

0.14% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.19% TOTAL AID/GNI

SLOVENIA



In sub-Saharan Africa, around 400 million people are subject to bad conditions, and above all to increasingly serious terrorism threats. These people will look for a better life in Europe and Europe will have to decide whether to build a wall on the Mediterranean or go to those countries and help establish better conditions.”

Janez Janša,
former Slovenian prime minister, 5 July 2021¹

MAIN CHANGES IN 2021

The preliminary numbers for 2021 show an increase of Slovenia's ODA to EUR 91 million in real terms from 2020, representing 0.19% of Slovenian GNI. In 2021 bilateral aid increased to almost 40 % of total ODA in 2021, in line with civil society's long standing recommendation to increase bilateral ODA to at least half of total ODA. However, as the Ministry of foreign affairs has acknowledged, the increase in both total and bilateral ODA is mainly due to the increase in bilateral grants, including vaccine donations and contributions to multilateral organisations.

In 2021, we witnessed an increase in humanitarian efforts of the Slovenian government. Planned new financial resources for supporting civil society development cooperation with their partner organisations have been redirected towards humanitarian donations, causing an important shift toward addressing basic needs with higher immediate effect but much weaker long term effect on poverty alleviation, which is the overall purpose of the ODA. CSOs caution that the government is lacking a long-term action plan for international development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

During the Slovenian presidency the government was theoretically promoting the interest of partner countries. Unfortunately, the Slovenian government has failed to respond to all the recommendations from last year's AidWatch report.



CASE STUDY

The Directorate for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid was established in 2010-2011 and disbanded overnight in 2015. Although it is not a unique practice and having demonstrated its shortcomings such as weak interlinkages between the strategic and implementation levels, Slovenian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid has not received sufficient attention from the government. CSOs are therefore cautiously optimistic about the promised reestablishment of the Directorate.

THE GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CSOS

In 2021 the government continued to limit its engagement with the CSOs. Although a call for interest to join an expert council to the Minister of Foreign Affairs was sent to two NGOs, the council was never called to meet. In 2021 the Ministry also published its annual call for co-financing of international projects for NGOs. Instead of fully financing the NGOs own contribution, which is a proven method of supporting Slovenian NGOs to apply for European funds, the call was limited to financing a maximum of 90 % of the NGO's own contribution. The remaining 10 % was to be financed by private donations or market activities. Both sources are extremely limited or even nonexistent for most development NGOs or marked as dedicated funds by humanitarian NGOs. At the same time, officially announced calls for advocacy, capacity building and global education projects were never published, directly impacting the NGOs' capacities for national advocacy and awareness raising work in the sector.

¹ Source: <https://www.rtvsllo.si/slovenija/jansa-ce-do-konca-poletja-ne-bo-70-odstotne-precepljenosti-bo-jeseni-vse-zaprto/586605>

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2022 AND BEYOND

In May 2022 a new Government was elected. Projections made by the new foreign minister were positive for development cooperation, global education and humanitarian aid. The minister highlighted her openness to dialogue with civil society movements and initiatives, the need to address conditions and financing of NGOs, the need to reestablish the General Directorate for Development Assistance and the potential future establishment of an agency to address the commitment to gradually increase funds for development and humanitarian aid, as well as the need to pay more attention to strengthening global learning and active citizen awareness of interconnectedness and global interdependence.

The 2022 Eurobarometer on EU citizens and international partnership indicates that the fight against poverty in the partner countries should be one of the main priorities of the national government (52% in Slovenia compared to the EU average of 67%). Still, this represents an increase of five percentage points compared to 2020.

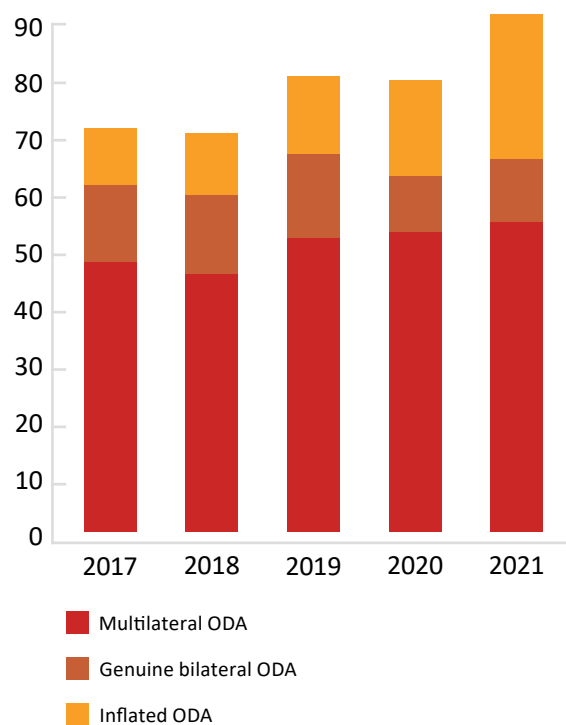
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SLOVENIAN GOVERNMENT

- Ensure an adequate organisational structure of governmental bodies for quality ODA implementation, including by immediately strengthening the MFA's working structures to be better equipped with supporting and coordinating facilities among different global development stakeholders.
- Continue to scale up ODA to achieve the 0.33% target and the 0.2% target to LDCs, limiting the trend of increasing inflated aid, and extending bilateral ODA to at least half of total ODA, thus increasing the share of priority-targeted and monitored aid.
- Slovenia should strengthen financial support to NGOs, including by reestablishing its support for small NGDO programmes in advocacy, capacitybuilding, awareness-raising and Global Citizenship Education. The national NGDO platform should receive core support, in accordance with the 2018 Non-Governmental Organisations Act. These actions would significantly contribute to strengthened public support for development

and humanitarian policies, the latter needed for Slovenia to fulfil its ODA commitment.

- Adopt the Guidelines for Inclusion of Gender Equality and Environmental Protection into International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia. It should also develop guidelines for private sector engagement in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid to ensure full compliance with standards and principles. Both guidelines for institutional setup shall be supported by establishing a permanent, open, inclusive and participatory policy coherence for sustainable development assessment mechanisms, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

SLOVENIA – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA (€ million, constant 2019)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA to LDCs	%GNI	% ODA
2017	13.55	0.03	18.88
2018	9.06	0.02	12.82
2019	9.77	0.02	12.09
2020	10.60	0.02	13.31

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral (gross)	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2017	23.6	23.6	0.0	0.0
2018	24.8	24.8	0.0	0.0
2019	28.6	28.6	0.0	0.0
2020	27.3	27.3	0.0	0.0

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	0.4	0.3	0.7	46.0	0.9
2018	1.6	1.5	3.1	48.4	4.3
2019	1.7	1.0	2.7	37.5	3.3
2020	0.5	0.0	0.5	3.6	0.6

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

	Bilateral allocable	Total screened	Not screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2017	10.7	4.5	6.2	2.9	1.3	0.3	29.7	6.3
2018	10.4	5.7	4.8	2.8	2.5	0.4	43.5	6.8
2019	11.6	7.2	4.4	4.0	2.6	0.6	35.9	8.6
2020	8.0	5.8	2.2	3.1	2.1	0.7	35.4	11.9

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	21.7	1.4	0.5	8.1	2.7	2.2	0.7
2018	23.0	1.5	0.4	7.4	2.6	1.4	0.5
2019	26.4	1.9	0.3	7.9	2.8	1.2	0.4
2020	24.3	1.6	0.5	8.2	2.7	2.0	0.7