



About this Bulletin

This Bulletin presents statistics on the aid that is spent to benefit St Helena, including trends over time and comparisons with other countries. It uses estimates for aid spending from various sources; 2017 is the latest year for which these data are available.

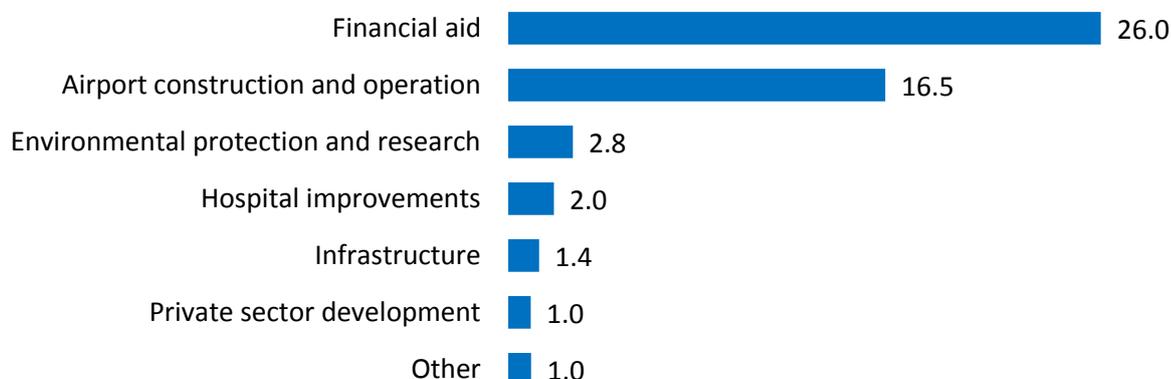
How much aid is spent to benefit St Helena?

- Total aid spending for St Helena in 2017 was £51.0 million.
- £50.7 million of this was spent by the United Kingdom and the remainder was spent by the European Development Fund (£0.12 million) and the World Health Organisation (WHO, £0.14 million).
- 94% of UK aid in 2017 was provided by the Department for International Development, with 5% from the UK's Conflict, Security and Stabilisation Fund (CSSF), and the remainder directly from the UK's Department for Environment, Foods and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- In 2016, total aid spending for St Helena was £78.9 million.
- £74.93 million of this was spent by the UK, and £3.93 million came from the European Development Fund (this was to support construction of the jetty and wharf at Ruperts).

What is St Helena's aid spent on?

- In 2017 most aid (£26.0 million by the UK, see Chart 1) was spent on 'financial aid' to balance the government's budget, which helps provide essential services.
- Almost all of the remainder (around £20 million from the UK) was used to support infrastructure improvements, including the airport and the improvements to the hospital.
- Some UK aid was also provided for biosecurity and environmental protection, and for activities to support private sector development.

Chart 1. Official aid spending on St Helena by the UK, 2017, £ million

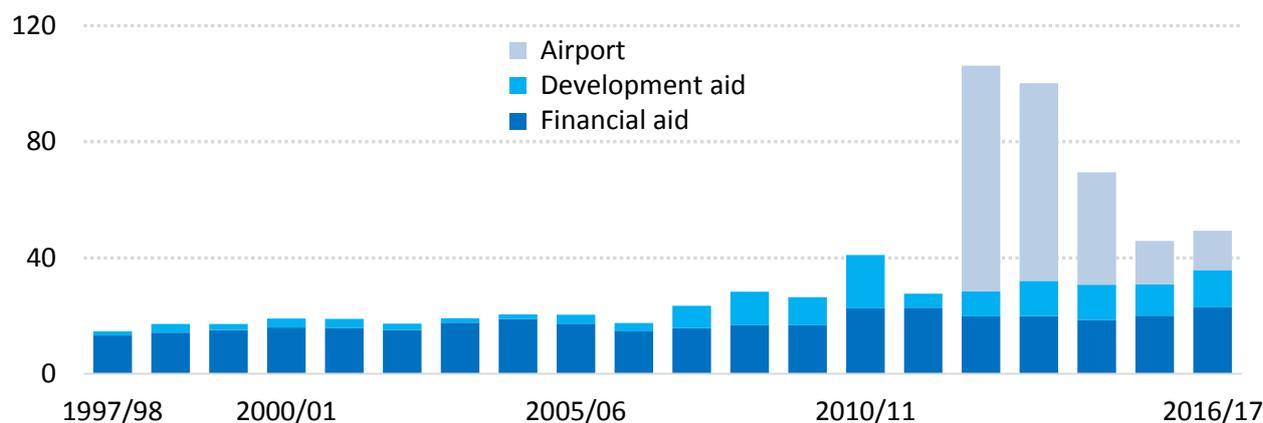


Source: UK Statistics on International Development, 2017

Has aid spending for St Helena gone up or down?

- In 2016/17, aid levels were less than half their 2012/13 peak when airport construction began.
- Levels of development aid (used for infrastructure and capital investment) have increased more than levels of financial aid.
- Financial aid fell slightly after a peak in 2010/11 and 2011/12, but grew again in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Chart 2. Aid spending for St Helena by all aid providers, 1997/98 to 2016/17, £ million (inflation-adjusted constant 2016/17 prices)



Note: based on financial years; inflation adjustment uses St Helena’s Retail Price Index; financial aid includes the shipping subsidy and technical cooperation.

Source: St Helena Government Finance Statements; Statistics Office

How does aid for St Helena compare with other countries?

- St Helena’s share of global aid provided by the UK in 2017 (£14.1 billion) was 0.36%.
- St Helena was 29th in the ranking list of beneficiaries of UK country-specific (bilateral) aid, just below Zambia (£53 million) and just above China (£44 million) and Montserrat (£28 million).

Chart 3. Official bilateral aid spending by the UK, top five beneficiary countries and selected others, 2017, £ millions



Source: UK Statistics on International Development, 2017

- For 2017, aid spending that was designed to benefit St Helena was less than 0.05% of all global spending from all official aid providers.
- The top five beneficiaries of aid from all official providers in 2017 were Syria (£8.1 billion), Ethiopia (£3.2 billion), Afghanistan (£3.0 billion), Bangladesh (£2.9 billion), and Nigeria (£2.6 billion) (together these countries have combined populations more than 100,000 times the population of St Helena!).

Definitions and methodology

The definition of aid used in this bulletin corresponds to “Official Development Assistance”, or ODA for short. This is the most common definition of official aid used around the world, and it tracks the amount of money that richer countries spend to make improvements in the economic development and welfare of poorer countries. See <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/What-is-ODA.pdf>.

The UK government is committed to spending 0.7% of its gross national income each year on ODA. Aid can only be counted as ODA if the beneficiary is on a list of developing countries maintained by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). To be included in the list, the per capita gross national income of the beneficiary must be below a certain threshold for all of the three years prior to each reclassification exercise, which also takes place every three years. The threshold was fixed in 1989 at \$6,000, and it gets adjusted each year only for inflation; for 2017 it is \$12,055 (or £9,345). The list was last reassessed in 2017, when Chile, Seychelles, and Uruguay were removed.

St Helena is on the list, and the most recent provisional estimate of St Helena’s per capital gross national income published by the Statistics Office is £7,100 for 2014/15. The next reassessment will be in 2020, when the DAC will look at per capita gross national incomes for the previous three years.

Note that gross national income is not the same as personal income; it is a much broader concept that measures the incomes of the residents of a country, including both individuals and companies.

Where can I get the data?

Three main data sources have been used: Statistics on International Development, Final Aid Spend 2017: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-international-development-final-uk-aid-spend-2017>; International Development Statistics of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.htm>; and St Helena’s Annual Financial Statements: <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/finance>. The data used to construct the charts in this Bulletin can be obtained from www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics-data in the ‘aid’ excel file. Other datasets, bulletins and reports are also available at: <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics>.

Have more questions or comments?

Please get in touch: we are Neil Fantom, Statistical Commissioner, Justine Joshua, Senior Statistical Assistant, and Bertina Benjamin, Statistical Assistant. You can find us in person at the Statistics Office on the **first floor of the Castle**, Jamestown, at the back of the main courtyard. You can also contact us by telephone: our direct line is **22138** or via the Castle switchboard on 22470. If calling from overseas, the international dialling code for St Helena is +290. Our general office e-mail address is statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh, or you can email team members directly (the format is firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh).