Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic is an intrinsic instrument of the Slovak foreign policy, which to a large extent shapes Slovakia’s relations with aid recipients and relevant international organizations. Having committed itself to the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals, Slovakia shares the responsibility for global development and poverty reduction endeavors in developing countries, aiming to promote their sustainable development.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Combating global poverty is not only a moral commitment, it is also a tool for building a more stable, peaceful, prosperous, and equitable world. Even though the largest share of responsibility for the advancement belongs to the developing countries themselves, the advanced countries also have a great deal of responsibility.

As a member of the European Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Slovak Republic ranks among the most advanced countries in the world. In light of its positive macroeconomic development, Slovakia ceased to be a recipient and has become a donor of development assistance (ODA – Official development assistance).
The mechanism of providing development assistance was established in 2003 by creating the institutional, legal, and strategic framework for the Slovak development programming. Since 2003, Slovak Republic has been engaged in bilateral development assistance programmes and projects carried out in the developing countries, in addition to providing multilateral assistance and humanitarian aid. Simultaneously, since 2004, as a member state of the European Union, Slovakia has been engaged in the funding of development activities carried out by the European Commission.

Sectorial and territorial priorities of the Slovak ODA are based on the medium-term strategy set by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic defining priorities for particular regions.

The Medium - Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2019 - 2023 reflects the requirements for the Slovak development cooperation system which result from the 2030 Agenda´s principles. It defines the vision, goals and principles of SlovakAid, basic programmes and instruments used within these programmes. The document defines as well the territorial and sectoral priorities of SlovakAid and the management mechanism.

Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2019-2023 [1]
TERITORIAL PRIORITIES OF THE SLOVAK ODA:

- **Programme countries:** Kenya, Moldova and Georgia
- **Partner regions and countries:** Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo*, North Macedonia and Serbia), Eastern Partnership (Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), East Sub-Saharan Afrika (Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda), The Middle East (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria), and Afganistan

GOALS OF THE SLOVAK DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Slovak official development assistance goals are defined by Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Official Development Cooperation as amended by Act no. 281/2019 Coll. [2] and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Slovakia offers development cooperation to partner countries with the aim of contributing to sustainable development, mainly via reducing
poverty, strengthening democracy and good governance. SR is building on its historical experience and a specific story of the country which has gone through a difficult and successful transformation process.

- human development of partner countries, primarily by supporting education and employment;
- support of democracy and good governance including dialogue between civil society and state institutions

In fulfilling its vision and the goals, the SR relies on:

- its transformation experience in building independent state institutions, development of a market economy and meeting the principles of democracy;
- successful integration in international organisations and groups;
- recent experience as an aid recipient

**SECTORAL PRIORITIES:**

- Quality Education
- Good Health
- Good Governance and Building Civil Society
- Food Safety and Agriculture
- Infrastructure and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- Supporting Creation of Market Conditions

**CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:**

- Environment and Climate Change
- Equal Opportunities

**BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

Bilateral development assistance is provided directly by one state (donor) to another (developing country) in terms of a financial support of particular programmes and projects. Bilateral cooperation also includes transactions of national and international non-governmental organizations active in development and other internal development-related transactions, such as, interest subsidies, funds for promotion of development awareness, debt reorganization, and administrative costs.

The key national institutions involved in the bilateral ODA are: the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (MFEA) and the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC) - responsible for contracting and administering bilateral
programmes and development projects in the recipient countries. Apart from the MFEA system, the bilateral aid is provided by other ministries listed below. The implementation of bilateral ODA is carried out by national bodies, such as, governmental and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and business entities.

Major Slovak Institutions Managing the Bilateral ODA

- Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation
- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport (Government Scholarship Programme)
- Ministry of Interior (in-kind Humanitarian aid, International missions of the EU and UN)
- Ministry of Finance (programmes: Public Finance for Development; Technical Fund For Cooperation between Slovak Republic and EBRD)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FAO, CEEDFOODS)
MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Multilateral development assistance encompasses development programmes and development projects, financed by the Slovak Republic, performed by an international organization, whereas the contributions are paid by Slovakia to international organizations to finance their development activities. The goal of the Slovak ODA is to actively participate in decision-making processes of multilateral organizations supported by Slovakia on a regular basis. Slovak multilateral development aid is provided to the EU (European Commission and European Development Fund), the United Nations system (particularly FAO and WHO), the World Bank Group (particularly IDA), OSCE, and other international organizations.

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Links