



DENMARK

“ Falling short of commitments ”

By Globalt Fokus

Main trends

2022 is going to be the first year in more than 40 years that Denmark will fall short of the commitment to devote 0.7 % of GNI to ODA. This is happening while Denmark's economy has been exceeding expectations while the consequences of the war in Ukraine, the aftermath of COVID-19 and the effects of climate change are hitting the rest of the world hard. Denmark falling short of 0.7 % is not therefore just a political and technical failure, it also shows disregard for the current enormous needs for ODA in the world.

For the new government elected in 2022, meeting the UN commitment of 0.7 % was part of the political agreement between the three governing parties. It is therefore expected that Denmark will reach 0.7 % again. The incoming minister, Dan Jørgensen, has the new title of “Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Politics”, which, taken with current initiatives and political statements from the Minister as well as the MFA, indicate that Denmark will continue greening its ODA. Nonetheless, it is imperative that poverty and inequality reduction are not forgotten in the development cooperation greening process. Denmark, together with other countries, is failing to deliver on the USD 100 billion in climate finance promised at COP15. However, Denmark is expected to look to blended finance, guarantees and innovative financing to deliver on the commitments made at COP15 and COP27.

Government's relationship with civil society

Denmark has a strong tradition of consulting civil society and other stakeholders as part of the policy making process. Both on political and technical matters there is often meaningful dialogue in development policy. However, for civil

Reported ODA: EUR 2508 million

0.67% GNI (↓ from 0.71% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 2087 million

0.58% GNI (↓ from 0.69% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 422 million

16.8% of total



society meaningful inclusion that allows proper exchanges with partner countries' organisations can sometimes be made difficult by short deadlines. An example of dialogue is The Council for Development Policy, where 11 members, currently including four civil society representatives, are appointed to give strategic advice to the MFA and the Minister.

The strategy for development cooperation is a political agreement with parliament and the ODA budget is part of the Budget Act that is passed annually in parliament. However, the government is responsible for conducting Denmark's foreign policy which includes development cooperation. This means that changes made that affect development cooperation such as changes to the ODA budget during the year or opening and closing of embassies can lack political dialogue and transparency.

The Danish government should:

- Ensure that Denmark is always able to deliver on its commitment to devote 0.7 % of GNI to ODA;
- Not use ODA to cover in-donor refugee costs;
- Ensure that climate finance is new and additional to ODA flows and targets;
- Ensure enough time for meaningful inclusion of partner organisations during consultations with civil society.