

Abstract

The year 2015 marks the deadline for the achievement of the MDGs, and this raises the need to look back on the progress KOICA has made with regards to the MDGs and draw implications for future projects. The purpose of this study is to examine KOICA's progress for each of the MDGs, introduce the efforts made in order to achieve them and draw relevant implications so that further contributions can be made for establishing and executing future projects, and for the implementation and monitoring of SDGs.

According to the findings of this study, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and Japan have implemented strategies and policies in line with the respective government's basic tendencies for ODA in order to achieve more efficient progress before the deadline for the MDGs and facilitate cooperation with other donor countries and relevant institutions within the international community. However, rather than formulating a dedicated policy to achieve a specific MDG before the deadline, these donor countries have prioritized their efforts toward a specific region or sector based on a clear direction or a focus on a certain country so that they could take advantage of the existing policies to achieve the MDGs.

The findings show that due to the different priorities set by each donor country in terms of ODA strategy or support by sector, the DAC donors pursued contrasting ways of supporting each goal. Although the United Kingdom focused its efforts on certain areas and regions, all goals were subject to relatively equal support compared to the other three countries that were compared, which implies that in general the formulated policies have been well implemented. While the United States had the largest amount of disbursement with concrete strategies for each sector, much of the support was concentrated on Goal #6. In the case of Australia, there weren't much distinct progress when compared with the detailed ODA plan outlined in the CAPF. Japan too, had established policies for each area; nevertheless approximately 80% of the disbursement was made in relation to Goal #1, #7 and #8.

Korea has incorporated MDGs related topics in various policies since the establishment of the Plan for International Development Cooperation in 2006, although this study affirmed the absence of an overarching policy. In line with Korea's overall ODA policy directions, KOICA has pursued diverse policies and projects of its own. From 2000 to 2015, MDGs related strategies that have recurred over the years as part of KOICA's ODA plan are as follows; 1. Strengthen support for LDCs 2. Achieve MDGs by supporting the African region 3. Strengthen support for the Southwest Asian region 4. Achieve MDGs and meet the BHN of the poor by leveraging comparative edge of private organizations 5. Leverage the Volunteer; Support MDGs by fostering developing

countries' human and institutional competences 6. Support maternal health and eradication of contagious diseases 7. Contribute to achievement of MDGs through projects that support international organizations.

KOICA's disbursement in relation to each MDG is as follows. First of all, a total of 4.5068 trillion KRW or 89.0% of total ODA from KOICA during this period has been channeled towards supporting MDGs. More specifically, KOICA has provided the largest amount of disbursement to MDG #1 'Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger', followed by MDG #8 'Develop a global partnership for development'. This is largely due to how the CRS codes work by design, as more of them were categorized into these goals. Disbursement for MDG #2 'Achieve universal primary education' amounted to 407.6 billion KRW during the period of 16 years, which supported various projects executed under KOICA's strategy for the education sector. MDG #3 'Promote gender equality and empower women' was subject to less support compared to other goals.

As for MDG #4 'Reduce child mortality', there were more projects that indirectly, rather than directly, contributed to bringing down child mortality. From 2000 to 2015, ODA worth about 690 billion KRW has been provided to achieve MDG #5 'Improve maternal health'. A point of optimism is that projects focusing on improving maternal health have continued to be identified and implemented around the time when KOICA's strategy for health was formulated from 2011 to 2015. While the disbursement for MDG #6 'Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases' was 53 billion KRW, KOICA has focused its efforts on other contagious diseases such as NTDs (Neglected Tropical Diseases). Approximately 770 billion KRW in disbursement targeted MDG #7 'Ensure environmental sustainability'; the amount has been increased after Green ODA was highly emphasized from 2010. In addition, support for small island and developing countries, land-locked countries and LDCs are being provided to a larger degree compared to 2000, both on a national level and from KOICA's perspective. Also, extended support for the African region by KOICA, despite continued policy emphasis, could not be verified, which leaves room for improvement.

The findings of this study provide the following implications for the achievement of SDGs going forward. First, an overarching policy is required to implement and measure the progress of SDGs, in addition to organizational institutions such as a department acting as a control tower for the policy coherence. Second, an appropriate system should be introduced in order to implement and monitor the SDGs. Third, more SDG related indicators need to be collected and a progress measurement tool should be introduced. To do so, the goals, targets and indicators under the SDGs first need to be analyzed in order to distinguish those that can or cannot be collected. Items that cannot be gathered but require monitoring by KOICA need to be specified so that relevant materials could be collected. However considering the feasibility of such approach, a few indicators could be tested first and then expand in phases to compile other indicators. Fourth, strategic

support should be provided to areas in which KOICA has a comparative edge. Fifth, capacity building of project managers is necessary to improve quality of data. Lastly, there is a need to empower the developing countries' statistical capabilities to accurately measure the actual progress toward achieving SDGs and the impact of development.