



THE NETHERLANDS

0.53% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.59% TOTAL AID/GNI



“We know it will be a colossal task to rebuild economies, to get a recovery going in order to repair the massive damage done to communities and businesses. Naturally, this is a shared task: not only within the Netherlands, and at a European level, but also internationally. This is an opportunity we must seize, to restore the right priorities and criteria and ensure an inclusive, sustainable, resilient economic recovery.”

– Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Parliamentary Debate on the role of the Netherlands in the global COVID-19 response, 15 June 2020

MAIN CHANGES IN 2020

In 2020, Dutch ODA was 0.59%, thanks to a yearly cut of €1.4bn introduced by a former government in 2013.

After the pandemic had started, the Advisory Council on International Affairs advised the Dutch parliament to provide €1bn to support the international COVID response and to safeguard the ODA budget from the consequences of an economic decline.¹ In response, the Dutch government announced they would make €150m available for a COVID response, plus €350m to compensate for the GNI/ODA-associated cuts in 2020 and 2021. It is expected that €350m will not be sufficient to cover the cuts. An extra €456m is to be added across ODA budgets in future years.

In 2019, progress with the SDGs was reviewed under the Integrated Assessment Framework, which is used to assess the effects of new policies and legislation and is supposed to increase policy coherence for development. A review by Partos and its members, however, shows that the effects are not always assessed in a transparent manner.²

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

Early in 2021, Power of Voices and the SDG5 Fund were introduced as new policy frameworks for strengthening civil society in developing countries. They have already led to new partnerships with CSOs in the field of advocacy and influence.

Before the elections in March 2021, key political parties signed a *stembusakkoord*,³ agreeing to strive to reach the 0.7% ODA target.

While a new government is not yet in place, the previous one continues without implementing significant new policies. The Netherlands are making a stronger economic recovery than expected, however, so the gaps in (future) budgets, created by the budget shift of 2020, may be filled in 2021.

CASE STUDY BOX: POWER OF VOICES FRAMEWORK



At the start of 2021, a new policy framework for strengthening civil society in developing countries was put in place. Within this Power of Voices framework, new strategic partnerships between Dutch and local CSOs were established in thematic fields ranging from climate adaptation to WASH, sustainable supply chains, freedom of expression and religion and LGBTI inclusion. In supporting these partnerships, the government recognises the importance of advocacy and civic space in sustainable and inclusive development.

¹ <https://www.adviesraadinternationalevraagstukken.nl/documenten/publicaties/2020/05/11/nederland-en-de-wereldwijde-aanpak-van-covid-19>.

² <https://www.partos.nl/nieuws/resultaten-onderzoek-sdg-toets/>.

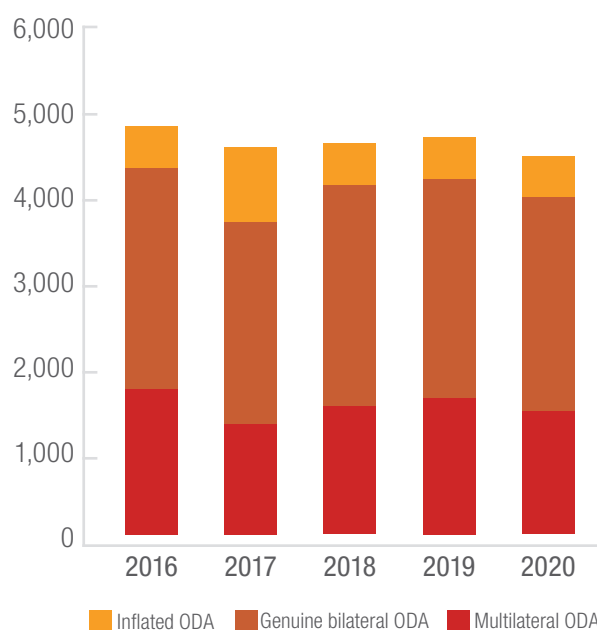
³ <https://www.oxfamnovib.nl/nieuws/stembusakkoord-voor-ontwikkelingssamenwerking-terug-naar-07>.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT

- Make the Netherlands an international champion in the fight against shrinking civic space.
- Present a practical step-by-step plan to return to meeting the 0.7% aid target.
- Do not use future ODA to cover current gaps in the budget. Instead make extra money available from the general government budget.
- Make sure that neither Dutch nor EU aid is used for border control.
- Introduce a ceiling for covering asylum costs from the ODA budget.
- Ensure that trade-related activities are in line with inclusive, sustainable development.

NETHERLANDS – 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	1,122.49	0.15	23.12
2017	991.99	0.13	21.53
2018	1,134.05	0.15	24.40
2019	1,127.83	0.14	23.86

ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	1.36	0.04	0.03
2017	3.47	0.11	0.08
2018	3.90	0.13	0.08
2019	5.19	0.17	0.11

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	3,261.70	3,261.70	0.00	0.00
2017	3,380.43	3,380.43	0.00	0.00
2018	3,171.59	3,171.59	0.00	0.00
2019	3,073.19	3,073.19	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	2,519.18	2,519.18	0.00	1,148.25	984.32	386.62	39.07	15.35
2017	2,158.41	2,158.41	0.00	904.82	882.25	371.35	40.87	17.20
2018	2,396.55	2,396.55	0.00	860.79	1,167.10	368.66	48.70	15.38
2019	2,293.18	2,293.18	0.00	655.51	1,261.38	376.30	55.01	16.41

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	2,229.13	537.31	149.29	65.23	7.50	73.16	25.04	27.78	17.66	3.42	2.18
2017	2,447.58	518.19	153.45	70.97	19.15	61.90	11.75	25.45	18.13	2.83	2.01
2018	2,244.96	536.76	155.47	83.92	12.56	58.46	6.99	27.56	18.38	2.52	1.68
2019	2,219.25	533.87	150.14	80.32	12.75	58.38	4.88	27.47	17.78	2.48	1.61