



GERMANY

“ The last ambitious year for international solidarity? ”

By VENRO

Main trends

In 2022, Germany emerged as the second largest ODA provider globally, contributing EUR 33.3 billion, equivalent to 0.83% of its Gross National Income (GNI). This significant increase in ODA spending was largely attributed to Germany's response to Russia's war against Ukraine. In February 2022, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) allocated around EUR 600 million to Ukraine and an additional EUR 112 million to promote stability in the Republic of Moldova. Furthermore, to counteract the war's impact on global food security, Germany invested an extra EUR 1.4 billion in 2022.

The year 2022 also saw Germany hosting approximately one million refugees from Ukraine, a factor that significantly contributed to the 12% rise in ODA compared to the previous year, making Germany the largest recipient of its own ODA.

Throughout 2022, the German government has been actively working on a feminist foreign policy and a feminist development policy, both of which were published in March 2023. It remains to be seen what kind of long-term changes these new strategies will deliver over the coming years. The outlook for Germany's ODA spending is bleak. The German government's 2024 budget proposal indicates plans to reduce ODA spending significantly, a move that will have a detrimental effect on Germany's humanitarian and development efforts.

Government's relationship with civil society

The German government has mostly been open to involving civil society in its initiatives. This collaboration has been evident in the formulation of Germany's feminist foreign and development policies, for which many civil society actors were

Reported ODA: EUR 31511 million
0.83% GNI (↑ from 0.76% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 24976 million
0.66% GNI (↑ from 0.74% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 6534 million
20.7% of total



consulted. The open dialogue and partnership with CSOs have also been instrumental in addressing the challenges posed by the war in Ukraine and the subsequent refugee situation. Despite these positive steps, there is serious concern among CSOs about the government's proposed reduction in ODA spending in its 2024 budget proposal. Currently, German ODA funding to and through CSOs remains at around 7%, well below the OECD average of 15%.

The BMZ has initiated the development of a new strategy for cooperation with civil society. VENRO is closely monitoring this process and has published a position paper with suggestions on how to strengthen funding for civil society in the Global South.

The German government should:

- Focus policies and strategies on the SDGs and on the principles to leave no one behind.
- Make additional financial resources available so that efforts to rebuild Ukraine do not lead to cuts in other regions and earmark at least EUR 2.7 billion for humanitarian emergencies.
- Ensure that climate finance is new and additional to existing ODA spending and increase climate finance to EUR 8 billion annually by 2025.
- Increase civil society funding to the OECD average of 15% of ODA.