



GERMANY

“ Large budget cuts: Germany turns its back on international solidarity. ”

VENRO

Main trends

Germany's ODA contributions have been on a steep downward trend since 2022. Despite high inflation and rising needs for international solidarity, the German government plans to scale back expenditure on humanitarian aid and development cooperation to the levels seen in 2019. This policy shift has led to a budget reduction of EUR 1.6 billion for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) from 2022 to 2023. In 2024, the BMZ budget was further cut by EUR 1 billion and is expected to drop significantly again in 2025, stabilising at around EUR 10 billion. Humanitarian aid has also faced severe cuts, with a reduction of approximately EUR 500 million or 20% in both 2023 and 2024 as well as even bigger cuts of up to 50% in 2025.

These budget cuts signal a retreat from Germany's leading role within Europe in assuming global responsibility. The cuts will reduce Germany's ability to respond to crises and to cooperate with international partners. Despite this, Germany remains the second-largest ODA provider due to the high inclusion of domestic costs (such as IDRC) in its ODA calculation. This practice increasingly widens the gap between actual and reported support for poorer countries, diminishing the credibility and relevance of ODA figures. Notably, the nominally high ODA values and the fulfilment of the 0.7% target have been used by leading politicians to justify cuts to the BMZ and humanitarian aid. Concurrently, there has been a troubling populist delegitimation of development cooperation in Germany. There is an acute risk that Germany's ODA contributions will fall below 0.7% in the coming years.

Reported ODA: EUR 31869.6 million
0.79% GNI (↓ from 0.85% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 23290.7 million
0.58% GNI (↓ from 0.66% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 8578.9 million
27% of total



Government's relationship with civil society

In 2023, the German government developed a new strategy for cooperation with civil society, involving input from both German and Global South CSOs. This new strategy, published in May 2024, was largely welcomed by CSOs. It aims to enhance political dialogue with civil society, protect civic space worldwide, support equal participation through feminist development policy, empower actors in the Global South, and simplify existing civil society funding mechanisms.

Despite these positive steps, there is significant concern among CSOs about the reductions in ODA spending. Currently, German ODA funding to and through CSOs remains at around 7%, well below the OECD average of 15%.

The German government should:

- **Make additional financial resources available for development cooperation and humanitarian emergencies to meet rising needs.**
- **Increase civil society funding to the OECD average of 15% of ODA.**
- **Support an overhaul of the ODA reporting rules to better reflect actual support for partner countries and change Germany's own reporting accordingly.**
- **Support an ambitious new climate finance agreement at COP29 and increase climate finance to EUR 8-10 billion annually, while ensuring that this is new and additional funding.**