

BULGARIA



0.12% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.13% TOTAL AID/GNI



“Bulgarian development assistance successfully complements our sharing in the common instruments for EU external action in order to assist neighbouring countries and regions, as well as developing countries, and to provide humanitarian aid.”

– Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (excerpts from the introduction to the Mid-term Programme for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020-2024)

MAIN CHANGES IN 2020

In January 2021, the Council of Ministers adopted the new Mid-term Programme for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid 2020-2024. This builds upon and enriches the geographical and sectoral priorities of Bulgaria's ODA and broadens the range of participants. New priority countries from sub-Saharan Africa have been added. The Programme acknowledges the need to prioritise activities relating to the effects of the pandemic. It also establishes a new Programme for Global Education and Awareness Raising (GEAR) to fund global education projects that raise awareness of development cooperation, sustainable development and the SDGs, human rights, tolerance, a culture of peace, and media literacy.

For the COVID response Bulgaria has provided over €1m for health care to support the most marginalised people in the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership countries, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan.

In 2020, Bulgaria's ODA increased to 0.13% of GNI, with €62m reported as multilateral aid and almost €8m as bilateral aid.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

In June 2021, a roadmap (2021-2023) for Bulgaria's accession to the OECD was adopted by the Council of Ministers. Within the framework of the roadmap, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to cooperate closely with OECD DAC to improve Bulgarian development assistance, to make it more effective and to update the regulatory framework for development cooperation. In addition, it is envisaged that by the end of 2021 the process of creating Bulgaria's first law on development cooperation will be restarted.

CASE STUDY BOX: THE SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN GEORGIA



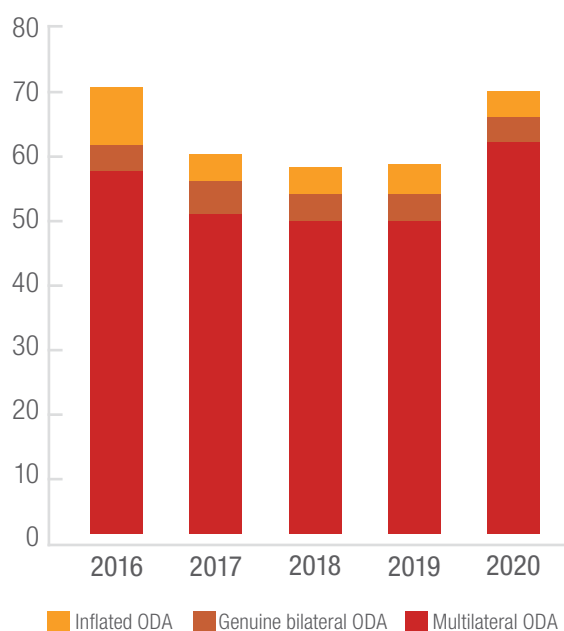
The Government of Bulgaria has financed a project called 'Including the most vulnerable out-of-school children and adolescents in access to quality education in Georgia.' This project supports Georgia's Second Chance Education Programme which provides catch-up and accelerated learning programmes for out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out. Almost 100 teachers in 15 pilot schools and six day-care centres are being trained to deliver an adapted curriculum. Following a recent decision by Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, this programme has been connected to the ongoing 'New School Model', a national initiative, and from 2021 almost 450 new coaches and teachers will be trained in a new programme to roll it out to 450 more schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

- The government should further accelerate the process of developing a new law on development cooperation and should include a broad representation of stakeholders in the drafting process.
- The new law on development cooperation should provide for the creation of a new Agency for Development Cooperation which will distribute bilateral ODA.
- Specific regulations should be introduced to improve the involvement of CSOs in development cooperation programmes.
- The share of bilateral aid should be increased, to increase the total ODA as a percentage of GNI.
- A communication campaign should be run to highlight the mutual benefits of participation in development cooperation for both donors and beneficiaries.

BULGARIA – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA

(€ million, constant 2019)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2019)

LDC	ODA to LDcs	ODA to LDcs (% GNI)	ODA to LDcs (% total ODA)
2016	15.74	0.03	22.31
2017	10.77	0.02	17.92
2018	10.51	0.02	18.11
2019	12.25	0.02	20.97

ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	12.73	12.73	0.00	0.00
2017	9.54	9.54	0.00	0.00
2018	8.26	8.26	0.00	0.00
2019	7.88	7.88	0.00	0.00

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Gender focus	Bi allocable	Total Screened	Not Screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2016	3.90	0.00	3.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	5.48	0.00	5.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018	8.26	0.00	8.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019	4.04	0.00	4.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2019)

CSO support	Non-CSO	Donor-CSO-Earmarked	International-CSO-Earmarked	Recipient-CSO-Earmarked	Donor-CSO-Core	International-CSO-Core	Recipient-CSO-Core	Total bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Total bilateral CSO support, % total ODA	Core bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Core bilateral CSO support, % total ODA
2016	12.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	9.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018	8.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019	7.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00