



PORTUGAL

“ Another year of stagnation highlights the urgency of boosting Portuguese ODA. ”

ONGD - Plataforma Portuguesa

Main trends

After surpassing the 0.2% GNI threshold for the first time in a decade, Portuguese ODA again decreased in 2023. The commitment enshrined in the Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030 (ECP 2030), adopted in late 2022, to “sustainably increase Portuguese net ODA” was not enough to reverse a long cycle of stagnation. In 2023, Portuguese ODA stood at 0.19% of GNI, an 8.5% decrease from the previous year. According to the OECD, this was due to a decrease in IDRC. As CONCORD has been advocating, this portion of ODA inflates the overall figures and should not be counted, as it does not directly contribute to the sustainable development of partner countries. Portugal therefore needs to make sure that the necessary increase in ODA rests on additional funding to areas that positively impact sustainable development. Despite the overall decrease in ODA, the budget of Camões IP (Portugal’s development agency) increased for the second consecutive year. Plataforma expects that Camões IP’s budget will be further increased in the coming years. It is also expected that over the coming months there will be decisions about several processes postponed due to March’s snap election, especially the Implementation and Monitoring Plan of the ECP 2030, the National Strategy for Development Education and its Action Plan, as well as the National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030.

Government's relationship with civil society

After the significant increase in funding for NGO projects in 2023, the budget for 2024 kept similar levels. However, there is still room to improve the support mechanisms for NGO work, and Plataforma expects that Camões IP will remain committed to engaging in meaningful dialogue aimed at addressing civil society concerns.

Reported ODA: EUR 454.2 million
0.19% GNI (↓ from 0.21% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 438.6 million
0.18% GNI (↓ from 0.20% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 15.6 million
3% of total



Furthermore, following Camões IP’s leadership change without consultation, dialogue with civil society on Portugal’s development priorities needs improvement, considering the important role of Portuguese NGOs in implementing ECP 2030. The Development Cooperation Forum is a consultation body that plays a key role in ensuring proper coordination among public institutions and the wide set of stakeholders (especially NGOs) that contribute to the goals of Portugal’s development policies. To contribute to the Forum’s regulatory reform, Plataforma has called for strengthening its role to ensure effective functioning.

The Portuguese government should:

- **Swiftly produce a timeline for the gradual increase of ODA, as outlined in the Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030.**
- **Promptly resume the processes postponed due to March’s snap election and incorporate inputs from Civil Society.**
- **Strengthen support for the activities of Portuguese NGOs through the gradual increase of Camões IP’s budget.**
- **Should consistently and systematically consult civil society on policy priorities, especially through the Development Cooperation Forum.**