

SPAIN



0.20% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.22% TOTAL AID/GNI



“We can’t continue to nourish a fake concept of progress that means more poverty and injustice for millions of human beings”

*– Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain,
at the UN General Assembly, 2020*

MAIN CHANGES IN 2020

In 2020, ODA dropped slightly, from €2.4bn to €2.3bn. This still represented an increase, however – from 0.19% to 0.22% GNI – as the pandemic caused the economy to shrink considerably. DAC policy markers show a decline in terms of gender and environmental and human rights. On the positive side, multilateral aid increased to record levels, reaching €1.7bn; humanitarian aid and ODA channelled through development NGOs increased by 46.9% and 14% respectively; and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) improved, rising in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) ranking from the ‘poor’ category to ‘fair’.

At the end of 2020 the government approved the 2021 national budget, which raised genuine ODA by 10%. In addition, Spain has committed €1.7bn to the global pandemic response and has promised to donate 22.5m vaccines by the end of 2021. Finally, at the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development the government presented an overarching sustainable development strategy that commits Spain to achieving 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2030. However, a lack of policy coherence is undermining the ODA programme. Spain is failing to fulfil its commitments under the Paris Agreement, is selling weapons in conflict areas, and is inactive on human rights and environmental protection issues.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

At the end of 2021 the government will need to approve the 2022 national budget with a focus on recovery plans and on an ecological and digital transition. Civil society is concerned about the environmental impact and inclusiveness of the projects proposed by big companies. It calls for greater transparency, and for SMEs and the NGO sector to be included in the recovery plans.

ODA levels have stagnated and the reform of development cooperation has been delayed because the heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation changed in July 2021. In June 2021, a parliamentary committee approved a report proposing a hundred measures to reform the cooperation system. La Coordinadora is advocating for a comprehensive and ambitious

reform that sets up an effective, integrated and coherent system for responding to sustainable development and human rights challenges.

Before the end of 2020, the moment of truth will arrive with the national budget approval and the reform debate in parliament. The government needs to salvage cooperation policy to be credible. ODA efforts are expected to increase due to the drop in GDP and the contribution to the IMF. There is also concern about ODA's non-genuine increase and its accounting, remembering that in 2019 Spain increased ODA by 9% with the new methodology.

CASE STUDY BOX: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



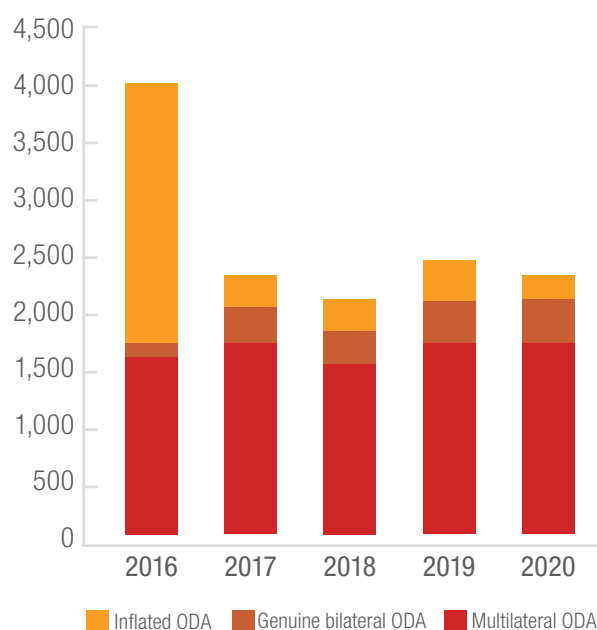
In September 2020, the Spanish government launched the Sustainable Development Council (SDC) – a consultative forum made up of government representatives and civil society, including unions, the private sector, academics and NGOs. In June 2021, following consultation with the SDC, the government adopted a Strategy on Sustainable Development. The strategy focuses on development cooperation in particular and outlines a future PCSD mechanism. While issues still surround the implementation budget and the political architecture, the strategy does represent an important milestone.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

- Design and launch an ambitious reform that includes the institutional system and steps up its dialogue with all stakeholders. Ensure that fighting poverty and inequalities, the feminist agenda, human rights, climate and sustainability are key objectives.
- Deliver a roadmap for achieving the 0.5% ODA/GNI target in 2023 – as a step towards the 0.7% goal – prioritising instruments that reinforce effectiveness.
- Ensure that fighting poverty and inequalities and upholding human rights remain the primary focus of both public and private financing for development cooperation, and that this funding is aligned with the development effectiveness agenda.

- The new CSO strategic framework must take into account the diverse roles of civil society, increase support for CSOs in the Global South, and alleviate excessive bureaucracy.
- Make progress on the policy coherence for sustainable development mechanism within the 2030 Agenda framework by taking practical steps. They must take into consideration systemic challenges such as solutions to the global debt crisis, human rights compliance by businesses, gender equality, global action for climate justice, support for civic space and democracy and stronger social and environmental requirements in trade agreements.

SPAIN – 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	469.05	0.04	11.67
2017	474.78	0.04	20.52
2018	580.80	0.05	27.52
2019	503.49	0.04	20.81

ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	0.11	0.00	0.00
2017	0.10	0.02	0.00
2018	0.16	0.03	0.01
2019	0.21	0.03	0.01

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	2,716.67	2,638.00	78.67	2.90
2017	981.71	951.85	29.86	3.04
2018	892.48	875.13	17.35	1.94
2019	965.20	937.77	27.43	2.84

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	491.08	491.08	0.00	251.33	150.31	89.45	30.61	18.21
2017	547.40	547.40	0.00	281.34	171.89	94.16	31.40	17.20
2018	538.55	537.28	1.27	250.87	161.03	125.37	29.97	23.33
2019	556.82	556.82	0.00	287.23	133.74	135.85	24.02	24.40

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	2,149.87	288.70	7.78	-27.91	0.97	0.10	0.00	11.14	6.71	0.04	0.03
2017	167.46	427.34	10.74	11.66	0.67	0.03	0.00	72.90	19.47	0.11	0.03
2018	91.18	453.42	10.86	20.22	0.25	0.38	0.00	84.18	22.99	0.11	0.03
2019	180.59	511.91	11.23	12.03	0.90	0.02	0.00	74.80	22.16	0.13	0.04