

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**DAC Network on Gender Equality**

**Analysis of development finance for gender equality in Ukraine**

This document presents key findings and opportunities related to the inclusion of gender equality objectives in international development finance committed to Ukraine in 2023. It can serve as background information for the Ukraine Recovery Conference to take place on 10-11 July 2025 in Rome, Italy and can also be used to support the tracking of commitments made under the Alliance for Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Recovery of Ukraine. Interested actors are invited to draw on these data and key messages as they prepare for the conference. The previous analysis covering 2022 data is available at [DCD/DAC/GEN\(2024\)4](#).

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### Key messages

- Members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee are increasingly integrating gender equality objectives in their ODA to Ukraine (from 9% in 2022 to 19% in 2023), but still **largely underutilising** the potential of development finance for supporting a gender-responsive recovery.
- The rising integration of gender equality in ODA in **energy, business, banking and financial services** reflects the important role that women have been playing in Ukraine's economic resilience. However, gender equality remains poorly mainstreamed in ODA for the **government & civil society sector and in humanitarian assistance**.
- Integrating gender equality in ODA **channelled through multilateral development banks** remains a particular challenge and may imply missed opportunities in macroeconomic support.
- A **gender equality analysis** and the systematic inclusion of gender equality objectives in projects and programmes are essential to maximising the transformative potential of finance for Ukraine.

## Background

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has had profound and far-reaching social and economic consequences, both within the country and the region. More than three years on, Ukrainian women continue to shoulder disproportionate burdens while also emerging as key agents of resilience. They comprise the majority of displaced populations and face heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), economic insecurity and reduced access to essential services. Out of a total number of women of approximately 23.2 million in Ukraine, nearly 6.7 million require humanitarian assistance and 1.86 million are internally displaced (Countrymeters, 2025<sup>[1]</sup>) (UN Women, 2025<sup>[2]</sup>). Cases of GBV reported were up 36% since 2022 and intimate partner violence (IPV) also increased, often linked to displacement, economic strain, and trauma (UNFPA, 2024<sup>[3]</sup>).

The economic toll is severe: women account for 72.5% of registered unemployed and only 48% of displaced women are employed, compared to 71% of men (UNDP, 2023<sup>[4]</sup>). The gender pay gap has widened dramatically, with women earning 41.4% less than men – almost twice the pre-war disparity (UN Women, 2025<sup>[5]</sup>). Unpaid care work has escalated, with women spending an average of 56 hours per week on childcare in 2024, up from 49 hours before the war. Structural inequalities persist: although women make up 54% of Ukraine's population, they hold only 20.8% of seats in parliament (World Bank, 2023<sup>[6]</sup>) (IPU Parline, 2025<sup>[7]</sup>).

Despite these challenges, women in Ukraine have emerged as key drivers of resilience. From leading grassroots initiatives and managing essential services to founding new businesses and participating actively in all sectors of society, women have demonstrated immense potential to drive Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction. In 2024, 59% of newly created businesses were founded by women, and every third business is now female-led, reflecting a surge in women's entrepreneurship (UN Women, 2025<sup>[8]</sup>) (Opendatabot, 2025<sup>[9]</sup>). Women are also increasingly engaged in non-traditional sectors, with over 62 000 women serving in the armed forces, including 5 000 on the front line, while also making significant strides in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, representing 45% of researchers in these fields, surpassing the global average of 30% (UN Women, 2024<sup>[10]</sup>) (European Commission, 2024<sup>[11]</sup>). Their leadership and innovation will be vital for building a more inclusive and equitable post-conflict society, underscoring the need for continued support and investment in gender-responsive policies and practices.

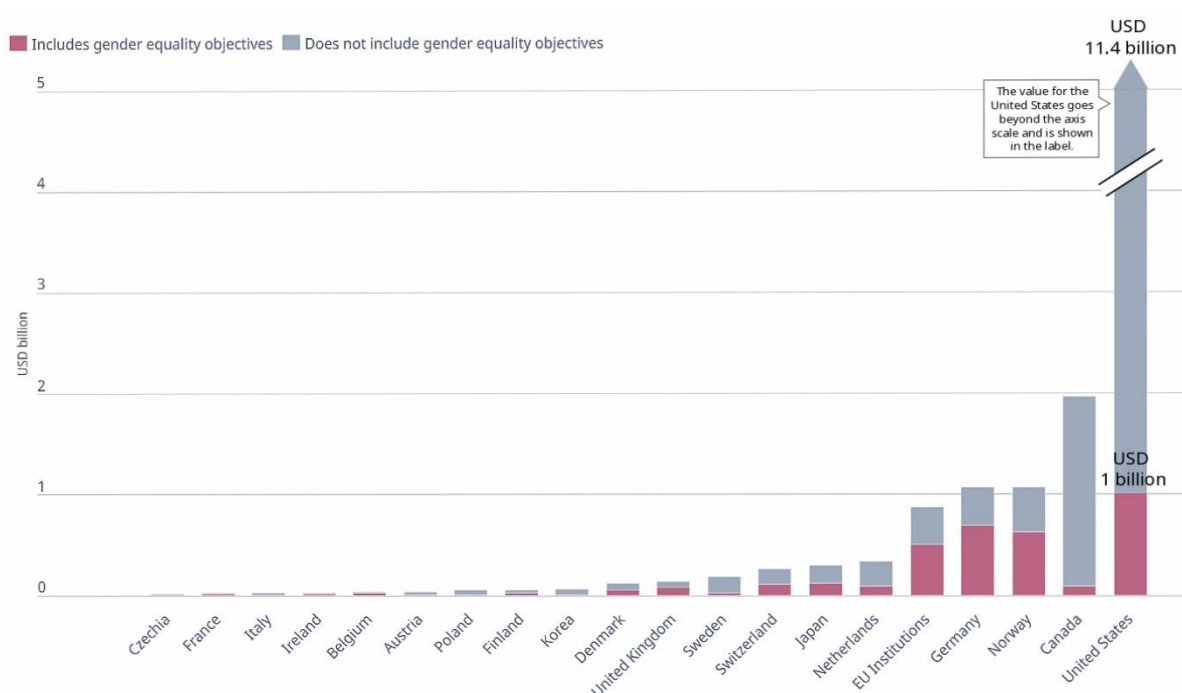
## Official Development Assistance for Gender Equality

OECD data show that gender equality is emerging as an increasingly critical dimension of the international response to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In 2023, members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) committed **USD 19.2 billion** in bilateral allocable Official Development Assistance<sup>1</sup> (ODA) to Ukraine, out of which, **USD 3.6 billion (19%) included gender equality objectives**. This is an improvement from 2022, when only USD 1.9 billion out of USD 19.6 billion (9%) did<sup>2</sup>.

Within the USD 3.6 billion, representing 19% of bilateral allocable ODA with gender equality objectives, gender equality was mostly included as one significant policy objective among others (USD 3.5 billion or 18% in 2023, up from USD 1.8 billion or 9% in 2022). Less than half a percent of ODA to Ukraine in 2023 was dedicated to gender equality as the main objective (USD 0.1 billion or 0.4%, similar to 2022).

Among the five main bilateral partners of Ukraine in 2023 (Figure 1), **Germany** showed the highest share of ODA integrating gender equality objectives (65%), followed by **Norway** (59%), and the **EU Institutions** (58%). The low share by the United States and Canada (less than 10%) was largely due to the fact that one large project by each of them did not include gender equality objectives and skewed their results.

**Figure 1. Volumes of bilateral allocable ODA to Ukraine in 2023, top 20 OECD DAC members**



Note 1: The value for the United States goes beyond the axis scale and is shown in the label.

Note 2: See the methodological note at the end of this document.

Source: OECD Data Explorer database (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>) <http://data-explorer.oecd.org/s/a9>

<sup>1</sup> Bilateral allocable ODA is ODA for which development partners can define the policy intention. It includes grants and loans that are concessional and promote the economic development and welfare of countries (OECD, 2025<sup>[31]</sup>). It excludes general budget support, core contributions to multilateral organisations, imputed student costs, debt relief, administrative costs, development awareness, and refugee costs in the donor country, as the intention of development partners cannot be identified in these cases.

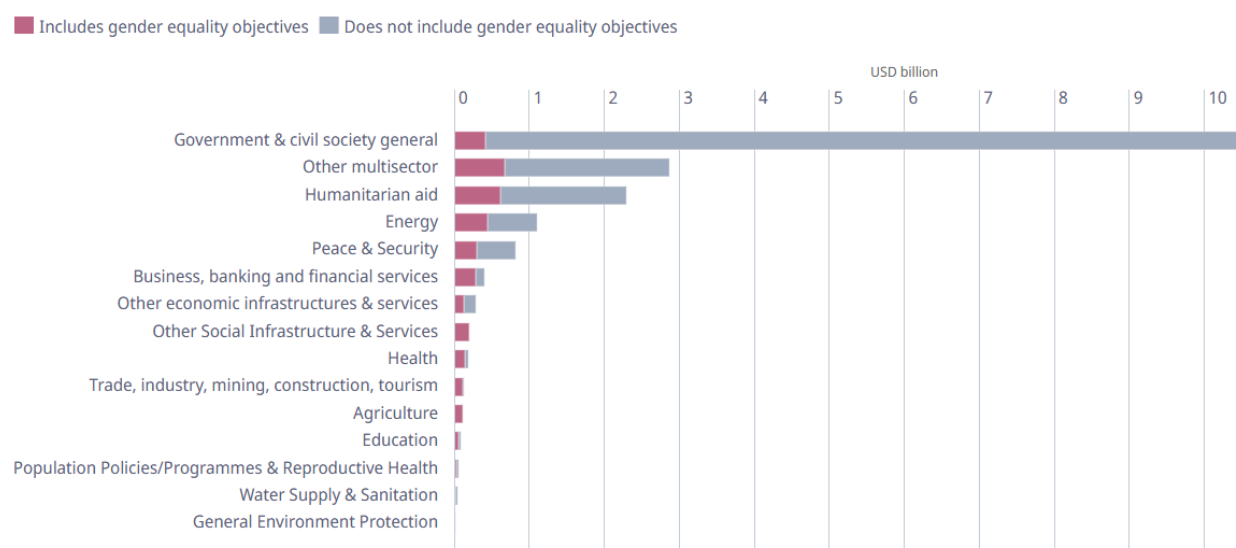
<sup>2</sup> OECD usually uses two-year averages for analyses of gender equality ODA data, but this document presents 2022 and 2023 data separately, to enable comparisons since the start of Russia's large-scale aggression against Ukraine.

## Gender equality across sectors

Mainstreaming gender equality across sectors helps establishing connections between achieving gender equality and other development goals. In 2023, bilateral allocable ODA to Ukraine went to a variety of sectors, with the largest volumes going to the “government & civil society general” sector, “other multisector”<sup>3</sup> and “humanitarian aid” (Figure 2). In these sectors, gender equality objectives were included to a low extent, all below 30%, with only marginal improvements compared to 2022. The lack of a gender perspective in these sectors, imply missed opportunities to leverage the reconstruction for advancing systemic gender equality.

Conversely, ODA to the sectors of “business, banking and financial services”, “other social infrastructure and services”, “health”, “trade, industry, mining, construction and tourism”, and agriculture better integrated gender equality, all above 70%, although the overall allocation of ODA to these sectors was much lower.

**Figure 2. Volumes of bilateral allocable ODA to Ukraine in 2023 per sector**



Note 1: “Other multisector” includes aid to multiple sectors, urban and rural development, disaster risk reduction, food security, among others.

Note 2: See the methodological note at the end of this document.

Source: OECD Data Explorer database (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>) <http://data-explorer.oecd.org/s/a9>

### Government & civil society general sector

ODA for supporting the “government & civil society general” sector in 2023 largely lacked gender equality objectives. From the USD 10.6 billion committed in this sector, only USD 0.4 billion, or 4%, included gender equality objectives. This low share is mostly due to a few large projects to support public sector policy and administrative management that lacked a gender equality focus. Significant contributions through multi-donor trust funds did not incorporate gender equality considerations. Activities that did not incorporate gender equality objectives included assisting different federal departments and agencies with wages, pensions, social payments, education, emergency, and healthcare services essential for maintaining continuity of state functions (World Bank, 2022<sup>[13]</sup>) (US Congress, 2022<sup>[14]</sup>) (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>).

Yet, some initiatives show that it is possible to embed gender equality into governance reforms. The European Union’s 2023 “Support to Recovery and Reforms” programme targeted governance, rule of law

<sup>3</sup> Includes aid to multiple sectors, urban and rural development, disaster risk reduction, food security, among others.

and social development sectors, while incorporating gender objectives as part of its broader support to Ukraine's EU accession and resilience (European Union, 2023<sup>[15]</sup>). Another example is Germany's support to the decentralisation reform in Ukraine, which aims to strengthen the capacities of key actors at the national, regional and local levels to implement Ukraine's decentralisation and regional development policies, aligning governance reforms with inclusive development by embedding gender considerations into institutional capacity-building (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, 2022<sup>[16]</sup>).

Within the "government & civil society general" sector, two areas stand out as particularly relevant for gender equality and where ODA is dedicated to this. They refer to (i) enhancing the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions and (ii) ending violence against women and girls. In terms of the first area, since the start of the war, many **women's rights organisations** (WROs) had to shift their focus from long-term advocacy to frontline humanitarian support for internally displaced women and families in Ukraine. Initiatives like those led by UN Women and supported by several DAC members have demonstrated the impact of empowering local actors to shape recovery processes. This empowerment involves capacity-building, facilitating participatory decision-making and ensuring that recovery planning incorporates gender perspectives (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>). By investing in local women's rights groups and government bodies, these initiatives strengthen inclusive governance and enable communities to address the specific needs of women and marginalised groups in rebuilding efforts. Another example is Latvia's support for women's activism and the revitalisation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda at the local level, which illustrates the vital role of grassroots engagement in sustaining democratic participation during crisis (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>).

The second area of dedicated funding for gender equality in the "government & civil society general" sector is **ending violence against women and girls**. This encompasses a broad range of forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence including - but not limited to - intimate partner violence, sexual violence and trafficking of women and girls. One example is Belgium's support to the Global Survivors Fund in Ukraine, which demonstrated innovative approaches by facilitating interim reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and laying the groundwork for national legal frameworks on reparation rights (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>). Similarly, humanitarian operations by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), significantly supported by Iceland, Belgium and other partners, ensured the expansion of sexual and reproductive health services, while also co-ordinating protection mechanisms against GBV within and beyond Ukraine's borders (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>).

### ***Humanitarian assistance and aid for peace and security***

Large volumes of humanitarian assistance and aid for peace and security were committed to Ukraine in 2023, but integrated gender equality to a low extent. Humanitarian aid amounted to USD 2.3 billion and only USD 0.6 billion, or 27%, included gender equality objectives, which is a slight drop from 29% in 2022. In the peace and security sector, gender considerations were included in 38% of the USD 0.8 billion committed, indicating room for a more deliberate focus on women's roles in peacebuilding and protection. Examples in this area include Spain's initiatives targeting internally displaced persons with a focus on women and girls, which contributed to shaping a humanitarian response attentive to gendered vulnerabilities. Another example is Norway's contribution of material relief assistance and services to the Hromada Reconstruction Facility in Ukraine, which aimed to bring together local authorities and civil society, including women's groups, to collaboratively develop and implement resilience plans and enhance WROs leadership in rehabilitation actions (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>).

It should be noted however, that many humanitarian actions integrating gender equality focused primarily on protection rather than supporting women as active agents of recovery. Multi-purpose cash assistance schemes, despite recognising women's particular vulnerabilities, often lack more integrated approaches that could support long-term economic resilience and leadership for women affected by displacement and violence.

## ***Energy***

In 2023, DAC members committed USD 1.1 billion to the energy sector and USD 0.5 billion of that, or 41%, integrated gender equality considerations. Although there is potential for greater integration of gender equality in this strategic area, it is important to acknowledge that 41% is more than twice the average across sectors (19%) and represents a tenfold increase from 2022, when a mere 4% of ODA to the energy sector included gender equality objectives. This improvement is largely due to projects from the United States and the EU Institutions about rehabilitation of critical infrastructure, governance and social development; and it may demonstrate a recognition of the importance of assessing how energy policies impact households and women's caregiving roles, involving women in decision-making around energy planning and providing technical training.

Positive examples go beyond these larger interventions. The Slovak Republic's project on assessing the state of public lighting as part of energy infrastructure applied gender-sensitive planning and design to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for women and children, who are more likely to be victims of certain forms of assault on the streets, in particular sexual harassment and violence (OECD, 2025<sub>[12]</sub>). Similarly, Austria's energy partnerships with Central and Eastern European countries have actively promoted the advancement of women in the energy sector through specialised training and the creation of transnational networks, thereby addressing employment and capacity-building opportunities for women in traditionally male-dominated fields (OECD, 2025<sub>[12]</sub>). This later example highlights the transformative potential of involving women not just as beneficiaries, but as active participants across the value chain. A report by the Asian Development Bank offers further examples of how gender-responsive energy infrastructure has led to women's empowerment (Asian Development Bank, 2023<sub>[17]</sub>). The report also illustrates how enhancing women's access to electricity can increase their participation in the labour force, and how employing more women can lead to better sales, including to women customers.

## ***Business, banking and financial services***

ODA to business, banking and financial services integrated gender equality better than other sectors, with USD 0,3 billion of the USD 0.4 billion, or 72% having gender equality objectives. This share increased from 53% in 2022, which demonstrates a recognition of the important role that Ukrainian women entrepreneurs have been playing in keeping businesses alive since the start of the war. The Slovak Republic's initiative to promote women's participation in the information and communications technology and cybersecurity sectors is an important example that demonstrates the potential for targeted interventions that can simultaneously address response needs and gender gaps (OECD, 2025<sub>[12]</sub>). However, several other activities to support business development services, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and employment creation measures failed to integrate explicit strategies for women's economic empowerment, despite the disproportionate impact of the conflict on women's livelihoods.

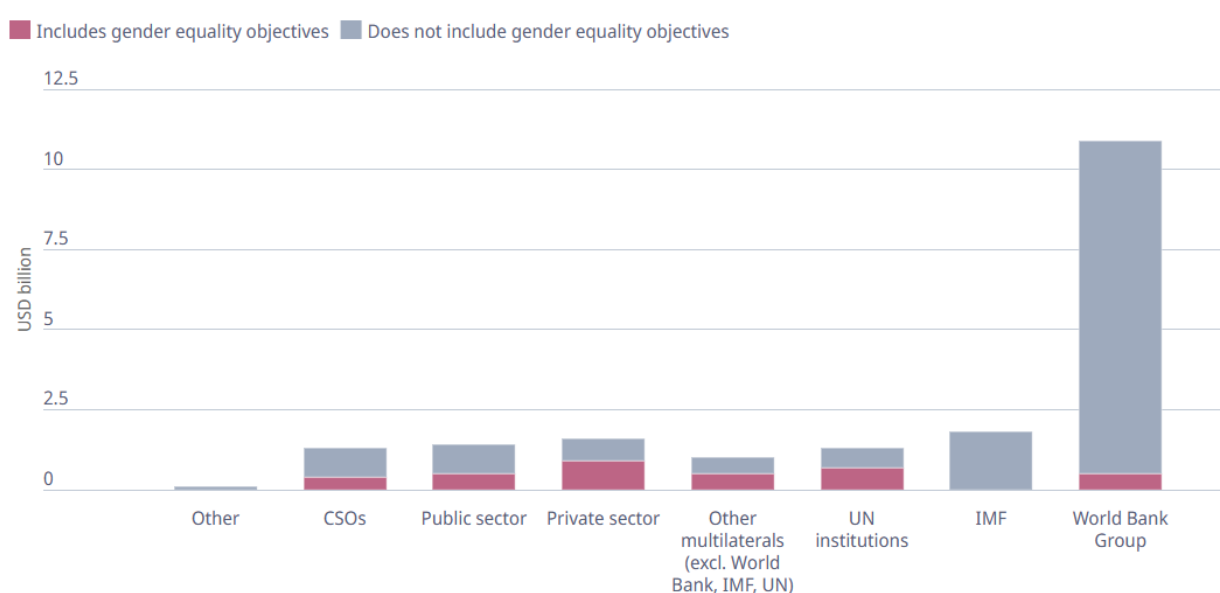
## ***Agriculture***

Agricultural and rural development is also critical given Ukraine's role as a major agricultural producer and the rural nature of many conflict-affected areas. In 2023, USD 0.1 billion of ODA went to the agriculture sector, with 92% of this integrating gender equality objectives. An example is the German-Ukrainian Expert dialogue on sustainable development of the fruit and vegetable sector, which focuses on advising institutions, modernising agricultural advisory services and providing vocational education, including training courses for women (OECD, 2025<sub>[12]</sub>). OECD data show that initiatives in the agricultural sector tend to focus on women as producers or entrepreneurs, and only a few address issues such as women's land ownership and tenure rights. This shows that the potential of gender-responsive agricultural recovery to promote both food security and women's economic empowerment is still underutilised.

## Channels of delivery of ODA to Ukraine

The USD 19.2 billion of bilateral allocable ODA committed to Ukraine in 2023 were channeled through a variety of organisations (Figure 3). The most used channel was **multilateral institutions**, through which USD 14.9 billion were channeled, but only USD 1.7 billion of that (11%), included gender equality objectives. Integration of gender equality objectives varied across the different multilateral institutions, with ODA channeled through the UN institutions showing the highest share at 55%. One illustration of that is provided in UNFPA's latest assessment by MOPAN, the Multilateral Performance Network, which highlights Ukraine as one of the few contexts where several UN agencies have put in place senior expertise on the protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (MOPAN, 2025<sup>[18]</sup>).

**Figure 3. Volumes of bilateral allocable ODA to Ukraine in 2023 per channel of delivery**



Note 1: This chart shows the channels of delivery of the bilateral allocable ODA by DAC members, as reported to the OECD by DAC members.

Note 2: The column "Other" includes PPP, think tanks, universities, and other channels.

Note 3: See the methodological note at the end of this document.

Source: OECD Data Explorer database (OECD, 2025<sup>[12]</sup>) <http://data-explorer.oecd.org/s/a9>

Bilateral allocable ODA channeled through the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) present opportunities to better integrate gender equality considerations. These platforms have been crucial to deliver co-ordinated, large-scale support to Ukraine. However, OECD data show that some of the largest efforts are overlooking the transformative potential of integrating women's leadership and inclusive approaches into Ukraine's institutional rebuilding. These include macroeconomic assistance, concessional loans and contributions to multi-donor funds. Fiscal, monetary, financial, legal and labour market policies can unevenly impact different genders, so support for the Ukraine government should help ensure policies are designed in ways that contribute to narrowing gender gaps while promoting better economic outcomes. Operational guidance by the IMF itself links dimensions of gender inequality to macroeconomic outcomes and provides an overview on how gender equality issues can be integrated into surveillance, lending and capacity development (IMF, 2024<sup>[19]</sup>).

Bilateral allocable ODA channeled through the World Bank Group that *included* gender equality objectives in 2023 was mostly related to the health sector, delivery of basic social services and strengthening public sector resilience. This is **not** core funding (see footnote 1) and refers to funding for the implementation of

a specific project or contributions to a fund. Examples include the Swiss-supported project to improve the quality and efficiency of health care services, as well as the contribution from Finland to the Special Program for Ukraine and Moldova Recovery to repair critical infrastructure, implement reforms and support long-term recovery and reconstruction in critical sectors. In both these cases, funds were channeled through the World Bank Group and included gender equality objectives. In multi-donor funds, efforts to include gender considerations are often seen in relation to social protection and healthcare, such as training healthcare providers to address gender-based violence.

Only 15% of ODA channelled through **regional development banks** included gender equality objectives. One positive example is Canada's contribution to the High Impact Partnership on Climate Action, which is a multi-donor partnership managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to support Ukraine's transition towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally compatible pathway. The contribution enabled technical assistance and support such as assisting with project preparation and implementation and ensuring the integration of gender equality and economic inclusion.

ODA channelled through **public sector institutions** and **civil society organisations** integrated gender equality to a slightly greater extent, but still low at 37% (USD 0.5 billion out of USD 1.4 billion) and 32% (USD 0.4 billion out of USD 1.3 billion) respectively. The share was higher in ODA channelled through the **private sector**, at 59% (USD 0.9 billion out of USD 1.6 billion). This included for example funding from Switzerland for public services provision; from Estonia for digital solutions development for the state border guard service; and from Czechia for health care; all including gender equality considerations and implemented by private sector partners.

## Finance beyond ODA

The private sector, by itself or in partnership with the public sector, is playing a pivotal role in Ukraine's economic resilience, offering additional avenues for sustainable and equitable growth. In 2023, DAC members committed USD 332 million in **private sector instruments** to Ukraine. Out of this, USD 73 million included gender equality objectives, which came from the United States, France, Sweden, Canada and Denmark (ranked by volumes). Private sector instruments include loans to the private sector, guarantees, equity investments, mezzanine finance instruments and reimbursable grants. These flows are often used to mobilise additional resources from other sources.

One example of a public-private partnership is the Facility for Resilient Food Systems, which leverages Canada's concessional finance alongside the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to mobilise private capital with the aim of enhancing food security, food system resilience and well-being through improved food availability and affordability. The Facility addresses disruptions to agricultural production and supply chains, making investments in private sector-led solutions to build more diversified, productive and resilient local food systems. The Facility also provides advisory and technical services to financial intermediaries and farmers to improve gender responsiveness, financial sustainability and resilience to climate risks.

Another example of partnership is Horizon Capital, which is Ukraine's largest private equity firm. It is supported by partners including EBRD and the Rockefeller Foundation, and it targets export-oriented sectors such as information technology, agriculture and light manufacturing, with a strong focus on boosting women's employment and entrepreneurship (Horizon Capital, 2024<sup>[20]</sup>). Its Growth Fund is supported by DAC members such as Sweden, whose contribution helps advance environmental, social and governance practices, supporting local income opportunities and promoting women's empowerment. Another example of partnerships that mobilise private finance for gender equality is the gender-lens investment initiative by the European Investment Bank. It calls for banks and funds to channel capital to women-led businesses and promote inclusive infrastructure projects that respond to women's needs, reinforcing the social sustainability of Ukraine's reconstruction (European Investment Bank, 2023<sup>[21]</sup>).

Although **private philanthropy** and **governments beyond the DAC** have also been playing an important role in Ukraine's resilience, OECD data show that most of this funding still lacks gender equality objectives. International philanthropic flows to Ukraine increased considerably from less than USD 7 million a year before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine to USD 254 million in 2022, and USD 374 million in 2023 (OECD, 2025<sup>[22]</sup>). However, most of this did not include gender equality objectives. An example of a philanthropic project that included gender equality objectives is the grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to support a Ukrainian non-profit human rights organisation led by women with disabilities to organise emergency services in the form of evacuation, medication and legal advice to disabled people in Ukraine. Another example is support from UBS Optimus Foundation to displaced Ukrainians, with a special focus on women, youth, children, sexual assault survivors, and people with disabilities. Finance to Ukraine from governments that are not DAC members added up to USD 32 million in 2023; however, most of it did not include gender equality objectives or was not screened against the gender equality marker.

## Opportunities for a gender-responsive and inclusive recovery

While positive trends can be observed and several good examples exist, the potential of development finance for a gender-responsive recovery of Ukraine remains largely underutilised. Scaling existing efforts and ensuring gender considerations are systematically integrated across finance could be transformative, not only for rebuilding Ukraine's economy but for ensuring that its reconstruction is truly inclusive. This is even more important given the global context of shrinking aid budgets, such as shown by OECD preliminary data for 2024 where a 7.1% decline in international assistance (in real terms) from 2023 is observed, marking the first decrease after five consecutive years of growth (OECD, 2025<sup>[23]</sup>). The decline is attributed to a reduction in contributions to international organisations, decrease in aid for Ukraine, lower levels of humanitarian aid and reduced spending on hosting refugees in donor countries.

The international community confirmed its commitment to initiatives that promote gender equality and the needs of women in 2024 by launching the global "Alliance for Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Recovery of Ukraine" (UN Women, 2024<sup>[24]</sup>). The Alliance currently has more than 80 members from governments, international financial institutions, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector. The Government of Ukraine is also part of the Alliance and its Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy has been highlighting the criticality of the gender dimension for humanitarian efforts and the importance of women's economic inclusion for peacebuilding and recovery (UN Women, 2023<sup>[25]</sup>).

OECD data underscore opportunities to integrate gender considerations in all sectors, and in particular in some of the most heavily funded and strategically critical sectors. Finance for the **government & civil society sector, particularly when channeled through multilateral development banks and multi-donor trust funds**, can and should embed gender equality considerations from the outset, to ensure that public sector reconstruction and recovery efforts contribute not only to institutional stability but also to more inclusive and equitable state-building. Fiscal policies, such as gender budgeting, targeted social spending and care infrastructure, can reduce gender gaps and stimulate growth. Tax and revenue systems can support women's labour force participation and entrepreneurship by adjusted tax rates and improved access to benefits. In the financial and monetary sectors, promoting women's financial inclusion, leadership and access to credit can contribute to both equity and financial stability. Finally, structural reforms, such as legal equality, fair labour practices, and targeted subsidies, are essential to removing systemic barriers and empowering women economically (IMF, 2024<sup>[19]</sup>). These initiatives can be supported and encouraged by international development finance.

Recognising that the war in Ukraine has differential and devastating consequences for different segments of the population is a prerequisite for effective **humanitarian aid**. Furthermore, as demographic trends suggest that women will be leading Ukraine's reconstruction, supporting them as active agents of the

recovery must be a strategic priority, not a peripheral thought. Integrating gender considerations throughout the development and humanitarian programme cycle starts by conducting a gender analysis, and continues by supporting the active participation and leadership of women and girls, encouraging staff capacity building, fostering partnerships with local women's rights organisations and using gender disaggregated data.

In **energy** projects, integration of gender equality considerations also starts in the planning phase, with gender analysis or gender-impact assessments (OECD, 2021<sup>[26]</sup>). In the project design and decision-making phase, findings from the analysis should be used and women's voice and agency promoted through diversity strategies and stakeholder engagement. Mechanisms to support women-led enterprises can be considered as part of procurement and delivery, and gender-sensitive indicators can be used to track progress.

Protecting funding for the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of **women's rights' organisations** (WROs) is also critical for a gender-responsive recovery. Recent cuts in international funding are threatening the continuation of emergency response, humanitarian and development initiatives by WROs in Ukraine, with several announcing that they are likely to have to stop working over the coming six months, if no new funding is found to replace lost resources (UN Women, 2025<sup>[27]</sup>). The work of WROs is fundamental for a gender-responsive recovery as they are often based in proximity to affected populations, are able to adapt quickly and have a longstanding focus on rights-based and participatory approaches.

The findings presented in this document underscore that, while progress has been made in addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities during crisis response, **gender equality remains insufficiently mainstreamed into the broader architecture of development co-operation, governance reform, and economic assistance**. To build a more inclusive and resilient Ukraine, future programming must move beyond isolated projects toward a systematic integration of gender analysis and action across all sectors. Investment in women's leadership, economic empowerment, and rights protection must be placed at the heart of both humanitarian and development efforts. This aligns with the commitment made by OECD DAC members in the 2024 *OECD DAC Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance* (OECD, 2024<sup>[28]</sup>) to systematically integrate gender equality throughout the programming cycle, from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation. The *Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: DAC Guidance for Development Partners* is available to support these commitments, outlining practical steps to embed gender equality across humanitarian, recovery, and development efforts (OECD, 2022<sup>[29]</sup>). The new dashboard on Development Finance for Gender Equality helps tracking how DAC members are integrating gender equality in their ODA and other flows (OECD, 2025<sup>[30]</sup>).

The reconstruction of Ukraine represents not only a moment of rebuilding physical infrastructure, but also an opportunity to improve social structures, ensuring that women are not merely beneficiaries of aid but are supported to be full participants and leaders in the country's future.

## Note on source and methodology

Figures refer to bilateral allocable official development assistance (ODA) based on the latest OECD data available on 23 May 2025, in 2023 constant prices, using the DAC gender equality policy marker of the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). The gender equality marker is a qualitative statistical tool that enables the examination of development finance and the identification of gender equality as either a *principal* policy objective (gender equality is the main objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and results, “score 2”), a *significant* objective (gender equality is integrated as an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme, “score 1”), or *not an objective* (project/programme has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target gender equality, “score 0”). For further details, see the [Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker](#), the [DAC Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#) and the [Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: DAC Guidance for Development Partners](#).

Analyses in this document are based on commitments, rather than disbursements, to capture the policy intention for the activity at the design stage. Averages of two years are usually used to reduce volatility since commitments are recorded in full in the year they are made, even if multi-year, and irrespective of when they are disbursed. However, this document presents 2022 and 2023 data separately, to enable comparisons since the start of Russia’s large-scale aggression against Ukraine.

The percentages are calculated based on a denominator of ODA with gender marker scores 0, 1 and 2, and excludes ODA that was not screened against the marker. The gender marker with the 0-1-2 scoring system has existed since 1997.

This document was prepared by the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Team in the OECD’s Development Co-operation Directorate, which also supports the DAC Network on Gender Equality, also called GENDERNET. Data and examples used in this document come from the Creditor Reporting System, OECD-DAC statistics found at <http://data-explorer.oecd.org/s/a9>.

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