

Germany



Has Germany established a timetable to reach the target of 0.51% by 2010? NO
Will Germany meet the 0.51% target without inflating its aid? NGO prediction: NO

In 2008, Germany raised aid levels from 0.37% in GNI to 0.38% and continued to be Europe's biggest donor in terms of volume provided. This was through an increase of 14% on its 2007 aid levels. However, the government is still far from meeting 0.51% target in 2010. In addition, debt cancellation still represents 19% of Germany's ODA. When debt figures are discounted, Germany provided only € 7.5 billion or 0.31% of its GNI. Student and refugee costs are still included in the 0.31 % quota, contributing even more to the inflation of German ODA. In conclusion, genuine aid levels must be increased by at least 56% if Germany wants to reach the 2010 target.

In September 2009, Germany will see parliamentary elections taking place, and the new government will need to revise the budgetary process for 2010. It will be crucial that they take this opportunity to put the country back on track to meet its 0.7% target in 2015.

• Aid quality

The gender strategy for German development cooperation was updated in 2001 and again recently through the development of the Gender Action Plan (2009-2012), which aims to foster the implementation of commitments to gender equality. Though German development cooperation puts special emphasis on gender issues, financial allocation still lags behind.

Germany has a good record of making general information available to the public. But documents and data specifically about aid flows and procurement procedures are not disclosed and the assessments of aid projects and programmes are only partially available. Furthermore, data is presented in a way that makes it very difficult to compare with other sources.

The German Ministry of Defence has pushed to include Afghanistan peacekeeping expenditure into German ODA. The Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier called for the inclusion of military operations under UN mandate on ODA. These initiatives were not only rejected by civil society and some Members of the Parliament, but also by the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

German NGOs call on their government to:

- Implement the national 'Gender Action Plan' for development cooperation to its full extent with the goal of achieving 'gender justice'.
- Increase transparency, especially on the aid budget cycle, aid flows and evaluation of aid projects and programmes.
- Increase the share of real financial transfers, the so-called 'country-programmable aid', while respecting criteria for transparency, democratic and independent control of resource allocation.
- Provide development assistance according to poverty reduction goals and ensure that no peacekeeping expenditures are reported as ODA in the future.
- Increase international tax co-operation with a view to eliminating cross-border tax evasion and capital flight in order to mobilise much-needed domestic resources for development.

Germany's genuine and inflated aid

