

What About Portugal?

Responsibilities for development cooperation

- The main responsibilities for Portuguese aid lie with the Portuguese Institute for Development Support (IPAD).

Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)

- In November 2005, the Council of Ministers approved the new strategy for development co-operation entitled "A strategic vision for Portuguese co-operation". The strategy cites commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as one of the five guiding principles of Portuguese development co-operation.

Portugal's record on aid

Aid quantity

- Portuguese Official Development Assistance (ODA) represented 0.27% of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2008, up from 0.22% in 2007. Portugal's ratio of ODA to GNI lags far behind the average country effort of DAC-EU countries (0.43%) and will miss the 2010 target of 0.51%. The DAC 2009 preliminary data estimate Portugal's ODA/GNI at 0.23% in 2009, which is substantially lower than the estimated DAC-EU average of 0.44%.
- In 2008 and as per DAC 2009 preliminary, Portugal was the third worst-performing country among DAC-EU member states in terms of ODA/GNI.
- Portugal provided 614 million USD in net ODA in 2008, up from 471 million in 2007. None of Portugal's 2008 ODA represents debt relief grants (i.e. grants which forgive the debt of developing countries).

Aid quality

- Portugal's share of bilateral aid (in this case, the aid given by Portugal to a developing country) was 60% in 2008 which fell to 53% in 2009. In 2007-08, 40.5% of Portugal's bilateral ODA went to least-developed countries (LDCs), which is commendable. Among regions, Sub-Saharan Africa received the greatest share of Portugal's bilateral ODA (43.9%).
- Country Programmable Aid (CPA) is the proportion of aid that developing countries can allocate according to their development needs. CPA represented 65% of Portugal's gross ODA in 2005 – one of the best ratios among DAC-EU peers, exceeding the combined figure across all DAC countries (47%).
- In 2007, only 58% of Portugal's aid was untied (tied aid is assistance given to developing countries which must be used to purchase goods and services from the donor country). Portugal has the lowest share of untied aid among its peer nations.
- In 2006 and 2008, the OECD/DAC conducted a Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration to gauge the progress of donor nations toward improving aid effectiveness. The report finds that between 2005 and 2007, Portugal performed below the majority of its peer donor countries on most indicators of aid effectiveness.

Policy coherence

- The OECD defines policy coherence for development as "working to ensure that the objectives and results of a government's development policies are not undermined by other policies of that same government which impact on developing countries, and that these other policies support development objectives where feasible".
- Policy Coherence is a priority for Portugal as demonstrated by the Portuguese Government's recent launch of the Forum for Development Cooperation which gathers all relevant public and private actors working on development cooperation
- However, Inconsistencies between trade and development objectives exist. As an EU Member State, Portugal implements the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and has advocated for protectionists policies where national interests are at stake. In June 2009, Portugal joined with France and Spain in an attempt to pre-empt the European Commission from cutting banana import tariffs, which would threaten their production.

Public Opinion

- A 2009 Eurobarometer survey asked EU citizens if they had ever heard or read about the Millennium Development Goals. Only 35% of the respondents knew about the Millennium Development Goals. However, this is an improvement since the 2007 survey where only 17% of the respondents in Portugal had heard of the MDGs.

Commitment to Development Index

- The Centre for Global Development (CGD) ranks 22 of the world's richest countries based on their dedication to policies that benefit poor nations. CGD's 2009 Commitment to Development Index ranks Portugal 16th among 22 OECD countries. Portugal's score is brought down by low marks on aid and migration. Portugal allocates a very low share of GNI to aid and accepts few refugees in the wake of humanitarian crises.

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For a more in-depth analysis and list of sources, please refer to the long version of the What About.