

## **EuroMapping 2009: Mapping European Development Aid and Population Assistance**

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DSW and the EPF released the 2009 edition of their *Euromapping* report, an annual publication that provides comparative information about European official development assistance (ODA), official commitments to sexual and reproductive health and funding flows for population assistance. In addition to their annual research, they have also done a pocket guide, which was presented at the EuroNGOs conference.

*Euromapping 2009* differs significantly from previous editions, featuring:

- General ODA trends
- Health spending
- Population Assistance spending
- Contributions to major SRHR organizations
- 38 donor profiles
- six case studies on budget support, division of labour and EU aid in Mozambique, Kenya, Nepal and Pakistan.

While EuroMapping includes a wide range of figures that are useful for SRHR advocacy, the following are some of the highlights.

### **Findings**

The collective efforts of the EU have made it the single greatest donor of population assistance worldwide. In 2006 the EU spent nearly US\$ 3 billion on population programmes and activities, increasing its aid by US\$ 600 million. The US decreased its aid by nearly the same amount.

### **European ODA disbursements as a percentage of GNI**

Even though the EU is performing below its overall commitment to ODA as a percentage of gross national income (GNI), the overall ODA trend in 2007–2008 was positive, with an overall increase among EU donors and worldwide, both as a percentage of GNI and in the volume of net disbursements. In addition, key EU donors, including Germany, the UK, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Italy, appear to have increased their ‘real’, rather than ‘inflated’ aid in nominal terms. This is a very positive trend leading up to the global economic/financial crisis, which is predicted to decrease real ODA in the coming years.

EU aid for health appears to have declined overall between 2006 and 2007. While the UK, Spain and Ireland increased their health ODA during that time period, the rest have decreased health ODA or maintained it at the same level. The EU contributes roughly 46% of overall global health aid.

### **The Good News**

Global ODA increased over 10% in 2008, and almost all European donors increased their aid in 2008. The European Union (i.e. the European Commission and 27 Member States) accounted for 63% of all ODA in the world in 2008. The ‘best performers’ are European, with Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden all contributing above the UN target of 0.7% of GNI as ODA in 2008. The Nordic countries and Luxembourg remain the greatest per capita contributors, with Norway providing the

most. The UK has become the greatest health spender in absolute terms, with more than a two-fold increase from two years prior.

### **The Bad News**

Although most new Member States have increased their efforts, they have not reached nor are likely to reach their interim target of 0.17% of GNI as ODA; Poland, Lithuania and Malta decreased their ODA in 2008. Austria was the only country of the former EU-15 where ODA declined in 2008, and the Italian government has indicated severe aid cuts will come. A significant percentage of European ODA remains 'inflated' with debt cancellation, student costs and refugee costs, without which Europe would spend 0.34% instead of 0.4% of their GNI on ODA. ODA spending on health decreased by \$124 million over the previous year, mainly due to a decrease in European health ODA.

### **Findings and Recommendations**

Understanding the impact of the emerging aid environment requires extensive new research, and often information is available only through 'unofficial' sources, as parliamentarians and civil society in developing countries often are excluded from decision-making processes and procedures. Therefore:

- Civil society and parliaments need to be more involved in budget-setting and watchdog monitoring in developing countries.
- Increased transparency and accountability needed to assure ICPD gets sufficient funding – funds flows increasingly obscured by general budget support.
- The EU "division of labour" is increasing aid coordination at both the EU and developing country levels, with EU Member States actually delegating their authority by sector to manage aid in developing countries.

More information, graphic material and the Euromapping study report in English, French and German are available online at:

<http://www.euroresources.org/euromapping>