The aim of this bachelor thesis is chart to the development and the level of international development assistance from beginning to the present. The thesis is divided into the six main chapters. The first chapter which specifies and characterizes official development assistance is followed by the historical analysis summarizing development of main trends and institutions. The next part deals with development of financial flows moving to developing countr ies and is focused especially on period of thirty years since the end of 1960s to the end of 1990s. The forth chapter describes the most important international oraganizations which act in the area of development cooperation. The fifth part presents question of effectiveness of external assistance, what is the role of government and institutional environment for efficient resaults of assistance in developing countries. Finally, there is an assessment of development of aid and considering its role at the present time.