Data for development profiles

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This Profile presents 2020 German ODA to data and statistics, and relevant charts, using the OECD D4D Profile methodology for Germany.

# Germany

## Foreword and acknowledgements

In 2021, the OECD published first-ever [Data for Development (D4D) Profiles](https://www.oecd.org/dac/data-for-development-profiles-84baa8f3-en.htm) of 14 members of the Development Co-operation Committee (DAC), providing a comprehensive view of the current landscape of development co-operation and support for data and statistics, and insights on how members of the DAC members allocate official development assistance (ODA) to statistical capacity development and strengthening data ecosystems in low and middle income countries.

In 2022, the OECD Data for Development team has elaborated and added the D4D Profile for Germany (with the latest ODA data (2020)), thereby bringing to 15 the total number of DAC members with broad information on their statistical policy priorities, strategies, funding, delivery modalities and partnerships.

This Profile has been drafted by Fatoumata Ngom (OECD) with guidance from Ida Mc Donnell (Team Lead OECD Data for Development). The Profile builds on the initial version prepared by Simon Lange (OECD) and benefited from collaboration with Yu Tian (PARIS21) and Deirdre Appel (Open Data Watch) for its publication and dissemination in the Clearing House for Financing Development Data.

## Overview

Germany’s support to data and statistics in low- and middle-income countries through ODA focuses on 1) the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; 2) food security, rural development and agriculture; 3) digitalisation; and 4) displacement and migration.

## Strategies, actors and funding

In 2020, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) drew up a comprehensive package of reforms entitled “[BMZ 2030](https://www.bmz.de/en/development-policy/reform-strategy-bmz-2030)”. The aim was to focus development measures and funding even more strategically, effectively and efficiently, inter alia, by concentrating the number of areas of work. New focus was put on areas such as the ones reflected in Germany’s support in the area of data and statistics, which often focusses on environmental data and statistics, agricultural data, data on migration, and, increasingly, new data sources associated with digital technologies. According to OECD data and research,[[1]](#endnote-2) Germany disbursed nearly USD 29 million in 2020 (in 2020 prices) in support of data and statistics, significantly increasing since 2017. On average, USD 20 million were disbursed between 2018 and 2020 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Germany – ODA to data and statistics, 2010 – 2020



Note: ODA: official development assistance; CPA: country programmable aid.

Germany’s support addresses concerns in relation to data and statistics in its partner countries from different angles:

* **Environmental data:** More than a quarter of Germany’s ODA for data and statistics is directed towards addressing environmental degradation and climate change. For instance, Germany’s Ministry for Environment partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, providing funding for the [Global Forest Survey](http://www.fao.org/in-action/global-forest-survey/en/) and establishing a global network of systematic sampling points to better understand and monitor forest ecosystems. Through the implementing agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action further provided [support for national climate change adaptation plans in French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/61303.html), aiming at supporting, on a science-based and capacity building approach, national adaptation plan processes in the three partner countries: Benin, Senegal and Burkina Faso. The scientific analyses produced within the context of this project are available [here](https://climateanalytics.org/projects/pas-pna-science-based-national-adaptation-planning-in-sub-saharan-africa/). The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture further supports the [Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/global-information-system/en/) (PGRFA). Furthermore, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development supports monitoring systems and training in the context of the [international mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation](https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/issues/natural-carbon-sinks/redd) (REDD+) (e.g. as a partner of the [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility](https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/), FCPF). Through its support for the World Bank’s Global Program on Sustainability and the [EnhaNCA](https://seea.un.org/content/enhanca-enhance-natural-capital-accounting-policy-uptake-and-relevance) project of UNSD, BMZ contributes to the uptake and political use of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), the UN statistical standard for Natural Capital Accounting that integrates economic and environmental data. BMZ, through GIZ, also provides support to a number of partner countries in collecting data on land use, pasture lands and forest resources to enable better management of natural resources and biodiversity, e.g. in Brazil, Indonesia, Central America, Peru, Togo and the Caucasus Region.
* **Population statistics:** BMZ supports the [Programme for the Modernisation of Civil Registration](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/87334.html) in Cameroon through the GIZ, aiming at official statisticians’ capacity building and awareness raising around self-registration in disadvantaged communities. It also funds the [Support to the identification of poor households programme (IDPoor)](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/17300.html) in Cambodia through the GIZ, aiming at helping the Cambodian Government to standardize its procedure for identifying poor households across the nation. It also partnered with the United Nations population fund (UNFPA) to support the fifth General Population and Housing Census in Mali and Togo.
* **Agricultural data and statistics:** BMZ supports the[50X2030 Initiative,](https://www.50x2030.org/) a multi-partner programme that aims to increase the capacity of 50 low- and lower middle-income countries to produce, analyse and apply data to decisions in the agricultural sectors that support rural development and food security. The initiative is implemented through a partnership between the strongest global actors in agriculture development, such as the World Bank, the FAO, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
* **Economic data and statistics:** Global financial stability is in the purview of Germany’s Federal Ministry of Finance. In 2019, with a view to strengthening macroeconomic data and statistics, BMF [partnered](https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Themen/Internationales_Finanzmarkt/2019-04-09-Beitrag-globale-Finanzstabilitaet.html) with the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF), contributing USD 4 million to its [Data for Decisions (D4D) Thematic Fund](https://www.imf.org/en/Capacity-Development/D4D/d4d-fund).
* **SDG monitoring data:** Aligning national development plans and data for monitoring national priorities with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and having comparable indicators is a key concern for Germany. GIZ’s [Partners for Review](http://www.partners-for-review.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/partners-for-review_flyer_webversion.pdf) initiative, a network of government representatives and stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, academia and other non-state actors, aimed to facilitate dialogue and peer learning between stakeholders involved in the national SDG review and monitoring process. Between 2016 and 2022, it has produced several case studies, often with a focus on overcoming critical data gaps. In the context of the [2030 Implementation Initiative](https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2019-en-A%20sustainable%20path%20to%20the%20future-the%202030%20Implementation%20Initiative.pdf), German development cooperation has provided support in monitoring, data analyses and evidence-based policymaking to more than 20 countries worldwide, including Bolivia, Cambodia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia and Togo. As the second largest public donor for Official Development Assistance (ODA) worldwide, Germany contributes significantly to the achievement of the SDGs in partner countries. Effectively communicating these contributions and aligning impact measurement to the SDGs is also a priority for German Development Cooperation. With this purpose, a SDG-mapping methodology was developed and introduced in 2022. The SDG-Mapping process is largely automatised and enables a high degree of standardisation. The method is applied uniformly by all implementing organisations of German Development Cooperation. By means of the SDG mapping, the intended contribution of all German development cooperation measures to the achievement of the SDGs can be documented and transmitted to the OECD following the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and policy markers.
* **Core statistical capacity:** Germany’s **Federal Statistical Office** (Destatis) has been engaged in [technical co-operation with sister organisations](https://www.statistischebibliothek.de/mir/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/DEHeft_derivate_00022292/StrategieProgrammplan2016_2020de.pdf;jsessionid=163E443EE5D34C450D456FC411F59AC2), especially with national statistical offices of the People’s Republic of China and partners in Central Asia. These projects are often commissioned by supranational or international organisations such as the European Union and the World Bank, although Germany’s **Federal Ministry of the Interior** has also funded bilateral co-operation in official statistics with Chinese authorities.
* **Digital data:** In the context of data for development, BMZ aims to strategically increase access to digital data and strengthen the capacity of partners to use these resources for the design of better policies for better lives. For instance, the [political initiative “Data4Policy](https://www.bmz-digital.global/en/overview-of-initiatives/data4policy/)” intends to promote evidence-based and value-driven policymaking through the use of both quantitative and qualitative data. Based on explorative approaches and by means of use cases 1) concrete technical solutions e.g. for the integration of non-traditional data are being tested and scaled, 2) the data infrastructure of partner governments is being improved, and 3) solutions for building robust data ecosystems are being institutionalized. The umbrella product of the Data4Policy initiative is a playbook developed together with [UNDP](https://www.undp.org/) and the [Open Data Institute](https://theodi.org/) that will support partner countries in data-oriented policymaking. Data4Policy plans to align with the “BMZ Data Lab” in order to integrate practical perspectives and experience. In addition, the initiative supports the uptake of learnings from the use case “Women in Unpaid Care Work in Mexico” and from the “Gender Data Labs” into the political dialogue on BMZ's feminist development strategy. BMZ also funds the [German BACKUP Initiative Education in Africa](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/15707.html), a programme aiming at mitigating the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in the quality and continuity of educational services through the provision of digital solutions (e.g. high-quality digital learning courses), in countries such as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Burundi, Madagascar, Namibia and Rwanda. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research supports research and teaching institutions on sectoral programmes, e.g. remote sensing data in water-associated disaster risk management and water ecosystems protection, and climate research data.

## Thematic focus

When looking at policy markers, Germany’s ODA for data and statistics is mainly destined to participatory development and good governance: for activities accounting for 72% of total ODA to data and statistics between 2018 and 2020. Gender equality was indicated either as a principal or partial objective targeted by Germany, supported by 47% of ODA to data and statistics. In addition, 33% of ODA to data and statistics was aligned with environmental objectives during the same period (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Germany – ODA to data and statistics by policy objective and statistical domain, 2018 – 2020



Notes: DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Based on share of total ODA gross disbursements.

Zooming in on the respective statistical domains targeted, Germany’s ODA aims to strengthen data and statistics in most of the cooperation sectors. The largest share, 26%, aimed at supporting **environment data**, linked among others to supporting national adaptation plan processes in West African countries. The second largest share, 17% aimed at strengthening **health data**, mainly linked to its funding of innovative approaches to social protection. Moreover, 16% of Germany’s ODA targeted population statistics, primarily linked to Germany’s support for the modernisation of the civil registration system in Cameroon, and for the identification of poor households programme in Cambodia, as well as its support to **migration data** in partnership with the IOM. 14% of Germany’s ODA targeted strengthening **economic data and statistics**, linked primarily to its support for the IMF’s D4D thematic fund.

## Geographic focus

The majority of Germany’s ODA to data and statistics cannot be allocated to specific countries. Between 2018 and 2020, nearly half of Germany’s ODA to data and statistics were allocated to specific countries. For instance, the Federal Foreign Office supports IOM’s efforts to collect and analyse data on migratory movements in **Yemen**. In addition, the BMZ supports the modernisation of civil registration systems in **Cameroon** (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Germany – country-allocable ODA to data and statistics, 2018 – 2020



Note: Based on gross disbursements. Hollow circles indicate relative share in total country-allocable gross disbursements.

Figure 4. Germany – ODA to data and statistics by recipients and region



Note: Based on share of total ODA gross disbursements.

In terms of the allocation by recipient countries income group, 5% were disbursed to upper middle-income countries and 35% to lower middle-income countries (Figure 5). In addition, 55% of Germany’s country-allocable ODA to data and statistics is targeted to fragile countries in 2020.

Figure 5. Germany – ODA to data and statistics by partner country characteristics, 2010 – 2020

2010

2013

2016

2019

% to fragile contexts

Trend (local polynomial)

Share of country-allocable ODA

By fragility status



Note: Based on share of total ODA gross disbursements. Left panel: LIC: low-income country; LMIC: lower middle-income country; UMIC: upper middle-income country; HIC: high-income country. Right panel: ODA: official development assistance. Based only on country-allocable official development assistance. The trend line is based on a local polynomial regression with a bandwidth of unity.

## Modalities and channels of delivery

Between 2018 and 2020, most of Germany’s ODA to data and statistics was provided in the form of project-type interventions (83%) and pooled funding and contributions to specific programmes of implementing partners (14%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Germany – ODA to data and statistics by type of aid, 2010 – 2020



Note: Based on share of total ODA gross disbursements. NGO: non-governmental organisation; PPP: public-private partnership; TA: technical assistance.

Between 2018 and 2020, Germany’s support was channelled through public-sector entities in Germany and in partner countries (63%), research and teaching institutions (15%) and multilateral organisations (i.e. multi-bi; 19%), with key partners including the IMF, the FAO and the World Bank (Figure 7). There is an interesting trend in that support at the beginning of the decade was mainly channelled through public-sector entities, while multilateral organisations were the dominant channel in 2014-16. Support to research and teaching institutions increased thereafter. An important partner in this last category is the [Center for International Forestry Research](https://www.cifor.org/), a non-profit organisation that conducts scientific research on the use and management of forests.

Figure 7. Germany – ODA to data and statistics by channel



Note: Based on share of total ODA gross disbursements. NA: not applicable; NGO: non-governmental organisation; FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization; IMF: International Monetary Fund; IOM: International Organization for Migration.

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| --- |
| Box 1. Germany – related documents and contacts  Strategies, project documents, evaluations   * BMZ (2021): *Digitalisierung als Innovationstreiber in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit* (only available in German). * BMZ (2020): [*BMZ 2030 reform strategy | New thinking – new direction*](https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/29026/a73123a6094263264e921881d6b76f90/Materialie520_BMZ%202030%20reform%20strategy) * BMZ (2019):[*Digitalisierung für Entwicklung*](https://www.bmz.de/de/mediathek/publikationen/reihen/infobroschueren_flyer/infobroschueren/sMaterialie405_digitalisierung.pdf) *(engl: Digital technologies for development) – Den digitalen Wandel gemeinsam gestalten (in German)* * BMZ (2018): [*Development policy 2030 | New challenges – new solutions*](https://www.bmz.de/en/news/publications/publikationen-reihen/strategiepapier452-10-2018-23770) * GIZ, IDS, World Wide Web Foundation (2017): [*Data for development: What’s next?*](http://webfoundation.org/docs/2018/01/Final_Data-for-development_Whats-next_Studie_EN.pdf) * GIZ project (2018-21): [*Civil registration in Cameroon is being modernised*](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/87334.html) * GIZ project: [*Digital change in development cooperation*](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/77334.html) * GIZ Project: [*Support for national climate change adaptation plans in French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa*](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/61303.html) * GIZ project (2016-24): [*An environmental registry is protecting the Amazon rainforest*](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/34060.html) * GIZ project (2015-19): [*Integrated Biodiversity Management in the South Caucasus*](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/20319.html) * [GIZ: Agenda 2030 Implementation Initiative](https://agenda2030giz-guide.de/files/giz/Dokumente/Factsheets%20Agenda%202030%20ENG/Factsheet06_2019%20Implementation%20Initiative_EN_Web.pdf" \l ":~:text=With%20the%202030%20Implementation%20Initiative%2C%20which%20is%20realised,of%20the%202030%20Agenda%20at%20an%20early%20stage.) * IOM: [*Global Migration Data Portal*](https://migrationdataportal.org/) * FAO: [*Global Forest Survey*](http://www.fao.org/in-action/global-forest-survey/en/) * FAO: [*Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/global-information-system/en/) *(PGRFA)* * IMF: [Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund](https://www.imf.org/en/Capacity-Development/D4D/d4d-fund) * Partners for Review, Danish Institute for Human Rights and the International Civil Society Centre (2021): [*Lessons Learned Report: Advancing Inclusive SDG Data Partnerships*](https://www.partners-for-review.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Inclusive-SDG-Data-Partnerships-Lessons-Learned-Report.pdf) * Destatis (2016): *International co-operation* (in German). In: [Strategie- und Programmplan 2016-2020](https://www.statistischebibliothek.de/mir/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/DEHeft_derivate_00022292/StrategieProgrammplan2016_2020de.pdf;jsessionid=163E443EE5D34C450D456FC411F59AC2)   Contact   * BMZ, Governance unit |

## Note

1. The analysis in this profile is based on official data reported by members to the OECD’s Creditor Reporting System. It is published under the responsibility of the OECD. OECD analysts mined the database using a text search with manual curation. Where relevant, members contributed additional data to fill gaps. Please see the methodological annex for further details on the data analysis. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)