

Q-Step Internship: Interactive Presentation of DFID's Statistics on International Development

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In the summer of 2016 I spent 6 weeks doing an Internship at the Department for International Development in Whitehall.

I was based in the statistics department as part of the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) reporting team.

Objectives

The main aim of my internship was to investigate how Tableau could be used to visualise the Statistics on International Development (SID) dataset. The second aim was to improve the static visualisations in the main publication.

The SID dataset gives information about all of the ODA given by the UK government. In the past it has always been published as a PDF however DFID are looking into ways in which it can be visualised interactively in order to allow the public to interact with the data. Having never used Tableau before, I had to teach myself how to use it and explore the ways in which it could be used to interactively visualise the dataset.

In addition, the visualisations in the PDF publication did not have a consistent style and were not always very clear so I was also tasked with designing a template for future publications.

Skills Achieved

I gained a number of useful skills from this internship. Firstly, I was able to gain a good knowledge of using Tableau to create interactive visualisations. Through encountering problems and solving them through a combination of trial and error and using online forums and tutorials I greatly improved my abilities.

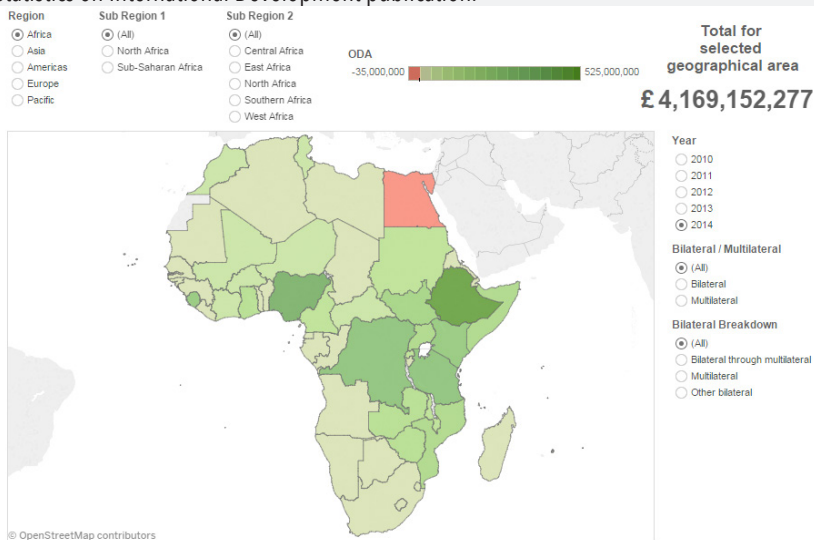
I also learnt a lot about designing infographics as I was required to do this for the PDF template. Furthermore, I greatly improved my ability at using excel as I had to make sure that the data I was using was in the correct form before I could transfer it to Tableau.

The internship also gave me invaluable experience of working in the International Development sector, in London and for the government.

Final Products

Below you can see the interactive visualisation which allows users to see how much money the UK government gave to different countries over the last 5 years. Users have the option to view ODA by type (bilateral or multilateral).

To the right you can see the template key facts page I designed for the Statistics on International Development publication.

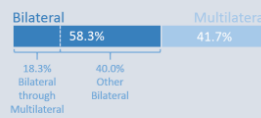


In 2014 the UK provided £11.7bn of ODA

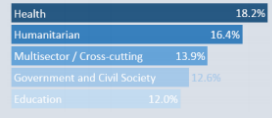
For the second consecutive year the UK has met the UN target of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income as Official Development Assistance (ODA)



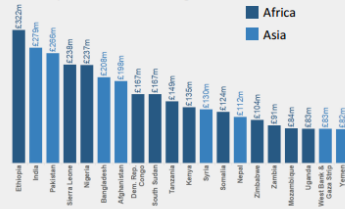
The majority of the UK's ODA was spent bilaterally



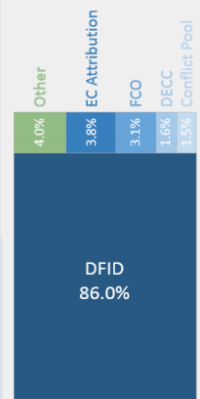
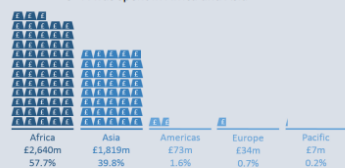
The Health Sector received the largest proportion of Bilateral ODA



The Top 20 countries receiving UK bilateral ODA in 2014



The vast majority of UK Bilateral ODA was spent in Africa and Asia



The Department for International Development was by far the largest contributor of the UK's ODA