

Poland

Reported ODA: EUR 1910 million
0.24 % GNI (↓ from -26.80% in 2023)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 1433 million
0.18 % GNI (↓ from -0.02% in 2023)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 477 million
25.59 % of total



“Except for increased IDRC linked to the Russian aggression on Ukraine, Polish ODA has remained largely unchanged over 15 years. It is dominated by EU and multilateral contributions and student costs, with very little funding reaching partner countries or going to and through CSOs.”

Grupa Zagranica

Main trends

Total spending on development cooperation in 2024 was almost EUR 1.93 billion (PLN 8.2 billion or 0.24% GNI compared with 0.33% GNI commitment), decreasing roughly by a quarter mainly due to lower IDRC costs. Less than EUR 352 million (PLN 1.5 billion or approximately 18% of total ODA for 2024) was allocated to refugees (mainly from Ukraine). Bilateral aid to Ukraine amounted to EUR 188 million (PLN 0.8 billion).

Multilateral ODA together with IDRC and students' costs serve for around 80% of total ODA leaving a small share –10% of bilateral ODA– for project-based activities in partner countries. Even less, only about 1.8% of bilateral ODA, is allocated to projects through Polish CSOs and none (!) for developing country-based CSOs.

The first full year of the new government (formed in December 2023) did not bring any significant changes in the area of development cooperation. For another year in a row, no strategy was developed to increase PL ODA to partner countries. The future of PL ODA in following years will mostly be determined by external factors, such as the war in Ukraine, negotiations on the next EU MFF and the USA rejecting the current model of FFSD. Internally it is as much about political ideology (with increasing anti-migrant, inward-looking nationalist rhetoric) as about projected budgetary constraints for 2026 and beyond.

Government's relationship with civil society

The new government stressed Polish responsibility for tackling global challenges through ODA and declared its intention to improve cooperation with CSOs. **At present, declarations have not been backed up by real action.** The participation of CSOs in PL ODA as project implementers has remained at a very low level. New grant competitions aimed at non-governmental organisations were cancelled in 2024 due to the budgetary situation. Ongoing cooperation takes place, inter alia, through the participation of CSO representatives in meetings of the Development Cooperation Policy Council. **The key recommendations of the non-governmental sector from previous years, consistent with the recommendations of the OECD DAC from the 2023 Peer Review of Polish Development Cooperation, remain in force.**

Recommendations

- **Set clear targets to build ODA volume** over the next 6 years and commit to this in budget planning.
- **Better reflect the importance of civil society in policy making** and implementation of projects financed from public funds in the field of **development cooperation and global education.**
- **Transition from modular projects to multi-year cooperation agreements with CSOs, funding long-term programmes in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance** in order to foster more substantial and sustainable projects.
- **Provide institutional support to CSOs, including support to the CSO sector in accessing funds from the EU budget and other institutional donors.**
- **Develop strategy documents** for 1) each priority partner country and 2) global education, based on consultation with partner country stakeholders and social partners.