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“ Encouraging news, but more effort is needed ”

By Global Responsibility

Main trends in 2022

At the beginning of its legislative period, the current government adopted the civil society recommendation to provide the Austrian Foreign Disaster Relief Fund with EUR 50 million and to increase it by EUR 2.5 million annually to a total of EUR 60 million. In 2022, as a result of the war against Ukraine, it earmarked a record EUR 105 million for the fund. Considering the higher amounts spent on humanitarian assistance in 2022 and for in-donor refugee costs, ODA figures rose to 0.39%. Although the one-time increase is commendable, we recommend allocating the planned funds to protracted crises in other regions.

Government's relationship with civil society

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) finances some Austrian and international CSO activities through a separate budget heading. In 2022, funding for projects by Austrian and international CSOs increased slightly to EUR 48 million, which represents 42% of ADA's total bilateral project funding. The relationship with governmental stakeholders is quite good. One positive example is the “Umsetzungspartnerschaft”, or “implementation partnership”, in which civil society is working together with Academia and the Foreign Affairs ministry on a policy paper on food security.

Reported ODA: EUR 1689 million

0.39% GNI (↑ from 0.31% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 1222 million

0.28% GNI (↑ from 0.26% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 467 million

27.6% of total



The Austrian government should:

- Prepare a comprehensive strategy to ensure that enough development funding is allocated to people in the Global South who are suffering from multiple crises.
- Increase bilateral funding for development cooperation to:
 - ensure that LDCs, priority countries, as well as the poorest and most marginalised people in need, receive enough help to eradicate poverty;
 - reduce social and economic inequalities;
 - improve gender equality and human rights;
 - support civil society organisations and
 - adapt to the negative consequences of the climate crisis (spend 0.2% of GNI for LDCs).
- Draw up a comprehensive government-wide strategy, including concrete steps to improve policy coherence for sustainable development and to raise ODA figures to the promised 0.7% target.
- Accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and through Austria, by achieving all the steps outlined in the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) from 2020 and drafting a detailed VNR 2024 to include spillover effects; introduce SDG checks, SDG mainstreaming and SDG reporting.