



AUSTRIA

“ Keep going, but boost resources and focus on Austria's role in global crises. ”

Global Responsibility

Main trends

Austria's ODA figures slightly decreased from 0.39% in 2022 to 0.38% in 2023. A welcome diversification of ODA funding occurred in 2023, as in addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other federal ministries, including the Ministry for Climate Action and the Ministry for Agriculture increased their international development assistance.

Humanitarian assistance achieved a record level of EUR 126 million in 2023, including EUR 77.5 million for the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund alone. Nevertheless, recent growth, e.g. an additional EUR 12.5 million per year for the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), has been cancelled out by high inflation. The government has failed to take the necessary measures to increase ODA sustainably above the current European DAC average of 0.47% let alone reach the 0.7% target, despite progress in recent years and corresponding political commitments. On the contrary, spending forecasts show that the welcome increases from the last four years are not likely to be maintained and will probably decline in the future. High in-donor refugee costs and imputed student costs still account for the largest share of bilateral funding in Austria. LDCs only received EUR 72 million in 2023. Moreover, the countries allocated the highest share of Austria's ODA are not actually receiving funding for development projects but are mainly the origin countries linked to imputed student costs and/or in-donor refugee costs. Thus, most ODA is allocated to MICs rather than to LDCs. The rapid increase in non-concessional PSIs contributes to inflating Austria's ODA. Although Austria ranks high in terms of SDG implementation, the negative spillover effects that Austria produce cause adverse effects in MICs and LDCs.

Reported ODA: EUR 1681.7 million
0.38% GNI (↓ from 0.39% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 1232.6 million
0.28% GNI (↑ from 0.26% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 449.1 million
27% of total



Government's relationship with civil society

Austrian Development Cooperation funds some CSO projects. In 2023, the funding to be implemented by national CSOs amounted to 30 million EUR, representing 23% of total ADA bilateral funding. Regarding humanitarian action, funding has become more reliable, and annual funds are earmarked at an early stage, which is commendable. Funds to support CSOs, however, are limited and it is necessary to ensure that the needs of marginalised groups are met through higher amounts of direct assistance. Austria's positive efforts to contribute to gender equality with ODA funds have been achieved primarily through civil society initiatives. Other funding recipients do not have to fulfil gender equality requirements to the same extent and this should be amended. In 2024, Austria presented its second Voluntary National Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, thereby renewing its political commitment to sustainable development. The multi-stakeholder process to collect and share information on SDG implementation in Austria also included CSOs, which is a good example of the solid working relationship between Austrian CSOs and the government.

The Austrian government should:

- **Maintain the level of development funding for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance that was allocated within the last four years and develop a comprehensive (gender and conflict sensitive) strategy to raise overall ODA figures to the promised 0.7% target to ensure people in the Global South are not any further left behind.**



- Stay on track to increase policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) and use the results of the upcoming OECD PCSD Scan of Austria to devise a plan to increase PCSD as a whole-of-government approach.
- Increase bilateral funding for the most marginalised people in the Global South, including doubling efforts and funding for LDCs (to spend at least 0.2% of GNI), strengthening gender equality, inclusion, human rights, CSOs and adapting to the negative consequences of the climate crises in the Global South.
- Continue the implementation of the 2030 Agenda both in Austria and through Austrian international cooperation, and focus on decreasing negative spillover effects affecting countries in the Global South.

Link to press release on the 2023 figures: [Entwicklungshilfeleistungen: Weiterer Handlungsbedarf in Richtung Spitzenfeld | AG Globale Verantwortung](#)