

# Austria

Reported ODA: EUR 1683 million  
**0.34 % GNI** (↓ from -9.50% in 2023)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 1337 million  
**0.27 % GNI** (↓ from -0.01% in 2023)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 347 million  
**20.95 %** of total



**“Since Austria will reduce its bilateral aid budget, we need qualitative change to still make an impact.”**

AG Globale Verantwortung – Global Responsibility

## Main trends

Austria's ODA fell to **0.34%** in 2024, from **0.38%** in 2023, which is still far below the longstanding **0.7%** international target and the **0.2%** commitment to LDCs. The reduction in ODA in 2024 is largely due to decreased multilateral funds supporting Ukraine, and lower in-donor refugee costs which continue to inflate ODA figures. **Humanitarian assistance also dropped after record highs in 2023, reversing earlier progress** as funding from the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund (AKF) increased significantly until 2022, but has since been reduced, weakening Austria's reliability as a humanitarian partner.

**Over the past 20 years, Austria's ODA has consistently hovered around half the promised level, rarely exceeding 0.4% of GNI.** The newly adopted Three Year Programme (3YP) on development policy aspires to bring qualitative improvements, but its impact depends on effective implementation and sufficient funding. However, prospects for substantive change are remote: the newly formed government has announced ODA budget cuts by almost one quarter in 2025 and 2026 (compared with 2024 figures).

Key **funding priorities of Austria's ODA remain largely unchanged, driven more by geopolitical and domestic interests than recipient needs**, as shown by the limited presence of LDCs and African countries among the top recipients. While there has been important progress in recent years, such as the adoption of the Humanitarian Aid Strategy and the integration of gender equality in Austrian Development Cooperation, implementation gaps, inconsistent funding, and lack of strategic policy coherence continue to undermine these commitments.

## Government's relationship with civil society

Austria has a **longstanding tradition of supporting CSOs in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance**, anchored in its development cooperation law and implemented primarily through the Austrian Development Agency's (ADA) bilateral funding programmes. However, **overall funding levels for CSOs—both within Austria and for partners abroad—remain comparatively low**. Despite the newly formed government signalling increased political will for development and humanitarian policy, this momentum has reversed in practice: **budget cuts planned for 2025 and 2026 impact bilateral funding** from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ADA, which will directly reduce support for Austrian and local CSOs. These reductions threaten to further shrink Austria's contribution to civil society and restrict the operating space for NGOs, undermining the consistent backing historically offered through its legal and funding frameworks.

## Recommendations

- Halt further budget cuts and prioritise qualitative improvements in ODA by directing more resources toward LDCs, untying aid, and focusing funding on initiatives that improve gender equality, promote social inclusion and address structural inequalities in the Global South, for instance, through debt relief initiatives. **This shift is essential as ODA levels are projected to decline further, and only qualitative changes can deliver meaningful impact.**
- **Increase support for CSOs, both within Austria and through partnerships with local organisations in the Global South**, to counteract shrinking civic space and ensure that development cooperation remains effective and inclusive even in times of fiscal constraint; targeted funding for CSOs will enhance local ownership and resilience in partner countries. **Specifically, increase direct support to local and international women's organisations to strengthen their role in empowerment, combat gender-based violence and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights.**
- Adopt an implementation plan for its Humanitarian Aid Strategy, with clear indicators, dedicated budget headings, early action triggers, and inclusive governance, **while institutionalising the humanitarian–development–peace nexus** and ensuring long-term, needs-based funding aligned with human rights and international solidarity commitments.
- **Back up Austria's commitment to human rights issues, such as gender equality, children's rights, food security, and climate justice, by adequate resources, institutional mechanisms, and long-term political will.** The promotion of agroecology, disability rights, and the rights of local farmers and indigenous peoples should be integrated into strategies, with clear indicators and inclusive processes.