International Development Committee inquiry into the Sustainable Development Goals
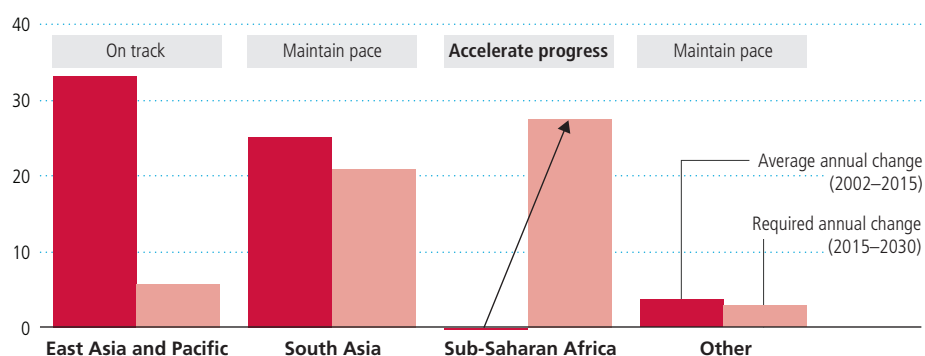
i Development Initiatives

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This is a summary of written evidence from Development Initiatives to the international development committee's current inquiry into the Sustainable Development Goals. Development Initiatives is a non-profit organisation that carries out independent research and analysis into poverty and how to end it.

1. The leading Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Its specific first target is to end extreme poverty by 2030. Both are extraordinarily ambitious. Sub-Saharan Africa faces the biggest challenge in ending extreme poverty by 2030. If it is to meet this hugely ambitious goal, progress in the region must be accelerated to reach a pace of poverty reduction even faster than that achieved in South Asia over the last 15 years.

Sub-Saharan Africa needs the biggest change in trajectory to end extreme poverty

Average annual reduction in poverty (millions of people moving above the extreme poverty line)

| On track | Maintain pace | Accelerate progress | Maintain pace |

- Average annual change (2002–2015)
- Required annual change (2015–2030)

East Asia and Pacific | South Asia | Sub-Saharan Africa | Other

How international resource flows are distributed across developing countries

ODA (US$123 billion)

Foreign direct investment (US$517 billion)
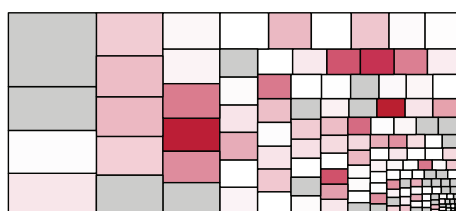
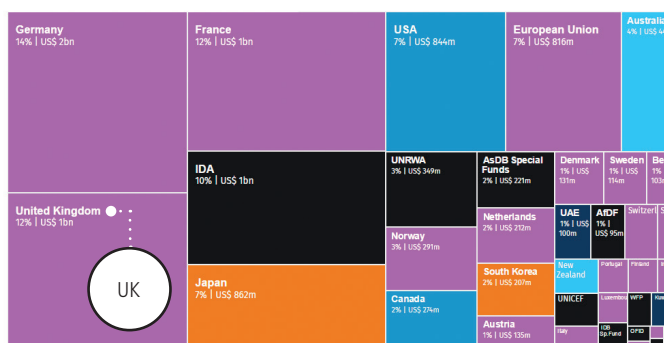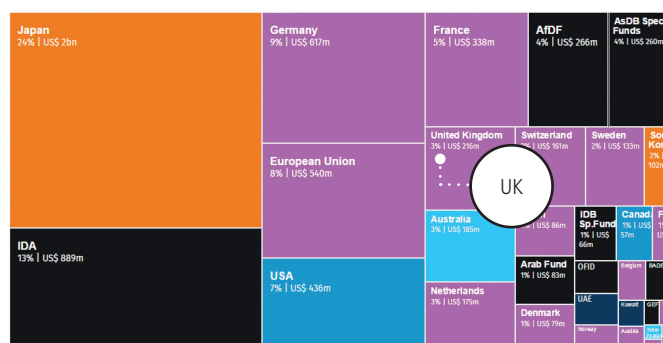Depth of poverty in destination countries
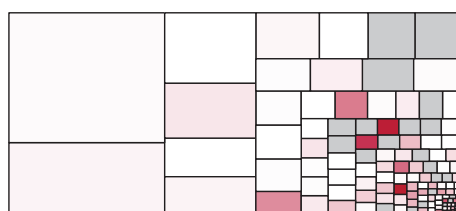
0%   25%   50%   No data

2. Some international official resources, such as official development assistance (ODA) from OECD countries like the UK, are better at targeting countries with a greater depth of poverty than are other resources such as foreign direct investment (shown) and remittances.

3. The UK ranks highly relative to other donors in aid spending in some sectors, such as education, health and the environment but less so in others such as infrastructure and water, sanitation and hygiene.
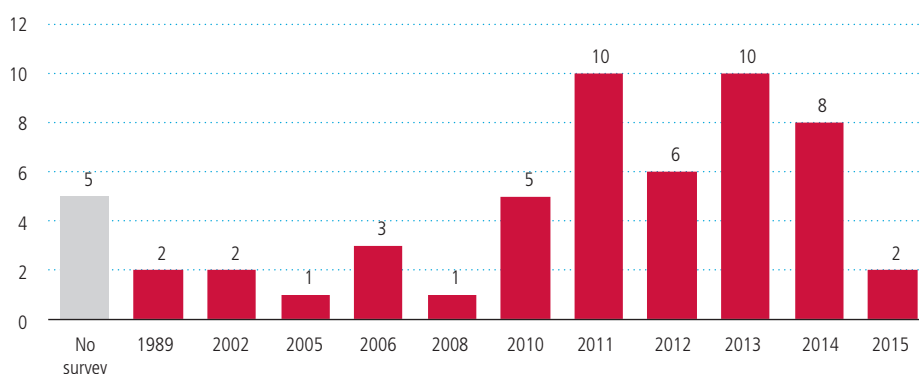
Education ODA (2013), US$12bn

Germany 14% | US$ 2bn
France 12% | US$ 1bn
USA 7% | US$ 844m
European Union 7% | US$ 816m
Australia 4% | US$ 44
IDA 10% | US$ 1bn
UNRWA 3% | US$ 349m
AsDB Special Funds 2% | US$ 221m
Denmark 1% | US$ 131m
Sweden 1% | US$ 114m
Bel 1% | US$ 103m
United Kingdom 12% | US$ 1bn
UK
Netherlands 2% | US$ 212m
UAE 1% | US$ 100m
AfDF 1% | US$ 95m
Switzerl | S
Norway 3% | US$ 291m
Japan 7% | US$ 862m
South Korea 2% | US$ 207m
New Zealand
Portugal | Finland | Ire
Canada 2% | US$ 274m
UNICEF
Luxembourg | WFP | Kow
Austria 1% | US$ 135m
Italy
IDB Sp.Fund
OPEC

Water, sanitation, and hygiene ODA (2013), US$7bn

Japan 24% | US$ 2bn
Germany 9% | US$ 617m
France 5% | US$ 338m
AfDF 4% | US$ 266m
AsDB Special Funds 4% | US$ 260m
European Union 8% | US$ 540m
United Kingdom 3% | US$ 216m
Switzerland 3% | US$ 161m
Sweden 2% | US$ 133m
South Korea 2% | US$ 102m
UK
Australia 3% | US$ 185m
US$ 86m
IDB Sp.Fund 1% | US$ 66m
Canad 1% | US$ 57m
Fin 1% | US$
IDA 13% | US$ 889m
USA 7% | US$ 436m
Netherlands 3% | US$ 175m
Arab Fund 1% | US$ 83m
OFID
Belgium | BADEA
Denmark 1% | US$ 79m
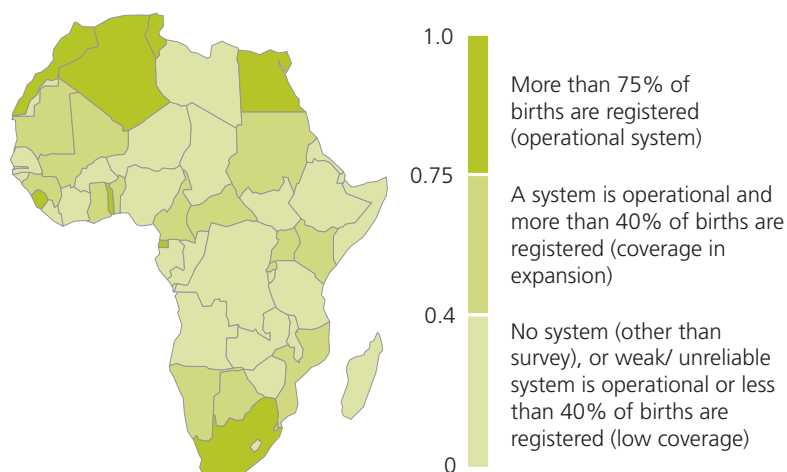UAE
Kuwait | GEF | Sa
Norway | Austral | New Zealand

4. DFID currently has a clear mandate to target ODA at the poorest people and our data shows that the UK's spending, most of which comes from DFID, has indeed been well targeted at the poorest countries with the least domestic resources.

5. The UK should encourage other governments to use good data, learn from best practice and direct their ODA more cost-effectively towards the people in greatest need and at greatest risk of being left behind. The OECD could specifically include poverty reduction in a mandate for ODA.

6. To know if the SDGs are being achieved we will need more, better and timely data. A quarter of African countries have not carried out a household survey since 2008.

**Number of African countries by year of completion of most recent household survey**

Estimated level of coverage of births in civil registration system

1.0 — More than 75% of births are registered (operational system)

0.75 — A system is operational and more than 40% of births are registered (coverage in expansion)

0.4 — No system (other than survey), or weak/ unreliable system is operational or less than 40% of births are registered (low coverage)

0

7. Administrative data, such as birth registration, is a preferred source of data for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs but such data is often in short supply. As the map shows, many African countries do not systematically register births at all.

Life expectancy in Uganda by district

Years
35   42   44   46   48
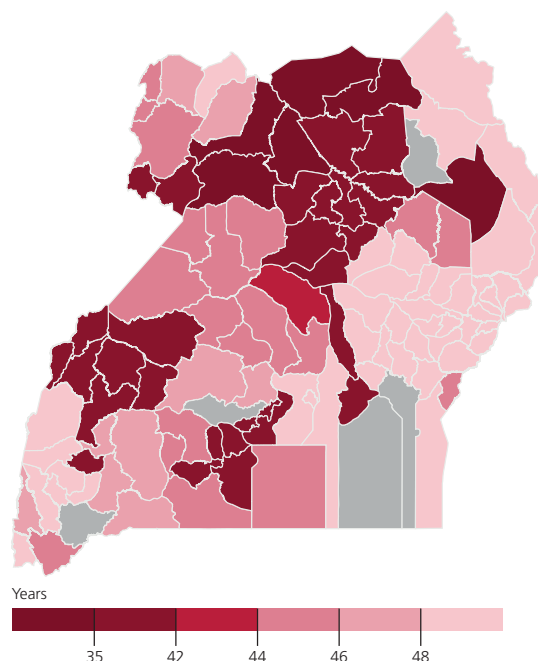
8. To ensure resources best target the poorest people data needs to be available at the sub-national level. Uganda's sub-national data on life expectancy shows great variation across districts.

9. Establishing and investing in sustainable administrative data systems is essential to ensure resources are coordinated among donors and that the poorest people are being reached to get poverty to zero.

About Development Initiatives

Development Initiatives works to end extreme poverty by 2030 by making data and information on poverty and resource flows transparent, accessible and useable. We help decision-makers use information to increase their impact for the poorest people in the most sustainable way.

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