

# Changing Patterns of State Funding for International Volunteering

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# International Service as Development Aid

IVS is couched within discussions of “soft power” and “smart aid”

- Soft power
  - Foreign policy strategies that help to achieve a nation’s goals without resorting to coercion, bribery, or warfare
- Smart aid
  - Alternative aid approaches
  - Designed to reduce dependency on foreign aid
  - Promotes grassroots development and local ownership



## Common Justifications for IVS as Official Development Aid

- Contribute to building skills and capacities of receiving countries
- Advance public diplomacy and relationships with other countries
- Increase receiving country's understanding of the sending nation's values and peoples
- Develop skills and experience in volunteers as young development professionals



# Key Research Questions

- To what extent do IVCOs rely on state funding?
- Can we identify any changing patterns of state funding for IVS programs?



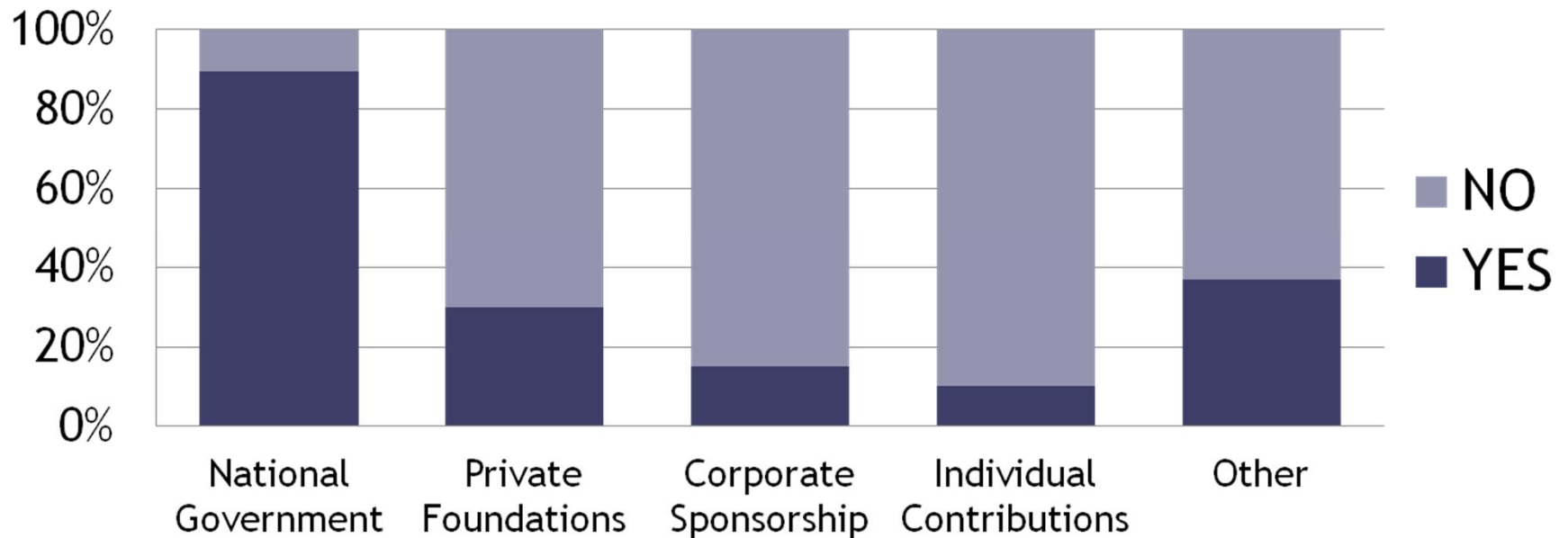
# Methods

- Online survey administered to FORUM member organizations
- Review of government documents and budget justifications: Three country case studies
  - UK
  - USA
  - Korea

# SURVEY OUTCOMES

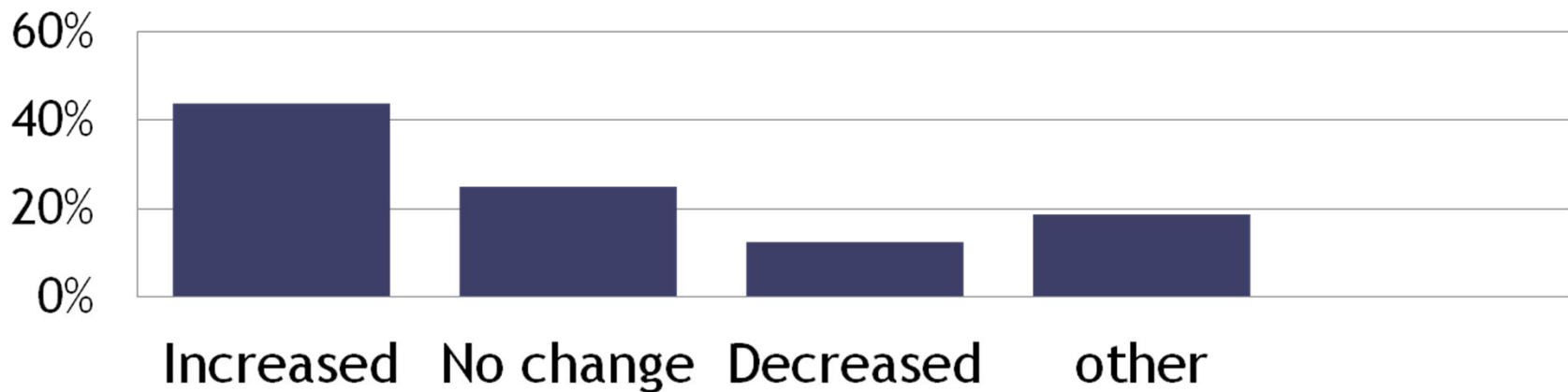


# Significant Funding Sources



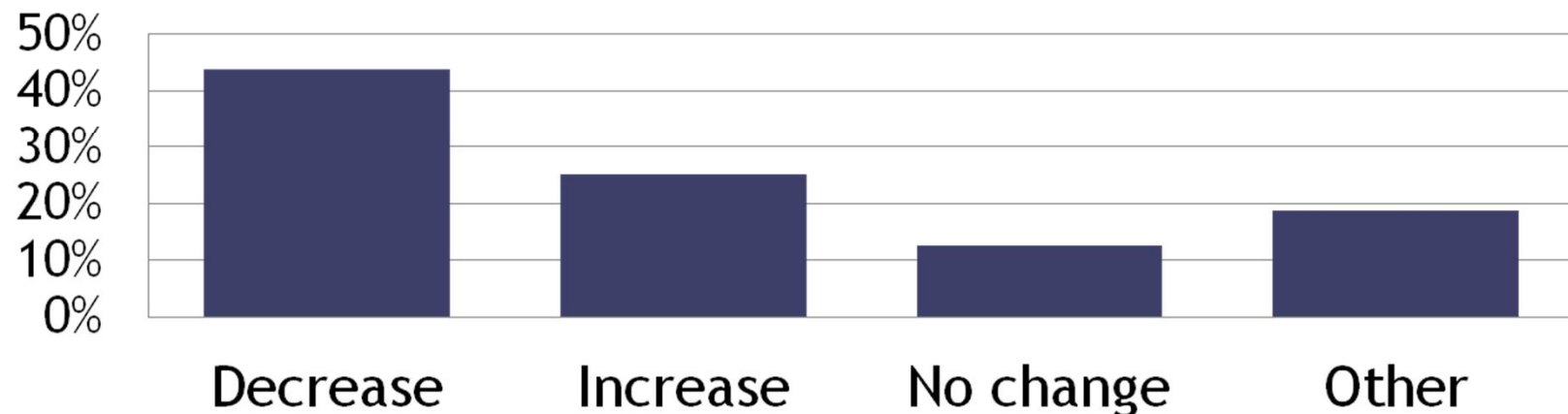
- Governments were the primary funding source for 90% of FORUM members.
- An estimated 2% of ODA budget support IVS programs

# Changes in Government Funding - Past Five Years



- 44% reported an increase in government funding
- 25% found no change
- 12% reported a decrease
- 19% reported a decrease in some areas, and an increase in others [Other]

# Expected Changes in Government Funding - Next Five Years



- 44% predict a decrease in government funding
- 25% expect an increase
- 12% expect no change
- 19% expect a decrease in some areas, and an increase in others [Other]

# Current Climate of State Funding

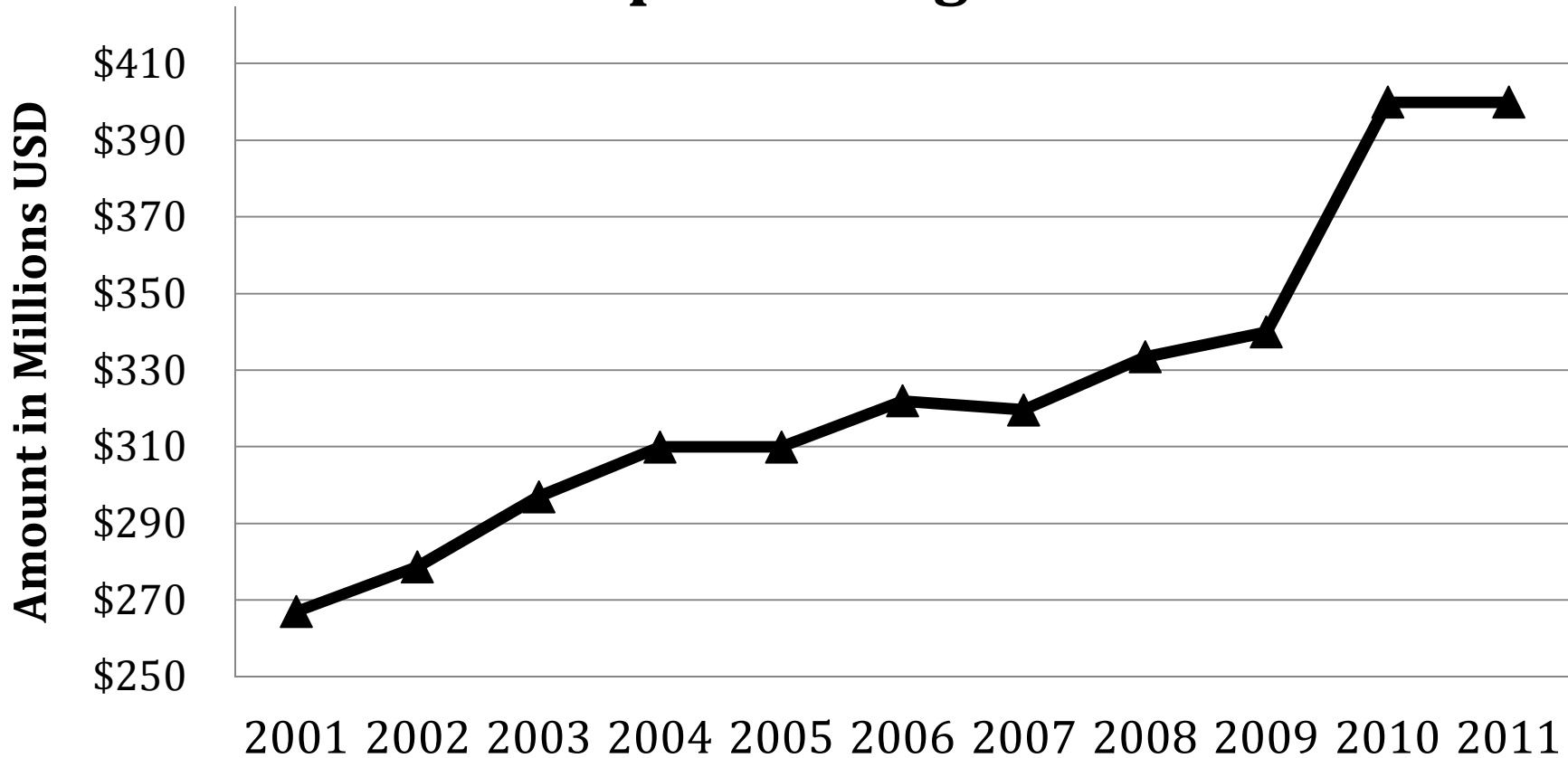
- Funding environment is generally positive but IVCOs need to adapt to changes
  - An increased focus on short-term volunteerism
  - Need to demonstrate the impacts and “added value” of IVS to development projects
  - Need to align programs and activities with government ODA priorities
- More competitive funding environment
  - Governments are moving away from “core funding” to IVCOs
  - Government grants are increasingly given to corporations and smaller IVS-related NGOs

# CASE STUDIES



# Case Study: USA

## US Peace Corps Funding 2001-2011

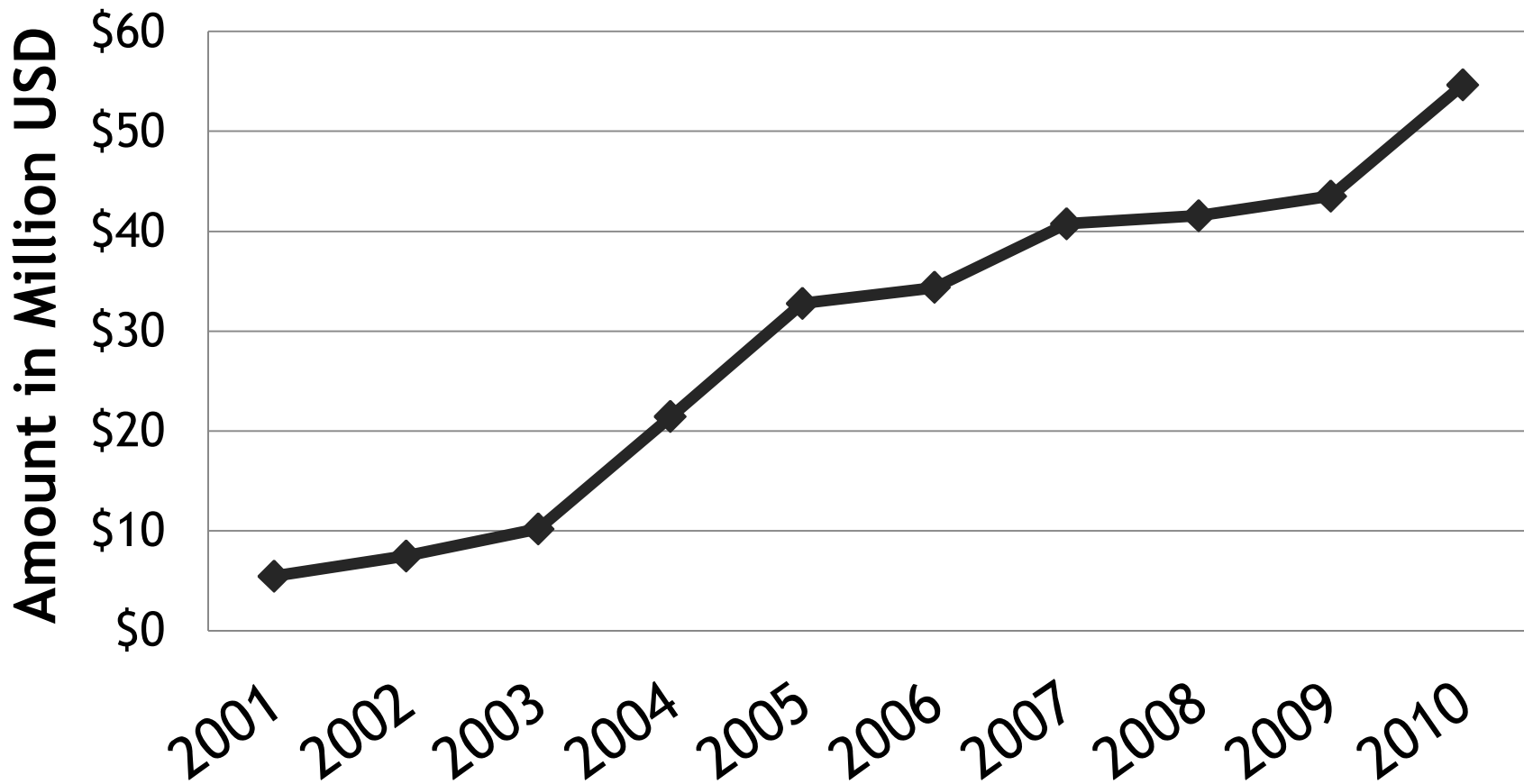


# Summary of US Case Study

- Justifications for IVS funding in the US are tied explicitly to foreign policy and a soft power approach to international diplomacy.
- Funding for the traditional two-year model has increased.
- Government has diversified funding; supports new IVS programs.
  - Short-term *skills-based* volunteerism
  - Diaspora volunteerism
  - Corporate IVS programs

# Case Study: Korea

## KOICA Overseas Volunteers Funding



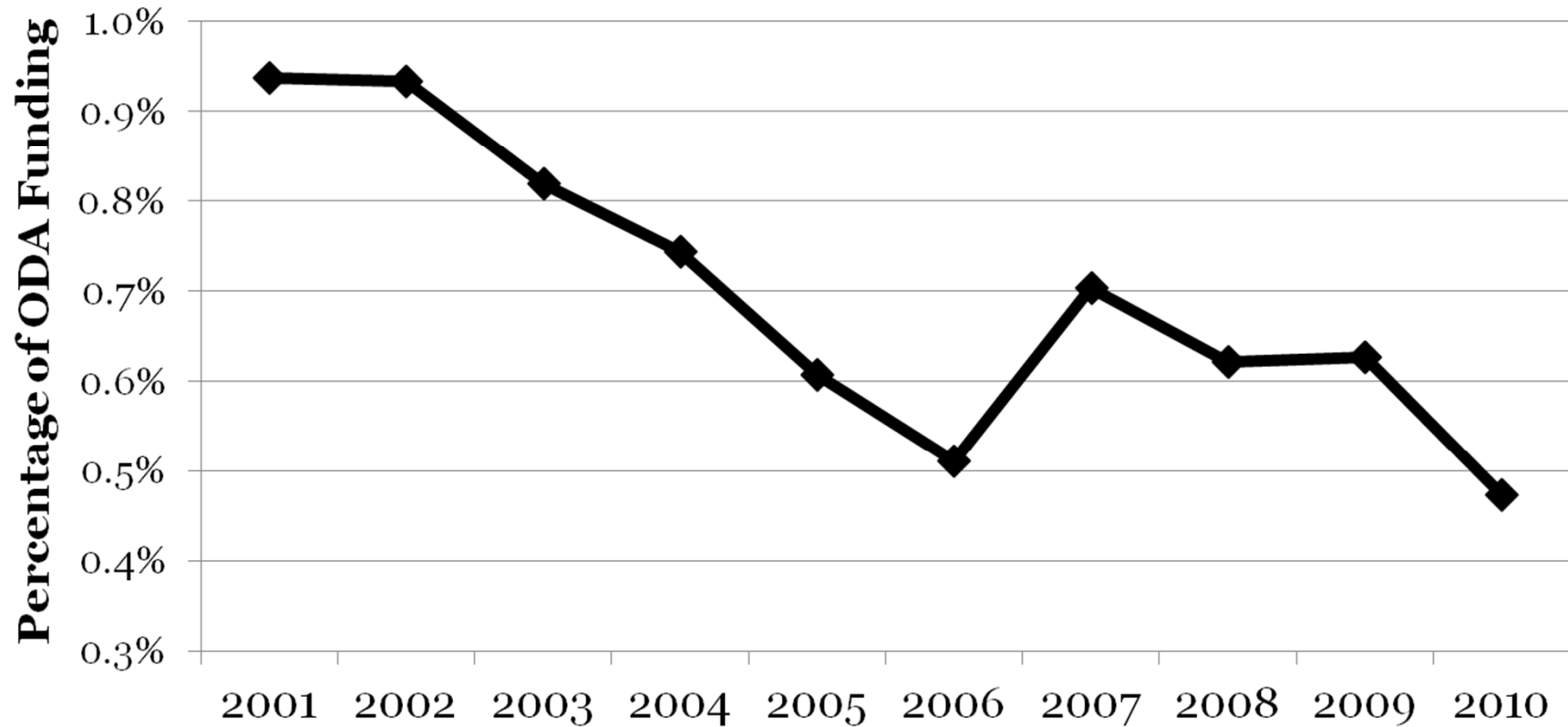


# Summary of Korea Case Study

- Key objective of the funding increase is to train development professionals
- The World Friends Korea (WFK) program seeks to align all IVS programs, both short- and long-term, public and private, with Korean foreign policy priorities.

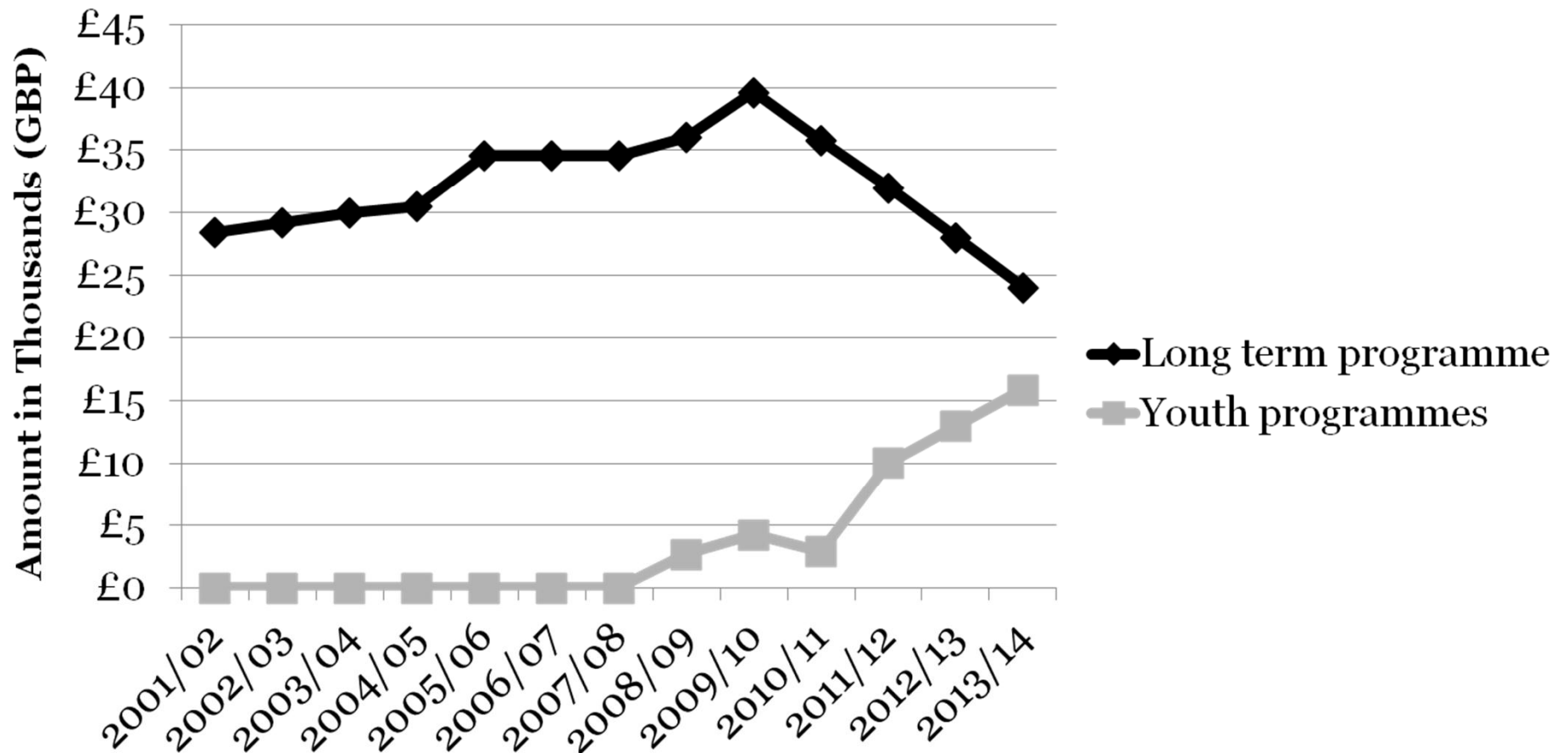
# IVS as a Proportion of ODA

UK Government expenditure: Percentage of ODA spent on volunteer programmes



# Case Study: UK

## UK Government expenditure on IVS



# Summary of UK Case Study

- Relative decline in IVS funding as a proportion of ODA funding.
- Funding model for long term volunteering in the UK appears to be broken
  - Strategic funding for CSOs is set to end from 2014
- The UK Government has repositioned with a commitment to rapidly increase sending young volunteers abroad.
  - Part of a wider pattern of European governments to orient IVS programs toward their own young citizens
- Funding for IVS is subject to enhanced reporting requirements that document value for money.
  - INGOs are being brought into direct competition (and collaboration) with private sector providers\

# Discussion

- To what extent do the concepts of smart aid and soft power objectives explain changing patterns of government funding for IVS?
  - What does this tell us about the future?
- If IVS is truly an effective model of ODA to low-income countries, why is the percentage of bilateral aid dedicated to IVS not greater?
- Why do nearly half of FORUM IVCOs anticipate a decrease in future government funding despite an increase over the past five years?