

THE DATA REPORT 2007: REVISED AID ESTIMATES
December 12, 2007

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee issued its final Official Development Assistance (ODA) data for 2006 on December 11, 2006. The new figures reveal that in total, donors provided \$104.4 billion in development assistance in 2006 of which \$39.9 billion (38%) was directed to sub-Saharan Africa. These new figures replace the preliminary figures released in April 2007 upon which the DATA Report 2007 was based. DATA uses the OECD data to track the extent to which donors are on or off track in delivering upon their Gleneagles commitment to increase aid to Africa by \$25 billion by 2010.

The global figure of \$104.4 billion was only \$481 million (0.4%) above the preliminary estimate. However, underneath this top line figure, differences emerged in the individual contributions largely due to debt relief. The 2007 DATA Report found that the G8 would have needed to increase aid by \$5.7 billion between 2004-2006 in order to be on track for delivering on Gleneagles commitments to Africa but that collectively donors only mobilized \$2.4 billion in that timeframe. These figures represent ODA net of debt relief but this year donors tended to overestimate debt relief in the preliminary figures. As a result, the final figures reveal that in fact, the G8 collectively increased non-debt ODA to Africa by \$2.6 billion—\$296 million more than previously estimated.

Within this total, some donors fared better than others: The UK and Japan are on track to meet their promises. The US and Canada are off track (and final figures reveal that they are more off track than reported in April). Germany, France and Italy were reported as dangerously off track in April and while Italy has fallen even further off course, Germany's final figures reveal that it made more progress than previously thought in meeting its targets. France showed more of an increase than previously reported but remains dangerously off track.

To get back on track the G8 must increase by \$5.65b in 2007. However, the DATA Report analysis found that donors appear to only have between \$1.7-2.3b in increases for 2007 according to information available about current budget processes. DATA will release a revised report in the spring of 2008 providing an updated analysis of progress made by the G8 in meetings commitments to Africa.

The DAC's updated figures highlight a consistent challenge for recipient implementers as well as those tracking progress: that it is almost 2008 and we only now have a sense for what donors delivered in 2006. Donors should continue to improve the accuracy and timeliness of data provided to the OECD DAC regarding aid flows. Donors should commit to an improved process for capturing the true cost and benefit of debt cancellation by reporting budget implications for each transaction.