

France

Reported ODA: EUR 14272 million
0.48 % GNI (↓ from -0.02% in 2023)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 10407 million
0.35 % GNI (↓ from -0.04% in 2023)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 3865 million
27.29 % of total



“Big Promises, Little Action: France is walking back on its engagement for ODA”

Coordination SUD

Main trends

In France, ODA is characterised by a high share of loans (21% in 2024). Recent years have seen a surge of private sector instruments and a slight reduction of in-donor refugee costs. However, ODA directed to LDCs has yet to reach anticipated levels, remaining below 20% of bilateral aid.

From the 2000s until 2017, France's ODA remained relatively stagnant. This changed when the government promoted international solidarity as a strategic priority, resulting in a 60% increase in total ODA between 2016 and 2022. In 2021, the French Parliament passed a national programming law that set financial targets, reaffirmed the 0.7% GNI target and defined key policy and geographic priorities¹⁷².

In recent years, France stepped up its support for high-priority policies, endorsing ministerial strategies on humanitarian action, civil society engagement, youth initiatives and human rights. ODA allocated to and through CSOs tripled between 2016 and 2023. Since 2009, the French Development Agency (AFD) has also backed CSOs' right to initiative via a dedicated, flexible funding mechanism. In 2019, France launched a feminist foreign policy and established a fund to support grassroots feminist organisations. **Despite these strong commitments, France reversed course starting in 2024, initiating significant cuts to its ODA budget: EUR 742 million in 2024, followed by EUR 2.3 billion in 2025. As a result, total ODA as a share of GNI dropped from 0.56% in 2022 to 0.48% in 2024. An additional cut of EUR 700 million is projected for 2026, effectively reducing the ODA budget to below the 2017 level.**

¹⁷² For further insights see [Assessment of the application of the French law on ODA \(2021-2024\)](#). Coordination SUD, February 2025 (French only) and [Poverty, climate and inequalities: How to implement the programming law for international solidarity](#). Coordination SUD, July 2024 (French only).

A substantial portion of ODA (7.7% in 2024) continues to be allocated to in-donor refugee costs. Meanwhile, **the government's growing emphasis on domestic priorities, including economic, security and diplomatic interests, has raised concerns about the potential instrumentalisation of ODA.**

Government's relationship with civil society

Over the past two decades, the French Government's relationship with civil society has significantly improved, driven by greater recognition of CSO's important roles. This recognition is now embedded in legislation and a dedicated ministerial strategy. The government has also established support mechanisms and increased funding to and through CSOs between 2017 and 2023. France acknowledges CSO's right to take independent initiatives, supporting this through a dedicated funding instrument managed by the AFD. This relationship has enabled CSOs to contribute meaningfully to policymaking and national strategies—such as the ministerial strategy on civil society and the feminist foreign policy.

Despite progress, new regulations have tightened state control over CSOs, notably through mandatory compliance with broad and ambiguously defined "republican principles," as well as the disproportionate application of Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) rules, imposing a mandatory screening of beneficiaries. Finally, **the instrumentalisation of aid reached a peak in 2022 and 2023, when France suspended ODA to Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.** This decision had severe repercussions for affected communities and significantly disrupted CSO operations in the region.

Recommendations

Since the last AidWatch report, France has reduced its ODA and has ceased referencing the 0.7% target in its public communications. Additionally, the risk of aid instrumentalisation is growing, driven by increasing pressure on ODA and a shift in government priorities toward domestic concerns. In this context, we are asking French officials to:

- **Stop the attacks on the ODA budget and uphold existing commitments.** After two consecutive years of cuts, it is urgent to put the ODA budget back on an upward trajectory. This increase could be largely financed through revenues from existing solidarity taxes. Ultimately, France must meet its legally binding target of allocating 0.7% of GNI to ODA, while also improving the quality of its aid by increasing support to LDCs, social services, civil society, and human rights—including gender equality.
- **Prioritise grants for development and humanitarian action.** Development and humanitarian grants fund critical areas such as conflict preparedness and response, human rights and inequalities reduction, including through support for CSO-led initiatives. In the face of growing global challenges, these actions are essential and must remain a top priority.
- **Secure sustainable financing through solidarity taxes.** Until 2024, development cooperation was partially funded through solidarity taxes—specifically, the airline ticket tax and the financial transaction tax. This contribution should be restored through new legislation, backed by a cross-party proposal. It is essential to earmark these revenues for solidarity efforts, in the name of fiscal responsibility and social justice. In 2025, the French Government launched a new international coalition of the willing with other countries to use aviation tax to fund climate and development action.