

the end of the year, reducing its governance project to a string of isolated urban areas that will eventually be retaken over the course of 2018.”

[Michael E. O'Hanlon](#), a foreign policy senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, told us that the president's time frame is off. “ISIS only seized its holdings in 2013/2014 so it's not an issue of many many years. And the tide really started to turn in 2016 with Obama,” O'Hanlon said in an email. “There is credit (and blame) to go around, and lots more work to do.”

Humanitarian Assistance

Trump said the United States “continues to lead the world in humanitarian assistance.” That's true by volume, but not as a percentage of gross national income, or GNI, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. As a percentage of GNI, the U.S. [ranks 20th](#) out of 28 OECD member countries.

In April 2016, the OECD [issued a report](#) on “official development assistance,” or ODA, by its member countries in 2015. The U.S. is a member of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, and 28 of those countries combined gave a total of \$131.6 billion in aid in 2015 to developing countries — led by \$31.1 billion from the U.S.

“The United States continued to be the largest donor by volume with net ODA flows amounting to USD 31.1 billion in 2015, a fall of 7.0% in real terms compared to 2014,” the report says. (Net ODA is the amount after deducting loan repayments.) Other top donors by volume in 2015 were the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and France.

But the report also says that the U.S. — which has the [world's largest economy](#) — was well below the OECD average as a percentage of gross national income.

The U.S. net ODA was 0.17 percent of its GNI; the OECD average was 0.30 percent. Sweden had the highest figure at 1.4 percent of its GNI (see chart 1). In a [2016 report](#) on U.S. foreign aid, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service noted that the OECD does not capture all foreign aid. It said the OECD does not count “military assistance and aid to developed countries” when calculating a nation's “official development assistance.”

Using the “broadest definition of aid,” CRS said that the U.S. provided \$48.57 billion in foreign aid in fiscal year 2015, including military assistance. CRS said it used the OECD data for the sake of international comparisons, noting that the U.S. “often ranks low” when its foreign aid is measured as a percentage of GNI.

CRS, June 17, 2016: *Even as it leads in dollar amounts of aid flows to developing countries, the United States often ranks low when aid is calculated as a percentage of gross national income (GNI). This calculation is often cited in the context of international donor forums, as a level of 0.7% GNI was established as a target for donors in the 2000 U.N. Millennium Development Goals. In 2014, the United States ranked at the bottom among major donors at 0.19% of GNI, tied with Japan (0.19%). Sweden ranked first among top donors at 1.10% of GNI, followed by Norway at 0.99%, while the United Kingdom ratio was 0.71%, France 0.36%, and Germany 0.41%.*

In 2015, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom were the only countries that “exceeded the United Nations' ODA target of 0.7% of GNI,” the OECD report says.

Defense Spending

Trump got ahead of himself when he said “it has just been announced that we will be spending almost \$700 billion on our military and defense.” The deal isn't final.

There is a two-step process for government funding: Congress first must pass an authorization bill and then an appropriation bill.

On Sept. 18, the Senate — [by a vote of 89-8](#) — passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018. The [bill reportedly](#) funding — nearly \$37 billion