

6-4-2025

## **Sustaining progress: Investing in adolescent girls amidst global challenges—Slide deck**

Coalition for Adolescent Girls

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## ONLINE WEBINAR

CO-HOSTED BY COALITION FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS & AKILI DADA

## DONOR ROUNDTABLE

# SUSTAINING PROGRESS: INVESTING IN ADOLESCENT GIRLS AMIDST GLOBAL CHALLENGES

 DATE  
Jun 4, 2025

 TIME  
4:00-5:30PM EAT  
9:00-10:30AM EDT  
8:00-10:30AM CDT



**AMINATA KAMARA**  
We are Purposeful



**DR. VICTOR MUGAMBI**  
Global Fund For Children



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Kenya Female Advisory  
Organization (KEFAFO)



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Gender and Adolescence  
Global Evidence (GAGE)



**STACY AKINYI**  
Great Ladies Organisation



**VALERIA MONTÚFAR**  
Girls First Fund (GFF)

## MODERATORS



**FLORAH MUCHIRI**  
AKILI DADA



**TASHRIFAH SILAYI**  
BRAC

# Investing in Adolescent Girls: Trends in the bilateral donor landscape

Silvia Guglielmi / 04 June 2025

# Context

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- Efficient and effective allocation of funding for programmes supporting adolescent girls is critical for progress toward achieving the SDGs, and beyond.
- Investments in girls can yield greater results in the near- and long-term.
- Historic opacity as to how funds are allocated has hindered insights into efficacy.
- This presentation builds on previous GAGE/AGIP investigations into funding data from 2016 – 2022.



# Methodology

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- We reviewed data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Creditor Reporting System (OECD-CRS)
- We selected the top 10 bilateral gender equality donors and explored data across LMICs
- We selected ODA with gender equality as a principal or significant objective
- We used keyword searches for age- and intersectional domains to identify targeted funding for girls, in their diversity.
- Additionally, we conducted a rapid review of ODA funding fallout since January 2025 and respective investment forecasting data.



# Overall findings

Although the **amount of gender-and adolescent-targeted ODA\*** has increased over the last 8 years, there is a concerning trend – 2023 marked the fourth consecutive year in which ODA that was gender- and adolescent-targeted declined as a percentage of overall ODA reflecting a **deprioritization of adolescent girls** in relation to other target populations.

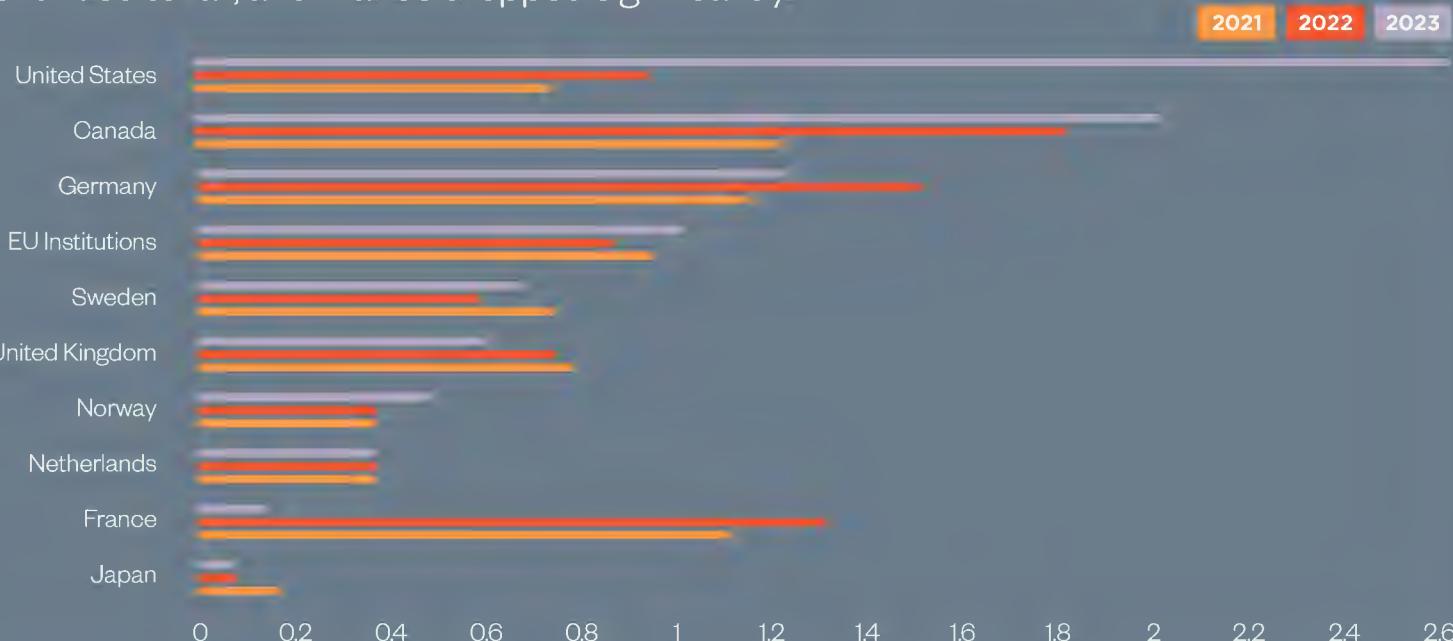


\*By top 10 bilateral gender equality donors

## Breakdown by donor

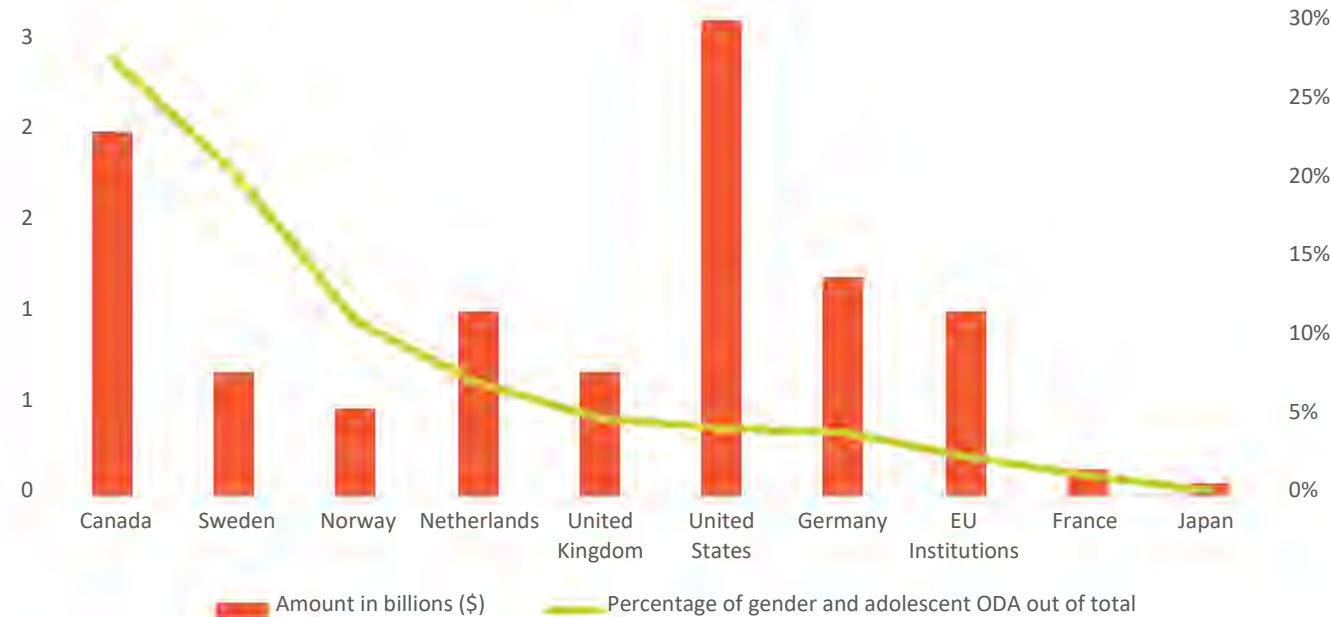
Individual **donors' investments in adolescent girls varied greatly.**

In 2023, the United States' funding increased significantly while the UK's continued to fall, and France dropped significantly.



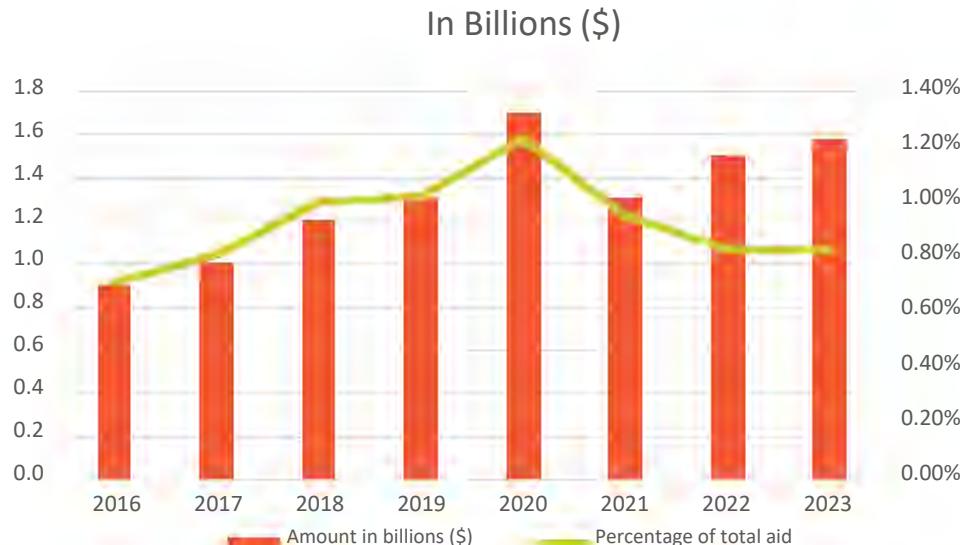
# Donors' gender- and adolescent-targeted ODA

- There is great variation on the percentage of gender- and adolescent-targeted ODA out of donors' total ODA. Adolescent girls are high investment priorities in Canada, Sweden and Norway.



# ODA with gender principal tagging

- ODA with **gender principal** tagging has fluctuated as a percentage of overall budgeting and remained steady between 2022-23.
  - Gender principal: advancement of gender equality as primary objective
  - Gender significant: expected to make a significant contribution to gender equality



# Recipient countries and institutions

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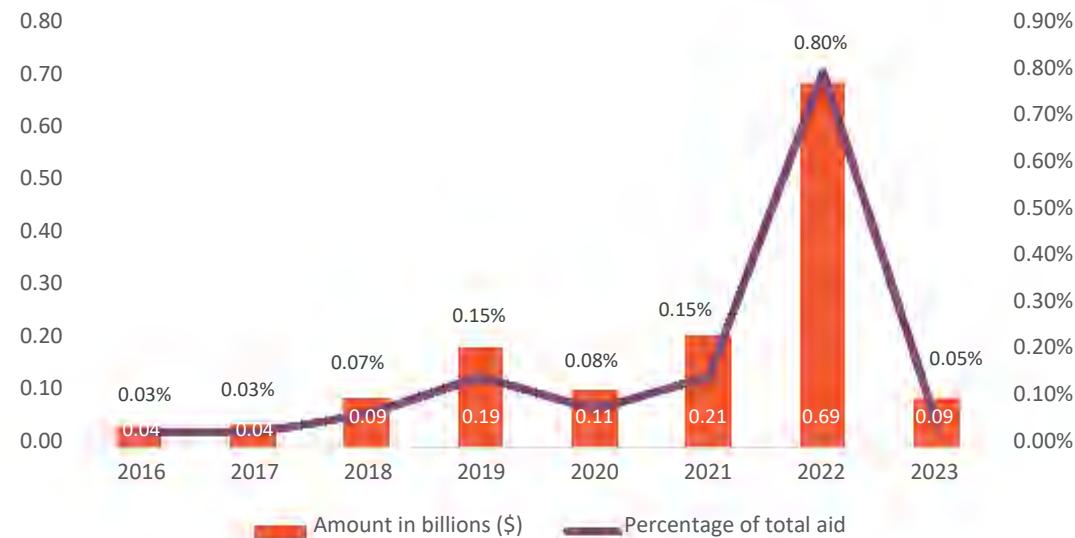
- Major shifts in prioritisation vis-à-vis recipient countries:
  - Nigeria, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Jordan (in that order) were the top 5 countries receiving gender-and adolescent-tagged ODA in 2023 (compared to Indonesia, Tanzania and Lebanon in 2022).
- NGOs and CSOs, followed by multilateral organizations, followed by public sector institutions were the primary recipients of funding.



(c)NBertrams\_GAGE4498

# Gender and intersectionality

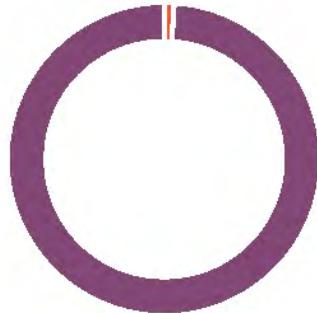
- The amount of gender- and adolescent-targeted ODA reaching young people with disabilities is small in proportion to the number of young people with disabilities (an estimated 13% and even higher in conflict-affected regions), though it did increase substantially in 2022, to plummet back down in 2023 to 2018 levels.



# Youth-led organisations

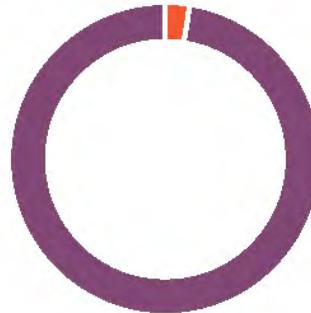
- Funding for youth-led organisations more than doubled between 2021 and 2023, BUT from a very low baseline proportion of gender- and adolescent-targeted ODA: from 1.1% in 2021 to 2.6% in 2023.

ODA to youth-led organizations, **2021**



■ Youth-led organisations   ■ Gender-and adolescent-targeted ODA

ODA to youth-led organizations, **2023**



■ Youth-led organisations   ■ Gender-and adolescent-targeted ODA

# OECD 2024-2025 preliminary analysis:

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- International aid – overall – fell in 2024 by 7.1% in real terms compared to 2023, the first drop after five years of consecutive growth. (OECD, 2025. International aid falls in 2024 for first time in six years. Press release, 16 April 2025.)
- The fall in ODA was due to a **reduction in contributions to international organisations**, as well as a decrease in aid for **Ukraine**, lower levels of **humanitarian aid** and reduced spending on **hosting refugees** in donor countries.
- Humanitarian aid dropped by an estimated 9.6% in 2024, amounting to an absolute decline of USD 24.2 billion.
  - ODA used to cover refugee costs within donor countries fell by 17.3% in 2024 compared to 2023.
  - Simulations of ODA developed by the OECD, show that **ODA is estimated to drop between 9% and 17% from 2024 to 2025.**

## Previous cuts in ODA disproportionately affected women and girls

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- The UK's previous ODA cuts, saw **funding for gender and adolescent programming face significantly higher cuts** (33%) than the reduction to the overall aid budget (21.1%). (Devonald, M., Guglielmi, S. and Jones, N. (2023) 'UK ODA cuts: how do they impact adolescent girls?'. Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence.)
- **Humanitarian aid targeting adolescent girls in fragile contexts was significantly hit:** the sectors most severely affected by UK funding cuts were emergency response, development food assistance and disaster prevention and preparedness.
- Other key programme cuts included those targeting adolescent girls' **education and access to sexual and reproductive health.**
- **ODA cuts have a disproportionate impact on gender equality** as a result of programmes specifically targeting women and girls being cut, and due to the greater gendered impacts of broader cuts in areas such as public services and social protection. (Taylor, P. (2025). Development spending cuts will hit women and girls. Institute of Development Studies (IDS)).

# Recommendations



In the current context, assisting young people in all their diversity – including through innovative funding partnerships and deploying strategies informed by robust research evidence so as to maximize scarce resources – is critical to ensure gains are not lost.

Work with donors to increase funding that targets adolescents with disabilities, as well as supporting other intersecting needs (e.g. those of migrants, refugees, child brides)

Monitor gender- and adolescent-targeted ODA for youth-led organisations, including core support for GLYOs so that they can develop capacities to access a broader set of funding channels

Garner support and promote advocacy around the development of an adolescent-specific marker (age group defined as 10–19 years) in the OECD-CRS database

Continue to invest in research to i) monitor gender- & adolescent-specific commitments and investments, ii) increase donor accountability, and iii) explore a wider pool of emerging donors

**The future I want for girls is that they become educated, self-sufficient adult women who can make decisions about their lives and help other girls to do the same.**

-

*Deniz Su, Türkiye*

I want a future where girls are not dependent on their families due to economic exclusion and lack of access to financial services.

*Lemza, Tanzania*

In the future I dream of, girls can walk down the street without looking back, their dreams are not called nonsense, they are not confined to their houses, they are not compared to boys, they do not tug on their dresses just because they are stared at, they are not deprived of playgrounds because they feel unsafe.

*Beren, Türkiye*

I want a future that supports girls to remain in school to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

*Shakirah, Uganda*

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## DONOR ROUNDTABLE - PANEL 1

# SUSTAINING PROGRESS: INVESTING IN ADOLESCENT GIRLS AMIDST GLOBAL CHALLENGES



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**We Trust You(th)** is an initiative co-led by five youth-led organizations from around the world — Copper Rose Zambia, IY AFP, ¿Y yo, por qué no?, Green Girls Platform, and CHOICE for Youth & Sexuality. Together, we're challenging and supporting youth-focused donors to fund young people more intentionally and equitably.



## CONTACT US

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## ONLINE WEBINAR

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## DONOR ROUNDTABLE - PANEL 2

# SUSTAINING PROGRESS: INVESTING IN ADOLESCENT GIRLS AMIDST GLOBAL CHALLENGES



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# THE COALITION FOR ADOLESCENT **GIRLS** POVERTY ENDS WITH HER

For comments, to join the CAG, and to  
collaborate with us, get in touch at:

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