

What About Spain?

Responsibilities for development cooperation

- The Secretariat of State for International Co-operation (SECI) – which sits within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation (MAEC) - has the primary responsibility for Spanish aid policy and implementation. Within SECI, the Directorate-General for Development Policy and Evaluation (DGPOLDE) sets policy, engages in strategic planning and evaluation and manages the Spanish contribution to the UN global funds. SECI also houses the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) that manages Spanish Aid.

Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)

- The eight MDGs have been at the core of the two most recent Master Plans for Development Cooperation, respectively in 2004-2008 and 2009-2010. The Pact of State Against Poverty -signed by all political parties in 2007- is inspired by and framed around the MDGs.
- The commitment to the MDG's has been translated into several policies; in particular, in the last two years almost 70% of ODA was allocated to sectors directly related to the MDGs.

Spain's record on aid

Aid quantity

- Spanish ODA represented 0.45% of GNI in 2008, up from 0.37% of GNI in 2007. Spain's ODA/GNI exceeds the EU-DAC average (0.43%). According to the DAC preliminary 2009 data, Spanish ODA ratio is expected to go up to 0.46% in 2009.
- Due to recent public measures undertaken by the Government to fight the economic crisis, ODA spending has been cut. As a result, Spain will miss the 2010 target of spending 0.51% and it has postponed to 2015 its individual target to reach 0.7% by 2012.
- In terms of volumes, Spain provided 6.8 billion USD in net ODA in 2008, which decreased slightly to 6.5 billion USD as per the 2009 DAC preliminary data. Debt relief grants i.e. grants which forgive the debt of developing countries, comprised only 4.7% of Spanish ODA in 2007 and 5.1% in 2008.

Aid quality

- Spain's share of bilateral aid (i.e. the aid given by Spain to a developing country) was 70% in 2008 and fell to 65% in 2009. Spain directs only 33% to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) where aid is most needed. Latin America still receives the largest share of Spanish bilateral aid (37.5%), instead of Sub-Saharan Africa, which is the region with the greatest number of LDCs, and therefore in most need of aid.
- In order to decrease dispersion of aid, Spain has identified 23 out of its 50 "priority countries" in which it seeks to concentrate 2/3 of bilateral ODA. In 2006, Spain fell far short of this goal, with only 36% of bilateral ODA going to priority countries.
- Country Programmable Aid (CPA) is the proportion of aid that developing countries can allocate according to their development needs. In 2005 (latest DAC statistics available on CPA) it represented only 35% of Spanish gross ODA. It

remains below the combined figure of EU-DAC countries (47%).

- Spain's share of untied aid (tied aid is assistance given to developing countries which must be used to purchase goods and services from the donor country) increased from only 56% in 2003 to 89.1% in 2007.
- 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 Spain is performing below most of its peer donor nations on key indicators of aid effectiveness and below the 2010 targets.

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 Spain. As stated by the DAC, Spain is among the few DAC members to include policy coherence for development in its legal and planning framework.
- However, inconsistencies between trade and development objectives exist. As an EU Member State, Spain implements the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It wants a strong CAP to play a big role in overcoming the crisis and "to be able to feed an ever-growing world population". In June 2009, Spain joined with France and Portugal in an attempt to pre-empt the European Commission from cutting banana import tariffs, which would threaten their production.

Public Opinion

- A 2009 Eurobarometer shows that the number of people aware of the MDG's has increased sharply from 12% in 2007 to 23% in 2009. However, the majority of Spanish respondents (77%) were uninformed about the MDG's. Spain's results were similar to the EU average - 76% yet lagging behind the Netherlands (36%) but better than France (87%).

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 Spain 7th among 22 OECD countries. Spain's overall score was brought down by low ratings on aid – particularly its quality - environment and security.

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