more achievable ambitions for WASH. The ultimate ambition of SDG 6 is universal safely managed services - many countries will not meet this target until well into the next century, if current rates of progress continue[4].

One reason for the lack of progress in WASH is the scale of the financing gap. The UN-Water GLAAS survey has reported an average gap of 61% between the finance needed to meet national WASH targets and the funding available, with estimates placing the capital cost of achieving SDG 6.1 and 6.2 at $114 billion per year globally.[5,6]

The UN's Decade of Action calls for more resources and smarter solutions at the global level. Developing 'smarter solutions' requires some reflection on the 'solutions' that exist currently. What has been proposed already? Why are these solutions not producing the necessary results? And what can be done to make them 'smarter'?

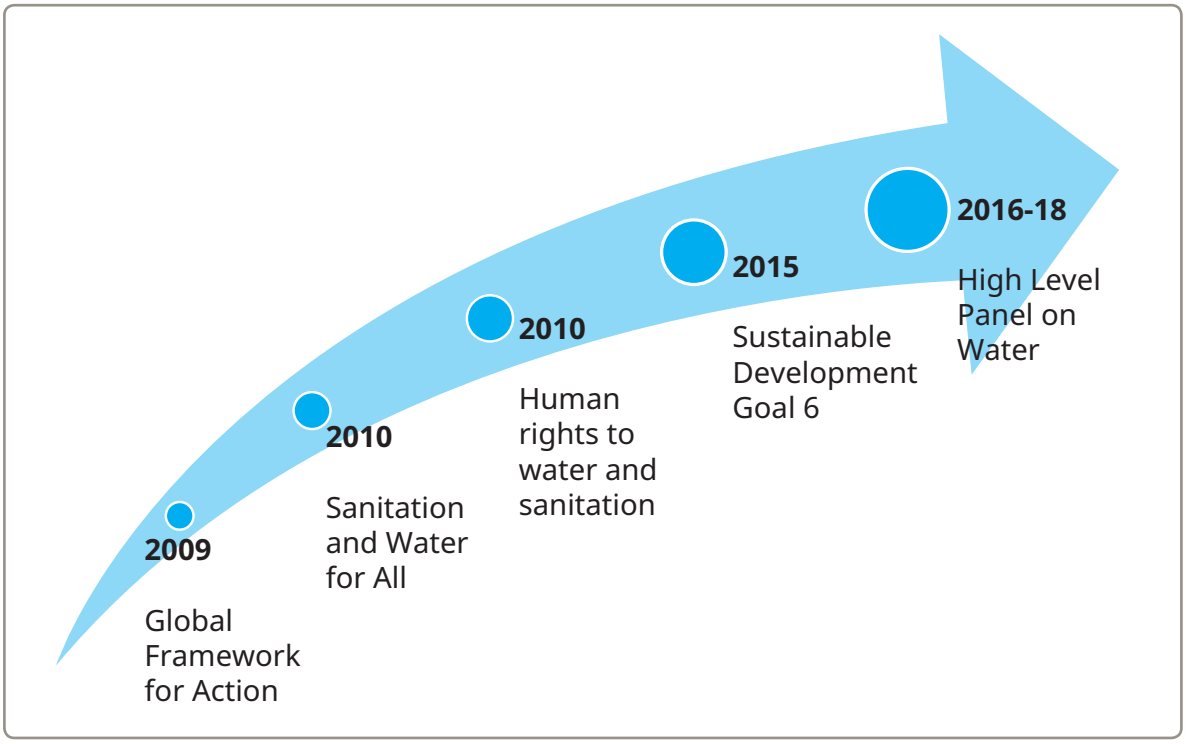
This paper attempts to provide some answers to these questions, focusing on Official Development Assistance (ODA) as one part of the global financing solution.

Through a review of global WASH commitments, a set of 'common principles' for WASH ODA are identified. These principles represent 'solutions' on which there is already broad global consensus. Data on WASH ODA is then analysed to examine the extent to which these solutions have actually been implemented by development partners over the last decade.

ODA alone will not fix WASH financing. However, previous WaterAid research has demonstrated that it remains an important part of the equation.[7] As we move into the decade of action, it's vital to pause and reflect on recent trends in international support for WASH and examine the extent to which the international community is meeting its existing commitments. Only by doing so can we understand how WASH ODA can be made 'smarter' and its value maximised as partners seek to accelerate progress towards SDG 6.

2. Common principles for WASH ODA

A set of common principles and aims for WASH ODA can be found within the numerous global commitments and declarations made in the decade between 2009 and 2018.



The **Global Framework for Action on Sanitation and Water Supply** (GF4A) was launched in 2009, with the aim of increasing political commitment to meeting the MDG WASH targets and improving the capacity of countries to deliver effective sanitation and water supply plans. It was intended support the better targeting of external resources to countries in greatest need, as well to help improve the utilisation and effectiveness of existing resources.[8]

The **Sanitation and Water for All** (SWA) partnership was born out of the GF4A and formally established in 2010. SWA is a multi-stakeholder partnership which aims to increase the political prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene, ensure adequate financing for the sector, and build better governance structures and institutions. The work of the partnership is guided by seven guiding principles: multi-stakeholder efforts; sustainability of services and actions; leaving no one behind; transparency

▶ **WaterAid Water and Climate Summit in London, 10th March 2020**

and accountability; evidence-based decision making; human rights to water and sanitation for all; and international collaboration and aid effectiveness.[9]

The United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the **Human Right to Water and Sanitation** (HRTWS) in 2010. This resolution called upon States and international organisations to provide financial resources, capacity-building, and technology transfers to support countries to provide drinking water and sanitation for all. The human right requires that services are sufficient, safe, acceptable, accessible, and affordable.[10]

In 2015, the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) were adopted, with the whole of Goal 6 dedicated to water and sanitation. SDG 6 sets aspirational targets for countries to achieve universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services by 2030. The targets make specific mention of ensuring affordability, ending open defecation, and paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. SDG 6 also commits partners to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities.[11]

Finally, in 2016 the United Nations and the World Bank Group convened a High-level Panel on Water (HLPW), consisting of 11 Heads of State and Government and one Special Adviser. In 2018, the HLPW made its final recommendations, calling on countries to: provide universal access to safe water and sanitation; build resilient societies and economies; increase water infrastructure investment; nurture environmental water; and develop sustainable cities. At a global level, the panel called for the promotion of innovation, a strengthening of partnerships, and an increase in global water cooperation.[12]

Taken together, this suite of commitments and declarations articulate a global agenda for WASH. Within this agenda, four common principles can be identified for WASH ODA: more finance, targeted finance, effective finance, and sustainable finance.

Table 1 outlines how the common principles are articulated across each of the global processes.

This paper assesses how international development partners have performed against the common principles through an analysis of data on WASH ODA between the years 2009 and 2018 – the same ten-year period in which these commitments and declarations were being made.

Table 1 - Common principles for WASH ODA

	More finance	Targeted finance	Effective finance	Sustainable finance
SWA Guiding Principles[13]	SWA seeks to mobilize finance by raising political prioritisation of WASH, including through high level meetings of finance ministers.	SWA's guiding principles state that particular support is needed to address those countries and contexts that are most off-track for reaching the SDG targets.	'International collaboration and aid effectiveness' is one of SWA's guiding principles. This principle has been further elaborated through the SWA Collaborative Behaviours.	'Sustainability of services and actions' is one of SWA's guiding principles, with specific reference given to sustainable financial planning.
HRTWS Good practices in realising the rights to water and sanitation[14]	The HRTWS obliges states to utilise the maximum available resources for WASH. Where States cannot fulfil their responsibilities, donor states have an obligation to provide assistance.	The good practice guide to the HRTWS calls for pro-poor financing by international finance institutions, which must better target the poor, rather than reaching the not-so-poor.	The good practice guide to the HRTWS calls on development partners to adhere to the principles articulated in the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action for aid effectiveness.	The good practice guide to the HRTWS highlights that international partners and creditors should remain aware of the potentially negative effects of foreign debt on a State's ability to comply with its human rights obligations.
SDGs SDG Knowledge Platform[15]	SDG target 6.a. aims to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in WASH related activities and programmes	SDG target 6.2 calls for special attention to be paid to women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. Target 17.2 commits developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7% of GNI as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 % of GNI as ODA to least developed countries.	SDG target 6.a. aims to increase the proportion of WASH-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan. Target 17.15 calls on international partners to respect each country's policy space and leadership.	Target 17.4 commits international partners to assist countries to attain long-term debt sustainability and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.
HLPW HLPW Outcome Document[16]	The HLPW set out a new financing paradigm for the sector and called for investments to be significantly increased.	The HLPW's financing paradigm included a focus on 'targeting capital' - a call to allocate sector resources more effectively to deliver the maximum benefit for every dollar invested.	The HLPW's financing paradigm included a focus on collaborative approaches. Specifically, the panel called for multilateral financial institutions to partner with governments and the private sector to improve the enabling environment for investments.	The HLPW called for financing institutions to readjust their strategies to reflect the role of sustainable water management in development and design investment pathways that maximize water-related benefits over the long term.

3. Methodology: measuring the common principles for WASH ODA

The analysis in this paper uses data from OECD-DAC's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) for the years 2009 to 2018.

CRS includes numerous parameters in the data it collects on aid spending. These can be used as proxy indicators to assess performance against the common principles for WASH ODA, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 - Proxy indicators for the common principles for WASH ODA

Common principles	Proxy indicators from OECD-DAC Credit Reporting System
More finance	Total volume of WASH ODA*
Targeted finance	Volume and percentage of WASH ODA allocated to Least Developed Countries
Effective finance	Volume and percentage of WASH ODA that is non-projectized (i.e. is delivered in the form of 'experts and technical assistance', 'core contributions and pooled programmes and funds', or 'budget support')
Sustainable finance	Volume and percentage of WASH ODA to Least Developed Countries delivered as grants

*The CRS purpose codes included in the calculation of 'WASH ODA' is described in detail in the Annex.

More finance

The extent to which development partners have delivered on their commitments to provide more finance can be measured by tracking trends in the total volume of WASH ODA disbursed each year.

One weakness of the CRS data is in the tracking of finance for hygiene, which is split between the purpose codes for water and sanitation and health education. It is likely, therefore, that this analysis omits some elements of hygiene financing.

Targeted finance

There is a large degree of commonality between the UN-defined group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and those countries which are most off-track on SDG 6. The proportion of WASH ODA to LDCs is therefore a good proxy for measuring the targeting of finance.

This is not a perfect indicator, as it doesn't measure the extent to which ODA is targeted specifically based on the level of WASH need – which differs within LDCs and between LDCs and non-LDCs. Previous research from WaterAid has shown how combining different criteria – such as income, WASH access, and disease burden – can help to measure the need for WASH finance more accurately.[17] However, because the proportion of ODA allocated to LDCs is tracked directly in CRS, this can provide a comparable measure over time.

Effective finance

It is difficult to measure the effectiveness of WASH ODA from the available global data. In the WASH sector, the principles of aid effectiveness have been codified in the SWA Collaborative Behaviours.[18] However, attempts to track performance against these behaviours have been undermined by huge data gaps.[19]

CRS distinguishes between different 'types of aid', the most common in the WASH sector are: project-type interventions; experts and technical assistance; core contributions and pooled programmes and funds; and budget support. Of these different types of aid, project-type interventions are the least aligned with the SWA Collaborative Behaviours and the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness, which aimed to increase the proportion of programme-based approaches.[20]

Tracking the volume and proportion of non-projectized WASH ODA (i.e. ODA that is not in the form of project-type interventions) is a useful proxy for the effectiveness of finance. Again, this is not a perfect measure, as some projectized-interventions also qualify as programme-based approaches. But in the absence of more accurate data, this proxy provides a useful indication of the extent to which partners are moving away from projectized approaches and towards more effective types of ODA.

Sustainable finance

Sustainability is a broad concept within the context of WASH financing. It requires the right balance between capital, operations, and maintenance expenditure to ensure that services are affordable and continue to deliver benefits over time. This is difficult to track from the global data on ODA.

However, debt sustainability is a key concern in the context of international public finance. CRS tracks the volume of loans and grants within WASH ODA, so it is possible to assess the sustainability of finance from this perspective. While this measure doesn't capture fully the concept of sustainable WASH finance, it does measure the extent to which development partners are considering the issue of debt sustainability within their WASH finance.

Actual performance, expected standards, and the political frontier for WASH finance

Analysing the actual trends across each of the common principles for WASH finance only provides a limited indication of the extent to which development partners have fulfilled their commitments. For instance, when assessing the principle of 'more finance', how much more would be considered good practice?

To put the trends in context, this paper compares actual performance with a set of **expected standards**. The expected standards are calculated using the criteria outlined in Table 3. These criteria are based on previous quantitative commitments, or benchmarks from other sectors, and as such provide an objective benchmark against which actual performance can be judged.

The expected standards set out what should be business as usual, if partners met their existing commitments and the modalities of WASH ODA were in line with other sectors. However, the scale of acceleration required to achieve SDG 6 within the next decade demands more than business as usual. It requires a huge increase in the political prioritisation of WASH. To quantify the volumes of finance that could be made available if such a shift occurred, the paper also identifies a political frontier for WASH finance.

Table 3 - Criteria for minimum expected standards

Common principles	Criteria used to calculate expected standards
More finance	The commitment of development partners to commit 0.7% of GNI as ODA.[21]
Targeted finance	The commitment of development partners to commit 0.15%-0.2% of GNI as ODA to Least Developed Countries.[22]
Effective finance	The average proportion of non-projectized ODA across all other social infrastructure and services sectors.[23]
Sustainable finance	The agreement that 90% of a development partner's annual commitment to Least Developed Countries should be in the form of grants.[24]

The political frontier is determined by identifying the development partner which has committed the greatest proportion of total ODA to WASH over the years 2009-2018. Using this proportion as a benchmark, it is possible to calculate the potential volume of WASH ODA that could be made available if all partners prioritised WASH to the same degree.

Comparing actual progress with expected standards and the political frontier provides an objective method for assessing what progress there has been, how much progress there should have been, and how much room there is for further improvement. It also helps to identify where efforts need to be targeted over the next ten years to unblock a greater quantity and quality of international public finance for WASH.

Major WASH partners

The report analyses trends at a global level and for a group of 'major partners' for WASH. Major partners are defined as those who have collectively made up over 95% of bilateral WASH ODA and 95% of multilateral WASH ODA between the years 2009 and 2018. These groupings only include development partners which report to the OECD DAC.

Table 4 - Major WASH partners, 2009-2018

Major bilateral WASH partners		Major multilateral WASH partners
Australia	Netherlands	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Denmark	Spain	Arab Fund
France	Sweden	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Germany	Switzerland	EU Institutions
Japan	United Kingdom	Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
Korea	United States	UNICEF
		World Bank

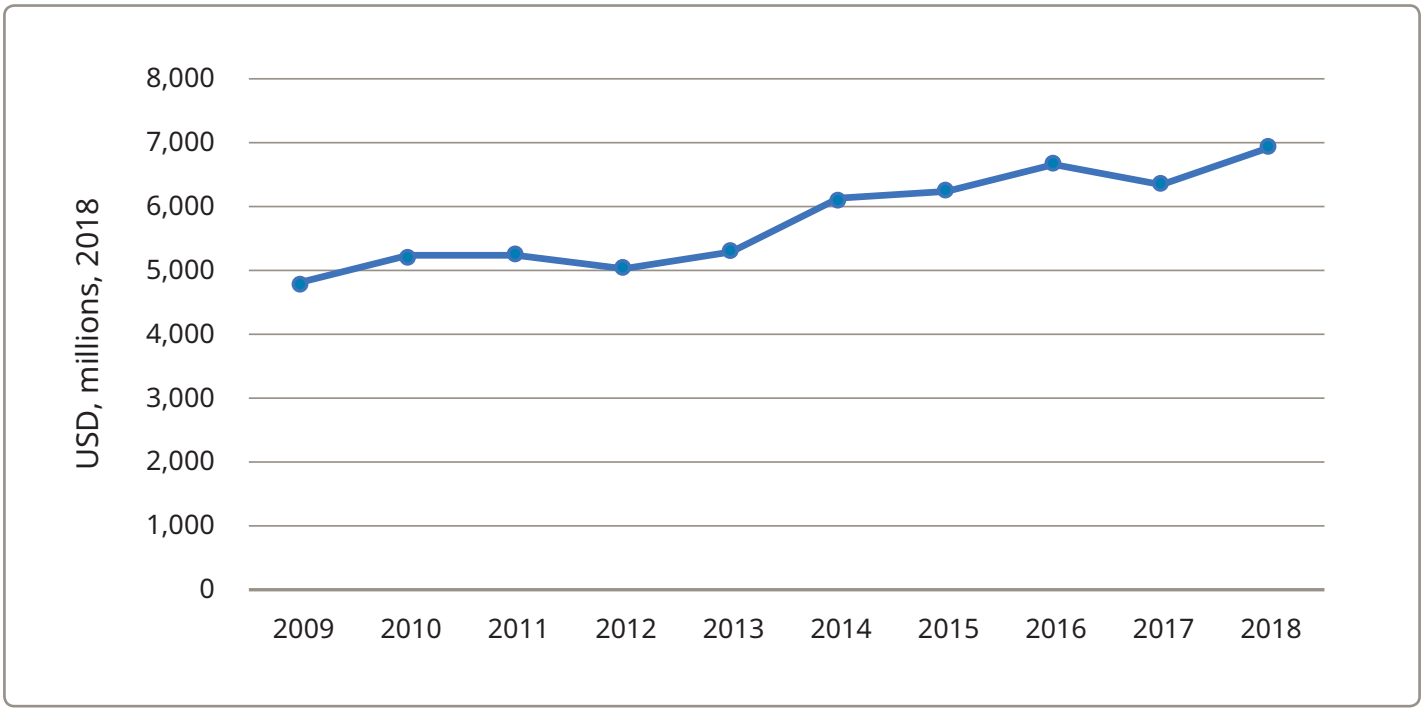
4. Actual performance and expected standards for WASH ODA, 2009-2018

4.1. More finance

Actual performance

In total, WASH ODA rose from $4.7 billion in 2009 to $6.9 billion in 2018 – an increase of $2.1 billion. There has been an annual increase in WASH ODA each year, except for two slight dips in 2012 and 2017.

Figure 2 - WASH ODA from all official development partners, 2009-2018



Almost 90% of the increase between 2009 and 2018 has come from just six donors:

- World Bank: +$532 million
- France: +$403 million
- Germany: +$364 million
- Asian Development Bank: +$231 million
- EU institutions: +$163 million
- United Kingdom: +$147 million

However, these increases have been offset by a fall in WASH ODA from four of the other major donors:

- Spain: -$360 million
- Japan: -$89 million
- Arab Fund: -$42 million
- Denmark: -$46 million

While Australia's WASH ODA was higher in 2018 than in 2009, its volume of disbursements has been declining steadily since reaching a peak in 2010-2011.

While absolute levels of WASH ODA have been raising at an average rate of approximately 4.5% each year, this increase has not been shared evenly by all partners.

Figure 3 - WASH ODA from major bilateral partners, 2009-2018

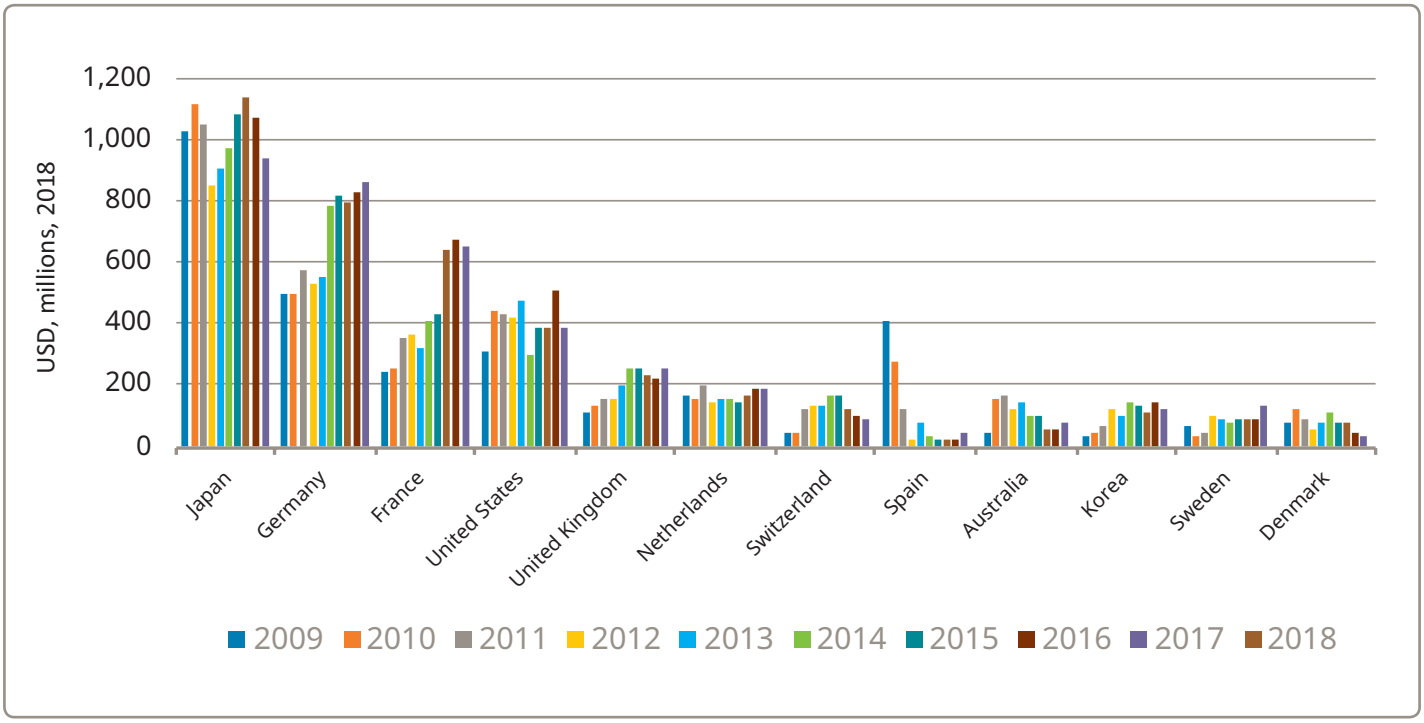
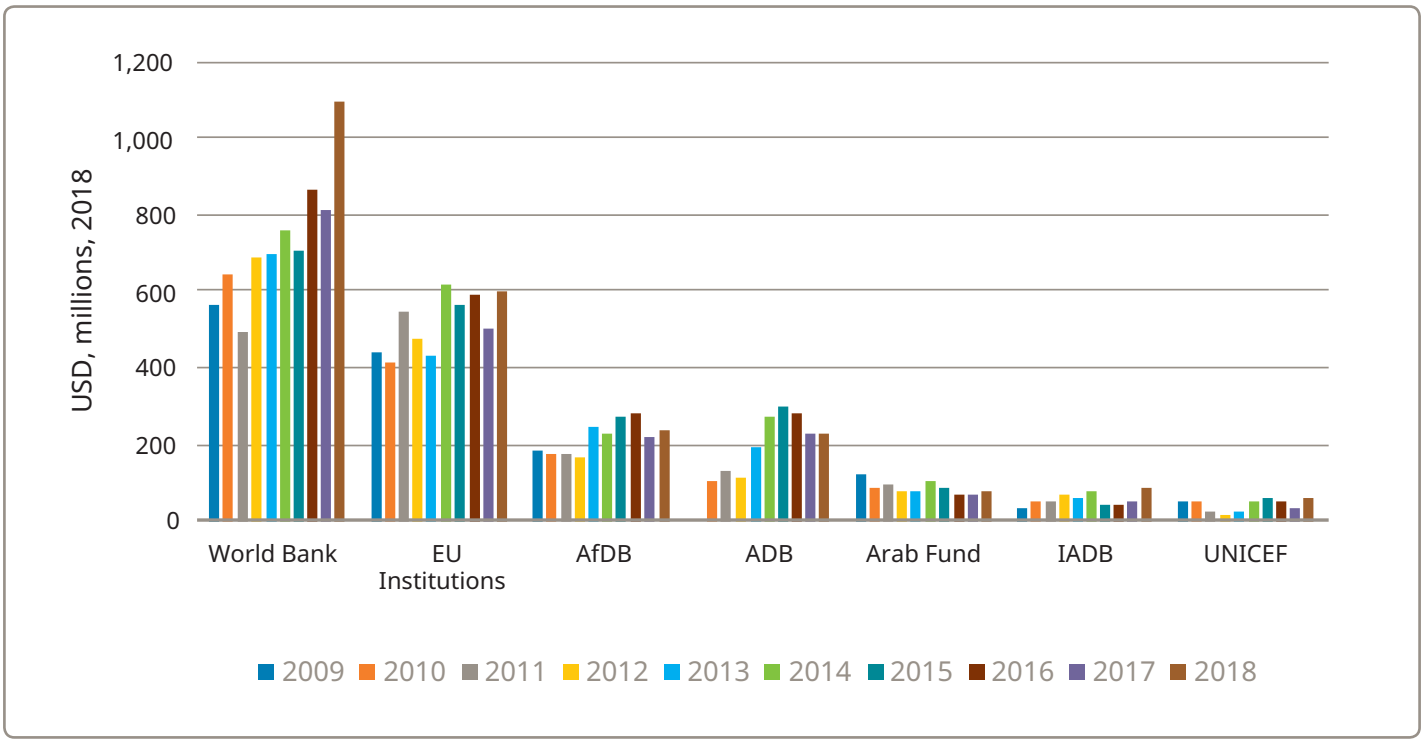


Figure 4 - WASH ODA from major multilateral partners, 2009-2018

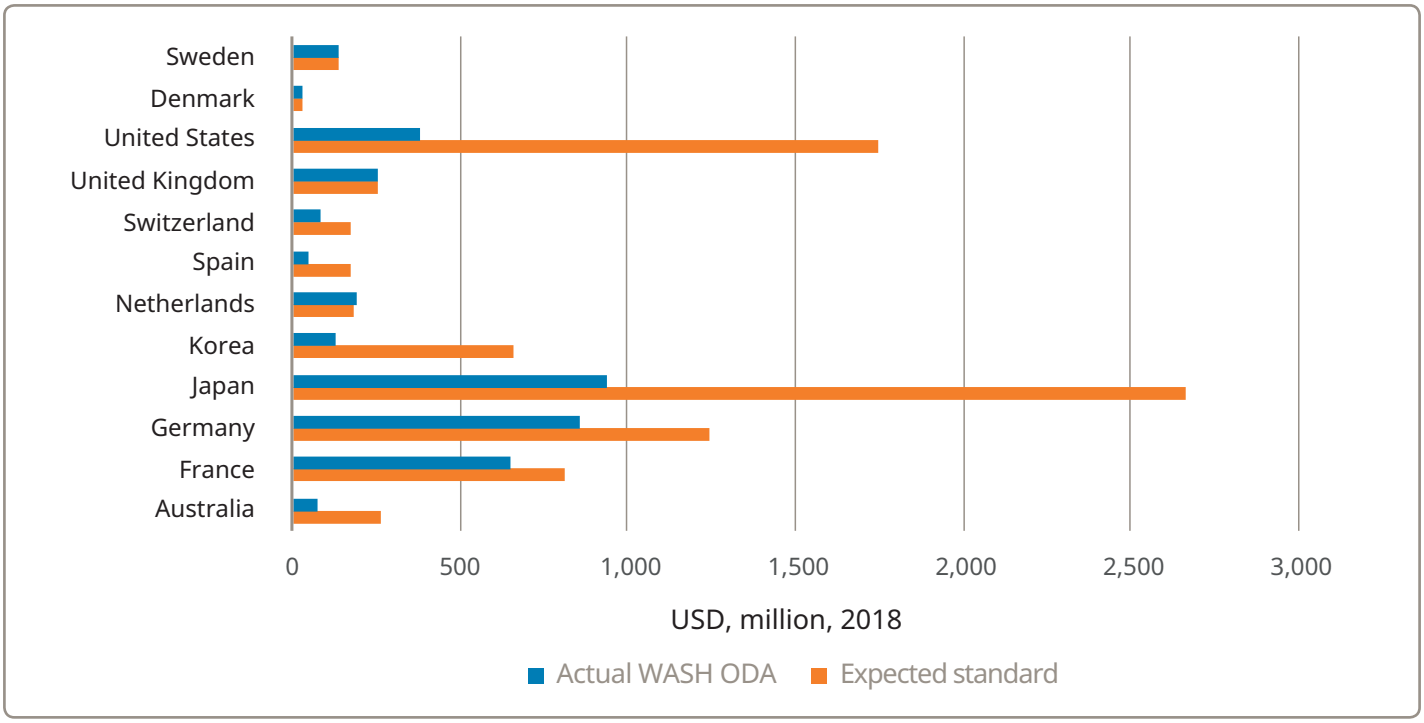


Expected standard

To put these trends in context, it is useful to consider the extent to which partners are meeting their broader commitments on the volume of ODA provided. All OECD DAC countries have committed to provide 0.7% of GNI as ODA.

A reasonable expected standard for WASH finance would be where partners meet the commitment to 0.7% of GNI while maintaining the same proportion of WASH spend within their total ODA.

Figure 5 - Expected standard if all major bilateral partners met commitments to 0.7% of GNI, 2018



Of the major bilateral partners, only the UK, Denmark, and Sweden met the 0.7% target in 2018. If every other major bilateral had met the 0.7% target, and maintained their average proportion of WASH spend, an additional $4.6 billion of WASH ODA would have been disbursed in 2018.

Therefore, while the amount of WASH ODA has been increasing year-on-year, there is huge room for improvement. Meeting the expected standard would see the volume of WASH ODA increase by over 65%.

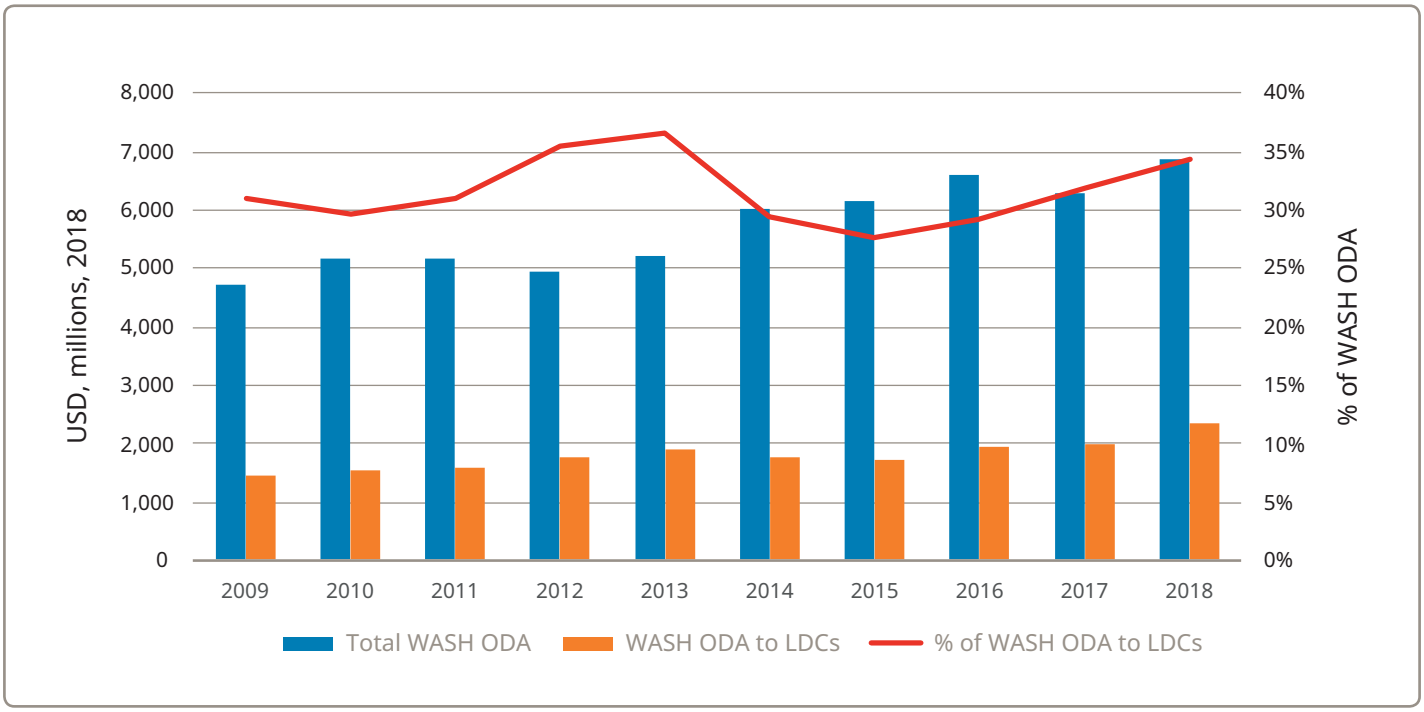
4.2. Targeted finance

Actual performance

The total volume of WASH ODA to LDCs increased from $1.5 billion in 2009 to $2.4 billion in 2018. In percentage terms, this represented a 3% increase - from 31% to 34% of total WASH ODA

However, while there has been a slight upward trend over the whole ten-year period, this trend has not been consistent. WASH ODA allocated to LDCs reached a high of 37% in 2013 before falling to 28% in 2015. It is not clear the extent to which the steady increase seen since 2015 is part of a long-term upward trend, or merely a regression to the historical norm.

Figure 6 - WASH ODA allocated to Least Developed Countries, 2009-2018



Looking at major WASH partners, only four averaged over 50% of WASH ODA to LDCs between 2009 and 2018:

- Denmark (79%)
- United Kingdom (58%)
- African Development Bank (67%)
- UNICEF (70%)

Six partners averaged less than 25% of WASH ODA to LCDs:

- Germany (20%)
- Japan (14%)
- Korea (24%)
- Spain (17%)
- Sweden (11%)
- Switzerland (17%)

The Inter-American Development Bank has averaged only 23% of WASH ODA to LDCs, however Haiti is the only LDC within its region of operations.

Figure 7 - Percentage of WASH ODA allocated to Least Developed Countries from major bilateral partners, 2009-2018

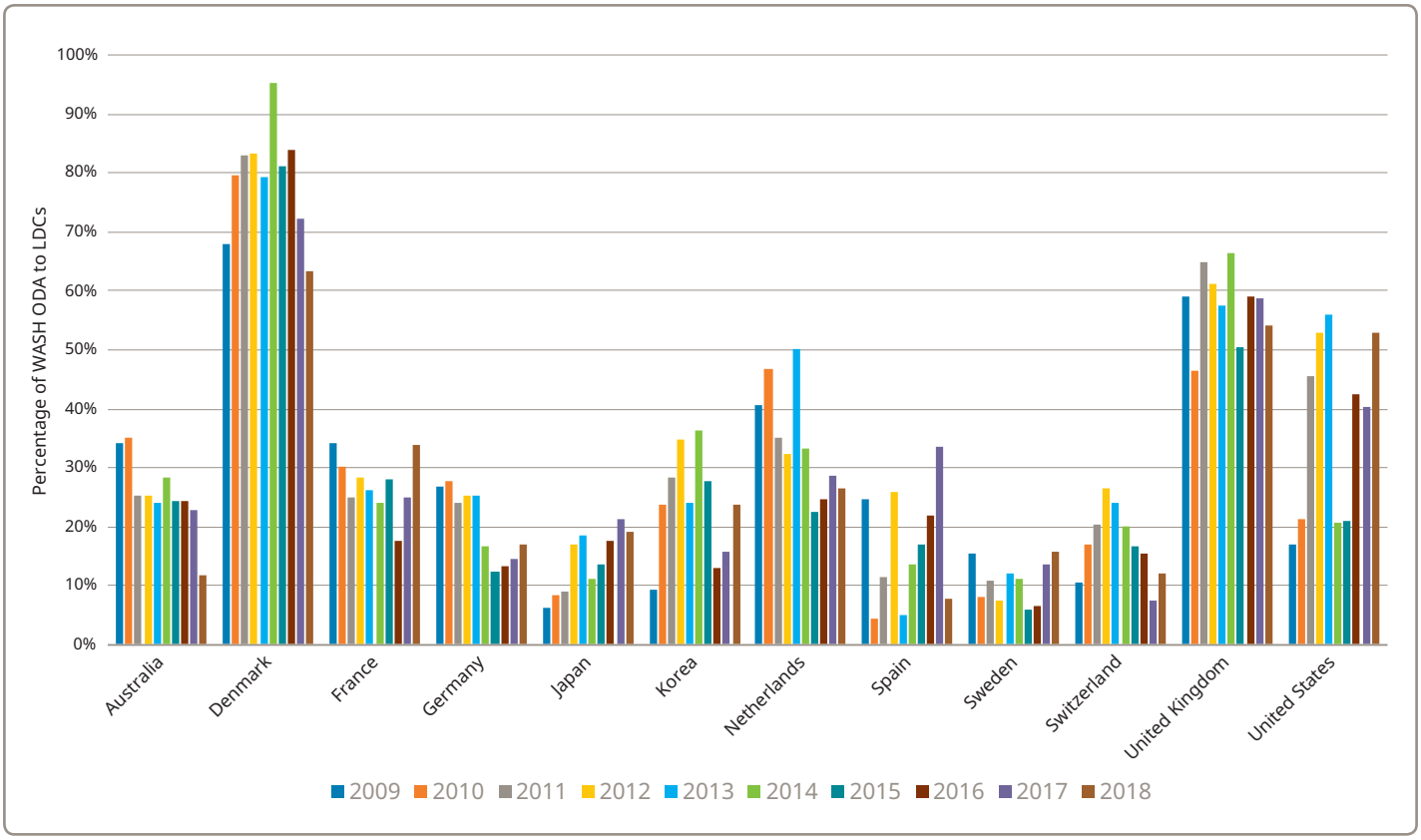
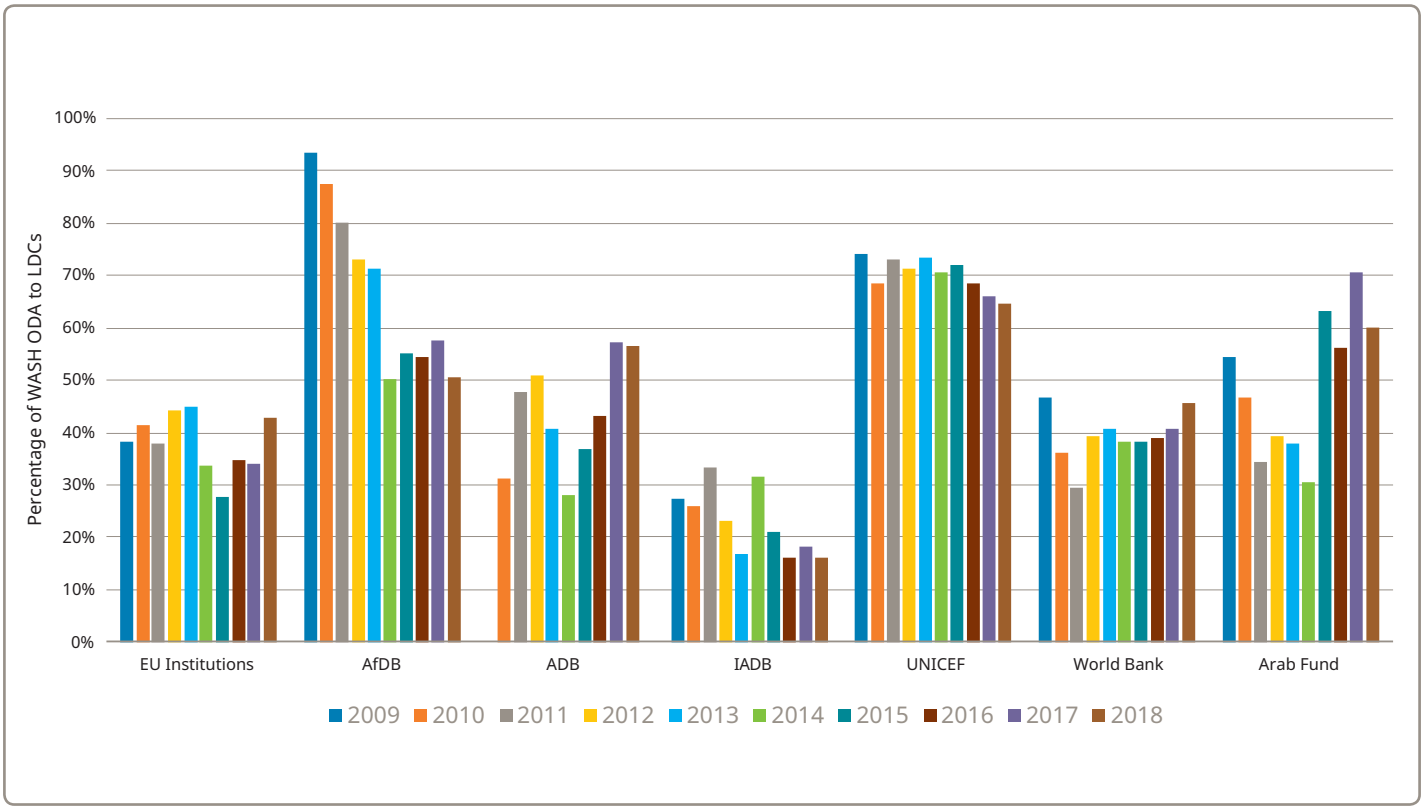


Figure 8 - Percentage of WASH ODA allocated to Least Developed Countries from major multilateral partners, 2009-2018



Despite a high average, the African Development Bank has seen a notable downward trend over the decade. This is especially concerning given concentration of LDCs on the African continent.

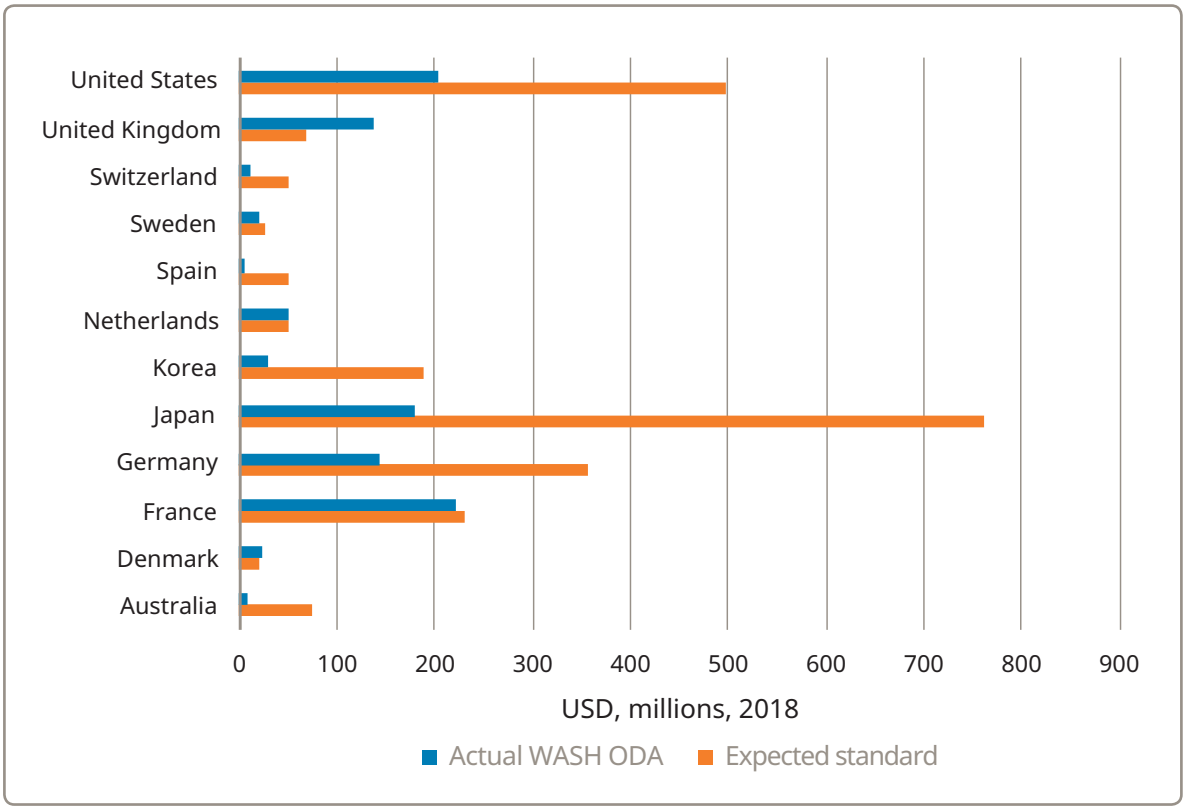
Other partners have increased their support to LDCs, such as Japan, United States, and the Asian Development Bank. However, even where there have been upward trends, the targeting of WASH ODA to LDCs has been erratic, with disbursements raising and then falling, sometimes quite sharply. No donor seems to have made a concerted and sustained attempt to increase the proportion of WASH funding allocated to LDCs.

Expected standard

To put in these trends in context, it is helpful to assess the extent to which donors are meeting their broader commitments on the volume of ODA provided to LDCs. All OECD-DAC countries have committed to provide 0.15-0.2% of GNI as ODA to LDCs.

Using the upper end of that commitment, a reasonable expected standard for WASH finance would be where each donor has achieved 0.2% of GNI as ODA to LCDs while maintaining the average proportion of WASH spend within their total ODA.

Figure 9 - Potential WASH ODA to Least Developed Countries if all bilateral partners met their commitment to 0.2% of GNI, 2018



In 2018, $2.4 billion of WASH ODA was disbursed to LDCs. If all bilateral partners had met their commitment to 0.2% and maintained the average proportion of WASH in their overall ODA, this figure would have been $3.5 billion. An increase of $1.2 billion.

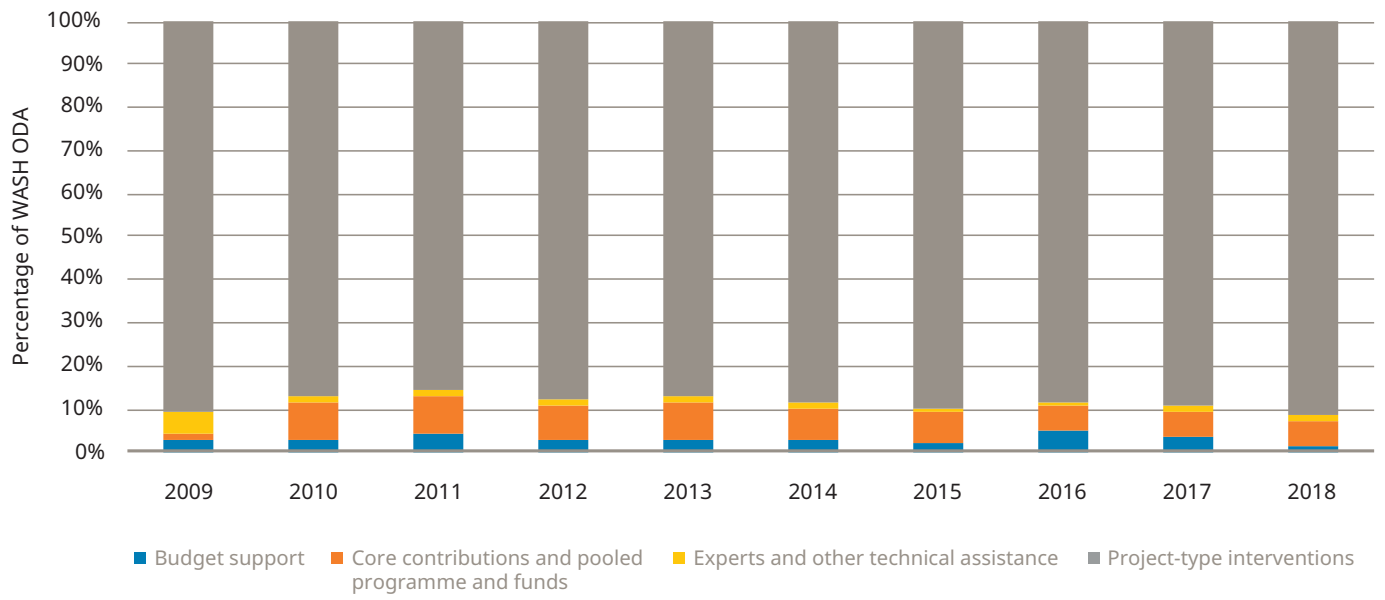
In Figure 9, the potential levels of ODA for the United Kingdom and Denmark are lower than their actual values, owing to the large percentage of WASH ODA they already committed to LDCs. However, this analysis shows that there is much progress to be made by all other bilateral partners to improve targeting of WASH ODA.

4.3. Effective finance

Actual performance

Between 2009 and 2018, project-type interventions were by far the most common 'type of aid' for WASH, averaging 89% of all WASH ODA. This proportion of projectized WASH ODA reached its highest level in 2018, at 91%, and shows no signs of falling.

Figure 10 - WASH ODA by 'type of aid', 2009-2018



In 2018, eight of the major WASH partners provided all, or almost all, of their WASH ODA in the form of project-type interventions:

- France (99%)
- Japan (100%)
- Korea (99%)
- African Development Bank (100%)
- Inter-American Development Bank (100%)
- UNICEF (100%)
- World Bank (100%)
- Arab Fund (100%)

Conversely, only four major WASH partners provided more than 25% of their WASH ODA using non-projectized modalities:

- Australia (27%)
- Demark (32%)
- Netherlands (35%)
- Sweden (78%)
- United Kingdom (37%)

There is a clear distinction between bilateral and multilateral partners, with bilaterals far more likely to have moved away from projectized ODA - at least in terms of how their activities are reported to OECD-DAC. Whilst progress is still much slower than required, some partners – most notably Sweden - have demonstrated how making this shift at scale is possible.

Figure 11 - Bilateral WASH ODA by 'type of aid', 2018

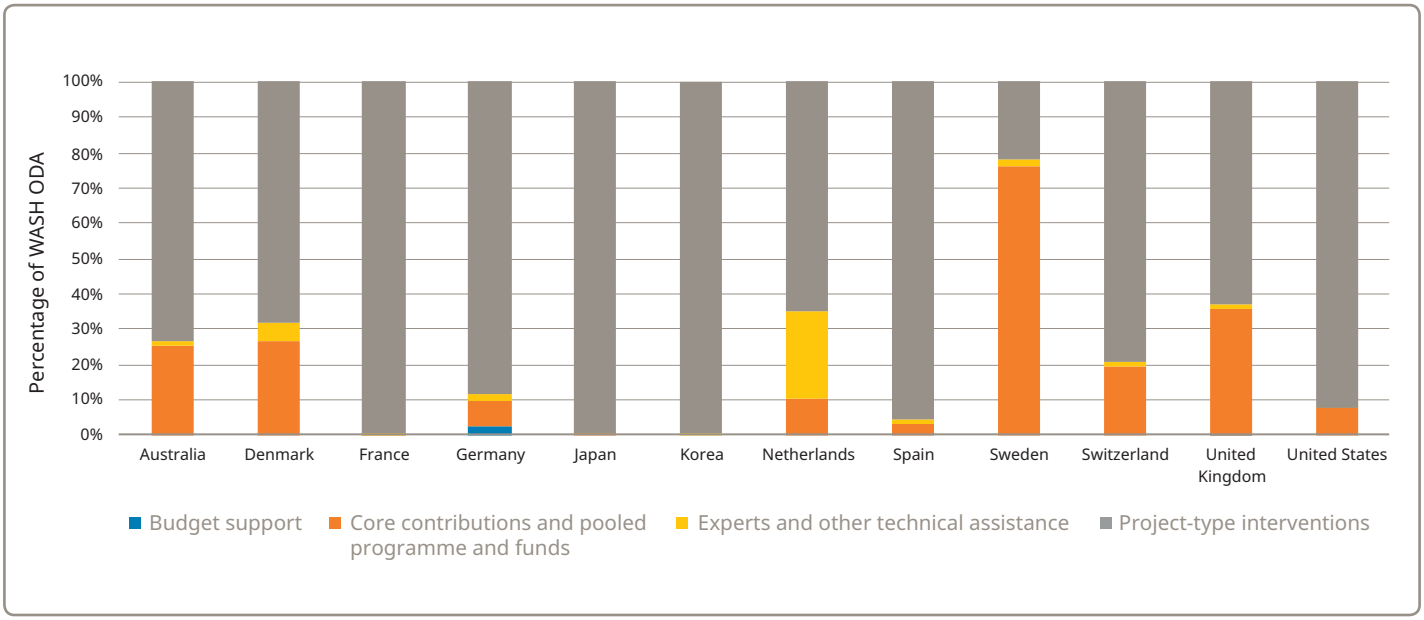
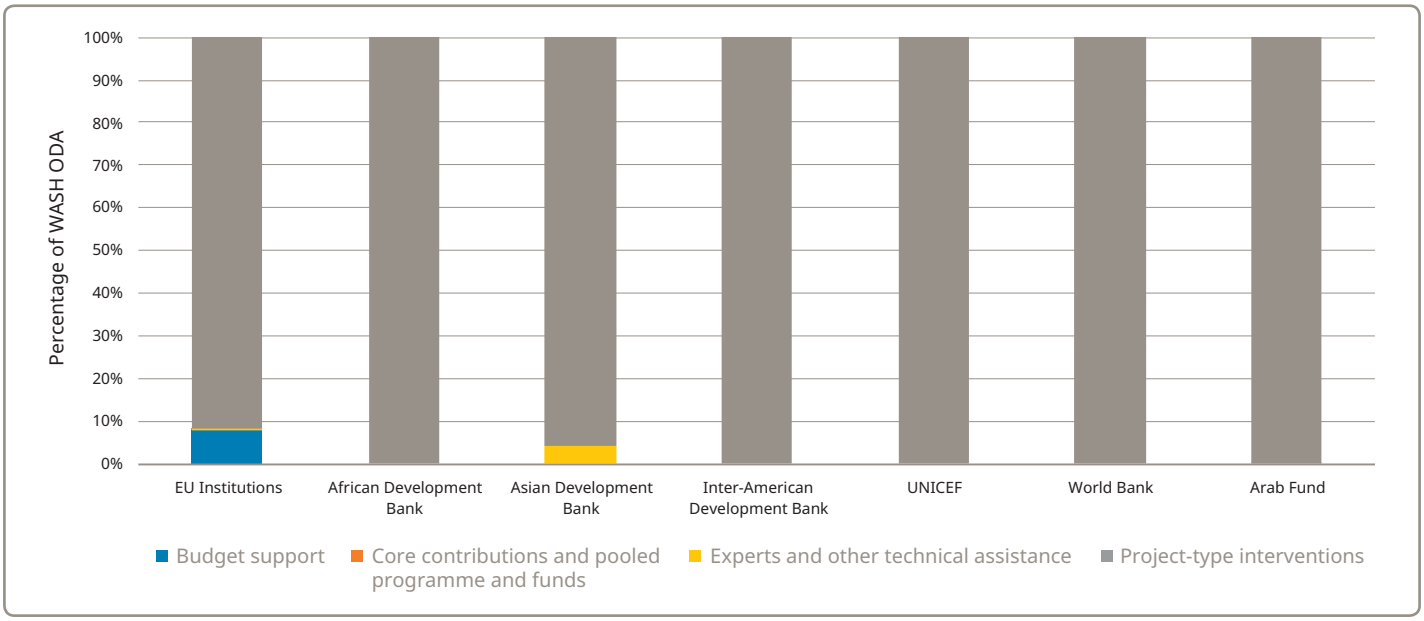


Figure 12 - Multilateral WASH ODA by 'type of aid', 2018



Expected standard

It is difficult to quantify exactly what proportion of total WASH ODA should be in the form of project-type interventions and what proportion should be 'non-projectized'. In the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, partners committed to ensure that 66% of all ODA was in the form of 'Programme-based Approaches' (PBAs).[25] However, the definition of PBAs can include all modalities of ODA, including project-type interventions, so long as certain criteria are met. Therefore, it would be wrong to make a direct comparison with this commitment. Also, while OECD collect data on the amount of aid which is delivered through PBAs, this is not disaggregated at the sector level.

As an alternative method of putting these trends in context, it can be useful to consider the proportion of project-type interventions seen in other social infrastructure and service sectors.

Figure 13 - Percentage of ODA delivered as 'project-type interventions' across social infrastructure and services sectors, 2009-2018

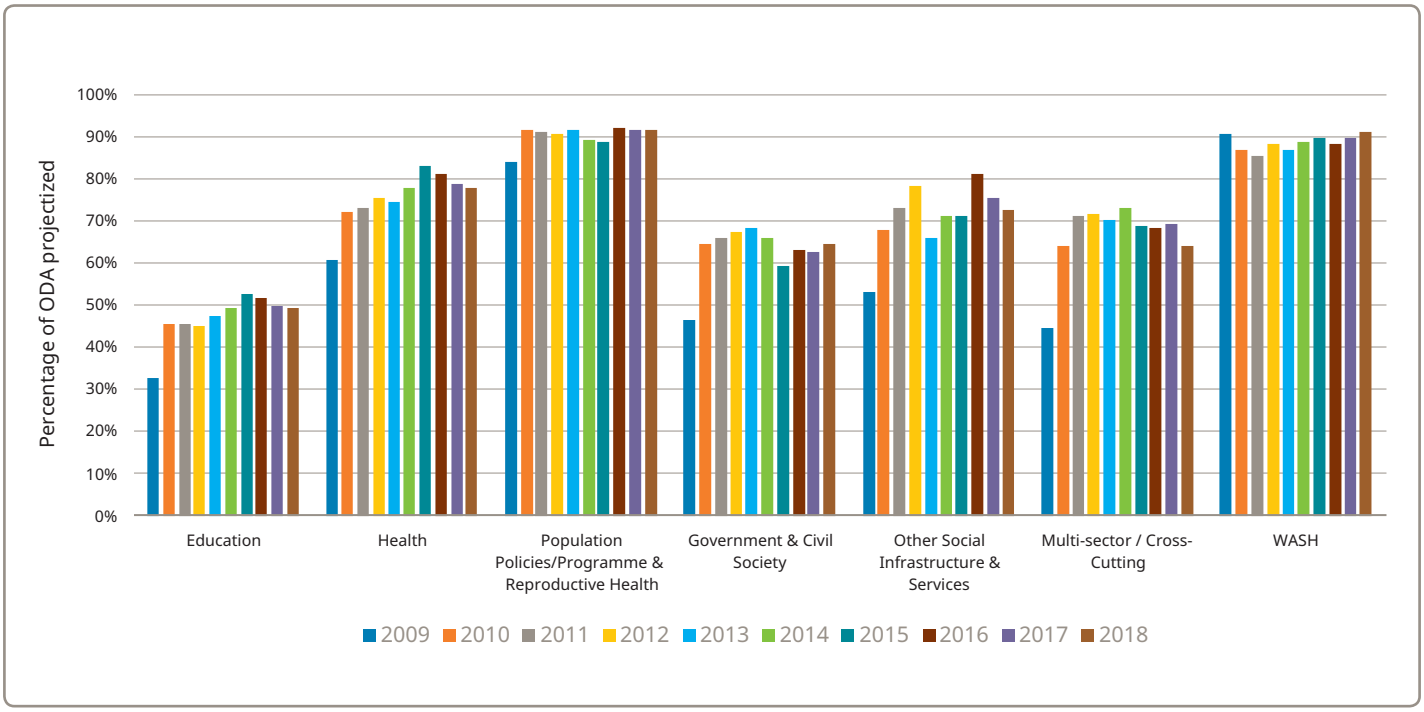


Fig 16 shows that WASH ODA is more projectized than most other social sectors. While the specific characteristics of different sectors can explain this divergence to an extent, the general trend is problematic for WASH.

In the absence of sectoral data on programme-based approaches, a reasonable expected standard for WASH finance would be where the WASH sector met the average proportion of non-projectized ODA seen all other social sectors.

Between 2009 and 2018, the average proportion of non-projectized ODA for WASH was 12% - across all other social sectors this figure was 31%.

In 2018, if the WASH sector had performed in line with other social sectors and increased the proportion of non-projectized activities to 31% of total WASH ODA, the volume of finance available for budget support, pooled programmes and funds, or technical assistance would have been $2.1 billion. This would have represented an increase of $1.5 billion for the aid modalities most in line with the principles of aid effectiveness.

4.4. Sustainable finance

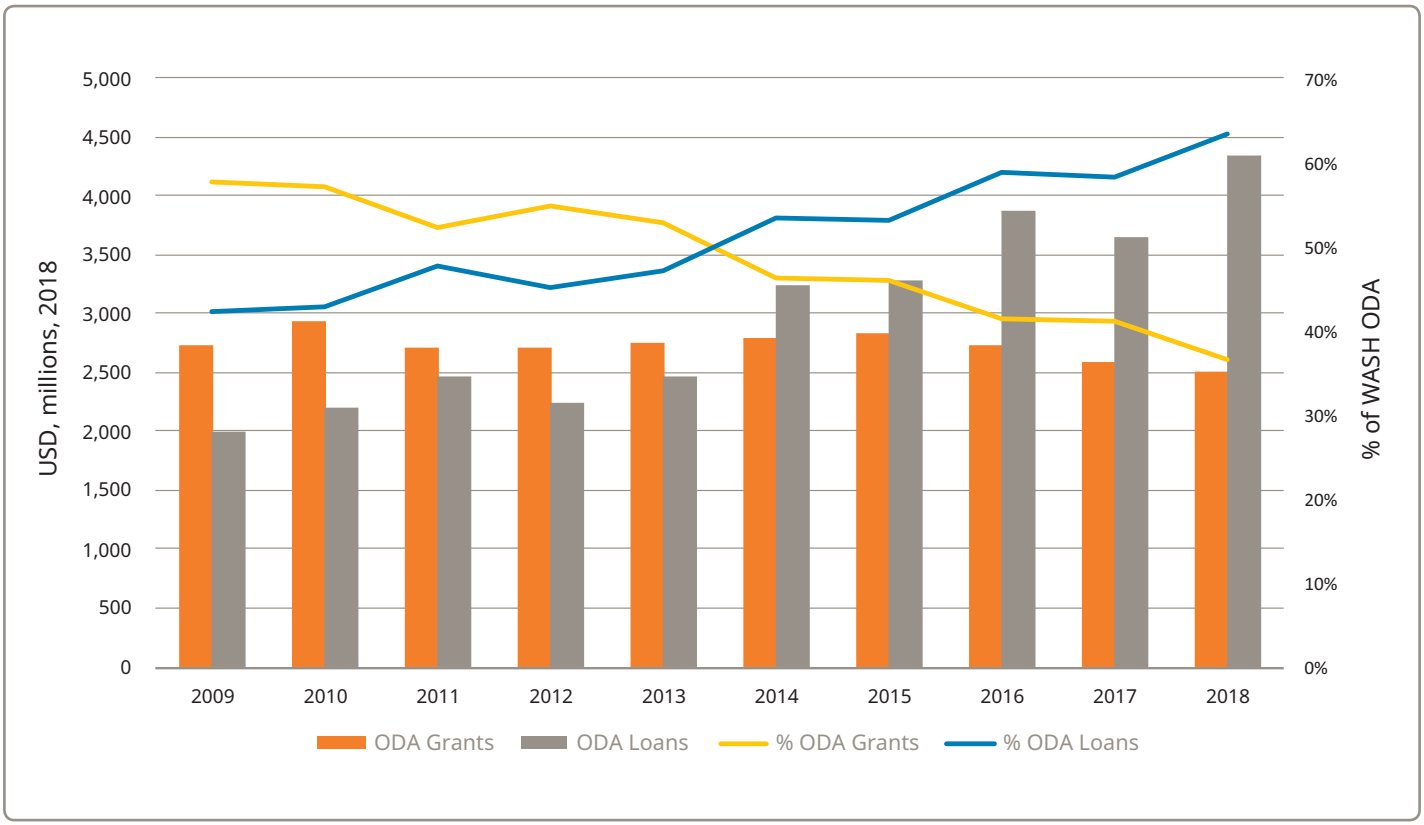
Actual performance

While total WASH ODA increased by $2.1 billion between 2009 and 2018, this increase was driven entirely by an increase in ODA loans. ODA loans rose by $2.3 billion over this period, while the volume of ODA grants fell by $226 million. In 2018, loans made up 63% of total WASH ODA, compared to 42% in 2009.

Eight major WASH partners provided all, or nearly all, of their WASH ODA in the form of grants between 2009 and 2018.

- Australia
- Denmark
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- UNICEF
- United Kingdom
- United States

Figure 14 - WASH ODA grants and WASH ODA loans, 2009-2018



However, nine major WASH partners provided the majority of their WASH ODA – over 50% - in the form of loans during this period:

- France (78%)
- Germany (53%)
- Japan (82%)
- Korea (75%)
- African Development Bank (68%)
- Asian Development Bank (89%)
- Inter-American Development Bank (72%)
- World Bank (87%)
- Arab Fund (100%)

Notably, over the course of the decade, the proportion of loans in total WASH ODA has been on an upward trajectory for many of these partners: France, Germany, Korea, African Development Bank, and World Bank. While EU institutions have provided a lower proportion of loans on average, this proportion has been raising rapidly in recent years. It is also important to note that these trends coincide with raising levels of debt distress in many low and lower-middle income countries.

Figure 15 - Percentage of bilateral WASH ODA delivered as loans, 2009-2018

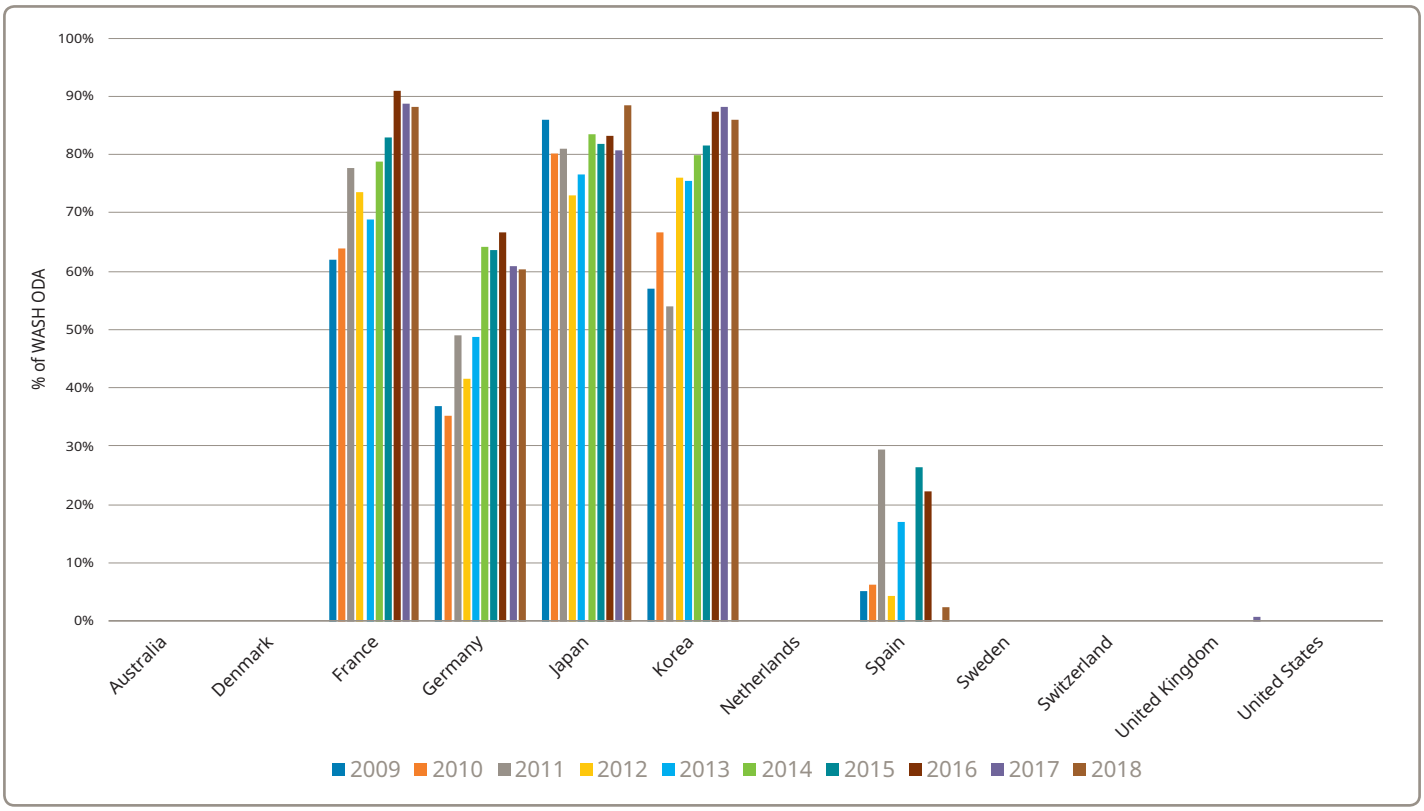
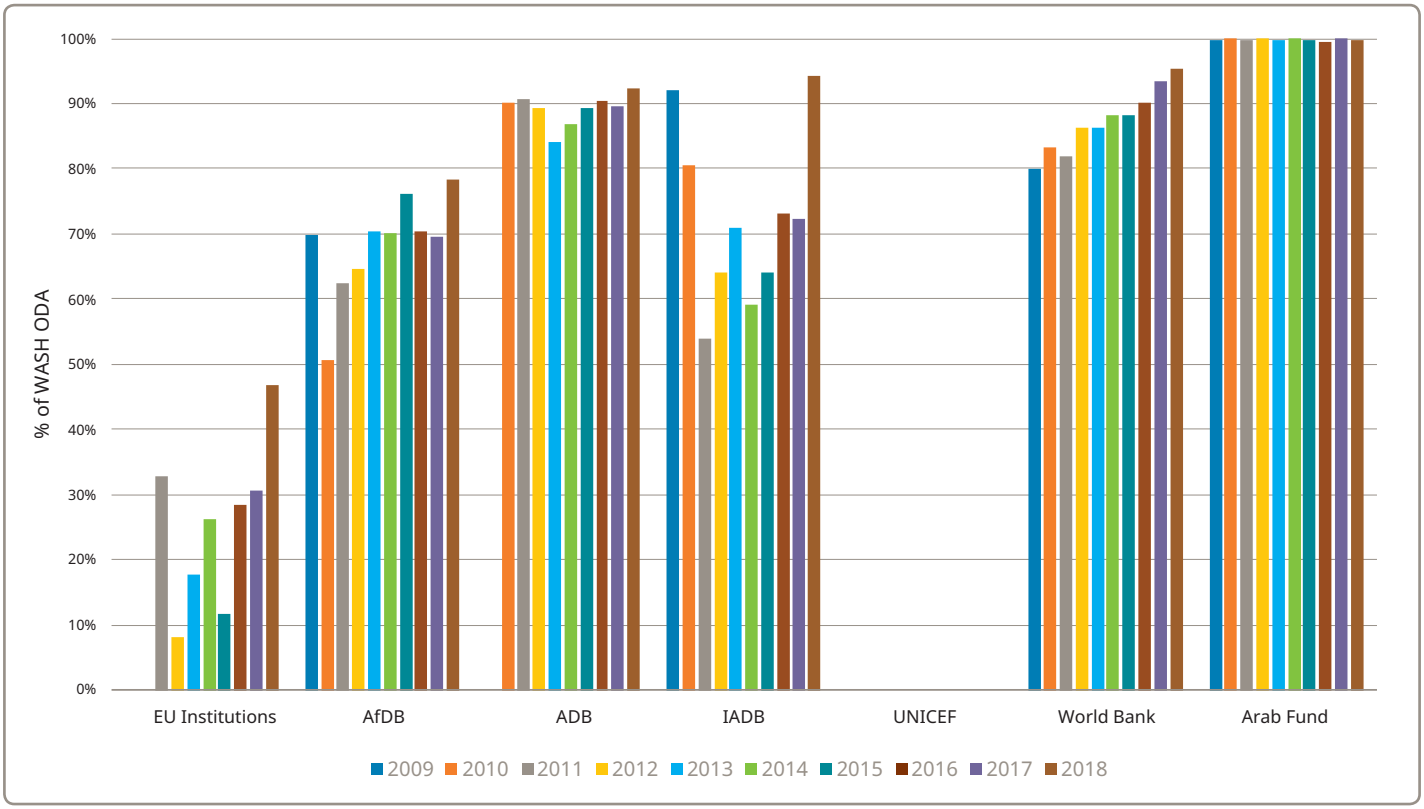


Figure 16 - Percentage of multilateral WASH ODA delivered as loans, 2009-2018



In theory, this shift towards delivering more WASH ODA in the form of loans may not be unsustainable if loans are being targeted towards countries with the ability to repay, and if there has been a simultaneous concentration of grants to those countries with the greatest need. This scenario could plausibly increase the overall volume of finance available, without a negative impact on sustainability.

However, Fig 17 and 18 show that this type of rationale targeting has not occurred.

Figure 17 - Percentage of multilateral WASH ODA delivered as loans, 2009-2018

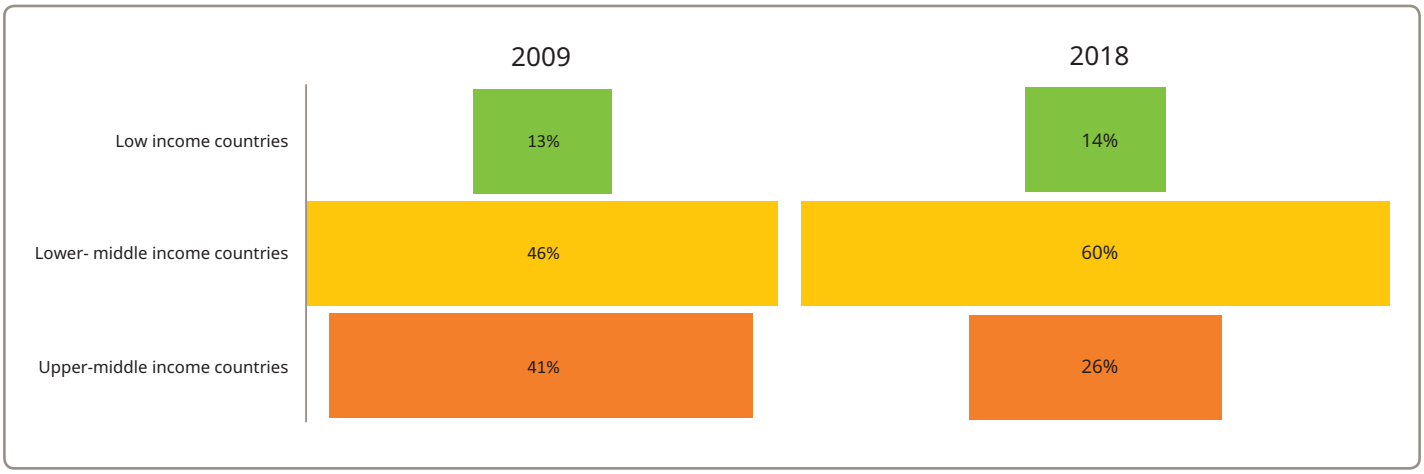


Figure 18 - Debt distress and percentage of WASH ODA loans in PRGT eligible lower-middle income countries, 2018

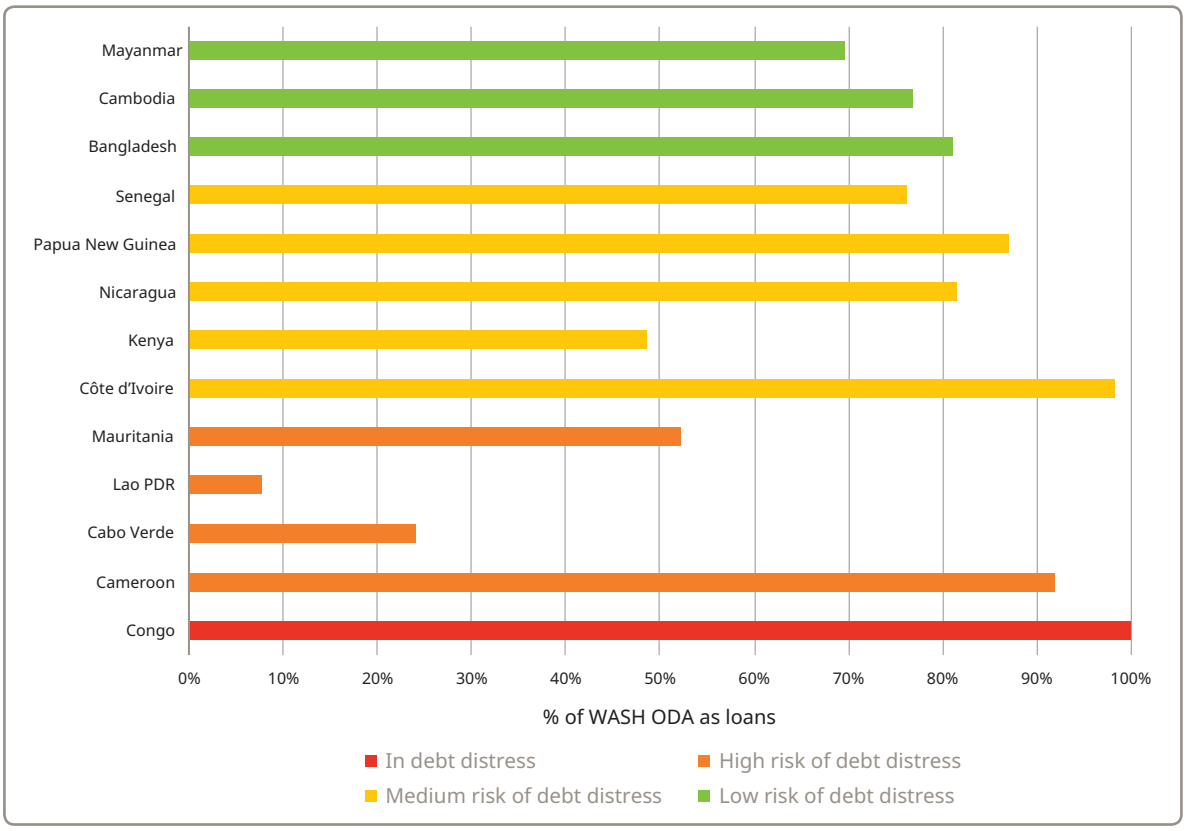


Figure 17 shows that between 2009 and 2018, WASH ODA loans have become increasingly concentrated in lower-middle income countries. Yet, this has not resulted in a decrease in the proportion of WASH loans allocated to low-income countries – in fact, this has increased by one percent over the ten-year period.

Furthermore, not all lower-middle income countries have the same capacity to repay loans. Figure 18 analyses a group of lower-middle income countries eligible for the IMF's Poverty Reduction Growth Trust (PRGT) – which categorises countries according to levels of debt risk - and shows that there is little correlation between the proportion of WASH ODA received as loans and the level of debt distress in a country.[26] Most alarmingly is the example of the Republic of Congo, which received all its WASH ODA as loans in 2018, despite being judged to be in debt distress.

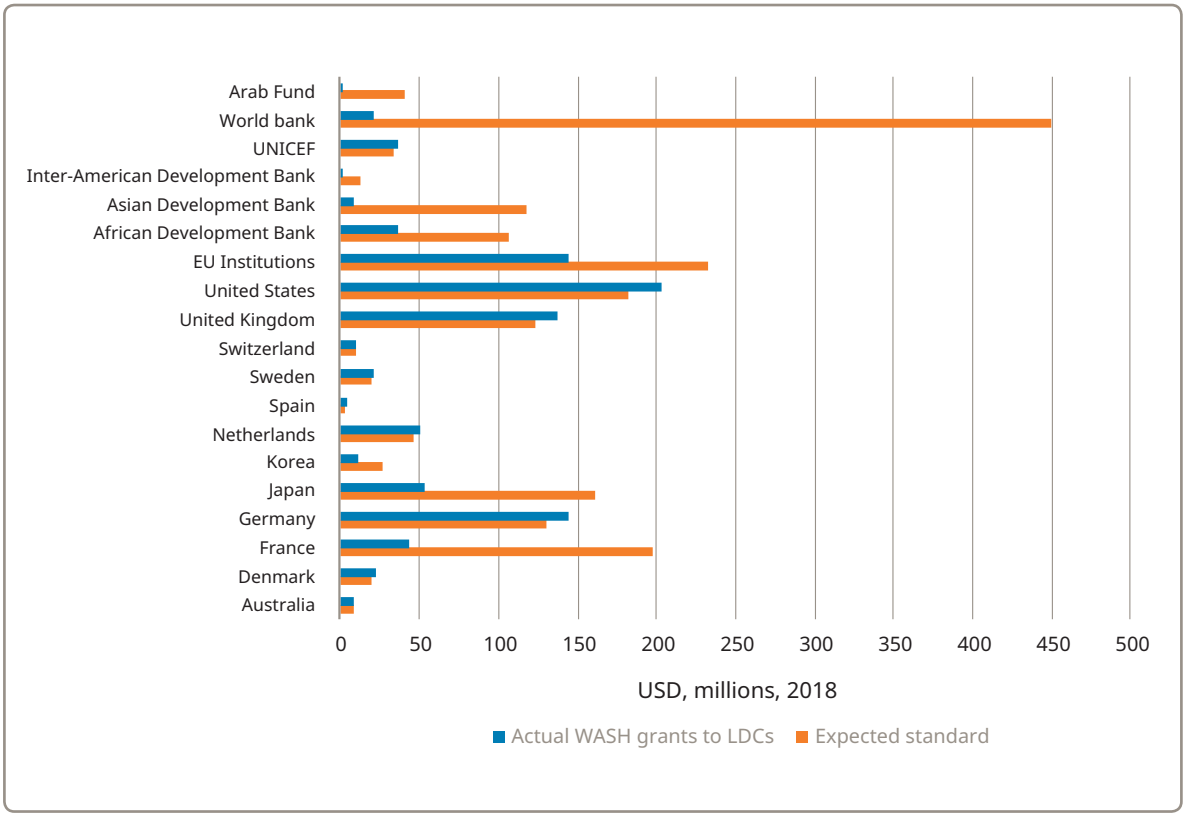
The increasing volume of loans, and the poor targeting of these loans, increases the likelihood of debt distress. This poses a risk to sustainability, as more public resources become tied up in debt servicing and are diverted away from sustaining WASH progress.

Expected standard

To put these trends in context, it can be useful to consider the broader commitments partners have made to increase the proportion of grant financing to least developed countries. The 1978 Recommendation on the Terms and Conditions of Aid states that the average grant element in the ODA to LDCs should be 90% of a given donor's annual commitment to all LDCs or at least 86% of the donor's commitments to each individual LDCs over a period of three years.[27]

Using the 90% figure as a benchmark, a reasonable expected standard for WASH finance would be where each partner has committed 90% of their WASH ODA to LDCs in the form of grants.

Figure 19 - Potential volume of grants if 90% of the WASH ODA disbursed to least developed countries was in the form of grants



In 2018, LDCs received $1.1 of WASH ODA in the form of grants and $1.2 billion in the form of loans. If all partners had met the commitment to provide 90% of ODA to LDCs in the form of grants, there would have been $2.4 billion in grant form and only $235 million as loans – lowering the debt burden by 80%.

As many partners already provide 100% of their WASH ODA to LDCs in the form of grants, Figure 19 shows that these partners are already exceeding the expected standard. Yet it also highlights the potential for improvement, especially across the multilateral development banks.

4.5. Summary of actual performance vs. expected standards

This analysis has shown that across three of the common principles – more finance, targeted finance, and effective finance – slight progress was made between 2009 and 2018, but this progress was far too slow and fell far short of what could have been achieved if commitments had been honoured.

Performance against the principle of sustainable finance – as measured in relation to debt sustainability – has regressed, with a growing proportion of WASH ODA disbursed in the form of loans and no evidence of rational targeting.

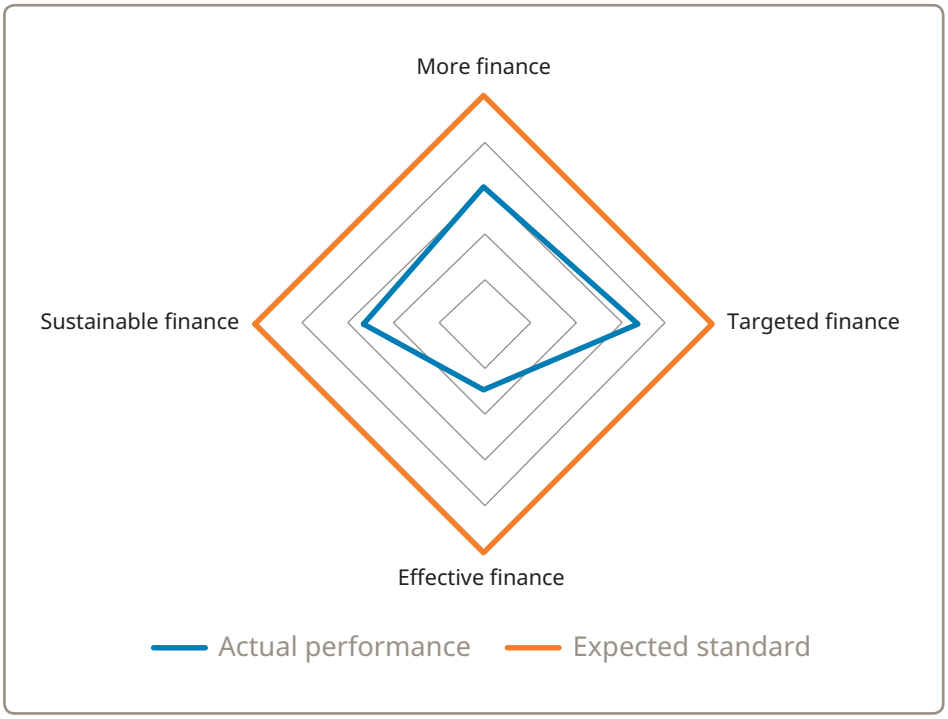
The expected standards have been set using existing quantitative commitments, or benchmarks from comparable performance in other sectors. As such, they represent a realistic yardstick against which the actual performance of WASH finance can be judged.

Table 5 - Actual performance vs. expected standards, 2018

Common principle	Actual performance	Expected standard
More finance	$6.9 billion	$11.4 billion
Targeted finance	$2.4 billion	$3.5 billion
Effective finance	$0.6 billion	$2.1 billion
Sustainable finance	$1.1 billion	$2.1 billion

Figure 20 compares the actual performance of WASH ODA against the expected standards for each of the common principles. This underscores the need for a redoubling of efforts across all the common principles in order for WASH finance to meet expected standards. In particular, it highlights that the WASH sector faces significant challenges around aid effectiveness.

Figure 20 - Actual performance vs. expected standards for WASH ODA, 2018



If the next decade is to see the level of progress required to achieved SDG 6, international partners must identify the bottlenecks preventing progress across these four common principles of financing and take decisive remedial actions to ensure they meet the expected standards.

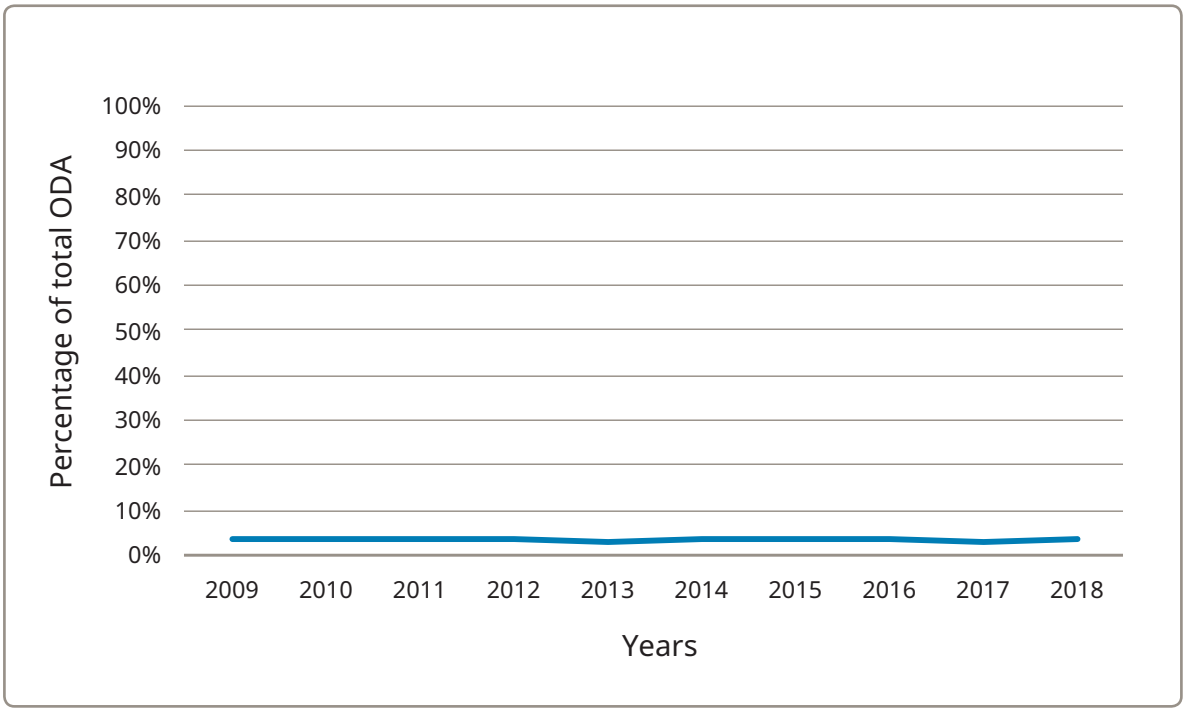
5. Potential performance at the political frontier for WASH ODA

5.1. Prioritisation of WASH in ODA budgets

Sections 4 outlines expected standards based on the assumption that the levels of political prioritisation WASH received between 2009 and 2018 will remain constant. However, the decade of action to achieve SDG 6 by 2030 demands increased ambition and rapidly accelerated rates of progress.

Political prioritisation can be assessed through CRS by analysing the proportion of total ODA which is spent on WASH. Figure 21 shows that the percentage of total ODA allocated to WASH has remained steady, at around 3-4% between 2009 and 2018.

Figure 21 - WASH as a percentage of total ODA, 2009-2018

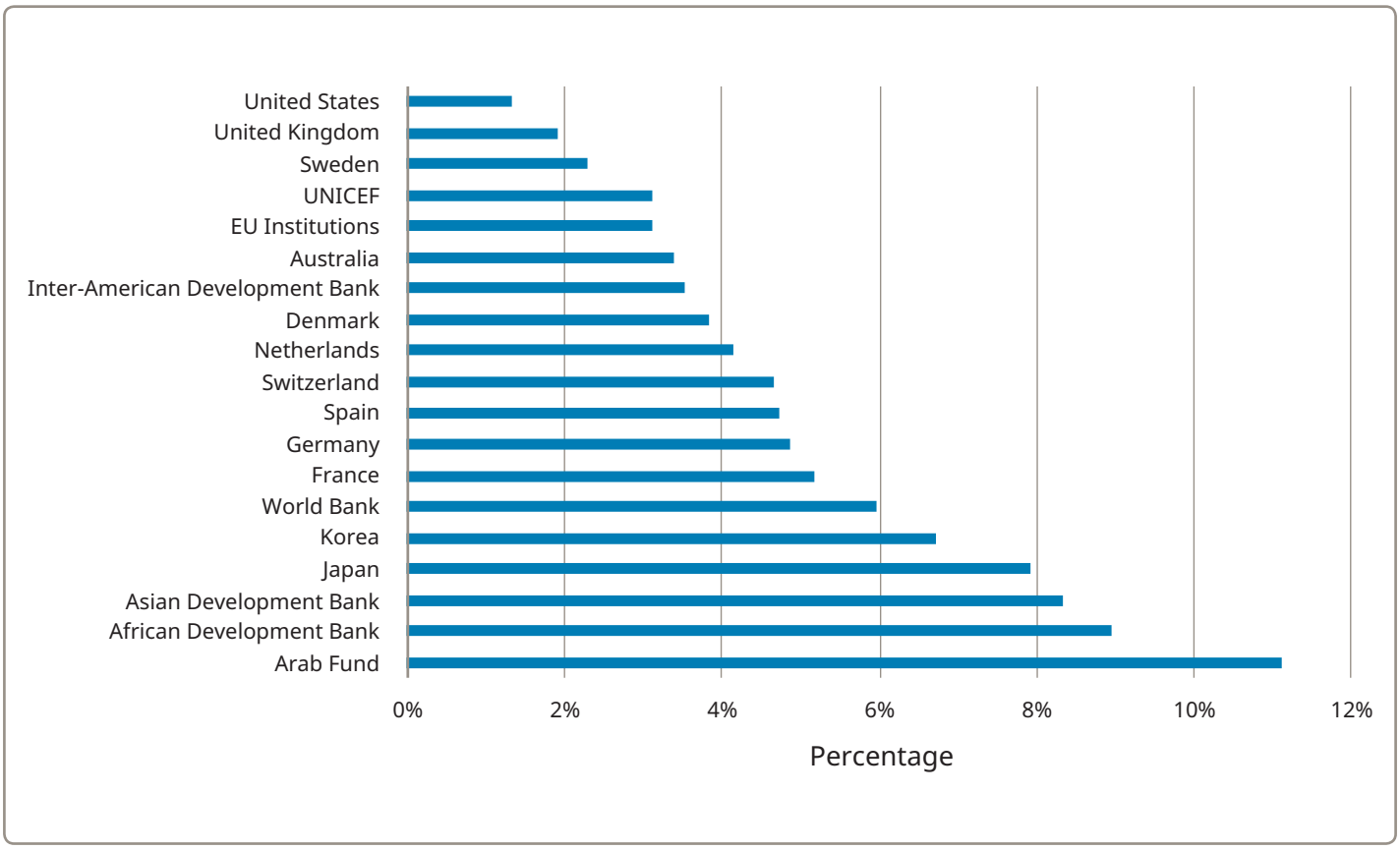


This highlights two important points. First, WASH has not been a significant priority within ODA budgets. Second, the various global commitments and declarations over this period have not changed the overall prioritisation of WASH by development partners.

Figure 22 shows the variation in the levels of priority different partners have afforded to WASH over this ten-year period. The proportion of WASH spend within total ODA budgets has ranged from an average of 1% for United States to 11% for the Arab Fund.

The maximum proportion of 11% represents a political frontier for the prioritisation of WASH in ODA budgets. Extending the analysis in Section 4 - what could be possible in the next decade if the expected standards for WASH financing were met and all partners moved toward this frontier by allocating 11% of their ODA budgets to WASH?

Figure 22 - Proportion of total ODA spent on WASH, 2009-2018



5.2 Potential WASH ODA at the political frontier

More finance

In 2018, if all bilateral partners had met their commitment to 0.7% of GNI and if all major WASH partners had performed at the frontier of 11% of total ODA for WASH, the total volume of WASH ODA would have increased by $25.6 billion.

Targeted finance

In 2018, if all major bilateral partners had met their commitment to 0.2% and if all major WASH donors had performed at the frontier of 11% of total ODA for WASH, the volume of WASH ODA allocated to LDCs in 2018 would have increased by $7.5 billion.

Effective finance

In 2018, if the WASH sector had met the average proportion of projectized ODA of other social sectors and all partners had committed 11% of ODA to WASH (while meeting commitments to 0.7%), the volume of non-projectized WASH ODA would have increased by $9.5 billion.

Sustainable finance

In 2018, if all major WASH partners had met the commitment to ensure 90% of ODA disbursed to LDCs was in the form of grants and committed 11% of all ODA to WASH (while meeting the commitment to 0.2% of GNI), the volume of ODA grants to LCDs would have increased by $7.8 billion.

Table 6 - Political frontier for WASH financing

Common principle	Actual performance	Expected standard	Political frontier
More finance	$6.9 billion	$11.4 billion	$32.5 billion
Targeted finance	$2.4 billion	$3.5 billion	$9.9 billion
Effective finance	$0.6 billion	$2.1 billion	$10.1 billion
Sustainable finance	$1.1 billion	$2.1 billion	$8.9 billion

Figure 23 compares the actual performance of WASH ODA with the expected standards and the political frontier for each of the common principles. This emphasizes how the expected standards are only a minimum threshold for WASH finance. With greater prioritisation of WASH in ODA budgets, there is potential for the volume of WASH ODA to increase by more than a factor of four.

Figure 23 - Actual performance vs. expected standards vs. political frontier

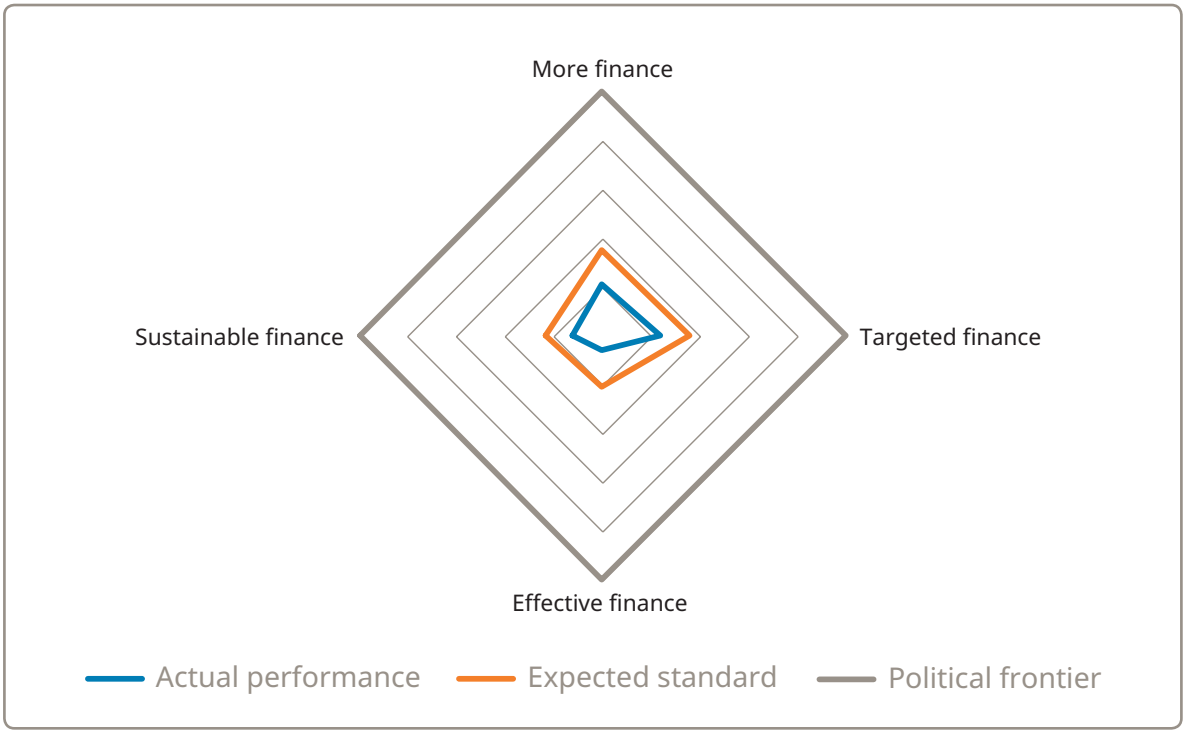


Figure 23 also shows that simply expanding the volume of ODA is not in itself enough. While levels of targeting, effectiveness, and sustainability remain low, the impact of any additional WASH ODA will be severely curtailed.

Only by simultaneously raising political prioritisation and improving the level of performance across all four common principles will development partners be able to fulfil the potential of WASH ODA and help accelerate progress towards SDG 6.

6. Lessons for the decade of action to achieve SDG 6

There remains huge unmet potential for WASH ODA. The commitments and declarations made over the last decade provide a solid basis from which development partners can work to maximise this potential and help to accelerate progress towards SDG 6. However, this requires greater political prioritisation and rapid progress across all of the common principles for WASH ODA.

As emphasised by the recent UN calls to action, the next decade needs to be one of action, with smarter solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. This paper has analysed one specific set of 'solutions' – that is, the common principles for WASH ODA and the performance of development partners against these principles over the past decade.

This analysis provides some lessons for the next decade and highlights some of the actions needed to make WASH ODA smarter, more catalytic, and more ambitious.

Action required

More finance:

- **Bilateral partners must meet their commitments to 0.7% of GNI. WASH ODA cannot be viewed in isolation from broader trends in development finance.** Most members of the OECD DAC are still not meeting their commitment to allocate 0.7% GNI as ODA. As long as this continues, levels of WASH ODA will be insufficient. Cross-sector action is required to push more development partners towards achieving the 0.7% target.
- **All WASH partners must increase WASH allocations within their overall ODA.** The political frontier of 11% can be seen as a high-water mark in terms of the prioritisation of WASH in ODA budgets. The different political contexts and development agendas that exist across development agencies mean it may not represent a realistic ambition in all circumstances. However, it does provide a useful benchmark against which future progress can be judged. Even incremental steps towards this target by the largest WASH donors would results in billions of dollars of addition finance for WASH each year.
- **Global partnerships must focus on building greater demand for WASH finance at the national level.** Over the 2009-2018 period, a series of high level global commitments and declarations were made regarding WASH. Yet in that same period, the percentage of WASH within total ODA budgets remained unchanged. This indicates that increasing the prioritisation of WASH is unlikely to happen through further global commitments or processes. A new way of thinking is needed. One option could be to focus energies on building political demand for WASH from the national level upwards. With strong national demand and strong national plans, national leaders would be better placed to lobby development partners for greater levels of support for WASH.

Targeted finance:

- **Bilateral partners must meet their commitments to spend 0.15-0.2% of GNI as ODA to LDCs.** Similarly, the targeting of WASH ODA should not be seen in isolation from broader trends. Cross-sector action is required to ensure that the commitment to deliver 0.15-0.2% of GNI to LDCs is met.
- **Global partnerships must hold development partners accountable for better targeting of WASH ODA.** Looking specifically at WASH, it is clear that the proportion of ODA delivered to LDCs is too low, specifically by a number of bilateral partners. There has

also been no discernible trend towards increasing this proportion, despite the various commitments and declarations made between 2009 and 2018. Urgent action is needed to address this. Mutual accountability mechanisms at the global level should address the issue of targeting explicitly and development partners should be held accountable for their performance.

- **Global partnerships must work to amplify voices of LDCs in global WASH processes.** Global partnerships such as SWA should serve to amplify the voices of least developed countries in the global WASH dialogues to strengthen mutual accountability for better targeting.

Effective finance:

- **All WASH partners must reduce the proportion of WASH ODA that is projectized.** The WASH sector needs to make far more progress in moving away from projectized modalities and increase the volume of ODA provided via budget support or pooled funds. This is especially true for many multilateral partners.
- **Global partnerships should prioritise the identification of barriers to greater aid effectiveness and work to eradicate them.** Some partners have shown that moving away from projectized ODA is possible. Global partnership should focus efforts on identifying and addressing the structural bottlenecks in the WASH sector which are preventing wider shifts towards more effective modalities for ODA.
- **All WASH partners must prioritise the monitoring of SWA's Collaborative Behaviours and take steps to fill data gaps.** Data on the different 'types of aid' can give an indication of the broad direction of travel with regard to aid effectiveness. However, this is not a substitute for proper monitoring and mutual accountability. SWA's Collaborative Behaviours provide the ideal global mechanism for this, but to realise the true potential of this process, it is vital that partners take urgent steps to address the data gaps that have undermined monitoring efforts to date.

Sustainable finance

- **WASH partners which favour ODA loans must reverse this trend and disburse a greater proportion of WASH ODA in the form of grants.** Partners need to urgently reverse the increasing proportion of loans within WASH ODA. International financial institutions are clear that debt distress is rising in many countries. Adding to that debt burden is a risk to the long-term financial sustainability of national WASH systems.
- **All WASH partners must ensure that ODA loans are targeted to countries which have the ability to repay.** Moving to the political frontier of WASH finance won't be possible with grant financing alone. Loans will still have a role to play. However, it is vital that such financing is rationally targeted to those countries who are not at risk of debt distress and who have the capacity to repay loans without risking the sustainability of WASH benefits.
- **Global partnerships must assess and strengthen broader aspects of financial sustainability.** This paper has focused on loans and debt vulnerability as one metric which is measurable from OECD CRS. However, it is recognised that this is only part of the equation. Partners need to ensure finance meets other criteria for sustainability. Globally, efforts must be made to make data on broader aspect of financial sustainability are available and partners must make efforts to hold each other accountable for greater sustainability at a national level.

As this paper has focused on WASH ODA, these actions are primarily focused at the global level and on development partners. While these aren't the only solutions for WASH financing, this paper has shown there remains vast potential to increase the quantity and quality of WASH ODA if such actions are taken.

Given the size of the financial gaps and the acceleration of progress required in the next ten years, these actions must be a vital first step in ensuring that SDG 6 is achievable by 2030.

Annex: Calculating WASH ODA

The OECD-CRS purpose code for 'water and sanitation' (140) includes activities which are not commonly classed as WASH-related. Following the monitoring framework set out by GLAAS in the Methodological Note for monitoring SDG targets 6a and 6b, we only include activities from CRS which are directly related to WASH. [28]

The table below shows which CRS purpose codes are included in this definition of 'WASH ODA'.

Water sector policy and administrative management (14010) can include both WASH-related and non-WASH activities. Following the method outlined by GLAAS, we will include a fixed proportion of the 14010 code as WASH-related. The fixed proportion is determined by calculating the proportion of WASH-related ODA in the rest of the 140 purpose code between 2009 and 2018.

$$\textit{WASH related propotion of } 14010 = \frac{140xx - 14010 - 14015 - 14040 - 14050}{140xx - 14010}$$

All ODA figures use gross disbursements and constant prices (2018).

Data was extracted from OECD-DAC CRS in June 2020.

Code	Definition
WASH-related purpose codes	
14010*	**Water sector policy and administrative management** Water sector policy and governance, including legislation, regulation, planning and management as well as transboundary management of water; institutional capacity development; activities supporting the Integrated Water Resource Management approach
14020	**Water supply and sanitation - large systems** Programmes where components according to 14021 and 14022 cannot be identified. When components are known, they are individually reported under their respective purpose codes: water supply [14021], sanitation [14022], and hygiene [12261].
14021	**Water supply - large systems** Potable water treatment plants; intake works; storage; water supply pumping stations; large scale transmission / conveyance and distribution systems.
14022	**Sanitation - large systems** Large scale sewerage including trunk sewers and sewage pumping stations; domestic and industrial wastewater treatment plants.
14030	**Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation** Programmes where components according to 14031 and 14032 cannot be identified. When components are known, they are individually reported under their respective purpose codes: water supply [14031], sanitation [14032], and hygiene [12261].
14031	**Basic drinking water supply** Rural water supply schemes using handpumps, spring catchments, gravity-fed systems, rainwater collection and fog harvesting, storage tanks, small distribution systems typically with shared connections/points of use. Urban schemes using handpumps and local neighbourhood networks including those with shared connections.
14032	**Basic sanitation** Latrines, on-site disposal and alternative sanitation systems, including the promotion of household and community investments in the construction of these facilities.
14081	**Education and training in water supply and sanitation** Education and training for sector professionals and service providers.
Non-WASH purpose codes	
14015	**Water resources conservation (including data collection)** Collection and usage of quantitative and qualitative data on water resources; creation and sharing of water knowledge; conservation and rehabilitation of inland surface waters (rivers, lakes etc.), ground water and coastal waters; prevention of water contamination
14040	**River basins' development** Infrastructure focused integrated river basin projects and related institutional activities; river flow control; dams and reservoirs [excluding dams primarily for irrigation (31140) and hydropower (23065) and activities related to river transport (21040)].
14050	**Waste management / disposal** Municipal and industrial solid waste management, including hazardous and toxic waste; collection, disposal and treatment; landfill areas; composting and reuse

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▲ Cover photo: Water storage tower with solar panels to power extraction pump, in Kafin Iya ward, Kirfi local government area, Bauchi state, Nigeria, September 2019.

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