

# Finland

Reported ODA: EUR 1302 million  
**0.47 % GNI** (↓ from -12.90% in 2023)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 1025 million  
**0.37 % GNI** (↓ from -0.05% in 2023)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 277 million  
**22.3 % of total**



## “A once-reliable ODA partner drifted into a cutting spree”

Finnish Development NGOs Fingo

### Main trends

**Huge cuts in ODA.** The current government was formed in 2023 by the coalition of centre-right and populist parties. The political attitude towards development cooperation is characterised by:

- The main political “glue” for the current government is balancing the national budget and cutting the national debt.
- The populist-right party, the Finns Party, has been actively suspicious towards development cooperation and suggests ending it.
- The Finns Party is responsible for development policy as well as for the state budget.
- Development policy is not a priority of any party in the current government.

This has resulted in ODA cuts of around 25% during the current governmental term. The ODA/GNI ratio is going to drop to below 0.36% (government estimation) in 2025. In comparison, the ODA/GNI ratio in 2023 was 0.52%. The result is a reduction in the support to LDCs. Finland is, in theory, committed to the amount of 0.2 %<sup>171</sup> of GNI to ODA for the LDC countries, but no longer declares this amount in the national budget. In policy wise, this translates into an almost total lack of LDC visibility in the Report on International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation (2024). **Another consequence is the deprioritisation of sustainable development.** There are no mentions of sustainable development in the Governmental Programme and the government is consistent on this: sustainable development is not a central theme in the funding and policies.

<sup>171</sup> Officially the commitment is to the 0.15%-0.2% range. Before the current governmental term, the 0.2% ratio was used as a reference in Finland.

## Government's relationship with civil society

The relationship between the Finnish government and civil society is mixed.

### On the positive side:

- **The government has declared that civil society is a focus for Finnish development policy and that Finnish NGOs are a key partner for the government.** This is seen in funding as almost every other dimension of the ODA has cut, but support for most NGOs has not.
- **Fingo was invited by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to participate in the OECD DAC peer review process as an observer.** Fingo's participation was an example of good relations with the civil society and Fingo was able to contribute fully by submitting a report and other materials, and by being present in the whole process. In the end Fingo was thanked by many official members in the peer review team for providing essential information and being a valuable asset to the process. ([OECD Development Cooperation Peer Reviews FINLAND 2024](#)).

### On the negative side:

- **The government ended two kinds of grants:** the support for peace promotion, and support for global citizenship education. The reasons seem to be ideological because there could have been money for these grants.
- **Many in the NGO sector perceive the participation of civil society in policy processes as more limited than before.** Fingo, as a part of the OECD DAC peer review process, found that the opportunities for participation have been reduced under the current government.

## Recommendations

- **Change direction for development funding:** by cutting ODA, Finland is not a reliable partner for developing countries and international institutions and does not play its part in international sustainable development.
- **Craft a clear plan for reaching international commitments:** 0.7% of ODA/GNI, 0.2% of ODA/GNI for LDC countries and 85% of ODA to measures that support gender equality.
- **Strengthen the support for the most marginalised people, areas, and countries,** including financial contribution to LDCs.
- **Continue to partner with diverse civil society actors,** maintain commitments to transparency and CSO policy participation and adequately fund development communications and awareness work to maintain high public support for development cooperation.