



# ITALY

**“In whose interest? The Prime Minister’s new African Plan sets ambitious expectations and also raises fundamental questions.”**

CONCORD Italia

## Main trends

Italy’s early figures for 2023 show a significant drop in ODA to 0.27% of GNI, down from 0.33% the previous year. IDRC account for a substantial USD 1.6 billion or 26% of total ODA. Meanwhile, other areas of ODA decreased. For instance, project-based actions have shrunk by nearly 60% compared to the previous year, possibly highlighting the challenges of maintaining a steady supply of new projects. This shortfall cannot be compensated by temporary increases in more volatile components such as refugee costs, debt cancellation, and responses to global crises.

Although imminent aid cuts are not expected, the Government appears less committed to implementing the schedule of increases endorsed by its predecessor. Nevertheless, there is renewed interest, particularly surrounding Italy’s presidency of the G7 and the new Mattei Plan for Africa. This multi-year framework promises to mobilise at least EUR 5 billion for the continent in loans, grants and guarantees with the stated intention of fostering fair and non-paternalistic partnerships with African governments. The Mattei Plan for Africa, introduced in 2023, was discussed with African leaders at an international conference in Rome in January 2024 and submitted to Parliament for consultation in July. The Mattei Plan for Africa is underpinned by a full agenda of international missions by the Prime Minister and other leading development cooperation stakeholders. CSOs have been closely following these developments and note the risk that the Mattei Plan for Africa might turn into an instrument to leverage existing resources in Italy’s own interests with regard to migration and the energy sector.

Reported ODA: EUR 5329.9 million  
**0.27%** GNI (↓ from 0.33% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 3833.3 million  
**0.19%** GNI (↓ from 0.25% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 1492 million  
**28%** of total



## Government’s relationship with civil society

The relationship between development CSOs and key institutions in Italy’s development cooperation is centred around the sector legislation adopted 10 years ago (Law 125/2014). The relationship presents both opportunities and challenges. CSOs have been included in the board (Cabina di Regia) of the new Africa Plan, granting them opportunities to access official documentation and meetings with the Prime Minister, submit comments and review reports. In January, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation launched a new EUR 180 million call for CSO projects. While this opportunity is positive, it has sparked an intense dialogue between the Agency and Italian CSO platforms to address aspects of project implementation, including risk-sharing and results-based management. Over the same period, the search operations conducted by CSOs to rescue migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea have become more challenging due to new regulations and policies which prolong the migrants’ journey to safety, make it harder for migrants and asylum seekers to benefit from protection and impose additional costs on the CSOs’ already limited budgets.

## The Italian government should:

**There has been some progress in addressing the recommendations from last year’s AidWatch report, particularly on funding for CSOs and the development of multi-year plans. However, it remains crucial to advocate for the following:**

- a time-bound plan to close the gap to the 0.7% ODA target by 2030, with steady and programmable resources;



- a round of calls for proposals on global citizenship education;
- the timely finalisation of the multi-year planning process for 2024-2026, including the development of a new national plan on development effectiveness and the implementation of the national plan for policy coherence.