

# CONCORD AidWatch Report 2022

## Call for consultant

March 2022

### Introduction

CONCORD Europe, the European Confederation of Development and Relief NGOs, is launching a call for an external consultant to work in the preparation of the 2022 AidWatch Report. Published annually, AidWatch reports measure the quantity and quality of EU ODA. It is an advocacy tool that CONCORD members use to conduct coordinated advocacy work to influence policy makers, as well as to hold EU Institutions and National governments accountable for their pledges on aid.

### Timeline

The work should be carried out between end-April 2022 and beginning of October 2022, including work during Summer time.

### Job description

The main tasks of the work would consist in:

- Developing a concept note for the AidWatch Report.
- In collaboration with a statistician consultant, conduct a thorough analysis of the current AidWatch methodology for its modernisation.
- Developing a questionnaire for quantitative and qualitative data collection from CONCORD's National Platforms. This task will be done with the support of a statistician consultant and in consultation with FFSD Policy group and the AW National Platforms focal points.
- Delivering focal group calls for quantitative and qualitative data collection from CONCORD's members and selected CSOs from partner regions, interviews with selected EU officials.
- Based on the analysis of the OECD DAC figures (which will be produced by the statistician consultant) and the interviews and focal group call mentioned above, draft an overview chapter outlining EU ODA trends with the main quantitative and qualitative findings including graphs and tables (4 Es section), as well as the thematic chapter (the core theme is still to be discussed).
- Drafting the EU institutions page, incorporating comments from the consultation process and editing the country pages (drafted by CONCORD National Platforms).
- Regular participation in teleconferences of the CONCORD FFSD Policy group and AW National Platforms focal points, when needed.
- Designing the structure of the country pages and consolidating the drafting from National Platforms.
- Finalise the AidWatch report. The latter will include: the overview chapter (4 'E's section and thematic section), the country pages (including for the EU institutions), annexes, all related graphs and tables.

## Report content and format

### Background

As a CONCORD flagship report, AidWatch (AW) monitors the quantity and quality of the EU and its Member States ODA annually. The 2022 report will be the opportunity to analyse the ODA levels of EU donors in 2021. But even though it looks at the 2021 data, the AidWatch report also reflects the main trends, processes and events that can influence this year's ODA levels. In that sense, it might be relevant to investigate whether the ongoing war in Ukraine is already having an impact on Member States' spending on ODA.

Last year, the AidWatch report became more interactive and visual thanks to the creation of a website, where readers can find the main findings and recommendations as well as sharing them on social media. This year we want to continue exploring new ways of improving the digitalisation of the report, with new tools that ensure a better user experience and, ultimately, increase its advocacy impact.

### Objectives

The AidWatch report is both an accountability and an advocacy tool. The report aims to keep the EU institutions and national governments accountable on their ODA commitments - both in terms of quantity and quality.

From an advocacy perspective, the AidWatch analysis and messages aim to influence international cooperation policy at the EU and Member State levels. The report will be released at the beginning of October. In the following months to its publication, the report will be used as an advocacy tool both at the national and the EU level. National Platforms will carry out an informed and effective advocacy vis-à-vis their governments to influence the negotiations on national budgets. At the EU level, the report will represent an important contribution to make sure that the European Commission, with its Delegations, will get the NDICI implementation right. With the report, we also seek to influence the EU's positions and messages in several international fora related to ODA.

### Format

We want to keep the report as short as possible. It will include a first part, organised as follows:

- an Introduction (1-2 pages), which places the AW report in the larger picture of CONCORD's activities and to build a narrative that links up the various figures of the report.
- 4 'E's section (7-8 pages, including graphs and recommendations):
  - Enough ODA: as usual, this part would focus on the 0.7% ODA/GNI commitment. It will monitor whether the EU institutions and Member States are progressing towards this target.
  - Employing ODA correctly: here, we would reflect the drivers and levels of aid inflation, in contrast with the levels of genuine ODA. This time, we will include a discussion around the grant equivalent methodology, with a focus on some of the main areas of concern (debt relief, discount rates, frontloading).
  - Effective ODA: following last year's approach, this part would therefore include some analysis on the Team Europe approach. This time, we will adopt

a more quantitative focus, looking at the added value of this approach in terms of aid effectiveness.

- Equality-focused ODA: this part will take into account data on LDCs, gender equality, support to CSOs (both to and through support). However, this year we would also like to look at the ODA for climate, with a focus on the comparison between the spending on mitigation and adaptation.
- Thematic section (4 pages including recommendations)

The report will also include a second part with individual country pages, which will be prepared by the National Platforms and consolidated by the consultant, as previously mentioned. The AidWatch consultant will also add more references to the country pages in the AW overview chapter, with timely and relevant links between trends at the EU and Member States levels.

### Methodology

To give a more accurate picture of donors' efforts to reduce poverty and inequalities, the AidWatch methodology discounts the following items from net ODA flows:

- spending on students in the donor country;
- spending on refugees in the donor country;
- interest repayments on concessional loans, which should instead be considered a 'negative' budget item;
- debt relief and future interest on cancelled debts;
- the additional cost of tied aid.

This year we are also conducting a review of the methodology that might imply looking at other/new items. Ongoing discussions to analyse other aspects of EU ODA such as climate finance, vaccines donations and SDR allocation might well have an impact on the final methodology.

You can check the [AidWatch website](#) for examples of the previous reports.

### Candidate profile

Successful candidates for this offer will respond as much as possible to the following profile:

#### Essential:

- Experience of quantitative and qualitative data analysis (including use of OECD databases preferably).
- Excellent English writing and editing skills; ability to write about complex issues in an engaging and punching way.
- Excellent knowledge of EU Development Cooperation and International Partnerships issues.
- Very good understanding and knowledge of the aid/development effectiveness agenda.
- Experience of coordinating and managing networks or multiple stakeholders would be an advantage.

#### Desirable:

- Experience of working in the NGO environment, with complex multicultural networks and under pressure.
- Some experience in communication.

- Innovative mindset, capable to come up with new ideas to refresh the current methodology of the report

## Application process

To apply for this post, please upload the following documents to the portal below

- your CV outlining your relevant expertise to meet this assignment (1 page max);
- your proposal on how you will undertake this research, including a suggested number of days and their distribution between the different tasks and phases of the work and your day rate (2 pages max).

In case of any difficulties or questions, you may contact Salvatore Nocerino ([salvatore.nocerino@concordeurope.org](mailto:salvatore.nocerino@concordeurope.org)) and Riccardo Roba ([riccardo.roba@concordeurope.org](mailto:riccardo.roba@concordeurope.org)) by **20<sup>th</sup> April at midnight CET**.<sup>1</sup>

Please note that the final agreement on the contract is subject to the availability of funds from our donor.

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<sup>1</sup> The call was launched publicly on CONCORD website on 29 March 2022.

