Official development assistance increased in 2023 due to spending on aid for Ukraine and more humanitarian assistance to developing countries

- In 2023, official development assistance (ODA) increased by 1.8 per cent in real terms over 2022 to $223.7 billion, as calculated by the grant-equivalent measure, underpinned by increased spending on aid to Ukraine and humanitarian aid to developing countries.

- 2023 is the fifth consecutive year that ODA has set a new record. Excluding in-donor refugee costs, ODA rose by 3.2 per cent.

- Average ODA as a share of donor gross national income (GNI) was 0.37 per cent.

- Bilateral ODA to least developed countries (LDCs) and Africa increased by 3.0 per cent and 2.0 per cent, respectively. This signified an improvement over the declining trend of the previous year.

- ODA has reached new highs but still falls short of both needs and commitments and is under pressure to respond to growing demands.

In 2023, ODA rose by 1.8 per cent in real terms compared to 2022 to $223.7 billion, based on preliminary data and calculated in grant-equivalent terms. This amounted to 0.37 per cent of donors’ combined GNI, below the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNI. Five donors exceeded the target: Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden.

The increase was mainly due to an increase in aid to Ukraine as well as humanitarian aid to developing countries. In-donor refugee costs, of $31 billion, fell in real terms in 2023. Excluding these in-donor refugee costs, ODA rose by 3.2 per cent in real terms.

Based on preliminary data, bilateral ODA by OECD Development Assistance Committee members to least developed countries and Africa increased in real terms, by 3.0 per cent to $37 billion, and 2.0 per cent to $42 billion, respectively.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) continues to publish data according to the previous cash flow basis. Under this methodology, net ODA was $222.2 billion in 2023, a small drop of 0.2% in real terms compared to 2022.

More detailed data on 2023 ODA will be published by the OECD in December 2024.

Official development assistance, 2020–2023 (Billions of United States dollars, 2022 constant prices)

Source: OECD DAC statistics.

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1 See OECD, “International aid rises in 2023 with increased support to Ukraine and humanitarian needs - OECD,” April 11, 2024.