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**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**HELLENIC AID**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE GREEK BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL**

**OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

**AND ASSISTANCE**

**YEAR 2020**



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# 1. OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) – INTERNATIONAL FLOWS[[1]](#footnote-1)

In 2020, net Official Development Assistance (ODA) by members (donors) of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) reached USD 161.177 billion, representing an increase of 3.5% in real terms compared to 2019, reaching the highest level ever recorded. As a share of Gross National Income (GNI), DAC members’[[2]](#footnote-2) ODA reached 0.32% (0.30% in 2019), well below a United Nations target to keep ODA at or above 0.7% of donor GNI.

In the context of 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at a global level (Resolution A/ RES/70/1/25.9.2015, 70th UN General Assembly, “Transforming Our World: Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”), OECD is responding to the need to capture programs that integrate the SDG dimension and thus contribute to their implementation. For this reason, new variables (fields) have been introduced for the registration of SDGs (17 Goals and 169 Targets).

## (i) ODA Allocations

In 2020, the volume of support for bilateral development assistance (projects, programmes, technical cooperation, including the “in-donor refugee costs”) amounted to USD 114.289 billion (in 2019 it amounted to USD 108.761 billion). Humanitarian aid amounted to USD 18 billion and rose by 6% in real terms compared to 2019, representing 11.1% of total ODA.

Between 2019 and 2020, ODA for in-donor refugee costs declined from USD 9.635 billion to USD 8.980 billion. In-donor refugee costs represented 5.6% of total ODA compared to 6.4% in 2019.

Within total net ODA, contributions by DAC countries to multilateral organizations added up to USD 46.882 billion (in 2019 amounted to USD 42.959 billion).

Within total ODA, DAC countries spent USD 11.914 billion in 2020 on COVID-19 related activities, from which EU Institutions disbursed USD 9.062 billion.

## (ii) Bilateral Donor Performance

The United States continued to be the largest donor by volume in 2020, with net ODA flows of USD 35.5 billion, followed by Germany (USD 28.4 billion), the United Kingdom (USD 18.6 billion), Japan (USD 16.3 billion) and France (USD 14.1 billion).

Sweden (1.14%), Norway (1.11%), Luxembourg (1.02%), Denmark (0.73%), Germany (0.73%) and the United Kingdom (0.70%) met or exceeded the United Nations’ ODA target of 0.7% of GNI.

Many donors that are not members of DAC[[3]](#footnote-3) have a tradition of development cooperation. According to OECD data for 2020, Turkey exceeded the target of 0.7% reaching 1.12%.

# 2. AGGREGATE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE OF GREECE

Total Official Development Assistance of Greece (bilateral and multilateral ODA) in 2020 reached USD 325.44 million (0.17% of Gross National Income), which represents a decrease compared to 2019 (USD 367.74 million, i.e. 0.18% of Gross National Income).

***Official Development Assistance of Greece 2020***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Aid | 2020 | |
| Bilateral (ODA) | 84.78 | 0.04% GNI |
| Multilateral (ODA) | 240.67 | 0.13% GNI |
| TOTAL | 325.44 | 0.17% GNI |

In USD million (GNI 2020: USD 188.097 billion)

## (i) Bilateral Official Development Assistance of Greece

Total bilateral ODA granted by Greece in 2020 was USD 84.78 million (USD 142.75 million respectively in 2019). Bilateral ODA is provided by various Ministries. The amount of USD 80.37 million was granted for in-donor refugee costs (USD 134.43 million respectively in 2019), USD 4.37 million for international organizations’ programmes and funds (out of which the amount of USD 4 million was contributed to the EU “Facility for Refugees” in Turkey) and USD 0.03 million were allocated to foreign students from developing countries (scholarships) for their studies in Greek universities. Bilateral assistance fell by -36.2% due to lower costs for in-donor refugees.

Categorizations of bilateral aid according to OECD/DAC statistical directives:

Aid Allocation by Geographical Region (in USD):

* Europe: 4.01 million
* Asia: 0.29 million
* Africa: 0.05 million (Sub-Saharan Africa 0.04 million)
* America 0.04 million
* Developing countries, unspecified: 80.39 million (including, inter alia, in-donor refugee costs in Greece)

Aid Allocation by Main Recipient Countries (in USD):

* Turkey: 4.00 million
* Syria: 0.21 million
* Albania: 0.01 million
* Egypt: 0.01 million
* Ukraine: 0.01 million
* Serbia: 0.01 million

Humanitarian assistance expenditure for 2020 amounted to USD 0.21 million.

## (ii) Multilateral Official Development Assistance of Greece

Total multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) granted by Greece in 2020 amounted to USD 240.67 million (USD 224.99 million in 2019). Multilateral ODA is provided by line Ministries which, depending on their scope of competences, provide funds for international development purposes via International Organizations. These Organizations support developing countries and provide assistance in emergency situations. Total flows granted by Greece to EU institutions for foreign development assistance amounted to USD 222.04 million, including Greece’s contribution to the European Development Fund (EDF) which totaled USD 80.62 million. ODA amounting to USD 9.15 million was also granted through the United Nations system, the amount of 5.13 million to World Bank Group and the amount of USD 3.99 million to other international organizations.

# 3. HELLENIC AID ACTIVITIES

## (i) Humanitarian Action

1. Prepared policy positions for:

* The monthly meetings of the EU Council Working Group on Humanitarian and Food Aid issues (COHAFA) in Brussels.
* The United Nations meetings in Geneva and New York on humanitarian issues.
* The EU Humanitarian Aid Directors-General Meeting (Videoconference, 29.4.2020).

2. Prepared positions for draft humanitarian Resolutions at the UN General Assembly on:

* International Cooperation for Humanitarian Assistance in Case of Natural Disasters from Relief to Development.
* The Empowerment of Emergency Humanitarian Aid Coordination (OMNIBUS Resolution).
* Security of Humanitarian Missions and UN Personnel Protection.

3. Response to pledging conferences:

* Hellenic Aid provided humanitarian aid (medical supplies, equipment, food and construction materials) to Lebanon, after the explosion in the port of Beirut (4.8.2020). In addition, Hellenic Aid, coordinated the collection and shipment of humanitarian aid to Armenia (12.12.2020).
* Τhe International Donor’s Conference “Together for Albania” (Brussels 17.2.2020), following the November 2019 earthquake. Proposal for humanitarian aid for Albania, in the sector of anti-seismic training, in cooperation with the Department of Geology of the University of Athens.
* High-level Pledging Event for Central Emergency Response Fund/CERF (8.12.2020).
* Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, responded to bilateral requests for the provision of medical supplies and equipment and at multilateral level to requests under the European Civil Protection Mechanism. Hellenic Aid welcomed the immediate response from the United Nations through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent through the relevant contribution call of 26 March 2020.

## (ii) Development Cooperation Ministerial Councils and Meetings of EU Directors General of Development

Preparation of memos and interventions:

* Informal Meeting of Directors General of Development Cooperation (Brussels, 13.2.2020).
* Teleconference meeting of Eastern Partnership Foreign Ministers (4.6.2020).
* Foreign Affairs Council/Development Cooperation meeting (FAC/DEV) (8.6.2020).
* Foreign Affairs Council/Development Cooperation meeting (FAC/DEV) (29.9.2020).
* Foreign Affairs Council/Development Cooperation meeting (FAC/DEV)(24.11.2020).

## (iii) Working Parties of the Council of the European Union and preparation of positions

1. Active participation in the meetings of the following Working Parties (WPs) of the Council of the EU, preparation of positions:

* Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV).
* Working Party Agenda 2030.
* Working Party on EU’s Cooperation with Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific countries (ACP–EU).
* Ad hoc Working Party on the Regulation for the establishment of the new Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

2. Preparation of positions throughout the consultations for the new Regulation Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

3. Preparation of positions throughout the consultations for the new European Financial Architecture for Development (EFAD).

4. Preparation of positions on the Post-Cotonou Framework and the relations between ACP countries and the EU. UNCLOS in the negotiated Agreement.

5. Comments on the EU strategy for a closer relationship with Africa.

6. Participation in the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF for Africa) for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (11.5.2020).

7. Comments on draft Council Conclusions on Youth in EU External Action (15.5.2020).

8. Intervention points for the teleconference meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Eastern Partnership (4.6.2020).

9. Intervention points for NDICI and EFSD + issues for a teleconference with the Portuguese Deputy Foreign Minister (14.9.2020).

10. Participated in an EU questionnaire onEU Gender Action Plan (GAP).

## (iv) UN Second Committee (Economic and Financial) - Other UN High Level Meetings

1. Prepared positions and interventions in the framework:

* Discussions on debt issues and development financing within the United Nations system in the context of addressing the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (29.5.2020).
* The UN Global Compact Summit (15-16.6.2020).
* UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) – Preparation of the Minister’s national intervention and comments on a draft Ministerial Declaration (New York, 7-16.7.2020).
* General Discussion of the Second Committee during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly - National intervention (5-6.10.2020)

2. Completion of a questionnaire for the implementation of the SAMOA Road Map for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

3. Contribution, in collaboration with the Statistical Office, to the draft 4th Biennial Report (in the context of national reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

## (v) Development Assistance Committee (DAC)/OECD

1. Prepared dossiers for:

(i) High Level Meeting (HLM) (9-10.11.2020).

(ii) Monthly regular meetings of DAC.

(iii) Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT).

2. Comments on the methodology for conducting the DAC peer reviews in view of the Major Policy Issues (MPI) Working Group.

3. Participation in the voting for the position of Vice President of DAC.

4. Completion of a questionnaire of the DEVCOM Network (Development Communication Network) of the OECD, regarding the formation of partnerships by development cooperation bodies, in the context of their public communication policy.

5. Completion of a questionnaire by the OECD Development Center on international and national policy measures to address the coronavirus.

6. Attended an online OECD conference on private funding for sustainable development.

7. Participation in the DAC Temporary Working Group on clarifying the ODA-eligibility of migration-related activities.

## (vi) European and International Meetings

Prepared dossiers for:

* Meeting of COASI Experts for India (Brussels, 22.1.2020).
* Memos and intervention points for the visit of the Deputy Minister to Tokyo (25-30.1.2020).

## (vii) Events and Meetings

Participation in a coordination meeting of development aid providers, organized by the Statistical Office.

## (viii) Examining Potential Clearance of Accounts of Incomplete/ Pending Programmes

Having classified the pending contracts during 2019, and with the applicable legal framework remaining unchanged, the Directorate General for International Development Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as Hellenic Aid), has forwarded to the Finance Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a limited number of programmes, in order to examine the possibility of their financial settlement.

## (ix) Assistance to Auditing Public Services and the Justice System, with Respect to Past Funding

In response to requests received by audit and judicial Authorities, investigating the financing of past projects, Hellenic Aid has provided the latter with all data and information available.

## (x) The Legal Framework

Following the decision for the integration of the new Act regulating its operation in the Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Aid, with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adjusted accordingly the draft law prepared in 2019. The initial Draft Presidential Decree has also been amended, however its completion was postponed, until the adoption of the aforementioned Act by the Greek Parliament.

## (xi) Legal Disputes with NGOs

In the course of the year in question, reports were drafted on a number of cases, pertaining to legal disputes with contracting NGOs. In the same context, letters from NGO representatives have been answered in order to clarify the views of Hellenic Aid. Subsequently, the Ministry’s political leadership has been informed accordingly. Furthermore, all necessary steps have been taken to comply with a Court ruling, concerning a pending project of a specific NGO.

## (xii) Other Activities

* Having been called to implement a Prime Minister’s commitment, made during an International Donors’ Conference, Hellenic Aid has drawn the political leadership’s attention to its (outdated) legal framework and made a number of proposals on ways to overcome the existing legal obstacles.
* The Director General of Hellenic Aid participated in the first and second Forum of Strategic Cooperation of Greece – United Arab Emirates (UAE). In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding in development cooperation was signed between the two sides in July 2020.
* Prepared in a number of cases, draft replies to parliamentary questions.
* Drafted proposals addressed to the Ministry’s political leadership, concerning the actions to be taken in the field of development cooperation in specific geographical areas and sectors.
* Collection of the official statistics of development assistance (ODA) provided in the year 2020.
* Drafting of the 2019 Annual Report of Hellenic Aid.
* Update of the Hellenic Aid website.

1. For Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 source: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/statisticsonresourceflowstodevelopingcountries.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. DAC member-states: Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Greece, USA, UK, Japan, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Iceland, Canada, Korea, Luxemburg, New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Finland and the EU. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Non DAC members are not obliged to follow the DAC guidelines and standards regarding the

   reporting on development assistance. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)