

Global Humanitarian Assistance

Bangladesh: Country briefing

January 2012



Global Humanitarian
Assistance

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE 

Contents

Overview	3
Indicators	4
Bangladesh as an aid recipient	5
United Kingdom's role as a donor to Bangladesh.....	8
Annex	13

Overview

Bangladesh is the ninth largest country in the world by population (164.4 million people) and is one of the most densely populated. Almost half of its 164.4 million people live on less than US\$1.25 a day (World Bank, 2005) and 80% on less than US\$2.00 a day (DFID, 2011).

The size and density of the population, together with regular extreme weather events, such as floods and cyclones, make the country extremely vulnerable to natural hazards becoming natural disasters. During the last ten years, 12 major natural disasters have impacted upon millions of people in Bangladesh, including floods in 2004, which affected 36 million people, and Cyclone Sidr in 2007, which affected over nine million people. Since 2000, US\$430 million has been raised for disaster response with over half of it allocated to the humanitarian operation following Cyclone Sidr.

Aside from a history of natural disasters, an estimated 300,000 refugees of the Muslim minority Rohingya ethnic group have fled from neighbouring Myanmar since being stripped of their citizenship in 1982, and are now resident in Bangladesh. Tens of thousands live in official and informal refugee settlements, while a far larger number live as 'illegal economic migrants' throughout Bangladesh. The Rohingya refugee crisis is often considered a ['forgotten' crisis](#).

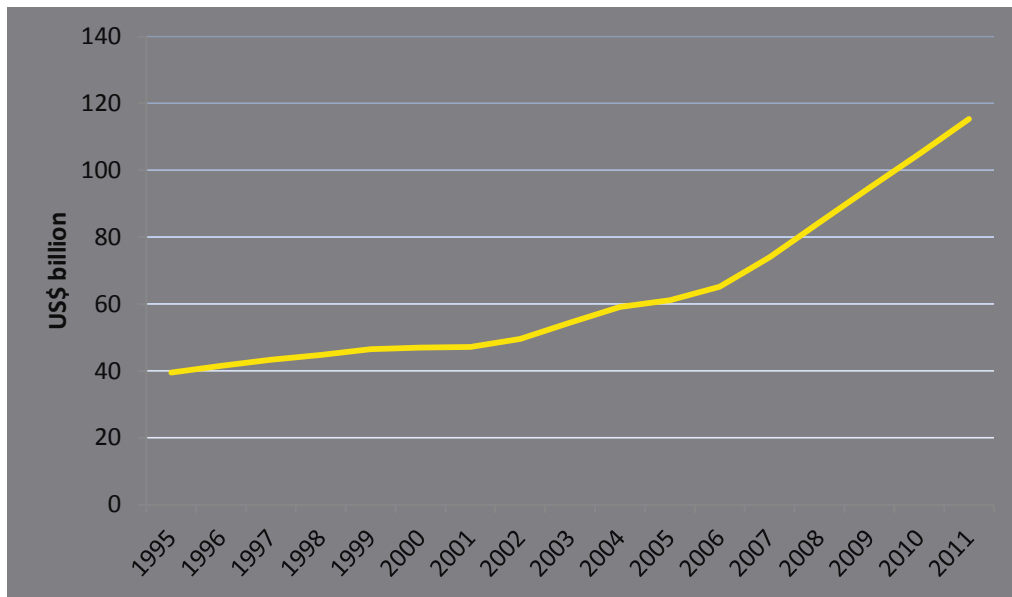
The frequency of disasters has prompted a strong domestic capacity working to prevent and respond to humanitarian emergencies. The country has a long tradition of voluntary and humanitarian response where the government, civil society, non-governmental organisations, private sector, voluntary groups and religious organisations carry out various emergency response activities to protect lives, assets and livelihoods as well as to prevent damages and losses resulting from natural and man-made disasters in Bangladesh. Nevertheless, in recent decades the frequency and intensity of natural disasters has increased and the number of affected people and vulnerable groups have multiplied. The Government of Bangladesh has developed an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, which includes the defining of risks (hazard analysis, vulnerability assessment and risk treatment); the management of disaster risks and responding to disaster through emergency operations and social safety nets; and protection for long term risk reduction.

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) outlines its core priorities and funding in its [operational plan for Bangladesh, 2011-2015](#), committing an average of £250 million annually to Bangladesh until 2015, thus doubling its annual spend in the country. DFID's plan aims to support the country in meeting the demands of a large and increasingly urban population, while dealing with the shocks of natural disasters and climate change.

This briefing paper analyses Bangladesh as an aid recipient. It also looks at other financial flows such as remittances, as well as country statistics and indicators such as multidimensional poverty.

Indicators

Figure 1: Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP), 1995-2011



Source: World Bank, World Indicators.

Bangladesh is a country with enormous potential. Since the early 1990s, its economy has grown by 5–6% a year and the country has weathered the recent global financial crisis well. Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) nearly tripled between 1995 and 2011 from US\$40 billion to US\$115 billion, an increase of 192%. However, despite this economic progress, Bangladesh remains very poor and extremely vulnerable.

Poverty levels

Figure 2: Poverty indicators

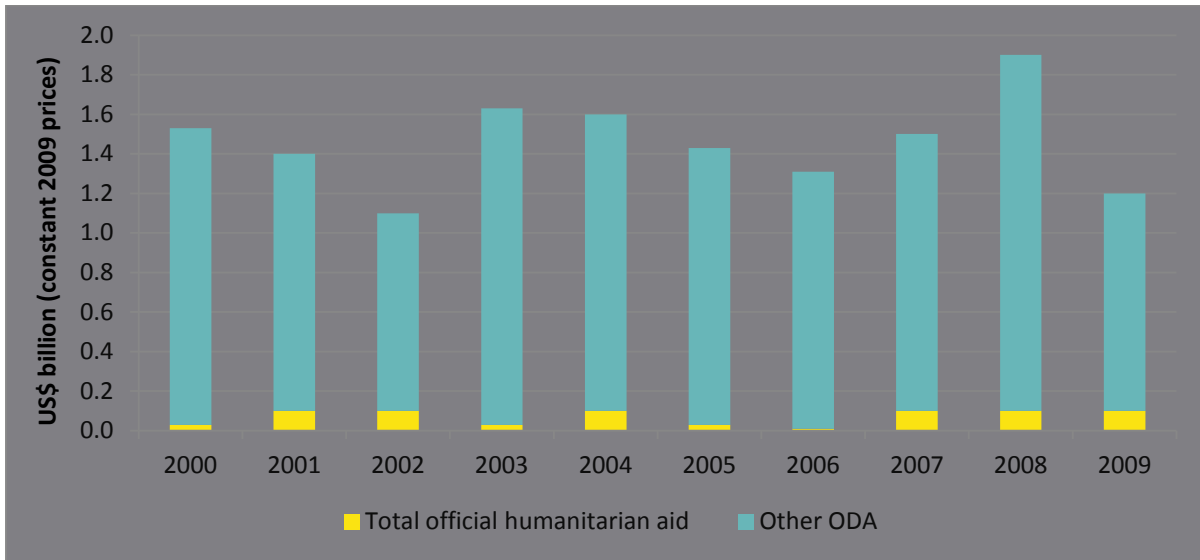
Bangladesh indicators	Year	Rank/Value
GNI per capita (2008 US\$PPP)	2010	US\$1587, 154/183 (rank)
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2010	66.9 years
Population affected by natural disasters (per million people)	2008	3,975
Population living below \$1.25 PPP per day (%)	2005	49.6
Prevalence of undernourishment in total population (% of population)	2005-2007	27
Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)	2008	54
Human Development Index (rank)	2010	129/187
GINI (income inequality) index (%)	2005	31.0
Vulnerability Index (high/medium/low)	2011-2012	Medium
Crisis Index (high/medium/low)	2010-2011	Low
Multidimensional Poverty Index (rank)	2009	32/103

Sources: Various

Poverty indicators for Bangladesh show that it ranks low in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Bangladesh has 83 million poor, the third largest population in the world following India with 613 million and China with 162 million.

Bangladesh as an aid recipient

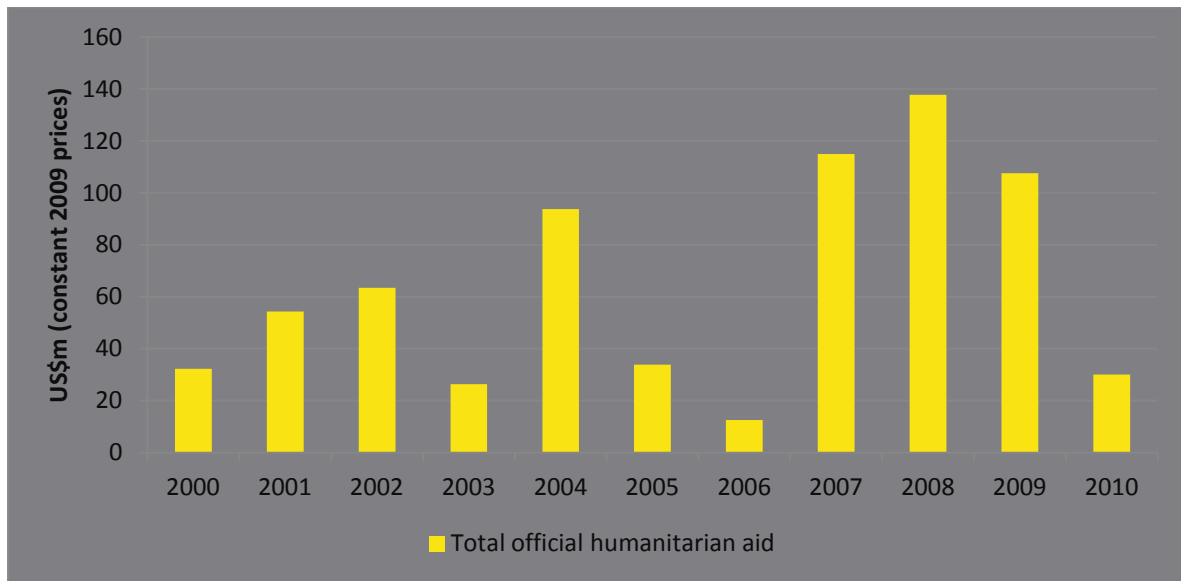
Figure 3: Bangladesh’s humanitarian aid and other official development assistance (ODA) (excl. debt relief), 2000-2009



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data, constant 2009 prices

Official development assistance (ODA) to Bangladesh has remained relatively stable over the last ten years in line with the country’s persistently high poverty and vulnerability levels. Over this period the country received US\$371.4 million of its ODA for disaster risk reduction (DRR) which made it the fourth largest recipient after Pakistan, Indonesia and India. However, overall DRR funding levels remain low in relation to the extreme natural disaster exposure of Bangladesh.

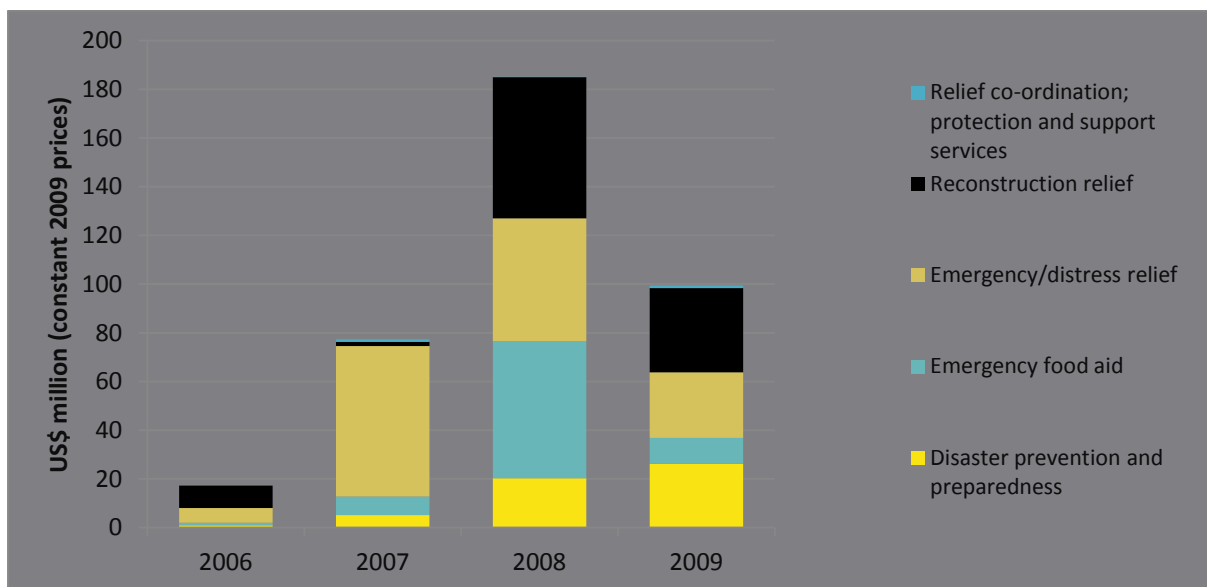
Figure 4: Bangladesh's humanitarian aid, 2000-2009



Sources: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data (constant 2009 prices) for 2000-2009 and UN OCHA FTS data (current prices) for 2010

Despite the country being repeatedly affected by natural disasters, humanitarian assistance as a share of ODA has been consistently low for Bangladesh with peaks following major natural disasters, such as the severe floods in 2004, Cyclone Sidr in 2007 and Cyclone Aila in 2009.

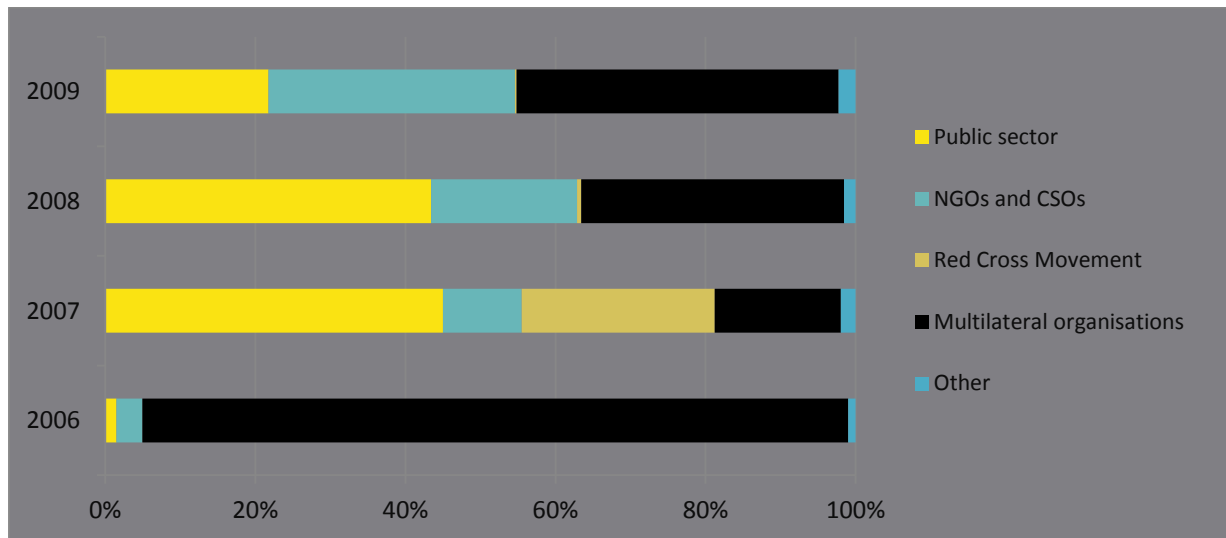
Figure 5: Bangladesh's humanitarian aid by expenditure type, 2006-2009



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) data

Humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh appears to be primarily reactive with 73% of the aid being spent on emergency and reconstruction relief. Investments in disaster prevention and preparedness have been low, averaging 13% between 2006 and 2009.

Figure 6: Bangladesh’s channels of delivery of humanitarian aid, 2006-2009



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) data

Multilateral organisations are the main channel of delivery of humanitarian aid in Bangladesh, representing an average share of 47% in the period 2006-2007. The public sector, which includes institutions from both recipient and donor countries, has also been predominant in the years of major emergency and reconstruction relief operations. It is worth noting that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other civil society organisations (CSOs) have steadily increased their presence from an insignificant 4% in 2006 to a third of all channels in 2009.

Figure 7: Top ten recipients of remittances in 2010

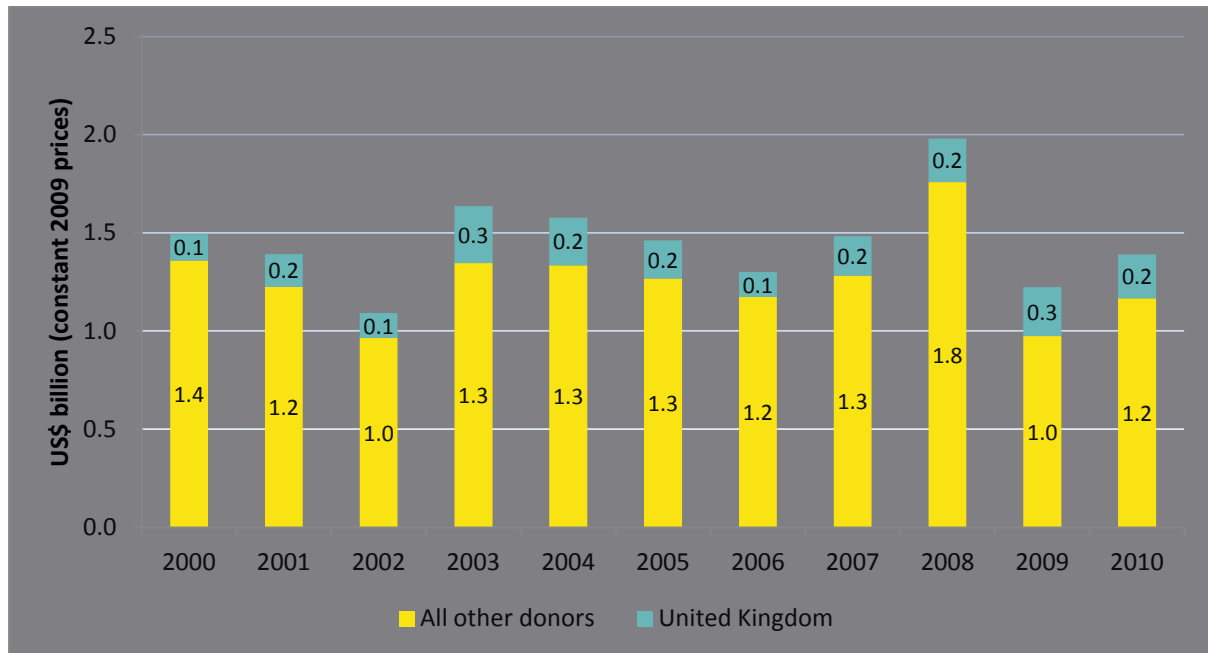
Countries	US\$ billion
India	54.0
China	51.3
Mexico	22.0
Philippines	21.4
France	15.6
Germany	11.3
Bangladesh	10.9
Spain	10.5
Belgium	10.2
Nigeria	10.0

Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank, current prices

Remittances represent another important financial source, and in this respect Bangladesh was the seventh largest recipient in 2010, with US\$11 billion.

United Kingdom's role as a donor to Bangladesh

Figure 8: Bangladesh's ODA from UK and all other donors, 2000-2010



Source: OECD DAC, constant 2009 prices (excl. debt relief)

The United Kingdom (UK) has been a very reliable donor of ODA to Bangladesh. Between 2000 and 2010 UK's aid represented an average share of 14% of all aid received by the country. In terms of net contributions, UK's ODA to Bangladesh varied little year by year with typical annual funding of US\$198 million.

In fact, UK has been the major aid donor to Bangladesh in every one of the last 11 years, followed closely by the European Institutions (EU), the Netherlands and the United States (US).

Figure 9: Top three ODA donors to Bangladesh, 2000-2010

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	UK US\$134m	UK US\$166m	UK US\$127m	UK US\$289m	UK US\$244m	UK US\$194m	UK US\$127m	UK US\$200m	UK US\$221m	UK US\$250m	UK US\$224m
	UK share 9%	UK share 12%	UK share 12%	UK share 18%	UK share 15%	UK share 13%	UK share 10%	UK share 13%	UK share 11%	UK share 20%	UK share 16%
2	EU US\$124m	EU US\$135m	US US\$86m	Netherlands US\$78m	Netherlands US\$79m	EU US\$94m	EU US\$118m	EU US\$106m	EU US\$190m	EU US\$132m	EU US\$197m
	EU share 8%	EU share 10%	US share 8%	Netherlands% 5%	Netherlands% 5%	EU share 6%	EU share 9%	EU share 7%	EU share 10%	EU share 11%	EU share 14%
3	US US\$76m	US US\$106m	Netherlands US\$73m	EU US\$72m	EU US\$72m	Netherlands US\$72m	Netherlands US\$78m	Netherlands US\$103m	US US\$94m	US US\$63m	US US\$123m
	US share 5%	US share 8%	Netherlands% 7%	EU share 4%	EU share 5%	Netherlands% 5%	Netherlands% 6%	Netherlands% 7%	US share 5%	US share 5%	US share 9%

Source: OECD DAC, constant 2009 prices (excl. debt relief), in US\$ million and as a proportion of ODA from all donors

On average, the top three donors of ODA to Bangladesh have contributed over a quarter of all aid to the country in the period 2000–2010. Overall, UK's aid to Bangladesh has amounted to US\$2.2 billion in that same period, followed by the EU with US\$1.3 billion and the Netherlands with US\$854 million. The United States, which has been the third most generous aid donor to the country in 5 out of the 11 years, has allocated a total of US\$833 million in ODA.

Types of official development assistance (ODA) to Bangladesh, 2006-2009

The majority of ODA to Bangladesh is sector allocable, of which a large proportion is spent on social infrastructure and services, notably education and government and civil society.

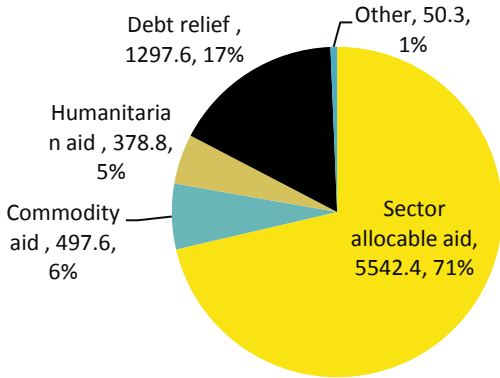
The UK's pattern as an aid donor barely varies from that of the totality of ODA donors to the country. Overall, the main difference is that UK has not allocated any of its ODA to debt relief, while all donors to Bangladesh have collectively contributed as much as US\$1.3 billion or 17% to actions related to debt. Similarly, commodity aid has been a low priority for UK (only US\$6 million or 1%) whereas it has amounted to US\$498 million or 6% of all non-sector allocable aid for all donors to Bangladesh.

In terms of sector allocable aid breakdown, nearly 60% has been spent on social infrastructures and services both in the case of UK and all ODA donors. Economic infrastructures and services – comprising transport, communications, energy, banking and business services – have been the second largest sector allocable category of aid to Bangladesh for the totality of donors. For UK, however, multi-sector and cross-cutting issues take the second place with 23% of sector-allocable ODA expenditure, compared to only 10% in the case of all donors.

Amongst the social infrastructure sub-sectors, education takes the lead for all donors with US\$933 million or 29% of all social aid spent between 2006 and 2009. The UK, on the other hand, has favoured the government and civil society sub-sector, allocating US\$150 million or nearly a third of all aid within the social infrastructure category. Education is the UK's second priority with 29% of the funding, followed closely by the health sub-sector with 19%. Population policies and reproductive health programmes take the smallest share of the UK's social infrastructure ODA with only US\$13 million spent over the four year period. Finally, water supply and sanitation represent the category receiving the smallest volume of funding from all aid donors to Bangladesh, amounting to 7% of the social infrastructure sector.

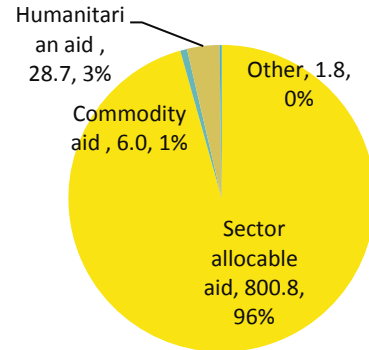
All donors (US\$ million)

Types of aid

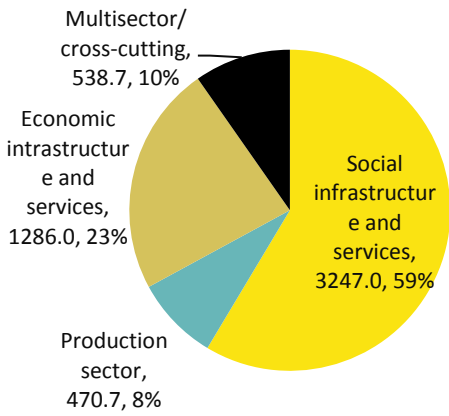


United Kingdom (US\$ million)

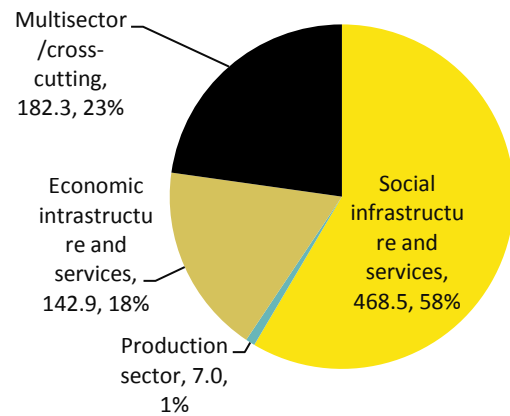
Types of aid



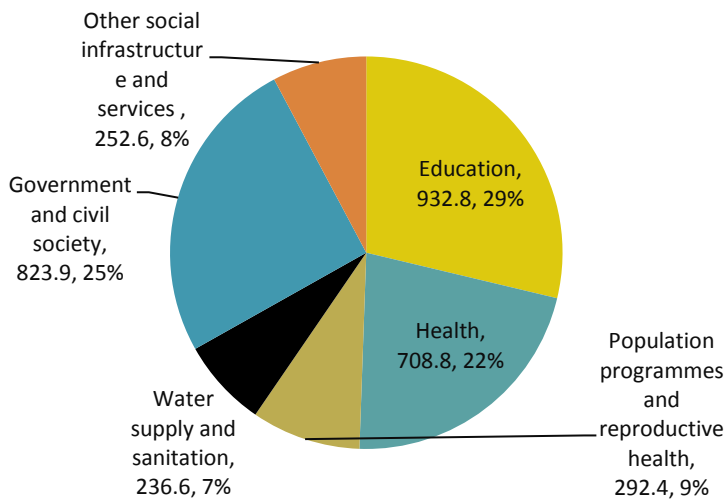
Sector allocable aid



Sector allocable aid



Social infrastructure and services



Social infrastructure and services

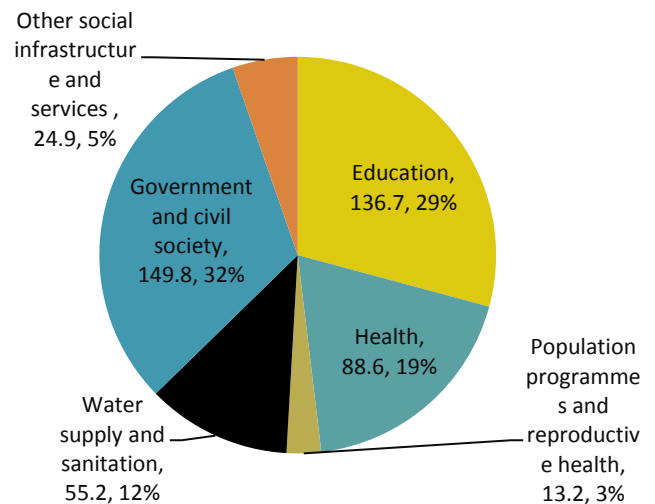
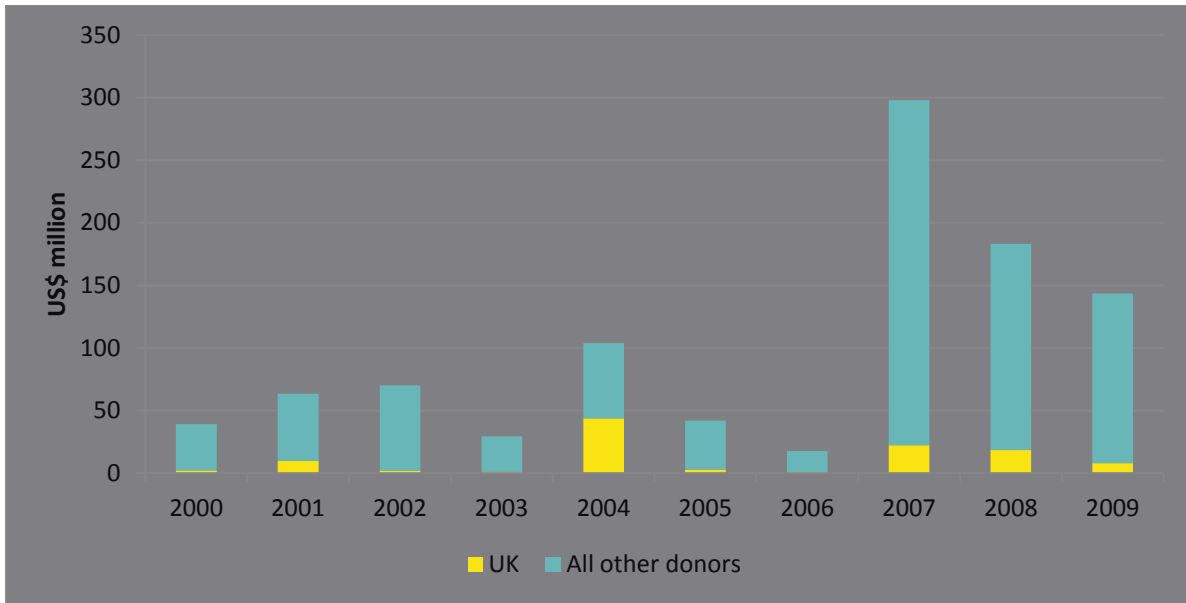


Figure 10: UK's total humanitarian aid to Bangladesh, 2000-2009

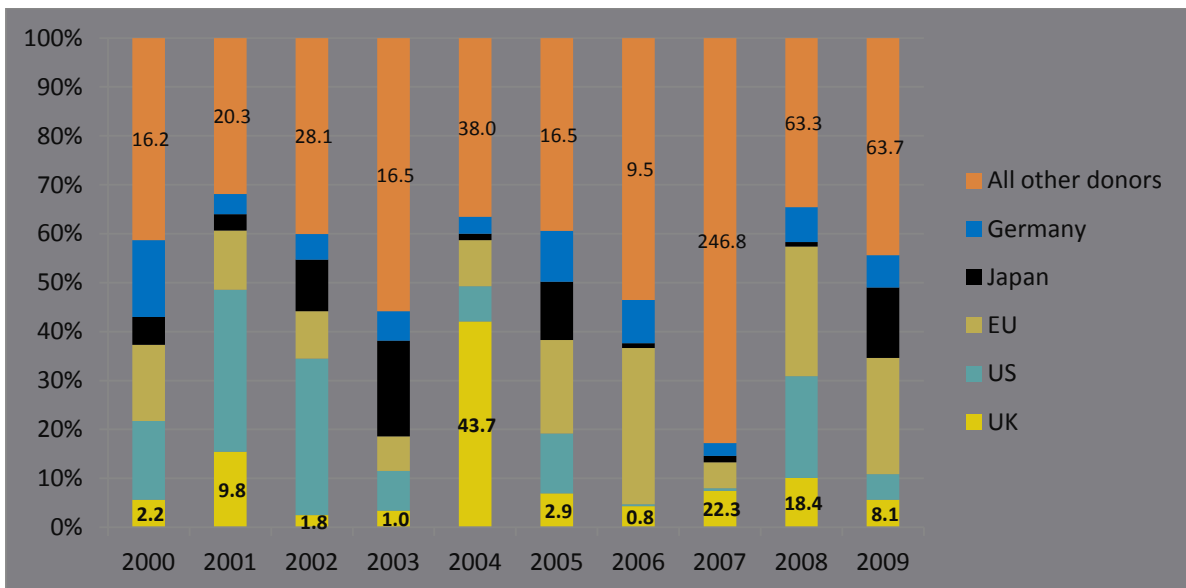


Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data

United Kingdom’s humanitarian aid to Bangladesh has been fairly low totalling US\$111 million between 2000 and 2009. The year of highest contributions was 2004 when UK allocated US\$43.7 million in response to the severe floods which affected 36 million people.

Overall, Bangladesh has not been a major priority for UK’s humanitarian assistance. The country was amongst the top ten recipients of UK’s humanitarian funding in only two of the last ten years – following the 2004 flooding and in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Sidr in 2007.

Figure 11: Bangladesh’s top five humanitarian aid donors as a proportion of total humanitarian aid, 2000-2009



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data, constant 2009 prices, US\$ million

2004 was also the year of the largest UK contribution as a share of total humanitarian aid at 42% of all humanitarian assistance received by Bangladesh. While the EU has consistently been the most generous humanitarian donor to Bangladesh, allocating US\$144 million during the period 2000–2009, the single largest contribution came from Saudi Arabia with a one-off humanitarian donation of US\$159 million in 2007.

Annex

Ranking of MPI score - all countries		
Ranking	Country	Multidimensional Poverty Index (range 0-1)
109	Niger	0.642
108	Ethiopia	0.562
107	Mali	0.558
106	Burkina Faso	0.536
105	Burundi	0.530
104	Somalia	0.514
103	Central African Republic	0.512
102	Mozambique	0.512
101	Guinea	0.506
100	Liberia	0.485
99	Angola	0.452
98	Sierra Leone	0.439
97	Rwanda	0.426
96	Benin	0.412
95	Comoros	0.408
94	DR Congo	0.393
93	Senegal	0.384
92	Malawi	0.381
91	Tanzania	0.367
90	Uganda	0.367
89	Timor-Leste	0.360
88	Madagascar	0.357
87	Cote d'Ivoire	0.353
86	Mauritania	0.352
85	Nepal	0.350
84	Chad	0.344
83	Zambia	0.328
82	Gambia	0.324
81	Nigeria	0.310
80	Haiti	0.299
79	Bangladesh	0.292
78	Cameroon	0.287

Numbers of MPI poor - all countries		
Ranking	Country	Numbers of poor (millions)
109	India	612.8
108	China	161.7
107	Bangladesh	83.2
106	Nigeria	81.5
105	Pakistan	81.2
104	Ethiopia	65.8
103	Indonesia	48.4
102	DR Congo	44.5
101	Tanzania	27.6
100	Uganda	21.2
99	Kenya	18.9
98	Mozambique	18.1
97	Nepal	18.0
96	Myanmar	14.3
95	Viet Nam	14.2
94	Madagascar	13.5
93	Niger	12.4
92	Philippines	12.1
91	Burkina Faso	12.1
90	Mali	11.8
89	Yemen	11.2
88	Angola	11.1
87	Cote d'Ivoire	11.1
86	Cameroon	9.1
85	Malawi	9.0
84	Zambia	7.7
83	Guinea	7.5
82	Rwanda	7.4
81	Senegal	7.3
80	Ghana	7.3
79	Cambodia	6.9
78	Somalia	6.9

77	Togo	0.284	77	South Africa	6.6
76	India	0.283	76	Burundi	6.1
75	Yemen	0.283	75	Chad	5.8
74	Lao	0.267	74	Benin	5.7
73	Pakistan	0.264	73	Peru	5.4
72	Cambodia	0.251	72	Haiti	5.3
71	Kenya	0.229	71	Brazil	5.1
70	Republic of Congo	0.208	70	Zimbabwe	5.0
69	Namibia	0.187	69	Egypt	4.7
68	Swaziland	0.184	68	Turkey	4.4
67	Zimbabwe	0.180	67	Sierra Leone	4.3
66	Gabon	0.161	66	Mexico	4.3
65	Honduras	0.159	65	Iraq	4.0
64	Lesotho	0.156	64	Morocco	3.3
63	Sao Tome and Principe	0.154	63	Central African Republic	3.2
62	Myanmar	0.154	62	Guatemala	3.1
61	Ghana	0.144	61	Togo	3.0
60	Djibouti	0.139	60	Liberia	2.9
59	Vanuatu	0.129	59	Lao	2.8
58	Nicaragua	0.128	58	Colombia	2.5
57	Guatemala	0.127	57	Honduras	2.3
56	Bhutan	0.119	56	Mauritania	2.0
55	Indonesia	0.095	55	Bolivia	2.0
54	Bolivia	0.089	54	Russian Federation	1.9
53	Peru	0.086	53	Republic of Congo	1.6
52	Viet Nam	0.084	52	Nicaragua	1.5
51	Tajikistan	0.068	51	Argentina	1.2
50	Mongolia	0.065	50	Tajikistan	1.1
49	Paraguay	0.064	49	Thailand	1.1
48	Philippines	0.064	48	Syrian Arab Republic	1.0
47	Iraq	0.059	47	Sri Lanka	1.0
46	South Africa	0.057	46	Ukraine	1.0
45	China	0.056	45	Gambia	0.9
44	Guyana	0.053	44	Namibia	0.9
43	Morocco	0.048	43	Lesotho	0.8
42	Suriname	0.039	42	Paraguay	0.8
41	Turkey	0.028	41	Timor-Leste	0.7
40	Estonia	0.026	40	Uzbekistan	0.6
39	Egypt	0.024	39	Swaziland	0.5
38	Belize	0.024	38	Hungary	0.5
37	Colombia	0.022	37	Azerbaijan	0.5
36	Azerbaijan	0.021	36	Dominican Republic	0.4
35	Syrian Arab Republic	0.021	35	Gabon	0.4
34	Sri Lanka	0.021	34	Comoros	0.4
33	Trinidad and Tobago	0.020	33	Mongolia	0.4
32	Kyrgyzstan	0.019	32	Czech Republic	0.3
31	Maldives	0.018	31	Ecuador	0.3

30	Dominican Republic	0.018
29	Croatia	0.016
28	Hungary	0.016
27	Mexico	0.015
26	Argentina	0.011
25	Brazil	0.011
24	Tunisia	0.010
23	Czech Republic	0.010
22	Ecuador	0.009
21	Uzbekistan	0.008
20	Jordan	0.008
19	Macedonia	0.008
18	Ukraine	0.008
17	Moldova	0.007
16	Montenegro	0.006
15	Thailand	0.006
14	Latvia	0.006
13	Uruguay	0.006
12	Occupied Palestinian Territories	0.005
11	Albania	0.005
10	Russian Federation	0.005
9	Armenia	0.004
8	Serbia	0.003
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.003
6	Georgia	0.003
5	Kazakhstan	0.002
4	United Arab Emirates	0.002
3	Belarus	0.000
2	Slovenia	0.000
1	Slovakia	0.000

30	Tunisia	0.3
29	Kyrgyzstan	0.2
28	Djibouti	0.2
27	Bhutan	0.2
26	Croatia	0.2
25	Jordan	0.1
24	Guyana	0.1
23	Estonia	0.1
22	Kazakhstan	0.1
21	Serbia	0.1
20	Trinidad and Tobago	0.1
19	Moldova	0.1
18	Vanuatu	0.1
17	Uruguay	0.1
16	Sao Tome and Principe	0.1
15	Occupied Palestinian Territories	0.1
14	Albania	0.0
13	Suriname	0.0
12	Macedonia	0.0
11	Latvia	0.0
10	Georgia	0.0
9	Armenia	0.0
8	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0
7	United Arab Emirates	0.0
6	Maldives	0.0
5	Belize	0.0
4	Montenegro	0.0
3	Slovakia	-
2	Slovenia	-
1	Belarus	-

Source: Development Initiatives based on multidimensional poverty index (MPI), Oxford Policy & Human Development Initiative (OPHI)



Global Humanitarian Assistance

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE 

Development Initiatives, Keward Court, Jocelyn Drive, Wells, Somerset, BA5 1DB, UK

T: +44 (0)1749 671343

W: globalhumanitarianassistance.org

Twitter: [GHA_org](https://twitter.com/GHA_org)