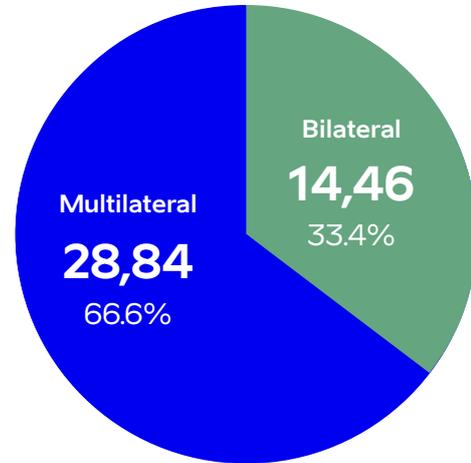


Estonian development cooperation and humanitarian aid

Estonia works towards achieving **sustainable development goals** and supports developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty. In 2020–2021, Estonia is a **member of the UN Security Council**, which puts the country at the forefront of solving global problems and managing conflicts.

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid have been inseparable parts of Estonia's foreign policy **since 1998** when Estonia became a donor. The total amount of funds available in 2019 amounted to €43.3 million, which is **0.16% of the Gross National Income**.

In numbers in 2019 (million €)



The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is responsible for managing and coordinating Estonia's activities in this field with plans to establish a new **implementing body** in 2021. Other civil society organisations, public and private sector actors implement specific projects based on their competence.

Development cooperation

- Estonia is committed to effective development cooperation, focusing on sharing its own **reform experience** by promoting **good governance** and **digital transition**. Through supporting the European Green Deal, Estonia backs international efforts to **fight climate change** to protect the environment and ecosystems worldwide.
- Geographically, bilateral cooperation has primarily focused on the **EU's Eastern Neighbourhood**, where our transition experience is directly relevant. **Ukraine, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Belarus** have been Estonia's closest development partners for two decades. **Afghanistan** is a priority country where Estonia is supporting efforts to improve the situation of women and children.
- As one of the global leaders of digital transformation, Estonia has been increasingly sharing its e-governance experience and **sustainable economic development** models in **Africa** and **Asia**. Wider cooperation objectives are also set for Eastern, Southern and Western Africa with a heightened focus on Kenya, Namibia and Mali.



A joint programme implemented by the governments of Estonia and Georgia in collaboration with UNICEF introduces innovative teaching methods and digital resources in Georgian schools. © UNICEF

KEY AREAS

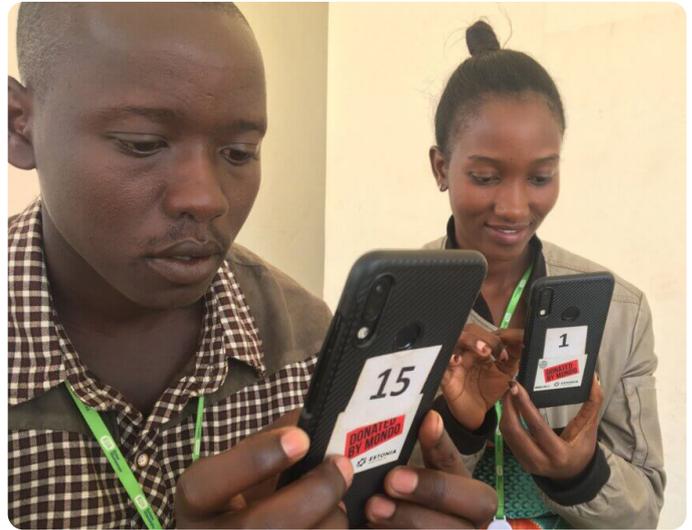
- Democracy and good governance
- Digital transformation, ICT skills and cyber capacity
- Access to good quality education and healthcare
- Strategic communication and building resilience
- Environmentally sustainable economic development, youth entrepreneurship
- Gender equality and children's rights
- Empowerment of civil society
- Development awareness and global education

Humanitarian aid

The core objective of the Estonia's humanitarian aid policy is to preserve life, alleviate suffering and protect people affected by crises. Strengthening the **resilience** and protecting the human dignity of local populations has become increasingly important. In recent years, Estonia's humanitarian aid has constituted **10% of the Official Development Assistance**. The budget for 2020 amounts to ca €3.5 million.

Estonia pays special attention to **innovation** in delivering humanitarian assistance more effectively and efficiently. With regard to long-term crises, Estonia supports **Eastern Ukraine**, focusing on education, food security and psychosocial issues. In Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, Estonia provides sustainable livelihoods, vocational education and offers psychological support to **Syrian refugees**. Estonia has also been supporting **Palestinian refugees** through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for many years.

In 2020, Estonia helped alleviate **the impact of the coronavirus** in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Syria and the region, Venezuela, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Bangladesh. Estonia also contributed to the Global Humanitarian Response Plan.



Mondo, Estonia's largest development cooperation and humanitarian aid NGO, is teaching digital skills to young refugees in Uganda, Ghana, Jordan and Lebanon. ©Mondo

KEY AREAS

- Protection of civilians, humanitarian workers, other vulnerable groups
- Access to healthcare and education for refugees and displaced persons
- Effective coordination and innovation
- Humanitarian-development-peace nexus
- Disaster preparedness

Estonia's main multilateral partners are the European Union, the United Nations (OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WHO, WFP) and the Red Crescent Society. Estonia participates in the work of the OECD Development Assistance Committee as an observer and is a recent member of the Practitioners' Network.



- Estonia's development cooperation policy is regulated by the Estonian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Programme 2020-2023.
- Estonia's humanitarian aid policy is based on the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence and humanity; the European

- Consensus on Humanitarian Aid; the Agenda for Humanity; Good Humanitarian Donorship principles and International Humanitarian Law. Estonia is a member of the OCHA Donor Support Group.
- Estonian development cooperation projects and humanitarian assistance contributions are listed in akta.mfa.ee