



# PORTUGAL

**“ It is clear that the 0.7% [target] is far from being a budgetary possibility for this year or for the years to come ”**

João Gomes Cravinho, Minister of Foreign Affairs (November 2022)

By Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD

## Main trends

Portugal's ODA in 2022 increased by 17.5%, rising above 0.2% GNI for the first time in a decade. This increase is based on the allocation of additional funding to multilateral institutions, budget support to partner countries and to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Despite remaining below the EU average and far from reaching the 0.7 target, CSOs in Portugal welcomed the fact that there were no budget reallocations to fund operations related to the Ukrainian crisis, as well as the commitment to double the Camões IP development budget in 2023.

2022 was a landmark year for Portuguese development policies. Following the publication of OECD DAC's Peer Review in April, the government presented a draft version of the new Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030 (ECP 2030), holding public consultations and officially adopting it in December. Plataforma has welcomed the integration of most of its recommendations in the final text (especially a proposal to establish a roadmap to increase ODA allocations) as well as its focus on HD and Gender Equality.

Some progress has been made in increasing coordination capacities. In 2023, it became mandatory for public authorities to report their cooperation budget to the MFA. As no data has been made public so far, it is important to share information about this mechanism in order to ensure transparency.

## Government's relationship with civil society

Although Plataforma welcomes the final result of the ECP2030, there is still room for progress in promoting meaningful participation of civil society. It also fails to comply with Development Cooperation Forum's rule of calling a meeting every 6 months. That would require a systematic approach to including civil society in planning,

Reported ODA: EUR 456 million

**0.23%** GNI (↑ from 0.18% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 391 million

**0.19%** GNI (↑ from 0.16% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 65 million

**14.3%** of total



implementing and monitoring development policies. The institutional model established by the National Strategy for Development Education (currently under review) has been regarded as a good example that should be replicated in other strategies, especially the ECP 2030.

In 2022, support for civil society activities reached EUR 11.25 M. While acknowledging Portugal's effort to increase amounts to support civil society (a further significant increase is expected in 2023), measures must be taken to safeguard NGOs' right of initiative. According to preliminary data, almost 98% of funding was channelled through CSOs rather than to them.

## The Portuguese government should:

- **Adopt an ambitious National Strategy of Development Education that builds on achievements of previous years and paves the way for the establishment of a dedicated budget that increases funding for implementing its priorities.**
- **Monitor the implementation of ECP 2030, especially measures on ODA commitments, by setting up a committee that includes civil society representatives and report conclusions regularly to parliament.**
- **Consolidate support to civil society through implementing OECD recommendations on reviewing Portugal's funding modalities based on a meaningful dialogue with CSOs.**
- **Promote meaningful democratic participation by creating a mandatory framework for consulting civil society during policy making processes and a mechanism for integrating CSO representatives in official delegations.**