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King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies



Why the World Needs Partnership with Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia's Global Humanitarian and Development Aid

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Special Report

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Table of Contents

Abstract	6
Introduction	7
The History of Saudi Arabia's Humanitarian and Development Assistance	8
Saudi Overseas aid by Category	13
Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid by Sector	14
Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid: Regional Dispersion	16
Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid: Top Ten Recipient Countries	17
Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid to UN Agencies	18
Saudi Arabia's Support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	20
Saudi Arabia's In-country Assistance to Visitors (Refugees)	22
Saudi Arabia's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	22

Abstract

This paper will shed light on the Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to developing countries worldwide. The KSA has contributed significantly to the well-being of many developing countries. However, for quite some time, such valuable assistance was not publicized enough in the media nor reflected in international aid platforms.

This paper discusses KSA's aid in detail, outlining the various categories of aid, where it is dispersed (by country and region), to which sectors, and how it has evolved over time. Moreover, it covers KSA's assistance to developing countries in their quest to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Kingdom's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the support provided to in-country refugees (known in KSA as visitors).

Introduction

In October 1970, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution calling on the economically advanced countries to contribute at least 0.7 percent of their Gross National Income (GNI) to developing countries in aid.⁽¹⁾ Furthermore, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted in July 2015, calls on donor countries to renew their commitment to achieving a target of 0.7 percent of their GNI for Official Development Assistance (ODA), of which 0.15–0.20 percent ought to be earmarked for the least developed countries. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development–Development Assistance Committee (OECD–DAC) reports annually on how donors have performed against this target by generating tables that show the ratio of ODA to GNI for each donor country.⁽²⁾

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) that was a founding member of the United Nations (UN) has been a dedicated member of the Group of 20 (G20) nations. In 2020, KSA played a very active role in its presidency of the G20 and succeeded in convening sessions to discuss the group’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including funding matters. This came in the wake of the Kingdom’s leading role in shaping the final outcome of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN summit in New York in 2015.

For many years, Saudi Arabia did not publicize data or reports related to foreign aid. The Kingdom maintained a low profile, largely in keeping with Saudi culture and the Islamic teachings of the Prophet Mohammed PBUH: *“Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth”*. Islam encourages Muslims to give charity to those in need, preferably in secret, to preserve the dignity of the recipient.

Nevertheless, in recent years the worldwide need for humanitarian and development assistance has greatly increased, resulting in an increase in the number of aid providers. In the last two decades, many global aid conferences have been organized, such as the Paris Declaration in

(1) “Factsheet: 0.7% Aid Target,” *Development Initiatives (DI)*, August 2013, <http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Factsheet-0-7%25.pdf>.

(2) “Development Assistance Committee (DAC),” *OECD*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/development-assistance-committee/>.

2005, the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008,⁽³⁾ the Busan High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation⁽⁴⁾ in New Mexico City in 2014, and the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul 2016.⁽⁵⁾ These meetings have discussed aid policies, strategies, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and transparency, leading to more aid accountability and consolidation.

KSA has also taken major steps to consolidate its aid program. The inception in April 2015 of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) as the country's humanitarian agency was a landmark step in the development of the Kingdom's ODA program. The Center has made a remarkable achievement in documenting and registering KSA's humanitarian and development aid in the period since.

The History of Saudi Arabia's Humanitarian and Development Assistance

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has an extensive history of providing aid to developing countries affected by natural disasters and countries in need of immediate assistance. In the early 1950s, KSA provided humanitarian assistance to flood victims in the Punjab region of South Asia and continued to do so for the surrounding countries in the region.

In 1974, KSA established the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) to stimulate economic growth in developing nations. The SFD aims to finance development projects in developing countries by granting them concessional loans and technical aid. KSA's assistance has been very effective in reaching areas in desperate need of aid. Examples include relief for those affected by Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh in 2007 and the devastating 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Additionally, aid has been extended to Sudan, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, and many Asian, African, and Latin American countries in more recent years. The humanitarian and development assistance provided by KSA will be covered in greater detail throughout this report.

(3) "Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action," OECD, November 1, 2021, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/parisdeclarationandaccraagendaforaction.htm>.

(4) "Welcome to the Global Partnership," *Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/>.

(5) "World Humanitarian Summit 2016," *Agenda for Humanity*, November 1, 2021, <https://agendaforhumanity.org/summit.html>.

KSA has been reporting its aid data to the OECD–DAC for many years as an aggregated data set. However, in 2018, KSA took a major step and became a participant member in the OECD–DAC, represented by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief). In the same year, KSA started reporting its ODA figures to the OECD–DAC in detail, broken down (disaggregated) according to various categories (aid by project, sector, year, recipient country, and implementing partner) using the Creditor Reporting System (CRS).⁽⁶⁾

In 2015, the Supervisor General of KSRelief took the initiative and assigned a team from the Center to begin the process of documenting the Kingdom’s aid program. In 2018, a Royal Directive was issued by the Royal Court, assigning the task of registering and documenting all of KSA’s aid in international aid to KSrelief. Capitalizing on this decree, KSRelief established the Saudi aid database (Saudi Aid Platform)⁽⁷⁾ and began collating the aid data from the KSA’s different aid providers to proceed with overseas aid via the Financial Tracking Services (FTS) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA),⁽⁸⁾ the OECD-DAC⁽⁹⁾ and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).⁽¹⁰⁾

The Saudi Aid Platform is an open-source database that regularly publishes data on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Official Development Aid (ODA) and is developed to publish all humanitarian, development and charitable assistance that has been provided. The current data stored in the Saudi Aid Platform shows aid disbursements over a 46-year period (1975–2021). The aid records show that Saudi aid, worth SAR 246.45 billion (\$US65.72 billion), has reached 157 developing countries over this period. Across this period, 4,412 projects have been implemented, which have benefited millions of people.

Aid registration refers to a process where aid data is disaggregated by recipient country, recipient organization, year, sector, project title, objective, and amount. The aid data is then verified, audited, and stored in the database. Once this step is completed, then aid documentation begins in international aid platforms.

(6) “Creditor Reporting System (CRS),” *OECD*, November 1, 2021, <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1>.

(7) “Saudi Aid Platform,” *KSRelief*, November 1, 2021, <https://data.ksrelief.org/>.

(8) “Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Government of 2021,” *Financial Tracking Service*, UNOCHA, November 1, 2021, <https://fts.unocha.org/donors/2998/summary/2021>.

(9) “Saudi Arabia,” *OECD*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.oecd.org/development/bycountry/saudiarabia/>

(10) “IATI: Getting Started,” *International Aid Transparency Initiative*, November 1, 2021, <https://iatistandard.org/en/>.

Figure 1 below summarizes the process currently used by the Kingdom for its aid registration and documentation.

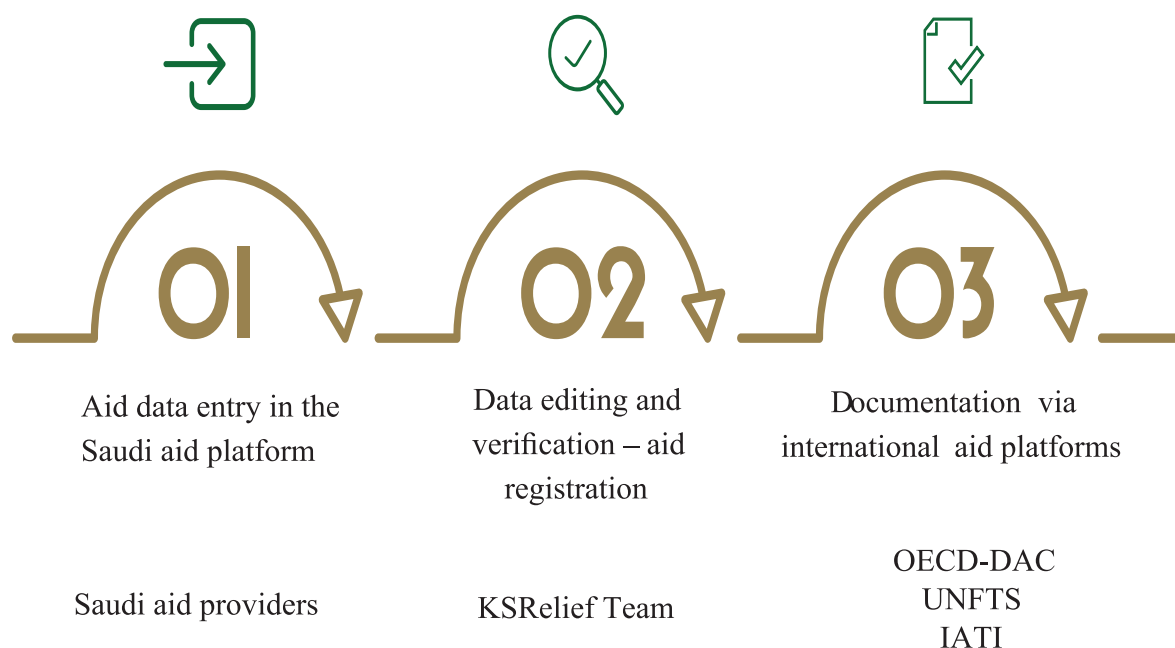


Figure 1: Aid Registration and Documentation Process in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia⁽¹¹⁾

The international aid platforms combined with the Saudi aid platform and the media efforts undertaken by various Saudi entities have contributed significantly to raising Saudi Arabia’s profile as one of the top donor countries recognized globally in providing ODA.⁽¹²⁾ This has been evident in the international rank that the Kingdom has achieved in recent years.

In 2020, the UNOCHA financial tracking service records showed that KSA **ranked sixth** among the world’s most generous donors, **providing 3 percent** of the world’s humanitarian aid. Furthermore, in October 2021, KSA **ranked third** among the world’s top donors, with its share of the world’s humanitarian assistance **having risen to 5 percent**.⁽¹³⁾ It is evident that

(11) All figures and tables are by the author unless otherwise cited.

(12) OECD, “Saudi Arabia,” in *Development Co-operation Profiles* (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1787/b2156c99-en>.

(13) “Humanitarian Aid Contributions,” *Financial Tracking Service*, UNOCHA, November 1, 2021, <https://fts.unocha.org/>.

this would not have been achieved without support and commitment from KSA’s leadership to further provide aid, proper aid registration, and documentation. Figure 2 below details KSA’s positioning in the top five donors worldwide in 2021.

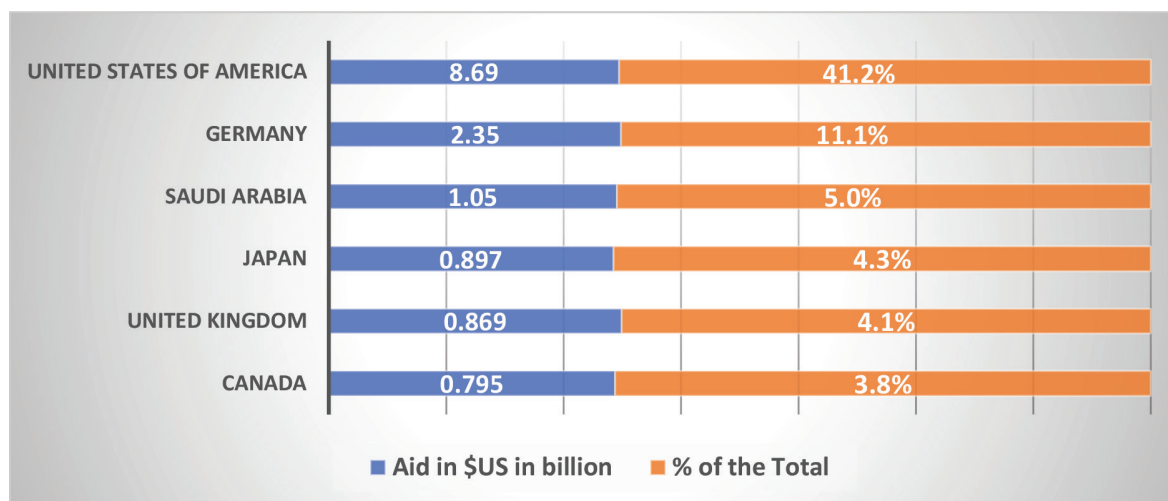


Figure 2: World’s Top Five Humanitarian Donors in 2021 (January 1 to October 24) (in \$US million)

In 2016, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in cooperation with the Kingdom’s ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance, the Saudi Fund for Development, and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, published a report entitled “Partnership in Development and South–South Cooperation Official Development Assistance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”⁽¹⁴⁾

The report published ten years (2005 to 2014) of data on aid provided by KSA to many countries around the world. This report shows Saudi Arabia’s aggregate ODA (current prices, \$US billion) and as a percentage of national income (Gross ODA/GNI in %). In 2014, KSA ODA/GNI reached 1.9%, breaking a world record for the highest percentage ever achieved by a single donor. Figure 3 charts the progression over this period.

(14) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, the Saudi Fund for Development, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre and the United Nations Development Program, *Partnership in Development and South-South Cooperation – Official Development Assistance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* (Riyadh: UNDP Saudi Arabia, 2016).

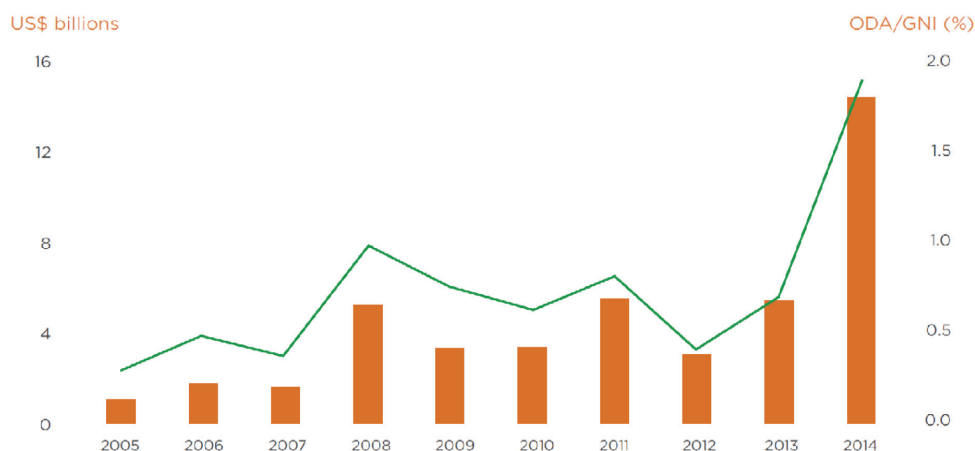


Figure 3: Saudi Official Development Assistance By Value (current prices, \$US) and As a Share of National Income (Gross ODA/GNI in %) (2005–2014)

In addition to the UNDP report on KSA official development assistance mentioned in figure 3 above, the DAC-OECD published KSA net ODA for the period from 2009 to 2020⁽¹⁵⁾ and their figures confirm what has been reported by the UNDP for the years from 2009 to 2014. Figure 4 charts the progression over this period.

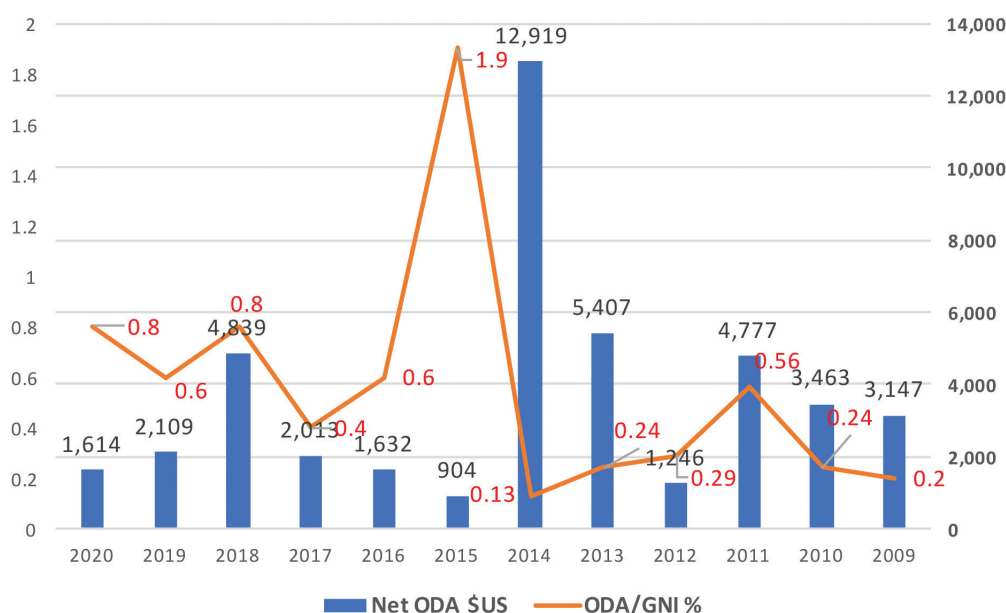


Figure 4: Saudi Official Development Assistance By Value (current prices, \$US) and As a Share of National Income (Gross ODA/GNI in %) (2009–2020)

(15) Development Co-operation Profiles, Saudi Arabia, *OECD Library*, accessed December 25, 2021, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/b2156c99-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/b2156c99-en>.

Both figures 3 and 4 (UNDP and DAC-OECD) show a good history of KSA Official Development Assistance for the period from 2004 to 2020. The DAC-OECD figures indicate a decline in KSA net ODA as well as the ODA/GNI percentage in the period post 2014. This could be attributed to many factors such as the decrease in the overall aid provided by KSA due to the decline in the oil price, allocating aid to non-ODA eligible countries (high income countries) and funding provided to core budgets of multilateral agencies. According to the DAC-OECD rules, allocating funding to multilateral agencies core budget is partially counted as ODA. Furthermore, countries are eligible to receive official development aid from donors if they are least developed countries, low-income countries, lower middle-income countries and territories and upper middle income and territories. This is an area that could be addressed in KSA's foreign aid strategy.

Saudi Overseas aid by Category

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provides several categories of ODA—namely, humanitarian aid (assistance provided to save lives during emergencies), development aid (assistance provided for improving the economic and social well-being of developing countries), and charitable aid (which is provided for cultural or religious purposes, such as building mosques or supporting Hajj pilgrims). In-country aid is also provided to visitors (refugees). Figure 5 presents the breakdown of aid disbursed by category for the period 1975–2021.

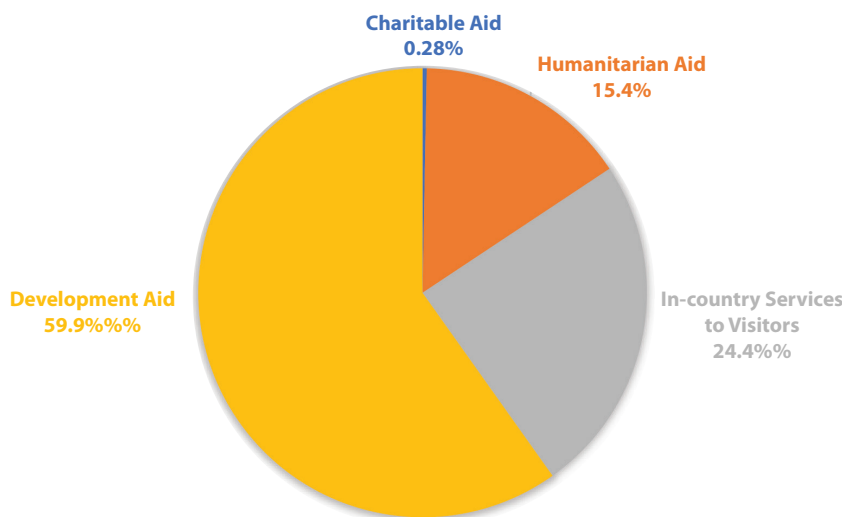


Figure 5: Share (in %) of Saudi Overseas Humanitarian, Development and Charitable Aid Assistance Disbursed by Category (1975–2021)

The data for the same period (1975–2011) is provided in Table 1 in aggregate amount (in US dollars).

Category	Value (in \$US)
Development aid	39,390,521,062
In-country Assistance to Refugees	16,012,789,169
Humanitarian aid	10,151,949,366
Charitable aid	167,250,645
Total	65,722,510,242

Table 1: Value of Saudi Overseas Humanitarian, Development and Charitable Assistance (in \$US) Disbursed by Category (1975–2012)

Saudi ODA is provided as financial assistance to a recipient’s organization or country or in-kind assistance. The latter refers to any goods or services provided to a recipient’s organization or country, such as food aid, vehicles, logistic support, medical supplies, medicines, and equipment.

Moreover, the Kingdom provides aid bilaterally through governments, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and multilaterally through institutions such as the UN agencies and the Red Cross–Red Crescent Organizations.

Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid by Sector

The top ten sectors in terms of development aid provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between 1975 and 2021 were as follows:

- Budget Support to developing countries (\$US7.45 billion)
- Transport and Storage (\$US5.74 billion)
- General Program Assistance (\$5.02 billion)
- Banking and Financial Services (\$US3.25 billion)
- Energy (\$US3.199 billion)
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (\$US2.87 billion)

- Education worth (\$US2.148 billion)
- Water and Environmental Sanitation (\$US1.69 billion)
- Health (\$US1.591 billion)
- Infrastructure Development (\$US1.54 billion)

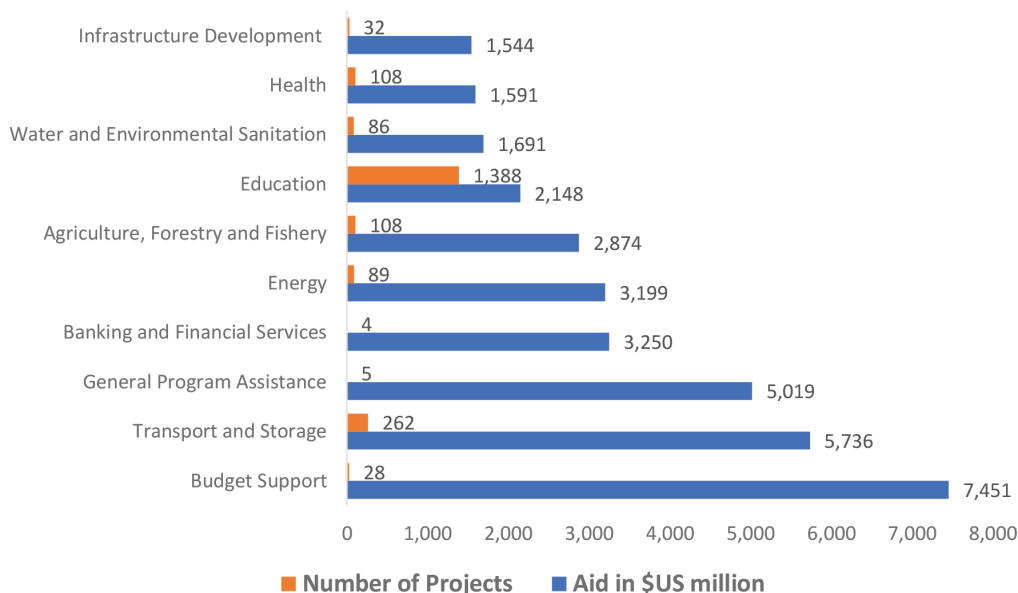


Figure 6: Top Ten Sectors for Saudi Development Aid in Terms of Total Aid Dispersed (\$US) and the Number of Projects Funded (1975–2021)⁽¹⁶⁾

The five sectors in humanitarian aid that received the most support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were as follows:

- Food Security and Agriculture to developing countries (\$US2.81 billion)
- Multi-sector (\$US1.66 billion)
- Health (\$US1.56 billion)
- Humanitarian Operations Support and Coordination (\$US1.32 billion)
- Shelter and Non-Food Items (\$US1.01 billion)

Figure 7 below shows the value of Saudi humanitarian aid dispersed across these five sectors (in \$US) as well as the number of associated projects funded in the period.

(16) UNDP, “Partnership in Development and South-South Cooperation,” May 29, 2017, https://www.sa.undp.org/content/saudi_arabia/en/home/library/human_development/KSA_ODA_report.html

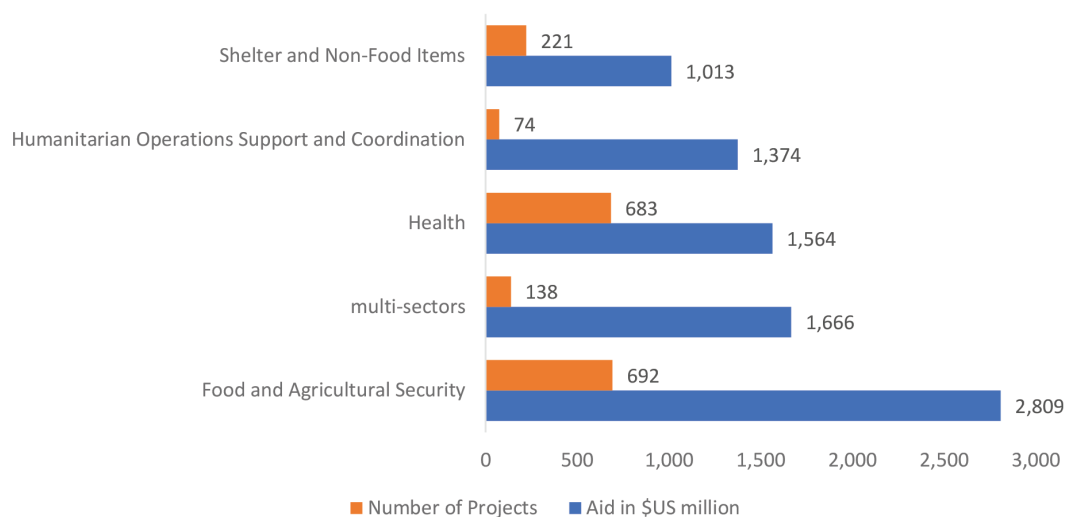


Figure 7: Top Five Sectors for Saudi Humanitarian Aid in Terms of Total Aid Dispersed (\$US) and the Number of Projects Funded (1975–2021)

Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid: Regional Dispersion

Table 2 shows the regional dispersion of KSA humanitarian and development aid and includes data for the number of projects funded for all regions for the period 1975–2021. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) received the highest share of aid, worth \$US28.68 billion, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa with \$US7.43 billion in aid.

Regions of the World	Value (in \$US)	Number of Projects
Middle East and North Africa	28,686,372,759	1,889
Sub-Saharan Africa	7,426,588,192	1,202
South Asia	6,049,187,302	475
Europe and Central Asia	2,071,380,775	395
East Asia and the Pacific	1,822,290,251	303
Global	1,087,462,559	32
Latin America and the Caribbean	198,192,319	51
Europe and Central Asia	99,823,721	52
North America	53,286,933	26

Table 2: Regional Dispersion of Saudi Humanitarian and Development Aid by Value (in \$US) and the Number of Projects Funded (1975 –2021).

Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid: Top Ten Recipient Countries

The countries that have received the most humanitarian and development aid from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1975 are, in order of aid received, as follows:

- Yemen (\$US19 billion)
- Egypt (\$US6.69 billion)
- Palestine (\$US6.68 billion)
- Syria (\$US6.64 billion)
- Pakistan (\$US4 billion)

The remaining five of the top ten countries (in order of aid received) are Lebanon, Tunisia, Sudan, Morocco, and Jordan. The data are depicted graphically in Figure 8, which shows the value (in \$US) of Saudi humanitarian and development aid as it has been dispersed to the top ten recipient countries over the period 1975–2021. As the figure shows, these top ten recipient countries are all in the MENA region, with the exception of Pakistan, which is in South Asia.

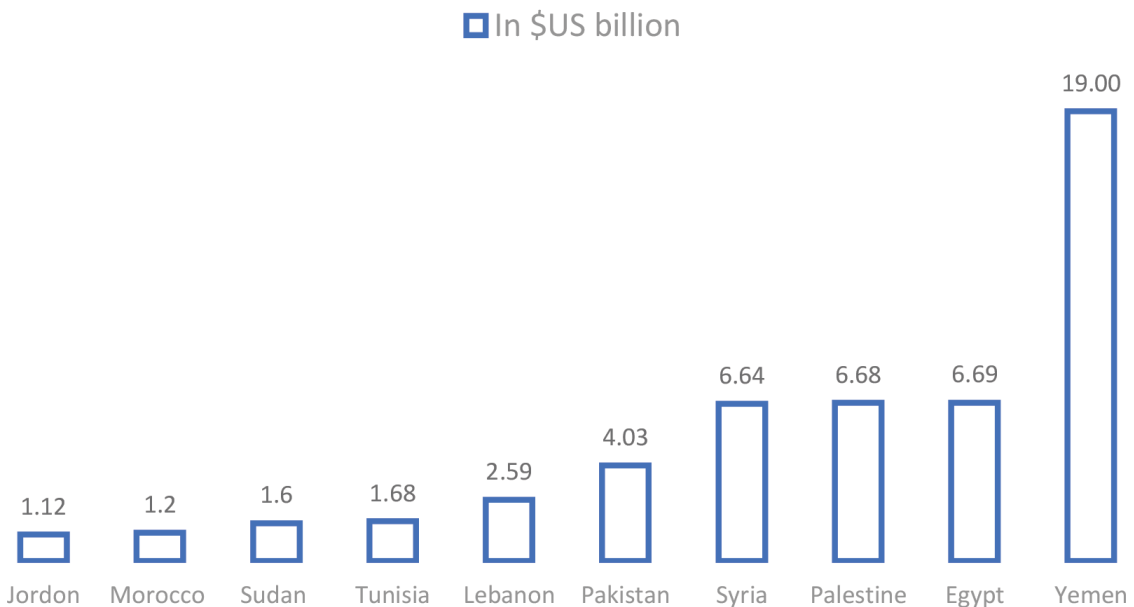


Figure 8: Value (in \$US billion) of Saudi Humanitarian and Development Aid for the Top Ten Recipient Countries (1975–2021)

Figure 9 depicts the distribution of the number of projects funded under the ODA programs for the top ten ODA recipient countries in the period 1975–2021. Yemen is by far the largest recipient of funded projects.

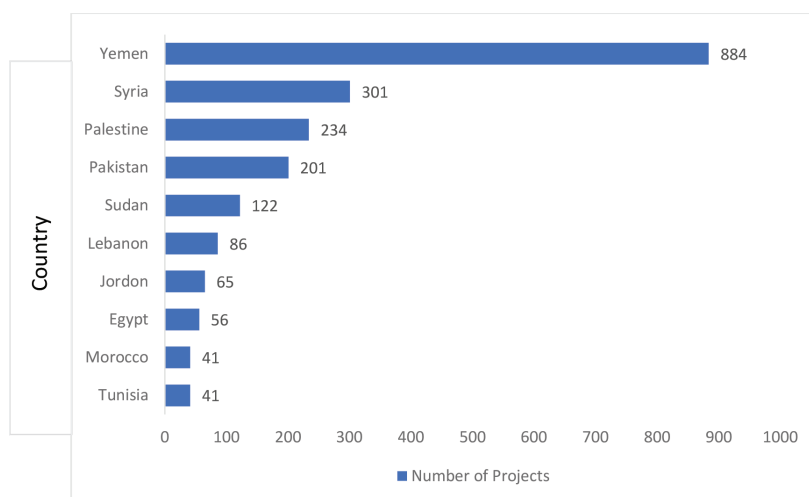


Figure 9: Number of Projects Funded in the Top Ten Recipient Countries of Saudi Humanitarian and Development Aid (1975 –2021)

Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid to UN Agencies

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a very strong strategic and program partnership with all the UN agencies. This partnership has been consolidated over many years. An example of this is the Kingdom’s participation and chairing in year 2022-2023, represented by KSRelief, in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Donor Support Group (ODSG),⁽¹⁷⁾ and its participation, represented by KSRelief in the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) 2016–2019.⁽¹⁸⁾ Additionally, KSA has strong representation at the ambassadorial level in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a representative at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome.

With regard to the program partnership, Table 3 below shows that in recent years, the Kingdom has provided financial support worth a total of \$US5.211 billion to the different United Nations

(17) “Funding: OCHA Donors in 2021,” *OCHA*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.unocha.org/funding>.

(18) “CERF Advisory Group: Members Since Inception – As Of November 2020,” *United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund*, November 2020, <https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/CERF%20Advisory%20Group%20members%20since%20inception.pdf>.

agencies. The World Food Program is the top recipient with \$US1.938 billion to assist in providing food security and nutrition to people in need. This is followed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, worth \$US955.5 million.

Organization name	Value (in \$US)	Projects
World Food Program (WFP)	1,958,555,133	124
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	955,458,511	91
United Nations	575,445,466	5
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	505,998,668	49
World Health Organization (WHO)	430,650,904	36
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	298,135,328	42
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	154,524,672	29
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	77,753,840	14
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	71,934,025	9
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	51,223,937	11
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	37,083,877	13
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	28,186,316	11
United Nations Settlements Program (UN Habitat)	27,738,502	7
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	26,972,006	4
UN World Trade Organisation	5,000,000	1
UN Women	3,845,840	3
United Nations Mine Action Service	1,000,000	1
United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	700,000	1
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	524,937	1
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	450,000	3
International Labour Organization (ILO)	150,000	1
Total	5,211,331,962	456

Table 3: Value of Saudi Overseas Humanitarian and Development Aid to UN Agencies (in \$US) and the Number of Projects Funded (1975 –2021).

Saudi Arabia's Support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are comprised of 17 comprehensive and integrated goals and 196 targets. These goals and targets aim to provide a better quality of life for everyone by working to protect the planet and continuing efforts to combat poverty and hunger by limiting environmental degradation. Subsequently, this is done by promoting health, education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, clean water, strong global partnerships, and cooperation of peace and justice.

The SDGs are built on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. Moreover, in January 2015, the UN General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda, which led to the adoption of the 2030 development agenda at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.⁽¹⁹⁾

As a highly active Member State within the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Kingdom participated fully in all the negotiations that led to the successful negotiation of the SDGs. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seeks to be among the leading donor countries assisting low- and middle-income countries in reaching their SDGs.

Providing development and humanitarian assistance to developing countries to achieve their SDGs falls under SDG17, Partnership for the Goal (Establishing Partnerships to Achieve the SDGs).

In this regard, from 2016 to October 2021, KSA provided humanitarian and development assistance worth \$US24.04 billion to middle and low-income countries to enhance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Such assistance encouraged growth and

(19) "Sustainable Development Goals," *United Nations*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>.

trade in these countries through the implementation of 2,753 projects. Figure 10 below shows the yearly assistance provided to low- and middle-income countries by KSA under the SGD17 (Partnership to achieve the SDGs) from 2016–2021.

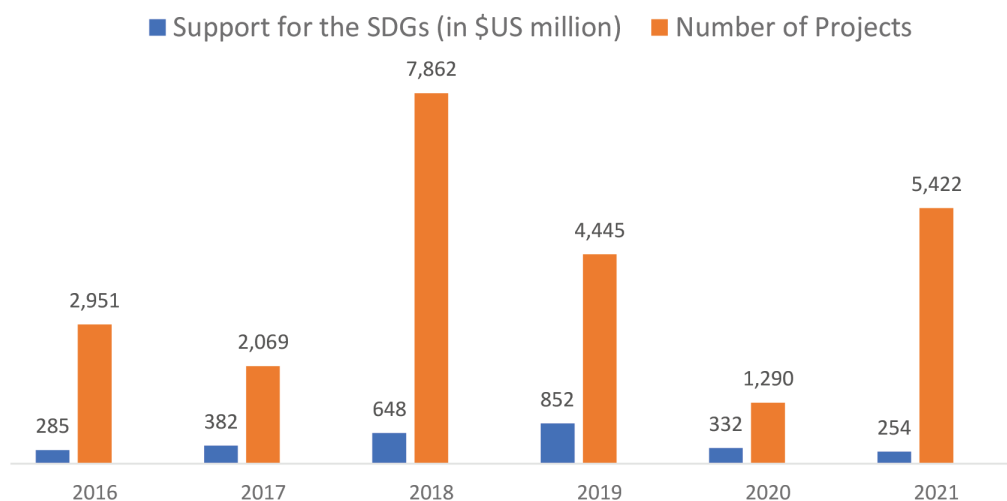


Figure 10: Value of Saudi Support for the SDGs (in \$US million) and Number of Projects Funded (2016 –2021)

The top ten Low and middle-income countries that received support under the SDG 17 (Partnerships to Achieve the SDGs) are shown in Table 5 below:

Country	Support for SDGs in \$US
Yemen	6,669,776,859
Egypt	5,955,720,000
Pakistan	3,094,401,641
Tunisia	796,813,333
Jordon	744,111,601
Ethiopia	648,708,200
Morocco	603,010,859
Sudan	469,221,352
Palestine	309,746,377
Djibouti	188,437,431

Table 4: Value (in \$US) of Saudi Support Under SDG17 (Partnerships to Achieve the SDGs) for the Top Ten Low- and Middle-income Recipient Countries (2016 –2021)

Saudi Arabia's In-country Assistance to Visitors (Refugees)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is home to the sixth-largest population of refugees worldwide. KSA uses the term “visitors” to describe refugees currently receiving protection in the country. The Kingdom has hosted around 1.07 million refugee (visitors) in recent years, equivalent to 5.5 percent of the Saudi population.⁽²⁰⁾

Most of the refugee (visitors) in Saudi Arabia are Yemenis, Syrians, and Rohingyas who have been given special permission to stay due to conflict in their home countries. The Kingdom has its own unique approach in supporting the visitors. Refugee (visitors) are not held in refugee camps as is common in other countries. They are provided with exception from the immigration, free health care, education for their children, and permission to work.

In the period 2011 to 2020, KSA aided in-country visitors by providing financial stability worth \$US16.01 billion.⁽²¹⁾ Table 5 below shows the type of assistance and support provided.

Type of support	Value (in \$US billion)	Share (in %)
Exemption from immigration fees	6.68	41.71%
Education support	4.96	30.99%
Free health care	4.37	27.30%
Total	16.01	100%

Table 5: Saudi Arabia's In-country Assistance to Visitor–Refugees (2011–2020)

Saudi Arabia's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In November 2020, KSA chaired and hosted the G20 in Riyadh and played a very active role in its presidency. The Kingdom succeeded in mobilizing donors to commit sizable funding to respond internationally to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(20) “Saudi Aid for Refugees and IDPs,” *KSRelief*, November 1, 2021, <https://refugees.ksrelief.org/>.

(21) “Services for Visitors (Refugees) Inside the Kingdom: Financial Results,” *KSRelief*, November 1, 2021, <https://data.ksrelief.org/Visitors/FS>.

KSA has committed and disbursed a significant amount of funding to assist various countries worldwide in responding to the pandemic. KSA's COVID-19 international response with more than \$US 825 million has been managed by KSRelief. This amount includes funding to purchase COVID-19 vaccines, medical supplies and equipment to 33 countries, as well as \$US10 million financial support to Solidarity Response Fund managed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and about \$US 300 million financial support to international research institutions to support their research into the development of COVID-19 vaccines.

About the Author

Makki Hamid has over thirty-five years of humanitarian and development experience with donors, international organizations, and UN agencies in Africa, Asia, the UK, and the Middle East. Since November 2015, he has worked as Advisor for Planning and Development and Director of Information and Research at the King Salam Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Prior to that, from 2010 to 2015, he served as Director of Evaluation, Policy, and Research at the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Ministry of International Cooperation and Development. From 1984–2009 he worked for several International humanitarian organizations and UN agencies in various countries in Africa, Asia, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East. He participated in building UAE's and KSA's aid architecture and establishing databases to register and document their foreign aid data.



King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS)

KFCRIS is an independent non-governmental institution based in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Center was founded in 1403/1983 by the King Faisal Foundation (KFF) to preserve the legacy of the late King Faisal and to continue his mission of transmitting knowledge between the Kingdom and the world. The Center serves as a platform for research and Islamic Studies, bringing together researchers and research institutions from the Kingdom and across the world through conferences, workshops, and lectures, and through the production and publication of scholarly works, as well as the preservation of Islamic manuscripts.

The Center's Research Department is home to a group of established and promising researchers who endeavor to produce in-depth analyses in various fields, ranging from Security Studies, Political Economy, African Studies and Asian Studies. The Center also hosts the Library which preserves invaluable Islamic manuscripts, the Al-Faisal Museum for Arab Islamic Art, the Al-Faisal Institute for Human Resources Development, the Darat Al-Faisal, and the Al-Faisal Cultural Press, which issues the Al-Faisal magazine and other key intellectual periodicals. For more information, please visit the Center's website: www.kfcris.com/en



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