



# DENMARK

**“ More money for ODA – yet less money for partner countries. ”**

Globalt Fokus

## Main trends

Danish ODA reached a remarkably high level in 2023, for the first time exceeding DKK 20 billion. This is due to compensation for the failure to meet the target of 0.7 % in 2022 and an unpredicted rise in GNI. Yet, the amount of ODA described as “Aid to Developing Countries” fell in 2023. Thus, the higher amount of ODA is not reflected in the allocation of ODA to Low and Middle Income Countries, disregarding the commitment to ‘leave no one behind’.

In 2023, in-donor refugee costs (IDRC) remained a major item in the ODA budget, accounting for 13% of all disbursed ODA. While this was also the case in 2022, the 2024 Finance Act projects a significant reduction in IDRC. The high level of IDRC is related to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine was also the largest external recipient of Danish ODA in 2023.

Danish ODA is increasingly linked to climate mitigation and adaptation. We have seen an increase in ODA linked to climate objectives compared to 2022, which was already an all-time high. None of these funds are new and additional; rather, they derive from budgeted ODA.

Funding for civic space remained a priority, adding a new Digital Democracy Initiative that is co-funded with EU in line with Global Gateway.

The trend of linking ODA to other political priorities is expected to continue, including a more prominent focus on geopolitical interests. This is indicated through increased focus on security, fragility and humanitarian aid to counter migration and increased political attention on collaboration with Africa.

Reported ODA: EUR 2894.3 million

**0.74% GNI** (↑ from 0.67% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 2530.9 million

**0.65% GNI** (↑ from 0.57% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 363.4 million

**13% of total**



## Government’s relationship with civil society

Denmark continues to have a strong tradition of consulting stakeholders, including civil society, in policy processes. This is both at the political level and with relevant government employees. In general, the government invites civil society actors to meetings on relevant political process and international events and there is a good collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and civil society actors.

A recent example of the cooperation has been Denmark’s bid for a seat in the UN Security Council. Civil Society has arranged several meetings with high level participation from the MFA, which served both capacity building and a consultative purpose for civil society. However, the Ministry has not been very inclusive during the development phase of their plans, but instead mainly after plans are finalised. We hope to see strong cooperation throughout 2025-2026 while Denmark has a seat on the UN Security Council.

## The Danish government should:

- Ensure that climate finance is new and additional to the ODA flows and targets of 07% of GNI;
- Ensure enough time for meaningful inclusion of partner organisations during consultations with civil society;
- Continue to ensure that Danish ODA reaches at least the target of 0.7 % of GNI
- Ensure that aid increases are reflected in the amount that reaches countries on the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients.