

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six



How much ODA does Italy provide?

The government has committed to gradually increase ODA to 0.4% of GNI by 2021, but the 2019 budget indicates decreases in coming years

Following sharp decreases between 2008 and 2012 due to the economic crisis, Italy's ODA has more than doubled since 2012. In 2017, Italy spent US\$5.9 billion on net ODA, making it the sixth-largest donor country among members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). This corresponds to 0.3% of Italy's GNI.

Between 2016 and 2017, ODA increased by 12.6%, following a sharp 27% increase between 2015 and 2016. These increases are the result of two dynamics: a significant rise in expenses dedicated to hosting refugees in Italy, some of which is reportable as ODA, and to strengthen Italy's contribution to topics of strategic interest such as addressing the root causes of migration.

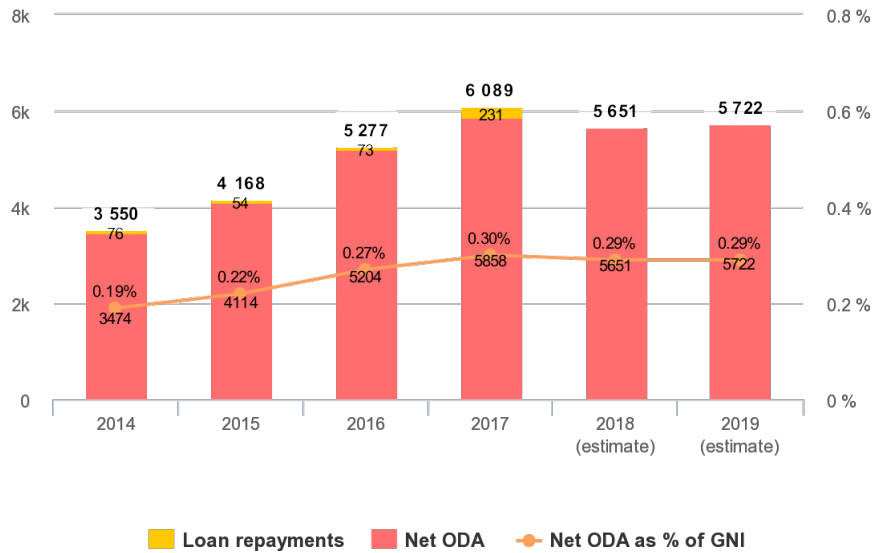
Due to its geographic position, Italy has been at the front-line of refugees reaching Europe by sea. ODA-reportable costs of hosting refugees in Italy rose significantly in the

last years: while in 2012 they were only US\$226 million (or 9% of net ODA), in 2017 they reached US\$1.8 billion, accounting for 31% of Italy's net ODA. However, when excluding these costs, net ODA between 2016 and 2017 still rose by 16% (from US\$3.5 billion to US\$4.1 billion in 2017). Despite declines in arrivals, the Italian Ministry of Interior has budgeted US\$1.9 billion for 2019 for hosting refugees as well as to "assistance to countries in the field of migration and asylum".

For 2018, ODA levels are estimated to be slightly lower and amount to only 0.29% of GNI, despite reaffirmation in September 2018 from the current government to gradually increase the ODA/GNI share to 0.4% by 2021. The budget after 2019 further undermines this commitment. The new budget law approved in December 2018 after long discussions with the EU over Italy's public deficit indicates a gradual decrease of ODA from €5.1 billion (US\$5.7 billion, 0.29% of GNI) in 2019 to €4.6 billion (US\$5.2 billion or 0.26% of GNI) in 2021, given a projected growth rate of 1%. ODA levels as a share of GNI are expected to drastically decrease over the next years, which has prompted concerns from civil society.

ITALY'S GROSS/NET ODA DISBURSEMENTS

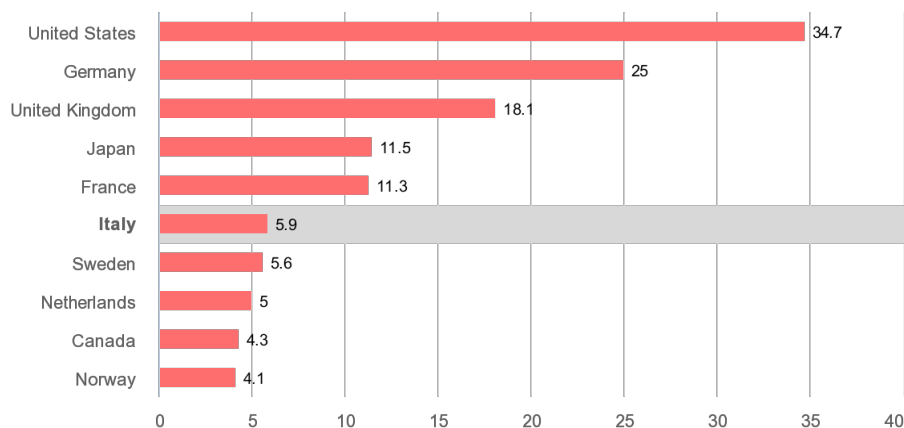
US\$ millions; in 2017 prices



OECD DAC1 table. ODA estimates for 2018 and 2019 are based on government data.

TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2017

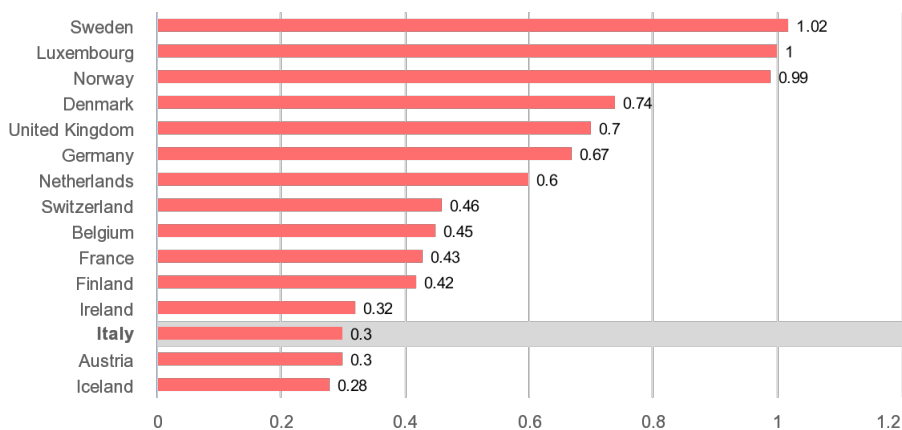
Net ODA Disbursements; US\$ billions; in current prices



OECD DAC1 data

TOP 15 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2017

Net ODA as % of GNI



OECD DAC1 data

Further information: 2017 prices

To compare ODA levels in any given year with ODA levels provided in other years, figures need to be adjusted to account for inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. The OECD provides data that accounts for these fluctuations. In this profile, and unless indicated otherwise, figures are stated using 2017 prices.