NETHERLANDS

Leaving no one behind: The Netherlands’ approach and priorities

The Netherlands’ 2018 Policy “Investing in Global Prospects” is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and the pledge to leave no one behind. The policy identifies four closely connected objectives: 1) preventing conflict and instability; 2) reducing poverty and social inequality; 3) promoting sustainable and inclusive growth and climate action worldwide; and 4) enhancing the Netherlands’ international earning capacity. Dutch trade policy addresses leaving no one behind with its focus on a living wage, the poorest groups and women.

For the Netherlands, it is in everyone’s interest to tackle the root causes of extreme poverty, which is increasingly concentrated in fragile regions and the closely intertwined nature of global problems such as poverty, conflict, terrorism, climate change, population growth and irregular migration.

The Netherlands’ approach to leaving no one behind focuses on fragile situations and states with high levels of extreme poverty; the empowerment of women and girls; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It also aims to improve the protection and prospects of refugees and displaced persons and will actively target young people – a rapidly growing share of the population. Data gaps, especially disaggregated data and political and cultural barriers to including minority groups, are key challenges to its leaving no one behind approach.

Financial flows from the Netherlands to developing countries

Figure 32.1. Net resource flows to developing countries, 2006-16, Netherlands

Figure 32.2. Net ODA: Trends in volume and as a share of GNI, 2006-17, Netherlands

The Netherlands’ performance against commitments for effective development co-operation

Table 32.1. Results of the 2016 Global Partnership monitoring round (updated), Netherlands

Note: Please refer to Annex B for details on the indicators. Data on untied ODA, retrospective statistics and publishing to the IATI have been updated according to the latest information available.
The Netherlands’ official development assistance

In 2017, the Netherlands provided USD 5 billion in net ODA (preliminary data), which represented 0.60% of gross national income (GNI) and a decrease of 2.9% in real terms from 2016, mostly due to a fall in core contributions to multilateral organisations partially offset by an increase in in-donor refugee costs. In 2017, in-donor refugee costs were USD 835 million and represented 16.9% of the Netherlands’ total net official development assistance (ODA), compared to 8.7% in 2016.

The Netherlands’ share of untied ODA (excluding administrative costs and in-donor refugee costs) was 98.8% in 2016 (up from 92.7% in 2015), above the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average of 81.2%. The grant element of total ODA was 100% in 2016.

In 2016, 64.8% of ODA was provided bilaterally. The Netherlands allocated 35.2% of total ODA as core contributions to multilateral organisations. In addition, it channelled 23.7% of its bilateral ODA for specific projects implemented by multilateral organisations (multi-bi/non-core contributions).

In 2016, 25.1% of bilateral ODA was programmed with partner countries. The Netherlands’ share of country programmable aid was lower than the DAC country average of 46.8% in 2016. Project-type interventions accounted for 67% of this aid. Thirty-five per cent of the Netherlands’ bilateral ODA was reported as “other and unallocated” by category, and 16% was allocated to refugee costs in the Netherlands.

In 2016, USD 877.2 million of bilateral ODA was channelled to and through civil society organisations (CSOs). Between 2015 and 2016, aid channelled to and through CSOs increased as a share of bilateral aid (from 24.7% to 26.3%).

Figure 32.3. ODA composition in 2010-16 and distribution of multilateral ODA in 2016, Netherlands

Figure 32.4. Composition of bilateral ODA, 2016, gross disbursements, Netherlands

Figure 32.5. Gross bilateral ODA disbursements to and through CSOs by type of CSO, 2010-16, Netherlands
The largest share of Dutch allocable bilateral ODA was directed towards sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, USD 636.6 million was allocated to sub-Saharan Africa and USD 210.2 million to the Middle East, noting that 66% of Dutch bilateral ODA was unallocated by region.

Figure 32.6. Share of bilateral ODA by region, 2016, gross disbursements, Netherlands

Note: Sixty-six per cent of bilateral ODA allocated was unspecified by region in 2016. This share is not represented on the map.

In 2016, 16.5% of bilateral ODA went to the Netherlands’ top 10 recipients. Seven of its 15 priority partner countries are on the list of its top 10 recipients. In 2016, its support to fragile contexts reached USD 606.9 million (18% of gross bilateral ODA). Support to fragile contexts consisted mainly of project-type interventions (65%) and contributions to pooled funds (24%).

Figure 32.7. Bilateral ODA to top recipients, 2016, gross disbursements, Netherlands

In 2016, 15.2% of bilateral ODA was allocated to least developed countries (LDCs), amounting to USD 507.9 million. This is an increase from 11% in 2015 but remains below the 2016 DAC average of 21.9%. The LDCs received the highest share of bilateral ODA in 2016, noting that 73% was unallocated by income group. At 0.15% of the Netherlands’ GNI in 2016, total ODA to the LDCs met the UN target of 0.15% of GNI.

Figure 32.8. Bilateral ODA by income group, 2010-16, gross disbursements, Netherlands
In 2016, 47.4% of the Netherlands’ bilateral ODA was allocated to social infrastructure and services, amounting to USD 1.6 billion, with a strong focus on support to government and civil society (USD 512.8 million), population and reproductive health (USD 482.6 million), and water and sanitation (USD 257.1 million). Humanitarian aid amounted to USD 323 million. In 2016, the Netherlands committed USD 496.2 million (19.3% of bilateral allocable aid) to promote aid for trade and to improve developing countries’ trade performance and integration into the world economy.

Figure 32.9. Share of gross bilateral ODA by sector, 2015-16, commitments, Netherlands

USD 1.6 billion of bilateral ODA supported gender equality. In 2016, 60.6% of the Netherlands’ bilateral allocable aid had gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal or significant objective, compared with the DAC country average of 36.5%. This is down from 61.3% in 2015. A high share of the Netherlands’ aid to population and reproductive health and economic infrastructure focuses on gender.

Figure 32.10. Share of bilateral allocable ODA in support of gender equality by sector, 2016, commitments, Netherlands

USD 605.7 million of Dutch bilateral ODA commitments supported environmental outcomes in 2016. This represented 23.5% of bilateral allocable aid, below the DAC country average of 33%. In 2016, 23.3% of bilateral allocable aid (USD 598.7 billion) focused on climate change, below the DAC country average of 25.7%.

Figure 32.11. Bilateral allocable ODA in support of global and local environment objectives, 2010-16, commitments, Netherlands

Note to reader: Annex B provides “Methodological notes on the profiles of Development Assistance Committee members”.

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