

0.26% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.31% TOTAL AID/GNI

AUSTRIA



Looking at crises worldwide shows that the pandemic has not only negatively impacted development partnerships, but also frequently inflamed international crises and conflicts. We need to provide help in those places where help is most urgently needed,”

Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg,
7 October 2021

MAIN CHANGES IN 2021

Austria's Official Development Assistance (ODA) figures increased only slightly from 0.30% in 2020 to 0.31% in 2021. This minimal rise shows that, despite repeated political commitment, Austria still lags behind in achieving the 0.7% target. Considering the needs caused by multiple crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, rising extreme poverty, and the climate crises, Austria still needs to substantially step up funding.

The 2021 funding uplift was allocated to increased humanitarian assistance, the COVID-19 pandemic response, and in-donor refugee costs that almost doubled from 2.4% to 4.3% (total ODA). The government doubled the amount for humanitarian assistance from EUR 50 million 2020 to EUR 97 million in 2021. Funding to counteract the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic increased to EUR 53 million. Funding for the LDCs rose to EUR 70 million, representing only 5.7% of total ODA. Although Sub-Saharan Africa is a priority for Austria's development cooperation, only EUR 78 million, representing 6.3%, have been allocated to support this region. Instead, the government still allocates most of its ODA to middle-income countries (MICs), and thus Austrian ODA does not reach those left furthest behind.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN DISASTER FUND (FDF) AND HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY



The government increased the Austrian FDF, as part of the Austrian Development Agency's (ADA) humanitarian assistance, from EUR 50 million to EUR 67.6 million in 2021, which included a one-off allocation of EUR 15 million for Afghanistan. Funds were allocated according to a plan drawn up with the participation of Austrian civil society organisations. A special representative for humanitarian assistance was appointed and consulted to develop a strategy for Austria's humanitarian assistance. This was a recommendation made by the 2020 OECD peer review of Austria.

RELATIONSHIP WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

The ADA finances some Austrian and international civil society organisations' activities through a separate budget line. In 2021 funds to finance projects implemented by national as well as international civil society organisations (CSO) remained stable at around EUR 42 million, which represents 35% of ADA's total bilateral project funding. Funds to support CSOs, however, are limited and data for 2021 is not yet available. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Austrian CSOs adapted their programmes to COVID-related project activities. This required some administrative effort, but proved to be an example of the effective partnership between ADA and Austrian CSOs. However, greater support to Austrian and international CSOs would be welcome.

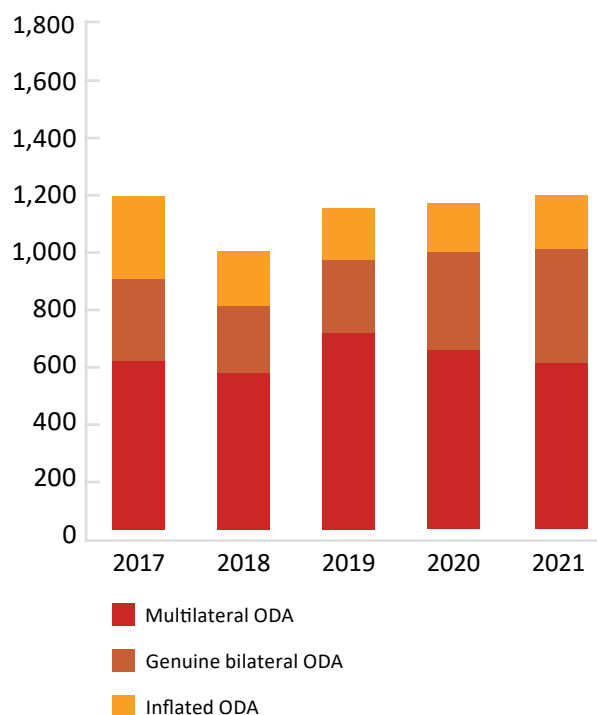
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2022 AND BEYOND

The budget for the Austrian FDF has been increased by EUR 2.5 million and a one-off allocation of EUR 42 million in 2022 to Ukraine and neighbouring countries has been pledged. Although this increase is welcome, allocating the rest of the planned funds to protracted crises in other regions still remains essential. Considering the higher amounts spent on humanitarian assistance in 2022, it is likely that ODA figures will rise slightly, but still not enough to reach the 0.7% target. It is also expected that in-donor refugee costs will increase aid inflation. Although government projections of ODA figures in 2022 include considerable debt relief for Sudan, which would increase ODA to above the 0.7% target, it is highly unlikely that this will take place. If it does, however, it would be a one-time measure and not a sustainable increase in ODA.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

- Ensure enough development funding (through a comprehensive strategy) is allocated to people in the Global South who are suffering from the negative consequences of multiple crises.
- Increase bilateral funding for development cooperation to ensure that LDCs, priority countries as well as the poorest and most marginalised people get enough support to eradicate poverty, reduce social and economic inequalities, strengthen gender equality, human rights and support civil society organisations.
- Draw up a comprehensive whole-of-government approach strategy, including practical steps to increase policy coherence for sustainable development, and to raise ODA figures to the promised 0.7% target.
- Accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in and through Austria, by performing the steps outlined in the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) from 2020, including the introduction of SDG checks, SDG budgeting, and SDG reporting, and plans for a new VNR in 2024.

AUSTRIA – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA (€ million, constant 2020)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA to LDCs	%GNI	% ODA
2017	276.92	0.07	23.33
2018	269.75	0.07	27.22
2019	290.32	0.07	25.44
2020	268.20	0.07	23.13

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral (gross)	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2017	573.6	560.4	13.1	2.3
2018	418.1	404.0	14.1	3.4
2019	421.8	409.5	12.2	2.9
2020	498.6	415.2	83.4	16.7

ODA TO CLIMATE FINANCE (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA for mitigation	ODA for adaptation	Total climate finance	Adaptation finance as % of climate finance	Climate finance as % of ODA
2017	30.1	16.9	47.0	36.0	4.0
2018	24.7	14.2	38.9	36.5	3.9
2019	26.9	25.7	52.6	48.9	4.6
2020	76.2	23.0	99.2	23.2	8.6

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral allocable	Total screened	Not screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2017	266.0	241.2	24.8	137.9	94.6	8.7	39.2	3.6
2018	213.6	202.9	10.6	108.5	84.3	10.1	41.6	5.0
2019	238.5	231.3	7.2	106.1	105.2	20.0	45.5	8.6
2020	307.3	306.9	0.4	200.7	91.0	15.2	29.6	5.0

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2020)

	Non-CSO	CSO Earmarked	CSO Core funding	Total bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Total bilateral CSO support (% ODA)	Core bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Core bilateral CSO support (% ODA)
2017	504.2	64.1	1.3	11.5	5.5	0.2	0.1
2018	363.9	45.7	0.9	11.4	4.7	0.2	0.1
2019	354.4	57.2	1.3	14.2	5.1	0.3	0.1
2020	433.6	58.1	0.9	12.0	5.1	0.2	0.1