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2. Zeros are shown when disbursements are less than one.
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Primary school students in Conakry City, the capital city of Guinea. (Photo: Kaoru Uemura / Embassy of Japan in Guinea)
Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to grants and loans, etc. with concessional conditions that are given to developing countries and regions included on the list of aid recipient countries and regions created by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), mainly for the purpose of contributing to the improvement of economic development and welfare.

ODA consists of bilateral aid, which supports developing countries and regions directly, and multilateral aid, which is contributions to international organizations. Bilateral aid can be divided into grants and government loans, etc. Grants are cooperation that is provided to developing countries and regions without requiring repayment; and technical cooperation, which makes use of Japan’s know-how, technologies, and experience to train human resources who will become the drivers of social and economic development in developing countries and regions. Grants include contributions to specific projects implemented by international organizations. Government loans, etc. consist of: ODA loans, which provide necessary funds to developing countries and regions with concessional conditions, i.e., low interest rates and long repayment periods; and Private-Sector Investment Finance, which provides loans or investment for private-sector companies that implement projects in developing countries and regions. Multilateral aid includes contributions to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), contributions and subscriptions to the World Bank, etc.