



Better together

By supporting sustainable development in its partner countries in Africa, Asia, Central America, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe and the Caribbean, Austria contributes to poverty reduction, peacekeeping, environmental protection and resource conservation worldwide. Long-term programmes and projects provide help towards self-help.

According to the figures on aid flows reported to the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC), in 2017 Austria provided EUR 1.09 billion in official development assistance (ODA) or 0.30 per cent of its gross national income (GNI).¹ EUR 517.70 million of which allocated for bilateral and EUR 573.10 million for multilateral development cooperation.

Reliable partners

Development cooperation in Austria is a task for the whole of the Federal Government and is coordinated by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and International Affairs (MFA). The Development Cooperation Act provides the legal framework. The strategy is set out in the current Three-Year Programme for 2016 to 2018, which was jointly drawn up by the Federal Government, the federal states, social partners, civil society organisations (CSOs), business and industry and the scientific community.

As the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) executes bilateral development programmes and projects on behalf of the Federal Government. It cooperates here with public institutions, CSOs and enterprises. In 2017, ADA was assigned over EUR 160 million for implementation (including third-party funds).

Numerous other actors, such as the Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank (OeEB), also support the objectives of Austrian Development Cooperation.

Cooperation between Austria and its partner countries

To ensure that funds are put to efficient use, the bilateral programmes and projects of Austrian Development Cooperation concentrate on the following regions, countries and themes.

Geographical priorities

Key regions	Priorities in region
Caribbean	
Himalayas-Hindu Kush	Bhutan
Danube Region/Western Balkans	Albania, Kosovo
Black Sea Region/South Caucasus	Moldova, Georgia, Armenia
West Africa and Sahel	Burkina Faso
Southern Africa	Mozambique
East Africa and Horn of Africa	Ethiopia, Uganda
	Palestine

¹ The final figures for 2017 will not be available until autumn 2018.

Austria is, however, also engaged in other regions with cofinancing for CSO programmes and projects and support for business partnerships.

Austrian Development Cooperation is represented by local offices in the priority countries. These are attached to diplomatic missions and are run by ADA. They ensure that activities meet local needs and are coordinated with all the development partners and other donors.

Thematic priorities

Austrian Development Cooperation is primarily engaged in areas where it can draw on its proven know-how and long-standing experience: education, ensuring peace and human security, human rights and migration, water supply and sanitation, energy and food security and private sector and development, with environmental and climate protection and gender equality as cross-cutting themes that are taken into account in all programmes and projects, from planning to evaluation. All programmes and projects attach special importance to involving women in decision-making and they are also geared to the needs of children and persons with disabilities.

Education

Project example: New quality standard for IT studies

The Republic of Moldova is in urgent need of qualified junior personnel for the IT industry. So far, however, most IT graduates from vocational schools have only been working as simple operators, without any in-depth knowledge of programming or network and server administration. The majority also lacked the requisite special English language skills for IT. To provide the specialist qualification measures as quickly as possible for this, needs-based vocational school curricula have been drawn up in close cooperation with IT companies and experts.

Austrian Development Cooperation supports its partner country in improving teaching and modernising equipment. The quality of EDP training has been upgraded at 18 vocational schools. The schools have been provided with technical equipment and the teachers given further training in modern teaching methods. Future network technicians, programmers and other specialists are now being qualified in very well equipped computer laboratories and are also receiving training in technical English. They exchange with colleagues on study trips to partner countries, such as Austria, and benefit from their experience.

In close consultation with vocational schools, colleges and the Moldovan Ministry of Education, Austria has also made a decisive contribution to establishing the Centre of Competence for Information and Communications Technology. This is not just an institute for providing excellent qualifications; teachers and IT specialists can also go there to upgrade their skills. This scheme will also set an example for other technical and vocational education and training institutions.

Support has also been given to the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Professional Education, which enabled it to develop as an independent institution and bring its quality standards into closer alignment with the EU.

Ensuring peace and human security, human rights and migration

Project example: Early warning systems in West Africa

The aim of the civil-society organisation, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), is to prevent conflicts at an early stage. It has assisted the 15 member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in setting up regional conflict monitoring systems. It cooperates closely with ECOWAS and supports its regional early warning system.

Local monitors at municipal level are trained to draw up early warning and conflict assessment reports that are channelled into the regional early warning system of ECOWAS and passed on to other governments, public institutions, partners, civil-society organisations and UN agencies. This will enable them to make rapid and effective preparations for taking preventive measures. Austrian Development Cooperation supports ECOWAS in stepping up regional cooperation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and for ensuring human security.

So far, numerous conflict analysts across West Africa have been trained in collecting data and preparing analyses and rapid responses, including some with special skills in analysing electoral violence, natural resource conflicts and violent extremism, which they did in particular in the elections in Gambia and Liberia in 2017. WANEP has also trained conflict monitors, including coordinators of its national early warning systems, contributors to the ECOWAS early warning system and community and electoral violence monitors. Additionally teachers, peer mediators and peace animators have received further training in peace education.

Water supply, energy and food security

Project example: Living with nature

In North Gondar in Ethiopia's second poorest regional state, Amhara, population growth, depleted soils and overgrazed ranges have caused repeated food shortages. This is why Austrian Development Cooperation has for many years been supporting the integrated development of the zone, which is half the size of Austria.

Male and female farmers have learnt organic cropping methods for sustainable soil amelioration. They now grow a broader variety of fruit and vegetables and plant more robust grain varieties. Improved livestock breeding methods enable them to produce more milk and meat. Thanks to higher crop yields, they can build reserves or earn money by selling their produce. So they are better protected against periods of drought or crop failures. This has brought about sustainable improvements in the lives of altogether 350,000 households.

Better conditions of life make it easier for the villagers to cope well with the constraints involved in sustainable natural resource use: The ranges have been restricted and protected zones afforested to stem erosion and protect vegetation. People are no longer permitted to fell forest trees for firewood.

Attracting some 20,000 trekking fans a year, tourism in the Simien Mountains National Park affords an additional source of income. Owing to its unique beauty, the park is under special protection as a UNESCO cultural heritage. Its management offers jobs for tour guides, cooks and nature park keepers.

The aim of expanding the programme to include the entire administrative division was to reverse the current trend and shift towards economic transformation in North Gondar Zone, with specific support given to the following sectors in particular:

- Livestock breeding for the market
- Integrated water resource management
- Alternative earning opportunities (e.g. fattening farms, beekeeping)
- Strengthening land management
- Community-based tourism development
- Improving national park infrastructure and management

Developing institutional capacities through research and knowledge management

Private sector and development

Sustainable poverty reduction is closely bound up with economic progress. This calls for investments, private sector engagement and a suitable framework. Austrian and/or European enterprises can make a contribution to this.

Project example: A training centre for everyone's benefit

The Southern Indian region around Chennai has made steady development progress over the last decade, especially its economy, but marginalised groups, such as underqualified youth, have so far hardly been able to benefit at all from increasing economic growth. At the same time, local carpenters and furniture manufacturers complain of a shortage of skilled labour in their branch.

The Tyrol family business, Felder KG, saw this as an opportunity: With support from the Austrian Development Agency and in collaboration with the Don Bosco Technical Campus in Chennai, it now trains youth in wood technology. In a modern training centre in Chennai, 25 young people a year learn the craft of carpentry and are then directly placed at local enterprises so that these can manufacture higher-quality products for the Indian market.

There are plans to provide this overall training in other regions of India as well.

These and other good business ideas are promoted by ADA and the Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank via the business partnership programme. The projects have a major leverage impact: With funding amounting to EUR 50.2 million since 2004, projects have been initiated worth a total of EUR 96 million.

Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank

The Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank (OeEB) finances investment projects by private enterprises in developing and emerging countries that are commercially viable and make a developmental contribution. It operates on behalf of the Federal Government. Via long-term loans, equity capital investments and special programmes, it promotes private-sector development in target countries.

Since 2008, OeEB has provided finance for businesses and banks employing more than 200,000 people.

Project example: Wind of change in Panama

Panama has many hydropower stations, but in the dry season it has to resort to oil and gas to secure power supply. This season is especially windy, affording potential for windpower use. Together with partners, OeEB is therefore financing the largest windpark in Central America.

Some 100 kilometres southwest of Panama City, the first wind turbines have already been erected. In its first development phase, the windpark now generates 55 megawatts of clean electricity and another 215 megawatts of capacity will be installed in subsequent phases. OeEB has granted a loan of US\$ 25 million for this.

This will make Panama less dependent on oil and gas imports. The windpark will meet 5 per cent of electricity demand. A monitoring plan has been drawn up to meet particularly strict environmental standards to protect local bird and bat populations from colliding with the turbine vanes.

Humanitarian aid

Hostilities escalated in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan and the Lake Chad region in 2017. Uganda alone has received more than 1 million refugees from South Sudan. The situation has remained precarious in East Ukraine, Libya and the neighbouring countries of Syria. Added to this is the food crisis in East Africa, afflicting millions of people, above all in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. The bulk of the humanitarian aid we provided was allocated for projects to help people in these countries.

Besides 'classical' measures, such as food aid, water supply and health care or psychosocial support, the trend in 2017 continued in the direction of help towards self-help. Wherever possible, our partners contribute to helping people return to a better life. Emergency grants of cash enable the recipients to decide for themselves what they need most, which also supports local producers and markets.

The programmes and projects were implemented by international humanitarian aid organisations, such as the UN Refugee Agency, the World Food Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Development Programme, SOS Children's Villages International and the Austrian aid organisations CARE, Caritas and the Austrian Red Cross.

Emergency relief to South Sudan

Civil war has been ongoing in South Sudan since 2013. Violence continues, despite a peace agreement. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced due to community and ethnic tensions, conflicts over resources and fighting over livestock. 1.4 million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries, primarily Uganda and Ethiopia, with another 1.9 million classed as internally displaced persons.

That is why the International Committee of the Red Cross continued emergency relief to remote communities from the air. Helicopters were deployed in areas without runways to evacuate the injured or to fly in supplies and personnel. With small aircraft that can land in difficult terrain, the Red Cross teams also delivered material for shelters and other goods.

This way, it was able to help more than 900,000 people in South Sudan altogether in 2017. Austria made a substantial contribution to this effort: With EUR 2.5 million from the Foreign Disaster Fund, it has helped to supply 50,000 people with water, food, medical assistance and everyday goods.

Global cooperation

Multilateral development cooperation plays a major role in the overall strategy of Austrian development policy. Austria supports international organisations with direct contributions.

European Union (EU) - largest donor worldwide

The EU (the European Commission and EU member states) is the largest donor worldwide. Austria helps to frame European development policy and makes financial contributions. In 2017, 27.29 per cent of Austrian ODA was allocated to EU development cooperation and the European Development Fund.

Delegated cooperation

To ensure an efficient division of labour, the European Commission delegates funds for project implementation to qualified development agencies. ADA is one of these and has so far been entrusted with implementing EUR 158 million from the EU.

The European Commission delegated for example EUR 30.5 million to ADA to improve drinking water and sanitation facilities in small rural towns and municipalities in Uganda. This enabled it to give about 400,000 people access to clean water and hygienic latrines.

Austrian Development Cooperation provides approximately EUR 4 million every year for the water sector in Uganda. Another 60,000 people benefit from this each year.

International financial institutions (IFIs)

Based on a strategy by the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF), Austria co-plans IFI policy. In 2017, it paid in about EUR 243.88 million to IFIs, such as the World Bank or the regional development banks in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This is primarily used to finance investment projects and Austrian participation in international infrastructure projects.

Cooperation as part of the United Nations (UN)

Austria is also involved in development policy and cooperation under the auspices of the UN. In 2017, EUR nearly 22.92 million of Austrian ODA went to UN organisations. For example, Austria supported the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 2017 with a core contribution of approximately EUR 1.6 million.

Besides its compulsory contribution, Austria paid a total of EUR 500,000 into the UN Industrial Development Organisation's (UNIDO) Fund for Industrial Development in 2017. It also supported UNICEF with a contribution of around EUR 1.1 million.

Project example: Austria and UNIDO create prospects for people where they live

The current crises have forced many people to leave their homeland and are putting many others under acute pressure to migrate. Together with UNIDO, Austria promotes training and earning opportunities in home and transit countries, with training programmes for skilled personnel and craftspeople in the Dohuk and Erbil regions in Iraq, for example, to the benefit of both displaced persons and the local population. Residents in the Harsham refugee camp have been given job opportunities in the food processing sector. Improving the local dairy industry in Amhara Region in Ethiopia has afforded inhabitants additional sources of income, which helps stem the exodus.

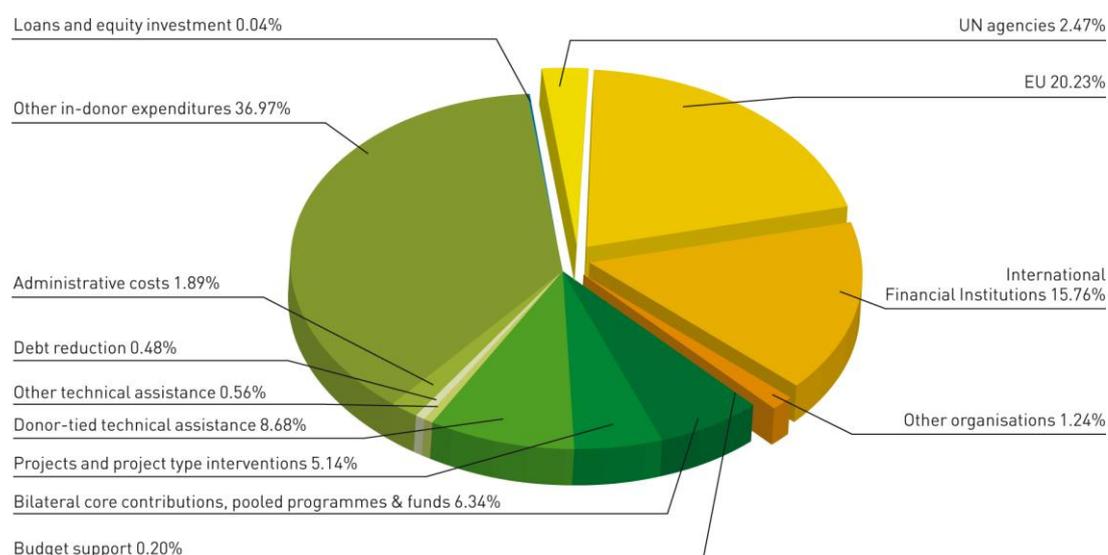
Austria's official development assistance in figures

Austrian ODA 2011–2017

ODA	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 ²
EUR million	799	861	882	930	1,193	1,478	1,090
in % of GNI	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	0.35	0.42	0.30

Main components of Austrian ODA 2016³

Disbursements in %

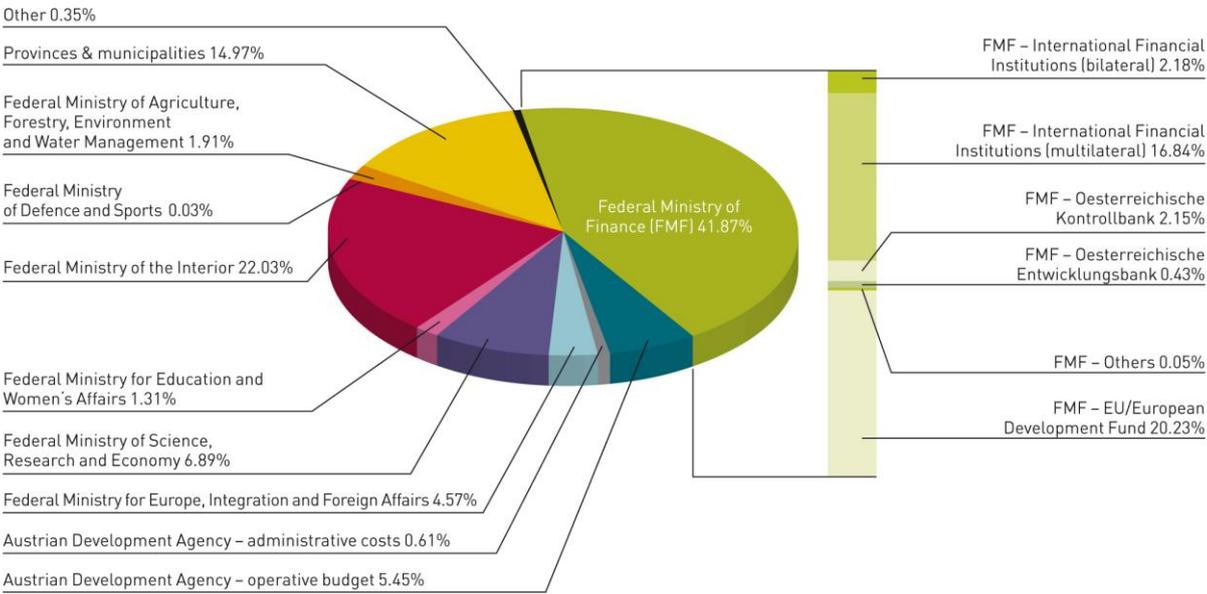


	€ mill.	in %		€ mill.	in %
Bilateral ODA	891.85	60.30	Budget support	3.00	0.20
Grants	891.31	60.27	Bilateral core contributions, pooled programmes & funds	93.82	6.34
			Projects and project type interventions	76.06	5.14
			Donor-tied technical assistance	128.32	8.68
			Other technical assistance	8.27	0.56
			Debt reduction	7.06	0.48
			Administrative costs	27.96	1.89
			Other in-donor expenditures	546.82	36.97
Loans and equity investment	0.54	0.04			
Multilateral ODA	587.12	39.70	UN agencies	36.60	2.47
			EU	299.12	20.23
			International Financial Institutions	233.04	15.76
			Other organisations	18.35	1.24
Total ODA	1,478.97	100.00			
0.42% of GNI					

² The final figures for 2017 will not be available until autumn 2018.

³ *The figures for the pie charts for 2017 will not be available until autumn 2018.

Financial sources of Austrian ODA 2016⁴
 Disbursements in %



⁴ The figures for the pie charts for 2017 will not be available until autumn 2018.