



HUNGARY

“ Holding out hope in a year of change ”

By HAND

Main trends

Compared to 2021, Hungary's reported ODA has decreased slightly to EUR 261 million, due to the decision of not reporting in-donor refugee costs in relation to refugees from Ukraine. In line with CSO views, the government decided against including these costs because they could show a one year trend spike, which can be misleading for partner countries. Despite the moderate decline in ODA, the 2022 ODA/GNI ratio (0.28%) remained at the same level as the previous year, not breaking the upward trend of the last few years.

Following the 2022 national elections, institutional reorganisation has affected the international development cooperation sector. The development and humanitarian areas, which were formerly divided between different ministries, have been reunited again under the MFA and Trade, which now manages most of Hungary's bilateral cooperation. The Hungary Helps Agency, which was previously responsible only for the humanitarian field, has also been moved to the MFA and its portfolio extended to include development cooperation. These are steps that had been repeatedly called for by CSOs in previous years. However, a number of measures are still needed for more consistent planning and implementation and better coordination within the government, since the current structure still lacks synergies and a clear division of responsibilities and tasks, specifically in case of the other line ministries.

CSOs hope that the recommendations of the 2023 DAC peer review, which in many respects reflect the views of civil society, will guide the government in introducing further policy and institutional changes to promote development effectiveness and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

Reported ODA: EUR 362 million
0.28% GNI (same as in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 361 million
0.28% GNI (same as in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 1 million
0.3% of total



Government's relationship with civil society

In most cases government institutions responsible for development cooperation are open to requests and initiatives arriving from both donor- and partner-country based CSOs and have multiplied project grants to CSOs in recent years. However, there are no open calls for proposals targeted specifically at civil society and the government mainly relies on a few CSOs for implementation. Furthermore, there are no mechanisms for timely, predictable and inclusive social dialogue involving all relevant stakeholders. These issues were also highlighted by the 2023 DAC peer review as well and the government expressed its intention to address them. Given the upcoming Hungarian EU Presidency in 2024, this should take place as soon as possible, in order to ensure broad debate on policy issues in connection to the Presidency period.

The Hungarian government should:

- Establish a clear roadmap for increasing ODA, which will be reflected in the targets of the new post-2025 development cooperation strategy.
- Devise an action plan for institutional and policy renewal in line with the recommendations of the 2023 DAC peer review and the principle of development effectiveness and policy coherence.
- Outline a plan for enhancing capacity and creating opportunities for CSOs to be involved in national and EU level programme implementation and policy dialogue.
- Set up a multi-stakeholder consultation body as soon as possible.