



# FINLAND

**“ Finland: You can't see ahead by looking inwards and backwards. ”**

Fingo

## Main trends

**Huge cuts in ODA:** The current government was formed in 2023 as a coalition of centre-right and populist parties. The political attitude towards development cooperation is a function of the following considerations:

- A) The main political “glue” for the current government is balancing the national budget and reducing the national debt.
- B) The populist-right Finns Party has been openly sceptical of development cooperation, even suggesting its termination. Before the 2023 general elections, the party proposed funding development cooperation only from state budget surpluses, which is unlikely in the near future and would effectively end the programme.
- C) The Finns Party, currently in government, is responsible for development policy, which has not been prioritised in the state budget.

Consequently, the government will cut actual ODA by 25% during this governmental term. The ODA/GNI ratio will drop from 0.52% in 2023 to 0.36% (government's estimation) in 2025.

**Cuts to the support for LDC countries:** Finland has committed to spend 02 % of GNI as ODA for the LDC countries, but no longer declares this amount in the national budget. Policywise, this is complemented with almost no visibility of LDC countries in the Report on International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation (2024).

**The focus on sustainable development diminishes:** the Government Programme makes no reference to sustainable development and the current administration has maintained this stance: it is not a priority in their policies or funding decisions.

Reported ODA: EUR 1387.8 million

**0.52%** GNI (↓ from 0.57% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 1114.6 million

**0.42%** GNI (↑ from 0.39% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 273.2 million

**20%** of total



## Government's relationship with civil society

The relationship with CSO is mixed:

- Positive aspects: the government has clearly expressed that civil society is a focus of Finnish development policy, and Finnish NGOs are key partners for them. This is reflected in the funding as almost every other dimension of the ODA is cut, except support for NGOs.
- Negative aspects:
  - The government has ended two kinds of grants: the support for peace promotion and for global citizenship education. The reasons appear to be ideological, as funding for these grants was available.
  - Many voices in the NGO sector perceive the participation of civil society in policy processes as narrower than before.

## The Finnish government should:

- **Reverse the trends in development funding: by cutting ODA funds, Finland is not perceived as a reliable partner by for developing countries and international institutions and does not play its part in international sustainable development; in addition, it does not seize future commercial and political opportunities**
- **Craft a clear plan for reaching international commitments: 0.7% of ODA/GNI, 0.2% of ODA/GNI for LDCs and 85% of ODA to measures that support gender equality.**
- **Strengthen the support for the most vulnerable people, areas, and countries, including financial contribution to LDCs.**