

Regional data on rich countries' aid

Technical Assistance: consultants, research & training

What is Technical Assistance? – Technical Assistance is broadly defined as expertise that is necessary for development. It consists of consultancies, training and research, and is often 'imported' from rich countries.

Technical Assistance has two aims: either to fill a short-term gap where sufficient capacity does not exist, or develop local capacity over a longer period of time. According to a growing body of evidence, Technical Assistance is often overpriced, ineffective, and in the worst cases, undermines rather than builds the development of capacity in poor countries.

1. Africa:

Overview:

In 2004, Africa received US \$20 billion in aid, one quarter of which was Technical Assistance. One third of the countries in Africa received over half of their aid in Technical Assistance.

Recipients:

A number of African countries received a very high amount of Technical Assistance as a proportion of their total ODA (Overseas Development Assistance). Countries in this category include:

Algeria (87%)
Libya (84%)
Mauritius (83%)
Botswana (82%)
Tunisia (76%)
Gabon (73%)
Morocco (71%)
Djibouti (69%)
Nigeria (68%)
Gambia (59%)
South Africa (53%)
Togo (51%)

Trends:

Both ODA and Technical Assistance to Africa have grown in real terms over the past five years, Technical Assistance from \$3,764 billion to \$5,186 billion. However, as a proportion of total ODA TA has shrunk from 35% to 26% over the last five years.

2. Asia:

Overview:

In 2004 Asia received \$16 billion in aid, a third of which was Technical Assistance. Half of Asian aid recipients received over 50% of their aid in Technical Assistance.

Recipients:

A number of Asian countries also received very high amounts of their aid in the form of Technical Assistance. Large recipients of Technical Assistance in Asia included:
Korea (94%)

Taiwan (90%)
Malaysia (85%)
Hong Kong (83%)
Thailand (82%)
Singapore (82%)
China (76%)
PNG (64%)
Indonesia (64%)
Timor-Leste (58%)
Cambodia (51%)

Trends:

Asian Technical Assistance and Overseas Development Assistance to Asia have also both grown in real terms over the last five years from \$3,781 billion to \$5,678 billion. As a proportion of total Overseas Development Assistance, Technical Assistance to Asia has shrunk from 45% to 34% of total ODA.

3. The Americas:

Overview:

In 2004, the Americas received around \$6 billion in aid, approximately half of which was given in the form of TA.

Recipients:

Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the Netherlands Antilles received all of their aid in the form of TA. Countries receiving a large proportion of their total Overseas Development Assistance in TA were:

- The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Mexico and Anguilla all received over 90% of their total ODA in Technical Assistance.
- Venezuela, St Kitts-Nevis, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Columbia and Barbados all received over 80% of their total aid in Technical Assistance.
- Chile, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil received over 70% of their aid in Technical Assistance.
- Peru, St Lucia, Ecuador and El Salvador received 60% or more of their aid in Technical Assistance.
- Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala all received over 50% of their aid in Technical Assistance.

The Americas saw a much higher number of countries receiving over 50% of their total Overseas Development Assistance in Technical Assistance than the other regions. In the Americas, over two-thirds of countries received over 50% in Technical Assistance. Very few received less than 20% of their total Overseas Development Assistance in TA.

Trends:

In the Americas, while Overseas Development Assistance has risen very modestly, Technical Assistance has remained at around the 50% mark for the last five years.

Source: OCED Development Assistance Committee; International Development Statistics online; 2000-2004 figures www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline