



FRANCE

“ A pivotal year on the road to stagnation ”

By Coordination SUD

Main trends

In 2022, the country allocated 0.56% of its GNI to ODA in line with the 2021 programming law. France became the fourth largest donor in terms of absolute value but slipped to tenth place in terms of share of national income. Moreover, France is one of the world's top lending countries, which has an impact on the priorities: most of its ODA does not finance LDCs or basic social services, contrary to the objectives of the 2021 law. France is struggling to target geographical areas other than middle-income countries and large projects with high capital potential. As a result of the unbalanced use of loans and the rise of global interest rates owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, 2022 might be the last year with increasing budgets. Responding to a major shift in the political appreciation of international solidarity policy among politicians in France, the Government plans to keep the allocation of ODA in 2023.

Paradoxically, France wants to maintain a major role in the international development funding architecture by announcing the organisation of the Paris Summit for a new global financial pact, bypassing discussions within international organisations. The government now focuses on new narratives around localising aid, balancing power dynamics, investment and greater involvement of the private sector as funders and actors of development. However, this shift raises questions about the future of ODA, the 0.7% GNI/ODA target, and the role of CSOs in this changing landscape.

Government's relationship with civil society

The 2021 legal framework details the partnership modalities with civil society organisations, recognising their role and promoting their participation in policy design and implementation. An Annual Dialogue with CSOs is organised to foster this engagement. Since 2022, six plenary sessions of the National Council for Development and International Solidarity have been held. Although these efforts

Reported ODA: EUR 14751 million

0.56% GNI (↑ from 0.51% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 11696 million

0.44% GNI (↑ from 0.41% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 3055 million

20.7% of total



are welcome, the quality of dialogue can be enhanced by strengthening consultation mechanisms and considering proposals in decision-making, recognising civil society's expertise and innovative capacity.

France successfully achieved the objective of doubling ODA for CSOs between 2017 and 2022. However, the recent strategic guidance strategy by the MFA revises future ambitions, projecting at least a 3% increase in ODA for CSOs. Thus, instead of targeting 15% of ODA for CSOs in 2025, France might allocate around 11%, without a specified timeline. The government and civil society are not always aligned in their views and may have different agendas and priorities for their objectives and deadlines.

The French government should:

- Translate into action the orientations and programming law adopted in 2021 until 2025 and beyond.
- Translate development policy priorities into concrete commitments, such as:
 - a trajectory to reach 0.7% of GNI allocated to ODA until 2025 and rebalancing up to 85% of equivalent grants in total ODA;
 - ensuring that 50% of ODA funds basic social services and 50% goes to LDCs;
 - enhancing the objectives of gender equality (85% DAC 1, 20% DAC 2);
 - a trajectory for ODA channelled to and through CSOs to ensure alignment with the average of OECD countries.
- Strengthen the tax on financial transactions to deal with multiple crises.
- Make international solidarity policy transparent, effective and accountable by publishing project sheets on a unique database and ensure the implementation of independent evaluations.