



# HUNGARY

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROFILE

POLICIES, GEOGRAPHICAL OBJECTIVES,  
THEMATIC PRIORITIES AND BEST PRACTICES  
2020 EDITION



MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE  
OF HUNGARY



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Approximately **317 million dollars** dedicated to international development cooperation in 2019.

Development assistance **increased by over 30 million dollars** from 2018 to 2019.

Hungary's Official Development Assistance/  
Gross National Income ratio **grew to 0.22%.**

In 2019, **560 projects** were implemented in **105 countries**, marking an increase of 110 projects since 2018.

The Government of Hungary adopted its **new International Development Cooperation Strategy** for the period 2020-2025.

A **Resident Coordinator System** was launched to enhance domestic policy coherence for development.



# HUNGARY: PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WHERE AND WHEN IT MATTERS

Following a successful year marked by significant results, 2019-2020 has yet again brought far-reaching achievements in Hungary's international development policy. In line with a consistent foreign policy and a firm commitment to providing assistance where and when it is most needed, we continued stepping up our efforts to play a more prominent role in addressing some of the most pressing challenges faced by the international community.

The brochure you are reading aims to draw attention to Hungary's continued commitment to international development cooperation by highlighting some of our most important achievements, projects and institutional developments.

Numbers speak for themselves. According to preliminary figures, Hungary's Official Development



*Hungarian assistance in Iraq*

ment Assistance (ODA) in 2019 amounted to approximately 317 million dollars, a sharp increase from the 114 million dollars that it allocated to this cause back in 2010. Expressed in terms of the ODA/GNI ratio, our development

assistance reached 0.22%. In 2019, Hungary engaged in development cooperation with over 100 developing countries via 560 projects or initiatives.

With a view to enhancing our institutional commitment to international development, in 2019 our government adopted Hungary's new International Development Cooperation Strategy for the period 2020-2025 (IDC2025), which reflects on the changing needs of developing countries. IDC2025 places a marked emphasis on Africa, the Middle East and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as well as policy coherence for development (PCD) through the establishment of the inter-ministerial Resident Coordinator System. IDC2025 prizes the need to encourage economic partnerships, focusing on, inter alia, access to water and sanitation, healthcare, education, information technology, as well as sustainable agricultural production and consumption.

**"In 2019, Hungary's ODA spending amounted to 317 million dollars, reaching 0.22% ODA/GNI."**

In terms of our project-based accomplishments, in 2019 we launched Hungary's largest-to-date international development initiative, a comprehensive, 16-million-euro development programme in the Republic of Uganda, the ultimate aim of which is to create long-lasting peace and stability in the country. The programme also provides – via the involvement of the private sector – assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers present in Uganda.

Besides our increased attention towards LDCs, we continued to treat our neighbours – the countries of the Eastern Partnership and the



*Establishing a Malware and Forensic Analysis Laboratory (by Carinex Ltd.)*



*Providing medical aid to vulnerable people in Latin America*

Western Balkans – with priority. Nor have we lost sight of the importance of providing aid – within the framework of the Hungary Helps Programme – to persecuted religious minorities, which remains a key priority.

Another prominent segment of Hungary's development cooperation is the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme (SH) launched by the Government of Hungary in 2013. Ever since its inception, the programme has enjoyed great popularity with our partner countries. We

started out with 68 students from three countries and by the academic year 2019-2020, we welcomed more than 9,000 SH scholarship holders from 69 countries.

While increasing the share of our bilateral assistance in terms of ODA, we have also strived to place more emphasis on our multilateral engagement. In an increasingly interconnected world – wherein challenges such as climate change, migration, energy security risks, demographic shifts and social polarisation demand immediate responses – Hungary has remained committed to continuing a constructive dialogue with our multilateral partners.

Moreover, the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the need for solidarity; Hungary has thus actively engaged in the Team Europe initiative. Responding rapidly to the needs of our partner countries, Hungary allocated – either through the restructuring of existing programmes or the fresh allocation of funds – approximately 16 million euros until June of 2020 to assist developing countries in dealing with the challenges posed by the pandemic. We have sought not only to provide the means to stave off the threat of COVID-19 to the developing world, but to contribute to the long-term economic development of these countries as well.



*Supporting rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in war-torn areas of the Middle East*

Three years into our membership of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD, 2019 also saw the first ever mid-term review of Hungary's international development system. The review confirmed Hungary's commitment to international development policy, as well as its increasingly important international role.

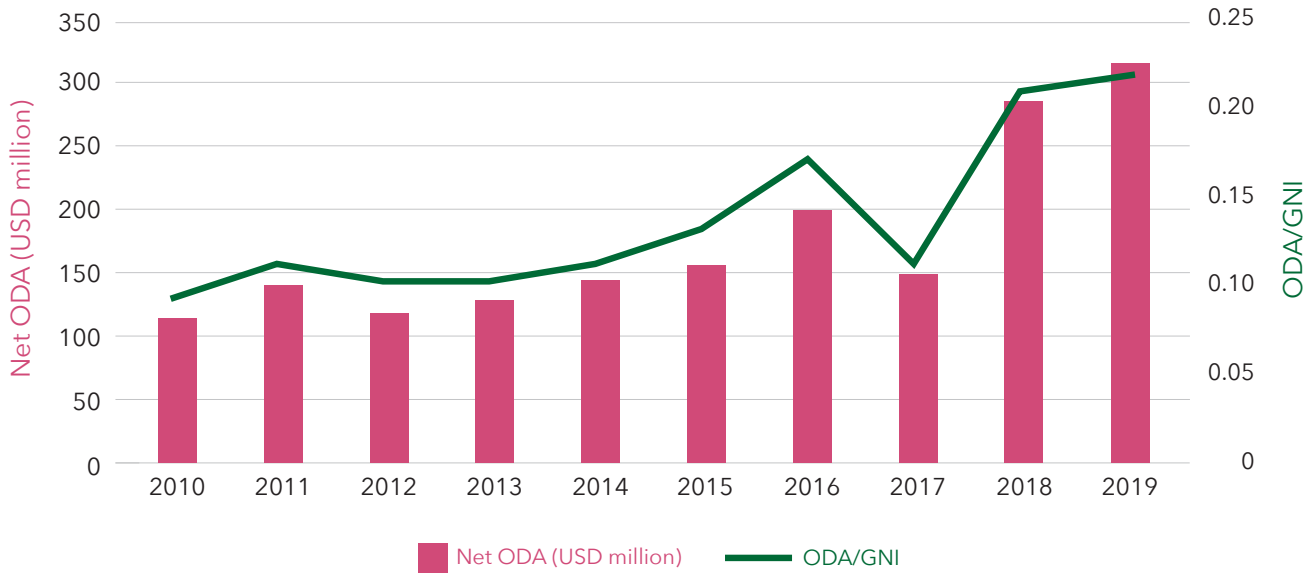
Lastly, bearing in mind the importance of forming partnerships with a view to attaining the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Hungary has united its efforts with other European partners (namely the Visegrad Group, as well as Slovenia, Germany and Italy) in several key initiatives in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Our partnerships for development have resulted in concrete initiatives in Kenya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Libya and Morocco. Launching new partnerships will certainly remain a priority for Hungary.

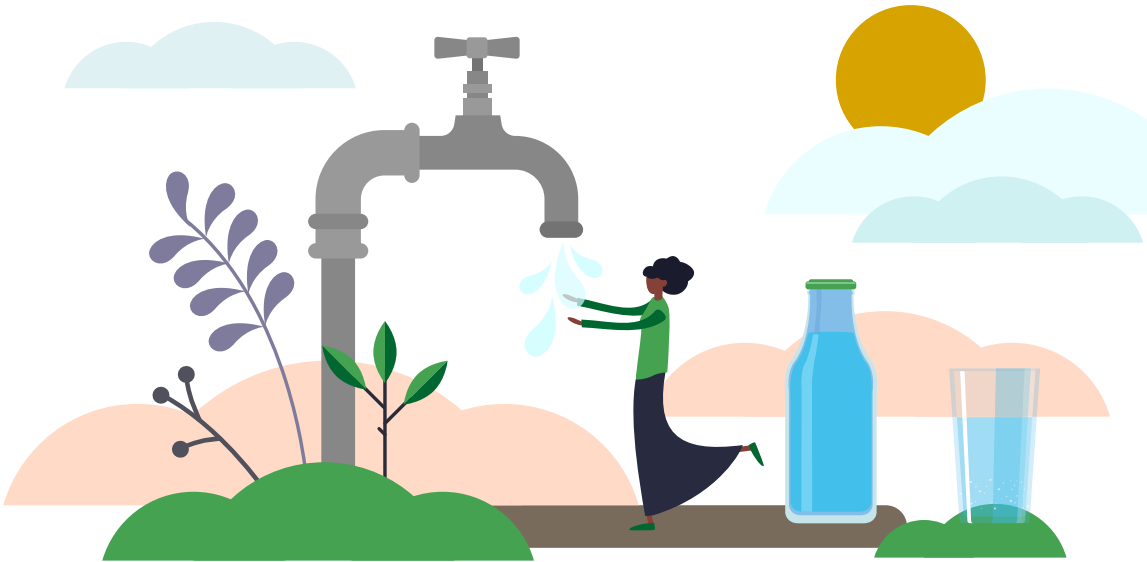
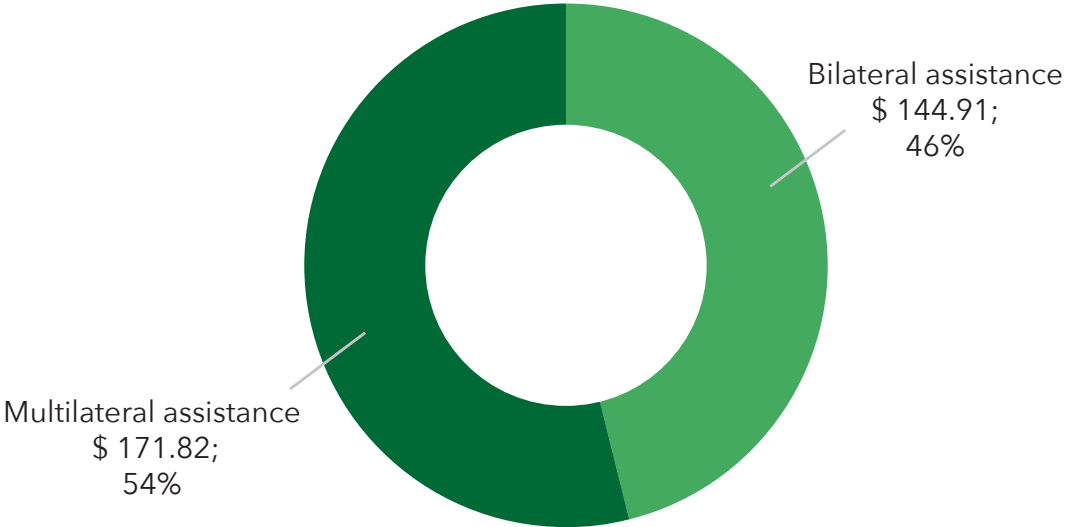


# HUNGARY'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN NUMBERS

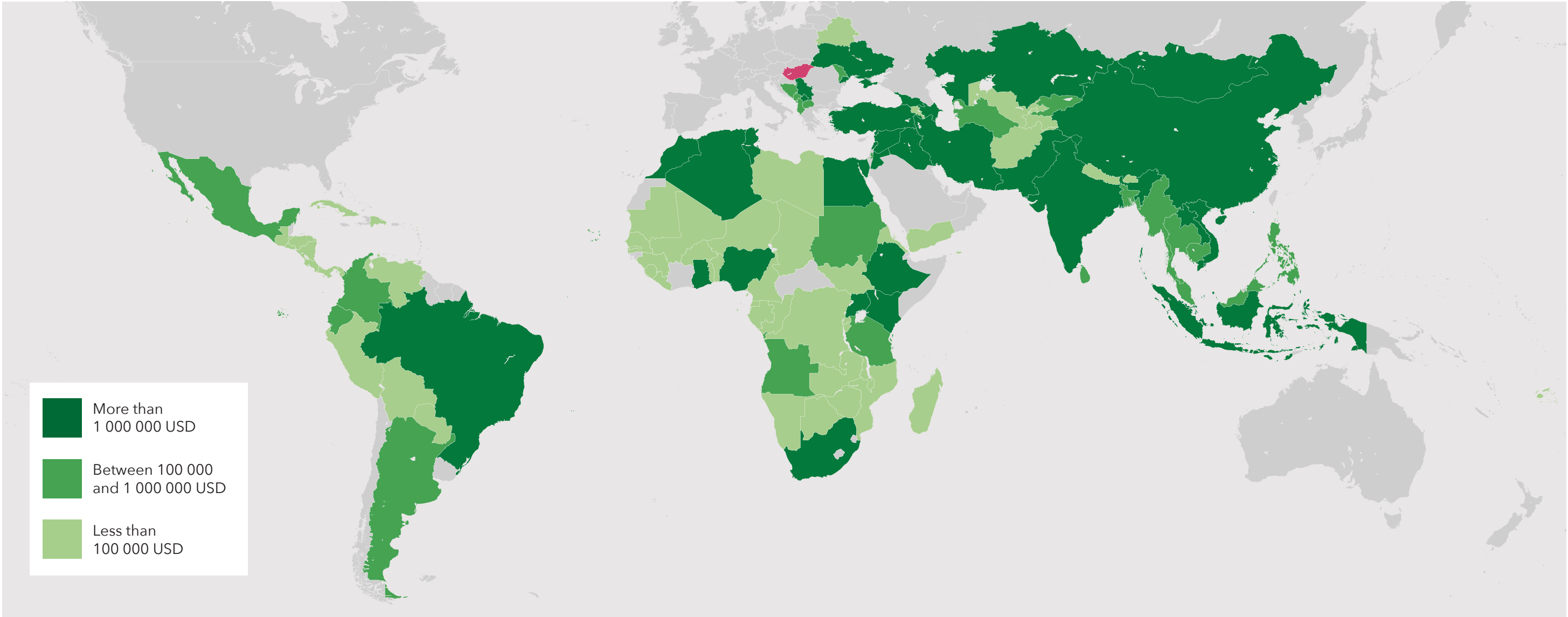
Hungary's development assistance:  
year-to-year increase since 2010 (ODA and GNI)



Hungary's development assistance  
in numbers (USD million)



# COMMITTED FUNDS IN 2019



# GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

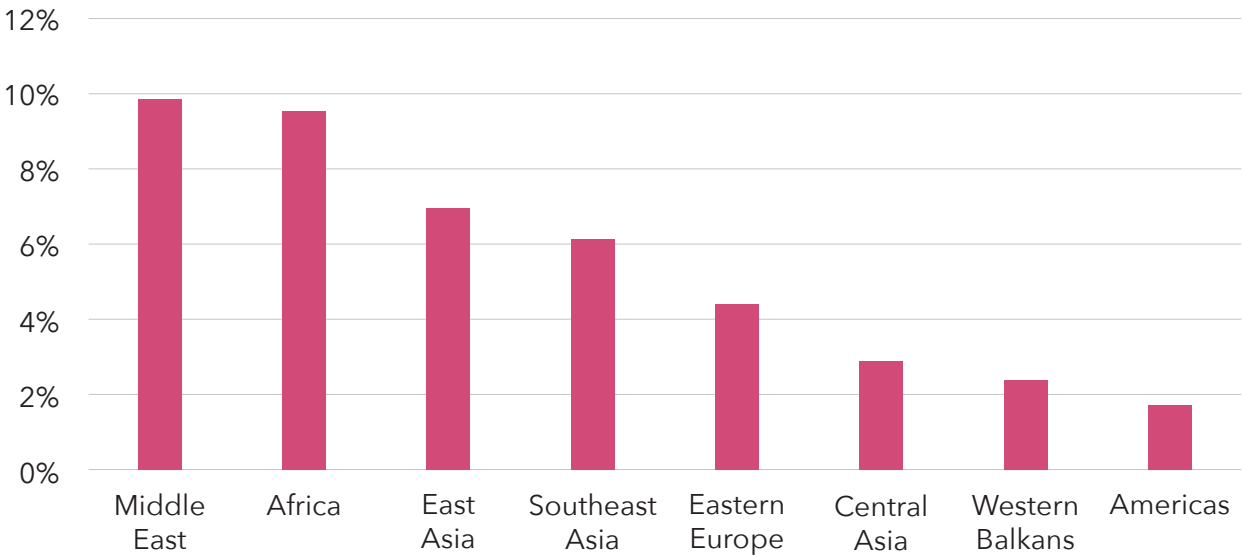
In 2019, Hungary adopted its new development strategy - IDC2025 - according to which in the coming years we will strive to engage more substantively with our partners in Africa, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the Middle East, while not losing sight of our traditional partners in the Neighbourhood either. IDC2025 places a special emphasis on spurring job creation and improving local living conditions, thereby enabling people to thrive in their home countries.

**"In recent years, Hungary has paid greater attention to the development of LDCs."**



Joint V4 agricultural development assistance in Kenya

## Geographical breakdown



## Noteworthy trends

- Whilst in 2018 Hungary allocated 25.6 million dollars to development cooperation projects in Africa, this number rose to 30.3 million dollars by 2019.
- In recent years, Hungary has paid greater attention to promoting the development of LDCs. In 2019, we increased our contribution to LDCs by 2.3 million dollars to 31.1 million dollars.
- In 2019, the top recipients of Hungary's development assistance included the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Uganda, Ukraine and Viet Nam. In total, Hungary funded 94 projects in these countries, worth a total of 59.9 million dollars.

# ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES BY SECTOR

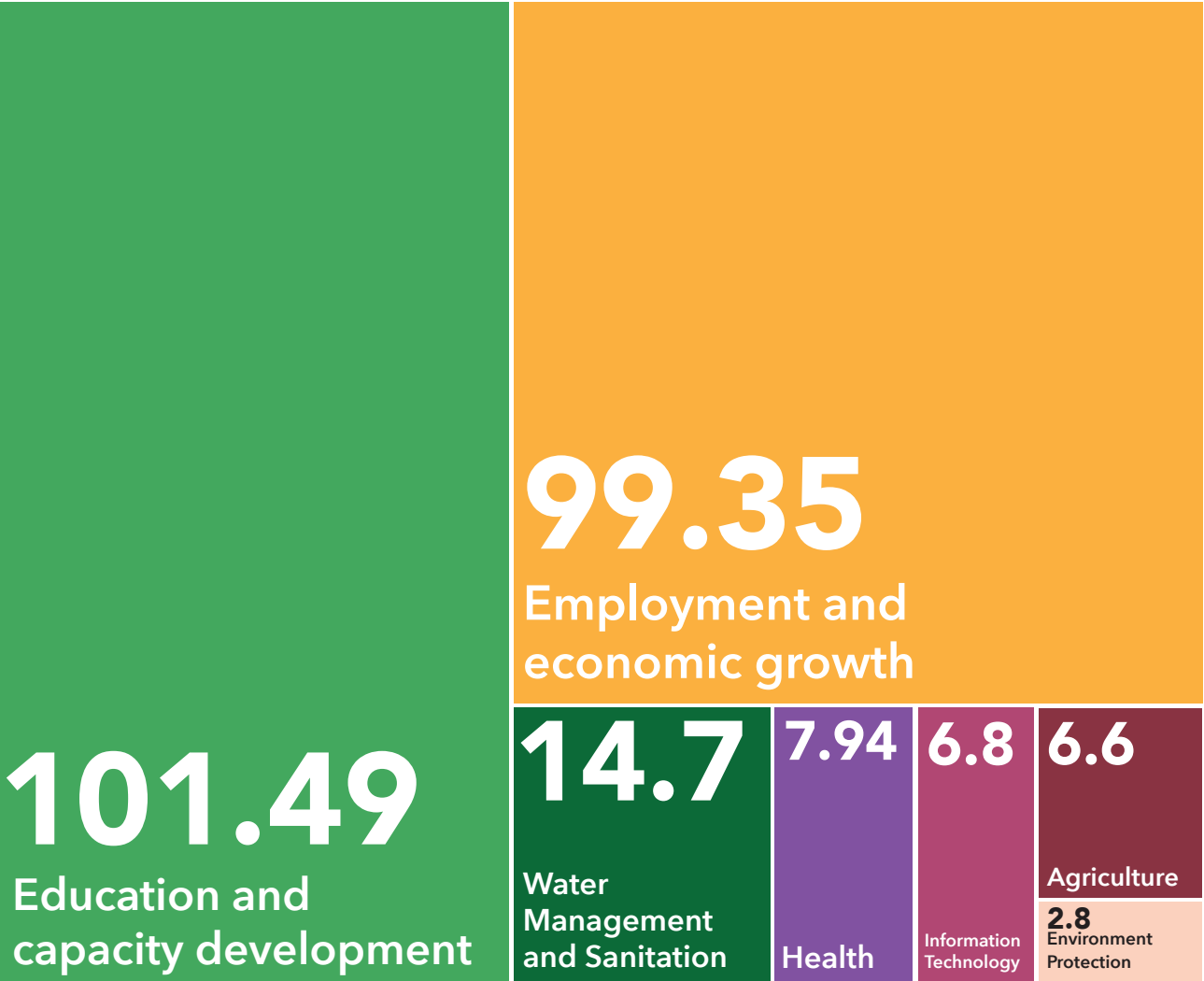
Hungary believes that international development cooperation is an important driver of, and tool for, promoting social and economic development, as well as economic partnerships more broadly. Our cooperation in this regard focuses on supporting job creation and improving local conditions by addressing the most pressing local needs, especially in those fields and sectors wherein Hungary has a comparative advantage. According to the IDC2025, we shall seek to prioritise the following six key sectors:

- Water management and sanitation
- Agriculture
- Health
- Education
- Environment
- Information technology



Providing emergency assistance in the Middle East

## Aid allocated to sectors prioritised in IDC2025 (USD million)





# SDG BREAKDOWN

Hungary has been seeking to foster the effectiveness of global efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs. In fact, IDC2025 seeks to enhance our contributions by prioritising those SDGs wherein Hungary or Hungarian actors have significant experience and comparative advantages.

2

ZERO HUNGER

To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

4

QUALITY EDUCATION

To ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

To ensure access to safe water sources and sanitation for all.

8

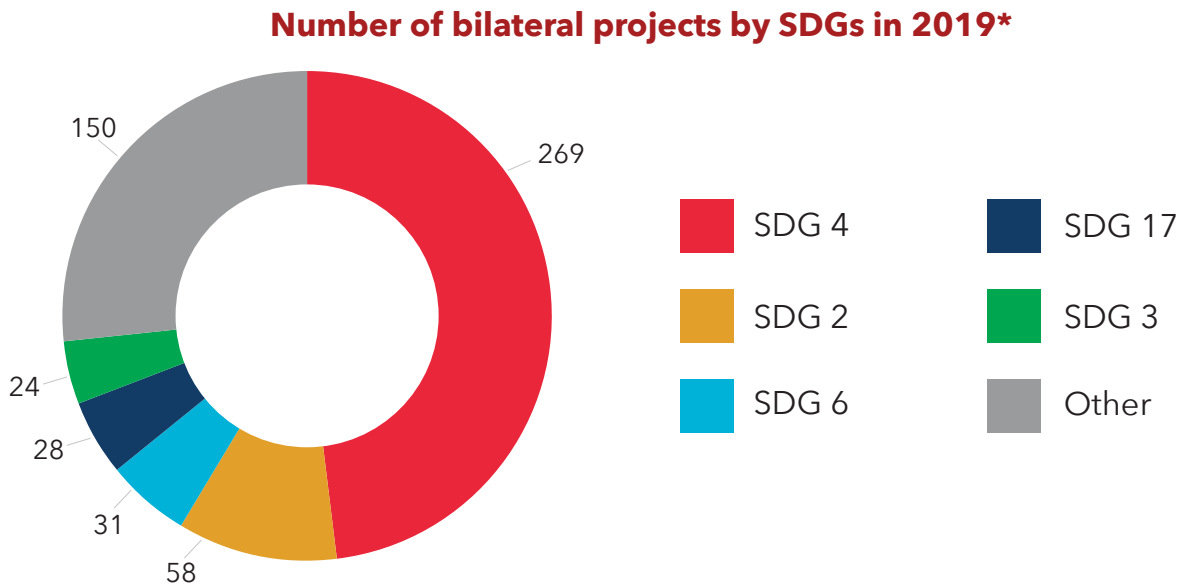
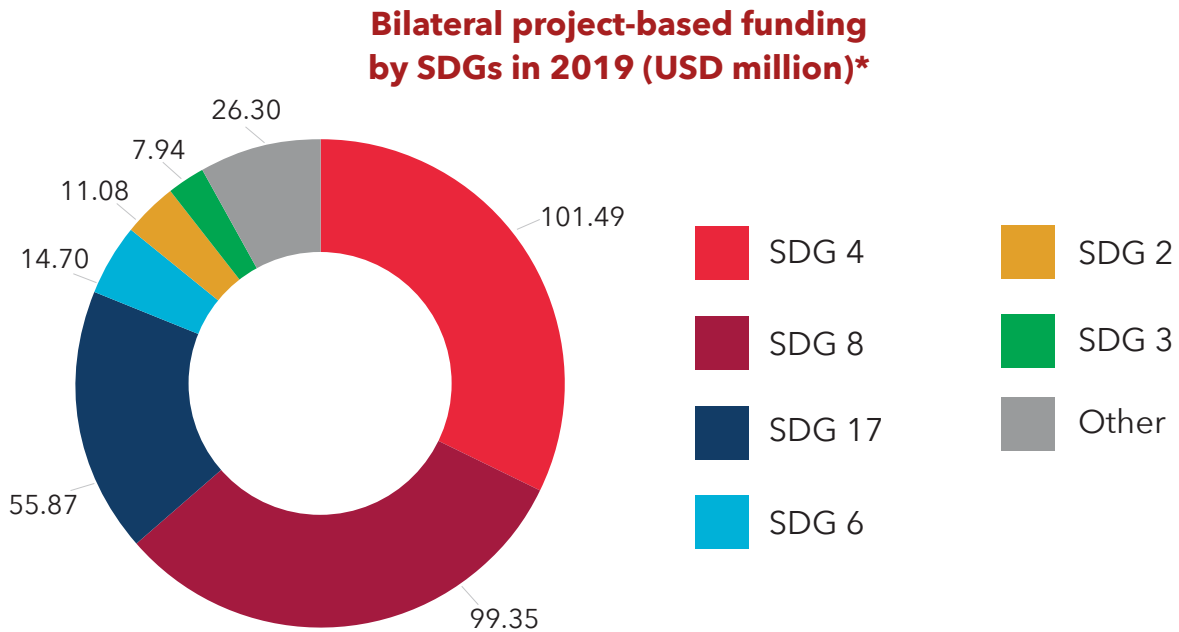
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

To promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

To revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

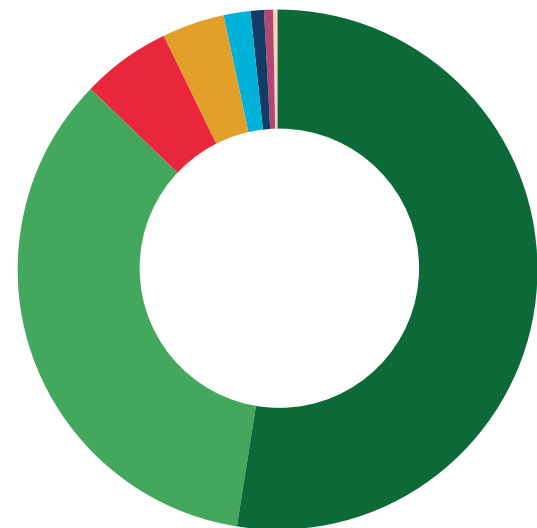


\*Contributions were categorised on an individual basis according to the primary SDG targeted per project

# KEY DONOR INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary is responsible for the planning, coordination and implementation of Hungary's IDC policy. Other line ministries and public sector actors also engage in development cooperation within their respective spheres of competence and budgetary capacities.

In order to capitalise on the inherent benefits of PCD, IDC2025 seeks to enhance cooperation among the relevant actors via frequent formal and informal dialogues, the inauguration of the Resident Coordinator System and periodic reporting to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.



Development assistance disbursed through government bodies in 2019 (USD million)

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (166.82)
- Ministry of Finance (109.16)
- Prime Minister's Office (17.98)
- Ministry for Innovation and Technology (12.08)
- Ministry of Agriculture (5.42)
- Ministry of Human Capacities (2.32)
- Ministry of Interior (1.85)
- Other (0.70)

# PROGRAMMES IN FOCUS

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In 2019, Hungary launched its largest-to-date, 16-million-euro, untied, multi-sectoral development programme in the Republic of Uganda in the fields of water management, health-care, information technology, e-governance, tourism and agriculture. The first phase of the programme was successfully completed in 2020; the second phase was launched in 2020. The programme has thus far provided three rural schools and the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement with drinking water and has enhanced the IT resilience of Uganda.



Water purification system – Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement  
Source: VTK Innosystem Ltd.





Students commence their studies in their freshly rebuilt school  
Source: Hungarian Interchurch Aid

## THE MIDDLE EAST

Hungary is devoted to reconstruction efforts in the Middle East, providing support through a series of programmes contributing to the region's water management, education

and health sectors, as well as the protection of vulnerable populations. Overall, Hungary contributed 31 million dollars to the development of the developing countries of the Middle East in 2019.

## NORTH AFRICA

Water scarcity is a growing challenge in North Africa, especially due to climate change. Rural areas are often severely affected due to the lack of proper infrastructure. Water diplomacy and the promotion of effective water management is a key priority for Hungary; as an example of our commitment to these values, in 2019 Hungary funded the installation of two water purification systems in Tunisia, a mobile rainwater purification combined desalination system and an innovative water purification system.



Water management in Tunisia  
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



Rabeya and Rokaiya following the successful operation  
Source: Action For Defenceless People Foundation

## SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Since 2018, the Government of Hungary has provided professional and financial support to a distinguished Hungarian medical team, which has successfully overseen the separation of conjoined Bangladeshi twins Rabeya and Rokaiya Islam. In 2019, the Hungarian doctors achieved a medical breakthrough with a successful 33-hour-long operation.



## LATIN AMERICA

In 2019, Hungary funded the installation of a mobile healthcare unit in La Guajira, Colombia, which has since treated numerous Venezuelan refugees and local Colombians in need, pregnant and nursing women, as well as undernourished children. Altogether, 825 patients received medical care in a single year, 627 of whom were children under the age of five.



*The mobile healthcare unit in operation*  
Source: Acción contra el Hambre

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In 2016, Hungary launched a Nursery School Development Programme to provide children



*Kindergartners playing in the backyard*  
Source: Prime Minister's Office

in less fortunate circumstances with the opportunity to conduct their studies in a nurturing environment. Kindergartens in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkans were renovated and received furniture, toys, books, digital equipment and in some cases football pitches.

## STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The dynamically expanding Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme - a flagship



*Students of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme in Hungary*  
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

initiative by the Government of Hungary - offers competitive education opportunities to foreign students in Hungarian higher education institutions. In 2019, more than 9,000 students from 69 countries pursued their studies in 29 Hungarian higher education institutions.

## HUNGARY HELPS PROGRAMME

The Hungary Helps Programme was launched in 2017. Through the Hungary Helps Agency, the Programme aims to provide rapid and effective assistance to victims of humanitarian crises and persecuted communities, with



*Reconstruction of a church in Jordan*  
Source: Prime Minister's Office



a special focus on the Middle East and Africa. The Programme aims to provide direct, immediate aid to people in need in cooperation with NGOs and local faith-based institutions.

### COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

Since 2007, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

the Government of Hungary has offered a two-year-long scholarship programme for MSc students at the agricultural faculties of Hungarian universities. The curriculum covers agriculture-related subjects such as horticulture, rural development and agribusiness. To date, 316 students from 42 lower-income countries have benefited from the initiative.



FAO Scholarship Program  
Source: Ministry of Agriculture

### PUBLIC SECTOR EXPERTISE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

In line with the know-how and the comparative advantages of the Hungarian public sector stemming from valuable past experiences in democratization, institution-building and EU integration, it is an important aim of Hungarian development cooperation policy to share Public Sector Expertise (PSE) with partner countries. Hungary is especially committed to contributing to the EU integration process of its European partners aspiring to join the EU, through providing in-house consultancy and assistance by dedicated Hungarian experts with extensive professional expertise in matters of EU law and policy. In 2019, Hungary seconded national experts to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

### CONNECTING THE WORLD THROUGH SCIENCE

Using digital collaborative technologies and platforms, Hungary promotes international joint research programs, knowledge-sharing, student and teacher exchanges, as well as the direct cooperation between higher education institutions in the spirit of open innovation and science. Hungary dedicated 11 million dollars to this cause in 2019.

### CREDIT-BASED AID PROGRAMMES

Hungary provides tied aid to many developing countries. Through the support provided, capacity-building projects were implemented in the healthcare, education, agriculture, and water and sanitation sectors. These programmes contribute significantly to improving local living conditions and raising the technological standards of many partner countries.

By way of example, Hungarian technologies and know-how were provided to Indonesia through 36 water purification systems set up across the country under the framework of a tied-aid cooperation. The project provides potable water for 500 000 people.



Water purification system in Indonesia  
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Hungary believes that partnerships are key to attaining effective and sustainable development. In recent years, Hungary initiated a range of partnership-based cooperation programmes, which focus on improving local conditions and spurring economic development. Hungary has partnered with the Visegrad Group (Slovakia, Czechia, Poland and Hungary), as well as Germany, the Republic of Slovenia, the United States of America and Japan. Through such initiatives, together with its donor partners, Hungary has contributed, inter alia, to the healthcare, border protection, water management and agricultural capacities of partner countries. Launching new partnerships will certainly remain a priority for Hungary.



*Zdravko Počivalšek, Minister of Economic Development and Technology of Slovenia, and Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary*  
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary







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[www.nefe.kormany.hu/en](http://www.nefe.kormany.hu/en)



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