

Lithuania



Reported ODA: EUR 178 million
0.24 % GNI (↓ from -12.90% in 2023)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 163 million
0.22 % GNI (↓ from -0.02% in 2023)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 15 million
7.35 % of total

“Lithuania leads Ukraine's reconstruction with growing international cooperation”

Lithuanian NGDO Platform

Main trends

In 2024, Lithuania's ODA, which includes government-funded aid and humanitarian assistance to developing countries, reached EUR 179 million, or 0.24% of GNI. This is a decrease from the peak of EUR 231.31 million (0.36% of GNI) achieved in 2022. The main reason for the decrease was a reduction in expenses for refugees, which are counted as ODA only during their first year in the host country. In 2024, Lithuania allocated EUR 85 million to bilateral aid and EUR 94 million to multilateral aid. The largest recipient of Lithuania's bilateral assistance was Ukraine, which received EUR 52.15 million. A total of EUR 22.56 million from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' budget was allocated for development cooperation activities.

Bilateral Cooperation and Key Projects

In 2024, Lithuania launched 47 new bilateral projects and continued 21 previously initiated ones. These projects were implemented through the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme and the Fund. The Fund allocated EUR 16.2 million to 22 projects, with EUR 15.2 million dedicated to reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. It also approved **Guidelines for Lithuania's Engagement in Ukraine's Reconstruction and Recovery 2024–2027**, signalling sustained Ukraine-focused programming. Other countries receiving funding included Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Palestine and Kenya. Lithuania also supported Belarusian civil society and continued its national co-financing for the European Commission's EU4Youth programme.

Over the past two decades, Lithuania has established itself as a donor country; however, achievement of the longstanding commitment to allocate 0.33% of GNI to development cooperation by 2030 remains unlikely, and substantive global development education and effective NGDO engagement are constrained by insufficient funding. Development cooperation policy continues to receive minimal political, media and public attention, with limited parliamentary oversight and negligible visibility in national reporting.

Government's relationship with civil society

The government maintains a formally structured and increasingly strategic relationship with CSOs. The Lithuanian NGDO Platform plays a central role in coordinating and guiding civil society actors engaged in development cooperation. This includes working with the MFA on the annual Development Cooperation Conference and facilitating dialogue on development cooperation with newly elected members of Parliament. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour continues to support the Lithuanian NGDO Platform with the Network on Humanitarian Action, in partnership with Vilnius University, to implement annual humanitarian training to strengthen CSO capacity. CSOs are also represented in consultative bodies, including the Inter-institutional Commission on Development Cooperation, the Lithuanian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Foundation council, the NGO council, etc.

Despite progress, NGOs face challenges such as complex administrative requirements, a lack of co-funding for nationally funded projects and financial mechanisms to guarantee cash flow for internationally funded projects, struggles to find reliable partners in partner countries, and competition for limited funding from both NGOs and public institutions. Streamlined procedures and enhanced collaboration are essential to strengthen their role in development cooperation.

Recommendations

- **All national departments engaged in development cooperation should submit information on their programmes for inclusion in a comprehensive development cooperation report**, extending beyond the VBPD programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report should also reflect the role and contributions of NGDOs in national development cooperation efforts.
- **Given the urgent humanitarian needs, consideration should be given to reallocating funds from costly infrastructure works to priority “soft” sectors addressing immediate human welfare.** Indeed, reconstruction projects in Ukraine currently focus predominantly on infrastructure, which remains vulnerable to destruction as the conflict enters its third year, while human suffering, loss of life and threats to civilian safety persist at an unprecedented scale.
- **Capacity building:** Invest in training for NGDOs on fundraising, advocacy, and international partnership building and ensure cross-sectoral networking opportunities.
- **Ringfence funds for global education and NGDOs:** Allocate a minimum percentage of funds to support civil society-led projects and development education, which are currently underfunded.