Yemen is a focus country for the Netherlands, and one with which it has a long-term development relationship; since 2015, Dutch bilateral cooperation has focused heavily on humanitarian assistance within the country.
THE NETHERLANDS
at a glance

ODA funding trends

- The Netherlands is the seventh-largest donor country, spending US$5.6 billion on official development assistance (ODA) in 2018. This corresponds to 0.61% of its gross national income (GNI). Net ODA increased by 6% between 2017 and 2018.

- The current cabinet, in office since 2017, is committed to compensating for some of the budget cuts made by the previous cabinet. To do so, it will allocate an additional US$2.5 billion between 2019 and 2022 as ODA. Despite this funding, as the government’s budget proposal currently stands, ODA/GNI share will fall to 0.54% in 2022.

- In 2017, costs for hosting refugees in the Netherlands almost doubled, increasing from 9% of net ODA in 2016 (US$446 million) to 17% in 2017 (US$835 million). However, these costs decreased again in 2018 to 10% of net ODA (US$31 million). In the 2019 budget proposal, they stand at US$473 million, or 9% of the total ODA budget.

Strategic priorities

- Traditionally, the Netherlands focuses on four thematic priorities: 1) security and the rule of law, 2) water management, 3) food security, and 4) sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including HIV/AIDS. These four themes will remain the focus of this cabinet (2017-present).
The May 2018 policy note ‘Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, For the Netherlands’ released by the minister for foreign trade and development cooperation, Sigrid Kaag, indicates a geographic shift in the Netherlands’ development focus towards unstable regions of the West African Sahel, the Horn of Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Advancing gender equality and strengthening the position of women and girls is a cross-cutting theme of Dutch development policy, and the government has shown leadership in this area, including in addressing issues related to SRHR.

THE NETHERLANDS’ BILATERAL ODA BY SECTOR, 2017
Total: US$ 3.639 million

Outlook

The Netherlands will host the first International Conference on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Crisis Situations in Amsterdam on October 7-8, 2019, with the intention of bringing the issue higher on the global agenda.

The Netherlands is currently applying for a seat on the Human Rights Council of the United Nations (UN) for the upcoming term (2020 to 2022), with plans to focus on freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, and equal rights for women, girls, and LGBTQ people. The election will take place at the UN’s General Assembly in New York in October 2019.
How much ODA does the Netherlands provide?

In absolute terms, ODA is projected to rise during current legislative term

The Netherlands is the seventh-largest donor country among members of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Total ODA reached US$5.6 billion ODA in 2018 (current prices).

These numbers are based on the new methodology for measuring ODA loans which the OECD DAC applies to ODA reporting since 2018. Preliminary ODA figures for 2018 using this new methodology were first released in April 2019. This methodology, called ‘grant-equivalent’ methodology, more accurately reflects donor funding through concessional ODA loans because only the grant portion of loans, expressed as a monetary value, is counted as ODA. This reform had no impact on the Netherlands’ ODA volume, as it does not extend ODA loans.

Following a peak of US$5.9 billion in 2015, ODA decreased reaching US$5.0 billion in 2017 (in constant prices). Between 2017 and 2018, the Netherlands’ net ODA rose by 6%, mainly driven by increased contributions to the World Bank group.

In recent years, the costs of hosting refugees – partly reportable as ODA – have been sparking debates in the Netherlands. These costs have fluctuated heavily over the past five years: They peaked at US$1.4 billion in 2015, before dropping to US$531 million in 2018, accounting for 10% of net ODA. Some of the costs incurred by the Netherlands for hosting refugees are financed from the ODA budget, which has reduced funding available for global development.

In 2016 and 2017, the government decided to draw €1.2 billion (US$1.4 billion) from future ODA budgets to cover these costs. According to the government’s Homogeneous Group for International Cooperation (HGIS), which details ODA expenditures per ministry in a financial plan updated yearly (HGIS nota), costs for hosting refugees in the Netherlands should gradually decrease between 2019 and 2022, from €420 million (US$473 million) budgeted in 2019 to €338 million (US$381 million) in 2022.

The current coalition government, in office since October 2017, is committed to compensating for the cuts made by the previous coalition government. To do so, it will gradually increase development funding: according to the coalition agreement, an additional €1 billion (US$1.1 billion) will be added to the budget over the 2019-2022 period, and the €1.2 billion (US$1.4 billion) that had been set aside to cover costs of hosting refugees in the Netherlands will be reallocated for development programs in partner countries. According to ‘HGIS nota 2019’, by 2022 ODA is projected to stand at US$5.8 billion. Despite these increases, in relative terms, net ODA as a percentage of GNI is projected to decrease from 0.6% in 2017 to 0.54% in 2022, according to the May 2018 policy note ‘Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, For the Netherlands’.
THE NETHERLANDS’ GROSS/NET ODA DISBURSEMENTS
US$ millions; in 2017 prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Net ODA</th>
<th>Net ODA as % of GNI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4,973</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,997</td>
<td>0.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,287</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,010</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4,955</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>5,320</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(estimate)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Loan repayments Net ODA Net ODA as % of GNI

OECD table DAC1. 2018 number according to preliminary data (April 2019).
ODA estimates for 2019 based on government data.

TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018
Total ODA Disbursements; US$ billions; in current prices

1. United States: 34.3
2. Germany: 25
3. United Kingdom: 19.4
4. Japan: 14.2
5. France: 12.2
6. Sweden: 5.8
7. Netherlands: 5.8
8. Italy: 5
9. Canada: 4.7
10. Norway: 4.3
TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018
Total ODA as % of GNI

- Sweden: 1.04
- Luxembourg: 0.93
- Norway: 0.94
- Denmark: 0.72
- United Kingdom: 0.7
- Germany: 0.61
- Netherlands: 0.61
- Switzerland: 0.44
- Belgium: 0.43
- France: 0.43

OECD DAC preliminary data (April 2019).
What are the Netherlands’ priorities for global development?

Focus is on four thematic priorities

The objectives and priorities of Dutch development policy are laid out in the policy document: ‘Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, For the Netherlands’ (also referred to as the ‘BHOS policy’). Released in May 2018 under Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Minister Sigrid Kaag, the document substantiates the Coalition Agreement released in November 2017. It stresses that development cooperation, as an integral part of foreign policy, aims to combat the root causes of poverty, migration, terrorism, and climate change within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To do so, the government works on four overarching, closely linked main objectives:

1. preventing conflict and instability,
2. reducing poverty and social inequality,
3. promoting sustainable inclusive growth and climate action worldwide, and
4. promoting the economic growth of the Netherlands.

Gender equality and strengthening the position of women and girls is a cross-cutting objective of the policy.

These objectives are implemented through a focus on four traditional thematic priorities based on the added-value and expertise of the Netherlands. These priorities remain unchanged under the May 2018 BHOS policy:

1. sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR, including HIV/AIDS),
2. water management,
3. agriculture, incl. food security, and
4. security and the rule of law.

The Netherlands’ key development priorities:

- sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR, including HIV/AIDS)
- water management
- agriculture, incl. food security
- security and the rule of law

Global health, and particularly SRHR, is a major priority area of Dutch development cooperation. Health accounted for 7% of Dutch bilateral ODA in 2017. However, total ODA to health is much higher, as the Netherlands channels half (50% in 2016, the latest year for which data is available) of health ODA multilaterally. Total health ODA stood at US$589 million in 2016, or 11% of Dutch ODA, which is above the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average. The Dutch government continues to be a global leader on SRHR: in 2017, it launched the global initiative ‘She Decides’ to support organizations that focus on SRHR and family planning (see ‘Sector: Global Health’).

The fight against climate change is another key issue for the Dutch government. It has committed to step up its support to climate financing in low-income countries and, according to the BHOS, is expected to spend €400 million (US$451 million) of ODA resources in 2018 on climate-related interventions. A Dutch Climate and Development Fund (DFDC) was launched at the end of 2018, which will provide €160 million (US$180 million) to climate protection projects between 2019 and 2022. In addition, climate financing will be increased by €20 million (US$23 million) in 2019 and €40 million (US$45 million) annually from 2020 onwards. According to the government’s current predictions, climate financing within the development budget will rise to €480 million (US$541 million) annually by the end of this government’s term of office (2021).
The Netherlands channels the majority of its ODA bilaterally

The Dutch government has a preference for allocating ODA through bilateral funding. In 2017, bilateral funding stood at US$3.6 billion, or 72% of total ODA (OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average: 60%). This included US$708 million in earmarked funding to multilateral organizations, which is reported as bilateral ODA but channeled through multilaterals for specific regions, countries, or themes. This also includes the costs of hosting refugees in the Netherlands reported as ODA (US$835 million in 2017). Civil society organizations (CSOs) play an important role in implementation, channeling 25% of bilateral ODA in 2017 (or US$902 million). All of the Netherlands’ ODA consists of grants (as opposed to loans).

Dutch bilateral funding for the costs of hosting refugees increased by 87% between 2016 and 2017

23% or US$835 million of Dutch bilateral funding in 2017 was used to cover the costs of hosting refugees within the Netherlands, making it the largest expenditure area of bilateral ODA. Despite decreases since 2012, the second-largest share of bilateral ODA was allocated to projects in the ‘government and civil society’ sector (14% or US$501 million, down from US$816 million in 2013). Funding for humanitarian assistance peaked in 2015 at US$488 million, before falling back to US$287 million in 2017. Health and population, and agriculture and rural development, both closely related to Dutch thematic priorities, are the fifth and sixth-largest sectors of bilateral ODA, with funding levels at US$267 million and US$248 million respectively in 2017.

Dutch ODA has a strong focus on low-income countries and targets sub-Saharan Africa

A large share of the Netherlands’ bilateral ODA is not allocated by region (69% on average between 2015 and 2017) or income group (78%). This funding mainly includes funding for CSOs, earmarked funding for multilaterals, and costs of hosting refugees. When excluding this funding, the Netherlands traditionally places a priority on sub-Saharan Africa: the region received 56% of bilateral ODA between 2015 and 2017. This share drops to 17% when including all funding (DAC average: 33%). When looking at income level, Dutch development policy traditionally focuses on the poorest countries. When only considering funding that is allocated to specific countries, almost two-thirds (64%) of bilateral ODA between 2015 and 2017 went to low-income countries (LICs; 14% if total bilateral ODA is considered).

The Netherlands selects its focus regions and countries based on three elements: 1) the urgency and need for development cooperation, 2) the added value of Dutch efforts, and 3) the potential for alignment with Dutch thematic priorities. Following its 2018 ‘Investing in Global Prospects’ policy, the Dutch government will shift its emphasis to the regions of the West African Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). At the same time, the Netherlands will continue its activity in the Great Lakes region (Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and East Congo) and two Asian countries (Afghanistan and Bangladesh). The 2018 development policy ‘Investing in Global Prospects’ lays out specific focuses for each priority region:

- In the Sahel, the Netherlands will focus mainly on the “economic power houses” of the region, Niger and Nigeria.
- In the Horn of Africa, key partner countries will continue to be Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan. Additional funding is planned, with stronger increases going to Somalia and Sudan.
- In the MENA region, the Dutch government will maintain its relations with the Palestinian Territories and Yemen, mainly focusing on humanitarian assistance. It will also increase its cooperation with Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, with a special emphasis on supporting the reception of refugees in the region.
- In the Great Lakes region, the Dutch government puts an emphasis on bilateral cooperation with Burundi, Uganda, and Rwanda, while providing regional funding to East Congo (DRC) focused on stability, humanitarian assistance, and poverty reduction.
- In Afghanistan, the Netherlands will continue to focus on promoting stability and security. In Bangladesh it will transition from a development relationship to a trade relationship, focusing on water, textiles, women, and the plight of the Rohingya.

According to the policy, funding for bilateral programs is set to increase by at least a third compared to 2017 levels in each of these focus regions during this government’s term of office. In addition to that, new embassy offices will be opened where necessary to increase the Netherlands’ visible presence (especially in the Sahel), and ex-
isting embassies in focus regions will receive increased support from local experts and diplomats with development experience.

For a deeper understanding of funding at the recipient level, please consult data from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). IATI is a reporting standard and platform on which organizations and governments voluntarily publish data on their development cooperation, including more recent activity than is available through OECD data.

Data can be searched by recipient country, the ‘publisher’ (including funders that do not report to the OECD), and other filters. Click here for more information on IATI’s data. Click here to go directly to IATI’s ‘d-portal’, a user-friendly interface for data searches.

**Dutch core funding to multilaterals largely goes to the EU and the UN**

In 2017, the Netherlands only channeled 28% of its ODA as core funding to multilaterals (OECD DAC average: 40%), amounting to US$1.4 billion. The largest recipients of core contributions to multilateral organizations were EU institutions (US$589 million, or 41% of the Netherlands’s multilateral ODA) and UN agencies (US$492 million, or 35%). In addition to these core contributions, the Netherlands channeled 14% of its ODA through multilaterals in the form of funding earmarked for specific thematic priorities or regions (reported to the OECD as bilateral ODA). Thus, in total, 42% of Dutch ODA in 2017 was implemented by multilateral organizations (see figure). This remains below the DAC average of 53%.

**THE NETHERLANDS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ODA**

US$ millions; in 2017 prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bilateral ODA</th>
<th>Earmarked funding to multilaterals</th>
<th>Core contributions to multilaterals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,996</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,286</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,064</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OECD DAC 1 table. Gross disbursements; in 2017 prices.
THE NETHERLANDS' BILATERAL ODA BY SECTOR, 2017
Total: US$ 3.639 million

- Refugees in Donor Countries: 23.0% (US$0.856m.)
- Government & Civil Society: 13.9% (US$0.501m.)
- Donor Admin Costs: 9.8% (US$0.368m.)
- Humanitarian aid: 7.9% (US$0.287m.)
- Health & Population: 7.3% (US$0.267m.)
- Agriculture*: 6.6% (US$0.246m.)
- Water & Sanitation: 5.4% (US$0.195m.)
- Financial Services & Business Support: 4.9% (US$0.183m.)
- Conflict, Peace & Security: 4.1% (US$0.151m.)
- Other: 8.0% (US$0.296m.)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements. * Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and rural development. In 2017 prices.

THE TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF THE NETHERLANDS' ODA
Average 2015-2017, excluding debt relief; US$ millions.

1. Ethiopia
2. Afghanistan
3. South Sudan
4. Rwanda
5. Bangladesh
6. Lebanon
7. Iraq
8. Turkey
9. Mali
10. Mozambique

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements, in 2017 prices.
THE NETHERLAND'S BILATERAL ODA BY INCOME-GROUP, 2015-2017

Average 2015-2017: US$ 3.8 billion

Low-income countries
14.2% (US$411m.)

Lower middle-income countries
3.7% (US$146m.)

Upper middle-income
countries
4.5% (US$170m.)

Unallocated by income
77.7% (US$2966m.)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements, in 2017 prices.
Who are the main actors in the Netherlands' development cooperation?

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation leads on strategy; embassies administer bilateral ODA

Prime Minister Mark Rutte (People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy, VVD), currently in his third term of office, has led a coalition government with the social-liberal Democrats 66 (D66), the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), and the Christian Union (CU) since 2017. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) defines priorities for Dutch development policy, currently under the leadership of Stef Blok (VVD). Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (MFTDC) Sigrid Kaag (D66) leads the MFA’s work on development cooperation. Within the MFA, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) is responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of development policy.

Unlike many other donors, the Netherlands does not have a development agency. The implementation of Dutch bilateral programs in partner countries falls under the remit of Dutch embassies. They do so according to the Multi-Annual Strategic Plans (MJSPs), developed by the MFA for all partner countries. MJSPs cover a period of four years, although interim adjustments are possible. The latest public MJSPs ran from 2014 to 2017. New Multi-Annual Strategic Plans, now renamed Multi-Annual Country Strategies, are currently under development and will cover the period from 2019 to 2022. These documents will no longer be publicly available. A number of Dutch civil society organizations (CSOs) and members of parliament have called for more transparency and are advocating for shorter public versions of these strategies to be openly available, when finalized.

The role of Parliament is to scrutinize development policy and budget allocations. Parliament can annually amend the government’s draft budget bill. Parliamentary debates in November/December can lead to significant changes to the ODA budget.

Dutch civil society organizations (CSOs) play an active role in Dutch development cooperation. The development CSO umbrella association, Partos, represents over 100 organizations. They engage with the Parliament and the MFA to influence policy and funding decisions. Many CSOs implement their own programs in developing countries and are funded by the Dutch government and through private donations. In 2015, program funding for CSOs was sharply cut, and since then, a larger focus has been placed on strategic partnerships and advocacy. Since 2016, funding for civil society organizations (CSOs) is increasingly channeled through the funding scheme ‘Dialogue and Dissent. Strategic partnerships for lobby and advocacy’ (2016-2020). This scheme puts an emphasis on advocacy work (as opposed to provision of services and goods) and strategic partnerships and strategic partnerships between 25 CSOs and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. A subsequent ‘Dialogue and Dissent’ policy framework for 2020 to 2024 was presented on June 20, 2019 and will be debated in Parliament on September 5, 2019. It largely maintains the same programs and funding modalities of the earlier policy framework.
How is the Netherlands’ ODA budget structured?

### Overview: The Netherlands’ 2019 ODA budget, in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>€</th>
<th>US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation</td>
<td>2,959</td>
<td>3,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable economic development, trade and investment</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable development, food security, water, and climate</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security, of which:</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to (international) organizations</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social issues</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRHR, incl. HIV/AIDS, of which:</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International organizations (including Global Fund, UNFPA, UNAIDS)</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s rights and gender equality (including contributions to UNWOMAN)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Mainly CSO support)</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace, security and sustainable development</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral cooperation</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral cooperation</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open for distribution (due to changes in GNP and/or attributions)</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance (funding for development banks)</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ministries</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ODA expenses</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU budget</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee costs</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total ODA budget (gross)</strong></td>
<td>4,730</td>
<td>5,332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HGIS nota 2019 and Rijksbegroting 2019

### The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation manages more than half of total ODA

In 2019, the Netherlands’ ODA budget stands at €4.7 billion (US$5.3 billion). This is a marginal increase of 2% from 2018 and 5% from 2017 (€4.5 billion; US$5.1 billion). According to the budget proposal, the ODA budget is projected to increase by 8% between 2019 and 2023, with ODA at €5.1 billion (US$5.8 billion) in 2023.

The Homogeneous Budget for International Cooperation (HGIS) is a budgetary structure within the national budget. It consolidates the ODA allocations within the foreign policy budgets of individual ministries.

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (MFTDC), a cabinet-level minister within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), manages the largest share of Dutch ODA (63% in 2019). On top of the funding managed by the MFTDC, other departments within the MFA disburse another 14% of the development budget. The Ministry of Finance provides 7% of the total ODA budget, disbursing funding to development banks. The remaining 16% is mostly contributions to the EU development budget (7%) and funding to cover the costs of hosting refugees in the Netherlands.

The Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation budget is organized around thematic areas (see table). The envelopes for these thematic areas are usually split further into grants and contributions to multilaterals and other organizations working in that thematic area.

### Key Questions

#### the big six

**5. How is the Netherlands’ ODA budget structured?**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Thematic Area</th>
<th>Netherlands’ 2019 ODA budget, in millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>EU budget</td>
<td>330 (€4.7 billion; US$5.3 billion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee costs</td>
<td>420 (€4.7 billion; US$5.3 billion)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HGIS nota 2019 and Rijksbegroting 2019
What are important milestones in the Netherlands' annual budget process?

Ministerial budget ceilings are set in April/May; allocation decisions are made between May and July

- **Ministries develop initial budget proposal:** From February to March, the ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, develop their initial budget proposals for the coming year and decide on spending increases or decreases for the main policy areas. The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and the Minister of Foreign Affairs are the main decision-makers during this process. The thematic departments of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) are also important stakeholders, as they are responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of Dutch development policy.

- **Ministries update their current budgets:** Between March and May, ministers update the budgets of the current year to reflect any changes that have occurred since the draft budget was presented in previous autumn. This is known as the ‘spring budget’. While the Parliament has the right to amend the budget, changes are rarely made. The ‘spring budget’ is published on June 1 at the latest every year.

- **Cabinet decides on ministerial budgets:** In August, the cabinet decides on ministerial budgets for the following budget year. Important decision-makers are the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Finance.

- **Draft budget presented to Parliament:** On the third Tuesday of September (called “Prinsjes Dag”), the government presents its budget bill to the Parliament.

- **Parliament debates and approves budget:** The ODA budget is debated and amended by the Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the House of Representatives at the end of November, and occasionally beginning of December. Parliamentary debates in November/December can lead to significant changes to the draft budget. In 2015, for example, Parliament amended the budget in order to increase the Dutch contribution to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, by €50 million (US$56 million). The budget must be approved before the end of the year. More recently, in the 2018 budget negotiations, the Dutch Parliament approved an amendment to the 2018 budget for an increase of €10 million (US$11 million) to be spent on family planning.
The Netherlands’ global health ODA

The Netherlands strongly focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights

The Netherlands’ official development assistance (ODA) to global health (both bilateral and multilateral) stood at US$589 million in 2016 (the latest year for which full data is available), equivalent to 11% of its total ODA. This makes the Netherlands seventh-largest DAC donor to global health in absolute terms and is above the average share (8%) of ODA spent on health by other members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The Netherlands increased its funding for global health by 15% between 2015 and 2016, largely driven by higher bilateral funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Between 2015 and 2016, funding for reproductive healthcare went up by 40%, reaching US$175 million (equivalent to 30% of total health ODA). The Dutch government is a global leader on SRHR issues: in 2017, it launched the global initiative ‘She Decides’ to support organizations that focus on SRHR and family planning.

Half (US$294 million) of total Dutch health ODA in 2016 was channeled as multilateral ODA, slightly below the DAC average of 56%. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), International Development Association (IDA), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are key recipients. Additionally, 14% of total health ODA was channeled as earmarked contributions to multilaterals. This is reported as bilateral funding. This brings the total of Dutch health ODA channeled through multilaterals to 64% (DAC average: 65%).

Bilateral health ODA went from US$295 million in 2016 to US$267 million in 2017. This accounts for 7% of total bilateral ODA. Reflecting the Dutch policy focus on SRHR, bilateral health funding strongly focuses on reproductive health care (58% of bilateral health ODA in 2017). Reproductive health care is followed by population policy and administrative management (17%), and family planning (10%).

The Netherlands strongly supports civil society organizations (CSOs) active in the field of SRHR. Funding for SRHR for 2016 to 2020 is channeled through the ‘SRHR Partnership Fund’ (€215 million, or US$242 million; a total of €43 million, or US$48 million annually). The Fund is a partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and seven Dutch CSO on SRHR, with a special focus on young people. A new call for proposals is expected to be issued in September 2019.

The Netherlands streamlines its efforts on SRHR across other sectors. In July 2017, it released a joint statement with the UK and Belgium at the Family Planning 2020 Summit, in which all three countries committed that their core funding to the humanitarian system will strengthen results on protecting and empowering women and girls, including SRHR.

In October 2018, the Netherlands announced its first pledge to the Global Financing Facility in support of Every Woman Every Child (GFF), a financing mechanism that acts as a catalyst to mobilize financing for government plans to invest in health care for women, children, and adolescents. It will contribute US$68 million between 2018 and 2023.

The Health and AIDS Division leads development policy on health

Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) is responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of Dutch development policy. This person traditionally also had the title of Ambassador on SRHR and HIV/AIDS, which under the current cabinet was changed to Ambassador on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality. Within DGIS, the ‘Social Development Department’ (DSO) develops policies and strategies related to health, education, gender, civil society, and research. Within DSO, the health and AIDS division (DSO/GA) is responsible for the policy on SRHR, including health systems and HIV/AIDS.
THE NETHERLANDS’ ODA TO HEALTH

US$ millions

Multilateral health ODA  Bilateral health ODA  Health ODA as % of total ODA

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

RECIPIENTS OF THE NETHERLANDS’ HEALTH ODA, 2016

Total: US$589 million

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.
THE NETHERLANDS’ KEY GLOBAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gavi (2016-2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td>US$211m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFFIm (2016-2035)</td>
<td>US$73m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFF (2019-2023)</td>
<td>US$28m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from government and listed organizations
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO HEALTH, 2016

Total health ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

- United States: 10,048
- United Kingdom: 2,359
- Germany: 1,184
- France: 971
- Japan: 871
- Canada: 706
- Netherlands: 569
- Norway: 568
- Sweden: 530
- Australia: 372

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector (DAC Secretariat estimates).

TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO HEALTH, 2016

Health ODA as % of total ODA

- United States: 28.1%
- Canada: 19.2%
- Luxembourg: 15.8%
- United Kingdom: 13.3%
- Ireland: 13.2%
- Norway: 12.3%
- Netherlands: 11.1%
- Australia: 10.6%
- Korea: 10.4%
- Sweden: 10.3%

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector (DAC Secretariat estimates).
The Netherlands' global health R&D

The Netherlands largely funds product development partnerships for global health

The Netherlands’ contributions to development funding for research and development (R&D) on poverty-related and neglected diseases (PRNDs), referred to as ‘global health R&D’ in this profile, stood at US$24 million in 2017, as reported to the G-FINDER.

This makes the Netherlands the seventh-largest donor to global health R&D. Financing for global health R&D reported by the Netherlands dropped from US$17 million in 2014 to US$5 million in 2015, before increasing again in 2016 and 2017 to US$24 million. These increases were driven by strengthened support to product-development partnerships (PDPs): they received 100% of funding in 2017.

Currently, the Netherlands channels its funding for global health R&D through the PDP III Fund, which has a total budget of €86 million (US$97 million) for 2015 to 2020. PDP I and II had total budgets of €150 million (US$169 million), between 2006 and 2014. The fund focuses on the development and availability of affordable and effective medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and innovative products for neglected diseases, with the aim of combating poverty and inequality. Six organizations have been selected to receive funding from PDP III: the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM; US$8 million in 2017 according to G-FINDER), the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI; US$4 million), the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi; US$4 million), TB Alliance (US$3 million), Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV; US$3 million), and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND; US$2 million).

Dutch global health R&D focused on HIV/AIDS (US$11 million, or 47% of its total funding), kinetoplastids (US$4 million, or 15% of total funding), and tuberculosis (US$4 million, or 15%), and Malaria (US$3 million, 12%).

The Netherlands focuses its support to global health R&D on PDPs as they contribute to its development agenda, ‘Investing in Global Prospects’, as well as the ‘Roadmap on neglected diseases’. This roadmap is part of the ‘Topsector Life Sciences & Health’, one of nine ‘Topsectors’ set apart by the government as a joint venture between the Dutch private sector and research centers to excel internationally. ‘Solutions to neglected and poverty-related diseases’ is one of the ten roadmaps within the ‘Topsector Life Sciences and Health’. The Dutch government engages with the private sector to ensure that by 2025, the Dutch private sector working in life sciences and health will spend more than 10% of its revenue on R&D.

MFA sets strategy; Netherlands Enterprise agency manages funds related to global health R&D

According to G-FINDER data, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), specifically the Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGIS), is the largest funder of global health R&D, channeling virtually all (99.5%) of total health R&D funding in 2017. The remaining 0.5% comes from the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research – Global Development Division (WOTRO). Within DGIS, the Social Development Department (DSO) develops policies related to global health. Within DSO, the Health and AIDS Division (DSO/GA) is responsible for the PDP funds (including the current PDP III). DSO/GA reviews proposals together with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The MFA commissioned RVO, which is part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, to manage the PDP III and LS&H4D funds on its behalf.

Further information: G-FINDER

G-FINDER is a data source developed by Policy Cures Research that provides information on global investments into R&D for neglected diseases. Figures in this section are based on the G-FINDER survey, which covers basic research and product-related R&D (drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics) for a select group of diseases. The G-FINDER scope has been defined by an expert committee, in line with three criteria: the disease disproportionally affects people in developing countries, there is a need for new products, and the commercial incentives are insufficient to attract R&D from private industry.

For more information: www政策curesresearch.org
THE NETHERLANDS’ R&D FUNDING FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES
US$ millions; in 2017 prices

Policy Cures Research, G-FINDER Public Search tool
The Netherlands’ education ODA

Formerly a major focus area, emphasis on education has decreased since 2012

Education is not a priority of the Dutch development funding portfolio: In 2016 (latest year for which full data is available), the Netherlands spent just 4% of its total ODA on education, ranking 24th among donors within the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) in relative terms. On average, OECD DAC donors spent 8% of their ODA on education. In absolute terms, the Netherlands is the 11th-largest donor country to education; it spent at US$217 million in 2016. Funding has declined by more than two-thirds since its peak of US$699 million in 2007, driven by cuts in bilateral ODA to education. Bilateral education ODA decreased from US$640 million in 2007 to US$113 million in 2016.

Despite not being a development priority, education is viewed as a cross-cutting theme of the four traditional development priorities: 1) security and the rule of law, 2) water, 3) food security, and 4) sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR, including HIV/AIDS). Before cuts in the education ODA budget in 2012 to free up funding for SRHR, the Netherlands took international leadership on the issue, with a specific focus on basic education. The current 2019 budget sets education ODA funding at €64 million (US$72 million), which is divided by the international program post-secondary and vocational training education, as well as the latest contribution to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

The Netherlands spends most bilateral education ODA on post-secondary education

The Netherlands provided more than half (US$113 million) of its education ODA as bilateral funding in 2016. Bilateral education ODA decreased to US$90 million in 2017, accounting for 2.5% of total Dutch bilateral ODA. The largest share of this was directed towards post-secondary education (69% or US$62 million). The second-largest share of bilateral education ODA went to basic education (12% or US$11 million), with a focus on primary education. 10% (US$9 million) was allocated to vocational training.

However, to get a full picture of a donor’s cross border flows of education assistance, it is important to exclude scholarships and other costs of students from developing countries studying in donor countries. These costs are reported as ODA by some donors but are not spent on development programs abroad. In 2016 (the latest year for which full data is available), the Netherlands reported 12% of all its education ODA (US$26 million) as costs for students from developing countries studying in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands provides almost half of its education ODA as multilateral funding: 48%, or US$104 million in 2016, mostly made up of assessed contributions to the World Bank and the EU. Assessed contributions to IDA make up the largest share of the Netherlands’ multilateral education ODA (27% of total education ODA), followed by the EU (14%).

The Netherlands has at times been a strong supporter of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). It contributed US$702 million since GPE’s inception in 2002 but ceased its contributions to the Fund between 2015 and 2018. However, the Netherlands announced a new pledge of US$114 million (2018-2020) during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018. In 2018, the Netherlands contributed US$57 million to the GPE.

The coalition agreement of the current government states that education for refugee children will be given a priority and that scholarships will be doubled using funds from the development cooperation budget, particularly for the new focus countries Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. According to the policy document: ‘Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, For the Netherlands’ (also referred to as the ‘BHOS policy’), the Netherlands will invest €60 million annually in new programs supporting general and vocational education, employment and income equality for young people and women in the West African Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the Middle

Further information: ‘basic’ and ‘general’ education

In this profile, ‘basic education’ refers to the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) sector code ‘basic education’ (112), which includes primary education, basic skills for youths and adults, and early childhood education. ‘General education’ refers to the OECD CRS sector code ‘education, level unspecified’, which includes education policy and administrative management, education facilities and training, teacher training, and educational research.
East and North Africa.

The MFA’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation drives global development policy; there is no specific department focusing on education.

The responsibility for development cooperation lies with the Netherlands’ Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (MFTDC), part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Further, within the MFA, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) is responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of development policy. As education is not a priority, there is no specific department within the ministry that focuses on education.

THE NETHERLANDS’ ODA TO EDUCATION

US$ millions

- 2014: Multilateral education ODA (21% of total ODA)
- 2015: Bilateral education ODA (52% of total ODA)
- 2016: Multilateral education ODA (48% of total ODA)

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector.
DAC secretariat estimations. In 2017 prices.
THE NETHERLANDS’ BILATERAL ODA TO EDUCATION ACROSS SUB-SECTORS, 2017

Total: US$90 million

- General education: 0.2% (US$7.4m.)
- Secondary education: 0.0% (US$0m.)
- Vocational training: 9.8% (US$6.6m.)
- Basic education: 12.8% (US$11.5m.)
- Post-secondary education: 69.2% (US$62.1m.)

OECD CRS. In 2017 prices.

TOP 15 DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016

Total education ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

1. Germany: 2,294
2. United States: 1,660
3. United Kingdom: 1,571
4. France: 1,357
5. Japan: 737
6. Norway: 436
7. Korea: 278
8. Canada: 274
9. Australia: 273
10. Italy: 234
11. Netherlands: 217
12. Sweden: 185
13. Austria: 183
14. Switzerland: 164
15. Spain: 158

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016

Education ODA as % of total ODA

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
Agriculture is not a funding priority for the Netherlands, but is incorporated into different sectors

Agriculture and rural development are not among the four thematic priorities of Dutch development assistance. Within policymaking, agriculture is not seen as a single component, but rather as one intertwined with food security, water management, and climate protection. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development’s (OECD) data, official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture and rural development increased to US$435 million in 2016, from US$327 million in 2015. This represented 9% of total ODA, above the average among members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of 7%. Dutch ODA to agriculture has been steadily increasing since 2014, when it amounted to US$305 million. The current coalition government has committed to making agriculture a priority area in the field of poverty reduction.

In 2016 the Netherlands provided US$159 million of its funding to agriculture and rural development as multilateral ODA. This corresponds to 36% of total ODA to agriculture. These multilateral contributions were mainly in the form of assessed contributions to the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, EU institutions, and funding to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The Netherlands started a strategic partnership with the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) in 2015, focusing on food security, with specific attention to climate-smart agriculture, nutrition, water use, and biodiversity. In July 2017, the Netherlands announced a new commitment to CGIAR (US$72 million for 2017 to 2019). In addition, a commitment of US$17 million was made for 2017-2021 to strengthen the partnership between the Netherlands and CGIAR. In 2017, CCAFS (CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security) opened its headquarters at the Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

The main focus areas of bilateral agricultural ODA in 2016 (US$277 million) were agricultural development (25%), rural development (16%), agricultural research (11%), agricultural financial services (10%), and food crop production (9%).

It is still unclear if the core priorities of agriculture ODA will change under the new government, but a large degree of continuity is likely. In previous years, the priorities in this sector have been:

1. eliminating hunger and malnutrition,
2. stimulating inclusive and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector, and
3. realizing ecologically sustainable food systems.

To achieve this, the Netherlands focuses on:

4. increasing food production sustainability,
5. removing barriers to national, regional and world trade,
6. strengthening the role of the private sector, and
7. supporting research.

The Netherlands intends to double the productivity and income of smallholder (female) farmers and build sustainable, climate-resilient food production systems by 2030. Coherence and synergies with related themes – such as private-sector development, water, and climate, as well as the broader Dutch policy related to development cooperation and trade – is considered key.

Funding for partners is channeled through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative (mostly for advocacy work) and the Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security (FDOV), which is administered by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The facility aims at stimulating sustainable economic development through public-private partnerships. FDOV’s current budget stands at €113 million (US$125 million), numbering 46 ongoing projects in 28 countries.

The Directorate of Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) is responsible for policies related to food security

Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) is responsible for designing and coordinating the implem-
The Netherlands Donor Profile

The Netherlands is active in all areas of development cooperation, including food security, climate change, water, energy, and natural resources. The Department of Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) within the Netherlands Development Cooperation (DGIS) focuses on policies related to food security, climate, water, energy, natural resources, and the Arctic. IGG includes a specific thematic cluster on food security. The Sustainable Economic Development Department within DGIS supports farmer cooperatives in developing countries.

### The Netherlands’ ODA to Agriculture

![Graph showing ODA to agriculture from 2014 to 2016](image)

**The Netherlands’ ODA to Agriculture**

**US$ millions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Multilateral agriculture ODA</th>
<th>Bilateral agriculture ODA</th>
<th>Agriculture ODA as % of total ODA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture and rural development sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

### Recipients of Netherlands’ Agriculture ODA, 2016

Total: US$447 million

- **Bilateral**: 63.5% (US$284m.)
- **IDA**: 16.8% (US$75m.)
- **Other**: 19.7% (US$86m.)

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016
Total agriculture ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

- United States: 1,904
- Germany: 1,236
- Japan: 1,071
- United Kingdom: 562
- France: 713
- Netherlands: 447
- Italy: 269
- Canada: 262
- Switzerland: 246
- Sweden: 220

OFC CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)

TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016
Agriculture ODA as % of total ODA

- Poland: 16.5
- New Zealand: 9.9
- Finland: 9.1
- Ireland: 8.7
- Netherlands: 8.5
- Luxembourg: 7.7
- Belgium: 7.7
- Iceland: 7.4
- Korea: 7.2
- Canada: 7

OFC CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
The Netherlands' nutrition ODA

Food security is one of the Netherlands' long-standing development priorities

Food security is one of four main themes of Dutch development cooperation policy, according to the government’s strategy paper, ‘Investing in Global Prospects’, published in 2018.

According to the government’s budget, €340 million (US$383 million) will be allocated to food security in 2019. Eliminating hunger and malnutrition is one of the three priorities of the Netherlands’ overall strategy for food security. Against this backdrop, the Netherlands aims to lift 32 million people (especially children) out of undernourishment between now and 2030.

The Netherlands integrates a gender equality dimension into its food security programs. In line with the Netherlands’s overall focus on sexual and reproductive health, a specific priority is the nutritional status of adolescents, and particularly girls of reproductive age (given the importance of nutrition during pregnancy).

Key commitments by the Netherlands include a pledge of €300 million (US$338 million) to the Nutrition for Growth Initiative (2013-2020), with funds equally split between nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions.

The Netherlands implements a multi-stakeholder approach to ODA for nutrition, combining government, civil society, the private sector, and knowledge institutes.

- **Nutrition-specific**: Interventions with primary objective to improve nutrition (i.e. support for exclusive breastfeeding, supplementary feeding, etc.)
- **Nutrition-sensitive**: Interventions addressing underlying causes of malnutrition and consider cross-sector impacts (i.e. improve access to diverse diet, etc.)

This public-private partnership (PPP) approach is also known as the “Dutch Diamond”. The main PPP within the field of nutrition is the Amsterdam Initiative Against Malnutrition (AIM). It aims to leverage the experience of Dutch companies in the food and nutrition industries across all stages of the food value chain to ensure sustainable improvements in nutrition in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

**The Directorate of Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) is responsible for policies related to food security**

Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) is responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of Dutch development policy. Within DGIS, the Directorate of Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) focuses on policies related to food security, climate, water, energy, and natural resources. The directorate includes a specific thematic cluster on food security.
Near the end, the Netherlands Donor Profile seeks to advance and support progress in global development by providing advocates with easy access to high-quality quantitative and qualitative strategic information to support their work. The Donor Tracker is a free, independent website for development professionals that provides relevant information and analysis on 14 major OECD donors.

For more in-depth information on the six donor countries covered in this analysis and to find out more about strategic priorities, funding trends, decision-making, and key opportunities, please visit: donortracker.org and follow us on twitter @DonorTracker

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