



SPAIN

“ A new cooperation law with a broad consensus ”

By La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo

Main trends

The ODA growth trend of recent years is consolidated, reaching 0.3% in 2022, still far from the legislature's commitment to reach 0.5% by 2023. The 2023 budgets, which will not be easy to meet in terms of ODA, aimed at 0.34%. Much of the increase in ODA in 2022 and that budgeted for 2023 is due to the increase in non-genuine ODA, specifically to in-country Ukrainian refugees. Bilateral and multi-bilateral cooperation overtook multilateral cooperation (which was mainly of an obligatory nature) after many years. AECID's (Spanish Development Cooperation Agency) budget growth has also been significant, with the budget almost tripling compared to three years ago.

During the recent election campaign, the parties that obtained 90% of the representation in Congress signed six commitments to cooperation policy, which in budgetary terms are aligned with the 0.7% target for 2030. The formation of the next government and the next national budget will be fundamental to demonstrate the political will to fulfil the commitments of the Law. They must be ambitious as there is a serious risk of a reduction in ODA if they are not.

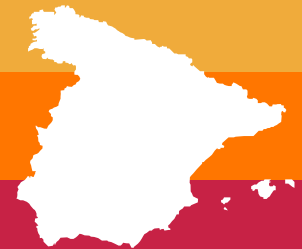
Government's relationship with civil society

There have been many ad hoc conversations in bilateral meetings involving La Coordinadora, the International Cooperation Secretary of State and the AECID Director in the last two years; the Spanish Development Cooperation Reform process is underway with a high level of transparency and a very constructive nature. There is also significant and influential participation of members of civil society and La Coordinadora in the Development Cooperation Council. This is a formal and regulated consultative space that the new Law will transform into the "High Council for Cooperation", maintaining and developing its functions and participants. It is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and is very active in the reform process.

Reported ODA: EUR 3884 million
0.30% GNI* (↑ from 0.26% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 3097 million
0.24% GNI (same as in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 787 million
20.3% of total



In March 2022 a Relationship Framework between La Coordinadora and the General State Administration was signed. It has two main objectives: 1) to develop an enabling environment for NGOs in Spain, and 2) support and strengthen civil society in the Global South for the promotion of rights. A bilateral regular dialogue is being built to develop this Framework Action Plan.

The Spanish government should:

- **Complete the reform of the cooperation system, with the development and approval of the corresponding regulations with the participation of civil society and maintaining the maximum ambition allowed by law.**
- **Reach 0.4% of GNI in genuine ODA by 2024, at least 0.55% by the end of the 2027 legislature and 0.7% by 2030. At the same time, stop reporting inflated aid as ODA as other countries are beginning to do.**
- **Strengthen the AECID with a progressive increase in its technical, human and budgetary capacities.**
- **Strengthen Global Citizenship Education as a comprehensive part of the Spanish Cooperation Policy, aimed at promoting critical knowledge, understanding and solidarity with the global dimensions of sustainable development in Spanish society.**
- **Approve a Sixth Cooperation Master Plan aligned with the Law, the 2030 agenda, with a multi-year budgetary framework and maintaining human rights, feminist, environmental and policy coherence approaches.**

* CONCORD refers in this report to the GNI data provided by the OECD. Spain has recently provided an adjusted figure of its 2022 GNI which would slightly modify the final GNI/ODA ratio.