



SLOVENIA

“ The Broken Promise ”

Sloga

Main trends

In comparison to 2022, despite the challenging global situation, the Slovenian government decided to allocate fewer funds for ODA in 2023.

In 2023 Slovenia's ODA fell from 0.29% in 2022 to 0.24% in 2023 mainly due to unique debt cancellation and limited refugee costs reporting. Despite the significant percentage drop in ODA, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA) adopted several instruments to support more qualitative ODA.

The main areas of bilateral ODA expenditure continue to be student costs and support for migrants, together accounting for more than 60%. LDCs are receiving a smaller proportion of ODA, with most support channelled through multilateral organisations. Slovenia should take note of best practices from certain Eastern European countries, such as Poland, Estonia and Lithuania, that, despite having lower GDP per capita, have allocated a higher percentage of their GNI to ODA in 2023.

Given Slovenia's record high military expenditure in 2023, which is expected to rise further in 2024, the decline in ODA is perplexing. It appears that the issue may be a lack of political will rather than insufficient funds. Without renewed political commitment, ODA may continue to decrease, with priorities shifting to other areas.

If Slovenia is genuinely committed to fostering a more just world, it must match its enthusiasm for international development cooperation with its focus on security. As Slovenia begins its first presidency of the UN Security Council for the 2024-2025 term, the responsibility to fulfil its international development and ODA commitments is even greater. The countries of the Global South, who supported Slovenia's bid, rightfully expect Slovenia to uphold these commitments.

Reported ODA: EUR 137.9 million

0.24% GNI (↓ from 0.29% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 106.4 million

0.19% GNI (↑ from 0.18% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 31.6 million

23% of total



Government's relationship with civil society

The MFEA is making notable progress in building partnerships with CSOs, especially through the NGO platform. In 2023, the MFEA updated the "Guidelines for Cooperation with NGOs in the Area of International Development and Humanitarian Aid" and introduced national "Guidelines for the Inclusion of Gender Equality in International Development and Humanitarian Aid." NGOs were actively consulted in these processes, ensuring their valuable input was integrated. Moreover, NGOs played a significant role in the DAC Peer Review process. Positive strides have been made with strategic partnerships in humanitarian assistance, with increased funding directed towards these efforts. However, more attention is needed in the areas of global education and capacity building for NGOs, where additional support from the MFEA would be beneficial.

While these developments are promising, there is still potential for enhanced involvement of civil society in key government decisions. For example, the government's decision to advance with the construction of a second nuclear power plant has sparked concerns among environmental organisations and many Slovenian citizens, who advocate for more sustainable alternatives in the country's green transition.

The MFEA's initiatives in international development cooperation are commendable, but broader support from other government stakeholders is crucial to fully achieve these goals. Additionally, PCSD has not yet received the attention it deserves, representing a significant area for improvement. This situation presents an opportunity for civil society



to strengthen collaboration with partners and work towards advancing Slovenia's international development and humanitarian efforts.

The Slovenian government should:

- **Increase its ODA in 2024 and reverse the decline seen in 2023. The focus should be on expanding bilateral cooperation, with more funds allocated to international development projects led by Slovenian NGOs, rather than directing most contributions to international or multilateral organisations.**
- **Remove the MFEA requirement for Slovenian NGOs to secure a percentage of their project funding from private companies. This condition is particularly challenging for smaller NGOs. Instead, the MFEA should explore ways to incentivise private companies to collaborate with NGOs in development projects in partner countries.**
- **Prioritise strengthening the capacities of smaller NGOs, recognising them as vital yet vulnerable stakeholders in international development.**
- **Remain committed to the core mission of international development cooperation, i.e. reducing poverty and addressing inequality, regardless of initiatives like the Global Gateway, which prioritise economic interests over these goals.**