



清华大学

万科公共卫生与健康学院

VANKE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

# Decolonizing global health:

The case of China's transition from a recipient country to an emerging donor in global health

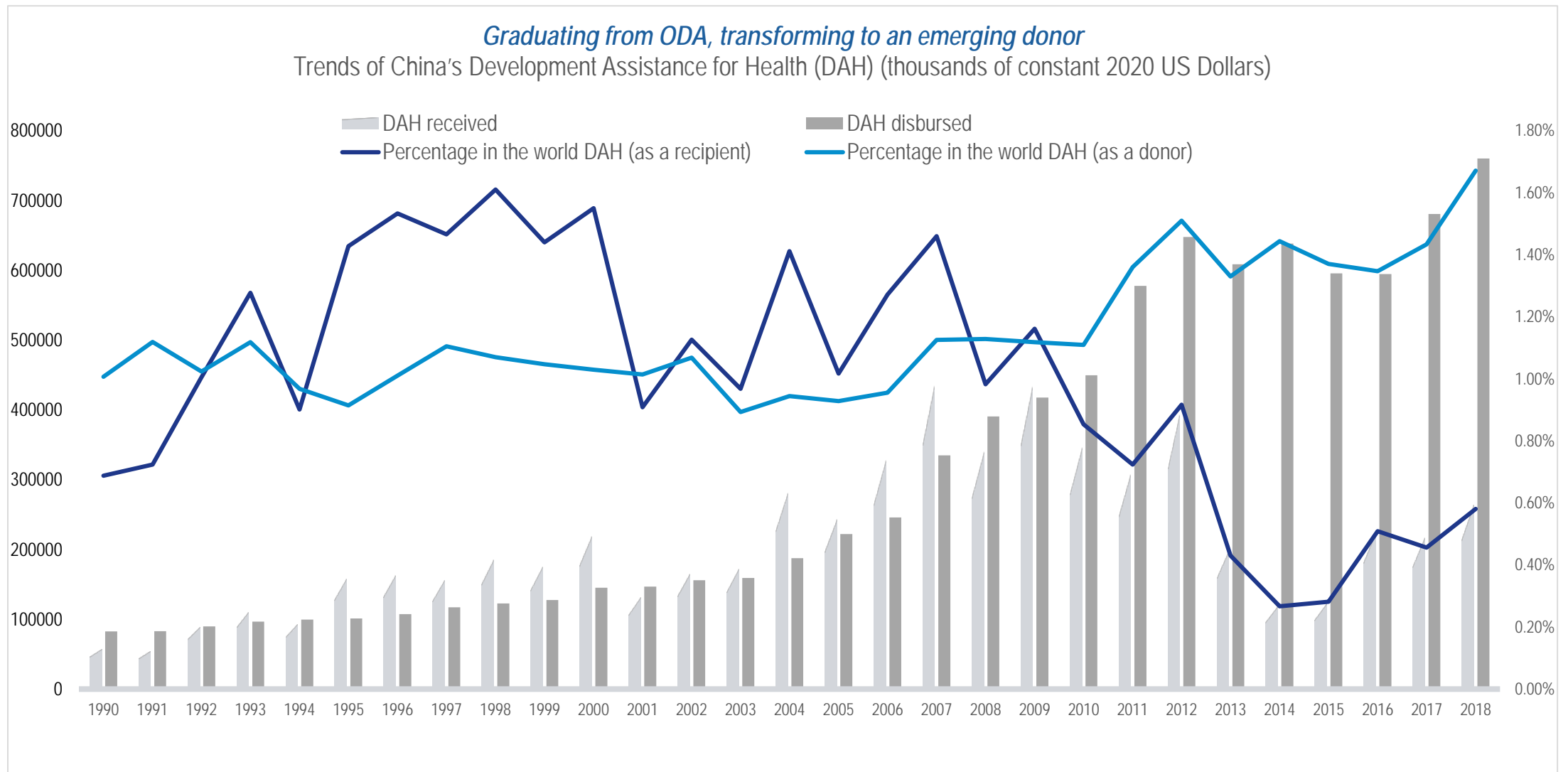
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# Transition of China from a recipient country to an emerging donor



# Transition of China from a recipient country to an emerging donor



## China-aided Africa CDC headquarters project

- In July 2020, the AU Commission and the Ministry of Commerce of China signed the Implementation Agreement on the Africa CDC HQ's building project
- The building will include an emergency operation centre, a data centre, a laboratory, a resource centre, briefing rooms, a training centre, all to be constructed, furnished and equipped by the Government of China.
- The headquarters building is expected to allow the Africa CDC to play its role as the technical institution coordinating disease prevention, surveillance and control in the continent



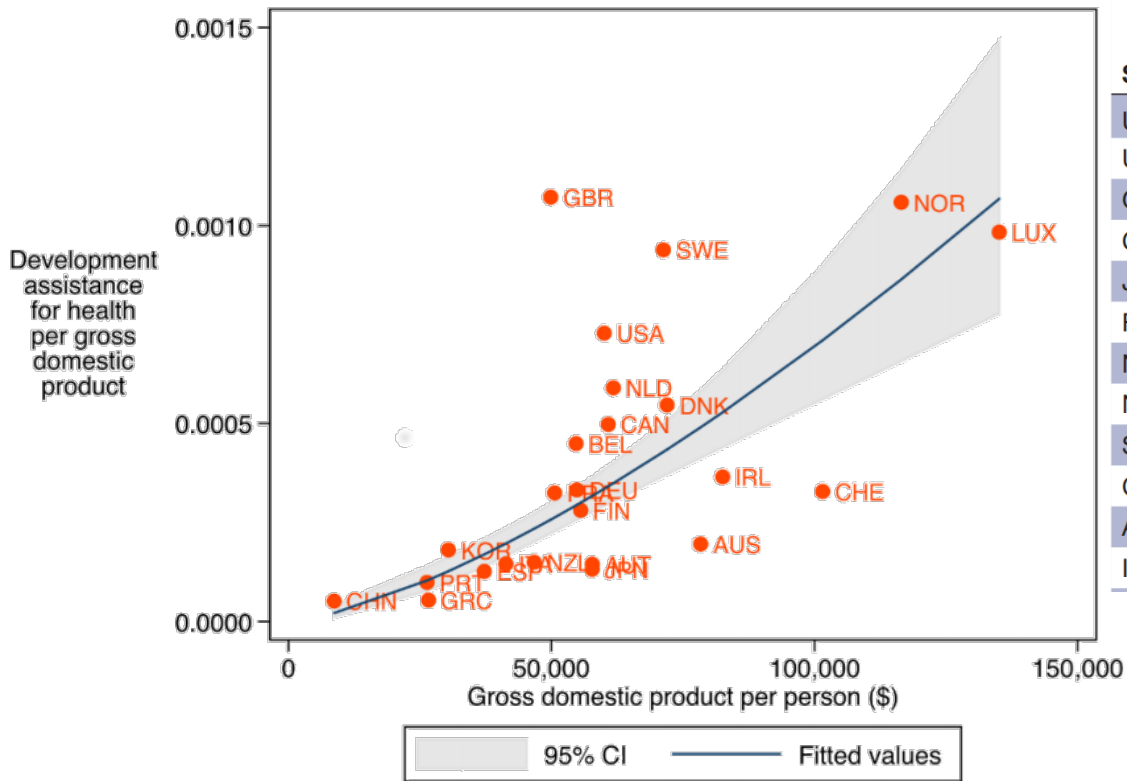
## Chinese medical aid team contributes to global health

- Since China dispatched its first medical aid team to Algeria in 1963, it has sent medical teams consisting of 30,000 members to 76 countries and regions around the world, providing 290 million diagnoses and treatments for local people
- After the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, China sent more than 1,200 medical personnel to treat over 800 patients and provide over 12,000 public health training activities for local people
- After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China sent 37 anti-epidemic teams to 34 countries, bringing valuable experience, measures and supplies for epidemic prevention.

# Placing China in global health financing

Expected and observed development assistance for health (DAH) contribution as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) conditional on gross domestic product per person of donor country

Comparing development assistance for health from China with 23 traditional donor countries, 2015–2017

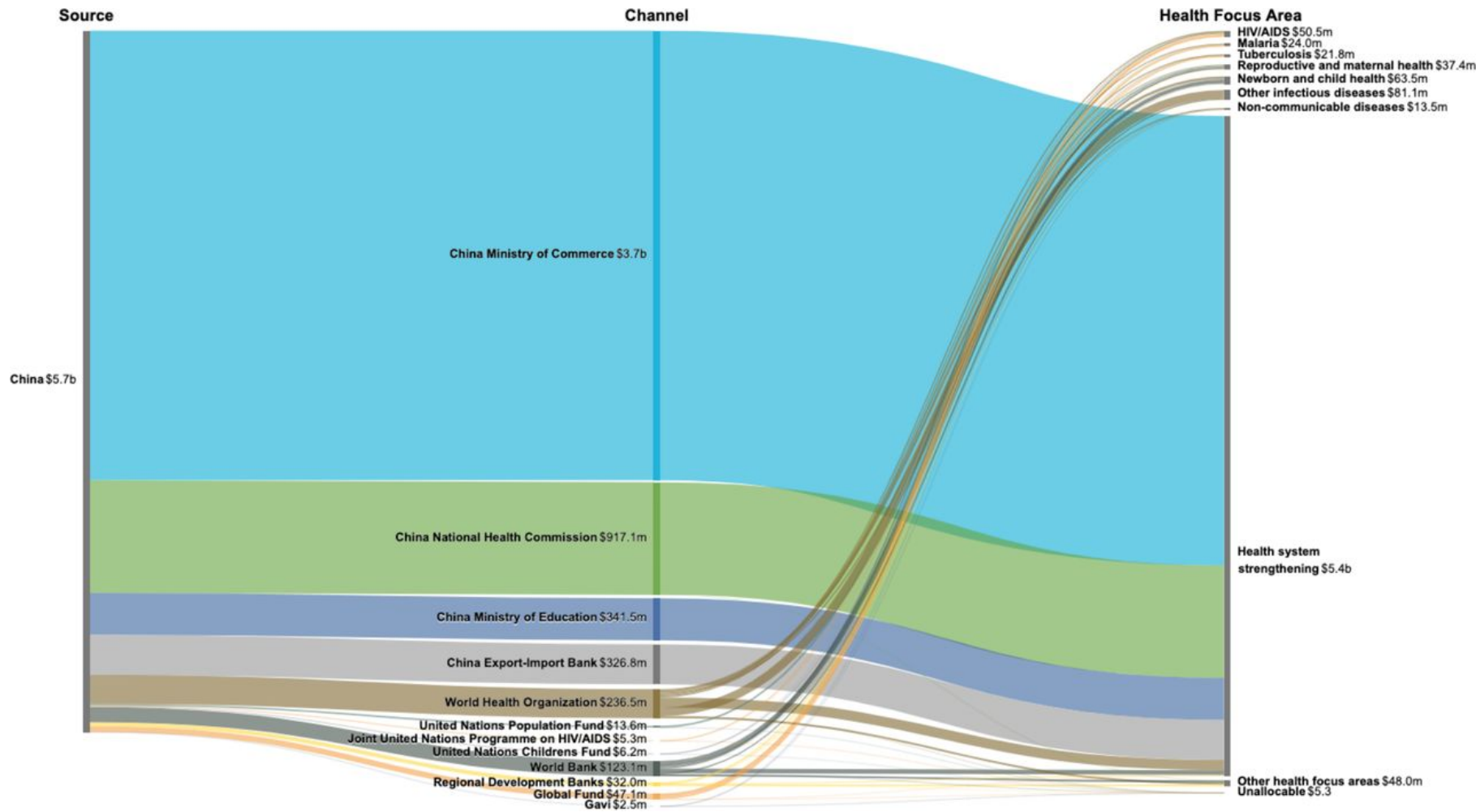


Source	Total DAH (millions)	DAH per capita	DAH per US\$1 million government spending	Proportion of DAH flows to health system strengthening	Gross domestic products per capita
USA	(1) 13 479	(5) 41.77	(5) 1896	(18) 27%	(10) 60 187
UK	(2) 3494	(4) 53.48	(1) 2622	(20) 26%	(17) 49 856
Germany	(3) 1437	(14) 17.54	(12) 723	(7) 36%	(14) 54 933
Canada	(4) 1022	(10) 28.14	(8) 1140	(16) 28%	(9) 61 087
Japan	(5) 1004	(17) 8.00	(18) 358	(11) 31%	(12) 57 890
France	(6) 973	(15) 15.00	(16) 520	(19) 26%	(16) 50 708
Netherlands	(7) 709	(6) 41.40	(6) 1503	(24) 18%	(8) 61 953
Norway	(8) 677	(2) 128.94	(3) 2238	(17) 27%	(2) 116 825
Sweden	(9) 659	(3) 66.76	(4) 1903	(21) 25%	(7) 71 024
China	(10) 598	(24) 0.44	(23) 159	(1) 92%	(24) 8700
Australia	(11) 441	(13) 18.29	(14) 629	(6) 41%	(5) 78 245
Italy	(12) 334	(20) 5.53	(20) 268	(9) 35%	(19) 41 417

*Large proportion of DAH flows to health system strengthening - what is that? (next slide)*

Figure source: Micah AE, Zhao Y, Chen CS, Zlavog BS, Tsakalos G, Chapin A, et al. Tracking development assistance for health from China, 2007–2017. *BMJ Global Health*. 2019 Oct 1;4(5):e001513.  
Data source: IHME's Financing Global Health 2018 Development Assistance for Health database.

# China's aid behavior as an emerging donor



Among the multilateral channels, the WHO (\$236.8million, 4.1%) and the World Bank (\$123.1million, 2.2%) were the major disbursing agencies.

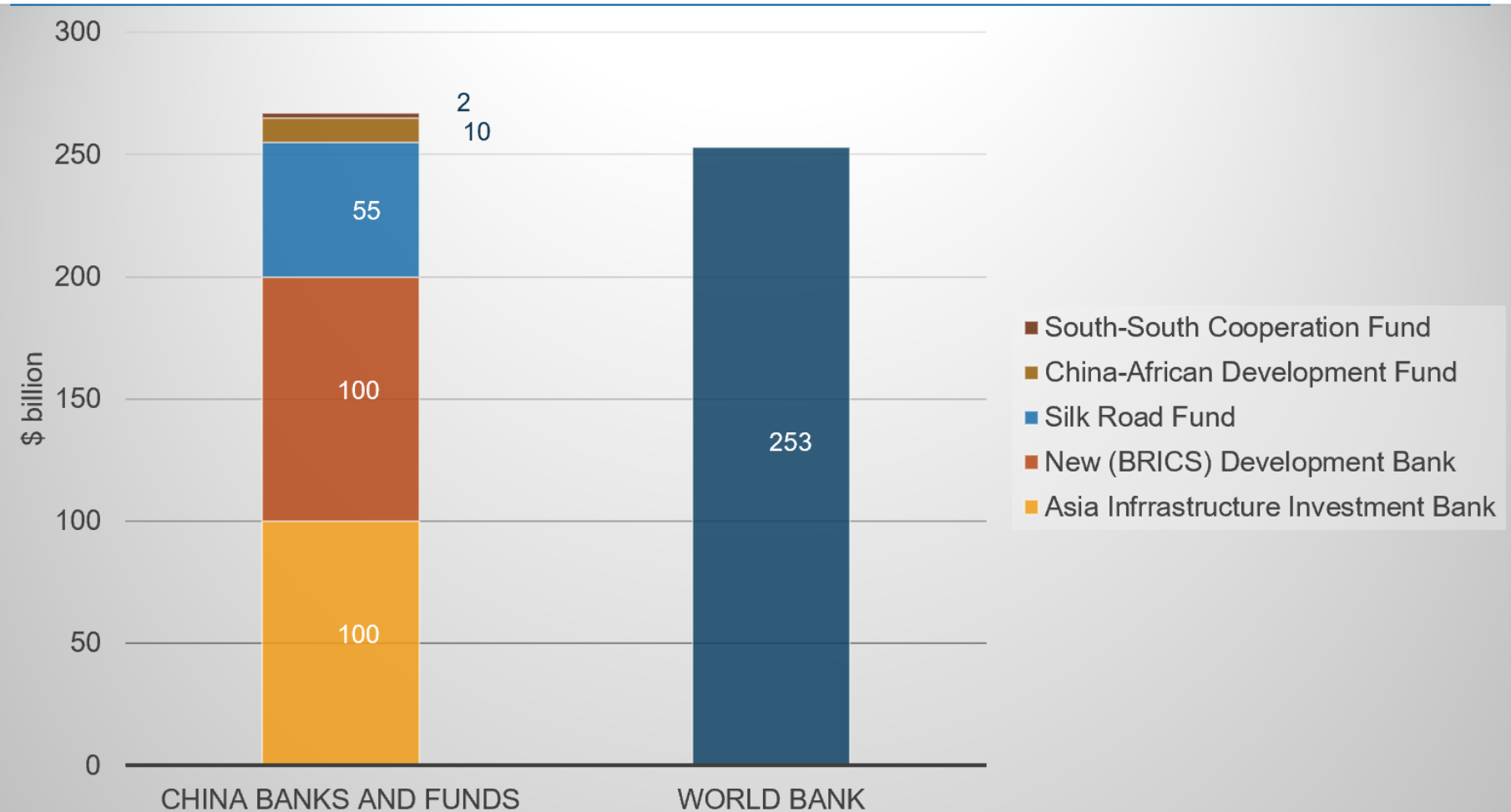
Health system strengthening (\$5.4billion, 94.1%) is the main area of focus of DAH from China, while other infectious diseases and newborn and child health are the other ranked health focus areas of DAH from China.

Flows of development assistance for health from China, disbursing agency and health focus area, 2007–2017

# China's development financing vs. World Bank

## Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank: Another World Bank?

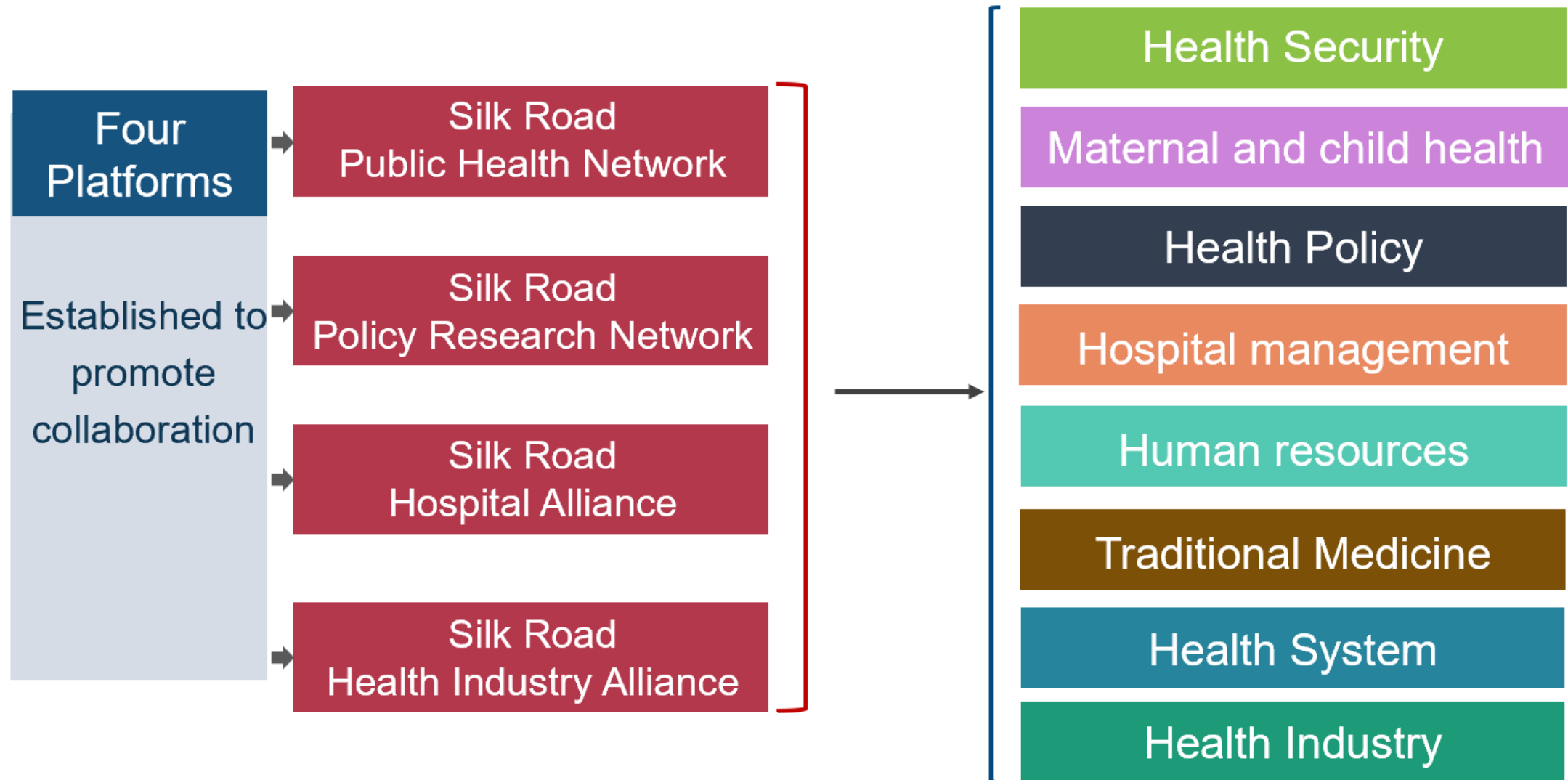
Capital base: China's banks and funds and World Bank in 2015 (\$ billion)





**“Beijing Communiqué”** adopted by more than 30 health ministers and high-level representatives from multilateral health agencies.

Belt and Road High-Level Meeting, August 2017



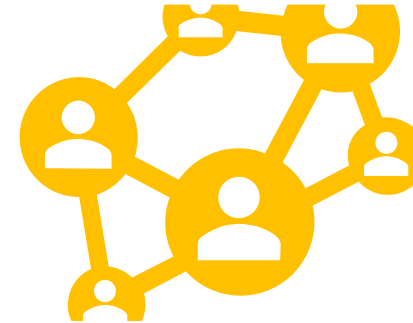
# 5 Principles of Chinese Foreign Aid Policy



**Respect of  
independence**



**No strings  
attached**



**Equity and co-  
development**



**Reality-  
oriented**



**Adaptation and  
innovation**



# What does decolonization mean for China going forward?

Criticisms of Chinese aid in Africa include debt-trapping, economic dependence, and prioritization of Chinese interests over local needs

Cities of the  
New Silk Road  
Cities

## China in Africa: win-win development, or a new colonialism?



**Nick Van Mead** in  
*Bagamoyo*

@nickvanmead

Tue 31 Jul 2018 13.00 BST



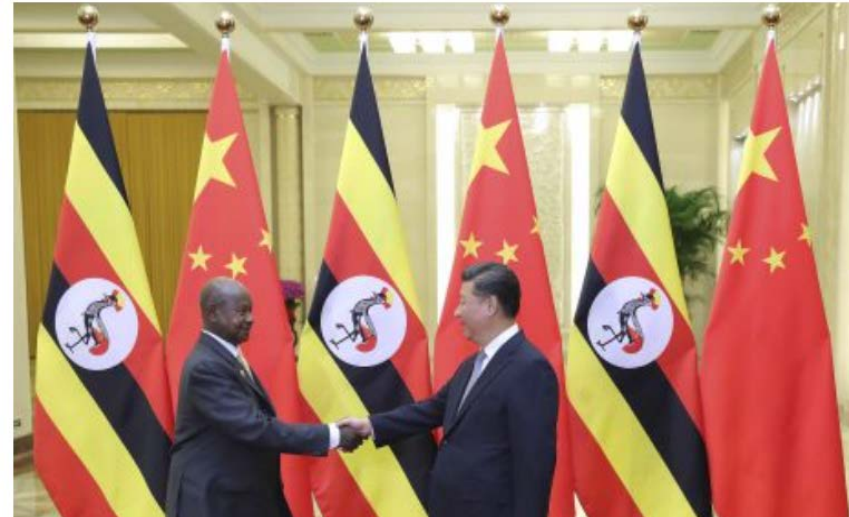
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## Is China a New Colonial Power?

How well do the claims of neocolonialism stand up?

By Amitai Etzioni  
November 09, 2020



# Mapping China's South-South Collaboration

Mixed findings: *China's DAH allocation patterns: need, merit or interest?*

	Findings	DAH data source
<p>Zhao Y, Kennedy K, Tang K. Factors influencing the allocation of China's development assistance for health. <i>Journal of Global Health</i>. 2018 Dec;8(2):020502.</p>	<p>1. Most significant factors influencing China's allocation of DAH were the recipient countries' <b>GDP per capita</b> and <b>human rights conditions</b></p> <p>2. Donor interests such as <b>trade</b> and <b>natural resources</b> only slightly influenced DAH allocation.</p>	<p>AidData – the first systematic and only publicly available database on China's development aid (2006-2014)</p>
<p>1. Yang H min, Liu P long, Guo Y. Determinants of China's development assistance for health at the sub-national level of African countries (2006–2015). <i>Infect Dis Poverty</i>. 2018 Dec;7(1):128.</p>	<p>1. <b>National capital cities</b> were significantly associated with the allocation of China's DAH projects. Antimalaria centers were more likely to be allocated to principle subdivisions <b>with larger populations</b>, and CMTs were allocated to subdivisions with <b>high population densities</b>.</p> <p>2. <b>No health-related indicators</b> were identified to affect project allocation except for <b>the facility delivery rate and under-five mortality rate</b>, which were associated with <i>hospital allocation</i>.</p> <p>Allocation of China's DAH projects is <b>strongly affected by political and demographic factors</b>. Implementation of China's new DAH projects <b>should target health and socio-economic indicators and impact metrics</b> in scaling up tailored and cost-effective programs in Africa.</p>	<p>Author's mapping the distribution of China's DAH projects in 670 principle subdivisions of 50 African countries during 2006–2015 using web-based information (including AidData).</p>
<p>Shajalal M, Xu J, Jing J, King M, Zhang J, Wang P, et al. China's engagement with development assistance for health in Africa. <i>Glob Health Res Policy</i>. 2017 Aug 9;2.</p>	<p>There is a statistically significant relationship between <b>aid to Africa</b> and <b>Chinese exports to Africa</b>.</p>	<p>AidData (2000-2013)</p>
<p>Grépin KA, Fan VY, Shen GC, Chen L. China's role as a global health donor in Africa: what can we learn from studying under reported resource flows? <i>Global Health</i>. 2014 Dec;10(1):84.</p>	<p>We find <b>little evidence</b> that China targets health aid preferentially to <b>natural resource rich countries</b>.</p>	<p>AidData (2000-2012)</p>



# Opportunities and Challenges

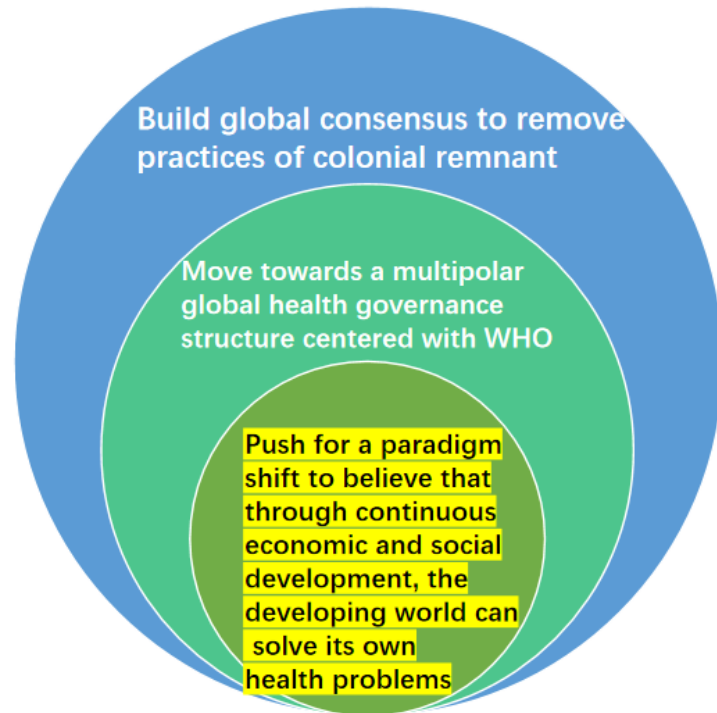




# A decolonizing journey for China

China has proved that developing countries are capable of solving their own health problems

## Decolonizing global health



*Global Health Research and Policy 7.1 (2022): 3.*

“We are very poor. We have lost touch with the world. We need the World Bank to catch up. **We can do it without you,** but we can do it quicker and better with you.”

- by Deng Xiao Ping in his first meeting with the World Bank delegation to negotiate China’s joining of the World Bank Board in April 1980.





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# Thanks for your attention!

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