

"In this global effort (to eradicate poverty and hunger), Greece has significantly increased its development assistance. Together with the rest of our European Union partners, we set the ambitious goal of increasing it to 0.56% of our Gross National Income by the year 2010, with particular attention and emphasis on Africa."

Kostas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of Greece, UN High-Level Plenary Meeting, September 16, 2005.



GREECE

Did Greece meet its target of 0.33% in 2006 without inflating its aid? NO
Will Greece meet its continued target of 0.51% of GNI in 2010 without inflating its aid? NGO prediction: UNLIKELY

Greek NGOs are highly concerned that, two years after joining European countries in agreeing to raise aid levels, the Greek government has still not developed a plan on how to deliver on these commitments. As the least generous donor of the EU 15 countries, giving only 0.16% of GNI in ODA, Greece has a long way to go before reaching the first goal of 0.51%.

The latest OECD statistics show that even including its inflated aid, in 2006 Greece spent only 0.16% of its GNI or €306 million on ODA. Greek aid is very low but was only slightly inflated. Based on trends of Greek aid over the last 5 years, we calculate the government spent €7 million on housing refugees in Greece. However, even this small amount should not be counted as ODA.

Greek NGOs are also concerned about the quality of Greek aid. In particular, Greek NGOs question the drivers behind Greek aid and whether aid spending is really being used in the best way possible to achieve its stated aim of poverty reduction.

Only 23% of Greek bilateral aid goes to the poorest and least developed countries of the world (31% to low income countries). By contrast, 69% is directed at middle-income countries. Greek civil society feels this allocation needs to shift towards the poorest countries in the world.

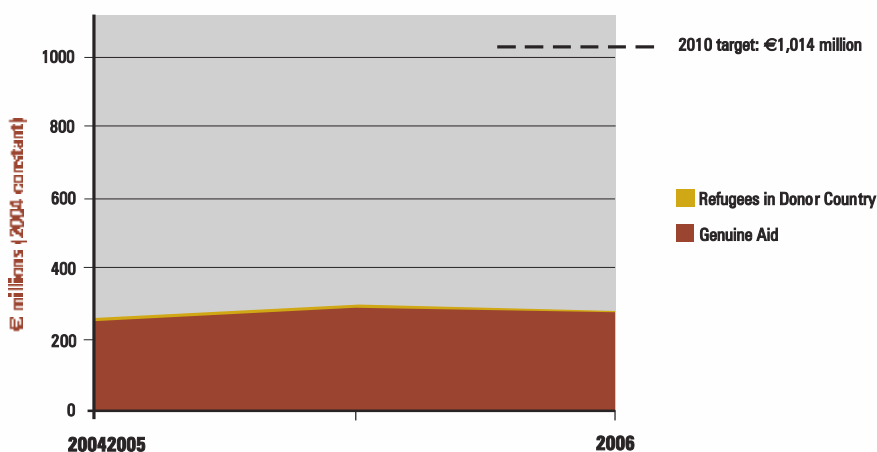
While Greece gives a relatively high proportion of its bilateral aid towards basic social services (15%), it still has some way to go before reaching the EU target of 20%. NGOs believe that the efficiency of the aid that is allocated within this category needs to be evaluated.

Greece has the highest proportion of tied aid amongst EU old Member States, 26.4% of Greek ODA in 2005. The value of Greek aid that is lost in inflated procurement costs should instead be released to be spent on reducing poverty.

Greek NGOs call on the Greek government to:

- ♦ issue a timetable immediately to set out how Greece will meet the 0.51% and 0.7% ODA targets;
- ♦ reassess the overall effectiveness of Greek aid, particularly in terms of the extent to which it is aligned with developing country priorities, and in terms of Greece's lack of coordination with other donors and actors;
- ♦ realign Greek aid away from political/geopolitical and economic/commercial interests, towards a more effective, coordinated and recipient-driven/owned aid programme that can better achieve its stated goal of poverty reduction;
- ♦ increase the transparency of Greek aid and development policies.

Greece's genuine and inflated aid



Note: all figures including 2010 target figure in 2004 prices for comparability (see endnote 1)

Organisations consulted: The Hellenic Committee Of Non Governmental Development Organisations: Medecins du Monde GR, Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity, European Perspective Development and Education Center, Hellenic Institute for Solidarity and Cooperation with Developing Countries, European Network for Humanitarian Development (HUMANET), Family and Child Care Center, Dimitra Institute of Training and Development, Soma Hellinikou Odigismou, XEN Hellas, SED.net, European Public Law Center, ActionAid Hellas, Hellenic Rescue Team, One Earth, Hellenic Action for Africa, Solidarity N.G.O. of the Greek Orthodox Church, Handicap Care Hellas – allied member.