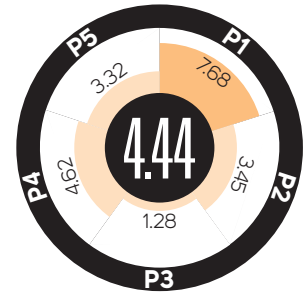


# AUSTRIA

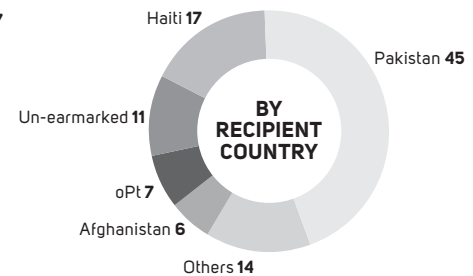
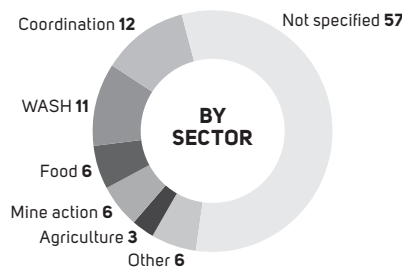
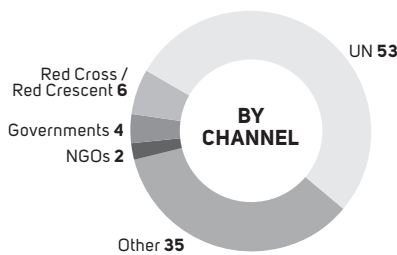


**OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**  
**0.32%**  
 of GNI

**HUMANITARIAN AID**  
**4.2%**  
 of ODA

**US \$6**  
 Per person

## HUMANITARIAN AID DISTRIBUTION (%)



## GENDER RATING

POLICY →

FUNDING →

FIELD PERCEPTION N/A

### STRENGTHS

Pillar	Type	Indicator	Score	% above OECD/DAC average
5	QT	Funding and commissioning evaluations	8.89	+114.7%
1	QT	Timely funding to complex emergencies	9.57	+20.9%
1	QT	Timely funding to sudden onset emergencies	9.61	+19.3%

### AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Pillar	Type	Indicator	Score	% below OECD/DAC average
5	QT	Participating in accountability initiatives	0.00	-100.00%
3	QT	Funding NGOs	0.76	-83.3%
5	QT	Funding accountability initiatives	1.08	-73.6%
3	QT	Un-earmarked funding	1.50	-71.1%
3	QT	Funding UN and RC/RC appeals	1.58	-61.3%

## OVERALL 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.

Austria's overall scores in the HRI's quantitative indicators were below both the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages. Austria scored below the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages in all pillars, with the exception of Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), where the average of its quantitative scores placed it above both the OECD/DAC and Group

2 averages. It received its lowest score by far in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners).

Austria did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in indicators on *Funding and commissioning evaluations*, *Timely funding to complex emergencies* and *Timely funding to sudden onset emergencies*. Its scores were relatively the lowest in the indicators on *Participating in accountability initiatives*, *Funding NGOs*, *Funding accountability initiatives*, *Un-earmarked funding* and *Funding UN and RC/RC appeals*.

# AID DISTRIBUTION

Austria's Official Development Assistance (ODA) comprised 0.32% of its Gross National Income (GNI) in 2010, an increase from 0.30% in 2009, yet below its 2008 level of 0.43% of GNI. Humanitarian assistance represented 4.09% of its 2010 ODA, or 0.013% of its GNI.

According to data reported to the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service (FTS), Austria channelled 53.4%

of its humanitarian funding to UN agencies in 2010, 5.5% to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, 4.0% bilaterally to affected governments and 2.5% to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Austria supported a total of 17 humanitarian crises in 2010: six in Asia, four in Africa, four in Europe and three in the Americas. Pakistan, Haiti and the occupied Palestinian territories received the greatest amount of support in 2010.

# POLICY FRAMEWORK

Within Austria, the Federal Ministry of the Interior (FMI), the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (FMEIA), the Federal Ministry of Defence (FMD), and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) coordinate humanitarian affairs (ADC 2009a). The Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs (FMEIA) is responsible for the strategic orientation of humanitarian aid. 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* (ADC 2009). The Federal Ministry of the Interior (FMI) can also establish crisis teams to coordinate humanitarian action (ADC 2009a). The *Austrian Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness 2006-*

*2010/2011* (ADC 2008), the *Three-Year Programme on Development Policy* (Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs 2008) and the *Austrian Development Cooperation International humanitarian aid: a policy document 2009* (ADC 2009a) guide Austria's humanitarian policy. ADC also refers to the policies of the European Commission for its humanitarian aid (ADC 2009a). 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 (ADC 2009a). The Austrian Council of Ministers can approve additional federal government funds for the Foreign Disaster Aid Fund if sufficient funds are not available for humanitarian action in the budgets of the individual federal departments (ADC 2009a, p.13).

## HOW DOES AUSTRIA'S POLICY ADDRESS GHD CONCEPTS?

### GENDER

Women are listed as one of the particularly vulnerable groups Austria targets in crisis situations. Gender is mentioned as a part of Austria's overall development policy including *Focus: Women, Gender and Armed Conflicts* (ADC 2011b) and *Focus: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women* (ADC 2009), and *Gender equality and empowerment of women: Policy document* (ADC, 2006). However, Austria's policy regarding the integration of gender-sensitive approaches in humanitarian action is not clear.

## PILLAR 1

# RESPONDING TO NEEDS

Austria commits to providing aid based on the principles of neutrality, impartiality and non-discrimination (ADC 2009a). ADC recognises the need to provide aid based on need, especially to vulnerable groups including women, children, sick and disabled persons, refugees and internally displaced and homeless persons (ADC 2009a). Additionally, “particular attention is paid to ‘forgotten crises’ in ADC partner countries” (ADC 2009a, p.17). Austria also emphasises the need for timely decision-making and provision of funds (ADC 2009a). ADC only supports prequalified, ECHO-accredited NGOs to allow for a rapid response to crises (ADC 2009a).

## PILLAR 2

# PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

Austria addresses capacity building and beneficiary participation in its humanitarian policy in multiple ways. *Austrian Humanitarian Aid Policy* highlights that “the creation of greater prevention and self-help capacities in the target country is enhanced by transferring know-how and strengthening local structures,” (ADC 2009a, pp.18-19), and includes building self-reliance as one of its goals (ADC 2009a). Austria also recognises the need for rehabilitation, reconstruction and disaster prevention to be integrated in humanitarian aid (ADC 2009a). Furthermore, Austria encourages working with local partners in order to strengthen local capacities; however, organisations must be accredited before they can receive funding, as Austria considers that the accreditation process can increase organisations’ capacity. Austria stresses the need to consider the environment before and after crises (ADC 2009a).

## PILLAR 3

# WORKING WITH HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

Austria’s humanitarian policy addresses coordination on many fronts: nationally, within Austria, internationally, as well as with host governments, civil society organisations and the affected population (ADC 2009a). Internationally, Austria’s humanitarian policy highlights the important role OCHA plays in coordination, and also notes its participation in the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), the Partnership for Peace (PfP) and the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) (ADC 2009a). Austria’s humanitarian policy also emphasizes the need to coordinate before a crisis occurs (ADC 2009a). ADC uses initial UN needs assessments and reviews international situation reports and funding appeals to inform its decisions (ADC 2009a). Austria provides un-earmarked funds to UN agencies, the EU, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (ADC 2009a).

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## PILLAR 4

# PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

International humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law are addressed in Austria's development policy, but do not seem to be given the same attention in Austria's humanitarian aid policy, with the exception of human rights, which is addressed in the *Human Rights Manual Guidelines for Implementing a Human Rights Based Approach in ADC* (ADA 2010). Austria recognizes that "impartiality is an essential prerequisite for access to the affected civilian population on all sides of a conflict and for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel in the field," (ADC 2009a, p.14). Austria stresses that the military should be used as a last resort, yet acknowledges its use to gain access in certain situations: "The coordination of civil and military activities is vital and should be designed to ensure and safeguard access by aid organizations to the affected population," (ADC 2009a, p.19). Austria highlights the need to protect refugees and the displaced (ADC 2009a).

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## PILLAR 5

# LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

ADA has a quality assurance and knowledge building unit, which can evaluate the content and operational aspects of humanitarian projects and programmes (ADC 2009a). Austria's policy regarding accountability and transparency is not clear.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ● RENEW COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY

Austria has significant room for improvement in relation to its support for and participation in learning and accountability initiatives. Austria does not participate in any of the humanitarian accountability initiatives included in the indicator<sup>1</sup> and its funding of accountability initiatives<sup>2</sup> is also low: Austria allocated 0.1% of its humanitarian funding to this, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 0.4%.

## ● ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR UN AND RC/RC APPEALS, COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES AND POOLED FUNDS

Austria received the fifth-lowest score of the OECD/DAC donors for *Funding UN and RC/RC appeals*, which measures the extent to which donors provide their fair share<sup>3</sup> of funding to UN and Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) appeals, coordination and support services and pooled funds. Austria scores well below average in all the components that comprise this indicator.

## ● LOOK FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CHANNEL MORE FUNDING TO NGOS

Austria channelled little funding to NGOs – only 2.5% of its humanitarian aid. This places Austria among the donors that channel the least funding to NGOs, well below the OECD/DAC average of 15.3%. Austria could consider flexible working models to increase its funding to NGOs, such as arranging shared management agreements with other donors, or supporting consortiums.

## ● IMPROVE FLEXIBILITY WHILE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME MONITORING

Austria provided the vast majority of its funding with earmarking: only 9.0% of its humanitarian funding was provided without earmarking, placing it below the OECD/DAC average of 33.2% and the Group 2 average of 15.2%. This would seem to indicate that Austria should review the flexibility of its funding.



Please see [www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org) for a complete list of references.