**What is Official Development Assistance?**

Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to the flow of aid, including financial resources and technical cooperation, from donor countries to developing countries and multilateral agencies. ODA aims to promote economic development and social welfare in developing countries.

### Sharing Hope, Sharing Future

To support the sustainable development of developing countries, we plan to more than double our ODA by 2030.

*President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea (2019. 6)*

The Republic of Korea has been extremely successful in addressing COVID-19. I hope that this example of the Republic of Korea will be followed by many other countries in the world.

*António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (2020. 5)*

Korea, which serves as vice-chair of the OECD DAC, has been the driving force behind the global development and inclusive growth agenda and a source of inspiration for developing countries.

*Angel Gurría, Former OECD Secretary-General (2020. 11)*

Korea is playing a role as a bridge in the international community as a responsible middle-power based on its own development experience.

*2018 OECD DAC Peer Review (2018.2)*

**Why do we provide ODA?**

Global problems are on the rise with the rapid onset of globalization. These problems include climate change, environmental degradation, terrorism, communicable diseases, etc. and they require nations around the world to work together to resolve them. This is because global problems are more complex and nations around the world are more closely linked to each other than ever before. For example, we have witnessed that global poverty is no longer a singular problem that can be resolved by bringing about economic and social development, but is sometimes deeply intertwined with war, conflict, political instability, and/or climate change. Thus, tackling poverty requires a multi-faceted approach. Also, as the global community has been working together under the leadership of the UN, Korea has been steadily increasing its ODA volume to help reduce poverty and bring peace and security to the world.

**Detailed information about the ODA of the Republic of Korea can be found on the website below.**

ODA Korea website: [http://www.odakorea.go.kr](http://www.odakorea.go.kr)

Issued by: Committee for International Development Cooperation | Office for Government Policy Coordination, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Government Complex 1, Sejong, 361, Dasan-ro, Sejong, Republic of Korea
Korea has a long history as an ODA recipient. From the ashes of the Korean War, Korea found an opportunity to escape from being the world’s poorest country with aid from the global community. In particular, the inflow of foreign capital following the economic development policies instituted after the 1960s became the bedrock of the miraculous growth of Korea. Korea’s development is recognized as an exemplary model for economic and social development based on ODA from the global community.

With the launch of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Korea began to provide assistance in earnest to developing countries in the 1980s. In 2010, Korea became a member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD and officially established itself as a donor country. Based on its successful development experience, Korea is making efforts to build a new paradigm for development cooperation by acting as a bridge between developed and developing countries.

### Korea and ODA

**History as Aid Recipient**

- 1945: Receipt of administrative relief assistance from the United States
- 1950: Receipt of civilian relief and reconstruction aid from the United Nations
- 1953: Receipt of economic rehabilitation aid from the United States
- 1954: Establishment of the National Medical Center

**Post-war Recovery and Grant Aid: Focused on Emergency Relief (1945-1958)**

- 1949: Establishment of the National Medical Center


- 1966: Establishment of the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)
- 1970: Completion of Seminov Expressway
- 1973: Completion of construction of POSCO
- 1976: Establishment of Gyeonbu Expressway
- 1977: Establishment of Daejeon Vocational Training Center and Korea-Belgium Changwon Vocational Training Institute
- 1997: Application for IMF debt relief
- 2000: Removal of Korea from the list of DAC recipient countries

**Beginning of Korea’s Aid Activities with the Invitation of Trainees (1963-1986)**

- 1963: Invitation of trainees to provide training sessions for the first time
- 1967: Conducting of first expert dispatch projects
- 1969: Beginning of technical cooperation projects
- 1977: First grant of equipment and materials

**Full-scale Assistance Through the Establishment of Aid Organizations (1987-2009)**

- 1987: Establishment of the EDCF
- 1989: Launch of the “Overseas Youth Volunteer Group” program
- 1991: Establishment of KOICA
- 2000: Establishment of the Committee for International Development Cooperation (CIDC)
- 2006: Establishment of the Office for International Development Cooperation and Strategy Meeting on Development Cooperation
- 2009: Launch of World Friends Korea (WFK)

**Advancement as a Major Aid Donor by Joining OECD DAC in 2010 (2010-present)**

- 2010: Enactment of the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation
- 2010: Establishment of the Basic Policy for Government-Civil Society Partnerships
- 2016: Appointment as chair of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)
- 2019: Appointment as vice-chair of OECD DAC
- 2021: Establishment of the Office for International Development Cooperation and Strategy Meeting on Development Cooperation

**System Improvement**

- 2010: Holding of the 2010 ODA Summit
- 2011: Establishment of the OECD DAC
- 2015: Appointment as chair of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)
- 2017: Holding of the 4th High-Level Forum in Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4)
- 2019: Appointment as vice-chair of OECD DAC
- 2020: Drafting of the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation
- 2021: Appointment as chair of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)
- 2021: Establishment of the Office for International Development Cooperation and Strategy Meeting on Development Cooperation

**Global Leadership Demonstration**

- 2010: Holding of the 2010 ODA Summit
- 2011: Holding of the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4)
- 2015: Appointment as chair of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)
- 2017: Holding of the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4)
- 2019: Appointment as vice-chair of OECD DAC
- 2021: Holding of the 4th Seoul Summit

**Unexploded bomb removal support project in Laos**

**ODA Activities of Korea**

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- 2017: Holding of the 4th Seoul Summit
- 2019: Appointment as vice-chair of OECD DAC
- 2021: Holding of the 4th Seoul Summit
International Efforts for Development

Start and Progress of International Development Cooperation Discussions
The Marshall Plan, which was sponsored by the US to ensure the rehabilitation of Europe after World War II, is considered the start of international development cooperation. In the 1960s, major developed countries established ODA institutions, and in the 1970s, began to focus on reducing poverty and resolving inequality. In the 1980s, development cooperation was set aside as a result of neo-liberalism and the spotlight was placed on debt issues. In the 1990s, the transition of socialist economies into capitalism became the key issue.

Sophistication of International Development Cooperation Discussions in the 21st Century
In the 21st century, development cooperation has been identified as an issue that requires joint global action. Accordingly, the global community endorsed the Millennium Declaration at the UN General Assembly in September 2000 and announced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate extreme poverty in the following year. Furthermore, in September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the years 2016 through 2030. The SDGs build on the outcomes and limitations of MDGs and consist of 17 goals and 169 target goals. In particular, SDGs can be differentiated from previous development goals with common goals set for both developed and developing countries and the objective of promoting balanced growth in social, economic and environmental sectors.

Basic Spirit and Goals of Korea’s ODA
The basic spirit and goals of Korea’s ODA are included in the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation. As the philosophy and foundation of ODA Korea, the basic spirit of ODA serves as the basis for all decision-making related to policies and delivery of ODA in Korea. And it provides the following basic spirit, goals and principles.

Basic Spirit
International Development Cooperation pursues the following as its basic spirit:
- Reduce poverty and improve quality of life in developing countries
- Protection of the human rights of women, children, people with disabilities, and youth
- Realization of gender equality
- Achievement of sustainable development
- Realization of humanism
- Promotion of economic cooperation with partner countries
- Pursuit of peace and prosperity in the international community

Goals
International Development Cooperation aims to:
- Reduce poverty and improve quality of life in developing countries
- Develop developing countries and improve all systems and conditions for such development
- Promote cooperative relations and mutual exchanges with developing countries
- Contribute to solving relevant global problems
- Contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Principles
Respect the principles of the UN Charter
Support the self-help efforts and capability-building of developing countries
Respect the development needs of developing countries
Expand the sharing of development experiences
Promote mutual harmony and cooperation with the international community
Strengthen the linkage between bilateral and multilateral cooperation
Strengthen the linkage between loan assistance and grant aid
Direction of Korea’s ODA

Korea has rapidly increased the volume of its ODA since joining the OECD DAC and is on route to becoming an advanced donor country. Furthermore, in its Peer Review in 2012 and 2017, the OECD DAC positively evaluated the role of Korea as a key bridge between developing and developed countries and its leadership in reinforcing development effectiveness in the global community.

Since joining the OECD DAC in 2010, Korea has nearly tripled its ODA budget as of 2021 (KRW 1.3 trillion in 2010 to KRW 3.7 trillion in 2021), and is making a continuous effort to expand its ODA through the plan to double the scale of its ODA compared to 2019 by 2030.

In particular, through the 3rd Mid-term Strategy for International Development Cooperation (2021-2025), the vision of “realizing global values and mutual development through cooperation and solidarity” was set, and four strategic goals—Inclusive ODA, Co-prosperity ODA, Innovative ODA, and Together ODA—and 12 key tasks were presented. In the process of promoting these goals and tasks, Korea plans to further expand the participation of civil society, academia, and corporations in the field of development cooperation and continue efforts to enhance transparency.

Korea’s ODA System

According to the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation, Korea’s ODA system consists of a three-tiered structure: 1) general and coordinating agency, 2) supervising agency, and 3) implementing agency. The Committee for International Development Cooperation is the highest body that oversees and coordinates ODA plans, strategies, and policies. The Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are in charge of policy establishment, project review and adjustment in concessional loans and grants assistance, respectively. Based on this structure, about 40 implementing organizations are carrying out ODA projects. Under this structure, the government ensures the harmonious and integrated ODA operation while using expertise of each institution. In February 2021, the Office for International Development Cooperation and Development Cooperation Strategy Meeting on Grant were established to strengthen the integrated coordination for ODA within the government.

Myanmar K-Lab installation and operation project

Myanmar legal information system construction project

Minister of Foreign Affairs (Cabinet, UN, etc.)

Ministry of Economy and Finance (Loan assistance, international financial institutions)

EDCF Fund Management Committee

Office for International Development Cooperation, Office for Government Policy Coordination (ODA General Coordination and Evaluation)

Evaluation Committee (Chairperson: Apsan Park Minister of Office for International Development Cooperation)

Supervising Agency

General and Coordinating Agency

Committee for International Development Cooperation (Chairperson: Prime Minister)

Working Committee (Chairperson: 1st Vice Minister of Government Policy Coordination, Office for Government Policy Coordination)

Relevant Ministries and Institutions and Municipalities

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Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

KOICA was established in April 1991 as a government-funded agency with the purpose to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Korea’s ODA by unifying the segmented aid programs implemented by different ministries. Based on Korea’s development experience and unique know-how, KOICA endeavors to end poverty across the globe and support sustainable socio-economic development of partner countries, and in doing so, strengthens Korea’s friendly ties with partner countries. To meet these objectives, KOICA carries out various development cooperation activities such as projects, overseas volunteer groups, global training, public-private partnership, overseas emergency relief, and cooperation with international organizations, focusing on key areas such as healthcare, education, governance-peace, agriculture and fisheries, technology-environment-energy, and cross-cutting issues.

KOICA plays a role as a platform for nationwide participation in development cooperation through partnerships with various actors, such as governments, public institutions, NGOs, companies, academia, and citizens participating in international development cooperation. KOICA’s development cooperation projects not only contribute to eradicating global poverty and solving various global issues, such as environment, population, disease, and human rights issues, but also foster global talent and help Korean companies advance into global markets, thereby greatly contributing to mutually beneficial development between Korea and developing countries.

In particular, during the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, 38 million people around the world received help through support programs driven by KOICA, such as rapid support for quarantine products and diagnostic equipment. Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2021, KOICA is dedicated to practicing global social values and fulfilling its role as a leading global development cooperation organization.

Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF)

The EDCF was established by the Korean government in 1987, to promote economic exchanges between Korea and developing countries and assist the developing countries in achieving industrialization and economic development. It provides the concessional loan on which the recipient country pays the principal and interest. The responsibility of making decisions on EDCF’s financing policies rests with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF). Entrusted by MOEF, the Export-Import Bank of Korea conducts the operation and management of the EDCF.

The EDCF supports economic and social infrastructure construction projects in various developing countries, including transportation, water resources and sanitation, energy, health, education, and ICT. It secures financial resources through package support linking the EDCF, development funds, and export finance and expands cooperative loan projects with multilateral development banks (MDBs) to meet the rapidly increasing demand for large-scale infrastructure development in developing countries, while promoting the sustainable growth of developing countries and economic exchange with Korea in response to changes in the internal and external development cooperation environment.

Based on Korea’s development experience, through which the country got back on its own two feet after receiving international aid, the EDCF aims to provide high-quality aid for economic development in developing countries.

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<th>Project for the Certification of Indonesia’s Citarum River Flood Prediction System</th>
<th>Country Program</th>
<th>Global Program</th>
<th>Humanitarian Assistance</th>
<th>Public-private Partnership Program</th>
<th>Global Disease Evaluation Fund Project</th>
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| Transportation | Contributing to the promotion of inter-regional passenger and logistics transportation and helping to increase the income of local residents |
| Water Resources and Sanitation | Improving the quality of life of local residents by supplying clean water |
| Energy | Contributing to economic growth in developing countries by expanding industrial facilities in response to the rapidly increasing demand for electricity |
| Health | Improving access to medical services and enhancing the public health environment and quality of life of people in developing countries |
| Communication | Offering greater convenience to residents by bridging the information gap between regions and improving communicable accessibility |

In particular, in the face of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, the EDCF minimized the economic and social damages within developing countries by providing a total of USD 480 million in emergency health sector and strengthened global solidarity through “K-Quarantine” (strategy used by the Republic of Korea during the COVID-19 pandemic to limit the spread of the virus).
In 2020, Korea’s ODA totaled about 2.2 billion USD (based on ODA Grant Equivalent), ranking 16th among 29 OECD DAC members. Korea’s ratio of ODA to gross national income (GNI) is 0.14%, ranking it 25th among DAC member countries. At the G20 Summit held in Osaka, Korea announced its goal to more than double its ODA by 2030 from its 2019 level, and to this end, it is continuously expanding its ODA.

Korea’s ODA support method is divided into bilateral aid, which is directly provided to developing countries, and multilateral aid, which is provided through cooperation with international organizations. The ratio of bilateral to multilateral aid has been around 80:20 over the past four years. Bilateral aid is divided into grant aid and concessional loans depending on whether developing countries are obligated to repay. The ratio of grant aid to concessional loans has remained at about 40:60.

Korea has focused on ODA support for the Asian region, followed by Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East and CIS. This Asia- and Africa-centric support will continue in the future. By income group, it is focusing on supporting the least developed countries that need the most development resources. By field, the focus is on health, education, and transportation/communication support, and Korea is planning to further expand the support for health and medical care in order to support developing countries’ responses to COVID-19 in the future.
Korea’s ODA Status (III): Priority Partner Countries

Korea has selected 27 priority partner countries out of 130 partner countries based on their income level, political situation, diplomatic relations with Korea, and economic cooperation potential. To enhance aid effectiveness, the Korean government aims to concentrate at least 70% of its bilateral ODA on assisting the 27 priority partner countries. The priority partner countries are selected every 5 years after an evaluation at the Committee for International Development Cooperation.

Leap to an Advanced Donor Country

Demonstrating Global Leadership in Development

Since joining the OECD DAC in 2010, Korea has been leading international discussions on the development cooperation. At the G20 Seoul Summit in 2010, “development” was included in the G20 agenda for the first time. Korea hosted the Busan HLF-4 in 2011, leading the paradigm shift from “aid effectiveness” to “development effectiveness.” In 2019, Korea assumed the OECD DAC vice-chairmanship, and is now showcasing its leadership by establishing the Global Green Growth Institute and attracting investments to the Green Climate Fund. In particular, through hosting the P4G Summit in 2021 and participating in the G7 Summit, Korea demonstrates its global leadership in health care, climate change, and green growth.

Providing Korean-style ODA Content Using Comparative Advantage

Based on its development experience, Korea develops and disseminates the content for development cooperation, focusing on areas of comparative advantage such as ICT, public administration, education, and health. Based on Korea’s ODA strategy in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, Korea is leading global solidarity in the health and medical sector by providing USD 600 million worth of quarantine materials and emergency disaster loans to 120 countries.

Expanding Korea’s ODA Budget

Korea’s average annual ODA growth rate was 11.7% for ten years after joining the OECD DAC, the highest among DAC members. As of 2020, its ODA budget stood at KRW 3.7 trillion, almost three times larger than when Korea joined the OECD DAC. The Korean government aims to more than double the scale by 2030 from 2019.