

UK AID Spending: Data Quality Improvement Project with DFID

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The Department for International Development (DFID) is a United Kingdom government department responsible for administering overseas aid. DFID leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty tackling global challenges such as conflicts, diseases and insecurity. The UK is committed to spending 0.7% of GNI on aid, and DFID helps to ensure that this is spent, and spent well. The finance and Performance division publish statistics each year on UK aid spending. This report is based on the reporting standards of the OECD DAC. Whilst I was there I completed 2 projects to improve the quality standards of this data.

Project One: Analysis of Sector Code Methodology Change

Background:

The OECD DAC uses sector codes to describe an activity's purpose. There are 163 different five-digit sector codes, which correspond to 36 Broad Sector codes. Previously, only the highest spending sector was used to describe the activity's purpose, which was not representative if the activity supported more than one sector. For example, an activity that contributed 55% of its spend to 'Health' and 45% to 'Water and Sanitation and Hygiene' (WASH) would have all its spend reported under Health in the statistics. The multiple sector code methodology allows up to ten different sector codes to be used to describe an activity's purpose, and so in the example above, the activity that supported Health and WASH would have the spend of both sectors attributed in proportion of their contribution.

Methodology:

I analysed the impact this change in methodology had on the 2017 ODA (Official Development Assistance) statistics. I looked at the distribution of DFID spend in different sectors according to the old and new methodology. Using Excel, and Power BI to present the data.

Results:

I produced a report for a non-technical audience detailing the impact this change in methodology would have. I found that 52% of 2017 ODA projects used more than one sector code and so would be affected. As you can see in Figure 1, the biggest change in overall spend took place in 'Production Sectors'

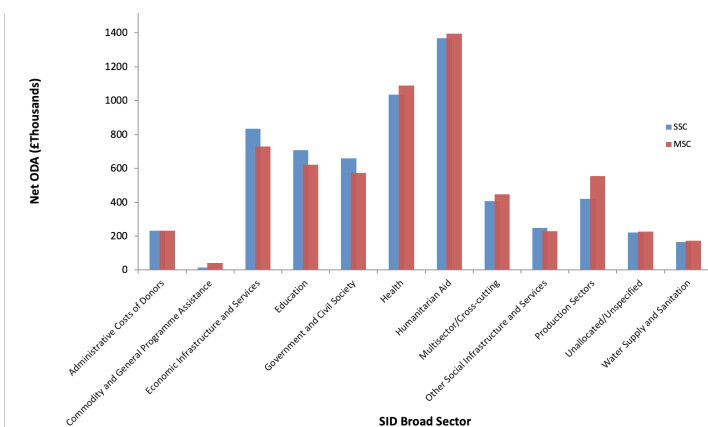


Figure 1: The Change in Spending by Broad sector comparing SSC (Single sector code) and MSC (Multiple Sector Code)

Project Two: Channel of Delivery Codes Quality Improvement

Background:

Each activity that DFID does has a channel of delivery code, which refers to the organisation or supplier who helps to carry out the activity. This is a five-digit classification, where the first two digits refer to the broad type of institution and the last three refer to a specific one. For example, any International NGO will be given the code 21000, and if the NGO is on the OECD DAC list, like Save The Children, it will be given a more specific code - 21501. Below is an example of this spreadsheet.

Methodology:

I went into the 2017 dataset and found all the projects which had an unspecified or missing code. Then I went through the projects, cross-referenced with DFID Analytics, AMP and IATI to give them the correct code. Some projects had not implemented agency recorded and so I had to contact SROs to get this information. I also made sure that if suppliers had several supplier ID's that each was categorised the same.

Results:

I specified the channel of delivery code for over 800 projects. This is important because the FPD team intend to introduce a new supplier portal, where the suppliers must identify their own channel of delivery code, so this reduces the number of suppliers which will have to.

Channel (Acronym)	Channel ID	Year	Acronym (ENGL)	Full Name (English)	Acronym (FR)	Full Name (French)	Coefficient for case contribution	DAC 24/25 Ref
43000	43000			International Monetary Fund (IMF)		Fonds monétaire international (FMI)		
43000	43006	2017	IMF-CCR	Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust	PHI-ARIC	Fonds fiduciaire d'assistance et de riposte aux catastrophes	100	
43000	43005	2017	IMF-PCDR	International Monetary Fund - Post-Catastrophe Debt Relief Trust	PHI-ADAC	Fonds fiduciaire international - Fonds fiduciaire pour l'ajustement de la dette après une catastrophe	100	
43000	43002	2017	IMF-PRG-IFRC	International Monetary Fund - Poverty Reduction and Growth - Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Relief Initiative Trust Fund (Includes IFRC - Extended Credit Facility (ECF), and ECF IFRC Sub-accounts)	PHI-PRIC-IFPE	Fonds monétaire international - Réduction de la pauvreté et croissance - Initiative d'allègement de la dette en faveur des pays pauvres très endettés (y compris Initiative IFPE - Facilité Élargie de Crédit IFRC et sous-comptes IFRC-IFPE)	100	949
43000	43004	2017	IMF-PRG-IFRC	International Monetary Fund - Poverty Reduction and Growth - Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Relief Initiative Trust Fund (Includes IFRC - Extended Credit Facility (ECF), and ECF IFRC Sub-accounts)	PHI-PRIC-IFPE	Fonds monétaire international - Facilité pour la réduction de la dette multilatérale	100	
43000	43001	2017	IMF-PRG-IFRC	International Monetary Fund - Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust	PHI-PRIC	Fonds monétaire international - Facilité pour la réduction de la dette multilatérale	100	558
43000	43003	2017	IMF-ERCA-ENDA	International Monetary Fund - Subsidization of Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance/Emergency Assistance for Natural Disasters for PRGT-eligible members	PHI-ERCA-ENDA	Fonds monétaire international - Aide d'urgence après un conflit (ERCA) et aide d'urgence à la suite de catastrophes naturelles (ENDA) pour les membres pouvant bénéficier de la PRG	100	
44000	44000			World Bank Group (WB)		Groupe de la Banque mondiale (BM)		
44000	44005	2017	AMC	Advance Market Commitments	AMC	Garanties de marché	100	
44000	44001	2017	IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	IBRD	Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement	100	901
44000	44002	2017	IDA	International Development Association	IDA	Association internationale de développement	100	905
44000	44003	2017	IDA-IFPE	International Development Association - Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Relief Initiative Trust Fund	IDA-IFPE	Association internationale de développement - Fonds fiduciaire de l'IDA en faveur des pays pauvres très endettés	100	
44000	44009	2017	IDA-MDRS	International Development Association - Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative	IDA-IADM	Association internationale de développement - Initiative d'allègement de la dette multilatérale	100	904
44000	44004	2017	IFC	International Finance Corporation	IFC	Société financière internationale	100	903
45000	45001	2017	IMIS	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	IMIS	Agence multilatérale de garantie des investissements	100	902

Overall Reflections

I have a better understanding of what it means to work in an office, from commuting in everyday to using VMR systems to communicate with colleagues in different parts of the country. I found it very interesting to see how government departments work, attending other talks which took place in the building.

I also gained a better understanding of quantitative research and analysis, I added new formulas for Excel and shortcuts for SPSS to my repertoire and learnt how to use DFID's programmes.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank Q-Step and DFID for the opportunity this summer.