

# AUSTRIA\*



0.26% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.29% TOTAL AID/GNI



*“The aim of Austrian Development Cooperation is to alleviate hunger and poverty and create prospects for people in their respective regions. By making a lasting improvement to living conditions we are making an important contribution to creating a future for the people on the ground and minimising their reasons for fleeing.”*

– Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Schallenberg  
(on 15 December 2020)<sup>1</sup>

## MAIN CHANGES IN 2020

With the new government programme (January 2020), the newly elected coalition made some of its promised improvements to Austria's development cooperation. The Foreign Disaster Relief Fund was expanded from €15 million in 2019 to €50m in 2020, and it was announced that by 2025 it would be further increased to €60m. The bilateral funds for the Austrian Development Agency were also augmented, by €12m, and now represent 10% of total ODA. Still, these additional funds marked no real change in the ODA quota, as Austria spent 0.29% of GNI on ODA in 2020 – only a marginal increase from 0.28% in 2019. Austria is still far from reaching the target of 0.7% ODA/GNI. In 2020, 60% of its ODA (€646 million) was allocated to multilateral cooperation, while 40% (€481 million) was spent on bilateral cooperation.

The poorest countries, including those in Africa, which needed additional funds for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic consequences, generally saw their funding minimally increased, or even cut. A marginal 4% of total ODA (€43 million) was allocated to LDCs, representing a drop from 5% in 2019: we consider that this should be reversed in the future.

According to official OECD DAC statistics, Austria reported only €25 million on COVID-19 pandemic relief, although the government announced increased spending in 2021 on vaccine programmes for third countries.

## TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

Austria can be commended for tripling its humanitarian aid funds in 2020 and its plan to allocate a further €2.5m to the Austrian Foreign Disaster Relief Fund in 2021. The government showed further commitment by nominating a special representative for humanitarian aid, and it is developing a humanitarian strategy. The funds for the Austrian Development Agency will also be increased, by around €11m in both 2021 and 2022.

### CASE STUDY BOX: THE FIRST VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA



In 2020, Austria presented the UN with its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We commend the multi-stakeholder approach, especially the participation by civil society, in developing and presenting the report. The VNR indicated that Austria had made some progress in its implementation, although many SDGs still need more attention at national level. Following the VNR process, the government gave some political commitments on the 2030 agenda implementation: stakeholders would be included (academia, the private sector and civil society); the VNR would be discussed in parliament; and a new inter-ministerial steering group would be established for implementing the SDGs. Still more needs to be done to reach the SDGs and to ensuring no one is left behind in the future.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

- Allocate additional bilateral funding for COVID-19 pandemic relief, for strengthening health systems and services and for allocating vaccines to the worst-affected countries in the Global South.
- Implement the OECD DAC Peer Review recommendations and introduce an overall strategy for Austria's development cooperation, a step-by-step plan for achieving the 0.7% ODA/GNI target and a strategy for policy coherence for sustainable development.

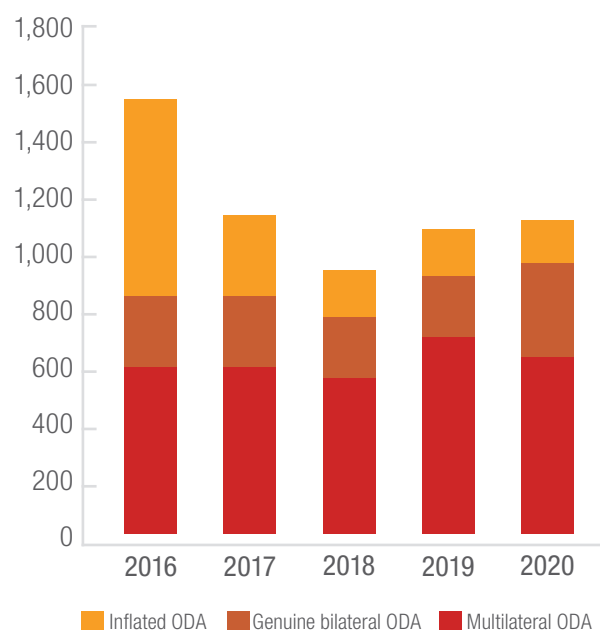
\* ODA amounts featured in this section for Austria have been directly sourced by national platforms from the official OECD sources reported by the national ministries of foreign affairs.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/the-ministry/press/news/2020/12/exceptional-year-2020-austria-helps-meet-global-challenges/>.

- Increase bilateral funding for the poorest and most marginalised people, mainly in LDCs and sub-Saharan Africa, to eradicate poverty, reduce social and economic inequalities, strengthen gender equality and support civil society organisations in partner countries.
- Continue the efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in Austria, including by introducing SDG budgeting and checks to ensure the SDGs are properly addressed in new national laws.
- Ensure the predictable financing and planning of bilateral ODA for long- and short-term relief. Specifically, address long- and short-term plannability and protracted crises in humanitarian assistance.

### AUSTRIA – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA

(€ million, constant 2019)



### ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2019)

LDC	ODA to LDCs	ODA to LDCs (% GNI)	ODA to LDCs (% total ODA)
2016	221.06	0.06	14.16
2017	265.92	0.07	23.33
2018	259.29	0.07	27.18
2019	278.83	0.07	25.44

### ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	0.021	0.002	0.001
2017	0.000	0.000	0.000
2018	0.253	0.064	0.026
2019	0.100	0.025	0.009

### AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	947.42	941.81	5.61	0.59
2017	550.77	538.16	12.61	2.29
2018	401.94	388.37	13.57	3.38
2019	405.06	393.30	11.76	2.90

### ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Gender focus	Bi allocable	Total Screened	Not Screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2016	227.56	205.09	22.46	118.32	81.02	5.75	39.51	2.80
2017	255.46	231.65	23.81	132.40	90.86	8.39	39.22	3.62
2018	205.28	195.06	10.22	104.26	81.06	9.74	41.56	4.99
2019	229.10	222.15	6.95	101.92	101.01	19.21	45.47	8.65

### ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2019)

CSO support	Non-CSO	Donor-CSO-Earmarked	International-CSO-Earmarked	Recipient-CSO-Earmarked	Donor-CSO-Core	International-CSO-Core	Recipient-CSO-Core	Total bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Total bilateral CSO support, % total ODA	Core bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Core bilateral CSO support, % total ODA
2016	897.09	35.98	4.57	2.67	0.43	0.63	0.00	4.70	2.84	0.11	0.07
2017	481.06	40.32	19.64	4.70	0.60	0.62	0.00	12.05	5.78	0.22	0.11
2018	347.35	29.15	13.60	3.59	0.32	0.58	0.00	11.97	4.95	0.23	0.09
2019	338.34	41.02	11.94	3.93	0.66	0.61	0.00	14.67	5.31	0.32	0.12