

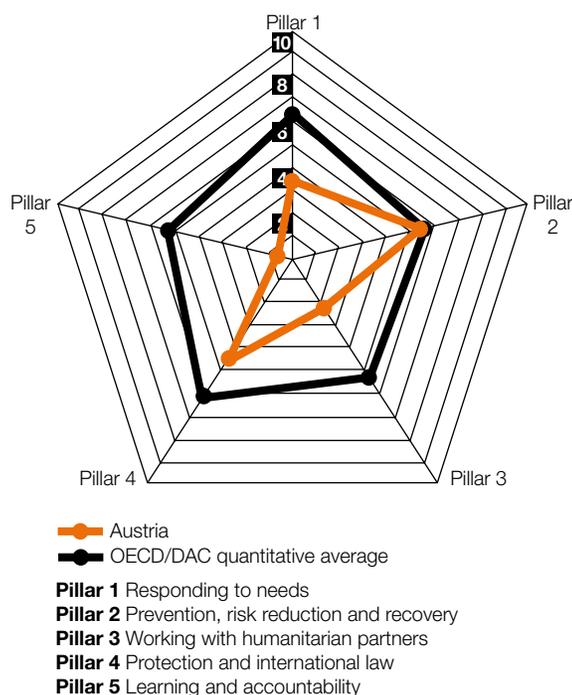
# Austria

## Policy framework

Austria's humanitarian aid is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is the operational arm of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), created by the Federal Ministries Act of 1986 and the Federal Act on Development Cooperation of 2002. The Ministry of the Interior manages emergency response and disaster relief, in consultation with the ADA and ADC. The Armed Forces Disaster Relief Unit in the Ministry is trained for deployment in the case of humanitarian emergencies. Austria does not have a comprehensive humanitarian policy framework, but a *Three-Year Programme on Development Policy*. ADC's humanitarian budget is intended mainly for priority and partner countries, but can also be used to respond to humanitarian crises in other places. Its Foreign Disaster Aid Fund allows Austria to respond to humanitarian emergencies for which funding had not been sufficiently budgeted. In 2009, Austria's ODA decreased substantially in volume and its ratio to GNI went down from 0.43% to 0.30%. Humanitarian aid represents 7.36% of Austria's ODA and 0.010% of its GNI.

Austria adopted a humanitarian policy in 2007 –including disaster risk reduction and response, rehabilitation and recovery– in line with the *Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship*, but it does not provide clear guidance how to meet the commitments and policy objectives.

## HRI 2010 scores by pillar



\* Graph includes only quantitative pillar scores as sufficient survey responses were not obtained for Austria.

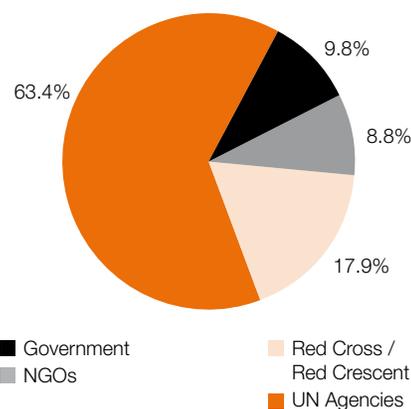
## Performance

Austria is not included in the overall ranking, as insufficient survey responses were obtained to calculate the qualitative indicators that make up the index. Based on the patterns of its scores in quantitative indicators, Austria is classified as a Group 3 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform poorly in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners), Pillar 4 (Protection and international law) and Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability). Other donors in this group are Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, Portugal and Spain.

Austria's overall scores in the HRI's quantitative indicators were far below the OECD/DAC and the lowest in Group 3. Like other Group 3 donors, Austria reached its highest score in Pillar 2 (Prevention, risk reduction and recovery) where it was close to the OECD/DAC average, but below the Group 3 average. Its scores in Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), Pillar 3 and Pillar 5 were below both the OECD/DAC and Group 3 averages. Its lowest score was in Pillar 5. In Pillar 4 its scores are close to the Group 3 average but below the OECD/DAC average. It should be noted that the scores for Austria have not been taken into account in the calculation of the overall and average scores for Group 3.

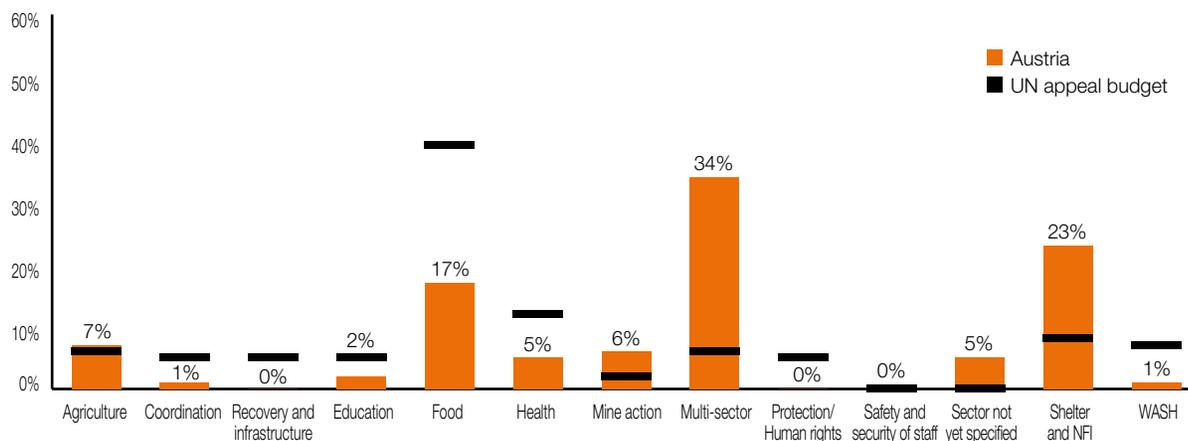
Compared to the OECD/DAC average scores, Austria did best compared to its peers in the indicators on *Reducing climate-related vulnerability* and *Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises*. Its scores were lowest in the indicators on *Participation in accountability initiatives*, *Funding for accountability initiatives*, *Timely funding to sudden onset disasters*, *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals* and *Funding and commissioning evaluations*.

## Aid distribution by type of organisation



Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

## Sectoral distribution of funding to UN appeals, 2009 (%)



\* Distribution of donor funding to these sectors includes flows within and outside an appeal that has been reported to OCHA/FTS. This is compared to the “distribution of needs” based on the 2009 UN appeal budget allocation.

Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

### Recommendations

Austria’s humanitarian response is currently rather fragmented among a large number of departments.

- Austria should consider establishing a single humanitarian entity in Vienna and a degree of delegated authority to field representations on the basis of clearly-defined strategic guidance.

Timely funding in response both to complex emergencies and sudden onset disasters is one of Austria’s weaknesses. In response to complex emergencies, Austria provided 21% of its funding during the first quarter of the year compared to the OECD/DAC average of 34% and the Group 3 average of 40%. In response to sudden onset disasters, Austria provided 8% of its funding within six weeks, while the OECD/DAC average is 70% and Group 3 average 47%.

- Austria should consider looking into ways to increase funding for the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund or other budget lines for emergency response. This would allow for more predictable core funding to multilateral partners and a more timely response to sudden onset disasters and complex emergencies.

In Pillar 3, Austria was below average in Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals. Austria channeled only 14% of its fair share to the UN, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 135% and the Group 3 average of 42%. With regard to funding to the Red Cross/Red Crescent, Austria provided 18% of its fair share, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 128% and the Group 3 average of 22%.

- Austria should consider finding ways to increase its support of UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals.

Austria scored below average in the indicator for Funding for reconstruction and prevention, a marked contrast to the other members of its group. Its share of bilateral humanitarian aid devoted to reconstruction and prevention was 12%, compared to the Group 3 average of 25%. Austria fell just below the OECD/DAC average of 17%.

- Austria should consider increasing its support for reconstruction and prevention.

For more information, please see [www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org).

### Strengths

Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% over average
Reducing climate-related vulnerability	8.29	7.19	15%
Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises	6.52	6.11	7%

### Areas for improvement

Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% below average
Participation in accountability initiatives	0.00	4.73	-100%
Funding for accountability initiatives	0.00	2.75	-100%
Timely funding to sudden onset disasters	0.78	6.97	-89%
Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals	0.62	5.05	-88%
Funding and commissioning evaluations	2.49	4.25	-41%