



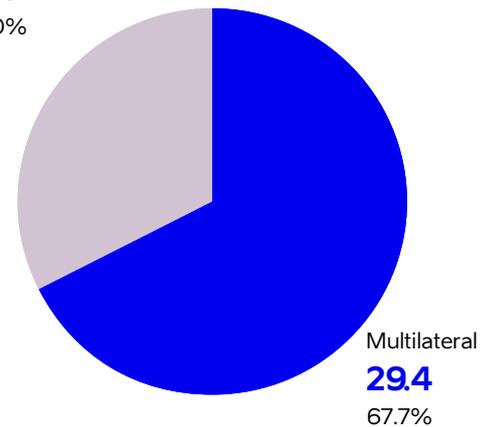
# Estonian development cooperation and humanitarian aid

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid have been an integral part of the foreign policy of Estonia since 1998, when Estonia became a donor. In 2020, a total of 43.3 million euros was allocated, this was 0.16% of the gross national income.

Estonian development cooperation policy is regulated by the Estonian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Programme 2022–2025.

The goal of Estonia is to contribute to global security and sustainable development, including increasing the impact and efficiency of development cooperation and humanitarian aid of Estonia. As a result of development cooperation reform, the Estonian Centre for International Development (EstDev) was established in April 2021 and the Estonian Centre of Eastern Partnership was added to it. On 1 January 2022, a government regulation entered into force that led to the organisation of development cooperation and integration projects being transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Estonian Centre for International Development. A new impact assessment action plan developed by the Ministry has also been implemented.

Bilateral  
**13.9**  
32.0%



Development cooperation and humanitarian aid in 2020 (million euros)

The role of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Department of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is to formulate policy, set strategic goals and develop action plans. The Ministry represents the interests of Estonia in bilateral relations and international organisations, and is responsible for overall impact assessment of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The Ministry allocates small scale grants, provides financial contributions to international development cooperation and humanitarian aid organisations, and is in charge for the management of humanitarian aid in emergencies.

The role of the **Estonian Centre for International Development** is to manage the implementation of Estonian development cooperation and Nexus projects, to increase the capacity of Estonia to participate in international projects, and to concentrate communication on development cooperation. The foundation's aim is to increase the share of foreign funding in order to better link development cooperation with the economic interests of Estonia and to involve more Estonian civil society, public, and private sector expertise.



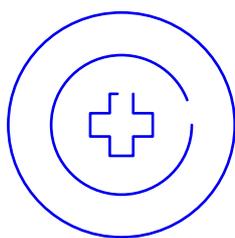
## Development cooperation

Estonia's primary interest is in the countries on the eastern border of the European Union, in order to promote a secure and economically successful neighbourhood based on a democratic state governed by the rule of law and its gradual integration into the European Union. The main partner countries are Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova. Due to the political situation in Belarus, the implementation of development cooperation projects have been suspended. Projects supporting Belarusian civil society activists, independent media, and the opposition outside Belarus continue.

At the beginning of 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted the regional strategy for Africa for 2020–2030, that establishes sectoral and geographical priorities in its cooperation towards Africa. The main geographical focus is on East Africa and particularly Kenya.

# Priority sectors:

- democracy and good governance;
- empowering civil society;
- economic development, innovation;
- quality education and health care;
- raising public awareness; global education
- digital and green transformation, gender equality.



## Humanitarian aid

In providing humanitarian aid, Estonia follows the core principles: humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. The actions are in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD), and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. It is assessed whether to provide humanitarian aid financially or in the form of know-how or material assistance – whichever is appropriate to the crisis.

### The main priorities of Estonia:

- protection of international humanitarian law;
- alleviate the suffering of displaced persons and refugees;
- access to healthcare and education and the well-being of women and children;
- effective coordination and innovation.

Estonian humanitarian aid accounts for about 10% of ODA. In 2021, almost 1/3 of the humanitarian aid was allocated for Ukraine to alleviate the suffering of people living in the conflict zones of eastern Ukraine. The projects focused on education, livelihoods, and psychological support. Estonia continued to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. Humanitarian aid was provided through the United Nations and ICRC to the people of Afghanistan, Sudan, and Yemen.

In 2021, Estonia donated 441,600 doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Through the global COVID-19 vaccine distribution mechanism, COVAX, 388,800 doses were donated to Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, and Pakistan. Bilaterally, 52,800 doses were donated to Ukraine.

The main multilateral partners of Estonia are the European Union, the United Nations (OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WHO, WFP, UNDP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In addition, Estonia participates in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as an observer. In July 2021, we joined the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). As a global leader in the digital transformation, Estonia is one of the founding countries of the European Union's D4D HUB.

More information on Estonian development cooperation projects and humanitarian aid grants is on [akta.mfa.ee](https://akta.mfa.ee). More information about strategic goals on [vm.ee](https://vm.ee), projects on [estdev.ee](https://estdev.ee).

