



BULGARIA

“ Supporting Ukraine and the Ukrainian people ”

By BPID

Main trends

At first sight, it might seem impressive that Bulgaria's ODA has reached 0.27% of GNI in 2022, but unfortunately this is more the result of Bulgaria's efforts to help Ukraine than a planned increase in the ODA budget. Bulgaria provided EUR 121 million for bilateral cooperation, of which EUR 115 million was for humanitarian aid. A total of EUR 106 million was provided to Ukraine, almost entirely to support Ukrainian displaced persons in Bulgaria. Only EUR 1 million was channelled as humanitarian aid through international organisations and in-kind contributions, and just EUR 0.03 million for ongoing development projects in Ukraine.

A total of EUR 82 million has been provided for multilateral cooperation, with the largest share contributing to EU external financial instruments and funds. Other significant channels for multilateral ODA were the UN and its agencies and the World Bank Group. Other relevant flow are the EUR 2.1 million provided to finance administrative capacity-building projects and socially significant infrastructure in the Western Balkans, the Black Sea region, Africa, Jordan and Vietnam. Finally, Bulgaria provided a total of EUR 19.8 million in the form of vaccine doses donations to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iran to deal with the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.

Government's relationship with civil society

In 2022 the Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) continued the dialogue to sign a new memorandum for cooperation. However, due to political instability in the country, this has not been yet signed, although there has been ongoing positive collaboration between both actors for the strategic development of international cooperation policy in a good governance partnership project. The project focused on monitoring and evaluation of

Reported ODA: EUR 203 million
0.27% GNI (↑ from 0.12% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 104 million
0.14% GNI (↑ from 0.11% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 99.5 million
49% of total



the development cooperation policy and interim monitoring of the execution of the Mid-Term Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid Programme (2022-2024). The project gave Bulgarian CSOs the opportunity to engage with the government bodies that formulate, execute and monitor the policy. As a result, an interim monitoring report for the execution of the mid-term programme was published which gave recommendations to the government for strengthening the regulatory framework of the Bulgarian development cooperation and effectively including Bulgarian CSOs in the implementation of the development projects in partner countries.

The Bulgarian government should:

- **Urgently prepare and pass a new law on development cooperation and include broad representation of stakeholders in the drafting process. The law should introduce a new Agency for Development Cooperation to coordinate bilateral ODA spending.**
- **Involve Bulgarian CSOs as soon as possible, using their capacity in the implementation phase of development cooperation programmes to enable the government to meet the indicators set out in the Mid-Term Programme for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid 2020-2024.**
- **Increase the share of bilateral aid, which will result in the increase of the total ODA as a percentage of GNI.**
- **Prepare and implement at national level, the Global Education and Awareness Raising Programme as set out in the Mid-Term Programme for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid 2020-2024.**