



SLOVAKIA

“ Slovakia's ODA: Stalled Progress, Growing Needs ”

Ambrela - Platform for development Organisations

Main trends

In 2023, Slovakia's ODA remained stagnant at EUR 162 million, reflecting minimal growth compared to the previous year, despite the country's increasing GNI. While multilateral aid channels remained the primary route for ODA, with EUR 127 million allocated, bilateral aid continued to be underfunded, decreasing from EUR 39 million in 2022 to EUR 35 million in 2023.

Slovakia in 2023 did not meet its commitments to increase ODA to 0.33% of GNI and at just 0.14% did not even meet half that target. ODA also remained fragmented, with support to key partner countries Kenya, Moldova and Georgia amounting to only EUR 3.2 million combined.

The continued Russian aggression in Ukraine heavily influenced Slovakia, but despite rhetoric about prioritising humanitarian aid, the actual funding allocated to Ukraine remained low compared to other donors. **With only EUR 11 million in direct humanitarian assistance, Slovakia was placed 32nd in the ranking of humanitarian commitments by GDP.** The New Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation (2024–2030) was expected to present Slovak ODA for the coming years, but due to the autumn elections this process was postponed.

Although the year started with promising negotiations, by year end these turned out to be a missed opportunity to raise bilateral aid at the political level.

The Global Education strategy has still not been finished and its status has been downgraded from mandatory to facultative.

Reported ODA: EUR 148.6 million
0.14% GNI (↓ from 0.15% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 147.1 million
0.13% GNI (↓ from 0.15% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 1.4 million
1% of total



Government's relationship with civil society

In 2023, Slovakia saw some positive developments in the relationship between the government and civil society, particularly through collaborative events such as the Ambrela Development Forum, part of the SlovakAid Development Summit. The forum fostered dialogue between the government, civil society and international organisations, highlighting the importance of cooperation on development and humanitarian issues.

However, despite MFA's recognition of the crucial role of civil society in development cooperation, it has not taken practical steps and decisions to give effect to this approach. This was exacerbated by the summer caretaker government and autumn pre-election paralysis. The new government increased the focus on economic diplomacy at the expense of development cooperation. Towards the end of the year civil society started to experience first animosities from the government partly because they were considered or portrayed as leading critics during the elections.

The Slovak government should:

- **Increase the ODA budget to reach at least 0.33% of GNI by 2030, in line with Slovakia's international commitments.**
- **Play an active role and contribute to the successful reconstruction of neighbouring Ukraine.**
- **Develop and implement rapid response mechanisms for humanitarian aid to improve Slovakia's ability to respond to crises effectively.**
- **Strengthen the participatory approach between the government and civil society to ensure more strategic, predictable and long-term cooperation.**