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**Cas pratique diplomatique ou consulaire en anglais**

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*Toute note inférieure à 10 sur 20 est éliminatoire.*

Résolution d'un cas pratique diplomatique ou consulaire en anglais, sur la base d'un dossier à caractère professionnel, rédigé en anglais

Ce dossier comporte 14 pages (page de garde, sujet et sommaire non compris)

## Sommaire

Document 1 : UN chief says aid surge needed to face 'climate chaos, raging conflicts' .....	1
Document 2 : International aid falls in 2024 for first time in six years, says OECD .....	3
Document 3 : 5 futures for aid in a divided world .....	5
Document 4 : Development Co-operation Profiles: France.....	8
Document 5 : The UK, Germany and Canada have slashed foreign aid this year, deepening damage done by US cuts, analysis shows .....	11
Document 6 : The EU's short-sighted aid cuts are a choice – so is the way forward!.....	13

## **Sujet**

You are an advisor to the United Nations and International Organizations Directorate. The minister will soon be meeting with representatives of like-minded countries to discuss France's development aid efforts.

In order to prepare for this meeting, you are tasked with drafting an operational memo summarizing the current situation, including the available levers and challenges encountered. This memo will be accompanied by talking points for the minister (3 or 4 points, each a few lines long).

## **Document 1 : UN chief says aid surge needed to face 'climate chaos, raging conflicts'**

*RFI/AFP - 30/06/2025*

Dozens of world leaders and more than 4,000 representatives from businesses, civil society and financial institutions are gathering in the city of Seville for a four-day conference opening on 30 June, to seek fresh impetus for the crisis-hit aid sector.

But the United States is snubbing the biggest such talks in a decade, underlining the erosion of international cooperation on combating hunger, disease and climate change.

Guterres told delegates at the opening of the conference that two-thirds of United Nations sustainable development goals set for 2030 were "lagging" and more than \$4.0 trillion (€3.4 trillion) of annual investment would be needed to achieve them.

US President Donald Trump's gutting of his country's development agency, USAID, is the standout example.

Germany, Britain and France are also making cuts while they boost spending in areas such as defence.

International charity Oxfam says the cuts to development aid are the largest since 1960.

More than 800 million people live on less than \$3.0 a day, according to the World Bank, with rising extreme poverty affecting sub-Saharan Africa in particular.

Disruption to global trade from Trump's tariffs and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine have dealt further blows to the diplomatic cohesion necessary for concentrating efforts on helping countries escape poverty.

The crisis meant children going unvaccinated, girls dropping out of school and families suffering hunger, said Guterres.

He urged the international community to "change course" and "repair and rev up the engine of development to accelerate investment" in "a world shaken by inequalities, climate chaos and raging conflicts".

A blistering heatwave that is scorching southern Europe welcomed the delegates to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, an example of the extreme weather that scientists say human-driven climate change is fuelling.

### **Reforming international finance**

Kenya's William Ruto, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, Ecuador's Daniel Noboa, Angolan leader Joao Lourenco and Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan were among prominent Global South leaders in Seville.

Among the key topics up for discussion is reforming international finance to help poorer countries shrug off a growing debt burden that inhibits their capacity to achieve progress in health and education.

The total external debt of the group of least developed countries has more than tripled in 15 years, according to UN data.

Critics have singled out US-based bulwarks of the post-World War II international financial system, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, for reform to improve their representation of the Global South.

Painstaking talks in New York in June produced a common declaration to be adopted in Seville that only went ahead after the United States walked out.

The document reaffirms commitment to the UN development goals such as eliminating poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality, reforming tax systems and international financial institutions.

The text also calls on development banks to triple their lending capacity, urges lenders to ensure predictable finance for essential social spending and for more cooperation against tax evasion.

### **‘Rising global inequality’**

Coalitions of countries will seek to spearhead initiatives in addition to the so-called “Seville Commitment”, which is not legally binding.

But campaigners have criticised the text for lacking ambition and have rung alarm bells about rising global inequality.

Hundreds of demonstrators braved the sizzling heat in Seville on Sunday to demand change in international tax, debt and aid policies.

“Global South countries will never be able to decide how they want to do development if they are bound to the new colonial debt,” protester Ilan Henzler, 28, told French news agency AFP.

## Document 2 : International aid falls in 2024 for first time in six years, says OECD

OECD, Press release - 16/04/2025

International aid from official donors fell in 2024 by 7.1% in real terms compared to 2023, the first drop after five years of consecutive growth, according to preliminary data collected by the OECD.

The fall in official development assistance (ODA) was due to a reduction in contributions to international organisations, as well as a decrease in aid for Ukraine, lower levels of humanitarian aid and reduced spending on hosting refugees in donor countries.

ODA by member countries of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) amounted to USD 212.1 billion in 2024, representing 0.33% of DAC members' combined GNI.

"Pressures on development finance and developing countries' growth are increasing," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said. "Optimising the effectiveness of available official development assistance will help developing countries manage these fiscal pressures, make essential investments in growth, and protect the most vulnerable."

Net ODA to Ukraine fell by 16.7% in real terms compared to 2023 and amounted to USD 15.5 billion, representing 7.4% of total net ODA. Humanitarian aid dropped by an estimated 9.6% in 2024, amounting to USD 24.2 billion.

ODA used to cover refugee costs within donor countries fell by 17.3% in 2024 compared to 2023 and amounted to USD 27.8 billion, representing 13.1% of DAC member countries' total ODA, down from 14.6% in 2023. For five countries, in-donor refugee costs still represented more than a quarter of their ODA in 2024.

The United States continued to be the largest DAC member country provider of ODA (USD 63.3 billion), accounting for 30% of total DAC ODA in 2024, followed by Germany (USD 32.4 billion), the United Kingdom (USD 18.0 billion), Japan (USD 16.8 billion), and France (USD 15.4 billion).

"It is regrettable that ODA decreased in 2024 after five years of continuous growth. It's even more concerning that some of the major donors have signalled further, and quite significant, decreases over the coming years." OECD DAC Chair Carsten Staur said. "In this situation, it is paramount that ODA is invested where it is most needed, especially in the poorest and most fragile countries. Going forward, poverty eradication, the just green transition and governance should remain at the core, and we must also make ODA work harder in mobilising other sources of finance. Doubling down on aid effectiveness, together with partner countries, will be the key to achieve this."

ODA rose in ten DAC member countries and fell in twenty-two countries. Only four countries exceeded the United Nations' target of 0.7% ODA to GNI: Denmark (0.71%), Luxembourg (1.00%), Norway (1.02%) and Sweden (0.79%).

Net bilateral ODA for programmes and projects and technical assistance, excluding in-donor refugees and humanitarian aid, fell slightly by 1.2% in real terms, due in part to the reduction in ODA for Ukraine. Net debt relief grants remained low at USD 241 million.

Preliminary estimates show that net bilateral ODA flows from DAC members to Africa stood at USD 42 billion in 2024, representing a fall of 1% in real terms compared to 2023. Within this total, net ODA to sub-Saharan Africa was USD 36 billion, a decrease of 2% in real terms.

Net bilateral aid flows from DAC members to the group of least developed countries (LDCs) were USD 35 billion, a fall of 3% in real terms compared to 2023.

## Document 3 : 5 futures for aid in a divided world

*World economic forum, opinion paper - 21/04/2025 (extracts)*

- The global development sector is in the throes of a profound upheaval – one that makes a return to the old normal increasingly improbable.
- Multiple, overlapping futures for aid are emerging, with a hybrid of five key trends most likely.
- Navigating the shifting landscape of global aid will demand strategic agility and the forging of new and unconventional coalitions.

The global development industry is facing a reckoning. Long reliant on Western donors, the sector is grappling with deep and sudden cuts to official development assistance. [...]

A messier, multipolar order is emerging, where new actors, norms and mechanisms will shape the future of aid.

While outcomes remain uncertain, five broad scenarios are coming into focus. They are not mutually exclusive; in practice, a patchwork of these futures is likely to unfold.

### **Scenario 1: Disintegration and drift**

In the most pessimistic scenario, the West continues its retreat from global development.

UN agencies now face mounting funding shortfalls. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will cut over 20% of its staff this year. The Green Climate Fund, once a flagship for global coordination, is adrift. In many cases, recipient countries already saddled with debt are being left to patch together support from philanthropies, domestic budgets or private financiers.

Some see a silver lining in this decentralization. Local actors – often nimbler and more trusted – are taking on bigger roles. Domestic philanthropy is growing, from Brazil, India and Indonesia to Kenya, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. However, without substantial external resources, these efforts risk being ad hoc and overwhelmed.

The scale of challenges such as climate change, food insecurity and pandemics dwarfs local capacity. A world in which official development assistance recedes without a credible replacement is one in which the Sustainable Development Goals are quietly shelved.

### **Scenario 2: Back to basics**

A more restrained path could see Western donors regroup, reorienting their aid strategies toward core functions. Rather than lofty ambitions, development becomes a matter of damage control and building local resilience – focused on humanitarian relief, migration deterrence and geostrategic influence.

Already, signs of this recalibration are evident. The UN's humanitarian "reset" urges countries to streamline interventions around essential needs - from security to shelter. The European Union's Global Gateway, a counterweight to China's Belt and Road Initiative, funds infrastructure that could create favourable conditions for Europe.

Under this model, multilateral institutions are trimmed back to their most functional roles. Aid becomes more conditional and interest-driven. Donors may re-engage in fragile states but with the goal of containment rather than capacity-building.



While such realism may appeal to beleaguered finance ministries, it risks sidelining issues such as gender equity, conflict prevention and rights-based development. A focus on doing less, even if done well, may not be enough.

### **Scenario 3: China expands its footprint**

As the West retreats, China may fill the vacuum. Beijing has already invested over \$1 trillion in infrastructure across Asia, Africa and Latin America through its Belt and Road Initiative. Its involvement in health, digital infrastructure and climate finance is also growing, albeit unevenly.

Much will depend on how China navigates its internal economic slowdown, demographic challenges and property-sector instability. While Chinese officials continue to express support for multilateralism – particularly in trade and climate – they show little appetite for adopting Western development norms.

Human rights, civil society and governance reform are unlikely to feature prominently.

Still, China is incrementally expanding its influence at the UN, World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The upcoming International Development Association replenishment negotiations will serve as a litmus test for Beijing's commitment to reshaping global finance.

For many developing countries, especially those excluded from Western-led institutions, China offers a more accessible – even if more opaque – alternative.

### **Scenario 4: BRICS+ steps up**

A parallel future may see the emergence of an alternative multipolar development bloc centred on the BRICS+ countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, along with potential additions such as Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Indonesia. These powers are already experimenting with new financial instruments and governance models.

The BRICS-led New Development Bank has disbursed billions in loans and is considering expansion. Regional development banks, sovereign wealth funds and South-South partnerships are increasingly prominent. These mechanisms are not merely filling gaps but redefining development itself, away from Western priorities and toward regional autonomy.

Debt reform may prove to be the linchpin of this vision. Many developing economies are facing unsustainable repayment burdens and seek alternatives to IMF-imposed austerity.

A shift towards more flexible, concessional and politically neutral financing could attract a growing number of countries, particularly if accompanied by a genuine redistribution of influence within international institutions.

### **Scenario 5: The privatization of aid**

Another plausible scenario sees the rise of private actors – not just in logistics or project delivery but across all development functions. [...]

Public-private approaches to development are widespread. Blended finance, social impact bonds and green investment funds are proliferating. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and fintech are enabling rapid deployment of digital solutions in healthcare, education and social protection – bypassing traditional aid channels.

Some argue this unlocks innovation and scale. Others warn of accountability gaps, predatory pricing and the erosion of public trust.

Without a framework to govern this private-sector pivot, the risk of fragmentation and inequity rises. Stripped of its moral dimension, development becomes a matter of risk management and profit margins, which is hardly a recipe for inclusive or sustainable outcomes.

### **A future in flux**

These five scenarios reflect a world in transition. The old model of donor-led development – linear, hierarchical and rooted in post-war liberalism – is no longer fit for purpose. What replaces it remains to be seen. More likely than not, future models will be hybrid – blending localization, private capital, bilateral aid, philanthropy and a dose of multilateral improvisation.

## Document 4 : Development Co-operation Profiles: France

OECD, Country note - 11/06/2025 (extracts)

**France is among the top providers of official development assistance (ODA) in volume, with a strong focus on Africa and the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.** France's priorities include linking the green and social agendas and mobilising finance for sustainable development. France's total official development assistance (ODA) decreased in 2024 to USD 15.4 billion (preliminary data), representing 0.48% of gross national income (GNI).

### ODA allocation overview

**France provided USD 15.4 billion (preliminary data) of ODA in 2024 representing 0.48% of GNI.** This is similar to the ODA volume in real terms and a slight decrease in the share of GNI from 2023. This marks the second year of decreased ODA after five years of sustained growth. While France met its domestic commitment to achieve a 0.55% ODA/GNI ratio in 2022, the ratio has since declined. France voted further cuts in its 2025 budget putting off track its efforts towards its international and European Union (EU) commitments to achieve a 0.7% ODA/GNI ratio by 2030. Within France's ODA portfolio in 2023, 74.4% was provided in the form of grants and 25.6% in the form of non-grants.

**France ranks 6<sup>th</sup> among Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members in terms of ODA volume and 11<sup>th</sup> among DAC member countries in the ODA/GNI ratio in 2024.** France stands out for its commitment to environmental, climate and biodiversity issues, with 58.4% of its total bilateral allocable aid supporting the environment and the Rio Conventions, and 24.5% supporting biodiversity. It is also the second-highest provider of private sector instruments (PSI).

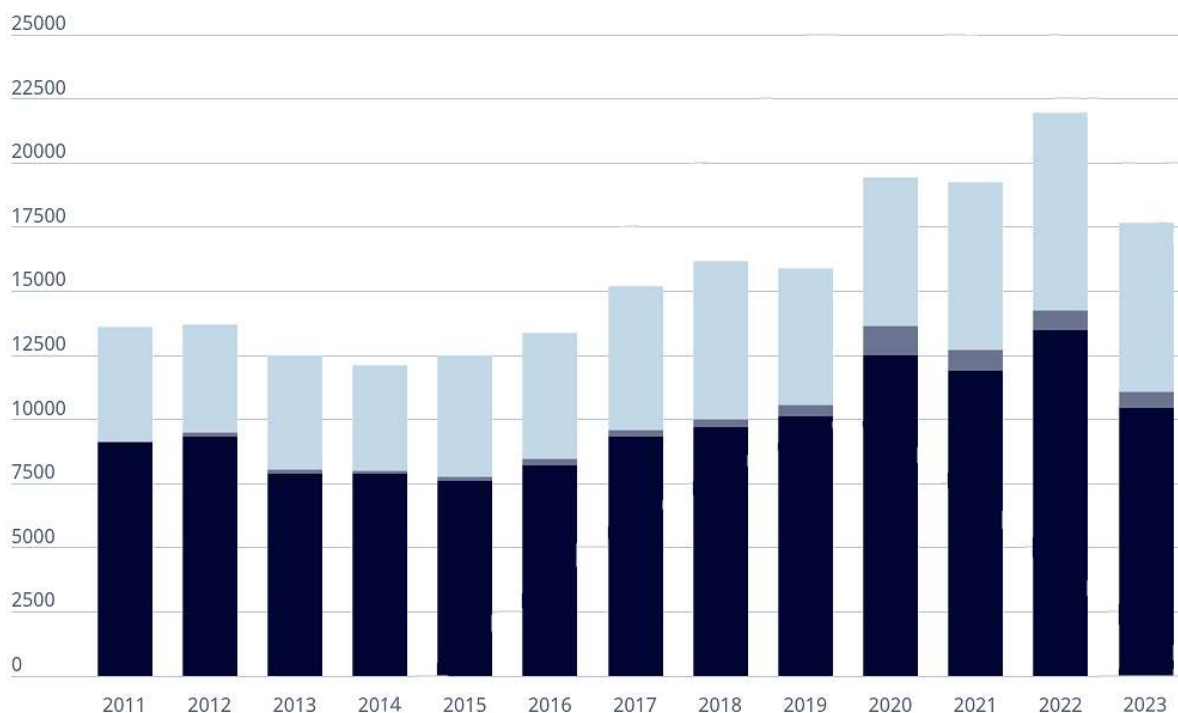
France provided a higher share of its ODA bilaterally in 2023. Gross bilateral ODA was 62.7% of total ODA disbursements. Five per cent of gross bilateral ODA was channelled through multilateral organisations (earmarked contributions).

**In 2023, France provided USD 7.2 billion of gross ODA to the multilateral system,** a fall of 15.2% in real terms from 2022. Of this, USD 6.6 billion was core multilateral ODA (37.3% of total ODA), while USD 581.1 million was non-core contributions earmarked for a specific country, region, theme or purpose. Project-type funding earmarked for a specific theme and/or country accounted for 51.7% of France's non-core contributions and 48.3% was programmatic funding (to pooled funds and specific-purpose programmes and funds).

### France: Bilateral and multilateral ODA allocations

Gross disbursements, USD million, 2023 constant prices

■ Bilateral ■ Earmarked multilateral ■ Core multilateral

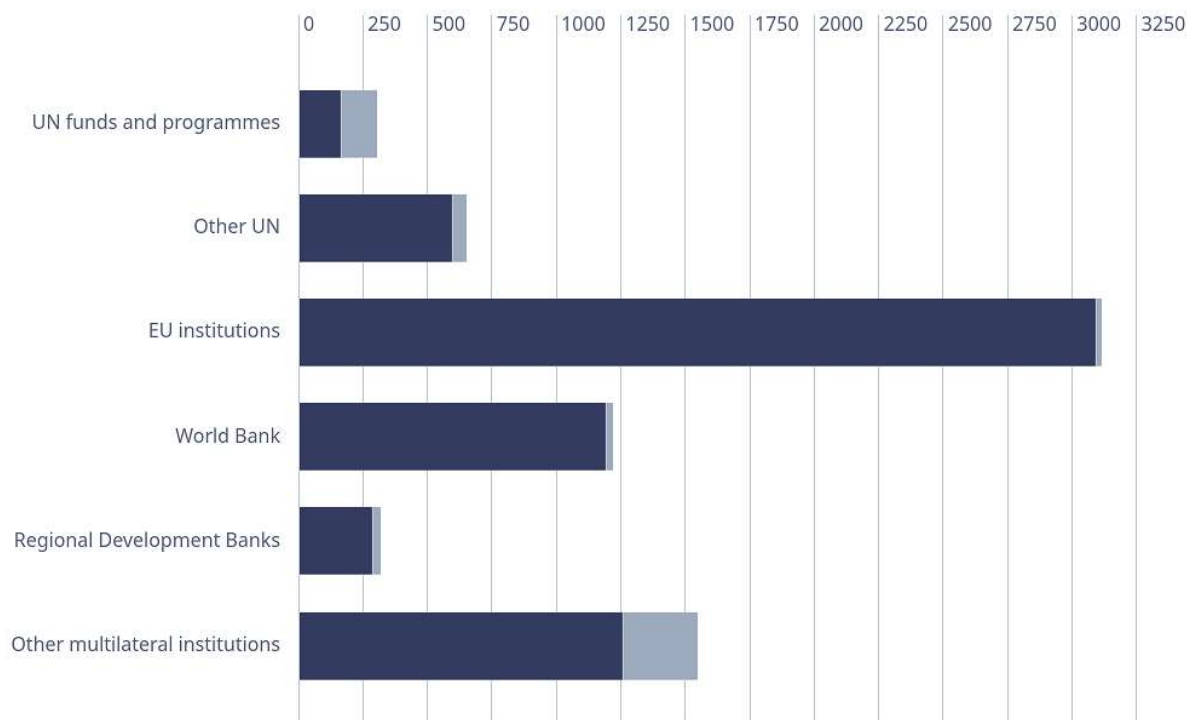


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### France: Core and earmarked contributions to multilateral organisations, 2023

Gross disbursements, USD million, current prices

■ Core contributions ■ Earmarked contributions



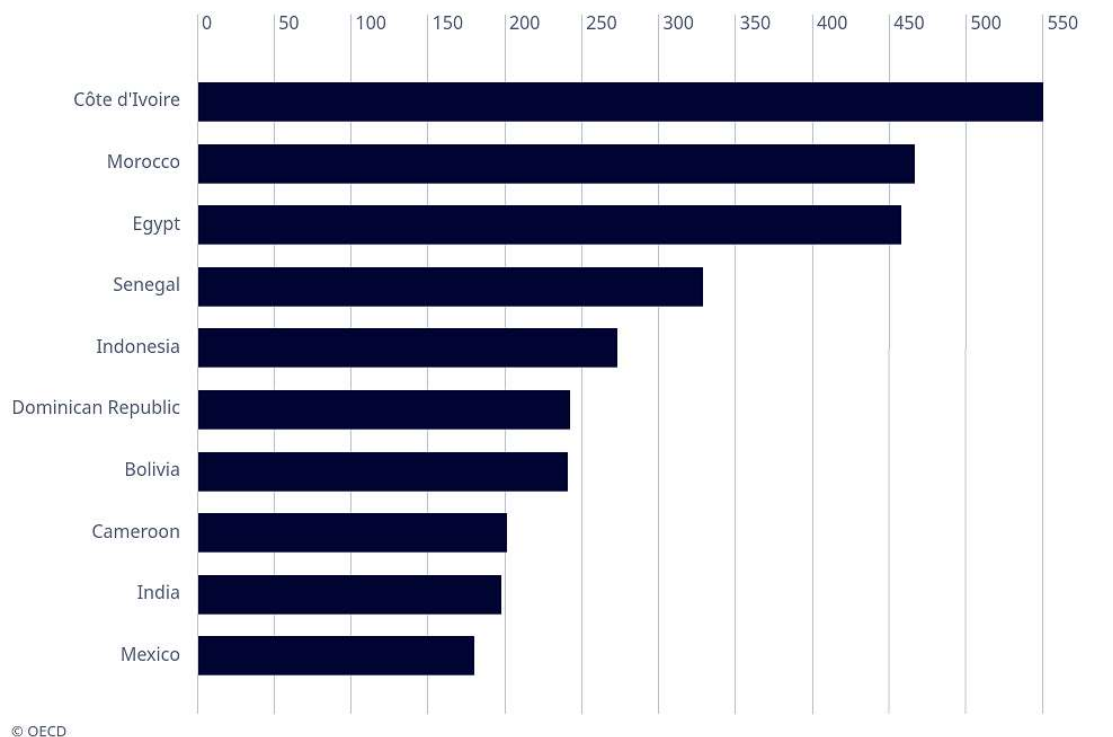
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The United Nations (UN) system received 13.4% of France's contributions to multilateral organisations, of which USD 198.6 million (20.7%) represented earmarked contributions. Out of a total volume of USD 960.9 million to the UN system, the top three UN recipients of France's support (core and earmarked contributions) were the World Food Programme (USD 184.5 million), the UN Refugee Agency (USD 119 million) and Unitaaid (USD 92 million).

In 2023, France's bilateral spending declined compared to the previous year. It provided USD 11.1 billion of gross bilateral ODA (which includes earmarked contributions to multilateral organisations). This represented a decrease of 22.3% in real terms from 2022. **France channelled its bilateral ODA mainly through public sector.** Technical co-operation made up 11.5% of gross ODA in 2023.

#### France: Top 10 recipients, 2023

Gross disbursements, USD million, current prices



In 2024, France provided USD 104.9 million of net bilateral ODA to Ukraine to respond to the impacts of Russia's full-scale invasion, a 5.4% decrease from 2023 in real terms. USD 58.2 million of the amount was humanitarian assistance in 2024, a 16.4% decrease from 2023.

## Document 5 : The UK, Germany and Canada have slashed foreign aid this year, deepening damage done by US cuts, analysis shows

CNN - 12/06/2025

**London** - Western countries have slashed foreign aid budgets this year and reductions will steepen in 2026, with the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Canada cutting the most, according to a new analysis from the Center for Global Development (CGD).

The aid cuts will mean “significant losses” for many developing nations, according to the analysis from the DC-based think tank, shared exclusively with CNN. Ethiopia is projected to lose the most aid in nominal terms, with Jordan, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo also hit particularly hard.

Smaller nations will also be hammered by the reduction in foreign aid, with Lesotho, Micronesia and Eswatini each losing around 50% of their aid.

“It’s setting fire to the bold ambitions to solve poverty and transform developing countries,” Lee Crawford, one of the authors of the report, told CNN. “It’s some of the poorest, most fragile places in the world that are going to be hardest hit.”

The analysis looked at projections of bilateral aid – money provided directly to another country rather than routed through multilateral organizations such as United Nations agencies or the World Bank – for 2025 and 2026.

The US is projected to cut the most, with a projected 56% reduction compared to levels two years ago.

The Trump administration’s gutting of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) earlier this year has already left a hole in many international aid budgets, and several other Western nations are following suit rather than filling the void.

“A big, big chunk of overall cuts in the next couple of years are going to be from the US pulling out, rather than other countries. But these other countries are making things worse,” said Crawford, a senior research fellow at the CGD.

The UK aid cuts are estimated to represent a roughly 39% reduction compared to 2023 levels of spending. Meanwhile, Germany is cutting about 27%, Canada 25% and France 19% of their international aid budgets.

The true level of aid cuts remains unclear, as the Trump administration’s proposed budget and other government proposals are still making their way through legislatures. But some funding cuts are almost guaranteed.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced in February that his government would increase the UK’s defense spending by cutting its aid budget to 0.3% of gross national income in 2027, its lowest level since 1999.

Many organizations and aid workers have raised alarm about European governments pitting aid budgets against defense spending.

“Cutting the already lean aid budget is a false economy and will only increase division and amounts to a betrayal of the world’s most vulnerable people,” said Halima Begum, head of Oxfam GB. “It is a false dichotomy to pit international cooperation to tackle poverty against national security interests in order to avoid tax increases.”

Crawford said that bilateral aid is a “really small part of government budgets” and the money for defense or security could be found elsewhere. “It’s a choice... it’s a political choice,” he added.

The think tank wrote in its analysis that “one striking takeaway is that some countries are projected to lose large amounts of ODA (official development assistance) simply because of who their main donors are – while others are projected to lose very little” – a game of chance, with losses not matching up to the recipient country’s needs. [...]

### **Minimizing the damage**

The CGD is urging Western donors to reallocate aid to the poorest countries to try to “ensure that resources are directed to populations in greatest need.”

Western countries also need to improve coordination to mitigate further damage, especially as they are withdrawing from countries receiving aid, the think tank said. [...]

Giving a larger share of aid to multilateral organizations can also help improve international cooperation and cut down on duplication of aid efforts.

“Coordination is an ongoing challenge,” Crawford told CNN. “The easiest way to do that is just to fund big multilateral funds like the World Bank.”

## Document 6 : The EU's short-sighted aid cuts are a choice – so is the way forward!

CONCORD Newsroom - 16/04/2025

**Brussels** – The early figures for 2024 Official Development Assistance (ODA) confirm a deeply troubling trend: Europe's richest countries per capita— such as Germany, Netherlands and Finland— are cutting back their commitments to international cooperation. The cuts are not just numbers on a page; they are political decisions with real-world consequences for millions of people's lives and well-being. By pulling back, EU Member States and EU Institutions will also undermine the EU's credibility as a partner.

*"The European Union can't have it both ways. It promotes the Global Gateway as a bold promise of shared prosperity and strategic investment in infrastructure, yet it slashes funding to countries with the greatest human development needs. If EU Member States and EU Institutions are even slightly concerned about our shared future, they must invest in people, not pull the rug out from under them. Shortsighted cuts now will undermine a secure and prosperous, common future."*

Tanya Cox Director, CONCORD<sup>1</sup>

After five years of progress, ODA dropped in 2024. EU Member States part of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are also driving the downturn. ODA from EU Member States decreased to 88.7 billion USD. This represents 0,47% of EU Member States combined Gross National Income (GNI) and a decrease in ODA by 8,6% in real terms compared to 2023. Only three EU Member States allocated at least 0,7% of their GNI to ODA in 2024, one less than in 2023.

Once again, the EU's inability to respect development assistance commitments goes hand-in-hand with reporting expenses as ODA that fall outside internationally agreed criteria. Despite calls for accountability, many of the EU Member States continue to hollow out their solidarity by allocating funds to cover the costs of hosting refugees within donor countries' borders, referred to by the OECD as in-donor refugee costs. An alarming 13.1 % of DAC member countries total ODA is diverted to in-donor refugee costs, effectively rebranding domestic spending as ODA.

Meanwhile, ODA to Least Developed Countries (LDC) has only reached 35 billion USD, a fall of 3% in real terms compared to 2023. This practice shows that ODA is not strengthening the basic services and systems, like education and health, that we expect it to, in the places that need it most.

The EU must understand that poor ODA quality and shrinking envelopes are not simply about saving money. They mean less preparedness for all our futures, less human security and trust lost between partners. The EU is not making the cooperation system more efficient. It is dismantling the system it helped to build.

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<sup>1</sup> CONCORD is the European Confederation of NGOs working on sustainable development and international cooperation. With the support of our 57 members, our Confederation, representing over 2,600 NGOs, is the main interlocutor with the EU institutions.



*"The cuts combined with the recent USAID Stop-Work Order will only worsen the global outlook: a retreat from global responsibility, a rollback of progress in human development, and a signal to the world that commitments are conditional, fragile, and political. Is this the path the EU wants to follow? Is this the course of action that will make the world more secure?"*

Lukas Wank Director, Global Responsibility

This should be the moment when the EU steps up — rather than leaving the room. The EU and the world cannot afford the risk of short-sighted self-interest, it will come back to hit us.