

AID - Who gives it and how much?

Around the world, individuals give about \$US8.8 billion through non-government organisations like World Vision. This generosity is important in developing poor communities.

But to reduce global poverty, governments need to be involved. They have both the wealth and ability to commit to long term funding and support. For example, in 2005, the world's richest governments committed \$US106.8 billion in aid to developing countries – up from \$US79.5 billion in 2004.

In 2000, all the wealthy nations of the world agreed to commit 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to aid for developing countries. However, in 2006-7, the Australian government will give 0.3% of GNI – well below most wealthy countries.

Graph I: Government Aid (ODA) in dollar amounts

Net ODA in 2005 as US dollar amounts (millions)	
Country	Aid amount by dollars
USA	27,457
Japan	13,101
UK	10,754
France	10,059
Germany	9,915
Netherlands	5,131
Italy	5,053
Canada	3,731
Sweden	3,280
Spain	3,123
Norway	2,775
Denmark	2,107
Belgium	1,975
Switzerland	1,771
Australia	1,666
Austria	1,552
Finland	897
Ireland	692
Greece	535
Portugal	367
New Zealand	274
Luxembourg	264

Source: *Aid flows top USD 100 billion in 2005*, OECD, April 2006 (preliminary data)

Graph 2: Government Aid (ODA) as percentage of Gross National Income (GNI)

Net ODA in 2005 as percent of GNI	
Country	Aid amount by GNI
Norway	0.93
Sweden	0.92
Luxembourg	0.87
Netherlands	0.82
Denmark	0.81
Belgium	0.53
Austria	0.52
UK	0.48
Finland	0.47
France	0.47
Switzerland	0.44
Ireland	0.41
Germany	0.35
Canada	0.34
Italy	0.29
Spain	0.29
Japan	0.28
New Zealand	0.27
Australia	0.25
Greece	0.24
USA	0.22
Portugal	0.21

Source: *Aid flows top USD 100 billion in 2005*, OECD, April 2006 (preliminary data)

For you to do

1. From Graph 1, which 3 countries gave the most dollars in aid? From Graph 2, what % of their Gross National Income (GNI) does this represent?

2. From Graph 2, which 3 countries give the greatest percentage of their GNI in aid?

3. Write a paragraph comparing Australian government aid with other OECD¹ countries.

4. How could organisations use these graphs for different purposes? For example: (i) Government of USA (ii) Government of Norway (iii) a non government organisation looking to pressure the Australian government to increase overseas aid

¹ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

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